



## Martha Besel

May 6, 1921 - September 13, 2018

Martha was born on May 6, 1921, to John and Katie Becker in Toppenish, WA, the youngest of five sisters. She attended school at Toppenish and later in Wapato.

She married Fred Besel in Wapato on November 24, 1946. She moved with him to the family farm in Farmer, WA where they lived and raised their family until 1986 when they retired and moved into Waterville. Martha and Fred were married 58 years, until Fred's passing in 2004, and raised five children: Terry (Bertys), Judy (Byron) Lais, Cheryl (Ross) Adams, Cindy (Paul) Schmick, and Alan (Denise).

Martha is survived by her five children, 13 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, with a 10th expected in May, which she learned of very shortly before her passing. She is preceded by her four sisters: Esther Miller, Elsie Besel, Lydia Cape, and Alice Wurl, and her husband Fred.

Martha was a longtime member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Withrow until its closing, and then Our Savior's Lutheran Church in East Wenatchee. She served in the Holy Cross Ladies Aid and quilting group, and was a blood donor to the Red Cross, giving seven gallons of blood during her lifetime. During World War II, she worked at Yakima Tent and Awning, making tarps and tents for the U.S. military, and at Libby's cannery.

She was blessed by God with a deep and undying faith in her salvation through Christ that was an inspiration to her family. She eagerly looked forward to the day she would be called to her eternal Home, free from pain

and suffering, and now more eagerly looks forward to when we all will rejoin her there.

Her family misses her beyond words, but is filled with happiness she is Home, and will treasure countless memories of her forever. They are overwhelmed by the great number of people who loved her and held her in their hearts.

They wish to specially recognize Mildred Standerford, Ana Sanchez, and the nurses at CWH Hospice, for their care, aid, and love in her final days here.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2018 at 11:00 A.M. at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 1050 Eastmont Ave, East Wenatchee.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

OCT 6. 11:00 AM (PT)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
1050 Eastmont Avenue  
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

# Tribute Wall

BK

“ Visits to the Conrad Besel and George Jordan family homes during wheat harvest are among my favorite childhood memories. Martha brought new life to those memories during a recent visit with her, her son Terry and her daughter Cheryl. Among the reminiscences shared were that Martha and Fred were friends with my grandparents, Mary and Andy Koch. My aunt Esther was scheduled to be in their wedding but childbirth changed Esther's plans. Fred and Martha spent their honeymoon with my aunt Leah in California. I also learned that Martha was on the kitchen crew at the harvest meals I got to enjoy when I visited the area during harvest. I knew that Fred, Martha and family visited Mary and my family in Seattle. What impressed me the most about Martha happened during the visit by Joan and it was the way she opened her house and her heart to us. She was gracious with her time, informative with her comments and a real joy to talk with. We felt welcome. Her son Terry, took us on a tour of the old Besel and Jordan family homes and rekindled many more memories. The time spent reminiscing with Martha is a time I will forever remember. Martha's faith, clearly on display that day I will never forget. Farewell Martha! You are now in your Eternal Home with the Lord.

*Joan and Bill Koch*

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**Bill Koch** - October 09, 2018 at 06:57 PM

 Debra  
Rusnak

“ Aunt Martha, how I loved hearing your laugh! Sometimes a snort or two thrown in! My best friend, in life, is Cindy. Thank you for getting us together at church, school, and picnics. Your unwavering faith is always a model in my mind. just trust. I will treasure you as my Godmother, Aunt, and a family icon.

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**Debra Rusnak** - October 04, 2018 at 12:22 AM

PW

“ Martha is such a part of our history growing up in Wiinthrop and apart of the Lutheran Church. She had spunk and faith. I admired both. She loved her church her family and her friends. I loved her and she loved me. She was an inspiration in her faith and that she still took 3 mile walks in her later years. Martha we will always remember you and honor you.

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**paulette Whitehall** - October 02, 2018 at 11:04 PM

CL

“ Martha, you were a comedian and didn't even know it. We shared a lot of fun when we were neighbors out in the country going to Mothers school club, playing cards and just enjoying each other. I'm so happy for you , you are in heaven and wanted to be there for a long time !  
Great picture of you with your big happy smile. clarice

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**clarice Ludeman** - September 18, 2018 at 08:15 PM



Debra  
Rusnak

*God Bless you Martha! My Godmother, my aunt, my best friends mother... You were the Best.*

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**Debra Rusnak** - October 02, 2018 at 10:16 PM