



## Nancy Ruth Godfrey

October 24, 1947 - August 7, 2024

Nancy Ruth (Suneson) Godfrey, age 76 of Shoreview, MN passed away with family holding her hand on August 7th, 2024. Nancy was preceded in death by the love of her life, Bruce R. Godfrey and parents Arthur and Eleanor (Satherlie) Suneson. She is survived by her four children, David (RaeAnn), Gwen (Dillon) Lyon, Daniel (Erin) and Steven (Marci), nine grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, brothers Bruce (Diana) and Brian (Pam) along with nieces and nephews.

Nancy was born October 24, 1947 and grew up in Roseville, MN, in the home that her dad built. As part of the Woodbridge Street gang of kids that ran and played along its tree lined street, she found the love of her life, Bruce. He was living directly across the street from her! She and Bruce would go on to marry in April 1968 and soon after moved into the home she lived in for fifty years.

Nancy spent the past year residing at The Willows of Arbor Lakes and the seven years prior to that living with her son, David, and his family due to health restrictions. She was a resilient woman who created an amazing life, even as she faced obstacles on her journey. She lived without complaint as she managed Rheumatoid Arthritis from her early 20's, grieved the loss of her husband when she was just 54 years old, and fractured her neck in 2016 from a fall. Eventually, a dementia diagnosis came with its own set of obstacles in her final years of life.

Through all of these challenges Nancy's faith remained the center of who she was. She was a long time member of North Heights Lutheran Church where she attended bible school and was confirmed as a teenager. Throughout her years, she served the congregation in a variety of ways, including teaching Sunday school, leading Creative Life and pioneering the Wednesday night suppers.

A lifestyle of generosity was at the core of Nancy's character. She was known for passing her blessings on to others, whether it was an infamous May Day basket, showering others with the perfect gift or even simply words of encouragement. Nancy's caring disposition led her into a career as an in-home day care provider for over thirty years. She grew her business while positively contributing to the safety, love and developmental growth of many children. More than that, she enjoyed working with each family and it was important to her to create strong relationships with all of them.

Nancy was a traveler throughout her life, from cross country trips with her parents and brothers, to road trips with Bruce and the children. She continued travel after Bruce passed away by enjoying annual trips to Florida and going on adventures with her Grief Group Girls throughout the country and even overseas.

All travels aside, Nancy's favorite place to spend her time was at the cabin in northern Minnesota. She and Bruce worked the family land for many years before building their dream cabin, which both referred to as their "heaven on earth". They would go up north for some R&R, which they quickly learned meant rocks and roots! It was a labor of love and continues to be deeply appreciated by children, grandchildren and now great-grandchildren. The cabin is where her presence will be felt the strongest by her family and for this we are blessed.

Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, September 7th at 11:00 am at North Heights Lutheran Church 2701 Rice Street, Roseville, MN 55113. The service will be followed by a luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Livestream available at [northheights.church](http://northheights.church). Private interment at a later date in Roselawn Cemetery.

Memorials preferred to the Arthritis Foundation, Alzheimer's Association or Plant-A-Tree program with the US Forest Service.

# Tribute Wall

SG

“ Nancy was, and still is deep in my heart, my granny. I was so lucky to have someone as caring as Nancy to look out for me and spend time with. I remember the time that she broke her neck and my family went to visit her. She was still as kind and caring as she was beforehand. I swear she asked us about how we are doing more than we to her! I was around 7 at this time so I don't remember a lot, but I do remember Nancy kindness. By the time I actually could remember things Nancy had already been diagnosed with dementia. I am honored that I got to know her and take care of her in the difficult time in her life. Nancy will live on in me and everyone who knew her.

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**Sequoia Godfrey** - January 21 at 08:15 AM

KB

“ The annual Christmas cards that Nancy would send out every year gave me such joy! I enjoyed seeing all of the pictures of her children and grandchildren throughout the years. So when the letter arrived this year, I was excited! It took reading it several times before the message actually sunk in. I was unaware of her passing, and I am very grateful to the family for sending out a this letter. It is very evident from pictures and stories she would share that her family was extremely important to her. My heart goes out to you all.

*My memories of Nancy go back to the early 1990's when she cared for my young children, Justin and Ashley. My kids absolutely loved Nancy and the time they spent with her. My daughter especially enjoyed it when Nancy would take out a paper and pen and take all of the kids orders for breakfast! She was so creative and so caring...she will be greatly missed by all!*

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**Kathy Ballinger** - December 13, 2024 at 05:24 PM

LC

“ Linda C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy Ruth Godfrey.

Linda C. - September 06, 2024 at 09:18 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nancy Ruth Godfrey.



September 06, 2024 at 02:09 PM

RC

“ I join Nancy's entire family in remembering and celebrating her remarkable life this weekend. Nancy was a warm light in the world who was a Mom to her own children, of course, but also a Mom to so many of the other children she cared for, including my son, Wynn. I feel so lucky and privileged to be a member of one of Nancy's larger family, and unspeakably grateful for the serene and loving care she provided to her daycare kids. Thanks, Nancy!

Ruth Cronje - September 06, 2024 at 01:25 PM

TG

“ The Gagne Girls purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Nancy Ruth Godfrey.



The Gagne Girls - September 05, 2024 at 08:14 PM

TG

“ The Gagne Girls planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy Ruth Godfrey.

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**The Gagne Girls** - September 05, 2024 at 08:14 PM

RJ

“ It's been such a joy to do Nancy's hair for 50 years! We have had so many great conversations over the years ! I've got to know each of you kids when you were so little and Nancy was a young mom until her last year when you brought her in to see me. I'm thankful for all the time I got to spend with Nancy in my chair keeping her beautiful!!❤️❤️

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**rhonda johnson** - August 18, 2024 at 09:14 PM