



## Karen Barbara Larson

December 13, 1938 - October 1, 2023

RACINE - Karen Barbara Larson (née: Nelsestuen), 84, passed away on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at Aurora Medical Center in Mt. Pleasant, Wisconsin

Karen was born on December 13, 1938, on the family farm in rural Ettrick, Wisconsin to Joseph and Christine Nelsestuen (née: Oakland).

She was united in marriage with William H. "Bill" Larson on July 30, 1960, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin. They started dating in middle school and enjoyed 60 years of marriage.

Karen was the founder and director of The Growing Place Day Care Center of Emmanuel Lutheran Church for 30 years, retiring in July 2005. She attended Webster Elementary, Longfellow Junior High, and La Crosse Central High Schools. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1960 from the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.

Karen was also a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church (now Journey in Faith) and served several terms on church council. She loved to sing with the church choir and the Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin, and her duets with Bill were a big hit at family gatherings. Before moving from LaCrosse to Racine, Karen worked in a music store, and was an avid pianist throughout her adult years.

Karen was known for her calm and gentle demeanor, warm smiles, attentive listening, and love of family. A ravenous reader and conscientious citizen, she was a steadfast supporter of democratic and humanitarian causes. Karen led

by example, and touched many lives by doing and saying what she felt was right, with patience, strength, and grace.

Karen was the oldest of three daughters and gave birth to three boys. She will be deeply missed by her sons Christopher (and wife Joy) of Broomfield, Colorado, Andrew of Chicago, Illinois, and Daniel of Minturn, Colorado; grandchildren Karissa (with husband Alan) Rohde, Dr. Micah Larson, Hillary, Jacob, and Holden Larson; great granddaughters Ava and Sophie; sisters Lorrie (husband Eugene) Schmitz and Susan (husband Philip) Curti, both of LaCrosse; and countless other nieces, nephews, family members, and friends.

Karen's spirit is reunited with her husband Bill and parents Joseph and Christine Nelsestuen. A memorial service will be held at Sturino Funeral Home on Saturday, October 21, 2023 at 11 a.m. with a visitation from 10 a.m. until time of service. The memorial service will be webcasted and can be viewed from the Sturino Funeral Home website on Karen's page under the photo/video/media tab.

In lieu of flowers, memorials and contributions to the Alzheimer's Association and Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin are suggested by the family.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home  
3014 Northwestern Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404  
(262) 632-4479  
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

## Memorial Service

OCT **21**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sturino Funeral Home  
3014 Northwestern Avenue  
Racine, WI 53404  
(262) 632-4479  
info@sturinofuneralhome.com

# Tribute Wall



“ *Sturino Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Karen Barbara Larson*



**Sturino Funeral Home** - October 18, 2023 at 01:26 PM

CB

*A sweet woman she was.. Will miss her..*

**Colleen Batterman** - October 22, 2023 at 08:38 AM

KS

*Have a deep sympathy.*

**Karel Suchy** - December 02, 2023 at 12:10 PM

CL

*My "Alto Buddy-Friend" in both Immanuel Choir and Choral Arts Society. Such a dear. Miss you. I'm happy she's reunited with her Bill. RIP Karen.*

**Carol Larsen** - December 03, 2023 at 09:11 AM



“ Sturino Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Karen Barbara Larson



Sturino Funeral Home - October 11, 2023 at 03:45 PM

RL

*It was a lovely service. So wish I could be there in person with all of you today. xoxo Renya*

Renya Larson - October 21, 2023 at 04:50 PM

CB

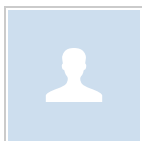
*Beautiful service.. And beautiful memory readings from Karen's sister and her son.. May she rest in peace ❤️*

Colleen Batterman - October 22, 2023 at 09:25 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Karen Barbara Larson.

October 19, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Karen Barbara Larson.



October 19, 2023 at 10:35 PM

RL

“ Aunt Karen wa a steady, calming pressence throughout my childhood. She stayed out of the limelight, though, so it wasn't until I was an adult that I got a chance to know her more deeply: her understated humor, her quiet strenght, huge heart. Aunt Karen was old fashioned in the best possible sense of the word: she prioritized family, character, doing the right thing. In her honor, I have made a donation to the Choral Arts Society. I look forward to attending her service (virtually) to celebrate her spirit with all who loved her.

Renya Larson - October 19, 2023 at 10:10 AM

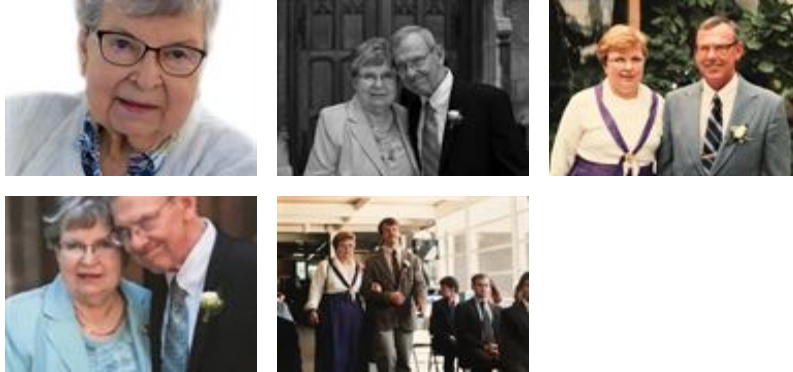


Thanks that's sweet of you Renya!

Christopher Larson - October 22, 2023 at 07:35 AM



“ 211 files added to the album LifeTributes



Sturino Funeral Home - October 18, 2023 at 01:11 PM

KS

“ It was so good to see Karen at our Larson reunion gathering a few months ago. She will be missed.

Kathy Spelker - October 15, 2023 at 12:51 PM



*Thanks Kathy*

**Christopher Larson** - October 22, 2023 at 07:36 AM

DZ

“ *Sending my deepest condolences to Karen's beautiful family, immediate & extended. Over the years with every get together Karen was always gentle, pleasant, open & kind. Her presence was calming & light. Her dedication to her family was so evident , as was her pride in them all. I celebrate her and the beautiful couple she & Bill were.*



**donna zoble** - October 12, 2023 at 08:25 PM

JL

*Thank you, Donna! What a great picture of Karen and Bill. They loved talking to you at gatherings with Dick or Renya. They were still so much in love after 70 years of being together. Great example of unconditional love!*

*Thanks again,  
Joy Larson*

**Joy D Larson** - October 14, 2023 at 06:19 PM

EL

“ *Ellen for Hans Larson lit a candle in memory of Karen Larson*



**Ellen Nestler for Hans Larson** - October 07, 2023 at 09:22 PM

CB

“ I have many memory's of Karen as I worked at the assistant living facility that her and Bill resided at.. She will be deeply missed by many residents as she had many friends there.. I enjoyed many conversations with Karen and I was honored to be able to spend some of her last moments here with her.. Rest in peace Karen, you will be missed.. My thoughts and prayers to all of her family..

---

**Colleen Batterman** - October 06, 2023 at 08:39 PM