



## Elaine Wendt

April 17, 1929 - December 29, 2023

Elaine Wendt (Schoenoff) passed away surrounded by family on Friday, December 29th at the age of 94. Elaine was born on April 17th, 1929 in Fond du Lac, WI. She met the love of her life, Robert F. Wendt, at Calvary Lutheran Chapel in Madison, WI.

Elaine was a passionate woman who lived her life with joy and vivacity. She was a storyteller, an artist, and an adventurer, traveling from coast to coast and back again. Elaine had a way with words, spending time weaving poems and detailing the stories and history of her ancestors. A lifelong learner, no task was too great for Elaine. She approached life and challenges with vigor from learning how to sail, designing her dream home, and visiting the Matterhorn in Switzerland. When she wasn't adventuring far-afield, she was busy finding adventures at home. With an innate ability to see the beauty in the world around her, Elaine delighted in the tapestry of the world. In true Elaine fashion, she strove to share this beauty with others, often pointing out plants and animals, collecting pretty stones, and decorating her home with bunches of wildflowers.

Of all the great passions in her life, children came first. Elaine was the proud mother of five children who she loved dearly. For many years, she dedicated her efforts toward the children in her community as well by teaching head start, confirmation, and Sunday school, and serving as the first female school

board member in Minocqua. Elaine found deep joy in the presence of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and followed their challenges and successes with pride and unconditional love.

Elaine cultivated deep roots. Under her watchful eye, her gardens thrived and with her generous heart her community thrived. A charter member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Minocqua, she spent countless hours volunteering and developing her church community. She volunteered at the Howard Young Hospital for over 25 years and joined every committee and group she could find time for.

Elaine's legacy is far-reaching. After opening her heart and home to others throughout the years, she has inspired generations of others to do the same. A teacher to the end, she showed others how to live life to its fullest, even in the quiet moments, and how to love unconditionally.

Elaine's legacy continues through her children: Michael Wendt (Carolyn Binford), Laurie Pinkert, Craig Wendt (Pat Wendt), Dan Wendt (Chris Wendt), and Cathy Schmit (David Schmit). She is further survived by 14 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by Robert (Bob), her husband of 57 years and her grandson, Daniel James Wendt. Visitation will be at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 13th at Ascension Lutheran Church in Minocqua, WI, followed by her Celebration of Life service at 11:00. A gathering and luncheon will follow the service at the church. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Ascension Lutheran Church.

# Cemetery Details

## Columbarium Gardens at Ascension Lutheran Church

Minocqua, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 13. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Ascension Lutheran Church  
7937 Hwy 51 S  
Minocqua, WI

## Memorial Service

JAN 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

Ascension Lutheran Church  
7937 Hwy 51 S  
Minocqua, WI

# Tribute Wall

NC

“ Your mother was a beautiful lady, lovingly sharing her wisdom through the years. It was a privilege to know her (early days - the Lakeland Child Study Club) and to know the skiing Wendt's through the Min-Aqua Bats. She could be featured on tv as an example of a "life well spent". Her 94 years are a gift to many. We send sympathy and a prayer for peace for all of you. Nancy and Robin Coleman

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**Nancy Coleman** - January 14, 2024 at 02:15 PM

DJ

“ The obituary for Aunt Elaine was beautifully written. She was an incredible wife, mother and grandmother and a friend to so many. I remember visiting Aunt Elaine and Uncle Bob and the family many times. There was always laughter in the house and plenty of love to go around. She will be missed but how blessed we are for knowing her and being a part of her life.

*Debbie Wendt Jahr*

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**Debbie Wendt Jahr** - January 11, 2024 at 08:53 PM

IN

“ Woody and I extend our condolences to the Wendt family. I knew Elaine through ascension Lutheran Church, and also, my father worked with Bob at DNR. Elaine was remarkable. It always amazed me that her giant, bright spirit fit inside her. She had a solid, powerful energy that calmed me when I was around her. She also had a wonderful, lively wit. We know she will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Inga & Woody Hagge

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**Inga** - January 09, 2024 at 05:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Elaine Wendt.*



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January 09, 2024 at 05:21 PM



“ *My sister, Dorothy Drawz, and Elaine were best friends growing up in Beloit Wisc and later at UW in Madison. I got to know Elaine as a member of LAGS genealogy club in 2003 when she asked me did I know Dorothy? The answer of course was yes.*

*Ken Drawz*

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**KENNETH DRAWZ** - January 09, 2024 at 03:53 PM



“ *Our condolence to the family. Elaine was a very nice lady and a great neighbor for 35 yrs.*

*Tom and Robin*

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**Tom Wipp** - January 04, 2024 at 10:40 AM



*Elaine was such a beautiful person. Condolences to all the Wendt cousins from a niece by marriage who enjoyed sharing the genealogy hobby with her. Am picturing her finally being able to meet her ancestors on the other side of the Great Mystery.*

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**Kris Adams Wendt** - January 07, 2024 at 08:58 PM

GW

*Aunt Elaine was a wonderful person and always full of energy for whatever needed doing. From the smallest project to hosting a large family reunion. I will never forget the family gatherings with all the uncle's Aunt's & the many cousin's. My heart goes out to the family. I fully intended to attend the services and was looking forward to seeing everyone again but I learned a couple of days ago i was near someone that had covid. So I thought it best to stay home. Gene Wendt*

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**Gene Wendt** - January 13, 2024 at 05:07 PM