



Malena "Marlene" Cornilia Miller was born February 5, 1938, in Inwood, Iowa, the daughter of Cornelius and Germina (Scholten) Vermeer. She grew up on a farm near Rock Valley, Iowa, and graduated from Rock Valley Community School.

On June 20, 1958, Marlene was married to Marion Faber. The couple made their home in Rock Valley and would have two sons and a daughter before Marion passed away in 1965. On September 3, 1967, Marlene was married to Billy Miller at the Little Wayside Chapel in Sioux Center, Iowa, and would have one son together. Bill passed away in 2020.

After graduating from high school, Marlene worked for a grocery store, Iowa Public Service (IPS), drove bus for AEA 4, sold real estate, and assisted at Scanlan Insurance. Her highest callings were homemaker, devoted wife, and beloved mother.

Marlene's home was known as the best place to play. Grandchildren and neighbor kids built forts in the garage, pulled real fish from a pond in the back yard, and Trick or Treating at Millers was a must! She handed out countless popsicles and cookies, always answered the door, and welcomed everyone in. Her great grandchildren will forever remember her as "Cookie Grandma". Marlene had beautiful flower gardens, loved birds and feeding them, traveling, reading, and coffee time with her friends.

Marlene collected angels as a reminder of God's protection and the day when her health would no longer limit her. Those who will dearly miss her are rejoicing as she is now present and walking with the angels in her heavenly home. Marlene passed away Monday, January 29, 2024, at Hegg Health Center in Rock Valley at the age of 85.

Marlene is survived by her four children, Mark (Tammy) Faber of Rock Valley, Iowa, Mike (Karen) Faber of Littleton, Colorado, Melissa (Mark) Carlson of Andover, Minnesota, and Mitch (Mindi) Miller of Winner, South Dakota; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; brothers, Junior (Ruth) Vermeer of Senoia, Georgia, and Everett (Judy) Vermeer of Rock Valley; and sister, Beatrice (Alan) Vande Stouwe of Hull, Iowa.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Marion and Bill; parents, Cornelius and Germina; parents-in-law, Siebolt and Fransis Faber and A.L. and Lola Miller; brother and sister-in-law, Al and Donna Schepel; and sister, Elaine Jerve.

In Loving Memory
Malena "Marlene" Miller
February 5, 1938 ~ January 29, 2024

MEMORIAL SERVICE

11:00 AM, Thursday, February 1, 2024
Trinity Christian Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANTS

Rev. Stanley Groothof
Rev. Henry Lengkeek

PIANIST

Pat Vander Pol

REFLECTIONS

Caleb Faber

SPECIAL MUSIC

"I Can Only Imagine"
"Alleluia, He Is Coming"
Merle Wynia & Nate Van Oort, vocalists

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"
"In the Garden"
"Soon and Very Soon"

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Marques Faber ~ Caleb Faber ~ Trent Miller
Layne Miller ~ Trent Carlson ~ Brady Carlson
Derick Haak ~ Rhys Carlson ~ Wynter Carlson
Coby Haak ~ Lincoln Haak ~ Wyatt Haak

INURNMENT

Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

Marlene's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship in the church fellowship hall immediately following the memorial service.

~ A John 3:16 Love Story ~

In the city of Chicago, one cold, dark night, a blizzard was setting in. A young boy was selling newspapers on the corner; watching as people went in and out of the cold. He was so cold that he wasn't trying very hard to sell his papers. Hesitantly, he walked up to a policeman and said, "Mister, you wouldn't happen to know where a poor boy could find a warm place to sleep tonight would you? You see, I sleep in a box up around the corner there and down the alley and it's awful cold in there for tonight. Sure would be nice to have a warm place to stay." The policeman sympathetically looked down at the young lad and said, "You go down the street to that big white house and you knock on the door. When they come to the door you just say, "John 3:16," and they will let you in." So he did. He walked up the steps and knocked on the door, and a lady answered. He looked up at her and said, "John 3:16." The lady said, "Come on in, son." She took him in and she sat him down in a split bottom rocker in front of a great big old fireplace, and she went off. The boy sat there for a while and thought to himself: John 3:16 ... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a cold boy warm! Later she came back and asked him, "Are you hungry?" He shyly said, "Well, just a little. I haven't eaten in a couple of days, and I guess I could stand a little bit of food." The lady took him in the kitchen and sat him down to a table full of wonderful food. He ate and ate until he couldn't eat any more. Then he thought to himself: John 3:16 ... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a hungry boy full! Soon the kind lady led him upstairs to a bath tub filled with warm water, and he sat there and soaked for a while. As he soaked, he thought to himself: John 3:16... I don't understand it, but it sure makes a dirty boy clean! Why, I've not had a bath, a real bath, in my whole life. The only bath I have ever had was when I stood in front of the big old fire hydrant as they flushed it out. After his bath, the lady took him to a cozy little room, tucked him into a big old feather bed, pulled warm covers up around his neck, kissed him goodnight and turned out the light. As he lay there all snug in the warm bed, he looked out the window at the cold and snowy night and thought to himself: John 3:16... I sure don't understand it, but it gave a tired boy a warm place to sleep. The next morning the lady invited the young boy to sit down once again to a table that was filled with lots of good food. After he ate, she took him back to the rocker in front of the fireplace and picked up a big old Bible. As she sat down in a chair beside of him, she looked into his young face and asked gently, "Do you understand about John 3:16?" He replied, "No, Ma'am, I don't. The first time I ever heard it was last night when the nice policeman told me to use it." She opened the Bible she was holding to John 3:16 and began to read what it said and then explained to the young boy that John 3:16 was the greatest love story ever told. And she told him that God wanted him to know that He loved and cared about him very much. Right there, in front of that big old fireplace, the young boy embraced God's love for him and surrendered his young life to Him. He said to the lady, "I'm not sure I understand all about God's love, but it sure makes a lonely orphan boy feel like he will always belongs to someone."

"For God so loved the world (you and me), that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16



*A Mother holds
her children's hands for a while...
Their hearts forever.*

