



Pamela Jean Nelson

February 7, 1945 - May 28, 2025

Pamela Jean (Nordstrom) Nelson
February 7, 1945 - May 28, 2025

Princeton - Pamela Jean (Nordstrom) Nelson passed away on Wednesday May 28, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of warmth, service, and devotion to her family, faith, and community.

Pamela was born on February 7, 1945, in Moline, Illinois, to George and Dorothy (Erickson) Nordstrom. She graduated from Moline High School in 1963 and earned her degree from Illinois State University in 1967.

After moving to Princeton, Pamela met Wendell Nelson, and they were married on July 19, 1975, in her hometown of Moline. Together they built a loving home and family.

A dedicated educator, Pamela taught in Princeton elementary schools, where she also served as a librarian. After her children were in school, she continued to support students as a substitute teacher and accompanied countless choir rehearsals, musicals, and music contests at both the elementary and high school levels.

Her faith was a cornerstone of her life. As a devoted member of St. Matthew's

Lutheran Church, Pamela shared her musical gifts by playing piano for worship services-most recently earlier this month-and spent many years delivering meals for Mobile Meals. She found joy in reading, sewing, knitting, watching Jeopardy!, and traveling to support her children's musical endeavors.

Pamela is survived by her husband of nearly 50 years, Wendell Nelson of Princeton, IL; children Susan Nelson of Chicago, IL, Joanna (Josh) Gates of Hockessin, DE, and Mitchell (Alexandra Wilson) Nelson of Wayne, ME; her beloved grandchildren, Anders Gates and August Nelson; and many cherished nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Dorothy, her sister Phyllis, and many dear cousins.

A visitation will be held at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Princeton, IL on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Services to follow at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, officiated by Pastor Gene Vincent.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the music program at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church-a cause dear to Pamela's heart.

Online condolences may be directed to www.norbergfh.com

Arrangements by Norberg Memorial Home, Inc. & Monuments.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Matthews Lutheran Church
416 E. Dover Road
Princeton, IL 61356

Funeral Service

JUN 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

St. Matthews Lutheran Church

Tribute Wall

“ Ms. Nordstrom

Echos are gatekeepers of value. Each echo traverse time and place...and for me, it all began with a fifth grade boys ear.

The fall in my hometown is a romance of billowing red, orange and green leaves moving across and around, tumbling to the ground when least suspected. This is fall...

Falling and finding your ground when your ground is shaken, like lost at sea, you find a beacon.

Ms. Nordstrom.

It was my first day of 5th grade. I found a desk, first in class. I sat alone, anxious and then... Seamlessly, she came into the room. With a nod, assured, she saw me. No words, just quiet.

Looking back, she might have been as scared of me as I was of her while it was just the two of us in the room.

Ms. Nordstrom was plaid and dusty blonde, tasteful with books in hand. She made me curious.

With the clunky ring of a hammer on a hall bell, the class filled and I'm sill in the second row, middle, to the right and in the back.

I could see her see me.

While fall moved to winter, we we delighted with daily chapter readings. Soft and firm dialectal, paused time. I learned that a pause can have the same impact as volume in words.

She was alive and aware of the delicacies in a verb and the announcement of a noun. Every bit read felt like an experience. It was otherworldly, in a time and I was bound.

Without hesitation, she did the unexpected, out of the curriculum, daring to show us a world and, what a gift... vacation slides

With her invitation, I found my way and touched David at the "Galleria dell' Accademia" and then touched Pieta in the Vatican. I touched this Italy knowing that she and so many others have done the same and made this real.

Now my echos, each personal adventure eyeing every Caravaggio possible, hanging over the rail of Ponte Vecchio, the curiosities of Medici family, their power all lending to renaissance history. I love history.

And then I remember...

All roads lead to Rome. My road began there in my fifth grade classroom with Ms. Nordstrom.

Brian Carlson - June 21, 2025 at 10:30 PM

DA

“ Daryl , Steph, Antonea & Allegra planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pamela Jean Nelson.

Daryl , Steph, Antonea & Allegra - June 02, 2025 at 12:03 PM

DA

“ Daryl , Steph, Antonea & Allegra purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Pamela Jean Nelson.



Daryl , Steph, Antonea & Allegra - June 02, 2025 at 12:03 PM

DT

“ I am so very sorry for your loss Mr. Nelson and also for your children's loss. Mrs. Nelson will always be Miss Nordstrom to me. 5th grade was awhile ago but it seems like yesterday I attended Douglas and had the joy of being taught and loved by Miss Nordstrom. As I type this I have tears at the loss but also due to the wonderful memories I have of her kindness (I still hear it as I remember her voice) and her true desire to ensure we were educated and prepared for our future. Whenever I bumped into her when visiting Princeton, she was inquisitive about my life and how I was doing always with a ready smile. She touched and influenced so many people, what a life well lived. Thank you Miss Nordstrom for being you. Love, Deb Taylor - Douglas 5th Grade Class of '72

Deb Taylor - May 31, 2025 at 02:04 AM

PN

“ She was my 5 th grade teacher her very first year of teaching . Pam was a wonderful and such a caring person .Always will to help anyone . After many years we finally reconnected while doing therapy at Liberty Village . Pam always had a smile on her face and kind words to say . You have my deepest condolences. Your family is in my prayers . Wish I could be there today but unfortunately I cannot . Will be thinking of you and sending prayers . She will be looking down on you with all her Love !

Sincerely

Pat Nelson

Pat Nelson - May 30, 2025 at 04:08 PM

LP

“ I had Pam as my 5th grade teacher at Douglas School in Princeton. She was a wonderful person and superb teacher. Always remembered me when seeing her out places. We also went to St. Matthews Church. Such an inspiration she was! Condolences to the family.

Linda Pierce

Linda Olin Pierce - May 30, 2025 at 03:25 PM

BB

Pam was part of my growing up. Her sister Phyllis was a dear friend,,who I graduated with in 1964.. We were all in the same youth group and choir at the First Covenant Church in Moline . I loved her family, and it is heartbreaking to hear they are all gone . Rest in Peace Pam, you all are surely missed

Betsy (Olson) Baker - May 30, 2025 at 04:30 PM

RW

Wonderful teacher and person !!
Made a complete impression on my life ! Taught us the state song which I taught my children ❤️
Also the reason I became a florist ...
Wendall sent her roses (when she was Mrs Nordstrom) and it made her so happy she cried and I never forgot it ❤️❤️❤️

Robyn Washer - June 03, 2025 at 10:24 AM

NC

Wendell and family, I am so sorry to hear of Pam's passing. I couldn't believe it when I was told. I will miss her and her hugs dearly at the auctions. My sympathy and prayers to all. Thank you for letting Bob know.

Nancy Craig - June 24, 2025 at 01:22 PM