



Judith Lucille Shepherd

February 6, 1945 - June 14, 2025

Judy was joyfully welcomed home by Jesus on Saturday, June 14, at the age of 80.

She was born in Mt. Lake, MN, and grew up in tiny Odin - a blink-and-you'll-miss-it town. After graduating from Butterfield High School (where she was voted "Prettiest Smile"), Judy went on to study nursing and eventually worked at Union Hospital in New Ulm and Fairview Southdale Hospital in Edina. Looking for a change of pace, she took a job as a secretary at Universal Hospital Services, where she ended up dating her boss - the Director of Sales and Marketing, Richard D. Shepherd. (Don't worry, it wasn't as scandalous as it sounds!)

Judy and Richard were married in her hometown on October 23, 1971. With the marriage came four wonderful stepchildren - Stephen, Mark, Luanne, and Paul - and Judy fully embraced them. She then added two more sons of her own: Jason (her favorite) in 1972, and Aaron in 1974.

They made their home in Brooklyn Center and rededicated their lives to the Lord early in their marriage after attending a Christian conference. While Richard worked in sales and later as a bus driver for MTC, Judy thrived as a stay-at-home mom, pouring love and care into their busy household.

After Richard passed away in 1997 and the kids had grown up, Judy returned to Odin, and later St. James, to help care for her mom, June. She spent the next 20 years actively involved in her church communities - St. James Assemblies of God and Hosanna Free Lutheran - and found purpose in

visiting the sick and elderly, encouraging shut-ins, and supporting anyone who felt overlooked or forgotten.

In 2016, after her mother passed and having weathered the craziness of COVID (including a rough case herself in late 2020), Judy made the move to Plymouth to be closer to her son and daughter-in-law. She settled into a cozy home at Gramercy Park Cooperative and continued to live life fully. Even after discovering a small spot on her lung (in 2020), she trusted God with her health, pursuing alternative care and leaning on her faith.

At the age of 77, Judy enrolled in Charis Bible College. She spent two joyful years diving deeper into God's Word, connecting with new friends, and living her faith with boldness.

Judy loved people deeply. She had a gift for listening, encouraging, and pointing others toward Jesus. If she could say one thing now, it might be: "Thank you for being part of my journey - and I hope to see you in heaven (just say yes to Jesus - and really, why wouldn't you?)."

Though she didn't receive the physical healing she hoped for, she received something even better - wholeness, peace, and the eternal joy of being with her Savior.

"We are not in the land of the living going to the land of the dying. We are in the land of the dying going to the land of the living." - Larry Moody

Judy is survived by her siblings Sanford Lee Hansen, Sharon Lucille (Stan) Hansen, and Thomas Lee (Sherry) Hansen; her sons Jason (Jamie) Shepherd and Aaron (Jen) Shepherd; and her stepchildren Stephen (Sue) Shepherd, Mark (Toni) Shepherd, Luanne (the late Rick) Stradley, and Paul (Cathy) Shepherd. She leaves behind many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and step-grandchildren who brought her great joy - including Tyler, Natasha, Maren, Thomas, Haäkin, Shawn, Jessica, Amanda, Morgan, Adi, Hamilton, Ella and Ryleigh.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard; her parents, Lawren and June; and her brother, David Lee.

An open-casket visitation will be held on Thursday, June 19, at Washburn-

McReavy Robbinsdale Chapel from 12:00-12:45 p.m. Judy's "I'm Home With Jesus" celebration gathering will follow at 1:00 p.m. in the chapel. Feel free to wear your favorite thrift store find and bring a story to share - just like Judy would've wanted.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to:

- Crossroads Church (St. James, MN)
- Hosanna Free Lutheran Church (St. James, MN)
- Valiant Ministries International (New Hope, MN)

The family would like to thank her caregivers at Allina Hospice, especially her nurses; Deb Leverentz (Jen's mother); and all those who showered her with support and love in her last days.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 19. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Robbinsdale Chapel
4239 West Broadway
Robbinsdale, MN 55422
(763) 537-2333
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Celebration of Life

