



## Leona M. Hogrefe

May 18, 1923 - March 22, 2023

Leona M. Hogrefe, 99, of Okolona, Ohio died peacefully on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at Genacross Lutheran Home - Napoleon Campus. She was born May 18, 1923 in Britton, Michigan to the late Henry C. F. and Julia (Meyer) Meyer. On March 3, 1946, she was married to Raymond H. Hogrefe and he preceded her in death on January 16th, 2003.

Leona was engrained with a hard-work ethic. She began at a young age, working at her parent's general store in Okolona. She eventually became the Assistant Postmaster in Okolona, handled bookkeeping for her husband at Hogrefe Builders and babysat when she could.

She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona, where she was a former Sunday School teacher and belonged to the ladies aid.

She is survived by her daughters, Kathy (Denny) Behnfeldt, Becky Hardy and Susan Hurst; grandchildren, Mark Behnfeldt, Krista (Larry) Gerken, Josh (Margo) Behnfeldt, Micah Behnfeldt, Matt (Diane) Hardy, Andrea Justinger (Jason), Jeremy (Jen) Hurst, Carrie (Kent) Stamm, and Rachel Wagner; 17 great grandchildren, and 2 great-great grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by sons-in-law, Walt Hardy and Mike Hurst; and sisters, Emma Price, Emelia Carothers, Helen Fay, Luella Norden, Ruth Meyer; and brothers, Albert, Edward, Donald, and Richard Meyer.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 27th, 2023 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona, Ohio. Interment will follow in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Sunday from 2-5 p.m. at Rodenberger-Gray Funeral Home, Napoleon, Ohio and Monday from 10-11 a.m. at the church.

Memorial contributions are suggested to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona, Napoleon Filling Home of Mercy, or Elara Hospice.

Online condolences may be left for the family at [www.rodenbergergray.com](http://www.rodenbergergray.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery, Okolona

30997 Gerken Road  
Defiance, OH 43512

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 26. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

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

## Visitation

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona  
30997 Gerken Road  
Defiance, OH 43512

## Funeral Service

MAR 27. 11:00 AM (ET)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Okolona  
30997 Gerken Road  
Defiance, OH 43512



# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Video*



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**Rodenberger Funeral Home** - March 28, 2023 at 03:04 PM

TC

“ *I recall playing 7-handed pepper with Aunt Leona in my parents kitchen. 3 generations laughing together.*

*- Tim Carothers*

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**Tim Carothers** - March 27, 2023 at 09:33 AM

RH

“ *I am very blessed to have been a neighbor of Leona's for many years. She had such a strength, wisdom and faith about her. She sure loved her family and was proud of each of them. Her home was always peaceful. I never heard her speak a bad word of anyone or complain about anything.*

*We had a lot of fish frys, Birthday celebrations, and Super Bowl games where afterwards we would clear the table for several games of Euchre, which I think was her favorite. She was so sharp and quite the competitor..which made it fun!*

*I just remember excellence being in everything she did, especially baking.*

*I couldn't ask for a better neighbor and friend.*

*Rob Herron*

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**Rob Herron** - March 26, 2023 at 03:36 PM

PM

“ Thoughts & prayers to all at this sad time. Cherish all the wonderful memories that Leona has given to you & your beautiful family. Our sincere condolences, Phil & Neece

Phil & Denise Muehlfeld - March 26, 2023 at 08:33 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Leona M. Hogrefe.



March 24, 2023 at 11:14 PM

SM

“ We are sorry to hear of Leona's passing. She was an amazing woman! I was fortunate to grow up next door (well except for the Garage) to Leona and Ray. I remember riding to Sunday School in their awesome car, playing with Kathy, Becky and Sue, climbing the trees next to the garage, getting our mail and seeing Leona's smiling face and welcoming greetings! Leona always had the best to offer for trick or treats. I never recall a stern word from her (maybe the girls will not agree with me, lol). Okolona was a very special place in which to grow-up, because of wonderful people, like Leona. Bless her and her wonderful family! Prayers, hugs, and much love to you all. Sue & Todd Mavis.

Sue Mavis - March 24, 2023 at 08:21 AM

KL

“ Prayers for the whole family. She was a delightful person.



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**Kathy Lieb** - March 23, 2023 at 10:03 PM

KK

“ My father's family lived in Okolone when he was born; and mother was from freedom Twp. I remember, in my youth, them speaking often of Leona and the Hogrefes. I believe I remember Sue Ann through mutual HS friends. Keith Koppenhofer

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**Keith Koppenhofer** - March 23, 2023 at 11:52 AM

HS

“ Leona taught me many things about having the right priorities and perspective in life. I will always cherish our deep conversations. Her biggest joy in life was her family and always talked about how proud she was of her children and grandchildren. She adored her grandchildren so much! My prayers will be with all of those her loved her. -Nurse Hope

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**Hope Shanks** - March 23, 2023 at 07:50 AM