

*We would like to thank everyone  
for their love and support during this difficult time.*

*We realize how truly blessed we are to have  
such wonderful family and friends.*

*Your expressions of sympathy  
will never be forgotten.*

*All are warmly invited to gather  
in the church Fellowship Hall following  
the service for lunch and conversation.*

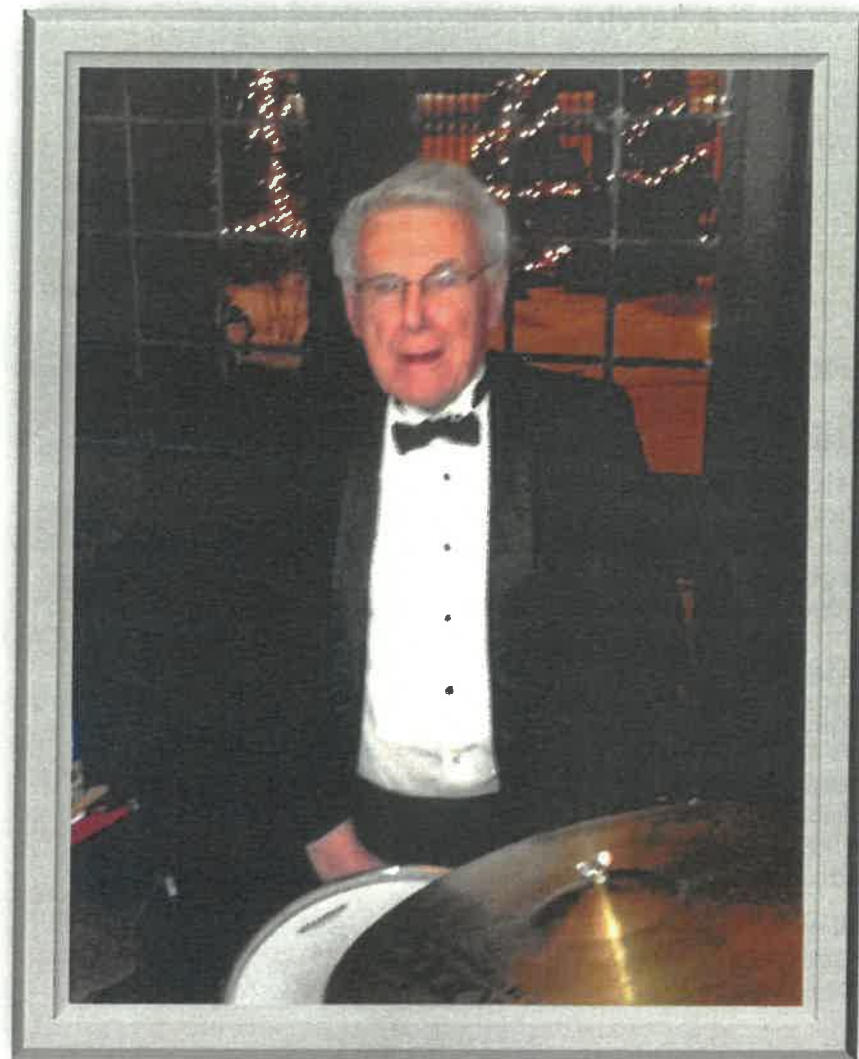
*- The Family of Connie Villars*



Pastor: John Snider | Musician: Gerrit Lamain | Soloist: Catherine Zinner  
Special Music: Satin Jazz  
1575 Charlton Street ■ West St. Paul, MN 55118  
Office: (651) 457-6541 [www.ststephenswsp.org](http://www.ststephenswsp.org)

**Bulletin Acknowledgements**

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*Connie Villars*

August 24, 1931 ■ November 26, 2021

A Service Celebrating the Life of  
**Connie Villars**

Born: August 24, 1931 † Died: November 26, 2021

Tuesday, November 30, 2021  
11:00 a.m.



