She Is Gone (You Can Shed Tears)

You can shed tears that she is gone Or
you can smile because she has lived

You can close your eyes and
pray that she will come back

Or you can open your eyes
and see all that she has left

Your heart can be empty
because you can't see her

Or you can be full of the
love that you shared

You can turn your back on
tomorrow and live yesterday

Or you can be happy for
tomorrow because of yesterday

You can remember her and
only that she is gone

Or you can cherish her
memory and let it live on

You can cry and close your mind, be
empty and turn your back

Or you can do what she would want:
smile, open your eyes, love and go on.





Born to Walter and Edna Staehnke
December 30, 1936 ~ Bemidji, Minnesota
Entered the Gates of Heaven
October 11, 2026 ~ Longmont, Colorado
Funeral Service
Monday, November 9, 2026 ~ 11:00 AM
First Lutheran Church
Watford City, North Dakota
Officiating
Minister Matthew Rolfson
Eulogist
Scott Lee
Pallbearers
Scott Lee Mark Lee Aaron Lee
Connor Lee Brian Allex
Music Selections
"My Life Flows On In Endless Song" ~ Hymn
"When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder" ~ Johnny Cash
"Evensong" ~ Annika Lee
"I'll Fly Away" ~ Johnny Cash

Soloist	Musician
Annika Lee	Caroline Schwartz

Final Resting Place
Schafer Cemetery
Watford City, North Dakota
Arrangements By
Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home
Watford City, North Dakota

In Loving Memory



Shirley Jone Lee

December 30, 1936 - October 11, 2026

Shirley Ione (Staehnke) Lee, 89, formerly of Watford City, North Dakota, passed away Sunday, October 11, 2026, at the TRU Hospice Unit at Longmont United Hospital in Longmont, Colorado.

Shirley was born December 30, 1936, in Bemidji, Minnesota, to Walter and Edna Staehnke. She grew up in a busy household surrounded by her brothers and sisters. During a summer spent waitressing at a Tioga diner while her dad looked for oilfield work, she met a young roustabout named Chester Lee - rumored to be partly brought together over her mother Edna's cooking.

Shirley and Chester were married in 1956, sharing over 66 years together. They raised three boys across McKenzie County, living in Keene, Johnsons Corner, and the Amerada Hess North Camp before settling into their Watford City home in 1970.

Around town, many remember Shirley as the owner of the original Twist Drive Inn, where she ran a tight ship, worked long hours, and gave many local kids their first jobs. Always eager to keep learning, she went back to college in her 40s to earn her bachelor's degree, going on to teach for many years at Mandaree on the Fort Berthold Reservation.







Considering all her interests, quilting was her true passion. Shirley pieced together nearly 200 quilted needlework projects over her lifetime, sharing her knowledge as a mentor in the local quilting community, where her friends affectionately dubbed her the "Queen Bee." When she wasn't at her sewing machine, she enjoyed playing in the ladies' golf league, listening to Johnny Cash, and cheering on the WCHS Wolves.

Above all else, Shirley was devoted to her family. She took great pride in her three boys and loved nothing more than spoiling her grandkids and great-grandkids—especially with a fresh batch of her homemade caramel rolls.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Edna Staehnke; her siblings Betty, Neal, Enid, Ferne, David, and William; and her husband, Chester, who passed away in 2022.

Shirley is survived by her three sons, Michael (Terri), Scott (Jaimee), and Mark (Julie); six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many good friends and fellow quilters across McKenzie County.