



## Ruth Elaine (Betlach) Thesing

February 5, 1941 - December 30, 2016

Ruth Elaine Thesing, RN, 75, died peacefully on Friday, December 30, 2016 under the gentle care of the Hospice House of the E.U.P. in Sault Ste. Marie, MI after a courageous fight with cancer. Ruth was born on February 5, 1941 to the late William and Helen (Kreutzer) Betlach in Marienthal, KS. Ruth graduated Salutatorian from Leoti High School in 1958. She then attended St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City, KS and the St. Joseph School of Nursing in Wichita, KS from where she graduated in May 1962 beginning her lifelong nursing career. She married Gary Thesing on May 25, 1963, in Garden City, KS having met in college. Ruth was a devoted mother raising her two children to love learning, appreciate hard work, and enjoy friendly competition. She loved her grandchildren with all her heart and leaves them with wonderful memories of playing, baking, sewing, and outdoor sports such as snowshoeing and tennis, as well as a deep appreciation for nature. Ruth's continual pursuit of excellence carried throughout her life as she obtained her B.S.N. from Lake Superior State University in 1980. She graduated top of her class while still raising her children. Ruth loved nursing and was especially passionate about her 15-year career as a Community Health Nurse for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. She specialized in diabetes care and care of the elderly. Her patients spoke frequently of her kind, considerate, and professional manner. When arriving with her family to the Soo in 1971, Ruth immediately became involved in the community joining the St. Joseph Catholic Church choir. Through the years, she not only sang in

various church and community choirs but she also helped organize their efforts. Ruth was a passionate tennis player and loved to bring together her friends for weekly matches as well as to compete in the city league. She was a 25 year volunteer and board member for Sault Ste. Marie's Hospice program. In May 2010, she was honored as their Hospice Volunteer of the Year. Ruth is preceded in death by her parents, her brother William Betlach, and her sister Connie Simon. Ruth is survived by her husband Gary, her son, Michael (Michelle) of Tucker, GA, and her daughter, Tonya Kjerland of Northfield, MN; her grandchildren, Benjamin and Annika Thesing of Tucker, GA and Cayenne and Nicholas Kjerland of Northfield, MN; her sisters Juanita (Jerry) Simonds of Grand Island, NE, Twila (Gerald) Simon of Las Vegas, NV, Yvonne (Kenneth) Wittreich of Fort Collins, CO and brother-in-law, Marvin (Connie) Simon of Lawrence, KS; as well as several nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind numerous close friends. The family wishes to extend their gratitude to the Hospice House of the E.U.P. for their superb and compassionate care in Ruth's final days. Clark Bailey Newhouse Funeral Home ([www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com](http://www.clarkbaileynewhouse.com) 906-632-8221) of Sault Ste. Marie, MI is in charge of the arrangements and will host the visitation on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 from 5 – 7:30pm with prayers at 7:30pm. The funeral service will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 11am with Father Michael Chenier as Celebrant a luncheon to follow. Burial will be in Spearville, KS. In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer contributions to St. Mary's Catholic School or Hospice of the E.U.P. in Sault Ste. Marie.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Elaine (Betlach) Thesing*

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ *Ruth Elaine (Betlach) Thesing*

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ *Ruth Elaine (Betlach) Thesing*

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *To the Betlach and Thesing Families: My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I wish I could be there to see the family but distance is a challenge. Hope one day we can all get together for a family reunion for the Kreutzer side of the family. If you are ever in Lubbock, TX, please let me know. Thanks. Karen Betzen Carroll*

**Karen Betzen Carroll** - January 05, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mr. Thesing, Mike and Tonya, My deepest sympathy on the loss of your Wife and Mom. Ruth was such a generous soul and a wonderful role model for me growing up. She always greeted me with a spirit of hope and encouragement for what could be. I am fortunate and thankful to have known her. My Mom talked of their friendship and it meant a great deal to her. My thoughts and prayers to you and your families during this time. Cindy Crawford, and family*

**Cynthia (Reining) Crawford** - January 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ My sincere thoughts and prayers to Ruth's family, whom I had the privilege of meeting long ago. Ruth's friendly smile and genuine concern about my family, especially when my mother went through a similar situation as Ruth, will be warmly remembered. Seeing Ruth in town somewhere was always a special event. The information she remembered from years past was truly amazing. Gary, Mike, Tanya, may the wonderful memories she left comfort you in the coming days.

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**Michael Ellis** - January 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

NB

“ Dear Gary, Mike and Tanya and Families, We are sorry that we can't be at the funeral home to give our condolences and want you to know that our prayers are with all of you at this time. Our daughter Kathy spent many hours at the Thesings while she and Tanya were growing up. Please know that we are thinking of you all. Sincerely,  
The Bennins, Norbert, Patty and family.

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**Norbert and Patty Bennin** - January 03, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ GARDEN PATH was sent by Mieczyslaw and Janina Gutowski. Dear Gary,  
Our hearts go out to You and your Family thinking of you and sending you prayers.  
Please take comfort in knowing  
Ruth your loved one rests peacefully in the light of Heaven.  
May God be with You to strengthen you and heal your sorrow.

*With sincere sympathy,  
Miet and Janina*

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**Janina Gutowska** - January 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ I was Ruthie's roommate all thru nursing school. She was a great friend and a great Nurse.

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**Sandi Bolster** - January 02, 2017 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ To the family that Ruth loved so much; Gary, Michael & Michelle, Tonya; her grandkids; Ben, Annika, Cayenne & Nicholas; we offer our heartfelt condolences. Ruth was a very generous, kind, loving and caring person and her life personified those qualities. May you rest in peace, Ruth and may your love continue to embrace your loved ones along the path of their journey here on earth.

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**Rolande & Roger Parent** - January 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *SHADES OF ELEGANCE* was sent by Carol McClellan. Ruth, You've been on my heart, on my mind and in my prayers. May you rest in the loving hands of Jesus, our Heavenly Father and his enjoy His abundant Love Forever. Gary, may your beautiful memories bring you and your family strength and peace. Love, Carol McClellan

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**Carol McClellan** - January 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM