



Ellen Renz

December 5, 1995 - February 18, 2022

Ellen Rose Renz, 26, of Lennox, SD passed away at home surrounded by her loving family on the morning of February 18, 2022, under hospice care, from complications of Acute Myeloid Leukemia

Ellen Rose Renz was born December 5, 1995 to Ryan and Joan (Stastny)Renz in Sioux Falls, SD. Ellen moved with her family to Lennox, SD a couple of years later. Ellen's creative and artistic abilities came to light at an early age when she placed in the state Reading Rainbow Writers and Illustrators State contest in the 3rd grade. In her youth, Ellen loved working on crafts, swimming at the pool, camping with her family and singing. She participated in band, choir and golf during her high school years in Lennox. Ellen took her love for the arts and design to Mount Marty College in Yankton, SD where she graduated with a degree in Graphic Design and Media Arts. With her attention to detail, Ellen worked as a freelance graphic designer and photographer bringing light and love to her creations. Her free-time was spent studying and refining her craft along with refining her baking skills in making the perfect macaroon.

Ellen lived her life with grace, patience, kindness and joy. Ellen's heart was joy-filled with her love for music and her voice overflowed with angelic song. One of her favorite sayings was "When you sing, you pray twice." She shared her gift with family and friends. Ellen also sang in the church and college choir, and played clarinet in college and community bands. She also lived by the motto, "Preach the Gospel, when necessary use words." Ellen valued

people and loved spending time with family and friends; whether, playing games or just listening to them and throwing in frequent witty comments. She reflected God's light with her sweet smile and her unwavering presence was a little piece of heaven on earth. Ellen always saw and recognized the beauty in nature and people. She had an eye for capturing this beauty in her photography as well as in her heart. Ellen's compassionate heart, quick wit and kind smile will be dearly missed by those who knew her.

Blessed and thankful for having shared in Ellen's life are: her parents, Ryan and Joan (Stastny) Renz (Lennox, SD), sister, Christina Renz (Yankton, SD), brother, Nathan Renz (Rapid City, SD), along with many close relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her grandparents: Carl and Vivian Renz, Joseph and MaryAnn Stastny.

Services will begin at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, February 26, at Saint Magdalen Catholic Church, Lennox, SD with burial in the Lennox Cemetery. Visitation, also at Saint Magdalen Catholic Church, with the family present, will be 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, with the Rosary at 6:45 and Wake Service at 7:00 p.m.

Tribute Wall

MJ

“ *I'm so sorry for the loss. I have no words*



michael jacobson - March 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ *Ryan, my prayers are with you and your family. I'm so very sorry for the loss of your lovely daughter.*

May God's peace surround you all and bring you comfort.

Brian D. Schroeder - March 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

“ I wrote a poem for Joan: called "Lord, tell my mom I'll be ok"

Lord, tell my mom I'll be ok

Mama, this is my journey, my story, and I'll be ok

The Lord told me it's not me in that box anymore, I'm right here beside him

And here in your heart

So when you're praying The Lord's Prayer, it's me leading the way

When you're writing a lovey note, I'm the one guiding your pen

And when you see something so beautiful, I picked the colors for you

See mom, I'll be ok.

And when the Spring birds start to sing. Yes, me again

So Lord, tell mama I'll be ok

I'm home now. I can feel the happiness

I'm walking in golden wheat, I know their Grandpa's field

Because I can feel him holding my hand. What a handsome gent

Just now I just got a HUGH hug. And yes, she is ok too.

And if you can feel it, she is send one to you too

You see mom, The Lord is just telling you, I'll be ok

One simple day in Heaven is years and years for you,

And you know what The Lord just told me,

You, mom, will also be ok too.

See you soon

Love E

Dale Kokesh - February 28, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BW

“ *Please know that you are in our hearts and prayers on this most difficult day. We are so sorry we could not be there in person today but we mourn with you upon Ellen's passing. May God uphold you with his comfort and love.*

Love, Dave & Becky Wensink

Becky Wensink - February 26, 2022 at 12:00 AM

EA

“ *I remember being behind the Lennox Band Shell on the 4th of July activities. I was about to play with some other longtime friends. Ryan was holding his young daughter, who was having a bit of a nap tantrum. I was wearing my acoustic guitar, and I sang "Puff, The Magic Dragon" to her. She did stop crying.*

Erik Arlton - February 25, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Ellen’s passing. She was one of my all-time favorite students, so polite, so caring, so imaginative. She will be missed 🙏

Mary Stack - February 25, 2022 at 12:00 AM

KD

“ Joan, Ryan and family - our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. May you find comfort in the memories you shared with Ellen.

