



## Stephanie Kay Cummings

February 10, 1942 - February 20, 2021

Stephanie Kay (Lill) Cummings lovingly entered into the arms of Jesus on February 20, 2021 at the age of 79. Stephanie was born on February 10, 1942 at St. John's Hospital in Fargo, ND to Stephen and Irene (Theige) Lill. She was the second eldest which included siblings Jonelle, Janice, Kathleen, Patricia and Steven. The family moved to New Rockford, ND where she attended St. James Academy. She was class president and a cheerleader ("Yay Aces!") and would enjoy telling stories of the nuns who taught her and her classmates. She always looked forward to the next reunion!

Stephanie earned her two-year teaching curriculum certificate from Minot State Teacher's College in 1961 and taught in Mandan, ND. She then earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from Minot State College in 1965. Always full of energy and furthering her teaching experience, she sought adventure in California along with her sister Kathy and friend Noel. While there, she learned how to drive a vehicle and she also attended what later became known as Super Bowl 1.

She was united in marriage to Dr. Neil Dage Cummings in West Covina, California on her birthday in 1968. Neil and Stephanie made their home in Valley City, ND where Neil was an optometrist. Stephanie became the proud mother to Scott Dage in 1969 and Alicia Ann in 1970. She delighted in motherhood but quickly became involved in the community through various organizations such as the VC Fine Arts Club, Republican Party, AAUW, and the Boy and Girl Scouts where she led troops.

She also supported Neil's profession, devoting many hours with the Auxiliary to the ND Optometric Association. She held the office of President, and served on other committees, educated schools and groups, and promoted healthy vision. Stephanie later learned and managed Neil's optometric finances as well as assisted in many areas of the profession, and they volunteered for VOSH to bring sight to those in need.

Stephanie could often be heard saying that her first priority was the Lord, and this is where her treasure was and what she put her heart into. This evidenced itself in her many years of teaching Sunday School and VBS, Circle, Bible Study, serving group, confirmation mentor, church bazaar and other committees, as well as serving wherever she could assist with at Epworth United Methodist Church. She earned the distinction of "Jewel of a Woman" in 2000 for all her efforts although she enjoyed recognizing others instead of

herself.

She lovingly assisted her mother and mother-in-law in their later years. Her servant's heart continued in helping anyone whenever she saw a need. Her gift of hospitality extended far and wide. She also regularly delivered Meals on Wheels, served on the Barnes County Library Board, and her condo association board. She became blessed with the title "Grandma" and like everything else, she excelled in caring for the "Grands." She also worked at Jefferson Elementary School as a lunchtime assistant.

Stephanie loved to be where the excitement was. She enjoyed parades, volunteering, baking, always "making a memory" for and with her family, creating special gifts and pictures and treasures, going on long car rides, visiting with others on the phone and in person, playing Santa Claus to her family and friends, and serving up a delicious meal with her best china. She always gave of herself and did everything to the best of her ability to praise God.

When her health changed, she lived with Alicia and family before becoming an Edgewood Community resident where she received wonderful care.

Her beautiful, classy life and Christian influence will be forever cherished by her family, friends, and the numerous lives she touched who will carry on her legacy. We anticipate her joy of being reunited with her parents and her beloved Neil, as well as other loved ones. Stephanie is survived by her children Scott (Sheila) Cummings, Valley City and their children, Gabrielle (Riley) Wavra, Oakwood, ND, Meredith, Grand Forks, and Joseph, Valley City; Alicia (Chad) Rexin, West Fargo, and their children, Andrew, Lilia and Gabriel; as well as her precious siblings and special extended family and dear friends.

Stephanie loved the Lord and would always encourage all to:

"... seek first the kingdom of God & His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33

Visitation will be on Saturday, February 27th, from 5:00-7:00 pm at Epworth United Methodist Church (680 8th Ave SW in Valley City). Her memorial service will be held at the church on Sunday, February 28th at 2:00pm with visitation one hour prior to the service.

