



## Donna Rae Nelson

December 29, 1951 - September 1, 2025

Donna Rae Nelson (nee Schwartz), age 73 died on September 1st, 2025. A celebration of life will be held at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel on Saturday, September 13th at 11 am with Rev. Janine Olson officiating. There will be a one-hour time to gather with the family beginning at 10 am September 13th at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel.

Donna was born on December 29, 1951 to Raymond and Agnes (Craven) Schwartz in Grand Forks, North Dakota. She graduated from St Michael's Indian Residential School St Michael, North Dakota. She worked as a nurse for many years as well as custodial work. She was on the staff of Gethsemane Lutheran Church from 2011 to 2014.

Donna raised three children, Yvette Schlapkohl, Leah Trottier and Paul Trottier

She married Kirk Nelson on August 14, 2003.

Donna lived for her family. She loved spending time with her husband, children, grandchildren and grand-children, especially at holidays. Decorating the house for Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas gave her great joy especially when they enjoyed her cooking and baking.

Donna spent a great deal of time in her garden, bird watching and growing

both vegetables and flowers.

She also enjoyed taking long rides on the Harley, camping, and spending time on Lake Superior.

Donna is survived by her sisters Beverly Longmuir, Diann Schneider, Gladys (Bill) Reimers, Michelle Bader and Darlene Schwartz Ferrie. Brother Roland (Manny) his wife Judy Schwartz. Husband Kirk Nelson, children Yvette Schlapkohl, Leah Trottier and Paul Trottier, grandchildren Brianna (Joey) Sazama, Caitlin Shoutz, Aaron Yanish, Preston (Cassi) Capes, John Capes, Rhylee Capes and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, sisters Francis (Schwartz) Losey, Sharon Rodriguez, Dorothy Brown, LaRae (Schwartz) Rodriguez, and Susan Rae Schwartz.

# Previous Events

## Time to gather with family

SEP 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
221 Atlantic Ave E  
Dassel, MN 55325  
office@glcdassel.com  
<http://www.glcdassel.com>

## Celebration of Life

SEP 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
221 Atlantic Ave E  
Dassel, MN 55325  
office@glcdassel.com  
<http://www.glcdassel.com>

# Tribute Wall

MD

“ *Manny, Gladys, and Diann purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Donna Rae Nelson.*



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**Manny, Gladys, and Diann** - September 10, 2025 at 11:56 AM