



Elaine M. Mahnke

October 14, 1937 - January 2, 2025

Elaine M. Mahnke, 87, of Napoleon, Ohio passed away on January 2, 2025 at Genacross Lutheran Services. She was born in Napoleon on October 14, 1937 to the late Raymond and Annette (Dehnbostel) Behrens. On March 23, 1957, Elaine married Richard Mahnke at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona.

Elaine was a member of St. John Lutheran Church – Freedom Township. She owned and operated Mahnke Orchard with her husband and also took care of their many horses. Elaine was a long time 4H advisor in Henry County. She enjoyed traveling to Hawaii and on several cruises. Elaine was especially fond of their family get togethers. She was also proud of being a breast cancer survivor.

Elaine is survived by her husband of 67 years, Richard “Dick” Mahnke; children, Deb (Dave) Kruse, Denise (Larry) Hefflinger, and David (Sue Ann) Mahnke; grandchildren, Joshua (Kelly) Kruse, Chad (Michelle) Kruse, Corriisa (Ryan) McNay, Rachel (Tom) Palmer, and Caitlin (Logan) Counterman; great grandchildren, Carter, Kennedy, Khole, Issac, Jax, Hayes, and one on the way; and sister Margery Bostelman. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her son, Steven; brother Kenneth (Rita) Behrens, and brother-in-law, Ted Bostelman.

Friends and family will be received at the Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 from 3:00 PM until 7:00 PM. Funeral services will be held at St. John Lutheran Church -Freedom Township, on Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 11:00 AM with an hour of visitation prior to services. Interment will follow at the church cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to St. John Lutheran Church – Freedom Township or Elara Caring Hospice. Online condolences and messages may be shared with the family at rodenbergergray.com.

Cemetery Details

St. John Lutheran Freedom Township Cemetery

16035 Co Rd U
Napoleon, OH 43545

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 7. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Rodenberger Funeral Home - Napoleon
1010 Westmoreland Avenue
Napoleon, OH 43545

Visitation

JAN 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John Lutheran Church, Freedom Township
16035 County Road U
Napoleon, OH 43545

Funeral Service

JAN 8. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. John Lutheran Church, Freedom Township
16035 County Road U
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Elaine M. Mahnke.*



January 05, 2025 at 08:07 PM



“ *Rod & Donna Saunders and Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Elaine M. Mahnke.*



Rod & Donna Saunders and Family - January 05, 2025 at 12:47 PM



“ *I met Elaine about 10 years ago when I called her store looking for pie cherries to freeze. She was so funny and told me how to find the orchard. We chatted at length anytime we saw each other
Very smart, sassy and loving lady. Rest in peace Elaine!*



Becky Rohre - January 04, 2025 at 01:59 AM

ES

“ *Edon HS Staff purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Elaine M. Mahnke.*



Edon HS Staff - January 03, 2025 at 10:55 PM

DB

“ *Ealine was avery nice person we used to get apples from her every year always had a big smile for you she is in our prayers so sorry*

dave bost - January 03, 2025 at 07:26 PM

ST

I use to board my horse there. She was such a nice person. I use to help her sort her apples. We had so much fun doing that. I miss her.and dick hugs. Miss you god be with you

Suzanne Thomas - January 21, 2025 at 06:28 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Elaine M. Mahnke.*



January 03, 2025 at 07:09 PM

LC

“ *Logan, Caitlin, Jaxson & Hayes Counterman purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Elaine M. Mahnke.*



Logan, Caitlin, Jaxson & Hayes Counterman - January 03,
2025 at 05:12 PM