JUN 19. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Robbinsdale Chapel
4239 West Broadway
Robbinsdale, MN 55422
(763) 537-2333
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for Judith Lucile Shepherd in memory of Judith Lucille Shepherd



Washburn-McReavy - June 16, 2025 at 02:09 PM

KO

“ I was a junior bride's maid in Judy and Dick's wedding and Judy and my mom, Carol, kept in touch over the years. We were blessed with a visit from Judy on Christmas Eve morning this year. I am so sorry for your loss and also sorry I did not attend the services last week but I just found out that she had passed away. My prayers are with all of you as you grieve and miss her. Blessings, Kim (Asleson) Okerstrom

Kim Okerstrom - June 23, 2025 at 05:23 PM

JE

“ I fondly remember Judy when she taught a Bible class here at Brandt Ridge in St. James. Condolences to the family.

JoAnn Eng

JoAnn Eng - June 23, 2025 at 05:18 PM

CS

“ *Judy is truly one of the kindest, warmest people I have ever met. From the very first time I met her a few weeks after Paul and I were married she embraced me as a member of the family, more like a daughter than a daughter in law. We loved her very much and I know she and Dick are together smiling down on us from Heaven.* ”

Catherine Shepherd - June 19, 2025 at 01:30 PM



“ *Judy was my mom’s best friend and my sister Katie’s godmother—a role she embraced with deep love and grace. She had a rare gift for making others feel special, and it showed in the thoughtful, handwritten cards she sent to my mom and sister on their birthdays and during life’s special moments.* ”

Judy had a warmth and kindness that felt like home. Her presence was steady and comforting, the kind of friend who showed up not just in the good times, but when it mattered most. She listened with her whole heart and gave generously, not just with cards and gifts, but with her time, her wisdom, and her unwavering encouragement.

Her relationship with our family was more than friendship—it was chosen family. She celebrated our joys, supported us through sorrows, and created memories that we’ll carry with us always.

Becky Gerdes - June 17, 2025 at 05:20 PM

MG

“ I attended CHARIS Bible College and graduated one year prior to Ms. Judy. I was impressed by her age and humble, sweet heart plus, she reminded me of my mother-in-law who passed in 2020. Judy and I crossed paths again when she began attending my son’s ministry at Valiantmi.com in New Hope. We were in Bible studies together for several years and she rarely spoke but when she did, she spoke simple words of truth and encouragement. We enjoyed her offering of homemade chocolate chip cookies many times and she would always leave extras for my husband to freeze and enjoy later!

I’m honored to call Judy my friend and I will miss our occasional treats of brunch at the local pancake house. I know we will meet again and I look forward to her greeting us with open arms and her warm, hug.

Marcy Grams - June 17, 2025 at 03:43 PM

TB

“ While I did not know Judith, I was a housemate to her son, Aaron, during my first year moving to Minnesota. He was a good friend, and was likely more patient and forgiving of an immature brother than I realized at the time. This can only be a testament to the fruit of a loving mother, who most certainly raised her son with the same Christ-centered grace that I was shown. Blessings and condolences to Aaron and the entire Shepherd Family. - Trent Burns

Trenton Burns - June 17, 2025 at 01:53 PM

NC

“ Judy was such a special lady. In 1980 when my father was in the hospital, she “snuck” a Dairy Queen malt into the hospital for him. It was a definite bright spot during his 2 week stay. In recent years she would visit my mom and just sit with her and converse. My mom had dementia and my mom’s (Sonja) face would light up when Judy came. My deepest most heartfelt sympathies.

Nancy Cavanaugh - June 16, 2025 at 11:51 PM

CH

“ Our sympathies to Judy's family. She was a special friend & had many Bible studies with her & also on CW board with her. Will be dearly missed. Your all in our thoughts and prayers 🙏.

Carol Heide - June 16, 2025 at 04:17 PM