



## Norma Jean Gerke

February 28, 1942 - April 14, 2026

Norma Jean Gerke, age 84, of Newell, Iowa died April 14, 2026 at Methodist Manor Retirement Community in Storm Lake.

Funeral services will take place Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in rural Storm Lake. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be held Friday, April 24, 2026 from 5-7:00 p.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Norma Jean Newgard was born on February 28, 1942, the daughter of Allen and Doris (Miller) Newgard. She was baptized as an infant at First Lutheran Church in Sioux Rapids, Iowa, where she was later confirmed in her faith.

Norma grew up in the Sioux Rapids area, where she attended school and graduated from Cornell High School in 1959. Following her graduation, she began working at the bank in Sioux Rapids.

On April 12, 1964, Norma was united in marriage to Clifford Gerke at First Lutheran Church in Sioux Rapids. Together, they were blessed with two children, Cheryl and Denny. While raising their family, Norma dedicated herself to her home and also helped on the farm.

In her younger years, Norma was actively involved in her church, assisting with Sunday School and Bible School. She was a devoted member of Zion Lutheran Church and participated in various church organizations. She also enjoyed fellowship through the Neighborhood Koffee Klatch and the Friends Card Club, where she remained a member for more than 50 years.

Norma later worked for Commercial Bank and the Credit Union in Storm Lake for several years.

She had a deep love for animals and an even greater love for her family. Norma was known for always having a drink and treats ready for visitors. She cherished time spent with her loved ones, including a special trip to Arizona for her 25th wedding anniversary and a memorable vacation to Hawaii. Family meant everything to her, especially attending her children's and grandchildren's activities.

Norma will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Those left to cherish her memory include her husband, Cliff Gerke of Newell, Iowa; children: Cheryl (Dan) Kerkhoff of Manning, Iowa; Denny Gerke of Newell, Iowa; grandchildren: Jason (Heather) Ripke of Adel, Iowa; Derek (Shawna) Ripke of Adel, Iowa; Sara (Jeremy) Croghan of Manning, Iowa; Erin (Cole) Miller of Hampton, Iowa; and Tanner Gerke of Newell, Iowa; great grandchildren: Tyson, Hayden, Weston, Ellie, Decker, Jackson, Garrett, Brody, Peyton, and Karter; sister-in-law, Fern (Jim) Bjorklund of Storm Lake, Iowa; many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents, Allen and Doris Newgard; parents-in-law, Ewald and Alice Gerke; sisters: Delores (Elmer) Hogrefe; Janice (Marshall) Petersen; sister-in-law, Maxine (Shorty) Lullmann; and brother-in-law, Willard Gerke.



# Cemetery Details

## Zion Lutheran Cemetery

1725 555th St.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **24**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake  
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,  
Storm Lake, IA 50588  
(712) 732-1911  
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com  
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

## Funeral Service

APR **25**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church  
1725 555th St  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Norma Jean Gerke*

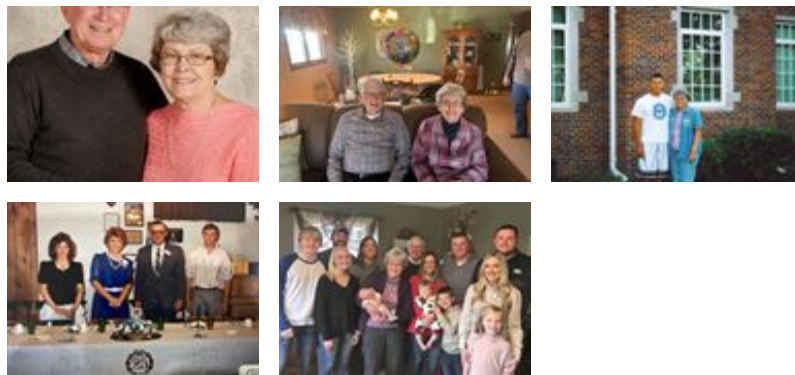


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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - April 22 at 02:21 PM



“ *184 files added to the album LifeTributes*



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**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - April 22 at 02:15 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norma Jean Gerke.*



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April 21 at 12:16 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Norma Jean Gerke.*



April 20 at 09:59 PM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



**Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home** - April 20 at 01:19 PM



“ *Russ and Jackie Burdette purchased the Beautiful I Heart Bouquet for the family of Norma Jean Gerke.*



**Russ and Jackie Burdette** - April 18 at 08:12 AM



“ *Vicki Sorbe lit a candle in memory of Norma Gerke*



**Vicki Sorbe** - April 17 at 03:15 PM

LC

“ Lana Crilly lit a candle in memory of Norma Gerke



Lana Crilly - April 16 at 03:46 PM

DM

“ Dave Merten lit a candle in memory of Norma Gerke



Dave Merten - April 16 at 10:52 AM

DH

“ You have our deepest sympathy in the passing of your wife, Clifford.



Duane/ Eldona Hornor - April 15 at 10:50 PM

MM

“ Thoughts and prayers to all of Norma's family. She was such a nice lady. She will be missed 🙏

Marlys Martin - April 15 at 08:21 PM

RW

“ *Ruth Westergaard lit a candle in memory of Norma Gerke*



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**Ruth Westergaard** - April 15 at 06:33 PM

LK

“ *Deepest sympathy to you and your family Clifford. God Bless!*

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**Lynn Krogstad** - April 15 at 10:00 AM

SF

“ *Sympathy to the family! A great lady!*



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**Steven Frank** - April 15 at 09:38 AM