



Elizabeth Gotsch

October 23, 1936 - July 27, 2020

Elizabeth Wilson Gotsch, born October 23, 1936, to Robert and Hattie Wilson of Traverse City, Michigan, died in the early hours of July 27, 2020. Beloved wife of Dr. Richard Gotsch of Northbrook, Illinois, Elizabeth was a devoted mother to four children, their spouses and her cherished grandchildren, including Maria Gotsch (New York, NY); Peter Gotsch and Jana French (Chicago, IL), Olivia (19) and Thomas (14) Gotsch; Kristina and Stephen Tober (Denver, CO), Jacob (22), Sam (21) and Luke (18) Tober; Susanna Gotsch and Kris Hartner (Naperville, IL), Paul (21) and Kate (19) Hartner. She is also survived by sister Alice Bruening and her husband Rev. Philip Bruening.

Elizabeth spent her entire life making every person she met feel relevant and loved. She attended Concordia Fort Wayne and graduated with a B.S. from Concordia University Chicago In River Forest, then taught for two years in Bronxville, NY. Elizabeth never tired of learning and enriching the lives of her children, grandchildren, friends and community. Her commitment to her community included Art Associates for the Art Institute of Chicago, editor of Grace Notes, and chair of Friends of Lutheran World Relief. She shared her passion for liturgical and English choral music, serving for decades as the Children's Choir Director at her husband's congregation Grace Lutheran Church, Northbrook, IL. Music filled her soul, whether it was Marc Cohn, Genesis or Kings College Choir. She researched and found her orphaned father's siblings in England and created strong bonds with them during frequent trips abroad. She adored her seven grandchildren, and deeply respected their unique personalities and talents. She leaves behind many dear friends who will miss her sharp wit, empathy and companionship. Elizabeth passed away after spending the week with family in her beloved state of Michigan and will be buried in Leelanau County next to her husband with whom she shared 51 years of love, kindness, faith, adventure and joy.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that you consider a gift in Elizabeth Gotsch's memory to one of these organizations:

1) Ascendigo Click Here(<https://www.ascendigo.org/ways-to-give/>>)

Grandson Luke Tober has participated in Ascendigo's programs for 8 years and will become a resident there this fall in their Adult Enrichment Program.

Click on Donate Today. You can indicate there that your donation is a tribute gift in memory of Elizabeth. You may also donate by mail to: Ascendigo Autism Services, 818 Industry Place, Carbondale, CO 81623

2) The Leelanau Conservancy Click Here(<https://www.leelanauconservancy.org/donate/>) which preserves the natural and farmland in an area that Elizabeth loved.

3) Exodus World Service Click Here(<https://exodusworldservice.org/>) which welcomes and befriends refugees.

Cemetery

Bingham Township Cemetery

Co Road 633

Leelanau County, MI,

Comments



“ Our condolences to the entire Gotsch Family. Your parents were such a treasure to us and our lives were enriched by their presence while your father served as our vacancy Pastor in Elk Grove Village at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. In recent years, after your father's passing, your mother still visited Holy Spirit for Advent and/or Lenten services. I would see her first as she stopped by our family bakery to pick up Hot Cross Buns during lent. I know she was disappointed when we stopped making them a year ago. But, non the less, she would find something else to enjoy. I also remember visiting your parents at their home and taste testing her fruit at Christmas. What wonderful, lasting memories of smiles and God's love through Christian fellowship. May she now rest in peace with your dear father. God's Peace to you in the days ahead. Ken and Kathy Jarosch

Kathy Jarosch - September 12, 2020 at 07:48 PM



“ My condolences to Elizabeth's family. I have many fond memories of your family during our growing up years. From family bike rides, picnics with homemade icecream, Christmas Day dinner at your house, New Year's Day game-a-thon at our house, those memories will be cherished. On bridge night when my parents hosted, I fell asleep listening to your mother's memorable laugh. She always showed an interest in what I was doing and always had a bit of advice. My parents, especially my mother Nadine, will truly miss her and her friendship. May you find comfort in knowing she is resting in the arms of our heavenly Father.
Kathleen (Ilten) Heller

Kathleen Heller - August 21, 2020 at 01:59 PM



“ I am so sorry to learn of Elizabeth's passing. We played bridge together for years and she was always fun to be with and so knowledgeable on so many subjects. We had many interesting discussions. I will miss her as will so many others. Please know that you have my heartfelt sympathy.

