



Nancy Carole Swenson

February 2, 1963 - March 15, 2025

Nancy Carole Swenson, age 62 of Dassel, died Saturday, March 15, 2025, at her home after a two-year battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel with Rev. Janine Olson, officiating. There will be a time for family and friends to gather one hour prior to the service. The interment of the urn will be held at the Dassel Community Cemetery following the service. Arrangements are with the Johnson Funeral Home.

Nancy Carole Swenson, the daughter of Bruce and Sheryl (Hannes) Swenson, was born on February 2, 1963, in Rush City, Minnesota. Nancy was baptized at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pennock, Minnesota and confirmed at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel.

Nancy's childhood was spent in Montrose, Colorado and Tucson, Arizona before the family moved to Dassel in 1971. Nancy graduated from Dassel-Cokato High School in 1981. She attended Bemidji State University and Ridgewater Community College. Nancy was faithfully employed at Crest Healthcare as the Human Resources Director for over 32 years. She took great pride in her work and had a profound impact on the lives of her coworkers.

She was a faithful and active member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church where

she served as the preschool Sunday school teacher and Sunday School Superintendent and played in the chimes choir. She was a member of the Altar Guild, and she took great pride in the stripping of the altar ceremony, practiced on Maundy Thursday in preparation for Good Friday.

If you knew Nancy, you knew she was one-of-a-kind—equal parts gracious, quick-witted, and just the right amount of particular. She had high professional standards and a lot of class, but she was also down to craft. She was famous for her scotcheroo bars, monkey bread, and was never one to turn down fish & chips. A proud independent spirit, she loved vacations, road trips, and required friends to sign vacation contracts (for everyone's benefit, of course). She was an honest, trustworthy, and loyal friend, with a sparkle in her eyes, whether she was being naughty or nice. She was a great storyteller, a wonderful photographer, and an animal tolerator (as long as they weren't mice). She enjoyed friends, but savored her solitude, avoided basements, loved pool days, and had a soft spot for cute things. A lover of reality TV, reading books, Bruce Springsteen, and the Minnesota State Fair, she left us with countless laughs, cherished memories, and a reminder that life is best enjoyed with a cold beer and olives.

One of the greatest joys of her life was becoming a grandmother to Myerly. From the moment Myerly arrived, she filled Nancy's heart with endless love and happiness. She loved spoiling My, and they spent many hours together crafting, telling stories, snuggling and having sleepovers.

Nancy's love for her family and friends was boundless—steadfast, unwavering, and deeply felt. Her warmth, wisdom, and kindness will be cherished always, and she will be missed beyond measure.

She is survived by her daughter, Emily Berezni and her husband, Chris Onken, and granddaughter Myerly of Elk River; mother and stepfather, Sheryl

and Dan Faust of Dassel; siblings Jeff Swenson and his wife Michelle of Dassel, Sabrina (Brad) Swenson of California, stepbrother, Chris Faust of Goodhue, Minnesota, and stepsister, Kelly Waterhouse and her husband Kelly of Texas. She was preceded in death by her father, Bruce Swenson, and her grandparents.

Cemetery Details

Dassel Community Cemetery

23526-23574 County Rd 4,
Dassel, MN 55325

Previous Events

Time to gather with family

MAR 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Memorial Service

MAR 29. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



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

March 26, 2025 at 05:56 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nancy Carole Swenson.



March 26, 2025 at 05:56 PM



“ Jean, Karen, Paula, Larry, and Ron purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Nancy Carole Swenson.



Jean, Karen, Paula, Larry, and Ron - March 26, 2025 at 12:57 PM

“The digital glow of the aurora boreal is filled my screen, a swirling dance of celestial color. "Great photo!" Nancy's message popped up, a simple comment that held the weight of decades. My heart did a little skip.

"Thanks," I replied, a touch of weariness creeping into my words. "But now I'm really tired for some reason." The late-night vigil for those dancing lights had taken its toll.

"That's 'cuz we're old!" she quipped back, a playful jab that instantly erased the years between us. "Hey, we're planning a BSU reunion this summer. Bon & Todd, Joe & Joy, MB, Tom & Teresa and more. Should I add you to the list? MB is hosting at her house on Lake Minnetonka. It's July 20th. Let me know!"

