



Lorene Joy Novak

January 9, 1934 - March 20, 2025

On March 20, 2025, Lorene Joy Novak passed on to the waiting arms of her Lord and Savior and was reunited with her loving husband Edward Novak.

Lorene was born in Webster City, Iowa on January 9, 1934, the daughter of Edward and Florence Olson. Her childhood years were spent in Eagle Grove, Iowa where she met the love of her life Ed Novak. They were married in 1955 at Samuel Lutheran Church in Eagle Grove.

After high school Lorene obtained her two-year teaching certificate from Eagle Grove Junior College. Later, she earned her four-year degree from Mankato Teacher's College in 1955 and twenty-seven years later received her Masters in Counseling from Northern Montana College.

Throughout Ed's service as a Pastor, Lorene was by his side - a full partner in his service to each of the churches he served in Flaxville, MT, Billings, MT, Sioux Falls, SD, Glasgow, MT, and Dubuque, IA. For most people, being the spouse of a Pastor was a full-time job. Remarkably, not only did she fulfill the role of Pastor's wife with grace and enthusiastic energy and light, she was so much more.

She was an elementary school teacher, a high school guidance counselor, a substance abuse counselor, a family services counselor, a social

worker/counselor with Lutheran Social Services, a tutor in the South Dakota State Penitentiary, the first female school board member in Flaxville, MT. She was involved with the American Association of University Women, a mentor in Laubach Literacy training, a YWCA board member, a Battered Women and Domestic Violence Center board member, sold Longaberger baskets, and was on the leadership team for Stephen Ministry.

She was a Mom, a Grandma, a Great Grandma, a cancer survivor at age 46, and a friend to everyone she encountered. She was a woman of multitudes - kind yet genuine, vulnerable yet strong, tough yet gentle, humble yet confident, caring yet honest. And above all, she loved with vigor. Her favorite words were faith, hope and joy. She embodied those words with every breath of her life.

After retirement, Ed and Lorene moved to Minnesota, where she became Ed's caretaker for the last fifteen years of his life. She organized and lead support groups for caregivers of loved ones with dementia. And ultimately, became an incredible inspiration to her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

She is survived by her sister Marilee McFadden, daughters Heidi (Joseph) Flores, Karin (Clint) Stockwell and her son, Nathan (Julie) Novak, grandchildren Annalyse (Lucas) Danzinger, Jenna (Alex) Christianson, Lauren (Jared) Sherman, Rachel Flores, Kendall Flores, Sarah Flores, Skyler Stockwell, Kyle Stockwell, Winter (Jan Ehrenberg) Stockwell, Adam (Ashley) Flores and great grandchildren Everett, Leighton, Leo, Jordyn, Indigo and Arty.

The family wishes to thank the staff at Walker Suites and Allina Hospice for their caring and compassionate care of Lorene. Memorials can be sent to Bethlehem Church in Minneapolis, MN.

A celebration of Lorene's life will take place on April 25, 2025 at 11:00 am (visitation at 10:00 am) at Bethlehem Lutheran Church; 4100 Lyndale Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55410. The service will also be broadcast virtually at: <https://youtube.com/live/ydUeBgyvwZI?feature+share>

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities, (Minneapolis Campus)
4100 Lyndale Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409

Tribute Wall

JL

“ Lorene, Ed, Heidi, Nathan and Karin were my “college family” when I attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls. They ended up being so much more than that. Lorene was an amazing woman who gave freely of herself in service to many.

Jennifer Leslie - April 24, 2025 at 03:45 PM

TN

“ The Orthopedic NPPAs purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Lorene Joy Novak.



The Orthopedic NPPAs - April 22, 2025 at 12:00 PM

BH

“ I am so saddened to hear of Lorene’s passing. What a kind and loving and fun (mischievous!) person! I worked with Lorene at Substance Abuse Services Center in Dubuque. I was a new grad, no experience, and Lorene took me under her wings, both professionally and personally. She was like a mother to me. I lived a few houses away from her near St. Peter’s church. One day my family ordered pizza. The phone rang, and it was Lorene asking what kind of pizza we were having so she could decide if she wanted to come over! What a blessing to have known this beautiful woman. My condolences to the family. ❤️🙏

Betty Heil - April 20, 2025 at 09:07 PM

S(

“ Sheri Butler, (Dungarvin) purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Lorene Joy Novak.



Sheri Butler, (Dungarvin) - April 18, 2025 at 09:25 AM

PK

“ Ed Novak was our minister at Pleasant Prairie Church south of Flaxville, Montana. In fact, he married my husband and I in 1962. Wonderful people.
so sorry that they both have passed now.

Phyllis Kaul - April 16, 2025 at 10:11 PM

PK

Condolences to the Novak Family from Bud and Phyllis Kaul from Scobey, Montana!

Phyllis Kaul - April 16, 2025 at 10:23 PM

JH

“ The Herbert family from Sioux Falls South Dakota longtime members of First Lutheran Church like to send condolences— the Novak’s were very fine members of our church and lead it a very during difficult time — may God hold you in his hands—our prayers are with you ——

sincerely, jeff herbert

jeffrey c herbert - April 16, 2025 at 08:58 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Lorene Joy Novak.

April 11, 2025 at 03:41 PM



“ Your Dungarvin Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lorene Joy Novak.

Your Dungarvin Family - April 11, 2025 at 09:54 AM



“ Your Dungarvin Family purchased the A Full Life for the family of Lorene Joy Novak.



Your Dungarvin Family - April 11, 2025 at 09:54 AM