Masks would be appreciated. Everyone is welcome to attend, but it also will be live streamed on <https://vimeo.com/515509812> which can be found through the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel website. Stephanie's final resting place will be at Hillside Cemetery in Valley City. Memorials may be directed to Epworth United Methodist Church – Christian Education or United Methodist Women or Barnes County Public Library.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel.

An online guestbook is available at [olivernathanchapel.com](http://olivernathanchapel.com)

# Cemetery

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# Events

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## Hillside Cemetery

Valley City, ND,

**FEB** **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

**27**

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Epworth United Methodist Church  
680 8th Ave. SW, Valley City, ND, US

**FEB** **Funeral Service** 02:00PM

**28**

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Epworth United Methodist Church  
680 8th Ave. SW, Valley City, ND, US

**FEB** **Live Stream Funeral Service** 02:00PM

**28**

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Stephanie Cummings' Live Stream Funeral Service  
ND, US

# Comments

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel** - February 22, 2021 at 06:03 PM

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“ I just found out about "Miss Lill's" passing. I was fortunate enough to have her as my 6th grade teacher in Mandan during the 63-64 school year. It was a memorable year as President Kennedy was killed in November of 63 and the Vietnam War was just starting to explode. Miss Lill was a fantastic teacher and a wonderful person. Her younger brother Steven even came to visit our class one day! She was, in my opinion, everyone's favorite teacher. My sincere condolences to her family! Dave Nelson, Highlands Ranch, CO

**Dave Nelson** - November 26, 2021 at 04:27 PM

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“ To Stephanie's family, my father Lawrence Heckman , and your Dad were good friends. Neil was my eye dr for many years. I always thought he was so good and really valued his opinion. I got my first contacts from him. They were exceptional people and your mom was just so classy and friendly. Though I didn't see much of her in recent years, she always remembered me. May you be comforted by many great memories and the knowledge that they both left you with the best of each of them. They live on in your hearts and those of many of us. God bless you in the days ahead. Kathy and Tom Langemo

**kathy langemo** - March 03, 2021 at 08:44 PM

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“ So many wonderful memories of Stephanie at the condo in Valley City. Enjoyed our walks in the evenings when I visited my dad, Torrey Berge. You were such a good friend to my dad. Our family always enjoyed your kindness.

Betsy and Gary Kolden

**Betsy D Kolden** - February 28, 2021 at 08:58 PM



“ Stephanie lived with my family while she attended Minot State. In fact we shared a bedroom! I will always remember Stephanie with her long curled ponytail and her ready smile and giggle! She was a delightful lady and remained friends with my mom for a long time. She even attended my mother's 80th birthday in Minot. My mother was so happy to see her as were my brothers and myself. We visited like it had only been weeks since we last spoke.

My deepest sympathy to Stephanie's children and grandchildren and brother and sisters

.She was a wonderful lady and I hope that your memories of her bring you comfort.

Blenda Beauclair Burckhard

**Blenda Burckhard** - February 28, 2021 at 04:46 PM

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“ Sorry to hear about Stephanie Always enjoyed spending time with her. Delores (Geisinger) Georgeson

**Delores (Geisinger) Georgeson** - February 28, 2021 at 03:30 PM

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“ It was a bittersweet moment when I heard Stephanie passed away. Bitter because she was so well loved and I have many memories of her growing up as our Girl Scout leader and mom to my classmate and friend, Alicia. Sweet because I know of the struggle it has been for some time now with her memory and how it must have been for her children to witness. Yet, the memory of her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was the first to be welcomed as she was embraced by his loving arms into the household of God, along with so many others who have gone on before including her dear husband. I am happy for her in this reunion, grieve the loss she left in many hearts and my heart truly aches for my friend, Alicia, who will navigate life ahead without her parents. We all lose our parents at some point in our life, it's just unbelievably hard when it does happen I would imagine. My prayer is that your faith in God will only grow as you embrace His grace, mercy and love for the both you and your brother. May He bring you peace this day and the days, months and years to come.

