



## Joan Helene Spevak

January 21, 1930 - January 4, 2014

Joan Helene (Koch) Spevak, 83, died surrounded by her loving family at Hospice of Northwest Ohio on January 4, 2014. She was born January 21, 1930 to Charles T. and Edna Bartelt Koch in Toledo, Ohio. A 1947 graduate of Edward Drummond Libbey High School in Toledo, she studied Education at the University of Toledo. Joan married Wilfred Spevak in 1949, starting a marital adventure which continued for 57 years. Joan was a dedicated full time mother and cherished participating in her childrens' endeavors including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, parent teacher organizations, mothers clubs, Sunday School, chauffeur, and countless other activities. A lifelong devout member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Joan attended Trinity Lutheran School from 1934 until 1943, and was active at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church until moving to West Toledo in 1955. She was a member of Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church for 50 years, active in Choir, the Women's League, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Altar Guild, usher, numerous support services, and instrumental in the creation of Holy Cross Elementary School. Her most recent affiliation was with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Joan's greatest legacy to the families of northwest Ohio was the foundation of one of the first child day care programs in the Toledo area. Many thousands of children and families have known first hand her trustworthy and loving nature, generosity of spirit, and commitment to integrity. Joan and Wilfred founded Holy Cross Day Care in 1974 and the program continues to this day (now named Love 'n Learn Educational Child Care). She worked tirelessly to

ensure that the needs of children and parents were met each and every day. Joan continued to provide support to the children and families for forty years, instilling a sense of confidence and trust in working parents. Joan started Holy Cross Day Care in the basement of the church, using Army cots for naptime and peanut butter and jelly for the first lunch. The program grew from a first day enrollment of four children to over 100 children in the first year, largely due to Joan's tireless dedication to and love for the children and families in her care. Joan is survived by her daughter, Connie Spevak (Dan Bach); son, Clint Spevak; grandchildren, Catherine and Clayton Spevak; brother, Charles F. Koch (Margaret); nieces, Sandy Seelman (Vic), Bonnie Bartlett, Karen Koch Exton (Thomas), Lynne Spevak Menke (Andrew), and Teri Spevak; nephews, Gene Campbell (Debby), Bill Campbell, Michael Koch, Allen Bartlett (Sue), and Guy Spevak. She was preceded in death by her Husband of 57 years, Wilfred Spevak; sisters, Barbara Bartlett Bohnert, Pamela Campbell and Imogene Koch. Friends are invited to visit Friday, January 10, 2014 from 2:00pm to 8:00pm at Ansberg-West Funeral Home, 3000 Sylvania Avenue, Toledo. Services will be held at 1:30 pm Saturday, January 11, 2014 at Ansberg-West. Interment in Ottawa Hills Memorial Park. The family requests that memorial contributions be made to Gloria Dei Lutheran Church or Hospice of Northwest Ohio. Online condolences may be left for Joan's family at [www.ansberg-west.com](http://www.ansberg-west.com)

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ My sincere condolences to all of the family of Mrs Spevak. My daughter Sarah (40) and my son Eric (39) attended Holy Cross and she and her husband had an excellent program. Sarah ended up in kindergarten there with Mrs Sandy Fraker and my son Eric was in the four year old class with Miss Sue. I have only fond memories of the wonderful environment and the teaching that was done while my children attended Holy Cross before moving on to Blessed Sacrament School. God Bless you all and know that your parents are not forgotten even by those of us who knew them so long ago.

---

**Bonnie Miller - bsmiller49@yahoo.com bsmiller49@yahoo.com** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DR

“ I am sorry that I was unable to visit with you two this weekend. The vagaries of getting old caught up with me and I was unable to leave the house. I would express my sympathies on the passing of your mother. Your parents certainly raised two fine children and left their mark on the community. May the memories of their love and devotion to family and children in their care be forever in your hearts!

