



Jeanette Lydia Nelson

August 19, 1932 - March 7, 2026

Jeanette Lydia Nelson (Nordgaard)

Born August 19th, 1932, died March 7, 2026.

Jeanette was born in Rothsay, MN to Selmer and Myrtle (Heggen) Nordgaard. She attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and graduated cum laude, with a bachelor's degree in Home Economics. After her marriage to Duane Nelson, they moved to Chicago for two years where she supported Duane while he earned his Master's degree. After that they returned to MN where they settled.

Jeanette decided on a career change and went back to school to earn her Master's degree in Elementary Library Science. She spent the majority her teaching career at Central Elementary in Shakopee. She was a truly gifted teacher and had an innate ability to connect with children. This ability is one of the reasons she introduced a program for high potential and gifted students while at Shakopee.

As well as being a gifted teacher, Jeanette was the mother of three gifted children of her own and considered herself a steward of their talent. She ensured that each of her children's talents were nurtured by providing whatever music, sports or other instruction that entailed. She spent hours

driving to and from lessons, watching indoor and outdoor hockey games, attending concerts and plays. She continued to attend as many events as she could for her seven grandchildren as well.

Though being multitalented, she never considered herself gifted. That humbleness grew from her deep and personal faith in Jesus and permeated every interaction in her life. She always put others first and was generous to a fault. She loved to entertain and was always gracious, elegant, and hospitable. Her talents included teaching, gardening, woodworking, stained glass, sewing, and other crafts. But her main talent was her perpetually positive attitude and her ability to encourage others.

Jeanette was preceded in death by her husband Duane, and son David. She is survived by her sister, two children (and their spouses), seven grandchildren (and their spouses), eight great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Memorial Service

APR 4. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Reception

APR 4. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for Jeanette Lydia Nelson in memory of Jeanette Lydia Nelson



Washburn-McReavy - March 11 at 10:05 AM

MG

*Jeanette Nelson family,
Mark and I want to express our heartfelt condolences on the loss of your beautiful mother and grandmother, Jeanette. We had the privilege of living next door to Jeanette and Dwayne for 25 years, and they were truly wonderful neighbors and friends.
We were always blessed to overlook Jeanette's beautiful gardens each summer, which brought so much joy to our days. I also treasured the times Jeanette and I rode together to Bible study; those moments meant a great deal to me.
She will be deeply missed, and we are holding your family in our thoughts and prayers.
With sympathy,
Michelle and Mark Geier*

Michelle Geier - March 22 at 08:50 PM

FC

“ From Cindy and Kathy and our Mom Char planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jeanette Lydia Nelson.

From Cindy and Kathy and our Mom Char - March 31 at 06:44 PM

FC

“ *From Cindy and Kathy and our Mom Char purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Jeanette Lydia Nelson.*



From Cindy and Kathy and our Mom Char - March 31 at 06:44 PM