

Celebrating the Life of

Melba Geraldine Lundeen was born on November 16, 1934, in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, the daughter of Gustaf and Marie (Peterson) Gustafson. She grew up in St. Hilaire and graduated from Thief River Falls High School in 1952. In 1954 she received her Teachers Training Certificate and began teaching elementary school at a one-room country schoolhouse in Pennington County. Melba was always eager to reconnect with former students and catch up with their lives at reunions and visits.

On January 2, 1955, Melba was united in marriage to Erling LeRoy Lundeen. They made their home in Goodridge where she worked hard as a farm wife, 4-H leader, and leader of the Ladies Aide. One of Melba's many farm jobs were to stand on top of the haystack during harvest and manage the forks of hay delivered by Erling on the tractor, settling it into a neat and stable stack. During their 13 years farming, Melba also gave birth to their four children.

When they moved to Elkhorn, Wisconsin in June of 1968, Melba worked as a cook at Lutherdale Bible Camp and later became a para-professional with the Elkhorn Public School District. Melba enjoyed singing in the church choir and was a member of the Sweet Adelines women's quartet group. She enjoyed jigsaw puzzles, card games, gardening, sewing and knitting.

In 1976, they moved to Spicer, Minnesota, where Melba became employed at Green Lake Bible Camp as a receptionist and bookkeeper. Later she spent many summers as the cook for Green Lake Ministries at Camp House in Brimson, Minnesota and also worked seasonally at Green Lake Nursery in Spicer.

Melba and Erling enjoyed travel in their early retirement years, spending many winters in warmer states. After some years, they settled in Apache Junction, Arizona, and made it their winter home. At Rock Shadows in Apache, Melba enjoyed being part of a horseshoe throwing team. A double ringer in a horseshoe tournament was one of Melba's moments of fame. She also took lessons and created some beautiful art with stained glass. Melba became an active member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, in Mesa while also remaining an active member of Faith Lutheran Church in Spicer, serving on the Altar Guild, participating in Bible study groups and singing in the choir.

Melba is survived by her four children, Lana Ferry (Doug Jensen) of Sturgeon Bay, WI., Kathy (William) Neil of Downs, IL, Karen (Ernest) Watson of Mesa, AZ, Mark (Judy) Lundeen of Spicer, and Maria Zanella (AFS student) from Italy; seventeen grandchildren and twenty-six great grandchildren. Also surviving is her brother-in-law, Walter Wiskow of Wadena, besides other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Erling in 2016; sister, Elinor Wiskow in 2024; and grandson, Dayton Tiegs in 2024.

The internment will be in the church columbarium. Following the service at the columbarium, all relatives and friends are invited to return to the church for a time of fellowship and dessert. Those not going to the services outside may go directly to the fellowship hall, and help yourselves to food provided. The family will join you following the outdoor service.



Melba Lundeen

1934 - 2024

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.

In Loving Memory Of

Melba G. Lundeen

November 16, 1934

Thief River Falls, Minnesota

December 1, 2024

Willmar, Minnesota

Celebration of Life Service

Saturday, April 26, 2024 - 2:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church

Spicer, Minnesota

Officiating

Pastor Tim Routh

Music

Pianist: Dave Eliason

Congregational Hymns:

"Rock of Ages" & "The Old Rugged Cross"

Green Lake Blue Grass Band:

Dave Eliason Bob Whitney Brian Pearson

Wendell Nash Jerry Saetveit

"When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder"

"Turn Your Radio On"

Interment

Faith Lutheran Church Columbarium

Spicer, Minnesota

Peterson Brothers Funeral Home

Celebrating A Life Remembered