



Karen Grossheider

June 18, 1946 - January 25, 2026

Karen Grossheider, 79 year old resident of St. Cloud, MN passed away Sunday, January 25, 2026 at Ecumen St. Benedict Senior Community in St. Cloud, MN. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at the First United Methodist Church in Sartell, MN. Visitation will be from 10-11 A.M. on Thursday, January 29, 2026 at the First United Methodist Church in Sartell, MN. Caring for Karen and her family is the LeMieur Funeral Home in Little Falls, MN.

To watch the livestream click the link and you will be re-directed. Once re-directed, click Karen Grossheider button to view livestream. <https://www.lovefirstumc.org/celebration-of-life>

Karen was born on June 18, 1946, in Fargo, North Dakota to the late Harold and Ilo (Davis) Koenning. She grew up in Moorhead, Minnesota, graduating from Moorhead High School in 1964. She went onto Moorhead State University to become a teacher, graduating with her Bachelor's degree in 1968. During the summer after her sophomore year, Karen took a train west for a summer job in Yellowstone National Park. It was there, while working at West Thumb, that she met R.C., a college student from Missouri and the love of her life. The two summers in Yellowstone, solidified their love of the mountains and the Parks.

Karen was united in marriage to RC Grossheider on August 17, 1968 in Moorhead, Minnesota. Her teaching career began in classrooms in Missouri,

Georgia and Texas, after RC was drafted into the army. Moving to Montana was their dream and they made Columbus their home for 30 years. Karen taught kindergarten and inspired generations of kids in her classroom. Music was an important part of each day in her class and she could play the piano and sing songs for almost any occasion. They moved to Cokato, Minnesota, in 2001 and taught at Holy Trinity School in Winsted. Karen retired after 38 years as an educator in 2006. They have lived in St. Cloud since 2013 and enjoyed summers at their home in Montana near Glacier National Park. Family and friends were very important to Karen. She made and kept lifelong friendships everywhere they lived. She always had the perfect card for any occasion, loved to host friends and family at their house and was just the best person to talk with on the phone. She was an avid reader, participating in many book clubs and giving out suggestions for titles or authors to read until her last days. But her most treasured role was that of Grandma and she absolutely loved her four grandchildren. She made sure they had books from birth and enjoyed many hours watching and supporting their various activities. Karen was adventurous and loved to travel, often driving out of their way to visit a national park. Her faith was very important to her and she volunteered her time and talents in each of their church communities – Community Congregational in Columbus, Montana, Dassel Covenant Church and First United Methodist.

Karen is survived by her husband of 57 years; daughters, Gail (Troy) Olson of Burtrum, MN and Julie (Kyle) Schmidt of Pasco, Washington; grandchildren, Haley (Carter) Scrimshaw, Samantha Schmidt, Adam Olson, and Seth Schmidt; brothers, Doug (Dianne) Koenning and Keith (Pat) Koenning; sister-in-law, Jody (Henry) Neufeld and many nieces and nephews.

Karen was preceded in death by her parents, Harold & Ilo Koenning; in-laws, Bob and Marybelle Grossheider and nephew, James Webb.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church - Sartell
1107 Pine Cone Road South
Sartell, MN 56377

Funeral Service

JAN 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church - Sartell
1107 Pine Cone Road South
Sartell, MN 56377

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Karen Grossheider*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - January 28 at 02:16 PM

MD

Karen will be so missed by friends and family.

Melissa Dangelo - January 28 at 11:04 PM

CK

“ *Charles K. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Grossheider.*

Charles K. - January 29 at 09:53 AM

JF

“ *I loved Karen!! She's the reason I worked for a year in Yellowstone, and the next in the Tetons!!! We were sorority sisters at Moorhead State - she was a wonderful sorority president and supportive friend to all. Last time I saw her, she and RC had dinner with me on a trip to NYC.*

We will all miss having Karen in our lives. but will always have her in our hearts. My condolences to all who knew and loved her, especially RC. She was amazing!!

Janet Freed - January 29 at 08:18 AM

BR

“ Brent and Jill Reber planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Grossheider.

Brent and Jill Reber - January 28 at 04:33 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Karen Grossheider.



January 28 at 04:33 PM

JF

“ Jill Freed McKenzie, Janet Freed, & Patty Freed planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Grossheider.

