

## Sara Mardesen

68

Aug. 20, 1949 - June 10, 2018

**ELK HORN** – Sara Jane, daughter of Harry and Viola (Hansen) Sander, was born August 20, 1949, in Harlan. She grew up in Elk Horn and graduated from Elk Horn-Kimballton High School in 1967. Sara then attended cosmetology school in Des Moines.

On November 30, 1968, Sara was united in marriage with Richard Mardesen in Elk Horn. They made their home on the family farm west of Elk Horn. Three children were born to this union. Sara worked in the beauty shop at Salem Lutheran Homes. In the early 1990s, the family moved to Valentine, NE, for a short time before returning to Elk Horn. Sara then worked at Pipestone Artificial Breeders near Brayton.

Sara was a member of Elk Horn Lutheran Church, where she taught Sunday school for several years. She and Richard enjoyed traveling, especially to the West and Southwest U.S. For many years, Sara raised dogs and planted a garden. Sara cherished the time spent with her children and grandchildren, rarely missing any of their activities.

On Sunday, June 10, 2018, Sara passed away at Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn. She was 68 years of age.

Sara is survived by her husband Richard Mardesen of Elk Horn; three children: Heath Mardesen and wife Michelle of Oxford; Adam Mardesen of Elk Horn; and Katie Schmelzer and husband Tony of Tiffin; four grandchildren: Mary Kate and Timothy Mardesen of Oxford and Hunter and Sam Schmelzer of Tiffin; a brother Terry Sander and wife Neta of Elk Horn; a sister Carol Bartlett and husband David of Chandler, AZ; a sister-in-law Sharon Nelson and husband Richard of Omaha, NE, and a sister-in-law Sue (Darell) Mardesen. Also, many nieces and nephews.

Sara was preceded in death by her parents, Richard's parents Vernon and Grace Mardesen, brother-in-law Darell Mardesen and a great-nephew Axel Bartlett.

A funeral service was held June 14 at 10:30 a.m. at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church. Rev. Keith Menter officiated. Casket bearers were Mary Kate Mardesen, Tim Mardesen, Hunter Schmelzer, Sam Schmelzer, David Bartlett and Dick Nelson. Interment was in the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Ohde Funeral Home. Condolences may be left at [ohdefuneralhome.com](http://ohdefuneralhome.com)



*Ohde*

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