



Elaine M. Bergan

June 14, 1929 - February 03, 2021

Elaine May (Ness) Bergan, 91 years old of Northwood, IA, went to be with her Lord and Savior, Jesus on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at the Lutheran Retirement Home in Northwood, IA, due to the lingering effects of COVID-19.

Due to Elaine's concern for limiting contact exposure to the virus, a private family service will be held on Monday, February 8, 2021 at the Bethel Lutheran Brethren Church, south of Joice with Rev. Kevin Olson officiating, and burial will be in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery, Lake Mills.

Elaine was born to Olaf L. and Agnes (Fjone) Ness on June 14, 1929, west of Joice, IA. She was baptized by Rev. Johannes Granskou and confirmed by Rev. H.F. Huseth in the Winnebago Lutheran Church. She graduated from Lake Mills High School in 1947 and worked 1 ½ years for Kingland Motor Co., before her marriage on September 17, 1949 to Donald Bergan of Lake Mills.

The couple lived on the Bergan farm where Don became a Grade A dairy farmer. They were parents of three children: Kathleen, Diane, and David. After the children entered school, Elaine worked seven years as a bookkeeper at the Farmers Co-op Elevator in Lake Mills before attending NIACC and Mankato State College, graduating cum laude in 1973, with an English/Theatre Arts degree. She worked twenty plus years as an educator, was a Sunday School superintendent and teacher for many years, and was very busy in the women's work of the church, having served as president and other officer positions on local, conference, cluster and synod levels. She was a faithful member of Salem Lutheran Church, having served on the constitution committee, board of life and growth, church historian, updated the congregation's history, gave many inspirational messages throughout the years and wrote many church skits that were used and placed on file at the Lutheran Communication Center in Clear Lake. She was a member and president of the L.M. Care Center Residency Committee, township election board official, long-time member of the L.M. Literary Club and the L.M. Library Reading Club. She wrote many newspaper articles in the Graphic about the early town and immigrants, wrote two books (histories of Lake Mills and Joice), was a member of the Norwegian/American Monument Commission and was sometimes called "The Town Historian." She was a member of the Lime Creek Genealogical Society, walked cemeteries and recorded thousands of obituaries from the area. In 1997, she was named "Iowa Mother of the Year" and competed in the national contest at Scottsdale, AZ.

Elaine's greatest love was for her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and her family for whom she prayed daily. She was greatly interested in her Norwegian heritage. After researching family roots, she and Don spent three weeks visiting Norway. She attempted to preserve the Scandinavian influence in her home and community. She baked lefse at MBT for Syttende Mai (May 17), in "Granny's Kitchen" at Christmas and at the Welcome Center for "Norwegian Days." She sewed queen sized quilts for children & grandchildren and baby quilts for the babies. She also enjoyed doing Hardanger embroidery.

Survivors include her children: Kathleen (Harold) Schuhmacher, Waverly, IA; Diane (David) Folkerts, Thompson, IA; and David (Shelley) Bergan, Lake Mills, IA; grandchildren: Jason (Sarah) Schuhmacher, Papillion, NE; Kara (Doug) Butte, Parker, CO; Nathan Schuhmacher, Waterloo, IA; Jennifer Bradley (Dennis LeGrange, Husband) & Jessica (Josh) Blasdell of Cedar Rapids, IA; Katie Bergan, Lake Mills, IA; and Callie Bergan (Jake Schmitz) Grimes, IA; great-grandchildren: Kyle (Chinyoung) Schuhmacher, Katelyn (Ryan) Humphreys, Rebekah Schuhmacher (Cooper Kesterson), Caleb, Daniel, Adam, Bethany, and Benjamin Schuhmacher; Isaac, Malachi, and Siri Frazier; Micah, Andrew and Abigail Butte; Jacob Bradley (Torrie Kofron); Avery, Ben and Emily LeGrange; and Tyler and Josh Jr. Blasdell. She was also blessed by three great-great-grandchildren: Sophia, Ian, and Anna Humphreys. Also surviving are sisters in-law: Mary Jane Calgaard and Gayle McMullen; stepsister in-law, Ruth Vermedahl; step brother in-law, Rev. Wayne Halvorson; a niece, and several nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Don Bergan; her parents and in-laws; and siblings: Ruth Lerohl and Marvin Ness; sister in-law, Ruth Disrud; brothers in-law Robert Calgaard: Alfred Disrud and Rev. Alden Lerohl; a nephew, Andrew Lerohl and a niece, Pat Preul.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Bethel Lutheran Brethren Church, 3906 Bluebill Ave. Joice, IA 50446 or to the donor's choice.

Cemetery



SALEM LUTHERAN
CEMETERY

North Lake Street Lake
Mills, IA 50450

Tribute Wall
