



## Joyce Avon Sandine

January 6, 1930 - January 21, 2022

Joyce Avon Sandine, age 92, of Alta, Iowa, died January 21, 2022 at her home in Alta.

Funeral services will be held Friday, January 28, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta. The service will be streamed on Trinity Lutheran Church Facebook page. Visitation will be one hour prior at the service at the CHURCH. Burial will be in the Scandinavian Cemetery in Alta. Wearing masks is requested so we can protect one another and stay safe. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta or St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Alta is in charge of arrangements.

Joyce Avon Benna Sandine was an amazing and incomparable woman, "a beacon of light" as described by a family friend. She was born in Albert City, Iowa, on January 6, 1930, the ninth of eleven children born to George and Edith Benna.

After the Bennas moved to Alta, Joyce excelled at Alta Community School, singing in the choir, working as the school newspaper's editor in chief, being elected the school's Homecoming Queen, and becoming her class Valedictorian upon graduating in 1947.

Joyce married Lyle (Sandy) Sandine in 1950. They were blessed with two daughters, Elizabeth (Liza) and Julie. Their month-long summer family vacations introduced the love of travel and provided the chance to explore and learn about the country, as well as reinforce the family's bond and love for one another. As empty-nesters, Joyce and Sandy continued to explore together, taking cruises to the Caribbean, Alaska, and Hawaii, and enjoying three trips to Sweden. There they visited with relatives, saw ancestral homes, and renewed the connection with their Swedish heritage. They were able to share the magic of this experience with their daughters during their last trip to Sweden.

After working as a medical transcriptionist for many years, Joyce made the decision to change careers and began working in the Financial Aid office of Buena Vista University. She was grateful for the school's free tuition for employees and enthusiastically took a class every semester for 20 years, graduating Summa Cum Laude in May of 2002 at the ripe young age of 72. She retired from BVU in 2005.

Joyce was a tireless and voracious reader. She loved books, belonged to multiple book clubs, and served on the Alta Library Board for years. In addition to reading stories, Joyce was the consummate storyteller. She had a wonderful way with words. Her stories, both spoken and written, were enjoyed by everyone, but by her daughters most of all.

Joyce was a devoted and lifelong member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta. She especially enjoyed the Bible study group and the beautiful experience of mentoring two very special young women through the confirmation process. Her strong faith was a steadfast source of sustenance and hope.

Joyce's family was a special source of joy and pride for her. She loved her "Benna Bunch" and especially enjoyed the annual Benna Reunion that

brought family back to Iowa to celebrate their family roots and share memories, jokes and stories...and rhubarb! She also loved and cherished the Sandine side of the family, enjoying gatherings and trips together.

Her final days included a memorable, beautiful trip to Tennessee for the Christmas holidays spent with her daughters and their families. After the pandemic separation of 2020, she was ecstatic to again be with her three beloved grandsons and precious great-granddaughter, and to meet and hold her newest great-granddaughter (when she was only 4 days old!). The family was able to enjoy the Swedish traditions of the Christmas season, which Joyce always shared and loved, and celebrate the joy and true meaning of Christmas together. She was able to return home with many cherished memories.

After a brief illness, Joyce took her final breath on January 21, 2022, in her home, in the peaceful, loving presence of her two daughters and pastor.

She will be sorely missed and always loved by her daughters, Liza (Ed) Emanus of Memphis TN, and Julie (Michael Zanolli) Sandine of Nashville, TN, as well as her grandsons, Erik (Katie) Emanus, Elliot (Kelly) Emanus and Ethan Emanus of Memphis, TN; and her great-granddaughters: Everleigh Emanus and Ezramae Emanus.

In addition, Joyce leaves behind her dear sister, Anita (Dick) Williams of Ottawa, KS; her beloved nieces and nephews and other members of the Benna and Sandine families; her Alta and Trinity Lutheran "extended families," and countless other family members and friends whose lives she has touched and enriched in innumerable ways.

The family would especially like to thank Joyce's nieces, Denise Betts of Alta,

and Linda Hoops of Storm Lake, for always being there for her.

