



Marilyn Lee Swonder

April 17, 1939 - March 6, 2026

Marilyn Lee (Heilman) Swonder, 86, of Evansville, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 6, 2026, at Deaconess Hospital Midtown Campus.

Marilyn was born on April 17, 1939, in Evansville to the late Daniel and Agnes (Gruner) Heilman. She was a homemaker and a faithful member of Emauel Lutheran Church and played the organ for the church for many years. Marilyn loved music, playing the piano, singing and composing. She enjoyed bird watching, flower gardening, and spending time with her family and friends.

Surviving Marilyn are her son and daughter-in-law, Drew and Linda Swonder; grandchildren, Stephanie Jesse, Kellie (Jason) Clodfelter, and John Basham; great grandchildren, Alex, Ben, Jillian, Gunner, Ian and Kannon; and a great great grandson, Waylon.

In addition to her parents, Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Roger C. Swonder in 2011, and by her brother, Warren Heilman in 1973.

Funeral services for Marilyn will be held at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Pastor James Culver officiating. Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 11:00 AM until the time of the service on Tuesday at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 308 N. First Ave, Evansville, IN 47710.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Condolences may be made online at www.pierrefuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

2200 Mesker Park Drive
Evansville, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 10. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Emmanuel Lutheran Church
308 N First Ave
Evansville, IN 47710

Funeral Service

MAR 10. 1:00 PM (CT)

Emanuel Lutheran Church
308 N. First Ave.
Evansville, IN

Tribute Wall

PH

“ Marilyn belonged to the Reitz High School Class of 1957. She met monthly with this group and was a joy to be around. She had such a sunny personality and we truly will miss her. God has a place for her behind the Organ in the sky.

Phyllis Heise - March 10 at 02:19 PM

HW

“ I grew up with Marilyn in church. She was our talented organ player. I have great memories of her during our time in the choir at church.

Heather Wilson - March 10 at 08:47 AM

VR

“ Marilyn sat next to me at Trinity Lutheran Darmstadt's Sarah Bible Class and I feel privileged to have known her and her cheerfulness and love of God as we strove to learn his word more fully. I will miss you but know you are with him now. Rest well sweet friend.

Vickie Raleigh - March 09 at 05:26 PM

CS

Marilyn was a faithful & contributing member of the Sarah Bible Class @ Trinity Lutheran in Darmstadt, playing the piano for our opening hymn. It was a pleasure & a privilege to know her.

Cleoramae Stunkel - March 10 at 08:51 PM

CJ

“ Curt & Cindy Jones purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Marilyn Lee Swonder.



Curt & Cindy Jones - March 09 at 02:59 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marilyn Lee Swonder.

March 09 at 12:50 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marilyn Lee Swonder.



March 09 at 12:50 PM

MM

“ Marilyn was always very kind to me and my family and was a very special person in our lives. I have such fond memories of visiting her at home, cooking dinner together and sharing piano songs. Even when I played the same songs over and over and made mistakes, she always encouraged me and told me I played beautifully and was very talented. Her kindness and encouragement inspired my love of music, and I will always be grateful for the impact she had on my life. She will always hold a special place in my heart.

Molly Meehan - March 09 at 09:55 AM

MH

“Marilyn was a ray of sunshine in the my life and in the life of my parents. Her and Roger were neighbors with my parents for nearly 70 years. She helped me care for my parents when their health failed and I will never forget that. She was always there if I called her to ask her to check on my mom and dad. Marilyn showed God's kindness, not through her words, but through her deeds.

Mike Hunter - March 09 at 09:24 AM

LC

“LaDonna Christopher purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Marilyn Lee Swonder.



LaDonna Christopher - March 08 at 07:13 PM

LM

“My life will be a dimmer with the passing of Marilyn. Even though many of you have been lifelong friends - Marily and I shared a lifetime of laughs, birdwatching and conversations sitting in her hothouse during the winter and on her porch during good weather in the last 15 years. A loving friend who kept me strong during my bouts with cancer. Her positive outlook and the many prayers I knew she prayed kept me going and feeling positive. Watching our 2 dogs play together and chase rabbits and squirrels always brought a smile to her face.

Linda S Misuraca - March 08 at 04:00 PM

KJ

*I had the pleasure of getting to know Marilyn at our weekly Bible classes at my church.
(She also grew up with my mother as lifelong friends)
I always enjoyed the hymns we sang together as she accompanied us on the piano.
I will miss her talent, positive attitude and strong faith.
Such a sweet lady who shall be greatly missed.*

Kandi Jackson - March 08 at 10:11 PM

LL

“ Love, Randy and Linda purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Marilyn Lee Swonder.



Love, Randy and Linda - March 07 at 08:07 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Marilyn Lee Swonder.



March 07 at 07:50 PM

MM

“ Molly Meehan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marilyn Lee Swonder.



Molly Meehan - March 07 at 04:48 PM