



*“I am the
resurrection and the
life; he who believes in Me
shall live even
if he dies.”*

JOHN 11:25

† **A Christian Funeral Service** †

Connie Jean (Westphal) Puerling

Born: *December 11, 1943 (West Bend, WI)*

Baptized: *January 9, 1944, St. John's Ev. Lutheran, Newburg*

Confirmed: *May 25, 1958, St. John's Ev. Lutheran, Newburg*

Died: *January 29, 2026, Newburg, WI*

Christian Funeral: *February 5, 2026, St. John's Ev. Lutheran, Newburg, WI*

PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH

Almighty God, by the death of your Son you overcame sin and death, and by his resurrection you restored innocence and everlasting life; grant that we may confidently believe this with our whole heart, and finally, with all your saints, take part in the joyful resurrection on the last day. In Jesus' name. Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We have come together to seek God's comfort in our sorrow and to rejoice in the promise of the resurrection. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Lord Jesus, you wept at the grave of your friend Lazarus, and you consoled Mary and Martha in their distress. Draw near to us who mourn for Connie, and dry the tears of all who weep. Calm our troubled hearts, dispel our doubts and fears, and lead us to praise you for having brought her to faith. In your rising from the dead, you conquered death and opened the gates to eternal life. Strengthen us with your Word, and lead us through this earthly life until at last we are united with you and all the saints in glory everlasting. Amen.



Psalm 73:23-26 (NIV)

²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

²⁴ You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.

²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

♪ **Hymn:** 721 “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

RESURRECTION COMFORT

M: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. The apostle Paul writes to the Romans: “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23) Jesus gives us this comfort: “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.” (John 11:25-26)

M: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

C: He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54, 57)

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: Then we also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:4)

M: We will be before the throne of God

C: And serve him day and night in his temple.

M: Never again will we hunger;

C: Never again will we thirst.

M: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water.

C: And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes. (Revelation 7:15-17)

M: Let us pray. God of all grace, you sent your Son Jesus to destroy the power of death and to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives, we too shall live. Comfort us with your promise that neither death nor life nor things present nor things to come shall be able to separate us from your love which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

First Lesson **1 Peter 1:3-9**

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

⁸ Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹ for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. *(NIV)*

Second Lesson **John 11:17-27, 38-44**

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.” (NIV)

♪ **Hymn:** 576 “Amazing Grace – How Sweet the Sound”

Devotion Lesson: Psalm 116:15

“Saint Connie is Copacetic”

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

M: Almighty God, we praise you for the great company of saints who have finished their lives in faith and now rest from their labors. We remember especially our loved one, Connie, whom you have redeemed by the blood of your Son and received as your dear child through Holy Baptism. We thank you for giving her to us as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your compassion, comfort all who are sad in this hour. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: We praise you for your love in Christ, which sustains us in life and death. In our earthly sorrows, help us find strength in the fellowship of the church, joy in the forgiveness of sins, and hope in the resurrection to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: You do not leave us comfortless but strengthen and care for us through your Word and sacrament. You give us family, friends, and neighbors to help when there is loneliness now and in the days to come. Brighten our future with a firm trust in your promises and care. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

M: Remove our fears, and make us bold to pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us:

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

READING OF THE OBITUARY

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen.

♪ Closing Hymn: 441 vs. 1, 2, 7, 8 "I Know that My Redeemer Lives"

OBITUARY

Connie Jean Puerling (nee Westphal, formerly Beimborn), age 82 years 1 month and 18 days, of Newburg was called home to be with the Lord on January 29, 2026, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Connie was born on December 11, 1943, in West Bend to Charles "Chuck" and Leona "Lee" Westphal (nee Terlinden). She was united in marriage to John Beimborn in 1962. John passed away in 1972. Connie later married Jerome "Schnappsie" Puerling. Jerome passed away in 2003.

Connie worked at Serigraph for 27 years. She also worked at Walmart, and various bartending jobs at the local establishments including the family business, Chuck and Lee's. She baked and decorated wedding cakes. Connie also had her home decorated for whatever was the current holiday, where her doors were always open for guests and to entertain. She enjoyed playing pool, trap shooting, darts, and bowling. Her television was constantly tuned to the Hallmark Channel. She always had pets: dogs, rabbits, goats, sheep and pigs (beloved pig - Chops). Connie was an avid gardener and loved the outdoors (as long as it wasn't cold). Most of all she loved spending time with her grandchildren.

Those Connie leaves behind to cherish her memory include her children, John (Patty) Beimborn, Loren (Lisa) Beimborn, Brenda (Shawn) Boudry, David (Laurie) Beimborn, Daniel Beimborn, Amy (Mark Wamsley) Szerbowski, and Tricia (Chad) Butzke; grandchildren, Charles "Chuck" (Rachel) Beimborn, Kevin Beimborn, John (Karissa) Beimborn Jr, Ashley (Kyle) Wolf, Brittney Beimborn, Caley Beimborn, Bryce Edwards, Blayne (Kayla) Edwards, Rylie McKay, Regyn McKay, Michael (Allysa) Grinwald, Cole Beimborn, Nickolas Szerbowski, Nathan Szerbowski, Natalie Szerbowski, Nolan Szerbowski, Izabela Butzke, and Jax Butzke;

and 17 great-grandchildren. She is further survived by brother, James (Mary) Westphal; sister, Judy (Oakie) Strassman; and canine companion, Rocky; as well as nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to her parents and husbands, Connie was preceded in death by her brothers, Ronald Westphal and Charles Westphal Jr; sister, Patricia Westphal, and son-in-law, Steven Szerbowski.

A special thank you to granddaughter, Natalie, for being Connie's primary caregiver for the past three years.

The family would also like to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff at Horizon Hospice for their care and compassion.

Even though our hearts are broken because Connie is no longer in our lives, she told us "everything will be COPACETIC!"

Connie's family will greet relatives and friends from 1:00 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church – 623 Congress Dr., Newburg, WI 53060. The funeral service will begin at 3:00 p.m. at the church with Pastor Kurt Schaser officiating. Graveside service and urn burial will be at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Newburg at a later date.

Myrhum-Patten Funeral & Cremation Service has been entrusted with Connie's arrangements. www.myrhum-patten.com.

Further Scripture readings and themes for your comfort...

Psalm 46	<i>God is our Refuge and Fortress</i>
Isaiah 25:6-9	<i>God will swallow up death forever</i>
Matthew 11:28-30	<i>Come to me, all you who are weary</i>
John 10:11-16	<i>I am the Good Shepherd</i>
John 20:1-18	<i>Jesus' Resurrection</i>
Romans 5:1-11	<i>Rejoice in the hope of the glory of God</i>
Romans 8:28-39	<i>Chosen for salvation</i>
I Corinthians 15	<i>The resurrection chapter of the Bible</i>

***May the Lord of all grace and mercy comfort you with the everlasting comfort:
"Because I live, you also will live."***

Organist: Mr. Alex Damrow