



"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others."

- Philippians 2:1-4



In Loving Memory of
Mary Ann Van Cartsen

June 27, 1939 - October 29, 2025

In Loving Memory of
Mary Ann Van Aartsen

Funeral Service

Monday, November 3, 2025 - 10:30 AM
First Reformed Church
Rock Rapids, Iowa

Officiating

Pastor Steve Van Wyhe

Scripture

Philippians 2:1-13 Proverbs 17:6

Organist - Glenda Jacobsma

Soloist - Andraya Peterson, "Goodness of God"

Special Music

"The Lord's Prayer" - As recorded by Gerrit Van Aartsen
"Ride That Glory Train" - As recorded by The Cathedrals

Congregational Hymns

"How Great Thou Art"
"When We All Get To Heaven"

Casket Bearers

All of Mary Ann's grandchildren.

Honorary Bearers

All of Mary Ann's Great-Grandchildren.

Interment

Riverview Cemetery
Rock Rapids, Iowa

Following the committal service, friends are invited to join the family for food and sharing in the church fellowship hall.



Scan the QR code to view Mary Ann's lifetribute.

Arrangements By
HARTQUIST FUNERAL HOME

Mary Ann Van Aartsen was born on June 27, 1939 to Oltman "Ole" and Caroline "Ann" (Richters) Akkerman on a farm northeast of Rock Rapids, Iowa. She was baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Church in town. At a young age, the family moved to a farm south of Luverne, Minnesota, where she was raised. Mary Ann attended church and confirmed her faith at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. She attended country school through the eighth grade and then attended Luverne public school through the tenth grade. After her education, she continued helping her Dad with the farming operation. While attending the roller skating rink at the Lyon County fairgrounds, Mary Ann met her future husband, Gerrit Van Aartsen. The couple was united in marriage on July 2, 1956 at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. They made their home in Rock Rapids for a short time and moved two and a half miles south of Luverne in 1957. Here they raised their four children. When her children were old enough, Mary Ann went to work cleaning area homes. She later started a business with Arlene Van Wyhe wall-papering, staining, varnishing and refinishing furniture, which they operated for 30 years. Mary Ann formally retired 2010. Gerrit preceded in February 15, 2012.

Mary Ann was an active member of the First Reformed Church of Rock Rapids. She enjoyed sewing, mending and making quilts for all of her family, and later in life, she enjoyed taking vacations with Gerrit on their motorcycle. Mary Ann was a great caregiver to many people. She also enjoyed her tradition of holding coffee at her home on Saturday morning to anyone who came, including her banana bread made with a pinch of love. She taught her children the importance of family and being connected with each other and cherished that her children continued to live close by and stay connected with her throughout life.

On Wednesday, October 29, 2025, Mary Ann died peacefully while working on a quilting project at home at the age of 86 years, four months and two days.

Mary Ann is lovingly survived by her three children, Darrel and his wife, LaDonna Van Aartsen of Luverne, Peggy and her husband, Vince Gacke of Luverne, and Kathy and her husband, Kevin Jacobsma of Luverne; a son-in-law, Randy Muller of Jasper, Minnesota; 11 grandchildren, Brent (Amanda) Van Aartsen, Jonathon (fiancé, Brittany) Van Aartsen, Mark (Katelyn) Van Aartsen, Andraya (Jon) Peterson, Landon (Lauren) Gacke, Anna (Dan) Chamberlin, Ryan (Brittany) Jacobsma, Matt (Andrea) Jacobsma, Greg Muller, Daniel (Sydney) Muller, and Mitchell Muller; 19 great-grandchildren, Kaylee, Malcolm, Tanner, Allie, Jayce, Carter, Aiden, Alaina, Adalynn, Margaret, Sydnie, Sadie, Kai, Eleanor, Sofia, Aria, Mylee, Emma, and Cayden; a brother, Arnold Akkerman (friend, Sara Meier) of Motley, Minnesota; and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerrit; a daughter, Bonnie Muller; and parents, Ole and Caroline Akkerman.