

In Loving Memory

Darlen Helen Bartelt Berger

January 25, 1936 † November 14, 2020

Funeral Service

First Lutheran Church
Alexandria, Minnesota
Friday, November 20, 2020
1:00 PM

Officiant

Reverend Greg Billberg

Musicians

Randy Morken
Jenna Collins
Lauren Bartelt

Urn Bearer

Jon Bartelt

Honorary Pallbearers

Nihal Bhakta	Jenna Collins
Lauren Bartelt	Travis Collins
Rachel Gilbertson	Krista Collins

Interment

Fahlun Lutheran Cemetery
Nelson, Minnesota



What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:31-35,37-39

The following is the Bartelt Family Table Prayer. When Merlin and Darlene created this prayer, it became the families' prayer for thanks and sharing and was said three times a day thereafter.

*"Come Lord Jesus be our guest
and let these gifts to us be blessed,
and may there be a goodly share
on every table everywhere."*

*Faithful Wife, Mother,
Grandmother and Child of God*



Darlene Helen Bartelt Berger

1936 ~ 2020



Darlene Helen Rathman Bartelt Berger was born in Grand Mound, IA on January 25, 1936, to Jurgen and Gladys (Hicks) Rathman. She grew up on the family farm with her parents, younger brother, Gary, and beloved maternal grandfather, Charles Hicks.

Darlene was active in her small country school and 4-H. She was an accomplished seamstress, winning top honors at the Iowa State Fair for several years. After high school, Darlene attended Wartburg College in Waverly, IA and earned a two-year teaching certification. She met her future husband, Merlin Bartelt, at Wartburg College and they were married on June 2, 1956, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Grand Mound.



Darlene and Merlin moved to Dubuque, IA where Merlin attended Wartburg Seminary and Darlene taught elementary school. Darlene was a strong, supporting and caring partner in all their years of ministry as a couple, serving in the Lutheran Churches at Wausau, WI,



Green Bay, WI, Eau Claire, WI, Waseca, MN, Racine, WI and finally, Alexandria/Nelson, MN. During this time Darlene was active in Homemaker's clubs, Bible study, Women's group at church and teaching Sunday school, all while raising her three children, Sharon, Joel and Jon. Darlene enjoyed being part of her community, serving as Welcome Wagon hostess and working in Racine at Millager's Greenhouse. That led her to start her own, home-based, silk floral business, Floral Décor, in Alexandria. She was very creative and enjoyed designing banners for their churches. Darlene had an entrepreneurial spirit and became a leading distributor of Juice Plus in Alexandria. She and Merlin traveled extensively in their RV after his retirement from the ministry and she continued with her businesses. Merlin passed away in 2010 after fifty-four years of marriage.



Juice Plus ventures, enjoying children and grandchildren, and loving their life on the shores of Lake Henry in Alexandria. Darlene was an active member of First Lutheran Church in Alexandria for twenty-eight years.

At a Juice Plus conference Darlene met Verdell Berger and fell in love again. She married Verdell on October 13, 2012, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria. Darlene and Verdell had eight wonderful years together, being active with their

Darlene left this life on Saturday, November 14, 2020, at Diamond Willow Assisted Living. The family is grateful for their wonderful care. Darlene often said, "I know where I'm going." And she lived her life of faith well to the next journey.



Darlene is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Reverend Merlin Bartelt; and son-in-law, Paul Collins. She is survived by her husband, Verdell Berger; brother, Gary (Marjorie) Rathman; children, Sharon (Joe) Bridges, Joel (Katie) Bartelt and Jon (Leela Rao) Bartelt; grandchildren, Travis (Andrea Oseland) Collins, Krista Collins, Jenna Collins, Lauren (Brandon Kostecka) Bartelt, Rachel (Sean) Gilbertson, and Nihal Bhakta; as well as Verdell's children, Kristi (Steve) Gagne and Dan (Jamie) Berger, Verdell's grandchildren, Alex (Megan) Arel, Jordan Arel, and Abby Arel; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.