

Barb Louise Paetznic was born June 4, 1935, on the family farm in rural Sunburg, MN, the daughter of Raymond and Ruth (Flolo) Leaf. Barb loved growing up on the farm and shared many stories of the adventures she had with her brothers, Charles, and Roland. Barb attended country school and later graduated from Brooten High School in 1953. She went on to attend St. Cloud Teacher's College where she earned her teaching degree in 1956.

On December 27, 1957, Barb married her college sweetheart and soulmate, Noel Paetznic. They were married at West Norway Lake Lutheran Church in Sunburg, on a beautiful snowy evening. Days after their wedding, Noel returned to Fort Knox, KY to continue his service in the US Army. Barb remained in Paynesville, MN until June to honor her teaching contract before joining Noel.

Barb continued her teaching career until they started their family in Lynd, MN, in 1959. Their union blessed them with three children, Mark, Mary Jo and Karin. She thoroughly enjoyed her role as mother, wife, and homemaker. She was a beautiful example of motherhood, a devoted wife and created a home where love abounded. As the children got older and were in school, Barb returned to work. She took on various roles but her most enjoyable were working in the library at Jefferson Elementary School and the Willmar Junior High School.

Barb had a strong, deep faith. She loved her Lord and Savior with all her heart, soul, and mind. She spoke fondly of her Lutheran upbringing. She was baptized and confirmed at the West Norway Lake Lutheran Church in Sunburg. She was an active member of First Covenant Church where they attended since 1964, when they moved to Willmar.

Barb was a woman of many talents. She had a knack for decorating, the gift of hospitality and she would entertain frequently. She was a wonderful cook. Her rice pudding was a favorite at family gatherings. She was an avid gardener; she loved flowers and plants and had quite the green thumb. She passed that love of flowers, plants and gardening on to the next generations. She also enjoyed sewing, knitting, and was fascinated by the night sky and enjoyed learning all she could. She was an outdoor enthusiast in all seasons and spending time with her family was extremely important to her. She loved babies and would always be willing to come help when the grandchildren were born. She was a blessing to all!

After Noel's passing on December 26, 2021, Barb remained in their home in Willmar. In October 2022, she decided to move to Northfield. While living in Northfield, she was active and able to spend time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was overjoyed to meet her newest great grandsons, twins Owen and William Miller. She enjoyed exploring Northfield and experiencing the beautiful fall colors on drives through the countryside. Even though Barb's family brought her immense joy, she still had a huge hole in her heart left by Noel's absence that could not be filled. When her health took a sudden and unexpected turn December 19, we knew she would soon be reunited with her soulmate and see her Jesus face to face. We genuinely believe she died of a broken heart. It was just 1 year and 1 day after Noel's passing that they were reunited on their 65th Wedding Anniversary.

Barb will be remembered for her kind, caring and gentle spirit, patience, servant heart, selflessness, humility, loyalty, and strength. Her love for all things Scandinavian, especially coffee time. Fika. A Swedish term for coffee break. A time to relax, slow down, spend time together and enjoy a cup of coffee with a little something sweet to go with it. She loved her coffee and had quite the sweet tooth. She touched so many lives, more than she ever knew. We are all truly blessed to have had her in our lives and will miss her dearly.

Barbara passed away peacefully Tuesday morning, December 27 at Reflections Care Suites in Northfield at the age of 87, following a sudden and unexpected hematoma.

Barbara is survived by her three children: Mark (Jo) Paetznic of Bloomington, MN; Mary Jo (Larry) Eckblad of Mason City, IA; and Karin (Russ) Rein of Dundas, MN; seven grandchildren, Andrea (Adam) Miller, Aaron (Courtney) Paetznic, Britta Eckblad, Ayanna Eckblad, Mikael (Joy) Rein, Erik Rein, and Kjirstin (Nick) Escalante and seven great grandchildren, soon to be 8: Henry Miller, twins Owen and William Miller, twins Liv and Malin Rein, Elin Rein, Bodin Escalante and baby Escalante due in June. She is also survived by her brother, Roland Leaf of Willmar, MN, sister-in-law Nancy Leaf of Golden Valley, MN, and sister-in-law Kay Paetznic of Apple Valley, MN along with many other relatives and friends.

Barbara was preceded in death by her beloved husband Noel, her parents, brother Charles, brother-in-law Daniel Paetznic and sister-in-law Margaret Leaf.

Celebrating the Life of



Barbara L. Paetznic

1935 - 2022

In Loving Memory Of

Barbara L. Paetznick

June 4, 1935

Sunburg, Minnesota

December 27, 2022

Northfield, Minnesota

*I felt the light of heaven
it was shining down on me,
I heard His voice, He called my name, “
my child, come follow Me;”
There is no pain, there is no hurt
nor sadness anywhere,
In heaven there is joy and love
and I’ll be waiting there;
For on the day I left this earth
I felt your many tears,
And now I watch you from above
and keep you very near;
It hurts to be apart from me,
but be patient for the day,
When we meet again in love and peace
when you too come this way.*

—Stephanie Clarke

Celebration of Life Service

Saturday, February 25, 2023 - 2:00 p.m.

First Covenant Church

Willmar, Minnesota

Prelude		Sarah Lloyd
Call to Worship		Pastor Chris Pappenfus
Invocation		
Congregational Song	“Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us”	Hymn #407
Reading of the Obituary & Tributes		
Pastoral Prayer		
Call to Confession & Declaration of Forgiveness		
Special Music	“Softly and Tenderly”	Sarah Lloyd
Scripture	John 3:16-17 1 John 3:16-18 1 Corinthians 13:1-7	
Message		Pastor Chris Pappenfus
Affirmation of Faith		
Special Music	“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”	Sarah Lloyd
Benediction		
Postlude		

Spring Interment

West Norway Lake Lutheran Cemetery

Sunburg, Minnesota

Arrangements by
Peterson Brothers Funeral Home
“Celebrating A Life Remembered”