

8/17/02

Come Together to Remember

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- a. A gracious Lady who gave a lot of love because she was loved and dared to believe in love.
- b. The focus of her love as an adult was her beloved husband. This year on December 29 they would have celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. In the midst of grief we give thanks for almost 50 years of love and deep trust between her and her loved ones.
- c. Anyone who was privileged to be a witness could see the deep love which resonated between her and her daughter Karin. Yes, it is because you dared to love and treasure that you are hurting now. There is pain in love because you have lost one whom you deeply valued. You dared to open the depths of your need to love and be loved to each other and so there is great sorrow when the enemy of death comes and takes the one you love from you. The enemy tempts us to not love and thus avoid the pain of life and love, but neither your beloved wife, mother, sister and friend nor any of you ran from the pain of love to avoid sorrow. So you know a deep grief because you dared to really know a deep love. Then in that grief which dares to remember a beautiful and deep love hope is born. Hope is born in depths of grief which dares to remember the depths of love. Then grief begins to heal.

- d. We reach back to remember a little girl growing up in a loving home. Four sisters and a beloved brother with parents who dared to love in depth. And then at nineteen with the man who loved her to the end she ventured out to the big city daring to leave security to know more life.
- e. She had her values straight. She knew that to love God meant primarily to love her family, but her love reached out farther as she found a real place in the Auxiliary of Augustana. A lot of her time and talent was given here as she warmed others with a smile that always let you know she cared. There was never any doubt about that. Some doubt and fear in her, perhaps, as to whether or not she deserved to be loved, but never any doubt about the worth of those she loved. She knew how to have fun too, primarily in enjoying her family but also by participating in a Drama Club and here at Augustana. She enjoyed giving of herself to bring joy to those she loved.
- f. She was not afraid to die because she knew love. Oh yes she knew the fear you always feel when you have dared to love but death didn't fill her with terror. She knew the normal healthy fear of pain and the pain of life which is part of love but she was not afraid of death. Why? Because she had been enabled by the love of God to believe in love.

g. So we now dare to remember. Yes, there is pain in that but it is the pain of life and we are healed. We are healed because we dare to remember the father who came in his son Jesus Christ to love us all. And we are convinced and we are persuaded by his love that nothing, not even death, can separate us from his love. Death can separate us from each other but not finally because we are linked together in the love of God.

h. So in the midst of grief we give thanks to God who in his son Jesus Christ has given us the victory over death by enabling us to love one another, now and into the future.
