



## Constance Joyce Stensaas

July 12, 1934 - July 25, 2021

Stensaas, Constance Joyce

Age 87 of New Hope, passed away peacefully at home on July 25, 2021. Shortly before her death all her children and grandchildren got to be with Connie to celebrate her birthday. A wonderful goodbye.

Connie was a source of joy to all who met her. She was a loving mom and a very involved grandma. She was the true epitome of living out a Christian life...Always seeing the best in people and never speaking negatively about anybody. She highly valued family and friends...but would also find out anybody's life story soon after meeting them...waitress, nurse, bank teller, gas station guy.

She was born to Margaret and Maurice Stephenson in Beresford, South Dakota in July 1934. After one year at St. Olaf College she fortuitously moved on to Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD where she met the love of her life, Stan Stensaas. After graduating, Connie taught elementary school in Granite Falls and Worthington, Minnesota before marrying Stan in June 1960.

After moving to New Hope in 1968, Connie and Stan became founding members of House of Hope Lutheran Church. She was very involved in Circle, the church library, and making lefse and krumkaka for the annual Lutefisk Dinner (after all she was 100 percent Norwegian!). The church was her

second family.

Connie loved children and worked for ten years at the Ark Christian Daycare at Calvary Lutheran Church as the head teacher. She also loved to host and attend get togethers with family and friends, decorate for the holidays, bake Scandinavian cookies and tend her garden flowers.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 60 years, Stan. She is survived by children Mark "Sparky" (and Bridget) Stensaas of Wrenshall, MN and Mary (and Shawn) Ringhofer of Cottage Grove, MN, sister Mae Lou (and Ben) Thompson of New Hope, MN and sister Caryl (and Gary) Gatzlaff of Plano, TX, and 4 grandchildren: Luke, Paige, Birk and Bjorn.

Funeral will be at House of Hope Lutheran Church in New Hope on Thursday, August 5th at 11am (gathering from 10-11am). Lunch will be served immediately following the funeral service.

Memorials can be made in Connie's name to House of Hope Lutheran Church for use in the church library, 4800 Boone Ave N, New Hope, MN 55428 (hohlc.org)

[www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com)

Glen Haven Chapel 763-533-8643

# Cemetery Details

## Glen Haven Memorial Gardens

5125 West Broadway  
Crystal, MN 55429  
(763) 533-8643  
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

House of Hope Lutheran Church  
4800 Boone Ave. N.  
New Hope, MN 55428

## Memorial Service

AUG 5. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

House of Hope Lutheran Church  
4800 Boone Ave. N.  
New Hope, MN 55428

# Tribute Wall

RC

“ I can't begin with all the lovely memories of your lovely mother, Connie. I was sad to hear about dad last year and this year beautiful Connie. I am positive there are many bells ringing for yet another angel who has earned her wings. Love always, Ruth Carlson

Ruth Carlson - August 05, 2021 at 01:58 PM

MA

Hi Ruth, thank you so much for the kind words! ❤️

MaryRinghofer - August 12, 2021 at 04:49 PM

LS

“ To Mark & Mary & Family,  
This is a tribute to both Connie & Stan...It was an honor to know your wonderful parents for close to 50 years. As a co-worker with Stan at IHCC & TCF, as occasional visitors to their immaculate home, as lunch & dinner companions, as recent car poolers to Retirement Meetings, both Jill & I have so many fond memories! For both to pass in the same year is truly sad. Rest with the memory that Connie & Stan were exemplary...missed & admired by all who knew them. May they Rest In Peace.  
Lowell Suby

Lowell Suby - August 04, 2021 at 08:47 PM

MR

Thank you so much for the beautiful tribute to mom and dad Lowell! I have heard about you and Jill for so many years and how kind you were to them. They so appreciated you as dear friends. They are so missed by our entire family. Your comments were so heart warming!

mary ringhofer - August 11, 2021 at 11:19 PM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Constance Joyce Stensaas.*



August 02, 2021 at 07:39 PM



“ *Mark, Mary and all of Connie's family -  
The obituary for your mom so accurately describes the woman she was. We were blessed to be greeted by her on our first visit to House of Hope in 1978. How could we not join the church with Connie as the welcoming committee. She lived out her Christian witness in so many ways.  
May you be comforted knowing the faithful believers, Stan and Connie, are eternally reunited. It's difficult to lose two parents in a matter of months. We hold you in our prayers as you celebrate the love and memories they leave with you.  
Cy & Mona Nelson*

**Mona Nelson** - August 02, 2021 at 05:23 PM



*Hi Mona, thank you so much for sharing a story about mom and all your kind words. You warmed my heart ❤️.*

**MaryRinghofer** - August 12, 2021 at 04:52 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Constance Joyce Stensaas.*



July 31, 2021 at 02:19 PM

JS

“*Connie was a joy for our family as our sister-in-law and as our children's Aunt Connie! She always made you feel (adults and children) as if you were special and she made you feel so loved. Her laugh was uplifting and fun; she so enjoyed making sure you were well fed and comfortable. So many memories of family gatherings and we absolutely loved her stories and playing games with her. Her family was blessed by her but also so many little children she taught over the years. Mary and Bridget, Birk and Bjorn, Mary and Sean, Luke and Paige...your dear Connie is now with her Stan, and we can rejoice in celebrating their lives and in knowing they are now together with our Heavenly Father.*

*Don and Jo Stensaas*

*Mari and John Hale*

*Ann and Bill Short*

*Bethany Stensaas Farley*

*Andrew and Lauren Stensaas*

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**Jo Stensaas** - July 30, 2021 at 11:19 AM

JS

*Mark and Bridget..*

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**Jo Stensaas** - July 30, 2021 at 11:22 AM

JS

“ I have so many memories of Connie - Garage Sales, Progressive Dinners, Halloween, Christmas, Birthdays and Neighborhood Gatherings, to name a few. We lived next door to Connie and Stan for 44 years. They were dear friends who honestly helped us raise our son, Jon, as surrogate grandparents! We always considered them family! I will miss her kind, nonjudgemental ways, her words of wisdom and our long conversations. Life will not be the same without Constance! She touched so many lives and will be truly be missed! May She Rest In Peace! I am sure Stan is happy to have her by his side once again in heaven !! God Bless Her! ❤️😭🙏

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Jeanne and Dan Super - July 29, 2021 at 07:58 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Constance Joyce Stensaas.



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July 29, 2021 at 04:37 PM