

Loretta E. Wendt: A Life Beautifully Lived

With an everlasting smile that brightened every room, Loretta Ernestine Wendt, 87, departed this world peacefully on June 14, 2024 at Perham Living. She was a lifelong resident of Perham, Minnesota.

Born to Christian and Hazel (Borchardt) Jorgenson on March 6, 1937 in Perham, Loretta was lovingly raised by her aunt and uncle, Ludwig and Georgianna (Jorgenson) Bauck. Her formative years were spent steeped in faith, attending St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School. It was there she was baptized, confirmed, and on September 21, 1957, joyfully united in marriage to Eldred Wendt.

A woman of many talents, Loretta worked at several local establishments over the years, including Drummonds, Chuckie's Ribs, Cactus Gardens, Kenny's Candy and Nelson Confections becoming renowned for her skill in crafting delectable caramels. Her skilled hands could make almost anything, from intricately crocheted pieces to meticulously sewn micro-mitts and American Girl doll clothes. Loretta also found immense satisfaction in gardening, canning the fruits of her labor, and baking up treats for those she loved. Loretta was also an avid sports fan cheering on the Twins, Vikings, Minnesota Wild and NASCAR.

While life presented its fair share of challenges, Loretta countered each one with resilience, grace, and that radiant smile lighting her path forward. This strength of spirit is how she will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Loretta leaves a beautiful legacy through her loving children, Vicki (Mike) Uselman - Austin, TX, LaRae (Paul) Witsaman - Fort Worth, TX, Rodney Wendt - New York Mills, MN, and Ronald (Patricia) Wendt - Shoreview, MN; 22 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and many adoring nieces and nephews. Awaiting her joyful reunion are her husband, Eldred; son, Rollin; parents; siblings, Cecil, Rosie, Kay, Cliff and Marty; and aunt and uncle who raised her.

Friends and loved ones are invited to celebrate Loretta's extraordinary life on Thursday, June 20th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Perham. A visitation will be held from 10:30am-12pm, followed by a funeral service at 12pm officiated by Pastor Andrew Ratcliffe. Burial at the church cemetery.

The family gratefully thanks Pastor Andrew Ratcliffe, Pastor Del Stohs, the team of caregivers at Perham Living, Knute Nelson Hospice, and Schoeneberger Funeral & Cremation Service for their compassionate care.

Celebrating THE *Life* OF



Loretta Ernestine Wendt

March 6, 1937 - June 14, 2024



Fill not your heart with
PAIN AND SORROW,
But remember me in every tomorrow...
Remember the **JOY,**
the **LAUGHTER,**
the *smiles,*
I've only gone to rest a little while.
Although my leaving causes pain & grief
My going has eased my hurt
And given me relief.
So dry your eyes and remember me,
Not as I am now, but as I used to be.
Because I will
REMEMBER YOU ALL
And look on with a smile.
Understand in your hearts
I've only gone to rest a little while

Funeral Service

Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Perham, Minnesota

Officiants

Pastor Andrew Ratcliffe
Pastor Del Stohs

Musicians

Sheena Trumbull
Bre Stillman

Casket Bearers

Noah Uselman - Nate Uselman
Skyler Witsaman - Cody Witsaman
Elijah Witsaman - Matthew Rishovd

Honorary Casket Bearers

Travis Roland - Chris Paskey
Lee Rishovd - Brody Rishovd - Tucker Nundahl
Jared Knutson - Dillon Knutson

Interment

St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery
Perham, Minnesota

