



## Laura C. Gerken

September 1, 1917 - March 14, 2016

Laura C. Gerken, 98, of Hamler, Ohio died Monday, March 14, 2016 at the Napoleon Lutheran Home. She was born on September 01, 1917, in Holgate, Ohio to the late Theodore and Amelie (Badenhop) Sonnenberg. She married Archie Gerken on October 18, 1936 at Hope Lutheran Church, Hamler and he preceded her in death on December 14, 1971.

Laura was a homemaker and worked for a brief period at Campbell Soup Company and Filling Home of Mercy for 10 years. She was a member of Hope Lutheran Church, Hamler where she was a member of the church choir and the Women of the Church.

She is survived by her children, Jolaine Merrill of Palos Verdes, California, Ronald (Toni) Gerken of Bluffton, South Carolina, Kenneth (Kathleen) Gerken of Napoleon, Ohio, Diane (Lee) Dietsch of Hamler, Ohio, Franklin (Judy) Gerken of Woodstock, Georgia, Carolyn Sorge of Torrance, California, and Jonathan (Diane) Gerken of Carroll, Ohio; 18 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren; siblings, Otis (Lois) Sonnenberg of Bowling Green, Ohio, Julia Mangas of Napoleon, Ohio, and Ruth Groll of Traverse City, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her brothers, Reinhold, Julian, and Willis Sonnenberg and sister, Rufina Sonnenberg. A Memorial Service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday March 19, 2016 at Hope Lutheran Church, Hamler, Ohio.

Memorial gathering will be held on Friday from 2 - 8 p.m. at Rodenberger Funeral Home, Napoleon and one hour prior at the church.

Memorials are suggested to Hope Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, Filling Home of Mercy, or donors choice.

Online condolences may be made at [www.rodembergerfuneralhome.com](http://www.rodembergerfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

MAR 18. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Napoleon Funeral Home  
1010 Westmoreland Avenue  
Napoleon, OH 43545  
(419) 592-2333  
help@rodenbergergray.com

## Memorial Service

MAR 19. 11:00 AM (ET)

Hope Lutheran Church  
Hamler, OH

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ Unfortunately I will not be in town during the memorial service or gathering. Please know that my thoughts are with all of you, especially Ron & Toni. Hugs!



---

**Charlotte** - March 16, 2016 at 12:10 PM

LW

“ Dear family members,  
So very sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of Laura both at Hope Lutheran and later at The Lutheran Home when I would visit with my Mom (Esther). Prayers for all of you. Lila (Sonnenberg) Wernecke



---

**Lila Wernecke** - March 15, 2016 at 11:50 AM