



Margo Anita Kuivanen

September 6, 1939 - January 8, 2025

Margo Anita Kuivanen, age 85, of Fridley, MN, passed away on January 8, 2025, and went to her eternal home to be with our Heavenly Father. Margo was born to Finnish parents, Eino Waino and Helvi Sophie Moisio, in Ironwood, Michigan, in the Upper Peninsula. She graduated from Luther L. Wright High School in Ironwood in 1957 and went on to pursue higher education at Gogebic Community College, Suomi College, and Northern Michigan University, where she earned her teaching degree in 1961.

While attending college, Margo met the love of her life, Charles "Les" Leslie Kuivanen. Their 63-year marriage was a match made in heaven. In 1961, Margo and Les moved to Minneapolis, where Margo began her teaching career. She dedicated many years to shaping young minds as a kindergarten, third, and fifth-grade teacher. She taught at several schools in the Spring Lake Park and Mounds View public school districts, and was known for her loving, caring, and patient nature. Many of her students remembered her long after they had graduated from high school.

Margo and Les were blessed with two daughters, four grandchildren, one great-grandson, and many relatives and friends. She treasured time spent with her family and friends, ensuring that holidays, birthdays, vacations, cabin time, and all occasions were made special.

A lifelong passion of Margo's was singing. She began her vocal journey at a young age and went on to sing in many choirs, including over 60 years in the choir at Christ the King Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Brotherhood Chorus, and the Pistachio Singers. Margo was also the choir librarian at Christ the King Lutheran Church for over 50 years, contributing greatly to its music ministry.

Faith was central to Margo's life. She was an active member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, where she participated in the Deborah women's circle, the Elders in Action group, and organized the church's Christmas brunches. But it was Margo's generous spirit and giving nature that truly reflected her deep love for the Lord. Her life was a testament to kindness, compassion, and living out God's love, and we will continue to remember Margo by striving to live as she did.

Margo is survived by her devoted husband, Les Kuivanen; daughters, Laureen Kuivanen and Cheryl Rosen; grandchildren, Erin Kappers, Jason Kappers, Brandon (Jean) Rosen, and Tyler Rosen; great-grandson, Luke Lujan; sister-in-law, Gail (Randy) Henry; nieces, Brooke (Kim) Harris and Alaina Henry; and great-nieces, Kaisa and Maeson Harris. She was preceded in death by her son-in-law, Mark Rosen.

A service celebrating Margo's life will be held on Friday, January 24, 2025 at 11 am, with visitation one hour prior, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 1900 7th St NW, New Brighton, MN with Pastor Sonja Hagander officiating, and a light luncheon to follow. Memorials may be sent to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

For those unable to attend the celebration of life, a live stream of the service may be accessed starting on Friday January 24, at 11 AM (CST) at: <https://www.lifeatctk.org/memorial/margo-kuivanen>

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Lutheran Church
1900 7th Street Northwest
New Brighton, MN 55112

Memorial Service

JAN 24. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Christ the King Lutheran Church
1900 7th Street Northwest
New Brighton, MN 55112

Tribute Wall

CO

“ Mrs Kuivanen was my 3rd grade teacher at Woodcrest in 1984-1985. This was the year that they changed the boundary lines and some of us Kenneth Hall kids had to switch to Woodcrest. I remember her kindness. She was my favorite teacher in elementary school. I recall her saying the word "spiffy" often. Thanks to her use of that word, my mom named the boat at our cabin "Spiffy"

Colleen - January 27, 2025 at 11:07 AM

KM

“ How fortunate I was to be on the staff at Westwood Elementary during the time that Margo was also there. She was a devoted educator and a valued colleague, and a genuinely lovely person. Please accept my condolences for your loss.

Karen Malver - January 22, 2025 at 11:37 AM

FF

“ From the Bill Rosen family purchased the Heavenly Light for the family of Margo Anita Kuivanen.



From the Bill Rosen family - January 22, 2025 at 11:00 AM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Margo Anita Kuivanen.



January 21, 2025 at 11:48 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Margo Anita Kuivanen.

January 21, 2025 at 11:48 AM



“ I worked with Margo at Woodcrest Elementary School in Spring Lake Park where I served as her Principal...I will always remember Margo as a kind, compassionate outstanding teacher. Margo and her husband, Les, also traveled with the Minnesota Navigators group which was made up mostly of Spring Lake Park teachers and educators...such a good memory of being in Venice, Italy with them. Condolences to her husband, Les, and her family.
Gary Erickson

Gary Erickson - January 17, 2025 at 09:11 PM