Jill Freed McKenzie, Janet Freed, & Patty Freed - January 28 at 03:34 PM



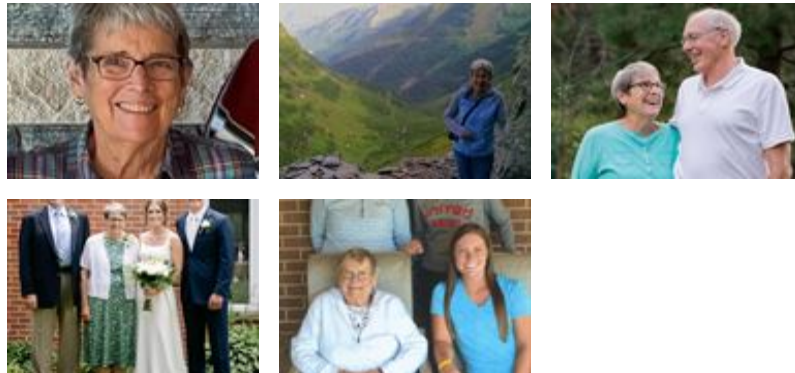
“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Karen Grossheider.



January 28 at 03:23 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - January 28 at 02:13 PM

LJ

“ *Linda J. purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Karen Grossheider.*



Linda J. - January 28 at 12:42 PM

PM

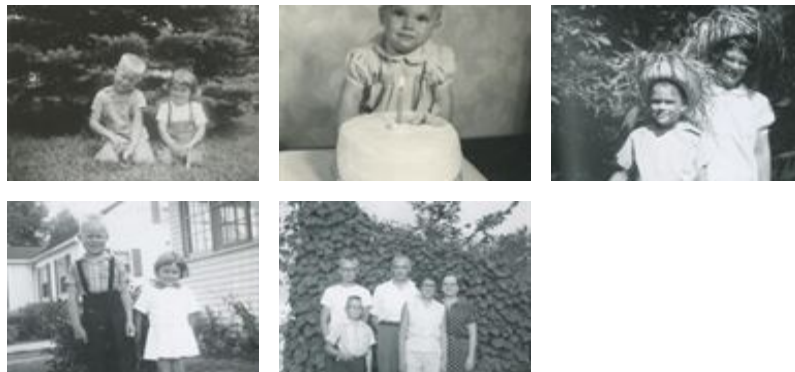
“ *Paul & Joanie Matovich purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Karen Grossheider.*



Paul & Joanie Matovich - January 28 at 12:13 PM



“ 71 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - January 28 at 10:22 AM

MP

“ *I'm sorry to hear of Karen's passing. It was such a joy to know her. I got to know Karen through the Friends of Cokato Library group. She always had a smile. And always so kind. Big hugs to you. RC*

Mary Raisanen Piepenburg - January 28 at 09:42 AM

LS

“ *Love, Kylee, Virgil, and Brevin Schmidt purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Karen Grossheider.*



Love, Kylee, Virgil, and Brevin Schmidt - January 28 at 09:38 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Karen Grossheider.*



January 27 at 11:55 PM



“ *Duane & Marsha Pucket planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Grossheider.*

Duane & Marsha Pucket - January 27 at 11:55 PM



“ *Nicole Dimich planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Grossheider.*

Nicole Dimich - January 27 at 09:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Karen Grossheider.*



January 27 at 09:12 PM

AH

“ Amy Hicks purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Karen Grossheider.



Amy Hicks - January 27 at 08:41 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Karen Grossheider.



January 27 at 08:06 PM

HF

“ Roseann Fox was born in Fargo in 1946 and taught at Columbus with Karen and R C. We have many great memories of our shared experiences in Montana.
Herb & Roseann Fox

Herbert Fox - January 27 at 07:14 PM

RF

“ When we moved to Columbus, Grossheiders were some of the first friends we made. We cherish those memories. Our sincere condolences are extended to Karen's loved ones.
Roseann & Herb Fox

Roseann Fox - January 27 at 07:09 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karen Grossheider.*



January 27 at 04:28 PM



“ *Coralee H. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Karen Grossheider.*



Coralee H. - January 27 at 03:52 PM



“ *From Don and Carolyn Hopper purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Karen Grossheider.*



From Don and Carolyn Hopper - January 27 at 01:49 PM



“ *Gordon &. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Grossheider.*

Gordon &. - January 27 at 11:27 AM

TC

“ Tammi C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Karen Grossheider.

Tammi C. - January 26 at 10:23 AM



“ Pink Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Karen Grossheider.



January 26 at 10:23 AM

DM

“ Dale and Chrissie May purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Karen Grossheider.



Dale and Chrissie May - January 25 at 09:09 PM