



## Joyce E. Popken

January 1, 1938 - September 18, 2020

Joyce E. Popken, 82 year old resident of Swanville, MN, passed away on Friday, September 18, 2020 at the St. Cloud Hospital. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Swanville, MN with Rev. Kevin Zellers officiating. Burial will take place in St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery in Swanville, MN. A visitation will be held from 4 -7 P.M. on Monday and from 10 - 11 AM.. on Tuesday at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Swanville, MN.

Joyce was born on January 1, 1938 in Oakland, Nebraska to the late Linde and Sophia (Lohmeyer) Nelson. She grew up in Oakland and attended rural District 67 until she reached high school, graduating from Oakland High School in 1955. Joyce attended Wayne State for several summer school sessions, earning her certification to teach in rural schools, which she did for five years. Joyce married Robert Popken at Elim Lutheran Church, Hooper, Nebraska, on May 25, 1958. She and Robert farmed near Uehling, Nebraska for several years, eventually moving to Swanville in February, 1973. Joyce lived and worked on the farm the remainder of her life. She was a devoted wife to her beloved Bob. Taking long walks in the pasture was a special pleasure for Joyce. She liked searching for and enjoying spring flowers and the brilliance of fall colors. Eventually, Joyce found an artistic outlet in making and painting ceramic figures. Her specialty was ornaments. She sold them at craft shows, but her favorite pleasure was giving them to special people she

remembered year after year. She enjoyed her family, those near and at a distance, her extended family, and the family she created by investing in her neighbors and friends. Joyce was a strong believer in our Lord Jesus Christ and is now at peace with Him in eternity. She was an active member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Ladies Aid, Dove Homemakers, and Northern States South Devon Association.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Robert; sons, Ryan (Sonya) Popken, Hawkinsville, GA, and Joel Popken, Swanville; grandchildren, Maggie, Ryanne and Joseph Robert Popken; brothers, Jim (Judy) Nelson of Oakland, NE, Richard (Phyllis) Nelson of Topeka, KS, and Don (Bonita) Nelson of Ord, NE.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents, Linde and Sophia Nelson, and her brothers, Kenny Nelson and John Nelson.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery

Swanville, MN 56382

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **21**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Swanville  
502 Berkey Avenue  
Swanville, MN

## Visitation

SEP **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Swanville  
502 Berkey Avenue  
Swanville, MN

## Funeral Service

SEP **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Peter's Lutheran Church - Swanville  
502 Berkey Avenue  
Swanville, MN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Joyce E. Popken*



---

**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - September 20, 2020 at 02:47 PM

DF

*So sorry for your loss, She is sitting beside God at his throne, may she RIP!! Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family!! Love yall!!*

---

**Dewayne and Gloria Fifield** - September 22, 2020 at 06:38 AM



“ *Joyce E. Popken*

---

January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM

MH

“Joyce was such a loving woman that will be dearly miss. From the Christmas ornaments that we looked forward to getting each year, Christmas Cheer after Christmas Eve service, gatherings at the farm, stories of her watching me as a child or her tell Haley all about me before we were married and how much I loved children and always had to hold babies. Be at peace with our Lord Joyce we will meet again. Bob, Joel, and Ryan our prayers are with you for comfort and strength during this difficult time.



---

**Micah and Haley Holmgren** - September 22, 2020 at 10:45 PM

JG

“Our deepest sympathy to you Joel, your Dad and brother and his family. Your Mom was such a friendly person and always asked about our kids and even remembered their names, something I even struggled with at times. She always gave a wave when she drove by when we lived next to you. I am sure she will be greatly missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

*Julie and Rick Gutormson*

---

**Julie Gutormson** - September 21, 2020 at 07:57 PM

RN

“Bob & Joel: thank you for the precious gift of letting me share in your family life two years ago. That week with Joyce and both of you was very special to me at the time, and remains special in my memories. There no words to offer for your loss, only to let you know we truly care. Phyllis and I aren't able to travel for the funeral, but we will be there in spirit. We love you, and will be watching from afar. - Richard (& Phyllis)

---

**Richard Nelson** - September 21, 2020 at 06:15 PM

BH

“*Bruce and I were so blessed to have Joyce in our lives. She has special place in our hearts.*”



---

**Bruce and Alicia Holmgren** - September 21, 2020 at 03:26 PM

CH

“*Clark Hollingsworth lit a candle in memory of Joyce E. Popken*”



---

**Clark Hollingsworth** - September 21, 2020 at 01:47 PM

CH

*Ryan and family, please know that you are in our prayers, praying for strength and comfort that only the Holy Spirit can provide.*

---

**Clark Hollingsworth** - September 21, 2020 at 01:48 PM

RW

*Bob, Joel and Ryan, your mother will always hold a special place in my heart. As my Godmother, I know she kept me in her thoughts and prayers. She left me with some fond memories and some special pieces of her artistic work. My love to you all.*

