



Legacy OF Love

A wife, a mother, a grandma too,
This is the legacy we have from you.
You **TAUGHT US LOVE** and how to fight,
You gave us strength, you gave us might.
A stronger person would be hard to find,
And in your heart, you were **ALWAYS KIND**.
You fought for us all in one way or another,
Not just as a wife not just as a mother.
For all us you gave your best,
Now the time has come for you to rest.
So go in peace, you've earned your sleep,
Your love in our hearts, we'll
Eternally Keep.

Celebrating THE *Life* OF

Donna L. Christiansen

AUGUST 19, 1933 – FEBRUARY 24, 2026

Services At:

Federated Church
Morris, Minnesota
Saturday, April 11, 2026
11:00 a.m.

Officiating Clergy:

Pastor Matthew Orendorff

Accompanist:

Francie Turner

Soloist:

Jere Solvie

Honorary Urn Bearers:

Donna's Grandchildren
Stacy, Joseph, Paula, Nicole,
Anthony, Benjamin, Kelly
Rosalee, Matthew, Katherine
Marielle, Isaac, Kyle
Alexander, Noah, Zachary

Interment:

Summit Cemetery
Morris, Minnesota

Today we celebrate the life of Donna Lou (Yarger) Christiansen, born August 19, 1933, in Morris — a woman whose life was defined by faith, music, hard work, and, above all, love for her family.

Donna grew up in Morris and graduated from high school in 1951. Even as a young woman, her gifts were evident. She was active in choir and band, playing percussion and sharing her singing voice as a soloist. Music stayed with her throughout her life. She was a longtime member of the Morris Community Band and sang in her church choir for many years.

During high school, Donna met the love of her life, Lyle, and their friendship blossomed into a lifelong partnership. They were married on Oct. 7, 1953. Following their wedding, they moved to Kentucky while Lyle attended Army Basic Training. Their son, Lynn, was born in September 1954. After Lyle's two years of service, the family returned to Morris, where they welcomed son Bruce in February 1956, twin daughters in May 1957, and daughter Amy in April 1972.

Donna was a woman with a strong work ethic. Her first job was at the National Tea Grocery Store, where she managed ration stamps during a time when details mattered greatly. Later, she worked at Henry's Candy Co., stamping cigarettes and packing candy. She took pride in doing her work well.

She was baptized, confirmed, and married at Federated Church of Morris and remained a lifetime member. She taught Sunday school, sang in the choir, and was active in Women's Fellowship.

Donna's volunteer service was extensive. She served as an election judge and volunteered with the Arthritis Foundation. At Federated Church, she was a council member and council president, sang in the choir, taught Sunday school, and served on the Women's Fellowship funeral committee for 16 years. She was secretary of the MHS Music Boosters; helped Morris schools with science fairs and medical screenings; served as Morris Centennial Headquarters secretary in 1971; coordinated Junior Bowling; was a Cub Scouts den mother; and delivered meals through the Meals on Wheels program. In addition, she was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and VFW Auxiliary and spent many hours sewing items for veterans' homes and hospitals.

Donna enjoyed many hobbies. Crocheting was one of her favorites — she made a blanket for each grandchild and baby blankets for her great-grandchildren. She was a skilled bowler and enjoyed competing in a league or going to the alley with friends. She spent hours working crossword puzzles, loved playing cards with friends and family, made delicious homemade doughnuts, and enjoyed canning homegrown tomatoes. She was a wonderful cook and baker, and many memories were made around her table.

Donna was especially proud of her family. She is survived by her loving husband of 72 years, Lyle; her five children: Lynn (Maggie) Christiansen of St. Cloud, MN; Bruce (Joleen) Christiansen of St. Cloud, MN; Pam (Victor) Gades of Morris, MN; Pat (Nick) Kieffer of Morris, MN; and Amy (Scott) Liebl of Oronoco, MN; 16 grandchildren: Stacy, Joseph, Paula, Nicole, Anthony, Benjamin, Kelly, Rosalee, Matthew, Katherine, Marielle, Isaac, Kyle, Alexander, Noah, and Zachary; 28 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Edwin (Ed) and Marie (Fischer) Yarger; her brothers, Donald (Don) and Edwin (Red); and her sister, Betty Sorensen.

Donna's life was not lived loudly, but faithfully. Through music, service, family traditions, handmade gifts, and home-cooked meals, she created a legacy of love that stretches across generations.

Her kindness, sharp wit, and unwavering devotion will continue to live on in the lives she helped shape.

Today, we give thanks for Donna's love — her heart, her hands, and her voice.



Please use this QR Code to access
Donna's online guestbook and tribute video.

Pedersen
Funeral & Cremation Service