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
Psalm 34:18



Kim and Mark Downs - February 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM

GJ

“ Sorry for your loss. Ellen's talents and wonderful spirit will be greatly missed. Thoughts and Prayers are with you in this time.



Gary and Rise Jongeling - February 24, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ We are so heartbroken for you all. Our hearts go out to you and your family. We can’t imagine the sadness you must be feeling from your loss. May the love of those around you help you through the days ahead. Our thoughts are with you all.

Luther Family - February 23, 2022 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ GOD BLESS YOUR FAMILY

Kim and Lynn Soukup - February 23, 2022 at 12:00 AM

TR

“ Ellen blessed me with her singing voice by helping me with the first Masses that I played at the Mount Marty Peace Chapel, when I arrived in 2017. I am saddened by her loss. Blessings to her family.

Tim Rice - February 23, 2022 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ Dear Joan, Ryan and all, please know that I am with you in prayer as you endure these long, cold, dark days. Ellen’s light will bring you out of the darkness with God’s hand and faith and strength and courage. Sending all my love and hope to you all, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Colleen Kocer Peplinski - February 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AJ

“ I am so very sorry for the loss of your dear Ellen. Ellen sounds like such an amazing and beautiful person.

I was blessed to have known you Joan as our paths would cross on the woman’s and children’s floors at Avera. Please know My heart is breaking for you all and I am sending my deepest sympathy.

Amber Johnson - February 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM



AL

“ Sympathy to all the family

Arlo & Vonnie. Larson - February 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ Ryan & Joan, we are so sorry for your family's loss.

Mark & Christy Westerman - February 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ Prayer to you and your family Joan. We are so heartbroken by this news. May the Lord keep you in his arms and bring you peace.



Bud & Bernie Koupal - February 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DO

“ Joan and family, I am so so sorry for your loss of this special child that God has entrusted you with for 26 years. You raised her to love the Lord and that is all He asks of us as parents. Please know that I am praying for you all at this very difficult time and what a joy to know that you will see her again in Heaven! Deb Oftedah!

Deb O - February 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ It was a blessing to meet Ellen for a couple of days when we painted her Aunt Carol's classroom a couple of years ago. I know this is hard to say goodbye to your daughter and my heart grieves for you. I am glad she could share all of her creative gifts with the world.

Susan and Reed Schrag - February 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SO

“ My deep condolences to Joan and Ryan and your family. I'm so happy that I had the opportunity to get to know her while she was MMU, and to accompany her for one of the recitals. There is such a bond that happens through music. Be assured of my prayers. Keep her memory alive: tell the stories, laugh and cry together at all of the funny and sad experiences you shared with Ellen these 26 years! Also know that the sisters here are praying for her and for all of you, too.

Sister Patricia Ann Toscano, OSB - February 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ I went through Mount Marty's graphic design program with Ellen. She was a lovely and extremely talented girl, and I enjoyed the years we spent together. I'm very sorry to hear this news and, though we've never met, my sympathies go out to all of you.

Ellen, you will be missed.

Brooke - February 22, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ I did not know Ellen, but her uncle, Charles, is a good friend. When I heard of her passing, we asked the Franciscan Friars TOR to remember her at the holy sacrifice of the Mass. May our Lord welcome her home with open and loving arms.

Steve Feher - February 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dear Family: My heart aches for the loss of your special loved one. You are in my thoughts and prayers as you journey through your sorrow and grief. Such a young age makes the journey more heart breaking. In sympathy,

Dr Janell Christiansen - February 21, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Ryan and family, so sorry for your loss.

Debbie williamson - February 20, 2022 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ So sorry for your loss. You are in our prayers and thoughts.

Amy Fischer - February 20, 2022 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Ryan, Joan, Christina and Nathan. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. I pray for peace to bring you comfort, and courage to face the days ahead and much love to surround you during this time. Love you. Rosellen will surely miss Ellen Rose.

Rosellen Reese - February 19, 2022 at 12:00 AM