

Brenda Weigum

1/7/2025

+In the Name of Jesus+

Shanan and Pam, Tiffany, Steve, Dearest Family and All who grieve this day,

Stand up and yell hurrah for Hazen, let's all unite behind our team  
Stand up and yell hurrah for Hazen, as the team turns on the steam  
Oh how we'll cheer hurrah for Hazen, as the ball goes sailing in.

Yes, that is the Hazen High School fight song and no, no, I have not lost the use of my faculties. I know I am in Beulah – home of the Miners. But, as I thought of Brenda, we had occasion to sit at a few Miners sporting events over the years, events the Weigum grandsons were generally involved in. And Brenda – I supposed I should point out as a Hazen high grad – would, with a twinkle in her eye and a big grin, sing the Hazen fight song word-for-word.

Tiffany called me Friday with the news that her Mom had departed this vale of tears in death, and, quite honestly, I have thought a lot about Brenda since that call. Knowing her all these years, involved in her life as I was as her pastor, like you, Dearest Family and Friends, I have many memories, fond memories, good memories, of Brenda.

It's natural for me to think of Brenda as Dale's wife; honestly, it's hard not to. I really first met them and got to know them because Harold was still living with them and I would visit him in their home. And, we with that mischievousness humor of Brenda she would say, "He came with the house." They were quite pleasant to visit with. We would talk about baseball, the weather, they always asked me about my folks, and we just enjoyed each other's company.

The book of Proverbs reads, *He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD (18:22)*. How true those words were of my friend Dale! Brenda was his rib, created by God for him. On October 16, 1970, God brought her and Dale together to be husband and wife, so that they could give the joy, the happiness, the comfort, the mutual support that only a wife can give to her husband, and a husband to his wife. Through every joy and sorrow of earthly life, their love for one another never grew weary, but only grew and strengthened each day God gave them together. In this age of perversity in which we live, their marriage was a living witness to the good blessing that God intended marriage to be.

Shanan and Tiffany, you had a mother who loved you and treasured you as the gifts from God she knew you to be. She wiped your nose and the tears from your eyes, because love bears all things. She cared for you, supported you with all her heart.

Oh, then came the vocation of her life that I think Brenda was made for – **GRANDMA**. She loved her children, but let's be honest – she adorned those grandsons and little Micah. We saw how great the LOVE was in her heart when she was with them. Yup, she sang the Hazen fight song, I don't know if it was to embarrass you guys, motivate you, or just have a little fun, but there Grandma was – there for you. There was a reason every year at the Mercer County fair, Grandma was at the livestock barn because her children and grandchildren were there.

We heard Brenda's laughter often. I am glad the family pointed out in her obituary that her hands were rarely idle. I remember even when she would be hospitalized, I would enter her room to find her doing needlework, with a puzzle book right beside her bed.

*Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates,* we heard read from the book of Proverbs (31:31). Those words tell us the character of a noble Christian woman. How true those words were of Brenda! She was a woman of noble Christian virtue. As mom, grandma, great-grandma, aunt, good friend and neighbor Christ served us through her.

Which is why we are **sad** and tears fill our eyes this day. We grieve, but the Apostle Paul reminds us that we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Brenda had Jesus, and we have Jesus.

*The wages of sin is death,* the Bible teaches us (Ro 6:23). That means that all human flesh must die because we all sin. But, the GOOD NEWS of the Christian faith is that God did not create us to die; He did not want us to die. So, at Christmas, He gave us the perfect gift we needed – a Savior.

Christmas is all about God keeping His promise to send us a Savior. That's why the angel announced His birth, *"I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you us born this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord"* (Lk 2:10-11).

One of our Lutheran fathers made the wise observation that the wood of the cross is made from the wood of the manger of Bethlehem. I love that quote, because it reminds us the reason Jesus came was to take on our sin and the death of our sin as His very own. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter to the slaughter of the cross dying our death in our place, for us, as the wages of our sin. And because He did, we are forgiven.

He was crucified, died, and was buried. But the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, He rose to life again bringing life and immortality to light. Jesus said it this way, *"Because I live, you also will live"* (Jn 14:19).

Jesus gave His life and resurrection to Brenda in the new birth of her baptism on October 19, 1952. There, in the water and the Word, God forgave her all of her sins, rescued her from death and the devil, and gave her eternal salvation.

Our lives on this side of heaven are lived in the darkness of the valley of the shadow of death. As Brenda walked through that darkness, she walked by faith, her Shepherd Christ with her, His rod and His staff comforting her, cheering her. Even as her physical health failed and her cross grew ever heavier, she never failed to see her Savior's guiding hand.

This past Friday, January 3, 2025, Jesus came to take her to be with Him, that she would be forever in heaven with Jesus.

We heard the words of Revelation read,

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."*

For our departed sister, those words have come true. She dwells at home with God. He has wiped every tear from her eyes. For our mom, grandma, great-grandma, sister, aunt, friend, and neighbor, there is no more mourning, or crying, or pain, for the former things – those things that we are all too familiar with in earthly life – are no more. She rests from all her struggles in the bosom of Jesus. She dwells in the house of the Lord forever.

Shanan, Pam, Tiffany, Family, and all who mourn this day, just as Jesus was with your Mom all the days of her earthly life, he is with you in your grief and tears. His rod and His staff will comfort you, just as they comforted your mom and grandma all the days of her earthly life.

We grieve, but we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Brenda had the hope of Jesus, and so do we.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.