"That could be fun," I typed back, a smile spreading across my face. The understatement of the year. It wasn't just "fun"; it was a chance to rewind time, to reconnect with a piece of my past, and most importantly, to see Nancy again. I knew then and there that I was going.

That casual exchange, a digital echo of our college banter, set the stage for a reunion that felt like a gift. Lake Minnetonka shimmered under the warm summer sky, and the house buzzed with laughter, the familiar voices of the Oak Hall crew filling the air. I hadn't seen most of them since college.

We reminisced about dorm life, the late-night escapades, the shared dreams that had shaped our lives. "Remember that time..." someone would start, and the stories would flow, each one a precious gem in the mosaic of our shared history.

Even the gentle ribbing about "being old" felt like a warm embrace, a reminder of the enduring bond that time could not diminish. That simple exchange, "Great photo!" and "That's 'cuz we're old!" became a symbol of our reconnection, a playful reminder of the years that had passed, and the timeless friendship that remained. And in that moment, surrounded by old friends and Nancy's presence, I knew that the magic of those northern lights had brought me far more than just a beautiful photo. They had brought me back to a cherished part of myself.

After that Party Nancy and I would spend as much time together as

our busy schedules would allow. We'd lost touch, life pulling us in different directions, but the thread of our connection had never truly broken. Reconnecting, after all those years, felt like finding a long-lost piece of myself. And what followed was a gift, a treasure of shared laughter and stories, a testament to the enduring power of love and friendship.

Nancy had a way of finding the humor in everything, even the mundane. Her eyes, sparkling with mischief, her dry scandinavian humor reminded me why we had such a strong connection. We'd talk for hours, catching up on decades of life, and yet, it never felt like catching up. It felt like continuing a conversation that had simply paused, not ended.

There were moments of quiet reflection, of course, acknowledging the passage of time and the inevitable bittersweetness of life. But even those moments were infused with a sense of gratitude, a shared understanding that we were making the most of the time we had. We savored every shared meal, every whispered confidence, every burst of laughter.

Though our time together after the reunion was too brief, those last few months were a gift, a precious chapter in our lifelong friendship. Nancy, your laughter, your spirit, your unwavering warmth—these are the treasures I will carry with me always. You will live on in my heart, a constant reminder of the joy you brought into my life. And I will cherish those final months, the moments we stole from time, knowing that they were a testament to a friendship that transcended decades. You will be remembered, always, with a smile and a grateful heart."

Bruce Prehn - March 21, 2025 at 06:20 PM

BG

“*Bruce G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nancy Carole Swenson.*

Bruce G. - March 21, 2025 at 04:36 PM



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

March 20, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Nancy Carole Swenson.



March 20, 2025 at 04:42 PM



“ Nancy was a classmate of ours in class of 81 sweet gentle always smiling. We will miss her.

jon wessman - March 20, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ Kersten R. purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Nancy Carole Swenson.



Kersten R. - March 20, 2025 at 12:28 PM



“ Sheryl and family. So sorry to see you lost Nancy. She was always so sweet ! Our sympathy to all your family Marcia Ziegler

Marcia - March 19, 2025 at 11:40 PM

DM

“ Nancy was a big part of our family. As my niece’s mom (and great niece’s grandma), she was loved by all of us. We’ll always remember her kindness, strength, and the warmth she brought to everyone around her. The obituary beautifully captured who she was, and we’re grateful for that. She’ll never be forgotten.

Diane Marvel - March 19, 2025 at 06:06 PM

KK

“ Kelly and Evan Babekuhl (+ Matt & Kim) purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Nancy Carole Swenson.



Kelly and Evan Babekuhl (+ Matt & Kim) - March 19, 2025 at 06:02 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nancy Carole Swenson.



March 19, 2025 at 02:50 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nancy Carole Swenson.



March 19, 2025 at 12:11 PM



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

March 19, 2025 at 09:25 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Nancy Carole Swenson.



March 19, 2025 at 09:25 AM



“ I worked with Nancy for 15 years and enjoyed every encounter. She was a beautiful, intelligent individual. I will miss her greatly.

Karla - March 19, 2025 at 09:18 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Nancy Carole Swenson.



March 18, 2025 at 03:47 PM