



Rachael Ann Anderson

March 11, 1982 - April 10, 2026

Rachael Ann Anderson, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota passed from this life on April 10, 2026 in Sioux Falls at the age of 44.

Visitation will be held from 6:00-8:00 pm, Tuesday, April 14 at Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls with memorial services at Peace Lutheran on Wednesday, April 15 at 2:00 pm. Memorial contributions may be made to the Rachael Anderson Memorial Fund at any CorTrust bank location - Sioux Falls, Mitchell, or Freeman. Donations by mail may be sent in c/o Jarman Family Funeral Home, PO Box 588, Lennox, SD 57039.

Rachael was born March 11, 1982. She grew up a farm girl outside of Chancellor, South Dakota, the youngest of four daughters to Roger and Monica Kock. She graduated from Lennox High School in 2000 and graduated from Midland Lutheran College in 2004, participating in music and drama performances throughout. Rachael was a lifelong student who obtained masters and doctoral degrees at University of South Dakota, graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy, Counseling & Psychology in Education in 2015. She spent her career helping kids, most recently as a school counselor to hundreds of students at John Harris Elementary and Ben Reifel Middle School. Rachael was committed to her work and showed up for her kids through her illness, up until the end of March.

Rachael and John Anderson were friends and fellow drama nerds at LHS, and Rachael was John's date to his senior prom in 1999. After years of friendship, Rachael and John came to recognize the love between them. They married in 2011 and built their life together in Sioux Falls. Daughter Johannah Mynn was born in 2016, and Matilda Rose was born in 2021; she was so proud of her girls Jo and Tilly.

In 2021, Rachael was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation while mothering a newborn and a kindergartener. Rachael enjoyed some time of remission before the cancer returned in November 2023. Rachael loved her life and did not want to leave us, and she fought the cancer with all her might until the very end.

Rachael loved hosting others, baking, making art and poetry, singing to her girls, playing board games (especially Ticket to Ride), telling stories and making jokes, and watching reality TV.

Rachael loved big and is survived by many who loved her – so many friends, current and former coworkers and students, and family by blood and by choice, including her husband John Anderson and daughters Johannah and Matilda, her parents Monica (Wollman) and Roger Kock, sisters Carmen Kock, Sara Kock, and Carla Cushman and her husband Alex and daughters Elsie and Hazel Cushman and Marissa Surrounded, parents in law Ruth and Steven Anderson, sister in law Sarah Ebeling and her husband John and children Emily, Annie, and Jason with partner Emma Taggart.

Cemetery Details

Lennox Cemetery

Lennox, SD

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **14**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Peace Lutheran Church
5509 W 41st St
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

Memorial Service

APR **15**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Peace Lutheran Church
5509 W 41st St
Sioux Falls, SD 57106

A recording of the service may be viewed here: https://youtube.com/live/n35k_n3o8fM?feature=share

Tribute Wall



“ Jarman Family Funeral Home created a Rachael's Memorial Service in memory of Rachael Ann Anderson



Jarman Family Funeral Home - April 16 at 12:45 PM



“ Jarman Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Rachael Ann Anderson



Jarman Family Funeral Home - April 16 at 12:41 PM

BA

She will forever be in my heart and was one of the kindest people I've ever met. She was always down to earth and tried to understand everything without judgement. I've known her almost all elementary and middle school and she would always treat me with kindness and try to get a laugh out of me. She will forever be my most favorite staff member I met in my life. She was so strong, I'll always love you Mrs. Anderson, you'll forever be in my heart

Brylee Aaker - April 30 at 12:23 AM

JS

“ Rachael was probably the best listener of anyone I've ever met. I highly recommend having a brilliant, kind, emotionally intelligent roommate who will empathize with your troubles but also set you straight when you leave your 2am nachos in the microwave overnight. Life got a lot harder when my smarter friend wasn't in the room next door- but she never stopped taking time to respond and talk, even as she built an amazing family and career of her own. The legacy she leaves with me (and I'm pretty sure everyone she ever met) is one of spreading understanding and compassion out into the world. And for that, the world is now and will be a better and brighter place for her part in it. Godspeed, friend. I will miss you.

Jay Seevers - April 14 at 10:38 AM

MM

“ Rachael was literally the first person I reached out to after I was diagnosed with cancer. She didn't sugar coat anything and also talked with me in a way in which I could grasp what was actually happening. When I complained, she would say it was all “welcome and patience” on her end. She once sent me a video and said “A little Tilly for your morning” after I'd had a bad round after chemo. While she was dealing with the worst, she was making others feel better. What a blessing to know such an amazing human. Hug Ryan for me - you two will be a real hoot together.

Maggie (Cushman) McDonald - April 13 at 05:06 PM

JA

“*Rachael and I attended graduate school together and we served on state counseling boards together throughout the years. I have such deep respect for Rachael. She’s just a solid human being. She’s the epitome of non-judgmental unconditional love. That - and her glorious sense of style - I will always remember her by. I love you, Rachael.*

To Rachael’s close family and close friends, my deepest condolences. Knowing the way Rachael affected me as someone on the periphery of her life - I cannot imagine the loss you all must be feeling. She was a light. May her memory continue to light your days.

Joy Anderson - April 12 at 10:13 PM

AM

“*Rachael entered my life by encouraging her husband John to join our GM Support group the very first time it started. Rachael, John, and Jo became consistent visitors and supporters in our early years! Rachael was such a warm, loving, light in a dark and difficult time for me. She offered me so much guidance and wisdom, love and care. John and I grew in similar ways at similar times, and he became a safe person to dive deep with on his visits. Jo and later Tillie too, I watched grow from toddling to talking and well beyond. Thank you, Rachael, for sharing your family with me, and kicking John out the door for the first GMSG meeting. You changed my life, and you will live forever in the legacy you've left behind. I love you.*

Amanda Maguire - April 12 at 04:30 PM

AE

“*Rachael shined such a light in this world. As someone in the counseling field, she made a positive impact for so many, including her students and clinical mental health and school counselors throughout the state. I was fortunate to experience her leadership and passion to support and help others. She was truly one of a kind.*”

Andrea Effling - April 12 at 02:37 PM



“*Rachael was one of the first people to not only accept me during a weirdly formative, yet confusing, part of my life (post HS graduation), but also was one of the first to help me to feel confident in who I was as a person and as an artist. She was a great friend and will be missed dearly.*”

Nicholas Semrad - April 12 at 01:32 PM