

***The Funeral Service***

Saturday, June 27, 2026 - 11:00 AM  
The Lutheran Church of Christ The King  
Moorhead, Minnesota

***Officiating***

Pastor Michele Jenson  
Pastor Stephen Streed

***Eulogist***

Dawn Melarvie

***Scripture Readers***

Daniel Garman

***Scripture Readings***

Luke 12:25-40    Philippians 3:20-21  
Psalm 23

***Special Music***

*How Great Thou Art*  
*The Lord's Prayer*

Lorie Adolf and Hannah Garman, vocalists

***Special Music***

*Have No Fear Little Flock*  
*Lead On, O King Eternal*  
Jo Marie Fike, accompanist

***Nightingale Tribute***

Nurse Honor Guard Red River Valley

*The family of Katherine D. Melarvie thanks you for your presence here today and for your many acts of kindness.*

*Following the Celebration of Life please join the family for lunch and fellowship.*



***CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF***



*Katherine D. Melarvie*

July 18, 1935 - February 10, 2026

Katherine D. Melarvie, 90, of Moorhead, MN, formerly of Mankato, MN, passed away on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at the Eventide The Linden, Moorhead.

Katherine Dorothy Unruh was born on a farm near Wishek, ND, on July 18, 1935, the daughter of Christian and Christina (Schilling) Unruh. She was raised in Wishek alongside her 13 siblings and later moved with her family to Bismarck, where she began working as a nurse's assistant. Katherine pursued her nursing degree at St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Dickinson, ND. She returned to Bismarck and began her career in nursing.

On September 17, 1960, she was united in marriage to Richard Melarvie in Bismarck, ND. Together they were blessed with three children: Tammy, Dawn, and Noel. Over the years, they lived in Bellingham, WA; St. Paul, MN; and Jamestown, ND, before establishing their home in Moorhead, where they raised their family.

Katherine devoted her life wholeheartedly to her family, setting aside her nursing career when her children were born. Their home was a place of warmth and welcome—filled with the aroma of homemade bread, the whirl of her sewing machine, and the best sugar cookies one ever tasted. She was present at every concert, sporting event, and church fundraiser. Nothing was more important to her than showing up for the people she loved.

Katherine's faith in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, was the foundation of her life. She often said that her relationship with Jesus was her first love, followed by her husband, and then her family. She believed deeply in praying first and acting second. Her unwavering faith shaped her character and guided her decisions, becoming the steady moral compass and support system for her husband, children, and grandchildren. She lived what she believed and modeled what it meant to walk faithfully with God.

Once her children were grown, Katherine reignited her nursing career, discovering a renewed calling in caring for vulnerable adults, particularly in assisted living and memory care settings. When Richard retired, they embraced a new adventure in the mountains of Montana, living in both Molt and Red Lodge. While Richard enjoyed retirement, Katherine continued her nursing work, serving elderly residents in assisted living communities in Billings and Red Lodge. She formed deep and meaningful connections with her residents, treating each one with compassion, dignity, and respect. She became known for her no-nonsense mentoring of CNAs and younger nurses, teaching them not only the skills of caregiving, but the heart behind it.

In later years, they returned to the Midwest, settling in Mankato to be

closer to their grandsons. Her role as Grandma was one she cherished, and she poured her heart into the lives of Andrew, Christian, and Daniel. Katherine continued her nursing work at Oak Terrace Assisted Living and, on the days she was not working as a nurse, served as a volunteer chaplain at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato. Retirement did not come easily to her—she attempted it three times before finally stepping away for good just three weeks before her 80th birthday. She believed her work was not finished until it truly was.

Katherine was an active and joyful servant in her church communities. Whether at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Moorhead or Hosanna Lutheran Church in Mankato, she loved singing in choir and cantatas, participating in Bible study, teaching Sunday School, and serving as preschool music director—a role she especially cherished.

Katherine will be remembered for her quick wit, sassy comments, generous spirit, warm heart, deep prayers, and boundless love of life. She showed her family what it means to live a Godly life—to trust fully, pray fervently, love unconditionally, and serve humbly.

The Lord was her Shepherd in life, and now she dwells in His house forever.

She is survived by her children, Tammy (Gary) Garman of Waseca, MN; Dawn Melarvie of Zagreb, Croatia; and Noel Melarvie of Moorhead; grandsons, Andrew (Kaitlyn) Garman, Christian (Carly Thompson) Garman, and Daniel (Hannah) Garman; great-grandchildren, Arya, Brooks, Kade, and Ivy Jo; brothers, Duane (Nora) Unruh of Bismarck, ND, and Harvey Unruh of Washington; and many well-loved nieces and nephews, along with countless dear friends she cultivated throughout her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Richard; brothers, Art, Gene, Grant, Robert, William, Daniel, and Ronald; and sisters, Esther Aipperspach, Edna Feagan, Ida Wanner, and Barbara Nolan.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the Eventide, The Linden staff and community, past and present, for being the hands, feet, and eyes who lovingly cared for and watched over Katherine. Words cannot express our gratitude.

