



## JoAnn M. Koepke

December 28, 1947 - November 24, 2025

NORFOLK – Celebration of life service for JoAnn Marcille Koepke, 77, of Norfolk, will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, December 5, 2025 at the Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk. Rev. Gordon Braun will be officiating the service. The service will be live streamed on the Stonacek Funeral Chapel Website at: <https://www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/joann-koepke/#!/PhotosVideos>. Private family burial will be held at the Zion East Lutheran Cemetery, rural Hoskins. Memorials preferred to House The Homeless, PO Box 2312, Austin TX 78768-2312 or to Child Fund International, PO Box 1911, Merrifield VA 22116-1911. JoAnn passed away on Monday, November 24, 2025 at her residence in Norfolk. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

A gifted musician, she played piano with her left hand when right hand unable. While attending Pierce High School, her construction of an EKG machine from a Karo syrup can won her a trip to the National Science Fair in Dallas, Texas.

She earned her Masters Degree while living in Texas, then became homeless for a while. Helped by Austin House The Homeless, she served for many years on their Board of Directors, even after moving back to Nebraska in 2012.

An accomplished fundraiser, she raised the money to educate, from

elementary school through college degree, two young women in Uganda through Child Fund International. JoAnn established a mother-daughter relationship with Jo Masiko and Rebecca Kayaga, being in frequent digital and telephone contact with them in Uganda. Her seizure alert kitty was her best friend. She loved to paint and garden.

JoAnn made lemonade out of many lemon trials and did more good for God's downtrodden in her life than all nine of her siblings put together. Preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Dorthy Koepke, and brother Gary. Survived by sisters Judy Koepke, Janis (Jon) Bible, Lana (Phil) Johnson, Lynne Tittel; brothers Galen (Doris Koepke), Gene (Michelle) Koepke, Lonnie (Suellen) Koepke, Jeff (Sharon) Koepke; sister-in-law Terry Koepke; many nieces and nephews; and many friends worldwide.

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at [www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com](http://www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Zion East Lutheran Cemetery, Rural Hoskins

Rural Hoskins, NE 68740

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

DEC 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk

1200 N.13th St.

Norfolk, NE 68701

(402) 371-7676

[info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com](mailto:info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com)

<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stonacek Funeral Chapel created a Webcast in memory of JoAnn M. Koepke*



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**Stonacek Funeral Chapel** - December 05, 2025 at 09:18 AM



*We are so thankful that we could attend this service from Texas! Celebrating our JoAnne with all of you! Much love to all, Vanay and Chuck*

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**Vanay Richards Walek** - December 05, 2025 at 01:04 PM

KR

*Rest in peace mummy Joann.  
This is not goodbye, my darling mummy thank you for mothering me ,  
giving me another family, love and support.  
I thank God who gifted you to me .  
Your daughter kayaga Rebecca*

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**Kayaga Rebecca** - December 05, 2025 at 01:54 PM

J(

*My tribute to mom Jo Ann:*

*"Dear family and friends. My name is Jo Babirye Masiko, and I'm honoured to be here today to celebrate the life of my beloved sponsor mom, Jo Ann Koepke*

*Mom, you lived a life that honoured God, and your love for Him was evident in everything you did. You were a shining example of Psalm 118:1, "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."*

*Thirty-one years ago, Mom Jo Ann opened her heart and home to me, a young girl from Uganda, and began a journey of love, support, and guidance that would change my life forever.*

*Though we were separated by thousands of miles, JoAnn's love and presence were always felt. Our regular conversations on Skype, Zoom Google Meet bridged the distance, and I felt like I had a mother who cared deeply about my well-being, my dreams, and my aspirations.*

*Mom's love was unconditional, her support unwavering, and her generosity boundless. She taught me the value of kindness, compassion, and hard work, and I will strive to pass these values on to my own children.*

*My family and I loved mom JoAnn dearly, and we cherished our conversations on her birthday, December 28th. We celebrated her life, her love, and her dedication to making a difference in the world.*

*Mom's love didn't stop there. In 2006, she decided to sponsor another young girl, Rebecca Kayaga, and mothered her with the same love and care she showed me. Rebecca, too, has finished school and is making her mark in the world. We are both forever grateful for JoAnn's selfless love and support.*

*Mom, Rebecca, and I were dearly loved by you, and we will always cherish the memories we shared with you. We will miss you so much, but we take comfort in knowing that your legacy lives on through us.*

*As the Bible says in Isaiah 41:10, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

*Rest in peace, dear Mom. You will be deeply missed but never forgotten.*

*May God comfort and bless your family during this difficult time, and may we continue to be inspired by your love and legacy. Amen."*

