



Thomas Wallgren

June 28, 1945 - November 29, 2025

Dr. Thomas George Wallgren was born June 28, 1945, in Granite City, Illinois, the son of Edward C. Wallgren and Sophia R. Wallgren. The family lived in St. Francois County, Missouri, where Tom graduated from Esther High School and Flat River Junior College.

They were members of Trinity Lutheran Church, where Tom was the organist for four years. He attended Southeast Missouri State College and received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics. Originally planning on a career with NASA, he discovered he enjoyed teaching mathematics more than physics. He continued his education at the University of Missouri in Columbia, where he earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in mathematics.

At Mizzou, he met Cheryl Keller. They were engaged in 1972 and married in 1973. Tom and Cheryl both had a passion for teaching. After each of them taught at several colleges and universities, they came to Southeast Missouri State in 1981. Tom joined the Computer Science Department and, after several decades, transferred to the Mathematics Department. In 1989, they brought home Charles Jacob Wallgren from the hospital, two days old, truly a blessing. In December 2002, Cheryl went to be with the Lord after a long battle with ovarian cancer. In 2011, Tom took retirement from Southeast Missouri State and moved on to help teach eighth grade algebra and be a pre-k/kindergarten aid at Trinity Lutheran School in Cape. In his early retirement

years, Tom had a passion for running, studying Civil War and World War II history, practicing novel mathematic calculations, and enjoying musical compositions of J.S. Bach. After struggling with health difficulties since 2018, Thomas passed away peacefully in his sleep, aged 80, on November 29th, 2025.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Sophia (Reezoff) Wallgren, infant nephew Nicholas Dordoni, and his beloved wife Cheryl (Keller) Wallgren.

He is survived by his son, Charles Wallgren and wife Brandi (Strong), grandchildren Oliver Thomas and Liliana Rae, and his brother Edward Wallgren, Jr. Additional survivors include John and Ethel (Houille) Wilkerson, sister-in-law Iris (Keller) Dordoni, brother- and sister-in-law Timothy and Vilma (Yumul) Keller, and nephews Benjamin, Joseph, and Daniel Dordoni and Kevin Keller.

Friends may call 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral Service will be at 10:30 am Friday, December 5, 2025 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. Paul Short officiating. The service is being streamed, please click on the link to view: <https://youtube.com/live/aUFkhJr-dm0?feature=share>

Burial will be at Zion Lutheran Cemetery - Gordonville in Gordonville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Lutheran World Relief fund.

Online condolences may be made at www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Zion Lutheran Cemetery - Gordonville

Gordonville, MO 63752

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Service

DEC 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
100 N. Frederick
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

MA

“ I was lucky to have Dr. Wallgren as a professor at SEMO. One my my top favorite professors and teachers of all my schooling. My most impressionable moment with Dr. Wallgren was when I student raised their hand, Dr. Wallgren called on them, the student said "this might be a dumb question, but.....". Dr. Wallgren immediately interrupted them "no, no, no...there are no dumb questions". I think back about my experiences with him fondly and respectfully.

Michael Allgier - April 21 at 08:58 PM

RR

“ Enjoyed Tom's friendship as well as the challenges we shared over a chess board. Shared Algebra and Geometry classes, great days at Esther High. Prayers for Tom's family.
Randy.

Randy Rowland - December 06, 2025 at 09:35 PM

LS

“ To Iris Tim, Charlie and families
My husband and I go way back with the Kellers and really enjoyed Tom when he joined the family and moved to County Rd 319 to b our neighbor. Our sympathy goes to the family and the comfort they receive from knowing that he and Cheryl lived a Godly life. God bless.

Linda Seabaugh - December 05, 2025 at 11:16 AM

JG

“ We have such wonderful memories of Tom. His love, kindness and friendship will always remain a part of our lives. Charlie, we pray for God’s peace and comfort for you and your family. Darrell and Jeanie Griffin

Jeanie Griffin - December 05, 2025 at 08:08 AM

PR

“ Looking back to our Esther school days, I'm only able to recall an easygoing fellow when I think of Tom. He surely was a personification of a kind and friendly individual. May God's blessings be upon his family and friends.

Paul Reed - December 05, 2025 at 08:03 AM

MP

“ MeeMaw & PawPaw purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Thomas Wallgren.



MeeMaw & PawPaw - December 04, 2025 at 05:41 AM



“ I send my sympathy to the Wallgren family and express love from the Semo faculty and staff!
God bless! Jane Cooper Stacy

Jane Stacy - December 03, 2025 at 02:37 PM

TR

“ Charlie and family , Sending you heartfelt sympathy on the loss of your father.I have enjoyed knowing your dad throughout the years .Friendly waves while jogging thru the streets of the city , evening visits with your grandmothers Sophia and Irma at the assisted living , and eventually caring for him as a resident, He was one of a kind. Tom was a man who loved the Lord , loved his son and loved his grandchildren . Rest in heaven my friend. Terri Rice

Terri Rice - December 02, 2025 at 05:53 AM