

A Tribute to my Mama; Mary Rebecca Archer Nelson

by Reed Nelson (May 27th 8:58 pm)

Dear Friends, Last night, at 11:35 pm, I said “bye for now” to my Mama and dear friend for my whole life. She had the privilege of joining my Dad in heaven and meeting Christ Jesus face to face. It has been an honor to serve and care for her in our home over the past two years, up until her last breath. I will miss her dearly but am comforted that she no longer has the mobility issues that plagued her the last two years, and especially the last 6 weeks. My Mom was an active social person all of her life. She is now in the Lord’s eternal service and is active as ever. I am sure He has her organizing something as I write this and she is all too happy with the assignment. She was looking forward to her departure and would often wonder why God was taking so long to bring her home.

My Mom (was & is):



- A follower of Christ
- A selfless lover of people; a hugger
- Constant Encourager
- An Inviter: always inviting new people in whatever group she was in.
- A “Mom” to many even before she had kids; always looking out for young women who just needed someone to listen to them and love them. Most of these young ladies became babysitters for me and my sister Kay.
- Gentle
- Always making new friends
- A keeper of old friends; she had a number that went back as far as the 7th grade and she still saw them regularly.
- She supported my Dad in all the things he wanted to do.
- She was a pioneer (building a lake cabin with kids on the way) for “fun”.
- A business entrepreneur: Started and built - Green Sign Moving & Estate Sales & The Friendly Frog Shop.
- Thoughtful of how others feel and did her best to make them feel welcome.

Mom’s Favorite
Photo of her and
Dad. Pontoon at
Gun Lake circa
2003

The last two years are filled with precious memories: Swimming at the local pool with Mom & Dad for Mom’s water therapy sessions, eating grilled pork loins in our driveway, or pancakes from the local pancake house. Walking into their bedroom convinced there was only one person in the bed; only to discover them both asleep in each other’s arms. Watching my Dad care for my Mom doing the difficult duties involved in caring for a person losing their mobility and then watching my Mom trying her best to care for my Dad as his health began to fail. God blessed Kelli and me with so many precious memories of time spent with both Mom and Dad. I am so glad that they are now in their eternal



home with Christ their Savior, Master, and Best Friend. I am confident that they are busy serving the Lord just as they had in life on earth. The Lord has plans for His Children not only on earth but He has plans for each of us for all eternity. Mom would say to all of you reading this “Trust in Jesus and He will teach you how to live here and prepare you for your eternal home with Him.”

As I write this my Mom has been in her new home for almost 21 hours. I am sure they have been “mind-blowing.” I look with anticipation to the day when Christ will come for me. I’m sure that when I get to my eternal home, my Mom will be one of the first to greet me and show me the amazing things that God is, is doing, and has done for us. “Lord Jesus, help me to live here so as to become the person that You want me to be for all eternity.” I hope you can pray it too and see what journey the Lord Jesus will take you on as you prepare for your eternal home. Love in Christ, Reed

Mary Rebecca Archer Nelson

April 23, 1934 – May 26, 2021

Mary was a beloved wife, mom, grandmother, sister, daughter, aunt and friend to all who knew her. She was unfailingly kind and welcoming to everyone she met. She lived her life with a calm grace and a strong faith in God.

Mary grew up in Finley, N.D., with her parents, Babe and Gladys Archer, and her younger sister, Doris. One day, her daddy decided to sell his businesses in town, and the house too, and move out of Finley because, in his opinion, there were no good marriage prospects in town for his two daughters.



The family moved to Minneapolis in 1947 when Mary was in Junior High. She met Lee Nelson in the 10th grade at Washburn High School. She went on to graduate from Macalester College in St. Paul and to earn her teaching certificate from the esteemed Miss Wood's Primary Training School. Mary taught first grade at Riverside Elementary in Bloomington for five years. During that time, she married Lee on June 25, 1955.

Mary and Lee had their first child in August 1962, Kay. Their son, Reed, came along four years later.

In addition to being a devoted wife, and mom, Mary volunteered for many years at Messiah Lutheran Church in various capacities. She also enjoyed volunteering at the Augustana Thrift Shop, which Grandma Nelson affectionately called the "Oval Room," a reference to Dayton's Department Store.

Mary was a member of a women's philanthropical education organization, PEO.

As her children grew older Mary started Green Sign Sales, a moving and estate sale business. She also created the Friendly Frog Shop at the Nelson cabin on Gun Lake, where people from around the lake could come and gather, eat, and shop.

Besides spending time at the lake, Mary and Lee also had a cozy home in Blue Earth, Minn., where they could spend time with their daughter, Kay, son-in-law, Scott, and their grandkids as they were growing up. Charlie, Brian, and Rachel knew how to make grandma and grandpa's day just by stopping by their house for a visit. Neighbors and church members became dear friends of Lee and Mary, along with the Blue Earth early morning breakfast group at McDonalds.

In their retirement years, Mary and Lee spent their winters in Florida and were very involved at Bethel Lutheran Church in Clearwater. Their marriage was described by a friend as a "beautiful tapestry that we have all been blessed to be threads woven into. Mary and Lee were the weavers that added us all to the fabric of their lives while living out the love of Christ."

Her husband, children, grandchildren, and friends were most important to Mary. She was a constant companion to Lee for 65 years of marriage.