**Sloane Floberg (Fearing)** - February 27, 2021 at 10:09 AM



“ On earth we grieve .... then in moments of those wonderful memories ... we are filled with joy!  
The Lord blesses us, as He knows our hearts when we weep, and when we are at peace in memories. My heartfelt condolences to the family of Stephanie at this difficult time.

**Tamara Bloom Steen** - February 28, 2021 at 10:04 AM

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“ I have fun memories of Stephanie at coffee parties that my mom Et McKay would have, and also visiting with her at Circle meetings when I would be in town. Stephanie was so good to Mom. My condolences to her family.

**Julie Bergrud** - February 26, 2021 at 03:57 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathy on the loss of your mother. I admired both your mom and dad greatly.

**Ryan & Lori Graalum** - February 26, 2021 at 09:16 AM

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“ Stephanie and her family were long-time friends of the Flatau family. Our mother was their piano teacher and we have wonderful memories of delicious luncheons at their house. She was a lovely lady. Christine Flatau Meyers

**Christine Flatau Meyers** - February 25, 2021 at 10:06 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Stephanie Kay Cummings.



February 25, 2021 at 05:08 PM

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“ I met Stephanie while visiting my mother at Edgewood. Stephanie was clearly a vibrant woman of faith with conviction and while I didn't see her often, I always was thankful when my visit with my mom included a conversation with her! The last conversation I had with her in late January was remarkable. She joined the table that my mom and I were sitting at and looked right at us with a bit of distress and said, “Are you sin free?” I looked at her, smiled and said, “Oh Stephanie, I'm so glad you asked—we are sin free ONLY by the blood of Jesus on the Cross and one day we will be in heaven with Him!” She immediately relaxed and said, “Oh, that's good!” I knew she loved Jesus and reading about her life certainly gave testimony to this. In God's sovereignty, we will meet again and for that I am grateful. My condolences to the family, may God be your strength and portion in these difficult days.

June - February 25, 2021 at 05:00 PM

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“ Noel purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Stephanie Kay Cummings.



Noel - February 25, 2021 at 02:58 PM

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“ Godspeed, Stephanie, and I will certainly miss you and our late-night phone conversations as well as visits on my way through Valley City or Fargo, and at the community events in our old stomping ground, New Rockford. Lots of memories on Central Avenue, as we ran back and forth between houses, went sledding down that "big" (LOL) hill in your backyard, went roller skating in your garage or down the sidewalks, played in your red-painted basement with the Bendix washing machine always running, or helping you with your weekly/daily/minutely housecleaning in your immaculate house, with Jonelle supervising, Irene inspecting, and Steph cracking jokes and calling us "Fumdarts." Then there was that long adventurous trek to California in the 60's, which only made us appreciate North Dakota more. And in later years, I still remember how you sneaked into "first" place in the New Rockford Run for Betsy, by cleverly arriving so late that you could jump into the front of the line at end of the race. Still laughing about that one. I'll never forget all the fun we have had over the years, and thank you for sharing your lovely daughter and grandkids with me. We will cherish your memory and feel grateful to have spent so much time with you before you returned to the loving arms of your dear husband and the Lord. --- Noel---

Noel Evans - February 25, 2021 at 02:47 PM

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“ To Alicia and Scott and families So sorry for your loss. Many memories of so many years gone by. My prayers for peace to return to all of you. God bless. J Dennis Nelson now of Melbourne FL

j dennis nelson - February 25, 2021 at 02:38 PM

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“ My sincere sympathy to Scott and family, so sorry for your loss.  
Yvonne Sauer

Yvonne Sauer - February 25, 2021 at 10:10 AM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Stephanie Kay Cummings.



February 24, 2021 at 10:51 PM



“ We met Stephanie shortly after moving to Valley City in 2006, and she became and remained a family friend even after we moved away. We continued to exchange Christmas cards every year, and tried to stay in touch when we could. We will always remember her...