Jane Smith

Jane Smith - August 11, 2020 at 06:25 PM



“ My condolences to the family of Elizabeth Gotsch. I didn't know her long because pastor Gotsch was a stand in Pastor at our church when we were looking for another Pastor. I remember what a very nice lady Elizabeth was. Always a smile on her face and a loving heart. I was sorry to see them go. She had a lovely singing voice. Never did I hear her say an unkind word about anyone. She was truly a wonderful Christian woman. I know she is with our Lord without any pain & suffering. Sincerely, Rosalee Schroeder

Rosalee Schroeder - August 07, 2020 at 11:50 PM



“ My condolences to the Gotsch family. I have many great memories growing up at Grace and singing with the children's choir. I am happy I was able to see and talk with Mrs. Gotsch as an adult these past few years. She was a very special lady. Sincerely, Jessica Waldeck Silgalis

Jessica Silgalis - August 04, 2020 at 02:58 PM



“ Our condolences to your entire extended family. I remember your mother so fondly- she was such a force!!! An incredible woman who raised incredible adults. My prayers and love to all of you. May your mother Rest In Peace. Xo, Sheila, Jason, Cooper & Athena

Sheila Schroeder - August 03, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ My prayers and condolences to the Gotsch Family. Wendy Rodriguez

Wendy Rodriguez - August 02, 2020 at 10:17 PM



“ Dear Gotsch Family,
I'm so sad to hear of your mom's passing. The time I spent at your house growing up and my experience in the children's choir are some of the fond memories I have of our time in Northbrook. Her laugh filled every room with joy! Your entire family was so kind and special to my family. May the precious memories of your mom comfort you.
Patti Farquhar

Patti Farquhar - August 02, 2020 at 08:56 PM



“ Dear Gotsch family,
My prayers for peace and comfort during this hard time. Your parents were such precious friends of my parents. (I loved the picture in your video). And your mom and my dad shared their love of MUSIC together. Your mom also showed special attention to my dad in his last years for which I will always be grateful. God grant you His peace that passes understanding!

Janet Bouman Peterson

Janet Peterson - August 02, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ Maria, my deeply felt condolences to your loss. I wish you and the whole Gotsch family strength in this difficult time and send my prayers. A full life has come to its conclusion. May she rest in peace.

Christian Kopfli

Christian Kopfli - August 01, 2020 at 04:01 PM



“ I am overcome with joy and sadness at the loss of my dear special friend Elizabeth Gotsch. Joy in the fact that we shared many wonderful hours together over the 50+ years of knowing each other. Sadness in the fact that these short years of being together have now ended here on earth. Our family cherishes the fun times we had together. Elizabeth was one of a kind -- a woman of God, full of a zest for life, caring and loving for family, friends and causes. She and her late husband Richard complemented each other grandly in their marriage and ministry. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory over death through our Lord Jesus Christ! Rest in Peace my dear dear friend.

NADINE ILTEN - August 01, 2020 at 03:18 PM



“ Sending love to all the Gotsch family. Elizabeth became my dear friend, Soul Sister and CSO buddy about ten years ago. I am blessed to have spent many hours with her discussing heart-felt issues, reading books by contemplatives such as Henri Nouwen and praying for each other. She was a beautiful force for good. I learned a lot from her and already miss her vibrant spirit. So thankful she is united with her dear Richard. She leaves a big hole in all of our lives. Suzanne Tressel

Suzanne Tressel - July 31, 2020 at 10:40 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the Gotsch family. I was privileged to count both Richard and Elizabeth as friends. I loved Elizabeth for her wit, her spirituality, her interest in good music, and liturgy done well. She was a great friend of Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit. It always brought a smile to my face on those occasions when she'd visit. I can close my eyes and hear her saying, "Now, Tim.... tell me what you think of ____"... which was her way of starting a conversation about something that had been bugging her lately.
I will miss her greatly. May she rest in +peace.

