



## Cecelia Heltemes

March 8, 2021

The public Mass of Christian Burial for Cecelia Heltemes of Wadena, will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 13, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena, with Father Aaron Kuhn as celebrant.

A public visitation will be held at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena on Friday from 5:00 until 8:00 p.m. with Prayers at 6:00 and Christian Mother's Rosary at 7:00 p.m. Visitation will resume at the church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

Cecelia Lucy Heltemes, age 92, died Monday, March 8, 2021, at her daughter's home in Wadena, MN, under the loving care of her family and Hospice of Red River Valley.

Cecelia "Cel" was born on December 22, 1928 to Anthony and Lucy (Martin) Budig and lived in Wadena, MN. She grew up with seven brothers and sisters.

On October 14, 1947, Cel married Sylvester "Vess" Heltemes at St. Ann's Church in Wadena. Their marriage was blessed with 9 children, each a unique treasure that she cherished and nurtured from infancy to adulthood.

Cel worked right alongside her husband Vess, caring for the animals, crops, and supporting her neighbors and faith community throughout the years. She

enjoyed baking, sewing, quilting, and reading. Her gardens were full of beautiful flowers, colorful birds and bountiful vegetables, all gifts from the Lord she cherished. Her deep Faith was shared when her favorite bible verses were typed on a manual typewriter and sent in birthday and Christmas cards. Those verses still don bathroom mirrors, refrigerators or dresser drawers.

At family gatherings we enjoyed her delicious fried chicken, hundreds of side dishes, homemade bread and rhubarb jam, her love was stirred into each batch. The meals were followed by everyone playing cards and games. Well, until it was time to eat again, whether you were hungry or not.

Mom's beautiful smile and personality were always ready to brighten your day and a dance floor. At wedding dances (and there were A LOT of them), the DJ would play "Cecelia" and we would see Vess take mom by the hand onto the dance floor, surrounded by many dancing relatives, kids and grandkids. Oh, how special it is to have a song played where everyone thinks of you then, and now, and in the days to come.

Mom and dad were blessed with over 70 years together. As we continue to build the pattern of our own lives, her gift of love to us will shine through.

She is preceded in death by her loving husband, Sylvester in 2018; parents, Anthony and Lucy, daughter Laurie Langen, son-in-law Tom Weiss, brother Bernard (Kay) Budig, three sisters: Donna (Ray) Kern, Jenny (Tom) Uselman, Iris (Paul, Tom) Meckel Nyberg, and brother-in-law Phil Tabery.

Cel is survived by her children John (Brenda) Heltemes, Lenore Aarness, Janice Heltemes, Bill (Marilou) Heltemes, Judy Heltemes, Jane (Jim) Merickel, Cindy Weiss, and Curt (Kim) Heltemes, 20 grandchildren and 23

great grandchildren; her sisters Sister Rita Budig and Carol Tabery, brother Dave (Doris) Budig; sister-in-law Vicky Budig; son-in-law Bill Langen and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials to:  
Sisters of the Order St. Benedicts (retirement fund)  
St. Cloud Diocese TV Mass,  
St. Ann's Catholic Church

Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

# Cemetery Details

## Calvary Cemetery

Franklin Dr. & 6th St SW  
Wadena, MN 56482

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 12. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel  
205 4th Street Southwest  
Wadena, MN 56482  
(218) 631-3632

## Prayers

MAR 12. 6:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel  
205 4th Street Southwest  
Wadena, MN 56482  
(218) 631-3632

## Rosary

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MAR 12. 7:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel  
205 4th Street Southwest  
Wadena, MN 56482  
(218) 631-3632

## Visitation

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MAR 13. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church  
514 1st St. SE  
Wadena, MN

## Service

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MAR 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Ann's Catholic Church  
514 1st St. SE  
Wadena, MN

# Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - March 11, 2021 at 12:08 PM

BP

“ *Barry & Sandi Pratt lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Barry & Sandi Pratt - March 20, 2021 at 10:38 AM



“ *Sharon Boline lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Sharon Boline - March 15, 2021 at 09:30 PM

TB

“ Tom And Joan Brauch sent a virtual gift in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



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**Tom and Joan Brauch** - March 15, 2021 at 08:22 PM

MP

“ Morris & Karen Priebe lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



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**Morris & Karen Priebe** - March 13, 2021 at 07:50 PM

 Lois Stelflug

“ Sorry we can't be there



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**Lois Stelflug** - March 13, 2021 at 09:55 AM

CU

“ Chad Uselman



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**Chad Uselman** - March 12, 2021 at 10:13 PM

JH

“ Jay And Deb Hutson lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Jay and Deb Hutson - March 12, 2021 at 09:06 PM

PD

“ Peggy DuMont lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Peggy DuMont - March 12, 2021 at 04:01 PM

