



## Helen Regina Baxter

January 26, 1929 - July 23, 2024

Helen Regina Swensen was born in Chicago, IL on January 29, 1929 as the first born of identical twin sisters. Her twin was named Charlotte and they were the oldest of five siblings including Russell, Daniel, and Wendell, born to Thelma Sandeno Swensen and Raymond Swensen.

Helen met her husband John Baxter, from Wamego, Kansas, when he was drafted into the Navy to serve in the Pacific during World War II and was stationed at Great Lakes Naval Base near Chicago, IL. Their courtship was mainly by daily letters to and from during John's deployment on an LST with the US. When he returned stateside, they became engaged to be married; they both felt a calling to the mission field in Africa, but due to health reasons they had to change their desire to serve the Lord to service in the Parish Ministry. Helen finished high school and John attended Bible School at Fergus Falls, MN at the Bible College there. They were married in Chicago on September 6, 1947. They lived for a time in Ottawa, IL where three of their children were born: Carol Ann in 1948, Nancy Eline in 1949, and Russell William in 1952. The family moved to Minneapolis to attend Bible School and John completed his college degree and was a student at Luther Seminary in St. Paul until his ordination in May of 1965. Pastor Baxter and Helen lived in various parsonages and homes serving one, two, and three-church parishes in North Dakota, Wisconsin, and Minnesota for 25 years. John served as Chaplain and Helen as his "assistant" to the Good Samaritan Home in Battle

Lake, MN and In St. Croix Falls, WI. They lived together in Independent Living in Savage, MN. John passed to Heaven in 2014 and then Helen lived in Founders Ridge and then in Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington. John and Helen were further blessed with 23 Grandchildren, 37 Great Grandchildren, and 2 Great Great-Grandchildren. God is good.

Helen loved gardening, painting, knitting and crocheting, reading, politics, cooking and baking, and above all else, studying The Word of God and talking about the Love of Jesus.

John and Helen have five children; Carole Ann Walker who preceded her to Heaven in 2018 was married to Rev Holt Walker III and five children in Minneapolis, MN. Nancy Baxter- Losier lives in Bloomington, MN with her husband Davin (Dave) and they have six children. Their son Russ Baxter lives in rural Grafton, ND with his wife Donna Johnson Baxter and they have two children. Their daughter Ellen Baxter Cutsforth has seven children and lives in rural Eau Galle, WI with her husband Dean, who brought three children to their union. Their daughter Jacqueline Baxter lives in Colorado and has one child.

Memorials may be given in Honor of both Rev John and Helen Baxter to Bethesda Lutheran Youth Ministry for Summer Bible Camp and Mission Trips.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 26. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Dresser WI  
1941 110th Ave  
Dresser, WI 54009

## Funeral Service

JUL 26. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Dresser WI  
1941 110th Ave  
Dresser, WI 54009

## Graveside Service

JUL 26. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Bethesda Cemetery; Dresser, WI  
1947 110th Ave  
Dresser, WI 54009

# Tribute Wall

LM

“ *Grandma Helen was a perfect Grandma to me. I am so blessed to have had so much time with Her. Most of my early memories of family are her and Grandpa at Clam falls. We spent a lot of time together and she was very kind to me, and taught me many things. I would say she was not super funny but we had so many fun times. She did share a lot of important life things with me and had wonderful wisdom. Things that made an impact on me and I feel like it bonded us together. I am grateful she taught us how to pray, and grateful she taught us about god, and mostly grateful we had her in our lives.*

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**Laura R Mcdonald** - July 30, 2024 at 12:16 AM

“ MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER - PART 1

ON MY PARENT'S 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1967

*One thing I always knew about you, Mom, when we were growing up, was that you loved us dearly. We never lacked a warm hug and kiss when we needed it - and even we didn't know we needed it. And that was a special kind of teaching - how to express love and affection.*

*Mom, you and Dad cuddling on the couch always gave me a good feeling - knowing that you cared so much for each other. It was a good secure feeling.*

*I was always grateful for my young, fun-loving mother. It was great when our friends came over and we didn't have to worry about stuffy parents.*

*I remember the time you told about the facts of life - how a baby is made and the wonderful relationship between man and wife. You always made marriage and the love relationship seem so beautiful, special, and fun too.*

