



Carol E. Wendel

December 24, 1941 - September 10, 2025

Carol E. Wendel, age 83, of Schaller, Iowa died September 10, 2025 at Methodist Manor in Storm Lake.

Funeral services will take place Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Schaller, Iowa. Burial will be in the Schaller Cemetery. Visitation will be held Monday, September 15, 2025 from 4-7:00 p.m. at the CHURCH. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Schaller is in charge of the arrangements.

Carol Elaine Peters Wendel was born December 24, 1941 in Denison, Iowa to Leslie and Beulah Darling Peters. She was baptized January 18, 1942 in Deloit, Iowa. The family settled in Galva, Iowa around 1949. She confirmed her faith at St. John Lutheran Church in Galva in 1955 and graduated from high school in 1959. While in school she was active in band and vocal music and was the accompanist for many groups. With only 6 months of piano lessons and following in the footsteps of her mother, Carol began playing the organ. Through the years she continued to play for several area churches.

On August 2, 1959 she was united in marriage to Ronald Wendel at St. John Lutheran Church in Galva. They made their home on the family farm northwest of Schaller and were blessed with three children...Daniel, Deborah, and Diane. Ron and Carol were members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in

Schaller. Carol was a longtime Sunday School teacher, organist, and member of the Ladies Aid where she held many offices. Carol was also a member of the Schaller library board and she and Ron were in charge of the citywide garage sales for many years.

In 1982 Ron and Carol began refinishing old trunks. Soon Carol was known as the “Trunk Lady” and gave many talks on their hobby at county fairs, nursing homes and ladies groups. Through the years they did over 1000 trunks that are scattered all over the United States.

In 2006 Carol, her daughter Deb, and granddaughter Erica traveled to Pasadena as Petal Pushers and helped decorate the Lutheran Hour float for the Rose parade. This was the only year they had a downpour of rain during the parade, but made it an experience never to be forgotten. When son Dan became an auctioneer, she helped set up the auctions and became a ring man. Her greatest joy was being with her family and babysitting her great-grandchildren.

In 1997, Ron and Carol left their farm life behind and moved to town. They purchased the Jim and Peg Currie house in Schaller which was the perfect home for them. They opened their home to many visitors that needed a “home away from home”. Among the most memorable guests was Katie Stamm Irk, Miss America of 2009. Carol became known as Grandma Carol to her grandchildren’s friends and during her trip to Europe with a group of students from Nevada, Iowa along with two of her grandchildren, she came home with 16 new “grandkids”.

She was preceded in death by her husband Ron in 2013, her parents Les and Beulah Peters, mother-in-law and father-in-law Lorence and Lydia Wendel, sister and brother-in-law Joan and Harold Beermann, sister Kathy Rasmussen, and sister-in-law Mary Peters.

Survivors are son: Dan (Heather) Wendel of Spencer, Iowa; daughter: Deb (Rick) Willer of Schaller; daughter: Diane (Jim) Bengtson of Nevada, Iowa; grandchildren: Vince (Nikki) Wendel; Tara (Mark) Barger; Tamara Jackson, all of Springfield, Missouri; Jeremy Lambert of Schaller; Jordan Wendel (Haley) of Indianapolis, Indiana; Angie (Jeff) Lussman of Storm Lake; Erica (Nick) Fassler of Alta; Becky (Ryan) Wuebker of Galva; Brian Bengtson of Urbandale; Brenna Bengtson of Des Moines; great-grandchildren: Ella and Owen Fry; Evren Barger; Ty and Jax Wendel; Charlie Irman; Roan Jackson; Olivia and Hayden Fassler; Adysen, Easton, and Braxton Lussman; Peyton, Avery and Brody Wuebker; Brendan and Brooklyn Weller; brother: Richard Peters of Dallas, Texas; and many nieces and nephews.

Cemetery Details

Schaller Cemetery -- Schaller

200th Street
Schaller, IA 51053

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **15**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church -- Schaller
402 E Third
Schaller, IA 51053

Funeral Service

SEP **16**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church -- Schaller
402 E Third
Schaller, IA 51053

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol E. Wendel.

September 16, 2025 at 08:36 AM



“ Carol was a great woman. We would always have nice talks over the fence about things that were going on. I really missed that. We always told her to slow down that Rome wasn't built in a day. She just chuckled and keep going. I'm really going to miss seeing her out and about. R.I.P. Carol....until we meet again.



JoAnn Spanier - September 16, 2025 at 02:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol E. Wendel.

September 15, 2025 at 09:40 PM



“ Solar Angel Statue to Send as Unique Sympathy Gift Remembrance was purchased for the family of Carol E. Wendel.



September 15, 2025 at 09:40 PM

MB

“ *Marlene Buffinton lit a candle in memory of Carol Wendel*



Marlene Buffinton - September 15, 2025 at 07:23 PM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - September 15, 2025 at 02:54 PM

LC

“ *Linda & Mitch Clauson purchased the Pretty Plea se for the family of Carol E. Wendel.*



Linda & Mitch Clauson - September 15, 2025 at 01:14 PM

Person icon

“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Carol E. Wendel.*



September 15, 2025 at 12:40 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol E. Wendel.

September 15, 2025 at 12:40 PM



“ Del&Denita Fassler purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Carol E. Wendel.



Del&Denita Fassler - September 13, 2025 at 08:17 AM



“ Charlotte Tripp purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Carol E. Wendel.



Charlotte Tripp - September 12, 2025 at 12:52 PM



“ Brent and Jenny Fassler purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Carol E. Wendel.



Brent and Jenny Fassler - September 11, 2025 at 08:00 PM



“ Brent and Jenny Fassler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol E. Wendel.

Brent and Jenny Fassler - September 11, 2025 at 08:00 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Carol E. Wendel.* ”



September 11, 2025 at 05:19 PM