

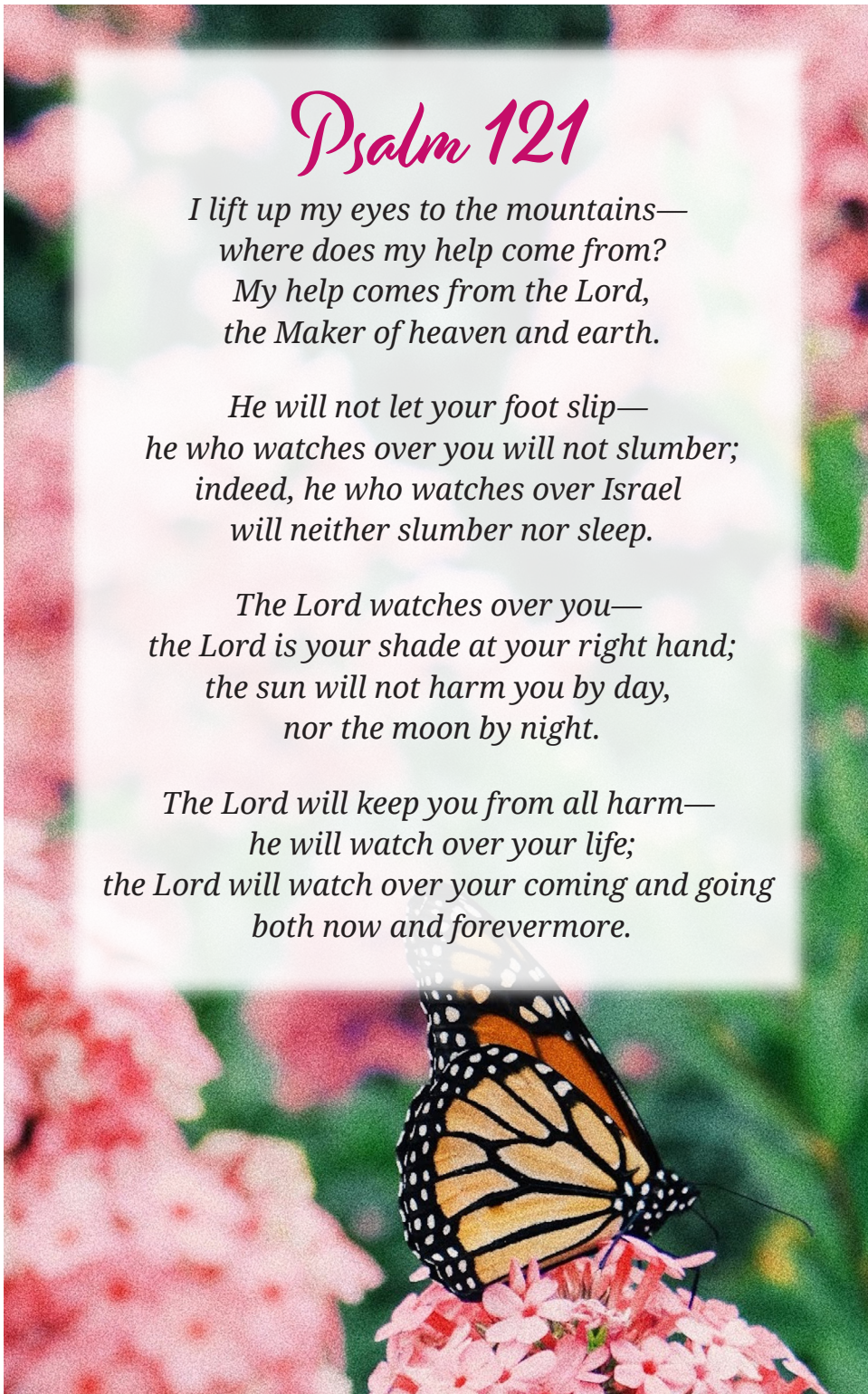
## *Psalm 121*

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains—  
where does my help come from?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot slip—  
he who watches over you will not slumber;  
indeed, he who watches over Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The Lord watches over you—  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;  
the sun will not harm you by day,  
nor the moon by night.*

*The Lord will keep you from all harm—  
he will watch over your life;  
the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
both now and forevermore.*



## *Celebrating the Life of*



*Joan Dorothy Kentopp*

*July 16, 1938 – July 11, 2023*



**Joan D. Kentopp, 84**, of Mason City, passed away on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center.

Joan was born on July 16, 1938, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, along with a sister and two brothers, to Frederick and Margaret (Ponath) Reinhardt. She graduated salutatorian from South Division High School in Milwaukee at age 18 and then from the Milwaukee College of Nursing.

