

When a Mother Blows Out 66 Candles

Written by one of Bev's children 24 years ago, for her 66th birthday

Through the years she hollered, said, and prayed, "Jesus, grant me the patience!" 1,245,187 times.

Her hands have hung diapers on clotheslines, sterilized bottles, carried babies and pails of water from a second floor, picked eggs and cleaned chickens, ironed Sunday shirts and dresses and proudly pushed baby buggies.

She has peeled more potatoes than six marines on K.P. duty.

Her hair has been set in curlers (usually on Saturday night) and home-permed, and colored.

The kitchen table is where she entertains her guests. Her oven has made many unforgettable brown bread loaves, zucchini bread, Bev's Buns, and Spanish bars.

She has earned a nursing degree through chicken pox, pneumonia, flu, tonsillitis, surgeries, stitches, fractured arms, and broken hearts.

At one time or another her closet held house dresses she never had time to wear, polyester pants suits, homemade dresses, skirts with short hemlines and long hemlines, and a Sunday coat with a purse to match.

Her heart has known a man's love, the joy of children, the heartbreak of their mistakes, the warmth of life's friendships, the celebration of weddings, a daughter-in-law and sons-in-law who know what commitment means, and the magnificent blessings of grandchildren.

Who can count the neighbors she helps, the church windows she washes, the church money she counted, the S.S. classes she taught, the soap she makes, the quilts she sews, the hot dishes she made, and the elderly she visits.

Her arms have rocked generations of babies. Her hands prepare countless "favorite" dishes. Her knees kneel in prayer time and time again for those she loves. Her mouth has kissed owies that hurt. Her back has bent to bathe babies and elders, pick up teen's clothes, wash cars, weed her garden, and gather flowers.

All this, and she still had time to run a press, manufacture suitcases, work with the handicapped, clean for others, and work behind a typewriter.

She journeys through life with its tears and laughter, watching yesterday's sunsets become tomorrow's sunrises of hope and promise. Because of her and the man who took her hand, family life and love continue through the generations.

When a mother blows out 66 candles, blessed are they who surround her with their love.



Services At:

**Nora Lutheran Church
Kensington, Minnesota**

Officiating Clergy:

Minister Beverly McNeill

Organist:

Jane Lannoye

Music Selections:

**In The Garden
He Leadeth Me
How Great Thou Art**

Honorary Urnbearers:

**All of Beverly's Beloved Grandchildren
Angie Radermacher, Teri Nessman, Joey Nessman
Annie Chan, Randy Nessman, Tracy Petschow
Michael Daniels, Ashlee Falck,
Thomas Gunderson, Marcus Gunderson**

Interment:

**Nora Lutheran Cemetery
Kensington, Minnesota**

Beverly Jean (Carlsen) Larson went home to her Heavenly Father on Tuesday, September 5, 2023. Beverly was born March 25, 1933, near Ceylon, Minnesota, to Alfred William Carlsen and Ruth Lillian (Apland) Carlsen. She was baptized and confirmed at Palestine Lutheran Church in Dolliver, Iowa. At 16 years of age, she moved with her family to Kensington, MN, where she attended Kensington High School, graduating in 1951 with salutatorian honors. Beverly worked at the Kensington Bank prior to marrying Leonard Clarence Larson on September 27, 1952 at Nora Lutheran Church. They began their life together on the Larson Farm, rural Kensington, where Beverly lived until 2017 before moving to Alexandria at Winona Shores Apartments and Bethany Home On the Lake. She spent 65 years on the Larson Farm. This marriage was blessed with four children; Davis, Susan, Valerie, and Julie. She enjoyed flowers and vegetable gardening, refinishing woodwork and reupholstering furniture, baking donuts, lefse, kringler, and rosettes, and also canning and sewing for her family, which in later years she sewed quilts for even the grandchildren. She raised hundreds of chickens, selling eggs to help bring income to the family. In later years, she did factory work, was a nurse's aide, and a caregiver. In the early 80's she graduated at the top of her class in Alexandria Technical School. That led her to work in various offices including a Realty Company.

Beverly was a faithful servant of God at the Nora Lutheran Church as a Sunday School teacher and a financial secretary for many years, and made hundreds of quilts for missions with the ladies group. However, the most important service Beverly did was helping people with their faith journey in Christ. When asked what the most important life lesson she learned, her reply was 'to always be kind and good to others'.

Beverly is survived by her children: Davis (Theresa) Larson of Kensington, Susan (Steve) Nessman of Kensington, Valerie (Dan) Daniels, of Alexandria, and Julie (Tim) Waggoner of Downsville, Louisiana; 10 Grandchildren—Angie (Joe) Radermacher; Teri (Becca) Nessman, Joey (Michelle) Nessman, Annie (Kent) Chan, Randy (Christina) Nessman; Tracy Petschow, Michael (Kellie) Daniels; Ashlee (Mike) Falck, Thomas Gunderson, Marcus (Lydia) Gunderson; with extended loving grandchildren and greats in Louisiana. 23 great grandchildren— Zachary, Owen, Tessa, and Emma Radermacher; Tanner, Trevin, Joseph, and Javen Nessman; Jada and Jaxon Chan, Milo and Oliver Nessman; Bradley Petschow, Cameron and Christian Hall; Kennedy, Addison and Brooklyn Daniels; Elsa, Henry, and Jack Falck; Penelope and Adeleine Gunderson.

She is also survived by 1 Brother Allen (Cindy) Carlsen of Alexandria, 1 brother-in-law Clayton Hauglie, 1 sister-in-law Florence Schwendeman, and many cherished nieces and nephews and greats.



Celebrating The Life Of

Beverly Jean Larson

March 25, 1933

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September 5, 2023

