

Helen “Lee” Simley was born to Art and Carol Thielges on March 9, 1949, in Canby, Minnesota. As a child, Lee grew up in Huron, South Dakota and Tracy, Minnesota. She was united in matrimony with her beloved husband Paul Simley on March 9 of 1974. The couple shared many loving years together, making their home in Fargo, North Dakota, and later Perham, MN. Lee and Paul were known and loved by their many family and friends for their outgoing and generous nature. They loved nothing more than sharing happy times with their loved ones and always opened their doors for others to gather and enjoy their warm company.

While living in Fargo, Lee and Paul served as host families for foreign exchange students for several years. From this experience they met Andi and Krissi, who they loved like their own children and remained close with through the years.

Lee was a devoted Catholic. She loved to travel and visit countries across the world. She loved sports, and especially football, as a dedicated fan of the Minnesota Vikings and the NDSU Bison. She loved her pets, including her dogs Buffy and Spanky. She enjoyed building her collections of hanging window prisms, Dayton’s Santa Bears, and souvenirs from her travels around the globe. Most of all, Lee will be remembered and missed as a joyous woman who loved to share her joy with others.

Lee is survived by her brother, Patrick (Milly) Thielges of Marshall, MN; nieces and nephews, Melissa Cornelisen, Bryon, Anthony, Kimberly, Shane, and Moriah Thielges, and their families; her host children, Kristina Worlitz of Hamburg, Germany, and Andreas Stoll-Schuldig of Bern, Switzerland; siblings-in-law, Luther (Paula) Simley, David (Sandy) Simley, Kathy (Gene) Neset, Faye (Lon) Eastvold, and Cindy (Bob) Brinkley, and their families; and many beloved friends

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Simley; parents, Arthur and Caroline Thielges, and a brother, Steven Thielges.

Celebrating the Life of



Helen “Lee” Simley

1949 — 2026

Twenty-Third Psalm

*The Lord is my Shepherd: I shall not want...
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
He leadeth me beside the still waters...*

*He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths
of righteousness for His name's sake...*

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff,
they comfort me. Thou preparest a table
before me in the presence of mine
enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over...*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life: and I will dwell in
the house of the Lord forever.*

*Peterson Brothers Funeral Home
Celebrating A Life Remembered*

In Loving Memory Of

Helen “Lee” Simley

March 9, 1949
Canby, Minnesota

September 18, 2026
Willmar, Minnesota

Mass of Christian Burial

Thursday, October 1, 2026 - 11:00 a.m.

Church of St. Mary
Willmar, Minnesota

Celebrant

Fr. Ron Huberty

Music

Pianist: Terry Brunson
St. Mary's Resurrection Choir
Vocalist: Kristina Worlitz

Gathering: *How Great Thou Art*
Responsorial Psalm: *Shepherd Me, O God*
Preparation of the Gifts: *Hosea*
Communion: *On Eagle's Wings*
Second Communion: *Wonderful Tonight*
Song of Farewell: *Old Hundredth*
Sending Forth: *Amazing Grace*