# Cemetery Details

## Scandinavian Cemetery

5753 50th Ave  
Alta, IA 51002

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 28. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church -- Alta  
401 West 2nd Street  
Alta, IA 51002

## Funeral Service

JAN 28. 3:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church -- Alta  
401 West 2nd Street  
Alta, IA 51002

# Tribute Wall

FM

“Joyce epitomized lifelong learning. With a zest for living that uplifted all who knew her, Joyce modeled a student centered approach that colleagues were inspired to emulate. I feel privileged to have been her colleague and am sorry to hear of her passing,

Fred Moore - January 29, 2022 at 04:47 AM

JB

“Having known Joyce since her daughter, Julie, and I were in jr. high, from day one I found her home delightfully welcoming, hospitable, and a haven of solace and friendship. When returning for visits, she never failed to help me join in making rhubarb crisp!! And we would chat for hours of books, music, politics and gardening. To me the Sandine home will forever be filled with memories of laughter, peace and love. I cherish every memory.

- Joni Myers Boone  
Tampa, FL

Joni Myers Boone - January 27, 2022 at 03:51 PM

FH

“2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Homes - January 26, 2022 at 02:28 PM

SS

“ Steven And Colleen Swanson lit a candle in memory of Joyce Avon Sandine



Steven and Colleen Swanson - January 25, 2022 at 09:59 PM

AF

“ I admired Joyce so much. We worked together at BVU, which is how we met, but our friendship spanned many years and included a much anticipated holiday letter. One of my favorite things to talk with Joyce about was politics. She was so astute. Michael & I miss her already, but count ourselves so fortunate to call her ‘friend.’  
Peace, Andrea Frantz

Andrea Frantz - January 25, 2022 at 09:41 PM

KS

“ I loved talking to Joyce about books and life. She was such an amazing and nice lady. Prayers for your family.

Katie Schwint - January 25, 2022 at 05:33 PM

BS

“ Joyce was a wonderful lady! She will certainly be missed.



Brad Strader - January 25, 2022 at 02:30 PM

SM

“Joyce was the one who helped me get started in medical transcription at the BV Clinic which lead to a career of many years for me. Never a dull moment in that office! I'm so sorry for your loss. Prayers sent for all of you.

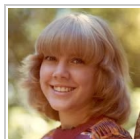
Sue Madsen - January 25, 2022 at 02:22 PM

LH

“Lynette & Bill Halder lit a candle in memory of Joyce Avon Sandine



Lynette & Bill Halder - January 25, 2022 at 11:58 AM



“Lynn Snyder lit a candle in memory of Joyce Avon Sandine



Lynn Snyder - January 25, 2022 at 10:45 AM

MO

“We are neighbors that live down the alley and my 2 children and i would walk by and stop and wave at her when we were on our walk... we will miss this alot as she always had a smile on her face when we did this... she would always said gi to us also when she was on a walk around the block... we will miss her very much... so sorry for your loss

Molli Overturf and Camden and Madalynn

Molli - January 24, 2022 at 09:16 PM

MG

“ Mike And Bonnie Goebel lit a candle in memory of Joyce Avon Sandine



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**Mike and Bonnie Goebel** - January 24, 2022 at 08:35 PM

RW

“ Joyce was a beautiful person who befriended me when I joined Trinity. We served on the Vitality committee together and I had the opportunity to get to know her better when we traveled to Carroll for the regional meetings. We both were part of the Trinity evening Bible study where she expressed her strong faith, tremendous knowledge and shared deep vision and thoughts as we explored the Bible together. I learned so much from her and appreciated her insight.

*She shared alot of community history, told lots of stories and often expressed her love and how proud she was of her daughters and their families. I so appreciated her loving smile and gracious personality. Even though I have moved from Alta, I still had the joy of our virtual Bible study on Tuesday evenings - she will be missed.*

*May God's Blessings be with her family and may He wrap his arms around them and comfort them. - Becky Wolf*

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**Rebecca Wolf** - January 24, 2022 at 08:34 PM

CW

“ Joyce was a lovely lady. I enjoyed visiting with her and working alongside her at church meals. May she Rest in Peace. Cheryl Carpenter Winterhof

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**Cheryl Winterhof** - January 24, 2022 at 08:19 PM

PH

“ *Pam Henderson lit a candle in memory of  
Joyce Avon Sandine*



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**Pam Henderson** - January 24, 2022 at 07:35 PM