*I remember you telling us many times that we should try to understand that Dad had a tight budget and that he really wanted to give us more of the things we wanted. You were always ready to defend Dad when it appeared he was being hard or unreasonable. You taught us a lot about empathy.*

*I remember a beautiful poem you wrote about having a baby. I can remember you reading it at the Swensen clan's Christmas time. I was really impressed with the beauty of the poem and the fact that you wrote it. I hadn't realized you were a woman of varied talents.*

*One of the things I appreciate most about you now is that you are more of a friend as I get older. And I'm discovering how nice that*

*can be - because mothers can be more special than any other friend.*

*Mom, you also taught me how to put the best construction on everything that people do or say. You are always quick to understand why people do things and you never judge them harshly. You taught us trust this way.*

*Congratulations on your 20th anniversary*

*MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER on MOTHERS DAY, MAY 9, 1976*

*Dear Mom: My fondest memories of my childhood center around you, Mother. As I think about good times and learning times and crying times; the following are those special things I remember most of all.*

*Mom, you told me the fascinating fact that there was a baby in your tummy. I was three years old and you would lay down and put a domino on your tummy and we'd wait for it to fall down when the baby kicked inside you.*

*Then I remember Mom telling us not to play with the girl down the street because she had warts on her hands and she was afraid we'd catch them. And there was the day we fed lemonade to the Misco kids and the whole crew had lice in their hair - I am sure you must have sterilized those glasses afterwards.*

*Then I remember when you were really sick when we lived in the two room apartment, and you were in bed for a long time. One day you must have gotten worse because an ambulance came, and they took you away on a stretcher. I cried because I wanted to go along - I was afraid they wouldn't bring you back.*

*I remember all the times when I was really sick with some childhood illness and there was nothing more comforting than your cool hand on my forehead.*

*One time in the spring I was wearing my brand-new red coat and I fell on a patch of melting ice I was walking on and got my coat all wet and muddy. I was really afraid of what Dad would do when he found out. Mom, you broke it to him, and I didn't get into trouble. I'm sure I could recall many such times when you acted as mediator.*

*to be Continued as Memories of My Mother - Part 2*

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**Nancy Losier** - July 29, 2024 at 11:23 PM

“ MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER, PART 2

*Another time I recall with fondness was when you told us kids we were going to have a new baby at our house. You got us all together and said you had something to tell us. We all kind of knew right away. You were expecting another baby and we were so excited! It was hard to wait until the baby arrived months later.*

*One thing you always were telling Dad was, that since you had chased him for the first 20 years now it was his turn to chase you! Well, with such a good teacher, he should know how!! And he's not the only one who knows how after such a good example.*

*I also remember all the bowl haircuts I used to get when I was a kid. And the time I broke my front tooth and YOU cried. And I remember the beautiful sheer blue dress you made me - it was so pretty and made me feel so special. And I distinctly remember the first time my legs got shaved - you did it for me, so I wouldn't cut myself.*

*If I were to name one thing that will be foremost in my thoughts and memories of you, Mother, it would be your strong faith. So many times, when life was hard, it was your faith that kept us trusting in God for our every need. And I know that as a parent that was your greatest gift to us children - your living faith in Jesus.*

*I love you, Mother, more and more each year that I know you.  
Your admiring daughter, Nancy*

*POSTSCRIPT - MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY, January 26, 2009  
- so many years have passed since I wrote this tribute.*

*When I think about you, I realize that not a lot has changed about you, who you are, and what you believe, and how you interact in the lives of your children and family.*

*I could really write a book but suffice it to say that you are the single*

*most influential person in my life; because you love Jesus, and know exactly what He meant when he told people to go, and make disciples, as you have done so with me and my siblings - and the story keeps growing.*

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**Nancy Losier** - July 29, 2024 at 11:08 PM

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“ *Memorials in Honor of Pastor John and Helen Baxter may be sent to Pastor Peter Rimmereid, at Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1947 -110th Ave, Dresser, WI 54009; to provide Scholarships to children and youth to be able to attend Bible Camp in the summer months and go on Mission trips.*

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**Nancy Losier** - July 28, 2024 at 02:56 PM