

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE “How Great Thou Art” - Trista Bejarano (granddaughter), Violin; Matthew Watnemo (grandson), Cello

Welcome and Opening Prayer - Larry Watnemo (son)

Song: “Why Me Lord?” Youtube recording featuring Johnny Cash (as requested by Mavis for her funeral)

Reading of Obituary - Rodney Nesvold, nephew

Tribute to Grandmother - Nicky Casberg (granddaughter). II Corinthians 5: 6-8 from G’ma’s Bible.

Song: “The Old Rugged Cross” -Trista Bejarano, Violin; Tami Widmer (granddaughter), Vocalist; Matt Watnemo, Cello; Treva Watnemo (daughter-in-law), keyboard

Message: WE HAVE THESE MOMENTS TO REMEMBER - Larry Watnemo

Part One: Mom was a Feeler - Her Gift of Mercy

Tribute to Grandmother - Trista Bejarano. Psalm 16 from G’ma’s Bible

Part Two: Mom’s Fears, Frustrations, and Foibles - The Influence of Family

Tribute to Grandmother - Tami Widmer. Psalm 91 from G’ma’s Bible

Song: “Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling” Note: This hymn was playing in the background when Mavis passed into eternity

Part Three: Mom’s Funny Side - “Look Out. . . the Foot Terrorist!”

Tribute to Grandmother - Matt Watnemo. Psalm 121 from G’ma’s bible

Part Four: Mom’s Faith: Her Adoption into the Eternal Family - In Mavis’ Own Words (Video Clip)

Song: “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” Recorded by Jim Reaves (with Lyrics)

Tribute by Family and Friends. If possible, please come to the front to use the microphone for livestream participants

Song: “What a Day, Glorious Day That will Be” Recording Artist Drew Parker (no relation to Mavis). Sing along if you wish!!

Closing Prayer and Benediction - Larry Watnemo

Please stay and fellowship following the service. A light lunch will be served.

NOTE: Roughly 45 minutes following the service we will proceed to Queen Cemetery for the gravesite interment.

THANK YOU to the following people who served as Pallbearers:

Rodney Nesvold, nephew Twila Elenbaas, niece Nicky Casberg, granddaughter Trista Bejarano, granddaughter Tami Widmer, granddaughter Matthew Watnemo, grandson

THANK YOU to Mavis’s great-grandsons Isaiah and Levi Bejarano who organized the electronic slideshow. Great job boys!

THANK YOU to those who couldn’t make it to the service today, but joined us via livestream. Your participation meant a lot.

THANK YOU to Tim and Rhonda Carlin for professional and personal, caring presence assured us our loved one was in good hands.



*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 for ever.*

†

Psalm 23



Mavis Sue Watnemo was born March 30th, 1927 to Lewis and Selma Paulson in the Fosston, MN hospital. She grew up in the Mahnomen and Fosston area, and lived with her foster grandparents Edwin and Marie Nilstad for most of her teenage years. Mavis maintained a close, loving relationship with the Nilstads throughout the years until they passed away. Mavis attended school in Mahnomen, MN, and in the rural Moen school where she told stories about how the boys would eat their lunch while sitting on top of the outhouse. One can only speculate how they might have made their presence known if one of the girls had to use the outhouse.

Mavis married Vergil Watnemo November 23, 1944 at Samhold Lutheran Church in Gonvick, MN. They made their home just west of the creamery in Fosston where Vergil worked, and Mavis was employed at Vern's Red Owl; both had just a short walk to work every day. In 1968 following the death of Vergil's parents, they moved to the small farm in Queen township just outside the entrance into Cross Lake/Tilberg Park. This truly became their "happy place" where they could hobby farm, raise a few cattle, grow over-producing gardens, and create beautiful flower beds scattered across their large yard that slowed most cars down when driving by. Much of what they grew, especially Cherokee potatoes, was given away to family, friends and anyone who happened to stop by for a chat on the way to Cross Lake. Their home and hospitality truly became a magnet for many, especially on weekends when gas was cheap enough for people to enjoy a casual drive. On-lookers would often stop by for a chat. But then there was always coffee, lots of sweets, and sometimes even a full meal for those who lingered into mealtime. Their home was also a refuge for family members who needed a place of rest away from the stormy waters of life.

She worked at the Fosston egg station for 5 years candling eggs, Vern's Red Owl for 11 years, and then was employed as a nurse's aide at Fosston First Care Hospital for 20 years. She retired on April 4, 1995, only to be rehired as a personal care attendant in May, 1996. She opened the Good News Book and Gift Shoppe with Arlene Wold for a few years until selling her half to Arlene. She retired for the final time from hospital work in March, 2003 at the age of 76, eight months following Vergil's death. In September, 2004, she sold the farm house to Randy and Margaret Rue, while her son Larry purchased the surrounding agriculture acres adjacent to Tilberg Park. Mavis moved into an apartment on Larson Avenue in Fosston where she resided until transitioning into Prairie Pines Assisted Living in August, 2021. She was able to live at Prairie Pines until her recent death June 4th at the age of 96.

"I seldom missed a Twins game (radio or TV). I loved working with people in need at First Care. I always enjoyed family." These were her written sentiments that she requested for her obituary. She loved crocheting, sewing, quilting, bowling, gardening, and her wordbooks that occupied her hands when she could no longer do the hobbies she loved. She was a member of New Journey Baptist Church in Fosston. Most importantly, she wanted others to know she was a woman of faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and she was looking forward to the day when she would be released from her failing earthly body. She would often tell others, "I'm not going to be here long; I'm going home."

Survivors include one son, Larry (Treva) Watnemo, Moorhead MN; daughter-in-law Gail Watnemo, Crookston, MN; four grandchildren, Nicky (Pete) Casberg, O'Fallon, Ill, Trista (Nehil) Bejarano, Rio Rancho (Albuquerque) NM, Tami (Greg) Widmer, Vancouver, WA, Matthew (Brooke) Watnemo, Shoreview, MN. She has been blessed with 13 great-grandchildren. She has one surviving brother, Donald Paulson, several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews whom she loved deeply.

She was preceded in death by her husband Vergil, son Dale Watnemo, granddaughter Tania Marie Watnemo, parents Lewis and Selma, foster grandparents (the Nilstads), siblings Margaret, Lucille, Jeanette, Barbara, and Ronald, several cousins and many close friends in the surrounding Fosston community.



Celebrating the Life of
Mavis Sue Watnemo

March 30, 1927 ~ June 4, 2023

