

*God saw he was getting tired  
And a cure was not to be,  
So He put His arms around him  
And whispered "Come with me."*

*With tearful eyes  
We watched him suffer  
And saw him fade away  
Although we loved him dearly,  
We would not make him stay.*

*A golden heart stopped beating,  
Hard working hands to rest.  
God broke our hearts to prove to us  
He only takes the best.*



*Lucie, Luce & Reck*  
FUNERAL HOMES  
Miller, South Dakota  
[www.luceluzereck.com](http://www.luceluzereck.com)

# *In Memory Of*



**KENNETH "KENNY" FLOYD VAN ZEE**  
DECEMBER 31, 1929 - APRIL 3, 2026



Kenneth Floyd Van Zee, 96, of St. Lawrence, passed away on Friday, April 3, 2026, at the Good Samaritan Society in Miller.

Kenneth Floyd Van Zee was born on December 31, 1929, to John and Martha (Meyer) Van Zee in Armour, SD. At the age of nine, they moved to a farm near St. Lawrence, where he attended school and graduated in 1948. Following graduation, he continued farming on the family farm until he was drafted into the US Army in 1952. He served his country with a tour in Korea until he was honorably discharged in 1954.

Upon returning home, he married Geraldine "Jerry" Jeanette Jenkins on September 19, 1954. They spent some time in Pierre, where he did door-to-door delivery for Tyler Dairy and performed lab testing for the state department. After a few years, they moved back to the family homestead to help on the farm. In 1963, his parents, built a house just south of the highway, and Kenny and Jerry moved into the main farmhouse. They milked cows there until 1996, when their son, Dean, started farming the land. He continued helping on the farm and also helped transport bodies for Vince Rosemore. Additionally, he worked for the Tom Morog farm, where he developed lifelong friendships with Tom and many others. One of his favorite jobs was running the combine. He would help out on the farms of Rod and Kenette, Dean and Sherrie, and Tom and Renee's whenever he could. In 2007, they moved to Miller and continued to help on the farms. He was a lifelong member of the Community Church of St. Lawrence, where he attended until his passing. Over the years, he served as an usher and on the church board.

Those blessed and grateful to have shared his life are his daughter, Kenette (Rod) Rogers, Ree Heights; his son, Dean (Sherrie) Van Zee, St. Lawrence; grandchildren: Erin (Zach) Sybesma, Ree Heights, Samantha (Keeven) Long, Ree Heights, Nathan (Samantha Laskarzewski) Van Zee, Miller, Lucas (Kyra) Van Zee, Ellendale ND, and Mitchell (Mikayla) Van Zee, St. Lawrence; great grandchildren: Sienna Long, Brooklyn Van Zee, Peyton Van Zee, Sadie Van Zee, and Jenna Van Zee; sister, Verna Becker; sisters-in-law, Judy Mullen and Marlene Knudtson; nieces: Stacey (Jim) Ferry, Jody Sandoval, Dianne (Steve) Shaykett, Debbie Pullman, and Shirlene (Dennis) Smook; nephew, Bruce (Marie Bio) Knudtson; and many great nieces and nephews.

Kenny is preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Jerry; his parents, John and Martha; brother, Robert; in-laws, Dorcie and Marie Jenkins; brother-in-law, Lester Becker; nephew-in-law, Tim Pullman; niece, Cheryl Pease; and nephew-in-law, Dwane Pease.

### **PRAYER SERVICE**

7:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2026  
Community Church of St. Lawrence  
St. Lawrence, South Dakota

### **CLERGY**

Pastor Abe Bielenberg

### **FUNERAL SERVICE**

2:00 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 2026  
Community Church of St. Lawrence  
St. Lawrence, South Dakota

### **CLERGY**

Rev. Jim Hofman

### **CASKETBEARERS**

Nathan Van Zee - Lucas Van Zee - Mitchell Van Zee  
Erin Sybesma - Samantha Long  
Zach Sybesma - Keeven Long

### **HONORARY CASKETBEARERS**

Mikayla Van Zee - Kyra Van Zee - Samantha Laskarzewski  
Bruce Knudtson - Shirlene Smook

### **MUSICAL SELECTIONS**

"The Old Rugged Cross"  
"How Great Thou Art"  
"In the Garden"

### **PIANIST**

Janelle Jessen

### **SONG LEADER**

David Fremark

### **BURIAL**

St. Lawrence Cemetery  
St. Lawrence, South Dakota

*The family warmly invites you to join them following  
the burial for refreshments and continued fellowship at the church.*