Dave, Olga, and Stephanie Silverman

**David Silverman** - February 24, 2021 at 10:42 PM

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“ Alicia and Scott-  
I am saddened by this news that your mother has transitioned. I know that you are both amazing people and will live out the example of love and light that she gave to you. When my Mom passed, your mother came graveside to console me and share my grief. It was a gracious act that I will never forget.  
She was always doing so many thoughtful and considerate acts. I will always remember when she invited me to teach you kids Bible Study out at the lake while the adults had their own. When she learned that I couldn't afford to get new glasses she invited me to come to your Dad's office where I received a full prescription and pair heading into my Senior year.  
Being able to share the same church allowed me to see both your parents on a regular basis. I am happy that she and your father are joined together again and made whole. She served the Lord and all of us so beautifully.  
Whenever you are ready to come out her to her second state, CALIFORNIA, I have a room waiting for you!  
Love you both, Shane Twamley

**Shane Twamley** - February 24, 2021 at 04:46 PM

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“ Stephanie was the most precious friend I've ever had, and I will miss her. When I called my daughters to tell them of her passing, we talked about Sidewalk Sunday School and her faithfully bringing her grands and great grandchildren to share the stories of Jesus with us and treated us royally at her lovely home. God bless her memory. Shirley Boom and family.

**Shirley Boom** - February 24, 2021 at 03:43 PM

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“ Stephanie was my loving cousin and a long-time favorite. She was such a good niece to my parents, Wayne & Bernice Stroup of Garrison, and visited Wayne regularly before and after he had taken up residence in a nursing home in Garrison. Her voice reminded me often of her mother Irene, except it was twice as fast! Stephanie loved to visit, and I loved to visit with her; she was always filled with positivity and love. After we talked, she would always send me a hug over the phone. The measure of energy she gave to other people and their projects was immeasurable, and I'm sure she has earned her way into heaven! Her perpetual roadblock with computers brings a smile to my face; she was a 20th Century woman for sure. I'm so fortunate to have had her in my life, and she was always so nice to my wife, Mary Jean. I would not have the strength or energy to do all the things she packed into a day, but I admire her for it. The world was a better place with Stephanie in it, and there will be a space in our hearts.

Jan Stroup  
Mary Jean Korsmo  
Minneapolis, MN.

Jan Stroup - February 24, 2021 at 12:59 PM

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“ Our sympathy to Scott & Alicia and your families.  
Caral & Tom Nix

Caral Nix - February 24, 2021 at 12:31 PM

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“ So very sorry for the loss of your beautiful mom and grandma. Peace and prayers.  
Beth Lewellyn Thune

Beth Lewellyn Thune - February 24, 2021 at 10:53 AM

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“ Stephanie's obituary mentioned her as "classy," and in my opinion, I totally agree. When I first became a member, she was one of many who welcomed me so warmly. A kind and lovely woman with never a hair out of place, she had a ready smile and such a lovely laugh. Stephanie was truly a servant with the love she poured out to all around her. God bless the memories.

Elizabeth Fick - February 24, 2021 at 10:28 AM

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“ I have so many fond memories of Stephanie from my childhood. I always looked forward to seeing her when we visited our grandparents in Valley City every summer. My sister and I were friends with Ann and played dress up, went swimming, and ate ice cream! Stephanie was one of the most loving, caring and generous people I have ever known. She was always there for people. When my grandparents' home was destroyed and they almost perished in the flash flood, Stephanie was there for them. When my grandpa died and my grandma needed help, Stephanie helped her move into her apartment and get settled. My deepest condolences go out to Ann and Scott and their families. Much love. Jenny Burcham Fleischer.

**Jenny Fleischer** - February 23, 2021 at 10:53 PM

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“ Alicia, Scott and families: Sorry to read of your Mother's passing but she is finally at peace now. Treasure the memories and the time you had her.

**Kaye (Tait) Belzer** - February 23, 2021 at 06:21 PM

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“ The Meuret family: Nancy, Susie, Leanne purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Stephanie Kay Cummings.



**The Meuret family: Nancy, Susie, Leanne** - February 23, 2021 at 12:11 PM