---

**Dr Richard St John - rstjohn@bex.net rstjohn@bex.net** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CT

“ My sincere sorrow at the loss of your mother and grandmother cannot be properly spoken. Please remember her best times with you. Love Charlotte

---

**Charlotte Tarwacki** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LK

“ *Connie and Family: We are so sorry to hear of the Passing of your Mom!! May she rest in Gods Loving Arms!!*

-----  
**Laura (Woolaver) Van Karsen** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TT

“ *Catherine and Clayton, we are sorry for your loss of your Grandmother. We love you, Mom and Kelvin*

-----  
**Theresa and Kelvin - theresajean1@yahoo.com theresajean1@yahoo.com** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ *We are so blessed to have enjoyed the great joy, love and kindness left behind by Mrs. through Love n' Learn. Her sweet smile and curls will be missed! Thank you Connie for carrying on your mom's love and passion; my children are all the better because of it. Love and prayers for strength and peace.*

-----  
**Stephanie, Giavanna and Gabriel Harris** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BO

“ *Mrs. was an amazing force! I pray that her life is celebrated for she touched so many people and made a huge impact on the hearts of young people. Connie I am sorry for your family's loss.*

-----  
**Beth Oster** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ *Dear Connie I am so sorry to hear of this sad event. I loved working at Love and Learn and it was a joy seeing your Mom every morning greeting the kids and helping them with breakfast. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

-----  
**Lisa Johnston - celticfemale@bex.net celticfemale@bex.net** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *What a hole left in Toledo' s childcare community. Mrs. Was the best employer that I was ever so lucky to serve under . She treated everyone with the utmost respect and love. She was a bright and shining light to many. Now her light shines in the heavens for eternity...love you, Mrs.*

---

**miss pam** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ *I will always remember Mrs fondly and strongly believe the loving care I received at Holy Cross helped shaped me into the person I am today. Mrs was always a kind and generous presence that taught us how to treat others and ourselves with respect. I was honored to have my daughter attend Love N Learn and am quite positive that she is excelling in Kindergarten now because of the foundation she received there. Our entire family will miss her but we know that we are better people because of knowing her. Much love, Mrs and we thank you for the love you showed to all of us.*

---

**Elizabeth** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *Clint, you have our deapest sympathy for the loss of your mother. May God Rest Her Soul. Jeff & Kathy Willets*

---

**Jeff Willets** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

"F

“ *(Teacher at Holy Cross - 1979 - 1990) Thanks for your dedication to children and the years of precious memories. Rest in peace. Love, Sherry*

---

**"Miss Sherry" (Slifko - Filby)** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ My daughters Erica and Alexa went to Holy Cross and then Love and Learn from the time they were 2 1/2 & 4 1/2 until they started grade school and always received the very best care by Mr. and Mrs. Spevak and Connie. They were wonderful people and I'm sure she is going to be missed terribly. Our prayers go out to the family and may she rest peacefully in heaven with the angels.

---

**The Herman Family** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ We are so saddened by your loss. Our family and children are so blessed to have known Mrs. We are confident that her spirit lives on in the lives of the little people she has touched over the years. The legacy she leaves behind in the generations she has impacted is a tribute to her years of diligent service to those she has loved and who love because of her. Ms. Connie, you are such a blessing and honor to your mother. May her spirit continue to live through you and the continued care and love you share with the young people of our community. All our love, Jason, Stacie, Justus & Selah

---

**The Moss Family** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ My son Benjamin Bohnett attended Holy Cross Daycare from age 4 thru 3rd grade. I worked full-time and was a single parent. It was a blessing for Ben and myself to be in such a nurturing atmosphere!!! He still speaks fondly of his days at Holy Cross!!! We are forever grateful for your parents and what they provided!!!!

---

**Connie Faehnle** - February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ Mrs. Spevak was a wonderful, caring, loving woman; may her memory be eternal. We placed our two boys in her care in 1977 when they were 2 and 4 years old. They were there for 6 years and during the time, Mrs. Speval was like a second mother to them. She will be missed by all who knew her. Our sincere condolences to all her family. Bill and Tina Papavasiloopoulos

---

**Bill & Tina Papavasiloopoulos - tina6855@verizon.net tina6855@verizon.net -**  
February 01, 2018 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Mrs you were always a smile at the desk and a joke normally right behind it . I love you and will miss you ! May your pain be gone and you rest in peace. HE now has a special person to look after the children ! Always in my thoughts !

---

**Mary Staler - luvunana@hotmail.com luvunana@hotmail.com -** February 01,  
2018 at 12:00 AM