Prelude

Satin Jazz Band

**GATHERING**

Welcome in the name of Jesus, the Savior of the world.  
We are gathered to worship, to proclaim Christ crucified  
and risen, to remember before God our brother Connie,  
to give thanks for his life, to commend him to our merciful  
redeemer, and to comfort one another in our grief.

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into  
his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into  
death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory  
of the Father, we too might live a new life. For if we have been  
united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united  
with him in a resurrection like his.

All who are baptized into Christ have put on Christ. In his  
baptism, Connie was clothed with Christ. In the day of Christ's  
coming, he shall be clothed with glory.

Hymn

"Amazing Grace"

ELW #779  
vs. 1-Soloist  
vs. 3, 5-All

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.  
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**Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God,  
source of all mercy and giver of comfort,  
graciously tend those who mourn,  
that, casting all our sorrow on you,  
we may know the consolation of your love;  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**WORD**

Reading

Psalm 23

Reader: Kaitlyn Villars

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

Word of God, Word of Life  
*Thanks be to God*

**Time for Memories**

Jenni Lindner, granddaughter  
Kelsey Harms, granddaughter  
Cathy Harms, daughter

The Holy Gospel according to St. John,  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

**Gospel**

**John 14:1-6, 19, 27**

*Jesus said ...* "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord  
*Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Meditation**

**Pastor John Snider**

**Hymn**

**"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"** ELW 608  
vs. 1-Soloist  
vs. 2, 3-All

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,  
calling for you and for me.  
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,  
watching for you and for me.

*Refrain*

"Come home, (Come home,)  
come home! (come home!)  
You who are weary, come home."  
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,  
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

**Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,  
pleading for you and for me?  
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,  
mercies for you and for me? Refrain**

**Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,  
promised for you and for me!  
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,  
pardon for you and for me. Refrain**

Text and music: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909  
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**Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said,  
"I am the resurrection and the life."

*Petition response:*

**Pastor:** ... God of mercy,  
**People:** hear our prayer.

**Special Music**

**The Lord's Prayer**  
Arr. Dawn Villars Hilbert  
Sister

**SENDING**

**Commendation**

**Benediction**

**Hymn**

**"Here I Am, Lord"**

**ELW 574**  
**vs. 1-Soloist**  
**vs. 2-3, Congregation**

"I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?"

*Refrain*

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

**"I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.**

**I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?" Refrain**

**"I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?" Refrain**

Text and Music: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946  
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**Sending**

Let us go forth in peace,  
in the name of Christ. Amen.

**Postlude**

**Satin Jazz Band**



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Connie lived a full life of music, family and faith. He graduated from St. Paul Central HS, Macalester College, taught Special Ed in the St. Paul Public School system and played drums professionally.

He was an amazing drummer. Starting at the age of 5 his first band was with his 6 siblings - the Junior Pennsylvanians. Many jam sessions took place at his parents house during high school. Then to the Navy Band where he performed on the USS Coral Sea. After serving he completed his college degree at Macalester College where he met his wife Nancy. They married and had 3 kids. After school he taught drum lessons at home. There were hundreds of drummers that got their start with Connie. He performed with many bands including, the Rod Aalberg Big Band, Johnny Owen Big Band, Como Pops Orchestra, plus he was part of the State Fair Grandstand band accompanying many artists. Later in his career he played with Richfield Symphonic Band, Satin Jazz and church. As a Mason, he was an active member of the Osman Shrine Drum and Bugle Corp where he marched many parades.

Connie loved fishing, trap shooting, archery, hunting, tennis, poker, wood working and cornhole. He loved his 7 grandkids and attended as many recitals, sporting events and special occasions as possible. The recent birth of his great grandson brought him great joy.

Survived by his children, Curt, Cathy (Brent) Harms, Craig (Kjerste), grandkids Melissa, Jesse, Danny Villars, Jenni (Scott) Lindner, Kelsey Harms, Kaitlyn, Ana Villars and great grandchild Beau Lindner. Survived by one brother Jerry. Preceded in death by his wife Nancy Villars and sisters, Shirley Lang, June Wille, Jinny Oliver, Nancy Mulliken and Dawn Hilbert.

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