



## Alleen Louise Popp

July 5, 1965 - April 3, 2016

On April 3, 2016, our beloved mother, wife, and coach, Alleen Popp left her earthly bonds behind and joined her heavenly Father. She was surrounded by her family in the sudden calling and death.

Alleen Palmer was born to Richard and Donna (Wiseley) Palmer in Ann Arbor, MI. Her family moved to Williamsburg, MI in 1968. Alleen graduated from Elk Rapids High School in 1983 with many friends. Alleen had a passion for sports and children at an early age. On May 13, 1989, Alleen married the love of her life, and is survived by, Ronald Popp. Their 27 year marriage was filled with much happiness. God blessed them with three healthy boys, Spencer and twins Maximilian and Hayden. The boys provide joy and adventure in the Popp family.

Alleen attended Northwestern Michigan College, graduating with an Associate's Degree. She was employed at TBAISD for 25 years, working closely with children. During the past 12 years she served as a Behavioral Consultant Assistant, providing crisis behavior support to children in several local school districts spanning five counties. Alleen's talent and passion in this field was an incredible asset to the children, administrators and families in our communities. Her level of compassion was next to none and unrivaled. She valued the professional friendships she gained over the years.

In addition to her work, Alleen had a passion for Girls Volleyball. She served as an assistant coach in the Traverse City Schools. Over the past several years, Coach Popp gained a respected reputation as the Head Coach of the Elk Rapids High School Varsity Volleyball program. Coach Popp was proud of her athletes, she led by example with her discipline and commitment to the team.

Alleen most cherished vacation travel with Ron, Spencer, Max and Hayden, and time spent with extended family at the cottage on Lake Skegemog. Alleen was loved by many and her laughter and smile will be remembered in the hearts of those she touched in her lifetime.

She is preceded in death by her parents Richard Martin and Donna Marguerite Palmer of Williamsburg, MI. Alleen is survived by her sister Victoria (Harry) Atkins of Boyne City, MI, brothers Martin (Lynn) Palmer of South Boardman, MI, Jeffrey (Sharon) Palmer of Traverse City, MI and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Please join the family in celebration of Alleen's life at Christ the King Parish, 3801 Shore Road, Williamsburg. (Acme) Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 21, 2016 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm with a Scripture Service starting at 7:00pm. Visitation will be held Friday, April 22, 2016 at 10:00am prior to the Funeral Mass starting at 11:00am with luncheon to follow all held at Christ the King Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, please direct contributions to the Alleen Popp ER Scholarship Fund 707 E. Third Street, Elk Rapids, MI. 49629. The family is served by the Kalkaska Funeral Home.

See you at the game!

# Events

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**APR 21 Visitation 05:00PM - 07:00PM**  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
3801 Shore Road P.O. Box 95, Acme, MI, US, 49610

**APR 21 Scripture Service 07:00PM**  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
3801 Shore Road P.O. Box 95, Acme, MI, US, 49610

**APR 22 Final Visitation 10:00AM - 11:00AM**  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
3801 Shore Road P.O. Box 95, Acme, MI, US, 49610

**APR 22 Funeral Mass 11:00AM**  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
3801 Shore Road P.O. Box 95, Acme, MI, US, 49610

# Comments

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“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Alleen Louise Popp.



April 19, 2016 at 12:21 PM

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“ What a great coach and always involved whether it was with the youth or upper level girls, she wanted the best for them. She was also willing to help out other programs and coaches. Northern MI volleyball will greatly miss her. Thanks for your commitment to volleyball and all the players in the area. RIP. Prayers to your family.

**Casie Parker** - April 06, 2016 at 10:22 PM

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“ I had the pleasure of first meeting Alleen when she came into the CMS gym one day in 2007. I was the 7th grade coach at the time and she offered to help out where she could as she wanted to get back in to volleyball again, the sport she loved. She just wanted to help, wanted to teach, wanted to build and was willing to start where all good programs should--at the youngest level. That fall she kindly and in a helpful, unassuming manner, began building the program she would eventually lead.

The next fall, I moved up to become the 8th grade coach and Alleen stepped in as the 7th grade coach. It was those next three years, when I worked closely with Alleen, that her values about life, sports, teamwork and dedication really impacted me. I saw her instill a work ethic in our players and a never-give-up attitude that permeated the program at CMS. She pushed me and our players to not accept winning as a primary goal, but skill development, commitment to the program and pushing players out of their comfort zones to challenge themselves. She helped be navigate issues with middle school girls, with parents and with my own bumps in the road. She was my mentor and she helped me grow as a coach and a person.

That mantra of growth couldn't be clearer than in the spring of her first varsity season in 2011 when we started the 6th grade volleyball program. We grabbed 3 weeks of gym time in the spring and introduced the sport, gave out prizes and made it fun. We played area schools on Saturdays in a non-competitive, learning environment. She brought in her Varsity and JV players to help coach the girls as they stumbled through learning a sport that takes a lot of patience and time to learn to play well. This helped, not only our younger players, but taught our ERHS girls the values of patience and gave them a chance to reflect on their own skills as they taught younger girls. A couple of years later, we brought 5th graders into the mix and continued to see improvement in our program.

This past March 2016, our last season with the 5th and 6th graders (45 girls!), Alleen wanted to push our program further. After a successful season the year prior having a graduated senior, Molly Gregorski, help coach the 5th graders, she wanted to bring in other ERHS players to help coach on "game days" with the girls. The younger girls looked up to the ERHS players, like sophomore Allison Ashurst, called them "coach" and talked of days when, one day, they would play on the Varsity team. And, as Alleen looked to the future she talked about plans to push the program into the 3rd and 4th grades next year. Her dedication to ER volleyball and its growth had no boundaries. She was always learning, always looking ahead to the next challenge and was always so positive about what was to come for our program.

The future of Elk Rapids volleyball is bright... very bright. And that fire that ignited who we are today and who we will become was Coach Popp. She talked of such excitement for this summer and next fall as we bring a new talented and dedicated freshman class poised to help take us to the next level. Players in our program continue to show a drive, a vision, a hunger that I haven't seen for some time here in Elk Rapids, and I credit that to Alleen's leadership, her positive outlook on people and life and her unending love for volleyball. I am blessed to have know Coach Popp for a decade and hope that we, as a program, can take the skills, the commitment and the love she gave to Elk Rapids volleyball and keep building toward the ultimate

goals she new we could achieve.

To honor her legacy, we have created the Alleen Popp ER Scholarship Fund to help young Elk Rapids players pay for clinics, camps and fees that help them became better volleyball athletes, leaders and young women. She was always looking out for her players and our ER program and this fund will honor those loves.

Goodbye, my friend, my mentor, my Coach.

-Joe Macaluso

Joe Macaluso - April 06, 2016 at 08:48 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album New Album Name



Joe Macaluso - April 06, 2016 at 07:45 PM

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“ I am a fellow classmate from the class of 1983. Besides going to school with her, I also played volleyball on Tuesday nights with her for a year. And I was a fellow facebook friend of hers. I want to let the family know I and sorry for their loss and I will be praying for them in their time of sadness.

Rest in Peace Alleen.

Sincerely,  
Eva (Miracle) Orduna

Eva (Miracle) Orduna - April 06, 2016 at 07:09 PM