

Vanita D. "Darlene" Engwall (nee Thompson) age 85 of Lakeville, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on January 12, in Lakeville.

The youngest of 7 children, Darlene was born on October 9, 1939, in Willmar, Minnesota to Gladys and Albin Thompson. She attended elementary school in Spicer, and high school in Willmar, graduating in 1957. In 1961 Darlene married Paul Engwall of Willmar. They began their married life in Minneapolis, and would eventually live in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and New Jersey before spending their final years back in their home state of Minnesota. Along the way they welcomed their three children Eric, Nancy and Karen Joy.

Darlene held employment as a parish worker and church secretary at several congregations within the communities where she lived. Darlene was also a library attendant at both a high school and a community library.

Darlene's life was grounded by her strong faith, which was evident in most everything she did and how she lived - with kindness, compassion and a genuine interest in and love for the people around her.

She found her greatest joy when she was spending time with her family and was happy to do just about anything. She enjoyed going out for a 'nice' dinner, playing Chicken Foot dominoes, teaching her grandkids how to make greeting cards, taking an evening ride in the pontoon boat or just sitting on the porch sipping coffee. As long as she was with her family, she was happy.

In the last two years of Darlene's life, her cognitive decline led her to become a resident at BeeHive Homes of Lakeville. Darlene loved 'the hive' and thoroughly enjoyed her time there. The family would like to thank the kind and compassionate staff at BeeHive for the care they provided to her and the love they shared with her.

Darlene was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Rev. Paul R. Engwall, her parents Albin and Gladys Thompson, brother Morgan and sisters Mrs. Lorraine (Wallace) Wubbles, Mrs. Gwendolyn (Francis) Majerus, and Mrs. Ardith (David) Solomonson.

She is survived by her children, Eric (Laura) Engwall, Nancy (Rick) Jordan, Karen Joy (David) DiDonato; grandchildren, Molly (Joe) Eggert, Carl and Anders Engwall, Mara, Ashton and Logan DiDonato, brother Willard Thompson and sister Mrs. Berdelle (Robert) Olson.

Celebrating the Life of



Darlene Engwall

1939 - 2025

I AM FREE

*Don't grieve for me now for I'm free
I am following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call,
I turned my back and left it all,*

*I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love, to work or play,
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that place at the close of day*

*If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy,
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, these things I too will miss.*

*Be not burdened with time of sorrow,
I wish for you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one touched.*

*Perhaps my time seemed all to brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me;
God wanted me now, He set me free.*

*Peterson Brothers Funeral Home
"Celebrating A Life Remembered"*

In Loving Memory Of

Darlene Engwall

October 9, 1939
Willmar, Minnesota

January 12, 2025
Lakeville, Minnesota

Celebration of Life Service

Thursday, January 16, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church
Lakeville, Minnesota

Officiating

Pastor Kim Kylo

Music

Organist: Dan Wooley

Congregational Hymns:

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

"Beautiful Savior"

"How Great Thou Art"

"A Mighty Fortress"

Casketbearers

Darlene's Beloved Grandchildren

Interment

Saturday, January 18, 2025 - 11:00 a.m.

Svea Lutheran Cemetery
Svea, Minnesota