



## Donald Van Dommelen

October 21, 1940 - November 9, 2023

Donald Van Dommelen, 82, of Holland, MI went home to his Savior on November 9, 2023. Don and his twin sister Donna were born on the family farm November 21, 1940, the children of Frederick and Dora (Boere') Van Dommelen. Following his graduation from Holland High School, Don started working for Haworth as a paint sprayer, and later took a job at Parke-Davis/Warner-Lambert, where he repaired machines and mechanical equipment, until his retirement.

On June 16, 1962, Don married Janet Bell. They established residence in Holland, MI where they raised their four daughters. Don was a longtime member of Immanuel Church. Recreationally, he enjoyed playing fast pitch softball, where he was both a pitcher and a first baseman. He was also an avid bowler and enjoyed participating in his Monday night league. Coffee was a big part of his life and he could often be found enjoying a cup of coffee with friends or on his own. Spending time with his family and friends was a favorite pastime as well. If you knew Don, you knew he was an avid Michigan State University fan. His love for MSU dated back to the airing of an MSU football game on his first transistor radio. Traditions were a major part of Don's life. Whether it was 40 years of Tulip Time involvement, the celebration of a birthday, an annual trip to Mackinac Island, making peanut brittle, or getting ready for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, he embraced each tradition with joy and enthusiasm. Don emulated pride for all of his children

and grandchildren. He established unique connections with each grandchild and spent many hours attending events, having conversations, and praying for each one.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter Sandra Van Dommelen, brother Tim Van Dommelen, brother Bob Van Dommelen, twin sister Donna Lott, brother-in-law Terry Grotler, and his great friend Jim "Pa" Frans.

He is survived by Janet, his loving wife of 61 years; their daughters: Debra Barfield, Karen Brown, Sharon Boyce-Baczkowski & Dan Baczkowski, Kathy & Kevin Ridlington; grandchildren & great grandchild: Caleb & Katie Brown, Chelsea & Ryan Dauer, Josiah Brown & Lindsay Hale, Noah Brown, Matthew & Jenna Brown (Clara), Natalie Boyce, Timothy Boyce, Sarah Brown, Margaret Boyce, George Boyce, Hannah Ridlington, & Charlie Ridlington; Siblings: Loie Grotler, David Van Dommelen, Paul & Cindy Van Dommelen, Ruth & Lane Tharp, and extended family members.

A memorial service will be held at 1:00 pm, November 18, 2023, at Langeland-Sterenbergh Funeral Home, 315 E. 16th Street, Holland MI 49423.

Visitation will be 4:00-6:30 pm, Friday, November 17, at the funeral home.

Private interment will be in Pilgrim Home Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Hospice.

Hospice at Trillium Woods. [www.faithhospicecare.org](http://www.faithhospicecare.org) [www.langelandsterenbergh.com](http://www.langelandsterenbergh.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 17. 4:00 AM - 6:30 PM (ET)

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

## Memorial Service

NOV 18. 1:00 PM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald Van Dommelen*



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**Langeland-Sterenberg Yntema Funeral Homes** - November 17, 2023 at 10:59 AM

KB

“Dad,

*Thank you for bringing us to church. You were very punctual, and at 8:50, let us know we were late, when church started at 9:30. You read your Bible every morning at the kitchen table. You loved celebrating birthdays with a cake from Zeeland Bakery, and always loved the corner piece because it had the most frosting. You woke us up by tickling our toes. On Christmas Eve, just after we had quieted down for sleep, you walked down the hallway saying, ho ho ho, another present for Karen, As we got older, you picked out the best stocking stuffers...little bottles of professional shampoo, brushes, and other thoughtful surprises. You made the best “gobble, gobble, gobble sound at Thanksgiving. You loved our friends, and loved teasing them. When one of our friends was riding her bike down the street, you ran to catch up with her to tell her “your back wheels are turning”. You were a competitive jr. High boys basketball coach, super fast softball pitcher, and came to my boys basketball games, 4 boys worth of football games, and Sarah’s track events. You loved the Detroit Lions, and loved sharing your thoughts on their playing...in their good and not so good years. You loved Michigan State, and loved having their fight song be your ring chime. Whenever your phone rang, especially in a crowd, you turned up the volume and let the phone ring loudly, for all to hear. You helped me move to my first teaching job in Miami, Fl. I loved sitting in the garage with you, while you were fixing the car. You always asked me how to fix the car, and when you were done, you said, I knew you could fix it, Karen. I’m so thankful we had good memories, even in your last months. We went to Panera for your favorite lunch. Sat outside quietly together in the hot sun at your assisted living. Our last car trip was a gift...just 2 days before your stroke. You loved seeing the sparkly water at the beach, loved seeing downtown, and the post office. You loved ordering a Tommy Turtle at Captain Sundae and a Senior coffee at Mc Donald’s. In your last days, you shared your love for Jesus, your thankfulness for His forgiveness of sins, your desire for all to know Jesus, and your desire to be where Jesus was. I am so thankful for all of these memories. Thankful also, that you are now in Heaven, with Jesus,*

*made whole, and where there is no sin or suffering. Thankful too, that one day, because of Jesus, I will see you again. I love you, Dad. Karen*

**Karen Brown** - November 17, 2023 at 12:49 PM

KH

“*Kristen H. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Van Dommelen.*”

**Kristen H.** - November 16, 2023 at 02:44 PM



“*Your Light Shines* was purchased for the family of Donald Van Dommelen.



November 15, 2023 at 06:37 PM

ED

“*Eye Surgery Center of North Dallas* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Van Dommelen.

**Eye Surgery Center of North Dallas** - November 13, 2023 at 12:22 PM



“*Days of Sunshine Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Donald Van Dommelen.



November 13, 2023 at 12:22 PM

KM

“ Don use to come in where I work to get stuff for Janet, he was always such a joy and I loved seeing him and his smiling face. It got to be to where we would put together a goodie bag of chocolate for him to bring to Janet. He always talked about how much he loved Janet too and that it was so hard seeing her struggle. I’m thankful he was a part of my life and that I was blessed to know him.

Kristi Mutschler - November 12, 2023 at 07:59 PM

CG

Loved having Don as my Jr High youth group leader with Janet. He used to tease me and Lonette Bouman about the “golden arm” and scare us! He loved doing that! Mark loved playing fast pitch with him! What wonderful, sweet memories....and speaking of sweet memories, the Christmas candy boxes every year we got at Immanuel. We looked forward to that every year. See you in heaven, Don. Your love for the Lord was so evident and you shared that well!

Cheryl Geister - November 12, 2023 at 10:11 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald Van Dommelen.



November 12, 2023 at 05:36 PM

MB

“ Megan Bell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald Van Dommelen.

Megan Bell - November 11, 2023 at 05:30 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Van Dommelen.*



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November 11, 2023 at 05:30 PM



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

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November 11, 2023 at 05:02 PM