



## Mary Elizabeth Thompson

September 14, 1937 - August 17, 2023

To view Mary's funeral service please visit <https://vimeo.com/857303108?share=copy>

Mary's funeral service will be 10:30 am, Monday, August 21 at Faith Lutheran Church, Valley City. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Mary passed away Thursday, August 17, 2023, in her home surrounded by her family.

Mary Elizabeth Fornes was born on the farm home near Hunter, ND, on September 14, 1937. She attended Nome School until the family later moved to Valley City, where she finished her senior year and graduated from Valley City High School. Mary then attended Valley City State College and received her teaching certificate. She married Duane Thompson on September 1, 1957, in Valley City at First Lutheran Church. As they began their life together on the Thompsen farm near Sanborn, ND, Mary began teaching, first, for one year at the one-room Bauer School, then two years at North Central School in Dazey, ND. Starting in 1963, Mary stayed home to raise her three active children and help with the farmwork. You would often see Mary volunteering at church, helping a neighbor, mentoring her dear 4-Hers, driving her children to piano lessons, attending basketball games and track meets as well as many band and choir concerts.

Mary loved her family and friends dearly. Mary loved to cook and bake and enjoyed hosting countless birthday parties, holidays and card parties. She was known for her homemade brownies, orange rolls and strawberry pie. If you stopped by Mary and Duane's home, you would be invited in for great conversation and plenty to eat and drink. Mary had a love for antiques and prided herself in making her home beautiful. Mary had a fun and competitive spirit and loved to challenge you in a game of Scrabble or Bridge. Mary also loved to travel with Duane on their many wonderful adventures throughout the United States. On Mother's Day in 1994, Mary became a grandmother for the first time and that was her favorite role of all! Mary continued to be blessed with 8 more grandchildren throughout the years. Mary loved to share stories of her amazing grandchildren and attended their many activities and celebrations, beaming with pride.

Mary loved being involved in her community. She was a Share The Fun 4-H Club leader for over 40 years, a lifetime member of Anderson Homemakers Club, a member of Bethel Lutheran Church and its WELCA, a long time Board Member and President of the Women's Division of the North Dakota Winter Show, Assessor for Anderson Township, State Secretary-Treasurer of the North Dakota Rural Letter Carriers Association Auxiliary, Medora volunteer for 20 years and member of the local PEO chapter since 2004.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents Eddie and Evelyn (Martin) Fornes, brother, Lawrence, sister-in-law, Delphine, father-in-law, Kenneth Thompson, mother-in-law, Helma (Frahm) and sister-in-law, Janice Thompson.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 66 years, Duane, three children Dana (Susan) Thompson, Rochester MN, Deanne (Michael) Lund, Montevideo MN, and Darin (Pebbles) Thompson, Rogers, ND and nine grandchildren, Kathleen Thompson, Tyson (Kalli) and Kaylee Lund, Kennedy (fiancé Marcellus), Matayia, Malachi, Toby, Zendaya and Zaki Thompson.

Blessed be her memory.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **21**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church  
309 4th St NE  
Valley City, ND

## Funeral Service

AUG **21**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Faith Lutheran Church  
309 4th St NE  
Valley City, ND

# Tribute Wall

YS

“ Thoughts and prayers for all of you on the loss of Mary.  
Yvonne (Sortland) Stegner

Yvonne Stegner - August 25, 2023 at 11:31 AM

RH

“ So sorry for your loss.

Rory Hunter - August 22, 2023 at 07:47 AM

KB

“ Duane and family: When I think of Mary I think of 4H, she wasn't my leader but was always at Achievement Days, Women's Division of the Winter Show Board, school functions at North Central. She was a busy active lady who was always smiling. Treasure the memories and the time you had her.

Kaye(Tait-Davies) Belzer - August 21, 2023 at 03:20 PM

BG

“ Benjamin G. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Elizabeth Thompson.

Benjamin G. - August 21, 2023 at 09:51 AM

DF

“ Mary Thompson and Share The Fun 4-H Club go hand in hand. She has been a willing leader in all 4-H events and set the example for not only her club but the entire 4-H program in Barnes County. She was a happy person with a smile. May the memories you share be a comfort in the days to come as you recall so many stories of her life. It is not surprising that grandchildren meant to much to her. Our sincere sympathy!

Durward & Phyllis Otterness Family - August 19, 2023 at 11:27 AM

DF

My sympathies to Duane and family. Darlan Fatland

Darlan Fatland - August 19, 2023 at 01:41 PM

BF

“ *Birthday Club Friends purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Elizabeth Thompson.*



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**Birthday Club Friends** - August 19, 2023 at 10:31 AM

BF

“ *Birthday Club Friends planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Elizabeth Thompson.*

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**Birthday Club Friends** - August 19, 2023 at 10:31 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Elizabeth Thompson.*



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August 18, 2023 at 10:27 PM