



## Barbara Jean Peterman

August 2, 1930 - July 21, 2025

Barbara Jean Peterman, 94, of Charlotte MI, a woman of remarkable strength, kindness and unwavering Faith, died peacefully with family by her side on Monday, July 21, 2025.

Barbara was born August 2, 1930 in Superior, WI to Carl Terry Bong and Dora (Bryce) Bong. One of 9 children, she grew up on a farm and held the beliefs of hard work and "making do" her entire life. Following High School graduation, Barbara spent a summer working at Glacier National Park, an experience that instilled in her a lifelong love for the outdoors. She married love of her life, Leonard Frank Peterman, on August 31 1951 in Poplar, WI. The following year she graduated with a Bachelor Degree in education from Superior College and taught 2 years in elementary schools in Duluth, Minnesota and Appleton, Wisconsin. Over the years, the Peterman family moved 10 times to different locations throughout the Midwest, following Leonard's career with Montgomery Wards. Barbara continued teaching in many of the cities, while also raising 4 girls. They moved to Michigan in 1973, where Barbara worked in a secretarial position at Meijer Warehouse, retiring in 1991.

Barbara was very active in the Lutheran Church, and especially enjoyed singing in the choir. She loved sewing and craft projects, and was active in 4-H as a member and Junior Leader for over 12 years. She loved traveling and camping with Leonard and the children, culminating after their retirement in a

month long camping trip in which Barbara and Leonard traveled well over 2000 miles and visited stunning national parks and family all over the United States. While living in Wisconsin, Barbara developed a consuming love of sports, beginning with the Green Bay Packers and after moving to Michigan, all Michigan State sports. (We have no idea how the Spartans will do now, without her support!)

Barbara will be remembered as a caring person of faith, leaving behind a legacy of love and service that will forever be cherished by her family and friends. Her life was a testament to the power of perseverance and the importance of church and family. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and in 2023, great-great-grandmother. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Barbara is survived by her daughters, Wanda Atkinson, Debra Johnston, Lana Reis; son-in-law, Randall Combs; 5 grandchildren, Brian Bywater, James Atkinson, Laura Atkinson, Jourdan Reis, Tony Reis; 3 great-grandchildren, Samantha Little, Sage Friar, and Koralee Sweet; and great-great-granddaughter, Olive Little. She is predeceased by her daughter Cindy Combs, grandchildren, Shana Lee and Brandee Combs; her parents; and all 8 of her siblings.

Friends are encouraged to support Barbara's family by attending services or sharing memories on her Tribute Page at [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com). A Memorial Service will be held on August 23, 2025 (11:00 am visitation and 12:00 noon service) at Peace Lutheran Church in Charlotte with Pastor Neil Brady officiating. As per her wishes, she asks that all attendees wear comfortable attire from their favorite sports teams, Spartan lovers especially! The service will be webcast so you may watch it from any computer, smartphone or mobile device that has internet access. Go to [www.prayfuneral.com](http://www.prayfuneral.com), click on Barbara's Tribute, then click on Photos and Videos from your computer, or

Media from your smartphone. If desired, the family suggests memorial contributions to Peace Lutheran Church in Charlotte. The family is in the care of Pray Funeral Home, Charlotte MI.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG **23**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Peace Lutheran Church  
830 North Cochran Avenue  
Charlotte, MI 48813

## Memorial

AUG **23**. 12:00 PM (ET)

Peace Lutheran Church  
830 North Cochran Avenue  
Charlotte, MI 48813

# Tribute Wall



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Webcast in memory of Barbara Jean Peterman*



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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - August 22, 2025 at 03:06 PM



“ *Pray Funeral Home, Inc created a Tribute Video in memory of Barbara Jean Peterman*

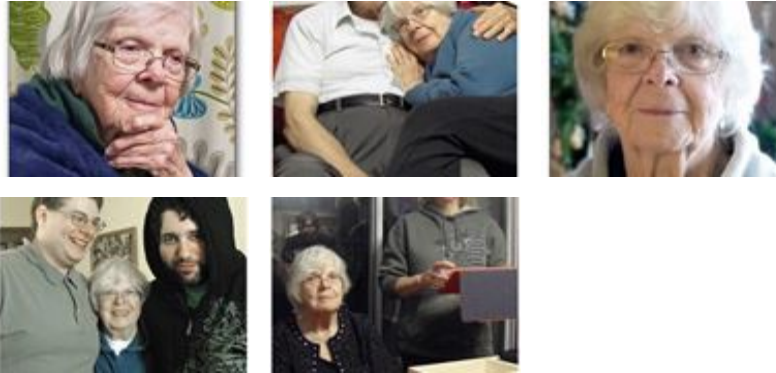


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**Pray Funeral Home, Inc.** - August 22, 2025 at 12:54 PM



“ 37 files added to the album LifeTributes



Pray Funeral Home, Inc. - August 22, 2025 at 12:49 PM



“ Julie Blanchard lit a candle in memory of Barbara Jean Peterman



Julie Blanchard - August 16, 2025 at 03:10 PM



Adding this candle on behalf of my Aunt Kay Andersen who was a long time friend of Barbara and worked with her at Meijer.

Julie Blanchard - August 16, 2025 at 03:13 PM



“ Darlene. Gareiss lit a candle in memory of Barbara Jean Peterman



Darlene. Gareiss - July 30, 2025 at 08:07 AM