



Sigrid G. Grahl

November 15, 1938 - April 23, 2026

Sigrid Gertrud Grahl (Gerber) of Eden, went to be with the Lord, on 23 April 2026. She was born on 15 November 1938, in Merschwitz, East Germany (now Poland), a daughter of Wilhelm and Gertrud (Fiebig) Gerber. She was one of 16 children, 12 of whom survived, 7 boys and 5 girls. On 03 June 1960 she married the love of her life, Philip J. Grahl at the Assembly of God Church, Fond du Lac, WI.

After fleeing to West Germany, the family settled in Straubing, Bavaria, Germany. At age 14, Sigrid moved alone to Munich Germany where she had to begin working full-time so money could be sent back to her parents as they navigated post WWII hardships. The boss at her first job told her he would only take her on if she cut off her braids because she looked too young to work. She maintained that look throughout her life. Later she began an apprenticeship in a Hotel and Restaurant Business Management School at St. Augustine restaurant, Munich, where she graduated in 1957. When she moved back home to Straubing, she worked as a waitress and in 1959, she met a G.I. named Philip. Love hit them both at first sight because 8 months later, she immigrated to the US and got married within 3 days of arrival.

On 06 December, 1963 she became a Naturalized Citizen of the United States. She drove tractor on the farm, picked stones and helped in many ways - activities she grew up doing in Germany. However, she wanted to add to the household via wages and took her first job for \$1 per day as a waitress at a truck stop along HWY 45. One dollar for 8 hours of work wasn't cutting it and

so began a time of searching for the right fit. Her first task was learning English. She tackled the language barrier by reading the funnies and Ann Landers columns in the newspapers which were delivered to the farm. The job I best remember was her being a Stanley Brush Saleswoman. Unfortunately, she gave away more product than she sold so had to quit. She also worked at the canning company in Eden and had many stories of her time there. Finally, she decided to go to LPN school at Moraine Park Technical Institute. We were all in school at the time and Mom was working in the day and attending night school. She cried many a night because the words were so hard for her to speak and understand. She used to ask me to read the flash cards to her as she prepared for a final exam. There were test failures and class redo's but she persisted and in 1979 she graduated!

She worked at the Fond du Lac Mental Health Care Center, St. Joseph's Convent in Campbellsport and Hope Nursing in Lomira, to name but a few. She finally quit nursing at age 75.

Inbred with a strong work ethic, Mom didn't just have one iron in the fire! She became a landlord of several rental properties and if that weren't enough, in 1984 she upped the multi-tasking ante by giving tours of Europe! As a travel guide and director, she was the best. Pop would go sometimes and she always added the personal touch. Even taking the tour group to her home town and meeting some of the family there. I have no idea how she managed the stress and work! She never let her foot off the gas! Sometimes she gave 4 tours to Europe while working part-time as an LPN and continually being a landlord until her passing AND being the best loving Mother and Friend a child could have.

The effort she gave to work, she gave in equal measure of love to her family. Back in 1960, prior to her coming to the US, she attended a Billy Graham Crusade in Germany and there, gave her heart to the Lord. I cannot express the strength of a Mother's prayers for her children. Growing up, each evening we would read the Word as a family and then go on our "prayer bones" and pray. When troubles came, as happens in life, there was Mom and Pop

praying over us, for us and with us. No matter where we went in life, to school far from home, to war and back, and for the grandchildren and great grandchildren as they came, Mom would pray for them. Many was the time my Mother couldn't sleep and she would come downstairs and open her German Bible and read and pray. In the quite when folks didn't see. Her Bible is held together with packing tape now – so often did she use it. She had our backs when it came to praying for all of her family. While the void of her passing will be felt until our own home journey, we know she is with the Lord and joined in heaven with her beloved husband of 65 years, her oldest daughter Pam and youngest son Wayne. I was blessed to know that on the first day of her final journey home, she had a vision of Pop. She was happy to see him again and looked forward to being with him.

She is survived by her son John and wife Tami of Eden, her daughter Ingrid of Fond du Lac, 14 Grandchildren: Scott, Jason, Stevie, Joanna, and Jeremy, Jayde, Gabriella, Alivia, Peter and Ahava, Simon, Anja, Janine and Jack, 30 Great-Grandchildren, 1 Great-Great-Grandchild and one on the way, her sister Rosa Barrett and her two children Johanna and Johnny and multiple additional nieces and nephews.

Proceeded in death are her parents, Wilhelm and Gertrud, 11 siblings and two children.

Special thanks to Compassus Hospice and Home Helpers staff for their guidance, help and many kindnesses.

