



Aimee VandenElzen

June 28, 1967 - November 6, 2024

Aimee Jolene VandenElzen, 57, passed away peacefully at home November 6th, 2024, after a brief, but hard battle with cancer. In her final days she was comforted in knowing she would be walking with Jesus.

Aimee was an amazing wife, mother, and friend. She married Michael VandenElzen on October 5, 1991, and she rocked her vows and loved him until the end. Her memory will live on in her children and their children will hear stories of Nonna VandenElzen. Those lucky enough to have been touched by her in this life know just how wonderful, kind, compassionate, and "good people" she was. She always made it a priority to remind people "who you are, and whose you are," making it very clear her first love is Jesus. No matter who you are, just remember she loves you more.

Aimee was a beloved member of the community and church. She volunteered her time with the confirmation candidates at St. Francis de Sales. Her Auntie taught her how to make rosaries and she carried on this tradition by making rosaries for family, friends, and anyone who wanted one. Everyone who knew her was touched by her light and her fiery passion for Jesus. As part of her faith journey, Aimee's dream was to walk the Camino de Santiago and visit the Holy Land.

Always looking to expand her knowledge, Aimee loved to read. When reading

in her chair she would often be accompanied by her cat, Maggie, perched atop the chair next to her head. When her children were younger, she would often read to them and in her last few weeks she would dedicate time for people to read to her. She loved golfing whenever she could and frequently golfed with June. Aimee also loved playing cards, especially Euchre and Cribbage (she will forever be the blue pegs). Like a true Detroit native, she loved watching the Lions, in good times and bad, especially with Aidan and "football buddy" Uncle. Aimee enjoyed going out and getting a coffee, especially at Kin. She would invite others to meet for coffee or pick up favorite brews while out shopping with Marianne. Despite Maggie being Mom's cat, Dominic always made sure she was well taken care of.

She is survived by her husband, Mike VandenElzen; her four kids: Juniper (Taylor), Dominic (Morgan), Aidan, and Marianne VandenElzen; her sister, Audrey Gentilia; and her cat, Maggie.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Sam and Mary Ann Gentilia; father-in-law, Orville VandenElzen; sisters-in-law, Jo Ann VandenElzen and Mary Guns; brother-in-law, Jim VandenElzen; and beloved, Kathy Muller.

There will be a visitation at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th Street, Holland MI 49423, on Friday, November 15th, from 4:00pm-8:00pm with a rosary service starting at 6:30pm.

A Catholic funeral mass will be held Saturday, November 16th, at 10:00 am at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, 171 W. 13th Street, Holland MI 49423, with a brief visitation preceding the mass from 9:00-9:45am.

Memorial donations may be made to:

Catholic Central High School Band

319 Sheldon Blvd SE, Grand Rapids MI 49503

Corpus Christi Catholic School
12100 Quincy St., Holland MI 49424

Encounter Ministries
730 Rickett Rd., Brighton MI 48116.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **15**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home
315 East 16th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Prayers & Rosary

NOV **15**. 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM (ET)

Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home
315 E 16th St
Holland, MI 49423
(616) 392-2306
info@langelandsterenberg.com
<http://langelandsterenberg.com/>

Visitation

NOV **16**. 9:00 AM - 9:45 AM (ET)

Saint Francis de Sales Catholic Church
171 W. 13th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Funeral Mass

NOV **16**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church
171 W. 13th Street
Holland, MI 49423

Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Aimee VandenElzen*



Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes - November 11, 2024 at 08:12 PM

JE

I had the honor of knowing Mike and Aimee through their children. We had many interactions at Lakeshore Little Peoples Place and our children developed friendships during their infant through Preschool years. Aimee will be greatly missed and my Prayers go out to Mike and the kids as they grieve this tremendous loss.

Jenine Elzinga - November 14, 2024 at 12:50 PM

JC

Beautiful video of a wonderful lady living a very blessed life!

Jodi Chakravarty - November 14, 2024 at 04:06 PM

CC

Aimee was an amazing woman. Always had kind words no matter the circumstance. I will miss you Aimee and I know Jesus gave you his very best wings, for he knows you will use them wisely.

Catherine Carpenter - November 14, 2024 at 04:21 PM

CP

“ I had to take some time to get my thoughts together to write this. I hope the family reads these. I texted Aimee a month ago just wanting to get in touch with an old friend. After no reply I looked online for contact information. And was shocked. My name is Chris Provenzano. I am a friend of Aimees. We joked I was her brother. I stood up in her wedding to Mike.

Aimee was my best friend in high school. We started in Trade & Tech at Lincoln High School. Aimee was so damn intelligent and we challenged each other in that class so much, we took 1st and 2nd place in drafting (state and regional). When she went to Michigan Tech University she'd come home and we would have a blast. When I went upto visit , I came home with stitches in my head from broom ball she came home with a job at Prince Corporation.

We would go out, I was the only guy surrounded five girls going to Canada and it was so much fun Aimee made crazy fun, every trip that we went on just a blast. I loved her in a way that you know a brother loves a sister. I wish I kept in touch more but sometimes life gets in the way. Last time I called her it was by accident. I was on my way to the dentist and I hit the wrong button on the phone. I told her I'd call her back after the dentist.

Aimee is the type person everyone needs now. A teacher, counselor and a friend. I say "is" because she's truly in my heart for ever.

