



Ethelda Gerken

April 24, 1922 - July 12, 2017

Ethelda L. Gerken, 95, of Napoleon, Ohio passed away Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at Genacross Lutheran Services, Napoleon Campus. She was born April 24, 1922 in Liberty Township, Ohio to the late Henry and Minnie (Bargman) Wittenberg.

Ethelda graduated from Napoleon High School and then attended Warner Beauty College in Toledo, Ohio, where she received her degree in Cosmetology. With her sister, Valeta and friend, Marian Wingfield, she owned and operated Mareth Beauty Salon in Defiance, Ohio. On April 21, 1946 she married Walter C. Gerken who passed away in 1987.

Ethelda was active in her church, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon; having served as President of the Altar Guild, Mission Society, and Lutheran Ladies Literary Guild. She also was a grey lady volunteer for 35 years and a 4H leader for 5 years. She was a member of the Napoleon American Ladies Auxiliary Post #300 and the Napoleon Golferettes.

She is survived by daughter, Deborah Awis of Aurora, Illinois; son, Gary (Donna) Gerken of Maumee, Ohio; grandson, Tim Gerken of South Carolina; three step grandchildren, Andrew (Karleigh) Awis of St. Charles, Illinois, Sarah (Michael) Long of Aurora, Illinois, and Nathan Awis of Fontana, California; eight step great grandchildren; sister, Evelyn (Duane) McMaster of Howe, Indiana. She was preceded in death by her sisters, Valeta Hess, Dorothy Burk, and Esther Fritz and son in law, John Awis.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 15 at St. Paul

Lutheran Church, Napoleon with visitation from 9 - 10 a.m. Burial will follow the service at Riverview Memory Gardens in Defiance, Ohio.

Memorial contributions are suggested to St. Paul Lutheran Church or Genacross Lutheran Services.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.rodembergerfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 15. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1075 Glenwood Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545

Service

JUL 15. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1075 Glenwood Ave.
Napoleon, OH 43545

Tribute Wall

YM

“ *My sincere condolences on your loss. May you draw comfort from the words of Isaiah 25:8 during this difficult time. Soon death will be swallowed up forever.*

Y. McBeath - July 15, 2017 at 08:28 AM

SF

“ *Shirley Gerken and family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ethelda Gerken.*



Shirley Gerken and family - July 14, 2017 at 09:55 AM