VISITATION: Kurki Funeral Chapel, 31 E. Division Street, Fond du Lac on Friday, 01 May, 2026, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Visitation will continue at Celebration Assembly, 825 Fond du Lac Ave, Fond du Lac on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. after which the service will begin.

SERVICES: Begin at 10:00 a.m. at Celebration Assembly of God Church followed by burial at the Empire Cemetery, town of Empire.

Cemetery Details

Empire Cemetery

Eden, WI

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 1. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kurki Funeral Chapel & Crematory
31 E. Division Street
Fond du Lac, WI 54935
(920) 921-4420
info@kurkifuneralchapel.com
<https://kurkifuneralchapel.com>

Visitation

MAY 2. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Celebration Assembly Church
825 Fond du Lac Avenue
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Funeral Service

MAY 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Celebration Assembly Church
825 Fond du Lac Avenue
Fond du Lac, WI 54935

Tribute Wall

WB

“ You have my sympathy. I didn't see the obituary until now. Otherwise I definitely, definitely would of gone to the visitation.

I traveled to Germany for the very first time on Sigrid's tour. That was a memorable trip.

Wayne Bauman

Wayne Bauman - June 03 at 03:17 PM

LH

“ I am an RN & worked 3rd shift at the Mental Health Center in the mid 70's. Sigrid was my “Right Arm”. I don't know what I would have done without her! What a Super, Great Woman. May she rest in peace! ❤️🌹

LaRae Harbridge - May 01 at 07:46 PM

LW

“ Ingrid and family:
Regrettably, I am unable to fly to Wisconsin for your Mom's service. Know that I will be there in spirit. My sympathies to you, John and entire family in times of sorrow for your dearly loved Mom. When I first met your Mom and Dad, both welcomed me with open arms. Since that time, I have felt as though I've become a part of your family. I miss Sigrid and Phil, but I know that they are together once again with our Lord. My prayers to the Grahl family.
Lovey Williams

Lovey J. Williams - April 30 at 11:29 PM

KC

Dear Ingrid, John and family of Sigrid, I am so sorry for the loss of your mom. I loved your Dad and Mom so much and have many wonderful memories of them. God Bless and bring you comfort at this sad time. What a wonderful day that will be when we all are reunited God Bless You all 🕊️💜🕊️

kathleen Carlson - May 02 at 04:07 PM

LL

“ Ingrid and John, I wish that I could be there to celebrate the life and faith of your dear Mother. My childhood and teen years are full of memories with your family and of the beautiful home that Sigrid created for you. I remember reading magical fairytale books with her, watching her cook white sausage for supper, and wearing authentic German dirndl dresses that she lent to Barb and me for a high school performance. Sigrid was a gracious, lovely woman who loved the Lord and her family! Praying for you during this time and also rejoicing that Sigrid has a new mind and body and is reunited with precious family in God’s presence.

Lynnette (Guell) Lozoya

Lynnette Lozoya - April 28 at 12:54 PM

CR

“ Ingrid, may you and your family find comfort in "the peace that passes all understanding" during this time. What a WONDERFUL gift of having a Mother who was a faithful servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a great example of how to care for family and living life with purpose! Craig



Craig - April 27 at 04:55 PM

GZ

“ Kathy and I send our deepest condolences to the family at this time of loss. Many, many good memories of both Phil and Sigrid and the family. We grew up in Fond du lac and attended the same Assembly of God church as the Grahl's. We also took the trip to Germany with Sigrid and got to meet some of her family. One could pattern their life around the Godly values that were present in the family and am proud to have known them. The great promise in the Bible is that as born again Christians there is only a small time separation until we are again united with Christ. I am looking forward to seeing them again in Heaven with no physical problems, no death or sadness. God bless the Grahl family. Gary and Kathy Zielicke

Gary and Kathy Zielicke - April 27 at 04:54 PM

JB

“ We worked together at the Healthcare Center. I remember when she was going on one of her tours. She brought back a cut glass heart container for me. I still have it and think of her.



Joan Brown - April 27 at 03:54 PM

GJ

“ John and Tami, I pray God wraps his arms around you and holds you close during this loss of John's Mom. May you find God's peace and rest in the coming weeks and months. I pray that you find encouragement in His word. Prayers for all of you.
Gail Marie Jozefowski

Gail Jozefowski - April 27 at 12:39 PM

DN

My prayers for Ingrid and her family. I used to work at the healthcare center with her, and I remember her leaving to do her tours. Rest in peace. Debra Nell

Debra Nell - April 28 at 10:09 AM

CR

“ Ingrid, may you and your family find comfort in "the peace that passes all understanding" during this time. What a WONDERFUL gift of having a Mother who was a faithful servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, a great example of how to care for family and living life with purpose! Craig

Craig - April 27 at 11:43 AM