Mary passed away on May 26, 2021, in Minnetonka, Minn., at the age of 87. She suffered from normal pressure hydrocephalus, a brain disorder in which excess cerebrospinal fluid accumulates in the brain's ventricles.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur (Babe) and Gladys Archer, and her husband Lee Stuart Nelson. Survived by her children Reed (Kelli) Nelson, and Kay (Scott) Nemanic; grandchildren Charles (Wendy) Nemanic, Brian (Deborah) Nemanic, and Rachel Nemanic; great-grandchildren, Tyler and Miranda Long; sister Doris Nelson; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A Tribute to My Daddy by Reed Nelson

Dear Friends,

My Daddy (Lee) and my dear friend for my whole life, was translated to glory to the Arms of his Savior Jesus on Saturday, November 28th at 1:45 AM. I was honored to be right with him praying and singing hymns right up to the time he departed. Dad was diagnosed with Lymphoma on October 28th. Being ready to meet his Savior, trusting in Jesus' work on his behalf, he chose not to go the Chemo-route but to come home and "have good days" - and good days we had!

My parents have been living with me and Kelli for a little over a year and a half. It was an honor to get to spend much time with my Dad. Dad was in generally good health until mid-October. He and I had been taking care of my Mom (who has been having mobility challenges). We would do yardwork and projects together and of course, go second-hand shopping (one of his and my favorite things to do). Also, Dad and I would go swimming, about three nights a week, and made many friends at our local pool. We talked much about everything. We were true buddies.

"Dad was" (those are hard words to say)

As God's Word promises, truly there is eternal life so, let's re-phrase that...

Dad is:

A Kind Soul

A Godly Man

A Poet and Song Writer

A Jolly Man; who truly enjoys life.

A Dear Friend; to everyone who had the opportunity to meet him.

A Provider; for his family, for missionaries, and others that he invited to be a part of our family.

A Volunteer at Church; and he was there nearly every Sunday no matter where he was (Our Cabin, Florida, Blue Earth Home, or here in Minnetonka.)

A Bible Study Leader

A Pioneer; he cleared a lake lot to develop and build our Cabin (many friends and I got to help) along with many other smaller buildings. It was the place we called Nelsonville.



I will always be thankful to have been picked by God to call him my Dad. He always encouraged me in any endeavor I was taking on. It truly was my honor to have served and cared for him during his last days on earth. When he passed, I exclaimed with tears in my eyes, "Lord we release him up to you, thank you for my Daddy; he will be greatly missed and honored always."

From one of my Dad's notebooks:

"Lord Jesus, you are my Guide,
My Redeemer, my Savior, and Friend
I will worship and praise you till the end."
(And that he did)

The photo (circa 2007) is a picture of my Dad and me next to his "pride and joy"; a 1929 Model A Ford Truck (he restored it to its full glory during his retirement). He bought it to restore in the early 70s and in the late 70's he and I drove it from Minneapolis to our Cabin about 150 miles north. We almost made it but about 10 miles from Aitkin the fan went through the radiator. If I remember right, I was about 12 years old. Good Memories.

Lee Stuart Nelson

Age 86 of Minnetonka
February 14, 1934 – November 28, 2020

Lee was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, son, uncle, and friend to all who knew him. He was unfailingly kind and welcoming to everyone he met. He lived his life with true faith in Christ and with love for his family and friends. He wanted everyone to know that he believed Jesus was God's son and died on the cross for his sins. He wanted people to know that for one to enter eternal Glory upon death, one must understand their desperate need for a Savior, repent of their sins, and trust in Jesus' work on the cross to pay for their sins.



Lee, the younger of two brothers, grew up in Minneapolis, MN. He met his wife, Mary Rebecca Archer, in high school and they, married on June 25, 1955. Lee practiced dentistry for 40 years. He enjoyed serving in many different capacities in the church throughout the years, including singing in the choir. Those who knew him will always remember his kindness, thoughtfulness, generosity, and his deep and unwavering love for his family and friends. He will be missed greatly and honored always.

Lee & Mary pioneered a special place on Gun Lake, MN, starting with camping and eventually building a cabin where all were welcome in the summers. Lee loved to fish, play the organ, and work on projects, including restoring a 1929 Model A truck. He also enjoyed listening to sermons and writing poetry and music to proclaim Jesus Christ.

In retirement, Lee & Mary spent the winters in Florida and were very involved with their church family down south, Bethel Lutheran Church. They made friends wherever they went.

Lee passed away on November 28, 2020, in his home surrounded by family. He was diagnosed with T-Cell Lymphoma cancer in mid-October 2020.

Lee was preceded in death by his parents, Ward and Elizabeth (Betty) Nelson; brother, Miles (Mike) Nelson. Survived by wife of 65 years, Mary; children, Reed (Kelli) Nelson & Kay (Scott) Nemanic; grandchildren, Charles (Wendy), Brian (Deborah), and Rachel; great-grandchildren, Tyler and Miranda Long, sister-in-law, Nancy Nelson; nieces and nephews, other relatives & friends. Memorial Service to be held in Spring 2021.

Memorial Gifts to either:

Bethel Lutheran Church 411 Main St. Palisade, MN 56469

Bethel Lutheran Church 3166 McMullen Booth Road Clearwater, Florida 33761