CJ

“ Our sincere sympathy to the Heltemes and Merickel families. Craig and Janelle

Craig and Janelle - March 12, 2021 at 03:29 PM

JH

“ I have many great memories of Aunt Cele. Playing hand and foot, canasta, and farkel. And who can forget those great barn dances? Or stopping by the farm in the evening for a visit and being invited to sit down and have some excellent homemade sausage (wurst). Aunt Cele always had a smile and was one of the most faith-filled family-oriented women I've ever known. I feel truly blessed to have had her as an aunt. It had to have been a wonderful reunion with Uncle Ves and Laurie when she arrived in heaven.  
Jerry Heltemes

Jerry Heltemes - March 12, 2021 at 02:54 PM

JH

“ *Jerry And Vivian Heltemes lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



**Jerry and Vivian Heltemes** - March 12, 2021 at 01:49 PM

SF

“ *Shawn, Susan, Lucy, & Violet (Cele's Penpal) Fobbe purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Cecelia Heltemes.*



**Shawn, Susan, Lucy, & Violet (Cele's Penpal) Fobbe** - March 12, 2021 at 12:12 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Cecelia Heltemes.*



March 12, 2021 at 08:43 AM

BR

“ *Thinking of and praying for the Heltemes family*



**Brenda** - March 12, 2021 at 12:48 AM

BS

“ Bruce And Trish Steinkopf lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Bruce and Trish Steinkopf - March 11, 2021 at 08:02 PM

MM

“ Mike Mueller lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Mike Mueller - March 11, 2021 at 05:27 PM

RY

“ Rick & Linda Youngbauer lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Rick & Linda Youngbauer - March 11, 2021 at 05:15 PM

VC

“ Vicki Theisen Chesney sent a virtual gift in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Vicki Theisen Chesney - March 11, 2021 at 03:33 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Cecelia Heltemes.* ”



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March 11, 2021 at 12:11 PM



“ *41 files added to the album Life Tributes* ”



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**Schuller Family Funeral Homes** - March 11, 2021 at 12:00 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Cecelia Heltemes.* ”



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March 11, 2021 at 10:57 AM

JE

“ *Jaden & Sarah Erkenbrack lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Jaden & Sarah Erkenbrack - March 11, 2021 at 09:51 AM

Sarah Erkenbrack

“ *Sarah Erkenbrack lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Sarah Erkenbrack - March 11, 2021 at 09:43 AM

AD

“ *Audrey Davis lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Audrey Davis - March 10, 2021 at 11:25 PM

LM

“ *Linda McIntire lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Linda McIntire - March 10, 2021 at 08:36 PM

MV

“ *Marilyn & Jim Vorderbruggen lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Marilyn & Jim Vorderbruggen - March 10, 2021 at 05:04 PM

DW

“ *Dave And Lynda Wosmek lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Dave and Lynda Wosmek - March 10, 2021 at 04:05 PM

Alan Schumacher

“ *Alan Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Alan Schumacher - March 10, 2021 at 02:08 PM

DD

“ *Deb Dague lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Deb Dague - March 10, 2021 at 12:16 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Cecelia Heltemes.*



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March 10, 2021 at 11:24 AM



“ *Cecil was a wonderful lady! I remember the great times at the farm with Judy and Jane! She was always such a pleasant and patient lady! Love to the family! ♡♡ Becky Matthiesen*

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**Becky Wegscheid Matthiesen** - March 10, 2021 at 11:01 AM



“ *Cel was a kind and cheerful person. Her big smile could light up a room.  
Thoughts and prayers for her family and friends. God will be your strength to help with your sorrow.  
Marge and Tom Welle*

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**Marge Welle** - March 10, 2021 at 10:49 AM



“ *Gladys Chase lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



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**Gladys Chase** - March 10, 2021 at 10:27 AM

JB

“ Jack & Lucille Belch lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Jack & Lucille Belch - March 10, 2021 at 10:15 AM

MF

“ Marie Fraune sent a virtual gift in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



marie fraune - March 10, 2021 at 09:07 AM

SB

“ My very dear sister Cecelia; you will always remain in my heart with love and blessed memories. Thank you for all your kindnesses over the years. My love and sympathy to all in the family. With love, S. Rita Budig

S. Rita Budig - March 10, 2021 at 09:04 AM

CO

“ Carol A Osborn lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Carol A Osborn - March 10, 2021 at 07:25 AM

SH

“ Aunt Cele was a loving, caring and beautiful human being who always smiled even if there was pain in her heart. She taught me to always think positive, find goodness in everyone, look for a rainbow at the end of a storm, and never forget the power of prayer.