She met Arthur E. Kentopp at age 14 and knew he was the love of her life. They were married in Milwaukee in 1959 and moved to St. Louis – the first of a dozen moves that she would make as the devoted wife of a Navy chaplain, Lutheran pastor, and aspiring educator. The couple welcomed their first child in St. Louis, three more while serving at naval bases in the states of Washington and Virginia, and three more in western Massachusetts where they lived for the longest time period of their married life. During the time Art was pastor at Our Saviour Lutheran Church in South Hadley, Massachusetts, Joan returned to the workforce as a night shift nurse. She made many life-long friends during church services, retreats and social events for members of Our Saviour, and held strong ties with her uncle Bob Ponath and his family.

Joan was the glue that held the family together with family holiday traditions, daily routines, and home cooked meals. In 1978, the family moved to Kaukauna, Wisconsin, when Art took a job with Aid Association for Lutherans. It was during this time that Margaret Reinhardt, Joan's mother, moved in with the family after Joan's father passed away.

In 1986, Joan and the family moved to western North Carolina, where Art was headmaster of a start-up Lutheran high school. After a few years, the family moved back to Wisconsin when Art returned to the ministry as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Lebanon. After the death of Margaret and graduation from high school of their two youngest children, Art and Joan moved to serve in Gary, Indiana, and Lexington, Kentucky, while she continued to work as a hospice nurse.

After Art died in 2003 at age 66, and after a total of 12 moves to 9 different states over the course of their 43-year marriage, Joan returned to Watertown, Wisconsin. In Watertown, she became a source of help to her daughter Natalie, two granddaughters and numerous infants and toddlers at Natalie's home daycare. In 2017, Joan moved for the last time to an independent living apartment at the Willows in Mason City, Iowa. Here she enjoyed many family events and church services with daughter Carol Kentopp Dettmer.

Joan was a proud mom and grandma. She was the family historian, taking many photos and videos and saving every Christmas card from people all over the world. She relished trips to visit friends and family and worldwide trips with Art. She enjoyed mailing newspaper and magazine clippings and cookies to her children, sending cards, and talking on the phone with family and friends in many states. She loved music, participated in church and community choirs, and sang "Jesus Tender, Shepherd, Hear Me" with loved ones for night prayers. She truly believed Jesus Loves Me.

She is survived by sister Janet Brufach and seven children: Timothy (and Michelle) Kentopp, Christine (and Ed) Slattery, Theresa (and Steve) Nelson, Natalie Wanta, Nicholas (and Gina) Kentopp, Kathryn Carr and Carol (and Tim) Dettmer, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was a devoted sister-in-law and loving aunt to many nieces and nephews in Wisconsin, Illinois, Oklahoma and Texas.

**Celebrating the Life of**

*Joan Dorothy Kentopp*

**July 16, 1938 – July 11, 2023**

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**FUNERAL SERVICE**

2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 15, 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church

Mason City, Iowa

**OFFICIANT**

Pastor Dan Dahl

**MUSIC**

Matt Gender, Organist

*Congregational Hymns*

"How Great Thou Art" 856

"Children of the Heavenly Father" 781

"Abide with Me" 629

**PALLBEARERS**

Joan's Grandchildren

**INTERMENT**

Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery of Lebanon

Watertown, Wisconsin

The family invites everyone to the fellowship hall for a turtle sundae, Joan's favorite, following the funeral service.

*In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial to the  
Trinity Lutheran Church Music Fund in Mason City, Iowa.*

*Major Erickson*  
Funeral Home and Crematory