



Marian J. Sperling

August 16, 1950 - December 21, 2022

Marian J. Sperling, 72, of Huntley, passed away Wednesday morning, December 21, 2022.

She was born August 16, 1950, in Chicago, the daughter of Robert Sr. and Lorraine (Harsla) Sperling.

Marian had worked as a legal secretary for her entire career and remarkably for the same lawyer for over 30 years. For almost 50 years, she has had countless roles at Bethlehem Lutheran church, including chairman of the board of education, and secretary and treasurer for the board of directors. She also loved to sing in the choir. One of the things Marian loved was spending time in the Northwoods of Wisconsin, primarily Eagle River and Hayward.

Marian's strong faith was very evident throughout her life. She had a very generous heart and supported many causes. She would do anything for anyone and touched many lives through the church, family, and friends. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her daughter, Janet Tamillo; her brothers and sisters, Arlene Ploski, Robert Sperling, Jr., Kathy (Michael) Swasko, and Tom (Karen) Sperling; and many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents.

A Memorial Service will be held on Jan. 28 at 11 AM at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2624 Oak St. in River Grove.

Visitation will be prior to services at the church from 10 to 11 AM

A private burial will be held in Eagle River, WI in the spring.

Memorials in Marian's name may be directed to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church or to the Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer at www.lustgarten.org

Cemetery Details

Eagle River Cemetery

Eagle River, WI

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

JAN 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2624 Oak St
River Grove, IL 60171

Memorial Service

JAN 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2624 Oak St
River Grove, IL 60171

Tribute Wall

TG

“ Tammy, William & Grace purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Marian J. Sperling.



Tammy, William & Grace - January 27, 2023 at 01:42 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Marian J. Sperling.



January 27, 2023 at 12:13 PM

EG

“ Marian was the mother of one of my favorite students at Bethlehem. She was a lovely lady who was always willing to help with any event or project that involved her daughter, Janet Tamillo, or anything relating to the church or school. Blessings and condolences to you, Janet.

Ethel Garrett - January 27, 2023 at 12:45 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marian J. Sperling.



January 23, 2023 at 05:19 PM



“ *Marian J. Sperling*

January 17, 2023 at 03:12 PM

MS

“Marian Sperling was a family matriarch — a keeper of traditions Christian and otherwise. On Christmas she’d hang a “Happy Birthday Jesus!” banner, on Easter, she’d have an egg hunt where the most enthusiastic participants were age 30+ cousins whose prizes were \$20 lottery scratchers. If you went home from a holiday without at least one Cool Whip container of leftovers, you were doing it wrong. Or you just didn’t ask. If that’s the case, you missed a chance at trying *The World Sweetest and Best Jello Salad*. She wrote the recipe.

Her home is the backdrop in countless family albums — showers, memorials, Mother’s and Father’s Day, birthdays and barbeques. Cousins came of age when they were allowed their first High Life or High Ball in a smoky utility room where Auntie M. held court. Phrases like “I haven’t seen you in forever,” “You got skinny!,” “I remember you when you were up to my knees” and “Why don’t we do this more often” were common in her home — for decades she opened her home to give her family a chance to gather and reflect on their growth.

She happy-cried more than any other relative or friend I know. I joked about it as a kid. Her Godson. I giggled when she’d wipe tears away at midnight during the New Year. Or sobbed at the end of a song she’d insisted listening to all the way through in her car with Lite FM blaring. She didn’t spare tears for anything. She found little miracles and moments of gratitude in the smallest things. She sought out the bittersweet emotions in things — and while most of us put on a pair of sunglasses or hide or wet faces, she almost always leaned in.

How many things was she? Let me see how many I can list in five minutes. It’s 8:20 AM. Churchgoer. Secretary and treasurer. Aunt. Mom. Daughter. Wife. Sister. Woman. Independent. Dog-lover, coffee drinker. Caretaker. Perennial host and gracious guest. Honorary Wisconsin-ite, basically a lawyer. Wise. Gentle. Assertive when she needed to be, polite most often. One of the world’s

remaining fans of Harvey's Bristol Creme. Commuter. Fan of a good romance novel or movie. Collector of glass deer. It's 8:25 AM. I've only scratched the surface.

Later in life, she lost her voice to an illness. It didn't stop the deep conversations. It didn't keep her from giving advice. She didn't let it hold her back from sharing her opinion. I know it stifled her Choir voice, but I don't think she spent a bit less time at church. God's plan took her voice, but didn't stipulate anything about a whisper. Later, her health suffered, but not her spirit. She had an unshakable faith and dedication to her beliefs — her life was full of challenges that would have made almost anyone else question their path.

We lost Auntie M. just days before one of her favorite holidays, Christmas. I personally believe that whatever each of us thinks will happen to us after we die is exactly what ends up happening to us. It's almost always comforting to think of that way, for me at least. Every time I've stopped to grab a tissue the last few weeks, I think about how astoundingly beautiful and joyous her vision of an afterlife and heaven must have been — the kind of paradise that can only be imagined by someone who follows a Christian path and truly embodies the best of it. A place of love inside her soul she'd been building since she was a little girl. The perfect place to spend your first Christmas away from home. I hope it's even better than she imagined, because she deserves it.

Mick Swasko - January 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM



Wow!! Mickey that was beautiful and really encapsulated so much of M. She touched SO many hearts and we were so fortunate to have her in our lives. ❤️

Karen Davison Sperling - January 28, 2023 at 10:14 AM

EL

“ I didn't know Marian very well. However, every time that I saw her, she always had a smile and kind words to say. When I would see her, we would say hello, share a few words and she always made you feel great, especially if you were having a bad day. I did not see her often, but her presence will definitely be missed. She was a amazing person.

Elida

Elida - January 09, 2023 at 11:46 AM

SS

“ I worked with Marian for years. She was the nicest, most helpful person. I truly enjoyed working with her and she will be missed terribly. My condolences to her family and friends. Sheila Spica

Sheila Spica - January 05, 2023 at 11:14 AM