Margaret Ruth (Graham) Mattson was born on May 29, 1949, in Morris, Minnesota, to Clair and Alice (Burmeister) Graham. She grew up in rural Chokio on her family's home place. Margaret was a member of First Methodist Church of Chokio and attended Chokio Public School. She later earned her degree from Willmar Technical College.

On June 5, 1965, Margaret married Larry Olson, and together they were blessed with two children, Doug and Jody. They raised their children in Johnson. Though their marriage later ended, Margaret continued to make Johnson her home. On July 6, 1991, she married David Mattson.

Johnson held a special place in Margaret's heart. Her familiar trips around town on her scooter were part of everyday life and will certainly be missed. Whether she was heading out for a cup of coffee, checking in on the neighbors, walking her dogs, or keeping a watchful eye on the neighbors' corn patch, tomatoes, and apples, she always seemed to know what was going on around town. These simple routines, along with her love for her community and her caring presence, were just a few of the things that made Margaret so special.

Margaret spent several years working at Carlson's Corner in Graceville, where her love of cooking and baking was evident both at work and at home. She was known as a wonderful cook and baker, and her homemade meals will be dearly missed. From her soups, potato salad, macaroni salad, and chow mein to her seasonal cakes, fresh breads, and muffins, Margaret always had something delicious to share. And, of course, no holiday or special occasion was complete without one of her beloved banana cream pies. These cherished flavors and traditions will forever hold a special place in the hearts of her family.

Later in life, Margaret's career took a new direction as she became an insurance adjuster. She eventually worked as a customer contact representative and remained in that role until her retirement from Onvoy in 2012. Throughout her career, Margaret formed several friendships that she truly cherished.

Friends and family would all agree that Margy had a heart of gold and a special way of making everyone feel welcome. She was often seen with a gentle smile on her face and her familiar, soft giggle that those who knew her will remember fondly. Her home was always open to others, and she never hesitated to offer a place to stay to friends who needed one, sometimes for weeks or even longer. Margaret had a generous heart and a kindness that made everyone feel at home.

Margaret had a true passion for auto racing. She traveled throughout the country to visit numerous NASCAR tracks and loved sharing her passion with family and friends, bringing them along to experience the excitement. She also enjoyed visiting race shops and collecting racing memorabilia. These adventures brought her great joy and created many treasured memories along the way.

Above all, Margaret deeply loved her family. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her pride and joy, and the time she spent with them was especially precious. One of her favorite traditions was renting a cabin for a week and bringing her family together. She enjoyed fishing, spending time with those she loved, and making memories that her family will carry with them forever.

Margaret also found great joy in gardening and tending to her flowers. Each spring, she took special pride in creating and caring for her memorial garden in honor of Jody, watching it come to life and bloom as the months passed. It was a special place that reflected the love and care Margaret put into everything she did.

Margaret is survived by her son, Doug (Kristie) Olson of Chokio; granddaughters, Abbygail (Michael) Weick of Chokio and Cassandra (Adam) Behnke of Brandt, South Dakota; great-granddaughters, Emma and Taylor Weick and Eden and Ivy Behnke; her beloved Shih Tzus, Maggie and Bailey; and loyal caregiver Stacey Beyer; along with a community of beloved friends too numerous to name.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clair and Alice Graham; her husband, David Mattson; her daughter, Jody Olson-Dahn; and her first husband, Larry Olson.

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In Loving Memory Of



Margaret Ruth Mattson

May 29, 1949 ~ November 2, 2026















In Loving Memory Of

Margaret Ruth Mattson

Date of Birth
May 29, 1949

Entered Into Rest
November 2, 2026

Funeral Services
11:00 AM, November 7, 2026
Our Savior's Lutheran Church - Chokio, Minnesota

Officiating
Abby Weick

Pianist
Kim Holt

Music
The Old Rugged Cross
How Great Thou Art
Amazing Grace

Pallbearers
Wally Schmitz Josh Fuhrman Kyle Spaulding
Larry Spaulding Nathan Burmeister
Joe Kutzler Jody Fuhrman Mike Maanum

Interment
Chokio Lutheran Cemetery - Chokio, Minnesota

The family of Margaret Mattson wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to everyone who offered kindness and support during this difficult time.