

*In Loving Memory of*  
***Donna Marie Garner***  
*September 17, 1942 ~ May 14, 2024*

**Memorial Service**

Friday, May 17, 2024 ▪ 10:00 AM  
Charity Lutheran Church ▪ 120 Aspen Ave  
Bismarck, North Dakota

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Welcome  
Call to Worship  
Song *“I Can Only Imagine”*  
Scripture Reading  
Message  
Prayer of Thanksgiving  
The Lord’s Prayer \* (Said in unison together)  
Commendation  
Committal  
Song *“Jealous of the Angels”*  
\*Benediction

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**Officiant** Pastor Ron Dahle

*Eastgate & Parkway Funeral Service*  
*Bismarck, North Dakota*

Donna Garner, a beloved member of the Bismarck community, passed away peacefully on May 14, 2024, surrounded by her daughter Ginger Lea holding her hand. She was 81 years old.

Born Donna Marie Stensland on September 17, 1942, in Miller, SD to Don and Marie Stensland, Donna's life was marked by a deep passion for helping others. Her journey in nursing began after graduating from Fargo Central High School in 1961. She pursued her dream of becoming a nurse enrolling in the Practical Nursing Program at ND State College in Wahpeton, where she graduated in 1964. Donna's dedication to her profession led her to donate her body to science, a testament to her lifelong commitment to the medical field.

One of Donna's early career highlights was working as a surgical technician alongside the first plastic surgeon in the area. Her love for nursing shone through as she dedicated seven years to this role. Beyond her professional endeavors, Donna also found joy in unexpected places. Through a nursing friend, she discovered a passion for fencing—a hobby that would ultimately lead her to meet her husband, David Charles Garner. They were married on April 22, 1967, and together raised three children: Lisa Lynn, Ginger Lea, and Chad.

In 1971, Donna moved to Bismarck with her family and embraced the role of both a dedicated mother and housewife. Donna rejoined the workforce in 1976 as a floor nurse at Bismarck Hospital, Donna spent over three and a half decades caring for others and forming lasting friendships along the way. Her compassion and unwavering dedication left an indelible mark on all those she encountered.

A woman of faith, Donna found solace and community within Trinity Lutheran Church and later Charity Lutheran Church. Her love for music resonated through her passion for playing the piano and admiration for Elvis Presley's timeless songs. Above all else, Donna cherished her family.

Donna Garner's legacy lives on through the memories shared by those who knew and loved her. She will be remembered for her kind heart, unwavering faith, and selfless devotion to others. In honoring her wishes to donate her body to science, Donna continues to inspire future generations in the field she held dear.

Donna is survived by her children: Lisa Meland, Ginger Lea, and Chand (Debbie) and their children Grace and Joe; sister, Jeri (Greg) Wettstein, and Izzy,

Donna was preceded by her parents and her husband.

• IN LOVING MEMORY •

A MOTHER'S LOVE

*A mother's love is special  
It's present every day,  
A gift that came from heaven  
That God has sent our way.  
Her job is never ending  
She's there all day and night,  
To be there for her children  
And be their guiding light.  
Her thoughts are with them always  
Even if they are apart,  
Her children have a special place  
Deep down inside her heart.  
Mothers are a special gift –  
A gift from up above,  
This world would seem so empty  
Without a Mother's love.*

-J. ENTZMINGER



DONNA GARNER

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SEPTEMBER 17, 1942 ~ MAY 14, 2024

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