Chris Provenzano - March 01, 2025 at 08:21 AM

MK

“ Mike and family, I am sorry I couldn't stick around tonight long enough to get to talk with you. I was overwhelmed, but not surprised, by the number of old and now new friends there for your family. Aimee was outgoing, welcoming, and always there with an open, honest and welcome/needed word of guidance. She was one of the first people I met when I started at Prince Corporation as a night shift CAD guy. She was a valued resource as I was making my way at Prince/JCI. A vivid memory was one Fat Tuesday when she brought back fresh Paczki from Hamtramck. It was great to see the both of you last March at the GR Bourbon Fest. I'll raise a glass to you both tonight! Aimee was one of the best and ill be missed. Well done good and faithful servant!

Mark Kadzban - November 15, 2024 at 08:33 PM

DB

“ Mike and Family, So sorry to hear of your loss of Aimee. AJ and I send you all our condolences and will keep you all in our prayers.

AJ and Debbie Blazek

Debbie Blazek - November 15, 2024 at 03:46 PM

NM

“ Nnamdi Maduagwu purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



Nnamdi Maduagwu - November 14, 2024 at 11:51 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



November 14, 2024 at 01:37 PM



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

November 14, 2024 at 01:37 PM



“ Love, Tony and Liz Peters planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Aimee VandenElzen.

Love, Tony and Liz Peters - November 13, 2024 at 12:01 PM



“ Love, Tony and Liz Peters purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



Love, Tony and Liz Peters - November 13, 2024 at 12:01 PM



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

November 13, 2024 at 09:37 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



November 13, 2024 at 09:37 AM



“ Vaughn & Suzy Aikens purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



Vaughn & Suzy Aikens - November 13, 2024 at 09:13 AM



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

November 12, 2024 at 08:14 PM

RD

“ Aimee was my first boss at my very first job as a young, green engineer at JCI. It wasn't until later, when I had more experience and perspective that I realized how lucky I was to have Aimee as my first leader.

Aimee saw the best in people, and encouraged me to do the same. I remember listening to Aimee's end of a tough phone call with a frustrated co-worker. The phone call started with demands and accusations from the co-worker. Aimee calmly repeated back to them what they were asking for to make sure she understood, she asked thoughtful questions. She diffused the anger so quickly, and turned it into a productive conversation. I took notes.

Aimee was a great example to me of what a woman in engineering and a woman in leadership could look like. She inspired and encouraged me.

Aimee was a wholehearted cheerleader of my career, my overall well-being, and of my faith journey. She made me feel seen, and like I had something to offer the world when I was young and inexperienced and still figuring many things out.

Aimee continued to be a friend and coach up until she died. I'm so grateful to have known her.

Mike and kids – you are in my prayers, thinking of you often.

Rachel Dekker - November 12, 2024 at 12:18 PM

DV

I found Aimee to be so much fun to talk with. I could have talked to her all day long. Always thinking out of the box. I missed her when she left Yangfeng. Rachel D. I remember you too - a very smart young engineer. Deb V.W.

Deb VanWoerkom - November 12, 2024 at 09:06 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



November 12, 2024 at 12:17 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



November 12, 2024 at 11:58 AM



“ Leisa T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Aimee VandenElzen.

Leisa T. - November 12, 2024 at 11:50 AM

LV

“ Aimee was one of the most genuine people I have ever known. She was a straight shooter. She called things like she saw them. She could always find humor in any situation and was good at breaking the ice or lightening the mood with her unique perspective. She was deep in her faith, unapologetically so. And I LOVED that about her. She was a comfort to talk to, always offering optimism and strength and prayers. I will continue to draw strength and guidance for how to live my life from all the years of memories I have with her. Memories I will cherish forever. Funny how you never know how you affect someone's life, or the person they are, with every experience you have with them. Aimee left her mark on all of us. She has influenced me to be a kinder, gentler, calmer, more accepting person. She always had advice and a way to help me move forward, no matter what challenge I was facing. She is a true disciple of the Lord. She is an amazing soul. A beautiful person. An inspiration to all of us to always see the positive and the beauty in any situation. God is lucky to have her back home with Him. May God bless her and her family in every way possible. We will meet again one day, my friend, but until then, RIP Aimee, and may you live for eternity in the light and glory of God. 🙏💙

Laura Vitale - November 12, 2024 at 11:36 AM

SH

“ Steve and Abbe Hildebrandt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Aimee VandenElzen.

Steve and Abbe Hildebrandt - November 12, 2024 at 09:53 AM

SH

“ Steve and Abbe Hildebrandt purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



Steve and Abbe Hildebrandt - November 12, 2024 at 09:53 AM



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

November 12, 2024 at 08:02 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



November 12, 2024 at 08:02 AM

AL

“ Aimee was truly a beautiful soul. She believed in me from the very beginning of my career, and her encouragement never wavered throughout the time we worked together. Over office conversations and coffee at Kin, Aimee showed me what it means to strive, to love fiercely, and to push for a better future for women in engineering. I'm grateful to have known such a passionate, intelligent, and talented human who paved the way for those just starting out. Aimee, your impact lives on in the hearts of every life you touched. Until we meet again. ❤️

Abigail Leigh - November 11, 2024 at 08:50 PM

FR

“ Family Rangel purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



Family Rangel - November 11, 2024 at 04:27 PM

GE

“ Georgia purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



Georgia - November 11, 2024 at 01:35 PM



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

November 11, 2024 at 11:37 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.



November 11, 2024 at 11:37 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Aimee VandenElzen.*



November 11, 2024 at 11:09 AM



“ *Marsha H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Aimee VandenElzen.*

Marsha H. - November 10, 2024 at 08:19 PM