

## DON'T BE SAD

Don't be sad and lonely,  
Because I've gone away.  
    Think about me only,  
    When it's a brighter day.  
Don't waste your time crying,  
    Since I'm no longer here.  
You have spent enough time,  
    Showing me that you care.  
    Wipe away your sadness,  
    For tears won't bring relief.  
    Cherish the memories,  
    Forget about your grief.  
    If I could be with you,  
    That is where I would be,  
    But I have no power,  
    To change life's destiny.  
    So try to be happy,  
    Don't mourn your life away,  
    For we'll be together,  
    At the end of life's day.

Arrangements Entrusted To  
Luz Funeral Home - Highmore, South Dakota  
[www.familyfuneralhome.net](http://www.familyfuneralhome.net)



*Celebrating*  
THE LIFE OF  
**LaVonne Kusser**

February 26, 1929 - August 20, 2024

LaVonne Kusser, 95, of Highmore, passed away on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, surrounded by family at Highmore Health.

Carol LaVonne (Sivertsen) Kusser was born February 26, 1929, in Ree Heights, South Dakota to Edwin and Jessie (Lott) Sivertsen. LaVonne grew up on a farm south of Ree Heights, South Dakota. After graduation from Miller High School in 1947 she worked at a bank in Miller. She was united in marriage to the love of her life, Joseph Kusser, on June 1, 1949. Nine children were born into this union.

LaVonne and Joe made their home on the Kusser family ranch in southern Hyde County. LaVonne kept quite busy raising her nine children, eight of which arrived in the first 10 years of marriage. She was a meticulous housekeeper, and a very talented cook, baker, and seamstress. Those lucky enough to be seated at LaVonne's table were treated to a great meal as well as five-star service. Even well into her 80's she made sure the Thanksgiving dessert menu included the favorite homemade pies of every one of the 40-50 family members in attendance and she was never seated until all of her guests were served.

LaVonne was an active member of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church Altar Society and later as a member of the Catholic Daughters. She enjoyed going to her children's, grandchildren's, and great grandchildren's activities. Her later years afforded her time to make numerous quilts for charitable benefits and for family members, as well as keep better track of the Dallas Cowboys and Los Angeles Lakers.

In 2014 LaVonne moved from the family ranch into Highmore. At that time she began volunteering at the Highmore Health Center and was honored with their Volunteer of the Year award. She became a resident of the health center in 2019.

Survivors include her children: Shirley Dittman, Highmore, SD; Sharon Rau, Aberdeen, SD; Joey (Peggy) Kusser, Highmore, SD; Nancy (Burt) Humphrey, Eagle River, Alaska; Jerry (Jody) Kusser, Highmore, SD; Brenda (Paul) Gropper, Long Valley, SD; Tim Kusser, Springer, OK; Diane (Skip) Moody, Letcher, SD; and Pam (Colby) Hannum, Fort Pierre, SD; 17 grandchildren; 30 great grandchildren; brother, Ed (Christine) Sivertsen; and numerous nieces and nephews.

LaVonne is preceded in death by her husband, Joe; her parents; sons-in-law, Jim Dittman and Jerry Rau; her brothers and sisters-in-law: Vernon (Clara), DeWayne (Ruth), Wilmer (Shirley), and Leland (MaryAnn) Sivertsen; infant sister, Shirley Ann; and in-laws: Simon (Eileen), Ed/Buzz (Vonnie) Kusser, and Betty (Ronnie) Heckenlaible.

2 Timothy 4:7 - I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

### **Prayer Service:**

7:00 p.m., Sunday, August 25, 2024  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Highmore, South Dakota

### **Funeral Mass:**

10:30 a.m., Monday, August 26, 2024  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
Highmore, South Dakota

**Celebrant:** Monsignor Charles Mangan

### **Casketbearers:**

Clayton Gropper - Matt Kusser - Scott Rau  
Chris Humphrey - Tyrell Moody - Riley Hannum - Jason Krick

### **Honorary Casketbearers:**

Granddaughters, Great Grandchildren  
Nieces & Nephews

**Ushers:** Randy Sivertsen, Gary Sivertsen,  
Dan Kusser, John Kusser

**Placing of the Pall:** Granddaughters

**Lectors:** Deb Gengerke & Jackie Peck

**Offertory:** Great Granddaughters

**Eulogy:** Melissa Klemann

**Musicians:** Bridget & Seth Zilverberg

### **Music Selections:**

"On Eagle's Wings"  
"How Great Thou Art"  
"The Servant Song"  
"Song of Farewell"  
"I Am the Bread of Life"

### **Burial:**

Kusser Cemetery  
rural Highmore, South Dakota

**A luncheon will follow after the burial at K Lazy K Ranch**