



## Sheri L. Upton

April 13, 1937 - January 19, 2020

Sheri L. Upton, age 82, of Dassel, died, Sunday, January 19, 2020, at the Cokato Manor. A funeral service will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2019, at 11:00 a.m. at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel with Rev. Laurie O'Shea officiating. The interment will be at the Dassel Community Cemetery following the service.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday evening from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel with a one-hour visitation prior to the service on Thursday at the Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to the Alzheimer's Association ([alz.org](http://alz.org)).

Sheri was born on April 13, 1937 in Hutchinson, MN, the daughter of George and Florence (Moody) Warnke. Sheri grew up in Silver Lake, MN, where she was baptized and confirmed at the Czech Brethren Presbyterian Church. She graduated from Silver Lake High School in 1955. She was very active in school plays and music and was a majorette in the marching band.

On May 5, 1957, Sheri was united in marriage to Marlyn Smith at Czech Brethren Presbyterian Church in Silver Lake. They moved to Lake Washington in Dassel and raised their children, Rory and Tracy.

Sheri was employed at Minnesota Hatchery in Dassel as a chicken sexer. This always sparked conversation for those who met Sheri later in life and could never imagine it. Marlyn and Sheri purchased Dassel Sports and Marine in 1966 from Stan Varland, which they owned and operated until 1982. Sheri was also employed at the Farmers State Bank of Darwin for approximately 25 years. In 1982, she and Marlyn purchased Smith Sanitation from Les and Joan Benson, which Sheri owned until 1994.

Sheri was very active at Gethsemane Lutheran Church where she sang in the Senior Choir, was the Junior Choir director for over 20 years, served on the church council, and served as the church treasurer.

On April 9, 1999, Sheri married Darrel Upton at Gethsemane Lutheran in Dassel. Together they made their home on Lake Stella in Darwin, MN and wintered in Fountain Hills, AZ. Sheri and Darrel were members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Fountain Hills, where Sheri also sang in the choir.

Sheri loved singing with friends for special events and was a member of the Rainbow Singers. She enjoyed golfing, baking, and was a talented cross stitcher, making many beautiful gifts for family and friends. Sheri enjoyed attending her grandkids' sporting events when she was in MN and was especially proud whenever she could attend one of their musical concerts. She was also a big Twins and Vikings fan and liked watching their games on TV.

Sheri is survived by her children, Rory (Peggy) Smith of Dassel, Tracy (Andy) Lawson of Greenfield, and step-daughter Laurie (Art) Davis of Northville, MI; grandchildren, Adam Smith (Meredith Miller), Courtney Smith (Kyle Nicks), Kelly Lawson, Will Lawson, and Drew Lawson; step-grandchildren, Ryan (Brigid) Davis, Julie (Bobby) Ratekin, Becky (Derek) Nedo; step-great-grandchildren, Avery Nedo, McKinley Nedo, Davis Ratekin, and Lincoln Davis;

sisters-in-law, Ilo Broberg, Elvera Smith, and Marlyce Hoium; brother-in-law, Robert Smith; cousin, Mary (Don) Hokanson; nieces, nephews, and numerous friends.

Preceded in death by her parents; husbands, Marlyn on 9/20/1987 and Darrel on 9/12/2012; and her sister, Marlyce Hepner.

# Cemetery Details

## Dassel Community Cemetery

23526-23574 County Rd 4,  
Dassel, MN 55325

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 22. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Johnson Funeral Home  
PO Box 1 611 N 2nd Street  
Dassel, MN 55325  
(320) 275-3381  
jfhdassel@spectrum.net

## Funeral Service

JAN 23. 11:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

LS

“ Sheri was my chior director as i was growing up in Dassel. Have very sweet memories Of her and her family. My deepest sympathy is to You all.

Lynn Erickson Sowders - January 22, 2020 at 07:43 PM

JF

“ Our family sends our deepest sympathies in the loss of your mom and grandma. Sheri was such a lovely woman, always a small smile on her face. Many prayers for peace and comfort to all of you  
Doug & Julie Fett and Family

Julie Fett - January 22, 2020 at 09:48 AM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Sheri L. Upton.



January 22, 2020 at 09:14 AM

LW

“ We have many fond memories of Sheri (and Marlyn) from our younger days, and were saddened to hear of her passing. Our deepest sympathy to all of you. With hugs and prayers,

Dale and Lois Werner

Lois Werner - January 21, 2020 at 10:19 PM

KY

“ Sheri moved into my neighborhood in SE Hutchinson and immediately she fit right in! We went on walks, went to stretch yoga, met on many patios in the neighborhood for “wine” and sometimes “whine” time. Always smiling and a sweet, giving and caring friend. Sheri won the fight with Alzheimer’s and did it gracefully. The road is less beautiful today for those of us Sheri left behind. But, oh how beautiful her roads are now! You’re now in the arms of the Savior you loved your whole life.

Your friend,  
Kay Yoch

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**Kay Yoch** - January 21, 2020 at 11:25 AM

IB

“ Sheri was a good friend. My earlier memories of her are directing the Children's Choir at Gethsemane. She was patient and it was always a joy to hear them sing.

We went to the Neil Diamond concert at the Excel many years ago. Our seats were on the second to the top section and it took awhile for the songs to reach us. Darrel was always disappointed we didn't get a ticket for him. "Sweet Shari, good times were never so good." Now she sings in the heavenly choir.

Irene Bender

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**Irene Bender** - January 20, 2020 at 08:15 PM

MM

Shari was a beautiful person will be missed by many so sorry for the families loss rest in peace shari

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**Michael Morehouse** - January 24, 2020 at 04:51 AM