



Marlyn Freer

June 2, 1934 - April 28, 2023

The memorial service celebrating the life of Marlyn Freer will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday May 27, at St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena. Family and friends may gather at the church on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the service.

Marlyn Freer, age 88, of Wadena, MN passed away quietly on, April 28, 2023 at St. Benedict's Senior Community in St. Cloud, MN.

Marlyn Mary Juergens was born to Fred and Frieda (Rach) Juergens on June 2, 1934 in Bartlett Township near Verndale, MN, along with her twin sister Marlys. Growing up, Marlyn and her three sisters helped on their parent's farm until the family moved to Wadena in 1948. She excelled at school, placing second in the MN State Speech Competition as a junior and graduated from Wadena High School in 1952.

During high school, Marlyn worked at Dr. Campbell's dental office where she met her future husband who had recently joined the staff at KWAD radio station. Lyle Freer and Marlyn were married on May 30, 1953, at St John Lutheran Church in Wadena.

Lyle and Marlyn started their family in Fergus Falls then moved back to Wadena in 1959. Marlyn was hired as a business clerk at Wesley Hospital,

joining other women as the first of their generation to work outside the home. Hospital administration encouraged her to complete a medical records program that ultimately led her to becoming Director of Medical Records. Her first career led to a second career. In 1979 she joined the faculty at Wadena Vocational Technical College to teach a medical secretary program. While working full-time and raising her family she went to college to get her teaching degree. After eighteen years of teaching, she retired in 1997. Many past and present students attended her retirement party.

Throughout her life, Marlyn stayed active in civic affairs, serving on many boards and committees. In local lore, she is best known as the first woman president of the Wadena Quarterbacks Club. Her passion for sports and politics was shared with her husband, yet Marlyn never let go of her love of teaching. She remained active on the Wadena-Deer Creek Community Education Advisory Committee for nearly three decades, while being an ardent supporter of the Voice of Democracy program offered by the local VFW Auxiliary. She used these talents at St. John Lutheran Church, serving in a variety of roles, including teaching youth programs and participating in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the Dorcas Guild. Marlyn and Lyle were also members of a couples bridge club for more than four decades.

In her final years, these passions and interests continued as she remained a loyal fan of the Vikings and Twins and was known as a cornerstone of the resident council within St. Benedict's. She also encouraged and tutored nursing home aides in pursuing US citizenship and was often found playing cards with fellow residents and staff.

Survivors include her daughter, Janet (Wayne Frees) of The Villages, FL; sons: David of Knoxville, TN, Mark (Paula) of Delano, MN, Paul (Pam) of Buffalo, MN, and Jonathan (Margo Schwinghammer) of Royalton, MN; grandchildren: Jesse (Paula) Gleason, Delaney (Kyle) Sanford, and Ethan

(Hope Mueller) Freer; along with great grandchildren: Liam Gleason, Brady Gleason, and Oliver Sanford.

Preceded in death by her husband Lyle (2010); parents, Fred and Freida Juergens; sisters, Lavonne Piepkorn, Marlys Besett, and Phyllis Olson; and their spouses Edwin Piepkorn, Dale Besett, and John Olson.

The Freer family wishes to thank the staff of St. Benedict's Senior Community for the loving care and attention they gave to their mother.

Burial will be in Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

Cemetery Details

Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Previous Events

Gathering of Family & Friends

MAY 27. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
710 Franklin Ave. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Memorial Service

MAY 27. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. John Lutheran Church
710 Franklin Ave. SW
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall



“ Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Marlyn Freer



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - May 16, 2023 at 12:27 PM

PG

Such a beautiful video tribute to Marlyn. She was a special lady! Many a baseball game we watched together over the years. Prayers to the Freer family and all who loved her. 🙏🌹

Pamela Grewe/Sandberg - May 23, 2023 at 03:57 PM

DF

Thank you so much Pam ❤️ our families did share such wonderful times together especially at the ballpark

David Freer - May 24, 2023 at 03:46 PM

JR

“ My sympathy to all of you.. I worked at Wesley Hospital with all three of the girls and their mom. they were a force to be aware of. Nothing got by them. Many good memories of all of them. JoAnn Reineke RN

JoAnn Reineke - May 26, 2023 at 06:49 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Marlyn Freer.



