

In Loving Memory Of

Marcella “Sally” Demgen

But when the melancholy fit shall fall
Sudden from heaven like a weeping cloud,
That fosters the droop-headed flowers all,
And hides the green hill in an April shroud;
Then glut thy sorrow on a morning rose,
Or on the rainbow of the salt sand-wave

- John Keats, 1819

Hosts / Ushers

Steve Hinderaker Pat Klaers

Honorary Casketbearers

All of Sally’s beloved nieces and nephews

Active Casketbearers

Dale Boxrud Paul Larson Craig Meyer Brad Welker
Pete Magnuson Brad Lenz Mike Klaers Tom Rime

Interment

St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery
Willmar, Minnesota

October 5, 1919
Sheldahl, Iowa

July 2, 2023
Willmar, Minnesota

Celebration of Life Service

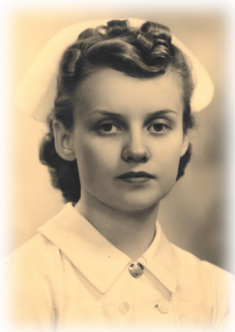
Friday, August 4, 2023 - 11:00 a.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church
Willmar, Minnesota

Prelude	Adagio in G Minor—Albinoni
Gathering / Thanksgiving for Baptism	ELW pg. 279
Processional Hymn	<i>“Beautiful Savior”</i> No. 838
Apostolic Greeting and Prayer	ELW pg. 280
Poem by T.S. Elliot	Mary Demgen
Scripture Reading - James 2:14-18	Beth Demgen
Eulogy	Marty Demgen
Special Music	<i>“Amazing Grace / My Chains Are Gone”</i>
Gospel Reading - Matthew 5: 1-9	
Message	Pastor Kathy Hartley
Apostle’s Creed and Prayer	ELW pg. 281
Special Music	<i>“The Lord’s Prayer”</i>
Commendation	
Recessional Hymn	<i>“Will There Be Any Stars?”</i> see insert
Postlude	

Musicians

Dave Eliason—Organ Dempsey Schroeder—Violin
David Melbye—Vocal & Guitar
Anna Demgen—Vocal James Demgen—Piano



Marcella "Sally" Demgen (nee Sheldahl) was born at her family home in Sheldahl, Iowa, on October 5, 1919, the fifth of nine children of Anna (Anderson) and Martin Sheldahl.

She attended the community school where she enjoyed gymnastics and was a local celebrity on the basketball court. Following her graduation in 1937, she enrolled in the RN program at Iowa Lutheran Hospital in Des Moines, graduating in 1941. Over the next decade she practiced at Iowa Lutheran, the Mayo U.S. Army Hospital in Galesburg, Illinois, the VA, and at a private clinic in Des Moines.

On August 18, 1950, Sally married Ralph Demgen at her family home. They were blessed with three sons.

In 1957, the family moved to Willmar, Minnesota, where she resided for the remainder of her life. She joined Bethel Lutheran Church where she worked on the altar for decades. Eventually she became a member of the church board, chair of the Bethel women, and unofficial chair of the Bethel widows.

Sally was the consummate volunteer. She helped lead the Willmar RN Club for more the 50 years, staffed the bloodmobile and was the smartly clad and perfectly coifed vaccination lady. (The boys were much relieved on the occasions when she administered sugar cubes rather than injections to their school mates.) As the neighborhood nurse, she patched up countless children who had limped to her door with cuts and abrasions. Also, beginning in the early 1970s, Sally provided transportation to church women who she described as the "older ladies."

Sally was a patron of the Barn Theater and West Central Concert Series, and never missed a play or concert when the boys were involved. She enjoyed family trips, extensive travel related to Ralph's business, and annual pilgrimages to central Iowa for community and nursing school reunions.

She was a voracious reader, collector of antiques and vintage clothing, and a photo archivist.

When playing with her grandchildren, Sally was a get-down-on-the-floor grandma.

A few months after her 100th birthday, Sally moved to Bethesda Grand at the outset of the COVID pandemic. She died there on July 2, 2023, at the age of 103.

She is survived by two sons: Martin (Mary) and James (Elizabeth), grandchildren John (Sarah), Julia, Alec (Ceci), Sally, Margaret, Ellen and Anna (Ben), great grandchild Calvin, her sister Ardelle Gifford, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her son Joseph, and seven siblings.

Celebrating the Life of



Marcella "Sally" Demgen

1919 - 2023