



Carol A. Bernath

July 20, 1942 - October 10, 2025

Carol A. (Wachtman) Bernath, 83, of Napoleon, Ohio, went home to the Lord on Friday, October 10, 2025. She was born on July 20, 1942, to the late Edwin and Almeda (Bahler) Wachtman. On June 6, 1965, she married the love of her life, Gary Bernath, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, and spent a loving 60 years together.

She was a faithful member of St. Paul Lutheran Church. She was baptized at home in 1942 by Rev. George Hueter, as well as confirmed in 1956 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon Township, Ohio, by Rev. George Hueter. She was a graduate of Napoleon High School in 1960, International Business College of Fort Wayne, IN in 1962, as well as Defiance College, Defiance, Ohio, in 1964. Carol continued her career by serving as a schoolteacher at Facett Jr. High School, Oregon, Ohio, from 1964-1965, Lutheran High School South, St. Louis, MO, from 1965-1966, Lutheran High School West, Rocky River, Ohio, from 1979-1992, as well as Lorain Middle School, Lorain, Ohio, from 1998-2004.

Carol also served during her life and career as an organist for several different churches. She loved her family dearly, and enjoyed spending time with them, and cooking various meals for them. Carol also thoroughly enjoyed sewing and quilting in her spare time.

Carol is survived by her loving husband, Gary; children, Stephanie (Paul) Eggebrecht of Napoleon, Ohio, Michelle Brown of Parma Heights, Ohio, Jonathan (Desa) Bernath of Columbia Station, Ohio and Rachel (William) Bailey of Batavia, Ohio; eleven grandchildren; 2 great-grandchildren; and sister, Patricia (Andy) McMahon of Napoleon, Ohio. She is preceded in death by her father, Edwin Wachtman; stepfather, Rudy Panning; mother, Almeda Panning; and brothers, Thomas and James Panning.

Friends and Family will be received at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, from 2pm until 7pm. A Funeral Service will be held for Carol at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 11am, with an hour of visitation prior to services. Interment will follow at Saint James Lutheran Cemetery, 20727 State Rte 2, Archbold, OH 43502. Memorial contributions can be made out to St. Paul Lutheran School. Online condolences may also be left for the family at www.rodenbergergray.com.

Cemetery Details

Saint James Lutheran Church Cemetery

20727 State Rte 2
Archbold, OH 43502

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **14**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

Visitation

OCT **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1075 Glenwood Ave
Napoleon, OH 43545

Funeral Service

OCT **15**. 11:00 AM - 11:30 PM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1075 Glenwood Ave
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I'm a first cousin of Carol and we were close growing up - she even cut my hair against our Mothers' permission at one time, for which she got in a lot of trouble. We have laughed about this on several occasions.

I feel very badly that I did not know about her passing and that I missed this celebration of her life.

Judy White - October 15, 2025 at 11:35 AM

CP

“ I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. You and your family are in our prayers.

Carol Peltier - October 15, 2025 at 08:06 AM

JN

“ James N. planted a grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol A. Bernath.

James N. - October 14, 2025 at 04:06 PM

TF

“ The Ellek Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Carol A. Bernath.



The Ellek Family - October 13, 2025 at 09:12 PM

TF

“ *The Ellek Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol A. Bernath.*

The Ellek Family - October 13, 2025 at 09:12 PM

GW

“ *Gregg and De-Linda Wanemacher purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Carol A. Bernath.*



Gregg and De-Linda Wanemacher - October 13, 2025 at 09:09 PM

TB

“ *Tara Brees purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Carol A. Bernath.*



Tara Brees - October 13, 2025 at 02:19 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carol A. Bernath.*



October 13, 2025 at 11:54 AM

TF

“ The Eggebrecht and Bucksa Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol A. Bernath.

The Eggebrecht and Bucksa Families - October 13, 2025 at 11:54 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Carol A. Bernath.



October 13, 2025 at 11:14 AM

TF

“ The Bailey Family purchased the Heavenly Grace Spray for the family of Carol A. Bernath.



The Bailey Family - October 12, 2025 at 08:43 PM