



A lasting memorial has been given to Spirit of Hope Church In memory of Polly Erickson

July 8, 1937 - July 20, 2017



Polly Lucille Nystrom was born to Olga and Harry Nystrom in Minneapolis on July 8, 1937. Her childhood home was a farmhouse on a dirt road, a short distance beyond the village of Elk River. Polly was creative, spontaneous, dynamic, and a free spirit in her early years. She thrived in school and was an especially good writer and reader. She participated in Camp Fire Girls, Methodist Youth Fellowship, church choir, and 4-H. In high school, she enjoyed marching band, school choirs, and student government. She graduated from Elk River High School in 1955 with academic honors and was awarded Elk River's Betty Crocker Homemaker of the Year. As an adult, she would often say that she wished Title IX was enacted when she was in high school, as she loved sports and would have been an avid athlete.

She attended Hamline University to pursue a nursing career. Her studies were rigorous and lengthy, including academic courses and training in medical facilities. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

In her junior year at Hamline, Polly met Roland on a double date (though they were both with other people!) On September 12, 1959, the couple wed and took up housekeeping near the Minneapolis VA Hospital, where she would start her nursing career. In May 1961, Polly and Roland moved into their St Louis Park home that they would share for over 56 years. Rolf was born in December 1961, followed by Karl in July 1963. She found her greatest joy staying home to raise the boys. When the boys started school, Polly returned to nursing at HCMC. Tiring of the trips into downtown, she made a career shift to teaching nurses, and eventually retired in her mid-fifties when she became a grandmother. Of all Polly's passions, her greatest was being a grandma! She loved having her grandkids sleep over and loved reading to them and playing. Once a summer, Polly and Roland took the grandkids to Duluth, and when they turned 10, they each got to go on a special trip with grandma and Papa. As the kids grew older, she would give the grandkids care packages filled with their favorite things. She had a knack for finding perfect clothes based on the latest trends.

Polly enjoyed numerous hobbies. She was a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Hamline alumni board, American Swedish Institute, and Minnesota Historical Society. She loved traveling and taking photos, believing everyday moments deserved to be captured for posterity.

Polly was a member of Spirit of Hope United Methodist Church since 1962. She taught Sunday School, and served on numerous committees. In later years, she volunteered at the Church's Sunshine Valley Daycare, reading to the little kids.

Friends were made wherever she went. Whether at church or traveling, she was quick to connect with others. She treasured relationships with frequent calls and hand-written cards, often with pictures she took folded inside. Polly was an amazing daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She will be deeply missed by us all.

