



## Lawrence W. Gerken

November 13, 1927 - June 23, 2017

Lawrence W. Gerken, 89, of Napoleon, Ohio passed away Friday, June 23, 2017 at Fulton County Health Center surrounded by his children. He was born on November 13th, 1927 to the late Alvin and Mary (Cordes) Gerken. On February 12, 1950, he married Ruby Tilse at Trinity Lutheran Church, Wauseon and she preceded him in death on June 29, 2013.

Lawrence was a lifelong farmer and served on numerous agricultural boards. He was inducted into the Henry County Agricultural Hall of Fame. He was the proud owner of a Freedom Township Centennial Farm. He was very proud of the fact that he was born and lived his entire life in the same home on that farm and was able to raise his family there as well. Lawrence and Ruby worked side by side on the farm as well as growing Ruby's Greenhouse.

Lawrence was a life member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Wauseon serving in many capacities.

We will all miss his words of wisdom and wealth of information that he shared with many. Dad was a friend to all and always willing to lend a helping hand where needed.

He is survived by his children; Linda (Rick) Hogrefe of Napoleon, Carol Hahler of Bowling Green, Barb (Ron) Snyder of Pemberville, Virginia (Doug) Rettig of Holgate, Judy (Tim) Funchion of Napoleon, Donna (Greg) Smith of Aurora, Illinois, Diane (Dave) Johnson of Napoleon, and Larry (Krista) Gerken of Napoleon, 22 grandchildren, 8 great grandchildren, sister-in-law, Velma Gerken, and brother-in-law, Don (Mary Lou) Tilse. He was also preceded in

death by a grandson, Rich Hogrefe, brothers; Delbert and Eldor Gerken, and sister, Lavina Junge.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, June 27 at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Wauseon. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Monday from 2-8 p.m. at Rodenberger Funeral Home, Napoleon and Tuesday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

The family suggests memorials to be made to St. Luke's Lutheran Church or a charity of the donor's choice.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Luke's Lutheran Cemetery

1588 State Route 108  
Wauseon, OH 43567

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN 26. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

JUN 27. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
1588 State Route 108  
Wauseon, OH 43567

## Service

JUN 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
1588 State Route 108  
Wauseon, OH 43567



# Tribute Wall

JP

“ Jeff And Connie Pelow sent a virtual gift in memory of Lawrence W. Gerken



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**Jeff and Connie Pelow** - June 27, 2017 at 10:27 PM

JP

“ Jeff And Connie Pelow lit a candle in memory of Lawrence W. Gerken



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**Jeff and Connie Pelow** - June 27, 2017 at 10:27 PM

FC

“ Our sincere condolences to you and the family. I picked tomatoes and pickles for Lawrence back in the late 60s and early 70s. Not only was He a fair man, but a kind man with a great sense of humor. Lawrence was not only a good man, but a good friend.

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**Frank Chapa** - June 27, 2017 at 08:41 PM

CR

“ Sorry for your loss...he must have been a great husband to Ruby and a great dad to his children. Your memories will keep him alive in your hearts.

*Jim and Chris Rettig*

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**Christine Rettig** - June 26, 2017 at 08:26 PM

JW

“ *May God bring peace to your hearts and minds as you remember your Dad and rejoice in his gift of eternal life! Many wonderful memories of times spent with your family as we grew up together. I'm sure many are welcoming him in heaven!*

*Blessings are prayed for each of you as you miss him!*

*Joe and Jane (Meister) Whisler*

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**Jane Whisler** - June 26, 2017 at 08:20 PM

DV

“ *Our tears and sympathy. Your Dad was the Best! Love, Doug and Pat Valentine*

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**Doug Valentine** - June 26, 2017 at 03:51 PM

LD

“ *I remember your dad and mine serving on church council many times together over the years. I also remember when he broke his back and how straight he walked after he healed. I also remember how very well mannered he was and how he was so caring and protective he was of your mom. He was definitely an "old school" gentleman, something not seen much anymore. My sister, Karen and I send our sympathies and prayers to you all and your families. The fields and flowers of Heaven will be even more glorious now.*



*Karen Dorsey and LaVonne Dorsey Davis*

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**LaVonne Davis** - June 26, 2017 at 12:36 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Lawrence W. Gerken.*



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June 26, 2017 at 09:18 AM



“ *Tom and I are so very sorry for your loss. We are praying for the peace that passes understanding for all of you.*

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**Tom & Diana Carpenter** - June 26, 2017 at 08:13 AM



“ *Uncle Lawrence you will be missed. You were always there at events for me when I was growing up and I will never forget you for that love you Clarissa Jo (Gerken) Boyd.*



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**Clarissa Boyd** - June 25, 2017 at 06:46 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Lawrence W. Gerken.*



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June 25, 2017 at 09:49 AM

VD

“ So very sorry for your loss. I was pleased to see him at the alumni banquet year before last.  
Prayers for all.

*Vicky Kieffer Mitchell Dannenmueller*



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**Vicky Kieffer Mitchell Dannenmueller** - June 24, 2017 at 08:39 PM