



## Mary Lou Retsema

April 18, 1945 - September 12, 2020

Mary Lou (Rycenga) Retsema, age 75, went to be with her Lord and Savior on September 12, 2020. Mary was born on April 18, 1945, to Louis and Betty Rycenga and married Ron Retsema on October 1, 1965. She attended Grand Haven Christian School, Western Michigan Christian High School and Calvin University. Mary was a lifelong member of Second Christian Reformed Church of Grand Haven and a resident of the tri-cities until moving to Norton Shores in 2015.

Mary loved children. Being a mother and grandmother were two of her greatest joys. She loved sharing the love of Jesus with children and did so as a Story Hour leader for 50 years and as the children's ministry leader at Second Christian Reformed Church for 14 years. She volunteered in the Western Michigan Christian High School library and on the Christian Haven Home Auxiliary for many years. Kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, thoughtfulness, patience and love were hallmarks of Mary's personality. She often demonstrated her love through cooking and baking. Mary also loved travel, attending her grandchildren's sporting events, and visiting with family and friends.

Mary is survived by her husband, Ron, of 54 years; daughters Lori (Mike) Houskamp of Spring Lake and Sara (Ross) Richer of Westport, Connecticut; grandchildren Christa and Jenna Houskamp, Noah, Arielle, and Claire Richer. She is also survived by her siblings Sharon (Rod) Pell, Barb (Bruce) Van Heukelum, and John (Marie) Rycenga; in-laws Mary (Carl) Erickson, Don (Betsy) Retsema and Ken Retsema; extended family and friends. Mary was preceded in death by her oldest granddaughter, Katelyn Houskamp, and sister Carol Folkert. Special thanks to Mary's doctors and the staff of North Ottawa Hospice that assisted with her care.

A funeral will be held on Saturday, September 19 at 2PM at Second Christian Reformed Church (2021 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven) with Pastor Mike Koetje officiating. Masks and social distancing will be required. The service will be livestreamed on YouTube by searching 2ndcrgch. Following the service, a recording will also be available to be viewed at <https://www.secondcrggrandhaven.org/recent-services/>. Visitation with the family

following mask and social distancing protocols will be on Friday, September 18 from 6-8PM at Ferrysburg Community Church (17785 Mohawk Dr., Spring Lake, MI 49456); and one-hour prior to the service, at Second Christian Reformed Church. Memorial contributions in memory of Mary can be made to Western Michigan Christian High School or Grand Haven Second CRC Children's ministries. Memories can be shared with the family at their On-line Guest Book at [www.sytsemafh.com](http://www.sytsemafh.com). Arrangements by The Lee Chapel of Sytsema Funeral and Cremation Services, 6291 S. Harvey St., Norton Shores, MI 49444 (231) 798-1100.

# Cemetery

**Norton Cemetery**  
743-761 Airport Rd.  
Norton Shores, MI, 49441

# Events

- SEP

18

Visitation

06:00PM - 08:00PM

Ferrysburg Community Church

17785 Mohawk Dr., Ferrysburg, MI, US
- SEP

19

Visitation

01:00PM - 02:00PM

Second Christian Reformed Church

2021 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, MI, US, 49417
- SEP

19

Funeral Service

02:00PM

Second Christian Reformed Church

2021 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, MI, US, 49417

# Comments

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“ Sending prayers of comfort during this difficult time. Mary modeled her faith filled Christian values through her kindness, compassion, understanding, patience, and love for her family and friends. Sending our deepest sincerest sympathy. Godspeed Mary.  
Chris & Gera Peel

**Gera Peel** - September 18 at 01:12 PM

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“ I have many many memories of Mary and the Rycenga family. My sympathy to you Ron and your family. May our Father give you all the comfort you need now and in the weeks ahead

**sarahJane Essebagggers** - September 15 at 10:08 PM

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“ During my years at WMCHS Mary was such a willing and kind volunteer....., and her hugs were the best. Prayers

**Joyce A Workman** - September 15 at 09:14 AM