Jo Masiko (Daughter) - December 05, 2025 at 05:52 PM

BT

*Rest in God's peace Jo Ann. We greatly valued your friendship.*

Brad & Mercy Tittel - December 28, 2025 at 10:06 AM

PA

“ *I was matched with Joann as a cancer mentor through the 4th Angel Program at Cleveland Clinic. I had the pleasure of getting to know Joann over the past months through email and phone calls. She was an inspiring person with a gentle soul. I'm so glad to have known her. I am thinking about her kitty and hope she is being cared for.*

Patti Abramowicz - December 10, 2025 at 08:24 PM

KB

“ *I worked for JoAnn in Norfolk before we moved. Or I should say we. After every ciesure. My husband would help move furniture around. To reimprint where things were. she was into painting the botanical individual flowers .she was a good pianist. Her cat always alerted her when time to get on floor. She loved her outdoor garden. Karen Benson*

Karen Benson - December 05, 2025 at 03:44 PM

ES

*May the angels guide you home! Rest well, dearest JoAnn, in the loving arms of our Lord!  
Thank you for being you, such a beautiful soul!*

Esther - December 29, 2025 at 03:02 PM

JM

“Dear family and friends. My name is Jo Babirye Masiko, and I'm honoured to be here today to celebrate the life of my beloved sponsor mom, Jo Ann Koepke

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**Jo Masiko** - December 05, 2025 at 01:29 PM

JR

“*JoAnn was my friend during college and for several years beyond, but I had lost touch with her many years ago. My friend Charlotte posted her obituary on Facebook, so that's how I knew she had passed. She was a loving and caring person whose light made a difference in many people's lives. Her love for Jesus shone through. Condolences to her family and friends. Janet Rife*

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**Janet Rife** - December 05, 2025 at 01:22 PM

J(

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**Jo Masiko (Daughter)** - December 05, 2025 at 12:39 PM

JH

“ *She was my neighbor. She always had a great attitude no matter how much pain or discomfort she had. Always had a smile for me.*  
*Jane Hagelstein*

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**Jane Hagelstein** - December 05, 2025 at 11:57 AM

CE

“ *JoAnn was a dear friend. She had been through so much and was such an inspiration. Unfortunately, I can't attend the service but I appreciate the fact it's being taped. I hope to listen online to pay my respects for her. Rest in peace, sweet friend.*



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**Charlotte Endorf** - December 04, 2025 at 09:05 PM

JG

“ Rest in peace, Jo Ann. My heart is broken. You were a shining light in this world with so much selfless devotion to others. Thank you for bringing me along in the journey towards helping so many. I'm so sorry we weren't able to meet face to face after all these years. With all my love, Jeff.

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**Jeff Green** - December 03, 2025 at 11:53 AM

CR

“ Rest in peace Jo Ann. You were a caring lady, always taking time to help others. I am amazed by all the projects you started to benefit others.

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**Carolyn Reisinger** - November 30, 2025 at 05:13 PM

BJ

“ We send our deepest sympathy to JoAnn's family. May our heavenly Father surround you with His love, and bring you comfort and peace.

*Betty Marten Janssen and Jeanie Marten Lovig*

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**Betty Janssen** - November 29, 2025 at 11:49 PM

JO

“ JoAnn was a 1966 classmate of mine. My husband and I took her to our 50th year class reunion in Pierce. We had the best visit on the way there. Can't believe it was 10 years ago. She had a wonderful time. I visited with her on the phone also. May she rest in peace. God's blessings to her family.

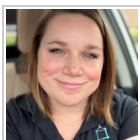
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**Joyce(Schomberg)Andersen** - November 29, 2025 at 02:45 PM

CB

“ JoAnn is forever my hero...her compassion and intelligence extraordinary! She served as Board Secrerary for House the Honekess, Inc. for decades. She faithfully solicited donations and food for HtH Memorial Services for years even after returning to Nebraska from Austin TX. And she adopted & guided two beautiful girls thru ChildFund Interbational. I treasure her hand painted decorative items and piano music - all done no matter her physical challenges. I LOVE YOU JOANN. See you in Heaven with all our loved ones and cats gathered at the feet of Jesus.

Cecilia Blanford - November 29, 2025 at 08:27 AM



“ Joanne gave me my first set of oil paints. She was such a kind and generous person. I was blessed to know her. May she sing shouts joy with her Lord Jesus forever!

Colleen Shuter - November 28, 2025 at 07:34 PM

WF

“ With love, The Troxell Family purchased the Senti  
ments of Serenity Spray for the family of JoAnn  
M. Koepke.



With love, The Troxell Family - November 28, 2025 at 07:25  
PM

PM

“ *I appreciated knowing JoAnn when she worked @ Lutheran Hospital. My sympathies to all of you; may she rest in peace.*



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**Pat Meierhenry** - November 28, 2025 at 01:32 PM