



Helen Mae Holstad

January 06, 1927 - November 11, 2019

Helen M. Holstad, age 92 of Lake Mills, died on Monday, November 11, 2019 at the Lake Mills Care Center.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, November 16, at Emmons Lutheran Church, 490 Pearl Street in Emmons, Minnesota with Pastor David E. Schafer officiating.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday.

Cremation will take place after the service with burial of the ashes at a later date in Salem Lutheran Cemetery in Lake Mills.

Helen Mae (Bjelland) Holstad was born January 6, 1927, rural Joice, Iowa to John and Esther (Hanson) Bjelland. She was blessed to have an older brother Thayne. Helen was baptized and confirmed at Salem Lutheran Church in Lake Mills. She attended Country School District 4, Silver Lake Township grades 1-8 and graduated from Lake Mills High School Class of 1944. She always loved music, playing piano for many events in school and played percussion in the band.

On March 24, 1946 Helen married Virgil Holstad at Salem Lutheran Church. They were blessed with three daughters-Vonice Marie, Julie Ann and Amy Jo.

Helen and Virgil spent their life farming together-initially on three different farms by Emmons and one by Round Prairie Church until they purchased the "farm on the hill", rural Twin Lakes, Minnesota in 1963. They moved to Lake Mills in 2007. Helen actively participated in their dairy farm with her own special John Deere tractor. Being outside mowing the large yard and maintaining her garden were jobs that brought her great joy.

Community was an important part of her life being involved in circles, Ladies Aid, and being the church organist at Round Prairie Lutheran Church for 44 ½ years. She also accompanied many singing ensembles and played for numerous weddings. Helen also had a large number of piano students for many years, of which 2 are now organists themselves.

Grandma Helen enjoyed passing on many traditions to her family including freezing corn, canning tomato soup, making lefse and popcorn balls. No Christmas was complete without her Swedish meatballs and special cheese ball. She always had goulash and apple pie in her freezer for when company dropped by.

Special times in their lives were spent playing cards with friends and grandchildren. Both Helen and Virgil loved square dancing and ballroom dancing, and enjoyed the fellowship with those friends for many years. Many miles were traveled in their motorhome with either one driving. They were snowbirds to Texas, Arizona and California from 1990-2008. The couple also traveled to Norway

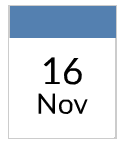
twice, Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. The highlight of their life was a family trip to Norway and Sweden to the ancestral farm in 2005.

Helen Mae was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She was joyful, hardworking and humble, with God and family at the center of her life.

She is survived by her husband Virgil of Lake Mills; two daughters, Julie (Arlow) Rugland and Amy (Roger) Olson; son-in-law, Loren Stene; grandchildren Jon (Tara) Stene, Erich (Julie) Stene, Andrew (Kendra) Stene, Amber (John) Pearson, Benjamin (Anna) Stene, Jessica Rugland, Kristoffer (Addie) Rugland, Chad Rugland, Katie Olson and Jack Olson; 14 great-grandchildren; and siblings-in-law, Ellen Bjelland, Dean (Senora) Holstad, Mavis Bergo, Eva (Milt) Haroldson, and Jerry (Dorothy) Holstad.

Helen is preceded in death by her parents John and Esther Bjelland; parents-in-law John and Edith Holstad; brother Thayne Bjelland; daughter Vonice Stene; son-in-law John Rygh; and brother-in-law Ernie Bergo.

Events



VISITATION
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Emmons Lutheran
Church 490 Pearl
Street, Emmons, MN
56029



FUNERAL SERVICE
11:00 AM

Emmons Lutheran
Church 490 Pearl
Street, Emmons, MN
56029

Tribute Wall