*I loved time spent with her and Uncle Vess playing cards, laughing and perhaps having a beer.*

*She never lost her faith and I know she is in Heaven now without physical suffering in an eternal life with Uncle Vess, Laurie, and all those she loved. I often reminded her that she was bound for Heaven as any woman who gave birth to 9 children automatically earned sainthood. May she rest in eternal peace and I know she is looking over all of us now.*

*John, Lenore, Janice, Bill, Judy, Jane, Cindy and Curt - although I can not be there with you, my heart breaks for you and I am sending prayers and hugs to you across the miles. I look forward to the time when we can once again be together.*

*Love,*

*Susan Heltemes*



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**Susan Heltemes** - March 10, 2021 at 01:57 AM

KH

“ Sending prayers ,Larry&kathy heltemes



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**kathy heltemes** - March 09, 2021 at 10:38 PM

JP

“ Jerry And Kathy Peterson lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Jerry and Kathy Peterson - March 09, 2021 at 10:10 PM



“ Dave Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Dave Schumacher - March 09, 2021 at 10:02 PM

Judy Merickel Rawlings

“ So many memories at Grandma and Grandpa Heltemes home — playing cards, visiting the farm, playing with cousins in the hay mound, playing in the pasture, riding down the stairs on blankets and cardboard boxes. Cel would take care of us when we had to stay home sick from school. Her rhubarb jam...so good!! She typed Bible verses and sent them to me in a Birthday or Christmas card. I still have them in my dresser drawer. I loved her chicken that she made for holiday gatherings. Her gardens were so beautiful. I think of her every time I hear the song “Oh Cecelia” and remember her and Ves dancing together to this song at their anniversary celebration at the Pine Cove. Love you Grandma! Give Ves and Laurie a big hug from us all.

Judy Merickel Rawlings - March 09, 2021 at 09:52 PM

MJ

“ Always enjoyed talking to Ceil, she was a second mother to me. Will miss her greatly.



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**Melissa Johnson** - March 09, 2021 at 08:49 PM

JE

“ Sending prayers to Cecelia's family ❤️🙏



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**Judy Erdahl** - March 09, 2021 at 08:40 PM

PL

“ Pat Lorentz lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



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**Pat Lorentz** - March 09, 2021 at 08:34 PM

RB

“ Ron Buettner purchased the Simply Elegant Spat hiphyllum for the family of Cecelia Heltemes.



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**Ron Buettner** - March 09, 2021 at 08:09 PM

KR

“ Thank you she was an excellent president of the at Ann's Christian mother's!!!!!!!!!!

Kathy rohr - March 09, 2021 at 06:49 PM

KA

*My Sympathy and love & prayers to the family.*

Kathy Angus - March 09, 2021 at 10:18 PM

KA

*You have love and prayers to the family.*

Kathy Angus - March 09, 2021 at 10:19 PM

DK

*Rest in Peace Aunt Cel. Sending my thoughts and prayers to the whole family. Love Debbie and Ed Kalka.*

Debbie & Ed Kalka - March 10, 2021 at 12:39 AM

KR

“ Kathy Rohr lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Kathy rohr - March 09, 2021 at 06:47 PM

HH

“ Thinking of you all with the passing of your mother Cecelia. I think she lived Bluffton in my great uncle Henry Peffer home when I was young. Harry and I are thinking of Cecelia and her family at this time with love and prayers.  
Marge Harrison



Harry and Marjorie Harrison - March 09, 2021 at 06:12 PM

LM

“ Love , The family of Iris Meckel purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Cecelia Heltemes.



Love , The family of Iris Meckel - March 09, 2021 at 06:07 PM

ST

“ Sue Theisen lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Sue Theisen - March 09, 2021 at 05:27 PM

JJ

“ Jon & Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes



Jon & Patty Johnson - March 09, 2021 at 05:14 PM

Ben  
Tellers

“ *Ben Tellers lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Ben Tellers - March 09, 2021 at 05:11 PM

DH

“ *Darrell & Peggy Haman lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Darrell & Peggy Haman - March 09, 2021 at 05:08 PM

DK

“ *Dan & Beth Kern lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Dan & Beth Kern - March 09, 2021 at 05:04 PM

ME

“ *Margaret & Peter Van Erp lit a candle in memory of Cecelia Heltemes*



Margaret & Peter Van Erp - March 09, 2021 at 05:03 PM



*Deepest Sympathy to the family.  
Joanne and Steve Lynk*

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**Joanne C Lynk** - March 09, 2021 at 05:50 PM



*My deepest sympathy to all of the family, may God be near you all and give you strength and comfort at this time of sadness. She was such a sweet lady, always full of joy! May she Rest in Peace.*

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**Chris and Karen Eickhoff** - March 09, 2021 at 08:45 PM



*Sorry we cant be there*

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**Lois Stelflug** - March 13, 2021 at 09:53 AM