Rev. Tim Manwell
Chaplain, Apex Hospice & Palliative Care
Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit (2007-2016)

Timothy Manwell - July 31, 2020 at 10:59 AM



“ To the Gotsch family, We will always remember her as a welcoming, kind and curious woman. We joined the church in 1977 and got to know her very well over the years. She and Gunther had many discussions. She was so important to the church and her family and a special Christian.
May God be with all the Gotsch children and grandchildren.
Our condolences,
Judy and Gunther Waldeck

Judy Waldeck - July 30, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ My sympathies to Elizabeth's family and many friends. Elizabeth was a significant woman who offered her life as a servant leader. She understood what it meant to tirelessly give to the many causes especially giving voice to right over wrong. Her love of the arts, especially music and as she directed children's choir. As president of Friends of Lutheran World Relief, she capably led the board in its mission. As a member of this board, I am thankful to have known her as a leader and friend. Resting in peace and love in the arms of Jesus waiting to meet again. She will truly be missed.

Paula Ssspengler - July 30, 2020 at 11:56 AM



“ Susanna,

Thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I am so sorry for your loss.

Scott Epstein

Scott Epstein - July 30, 2020 at 11:55 AM



“ My condolences to the entire Gotsch family. My four children all sang in the children's choir at Grace Lutheran Church, which Elizabeth taught for decades. She taught the children more than just music. It was also to appreciate and value our Lutheran heritage and the background behind the songs that they sang. She was a bedrock of the church and will be missed.

Laurel Schilling

Laurel Schilling - July 30, 2020 at 11:23 AM



“ Susanna,
Our condolences to you and your family.
Our thoughts are with you.

Carlos

Carlos Navarro - July 30, 2020 at 10:54 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Video tributes



Michael Bruening - July 30, 2020 at 08:13 AM



“ Our hearts go out to you, Maria, and your family, on this sudden and incredibly sad loss. May your mother's memory continue to be a blessing at this time as she was for you and for so many others in life. With love, Heather and Ethan Goldman

Heather Goldman - July 30, 2020 at 07:46 AM



“ Maria my deepest sympathy and condolences to you and your family. Thank you for letting me know and seeing all the notes on her contributions in life are inspiring. sending love Stella and Hank

Stella - July 29, 2020 at 09:45 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy to Susanna and family! We were so blessed to have meant your Mom! I always enjoyed being in her company. She and your Dad were so perfect for each other! It was easy to see how they raised such a beautiful family! Now they are reunited again!

RIP Elizabeth! Cherish the wonderful memories!

Love you guys !
Kurt and Mary Hartner

Mary Hartner - July 29, 2020 at 09:09 PM



“ I was so blessed to have known Elizabeth for about 10 yrs through serving with her on the Friends of Lutheran World Relief Board. She had great insights to the needs of others and theological topics. I will miss our frequent conversations. My heartfelt sympathy to all her dear family which she spoke of so often. Now she rests with Jesus and husband Richard. I look forward to our reunion in heaven. Donna Walz

Donna Walz - July 29, 2020 at 06:00 PM



“ I always admired Maria's Mom. So many stories that mean so much. As a parent I thought all the time about what she said about her students who could not sit still. "They just haven't learned yet. It's my job to teach them." Patience is not my virtue, but these words have helped me find patience in moments when I needed it most. Much love,
Kim

Kim M Scott - July 29, 2020 at 03:17 PM



“ Elizabeth and I served together on the Friends of Lutheran World Relief. She was dedicated to LWR and so many other organizations, but her greatest love was all of her family. She will be missed!
Sandy Becky

Sandra Becky - July 29, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ Hello Susanna, my condolences to you and your family may she rest in peace

Mariam Saad - July 29, 2020 at 02:21 PM



“ Our deepest condolences on your family's loss of an amazing woman who touched so many people's lives, whether it was through the Children's Choir or a wonderful conversation at church. Heaven is rejoicing that this good and faithful servant is coming home to reunite with Pastor. Our prayers are with you all. Love, Karen Radke Byrnes and family.

Karen Byrnes - July 29, 2020 at 01:33 PM



“ Susanna my condolences for your loss. Best Jas.

Jason Verlen - July 29, 2020 at 01:06 PM



“ My condolences to you and your family, Susanna. May your memories carry you through this time of sorrow. Love, Shelley Davis and the OEM Team

SHELLEY DAVIS - July 29, 2020 at 12:19 PM