

The Valley of Shadows

Into the valley of dark despair
I walked when the night was cold.
Black were the clouds. All the mountain tops
Were rough and bleak and old.

I cried aloud from the depths of pain,
And grief was echoed back.
Never the way so lost from sight!
Never a night so black!

I heard the voice of the Savior then
Like a cymbal's silver beat,
And in the sparkling radiant light
I saw His nail-scarred feet.

And His voice was kind and soft and low,
"My child, oh, don't you see,
That you must walk in the valleys, too
If you would walk with me?"

And the sun burst forth, and the heavens sang,
All the depths of loss grew dim,
And I knew that wherever His footsteps led
My walk would be with Him.

Gladys Jeanette Wogen



Rest in Peace



Gladys Wogen Biehl

August 16, 1922 - August 28, 2025

Gladys Jeanette Wogen was born on August 16, 1922 in Silver Lake Township, Iowa to Nick and Jennie (Orres) Wogen. She attended country school (Silver Lake #5) first grade through grade 8, then Lake Mills High School, graduating with honors in 1940. Following graduation, she worked at Lake Mills Schools, the Lake Mills Graphic, and at church headquarters and Augsburg Publishing in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

In 1953 she felt called to become a parish worker at Bethel Lutheran Church in Chicago, Illinois. There she headed up youth and education ministries, plus various organizational planning. Her first night in Chicago she was introduced to the choir, and met the choir president, Dick Biehl, who became her husband of nearly 62 years on June 16, 1956. When daughter Janice was born to them, she retired to be a stay-at-home mom. Later, when she returned to the labor force, she became a paralegal at a downtown Chicago law office, retiring once again when she was informed that she was to become a grandmother. Grandchildren Lauren and Kris were a very special part of her life. She felt blessed to "stick around long enough" to enjoy her great-grandchildren Rowan, Finn, Asher and Bodie Joe.

Besides family events, which she thoroughly enjoyed, she was grateful for a number of special events: being a delegate to the national convention of the ELCA church body in 1976 in Washington, D.C., attending the funeral of Thomas A. Dorsey the composer of "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," being invited to the reception given by the mayor of Chicago for the King and Queen of Norway, and accompanying the Chicago Chamber Choir in it's Christmas concert at Chicago's Newberry Library by guitar.

She was always interested in the work of church women and served in many leadership roles. She was on the board of the Lutheran Day Nursery in Chicago and on the board of Parkside Pastoral Counseling in connection with Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. She also enjoyed directing The Good News Singers and singing with the Grieg Ladies.

In 1996, Gladys and Dick became first time home owners (in their 70's!) when they left the Windy City and moved to Lake Mills to be closer to family. Not only were Gladys' roots in the Midwest, but Jan, Greg, Lauren and Kris made the move to Lake Mills a short time earlier. Gladys was first an active member of Salem Lutheran Church in Lake Mills, and more recently at Emmons Lutheran Church in Emmons, MN. Once in Lake Mills, she was active in the Sons of Norway and Mission Quilters. She enjoyed quilting, reading, playing guitar, traveling, and writing.

In Remembrance of Our Beloved Gladys Wogen Biehl

August 16, 1922 - August 28, 2025

Memorial Service

Friday, September 12, 2025 10:30 AM
Emmons Lutheran Church
Emmons, Minnesota

Officiant

Pastor Paul L. Knudson

Scripture Readings

Psalm 51:1-12 (read responsively)

Micah 6:8

Philippians 2:5-11

John 3:16,17

Music

Melinda Sletten

Congregational Hymns

"Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now" #253 LBW

"God of Grace and God of Glory" #415 LBW

"Built on a Rock" #365 LBW

Inurnment

Salem Memorial Cemetery
Rural Lake Mills, Iowa



She leaves to mourn, her daughter Jan Belica of Lake Mills; a granddaughter Lauren (Bart) Schroeder and their children: Asher, Phinneas & Rowan of Lisbon, IA; grandson Kris (Erica) Belica and their son Bodie Joe of St. Michael, MN; former son-in-law, Greg Belica of Lake Mills; and many nieces and nephews with whom she loved to keep in contact, and many friends.

Gladys was preceded in death by her parents Nick and Jennie; husband Richard Biehl; and siblings: Orville Wogen, Margaret Wogen, Mervin Wogen, Mildred Ackland, Ray Wogen, Edna Askeland, Donald Wogen, Howard Wogen, Elaine Nesvig and Lorraine Wogen.