*Renae Wolf and family*

---

**Renae Wolf** - September 21, 2020 at 09:45 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Joyce E. Popken.



September 21, 2020 at 12:06 PM



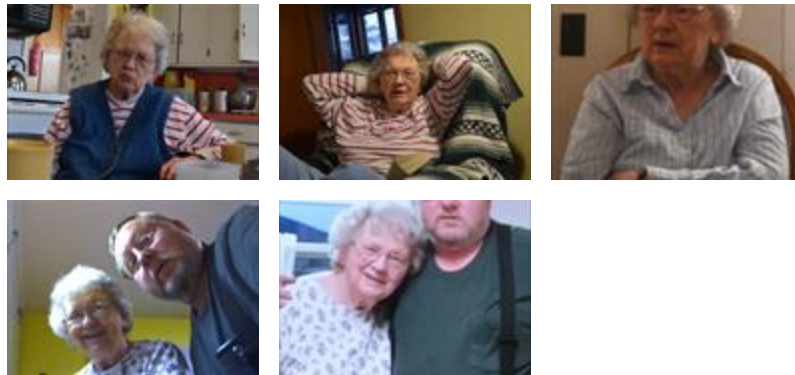
“ 9 files added to the album My sister Joyce



Richard Nelson - September 21, 2020 at 07:26 AM



“ 40 files added to the album My sister Joyce



Richard Owen Nelson - September 21, 2020 at 04:00 AM

“ I remember Joyce:

*The Joyce who decided not to gather the eggs after she encountered a skunk in the chicken house*

*The Joyce who survived having five brothers, even after they persuaded her to try to eat a caterpillar*

*The Joyce who often sent personal hand-made ornaments*

*The Joyce who loved to receive letters, even when I didn't write often*

*The Joyce who had thoughts of being a missionary, and shared that thought when I went to Africa, as a way of 'going with me'*

*The Joyce who had an English pen pal, and mistakenly asked the pen pal who she celebrated the Fourth of July*

*The Joyce who made baking soda biscuits, and let me test them out*

*The Joyce who shared an upstairs with several of the boys, even though she had a separate room; the stairs in her Minnesota home reminded me of our childhood stairs*

*The Joyce who checked my hairline at my Dad's funeral in 1975, to see if I was hiding a balding brow—still have coverage, but I'm starting a silver streak above the ears—as I entered church this morning I was thinking I'd haver to show it to her—but I guess she's looking down at it now*

*This is the Joyce I spent a week with a few years ago, I think we both knew that could have been the last time we saw each other—that was the week that was, rather than the week that should have been*

*This is the Joyce that loved those that I loved, and let them know it, this is the Joyce that I love*

*This is the Joyce that encouraged my daughter, and shared the source of that encouragement, the strength that Joyce saw in Tammy*

*This is the Joyce that I would send John Deere calendars to in advance of her birthday, knowing that Bob really enjoyed them, and it would please Joyce to see his enjoyment*

*This is the Joyce who would tramp through the cornfields and beanfields with us, chopping down weeds, sharing cool water from a canvas bag*

*This is the Joyce who, with Mom, would bring us lunches and cool water*

*This is the Joyce who would call and ask how you are doing, this is the Joyce who would call and break the news when a sadness occurred*

*This is the Joyce who would let me know she appreciated the pictures I sent, when I should have been writing and calling*

*This is the Joyce who struggled to write and share of things on the farm, when she was dealing with her latest battle—you could see the pain in the lines of her letters, yet you could see the love, and the reaching out to me, to family, holding on to those she loved I wondered how I could respond to those offered their condolences, or how I could answer 'how are you doing?' I know I will miss the ability to reach out to Joyce, the Joyce I seldom saw, yet could always call. She knew I loved her, and that I felt her love for me and mine*

*It is never too late to remember a friend, but it can be too late to let them know you care—dare to care!*

*With love,*

*Brother Richard*

---

**Richard Owen Nelson** - September 21, 2020 at 12:03 AM

BK

“*Joyce was always so nice to my wife Fran and me. We were on her Christmas ornament list for lots of years. She indeed will always be a special friend of ours.*”

---

**Bob Koetter** - September 20, 2020 at 09:03 PM

BS

“ *Becky Hanson Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Joyce E. Popken*



---

**Becky Hanson Schmidt** - September 20, 2020 at 07:39 PM



“ *56 files added to the album Life Tributes*



---

**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - September 20, 2020 at 02:33 PM

DP

“ *Darlene Palm lit a candle in memory of Joyce E. Popken*



---

**Darlene Palm** - September 20, 2020 at 12:35 PM

KG

“ Kathryn Gessell lit a candle in memory of Joyce E. Popken



kathryn gessell - September 20, 2020 at 09:55 AM

RN

“ 7 files added to the album My sister Joyce



Richard Owen Nelson - September 19, 2020 at 11:41 PM

BB

“ Sending prayers to the family



Brenda Baum - September 19, 2020 at 11:36 PM

JA

“Joyce always had a smile & joyful heart for her Savior. My thoughts & prayers are with Bob, Joel, & Ryan.



joan (Hartwig) Anderson - September 19, 2020 at 09:17 PM

NH

“A dear family friend and kindred spirit...the ages spanned melded to one in our friendship. I will miss our chats, book exchanges, tea, laughs & heart to hearts! Well done, good & faithful servant...see ya through the gates someday.



Natalie Holmgren - September 19, 2020 at 08:22 PM

DC

“Sorry to hear about Joyce!  
Brett, Brad, Carol< Don Cravath

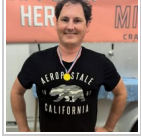
Don Cravath - September 19, 2020 at 07:43 PM

KM

“Kim Mielke lit a candle in memory of Joyce E. Popken



Kim Mielke - September 19, 2020 at 01:56 PM



“ *An amazing woman, with a heart full of love, kindness, and humor. I will miss you dear friend and cherish the memories of reading stories, baby-sittings, picnics on the farm, ceramics, and hot cider and cookies Christmas Eve.*



---

**Jonathan Holmgren** - September 18, 2020 at 10:18 PM