May 22, 2023 at 04:36 PM



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

May 22, 2023 at 04:36 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - May 17, 2023 at 12:42 PM



“ 44 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - May 16, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *I thought the world of Marlyn and Lyle and Aunt LaVonne. They are all with Jesus now. You are in my prayers. Jani Heins*

Janis Heins - May 09, 2023 at 01:14 PM

SH

“ *Sharon Heinen lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer*



Sharon Heinen - May 06, 2023 at 08:54 AM

KC

“ *Kim & Greg Carlson lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer*



Kim and Greg Carlson - May 04, 2023 at 03:41 PM

MI

“ *Michele lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer*



Michele - May 03, 2023 at 09:59 AM



“ I love this lovely lady. She was my "medical secretary" instructor at M-State Wadena many moons ago and, following my graduation and successful job placement, reached out to me with invitations to speak and to substitute teach within the M-State education system because she saw something in me that I had not yet seen in myself. I consider Mrs. Freer a dear mentor in my life because her encouragement and confidence in me really made a difference. Blessed be the memory of Mrs. Marlyn Freer ❤️

Laurie Albertson - May 03, 2023 at 12:12 AM



“ Mrs. Freer was my teacher, my friend, and my mentor. Her belief in me and constant encouragement led me from her classroom to a career and a business I loved. She will always have a very special place in my heart.

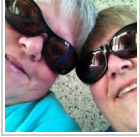
Rest in peace. I know you impacted my life in many ways and I was so blessed to know you.

Juanita - May 02, 2023 at 11:13 PM



“ Thoughts and prayers to the entire Freer (and extended) family. She was an awesome teacher, friend, and mentor!! My sister also had the privilege of caring for her at St. Benedict's for the last few years!!! Go Twins, Go Vikes!!!

Brenda Bakken - May 02, 2023 at 10:51 PM



“ Rocky Reese lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer



Rocky Reese - May 02, 2023 at 10:21 PM

SC

“ I have a lot of fond memories hanging out in the Freer household! So sorry for your loss.



Susan (Damlo) Carlson - May 02, 2023 at 05:48 PM

SO

“ Maryln was my Sunday School teacher at St John's, one of my instructors at Wadena Tech School and a fellow member of St John's congregation a lovely lady my sympathy to her family



Sharyl Olson - May 02, 2023 at 05:09 PM

DW

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Marlyn from when she hired me at Tri-County Hospital to getting me into teaching at the college, which I continued for 25 years. Thoughts and prayers to her entire family...she was so proud of each of you. 💕. Doris Winter

Doris Winter - May 02, 2023 at 03:00 PM

JE

“ *Judy Erdahl lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer*



Judy Erdahl - May 02, 2023 at 02:46 PM

KP

“ *Karen Priebe lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer*



Karen Priebe - May 02, 2023 at 01:45 PM

BB

“ *Betty Barr lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer*



Betty Barr - May 02, 2023 at 01:28 PM

BB

“ *Betty Barr lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer*



Betty Barr - May 02, 2023 at 01:25 PM

SB

“ Sharon Boline lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer



Sharon Boline - May 02, 2023 at 01:00 PM

JL

“ Deepest sympathy to the family of Marlyn Freer. I worked with Marlyn at TriCounty Hospital as well as took medical terminology classes from Marlyn at the Tech School. She was a very encouraging teacher. Joanne Lynk

Joanne C Lynk - May 02, 2023 at 12:30 PM

TH

“ Tammie Hamlin lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer



Tammie J. Hamlin - May 02, 2023 at 11:29 AM

BS

“ Bill Sartell lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer



Bill Sartell - May 02, 2023 at 10:41 AM

JJ

“ *Jon Johnson lit a candle in memory of Marlyn Freer*



Jon Johnson - May 02, 2023 at 09:14 AM