



Mary Lou (Merkle) Colson

November 24, 2025

Mary Lou (Merkle) Colson died peacefully surrounded by her friends and family. She is survived by her husband Rev. Charles Colson; nieces Kathy Nelson, Karen Trosino (husband John), Kristine Smith (husband Dennis); and grand nieces Rachel Girman (son Daniel), Brittany Hollenbeck (husband Matt), and Madison Lutz. She also leaves many beloved friends and extended family who will miss her deeply.

She was born on March 21, 1944 to Earl Eugene and Helen Merkle. She had a brother, Earle, who passed before her in November 1983 at age 62. Mary Lou lived in Allentown all her life, with many lifelong friends with whom she stayed close. She graduated from William Allen High School in 1962 and then went on to nursing school at the Pottsville School of Nursing. After becoming a nurse, she worked in the Lehigh Valley as a head nurse and an IV nurse with Allentown Osteopathic Hospital. After her retirement in the early 2000s, she spent her time as a social butterfly with family and friends, planning many outings and trips, dinners and social events with high school friends and friends from her church, St. Timothy's Church in Allentown. She was an active member of the church, making announcements and managing the kitchen. She was deeply loved by all who met and knew her.

Mary Lou will be remembered for her laughter, her sense of humor, and deep kindness. She was the life of every party and a light in every room. She had a

great sense of style and loved her shoe collection and “I Love Lucy.” One of her favorite moments was re-enacting the Vitameatavegamin skit from the show with her friends and family for her church. Mary Lou was a joy and a blessing to all, and she will be deeply missed.

A funeral service will be held on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 11 A.M. at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church 140 S. Ott St. Allentown, PA 18104. A calling hour will be held on Saturday, from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. in the Church.

In Lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to: Ripple Community, Inc. 1335 W. Linden St. Allentown, PA 18102 or to St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church 140 S. Ott St. Allentown, PA 18104.

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

2010 W. Chew St.
Allentown, PA 18104

Previous Events

Calling Hours

DEC 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
140 S. Ott Street
Allentown, PA 18104

Service

DEC 6. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church
140 S. Ott Street
Allentown, PA 18104

Tribute Wall

GD

“ Reverend Colson, family and friends,
Learning of the loss of your spouse and aunt was a jolt to me and my wife.
Having been with her and you Pastor Colson in October at the annual Allentown Osteopathic Hospital reunion and enjoying her bubbly energy once again, I was stunned when looking for a friends obituary and came across Mary Lou's.
My wife Bonnie and I appreciated and enjoyed whenever we had a few moments with her reminiscing since the last time we were with her.
Bonnie remembered the times they would discuss their Talbot excursions and how occasionally they would be wearing similar outfits.
Personally, I was impressed with her nursing skills, her love for the patients she cared for always being concerned for their well being and how she could achieve the best for them.
Bonnie and I will miss our occasional meetings and her presence at the next AOMC reunion.
There is only one Mary Lou!
We and all who rest in God's promise to His children will be reunited with her as promised in II Corinthians 5:8 - Absent from the body, present with the Lord.
Mary Lou is HOME!
At His appointed time Bonnie and I will reunite with her.
May the God of comfort be your comfort as you mourn and comfort all who mourn the going home of the one and only Mary Lou.
Shalom,
Bonnie and Gene Miller, DO

Gene Miller, DO - December 06, 2025 at 07:38 AM

TA

“ Talbots, Allentown planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Lou (Merkle) Colson.

Talbots, Allentown - November 30, 2025 at 10:12 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Lou (Merkle) Colson.



November 30, 2025 at 10:12 PM

JS

“ With my very heartfelt & deepest sympathy & many prayers for Rev. Colson & family on your loss of your beautiful Angel, Mary Lou. She was so truly kind to me & everyone so blessed to know her @ Osteopathic Hospital.



Joan Lockwood Smith - November 30, 2025 at 09:26 AM