



Esther A. Marquardt

November 24, 1923 - December 1, 2020

Esther was born November 24, 1923, to Frieda and Henry Albers on a farm in McLeod County, Minnesota. No doubt her paternal grandmother, the local midwife, assisted with the delivery. Esther grew up during the Great Depression and came of age during World War II. It was an era that had a significant impact on her. She worked hard on the farm with her three siblings feeding and butchering chickens, canning food from the family garden, shocking wheat and milking cows by hand. Her family conversed in German. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church, Helen Township where she also attended a one room Lutheran school to which she walked. Church services and school instruction were in German.

A handsome (her description) young man with red hair, Harold, was working on a neighboring farm. They met and fell in love. Harold was drafted into the Army and they married on December 26, 1943. After Harold was sent overseas, Esther prayed that he would return alive. He did, several months later after being wounded.

Their experiences of growing up in financially difficult times instilled a frugality in them. They were happy to put \$3 a month into a savings account during their early years together. Three children were born to them, Mavis, Rodney and Wendy. They enjoyed playing board games, trips to state parks, fishing, taking tours of various factories, working together and getting ice cream (but only the nickle cones). The children were not spared lessons in frugality. Camping was a cheaper way to see the country and there were many happy times crowding into the square canvas tent after telling stories and giggling around a camp fire.

Esther believed it was important to be employed to contribute financially to the family. Her first job was working in a cotton mill in Georgia while her husband was at Fort Benning. She later worked as a waitress in the evenings when Harold could be home with the children. In order to buy a piano and bicycles for her children she was employed in a

canning factory. She also sold Avon products. Esther especially enjoyed being a cook at First Lutheran School in Glencoe, MN where two of her children attended. Her fellow cook became a dear friend. Together they laughed and giggled through many a meal preparation. After moving to Eden Prairie she worked assembling circuit boards at Transistor Electronics Company and Rosemont Industries where she made friends but also sacrificed some of her hearing due to the loud noises.

With a sense of adventure, curiosity about the world and the ability to strike up a conversation with just about anybody Esther and Harold traveled throughout the country visiting all but two states. One of their greatest adventures was a month long trip across Canada and around Alaska in a small RV. Their desire to see places abroad took them to Europe, Israel and Egypt. Esther frequently told her children and grandchildren, “travel while you can.” That advice has been well heeded.

Esther liked nothing better than to have her family, children, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren gathered around her table for a meal or crowded into the living room to celebrate Christmas. Her meals were often a roaster full of turkey, all the trimmings, with more than one desert to top it off and a cake pan of bars for a later snack. Esther may have had more bar recipes than anyone else in the region.

Being a part of a church community was very important to Esther. This included church attendance even while on vacation. Esther was always active in church activities, singing in the choir, washing altar linens, making preparations for Holy Communion, serving on the Women's Guild and as an elder. She took pride in being a reader of Scripture lessons on Sunday mornings. She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minnetonka since 1962. When she decided to move to assisted living, it was important to her that it be close to her church. Her personal devotional life was an anchor to her day and she could be heard praying aloud for members of her family.

There have been difficulties along the way for Esther. Her husband, Harold, died in 2004, and her son, Rodney, in 2017. Physical issues have also provided challenges. When things did not go well, her response was frequently, “That's life. What are you gonna do? You've got to make the best of it.” And that is what she did. Her determination was admirable.

She died on December 1, 2020, at Presbyterian Homes, Beacon Hill in Minnetonka where she lived for the last five years of her life.

Survivors include two daughters, Mavis Gehant (George) and Wendy Armbrust (John); daughter-in-law Pat Marquardt, grandchildren, Kristianna Siddens (Nick), David Marquardt (Julie), Jenny Danielson (Matt), Ryan Marquardt (Melissa) and Juli Bosmoe (Jake); as well as twelve great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will be held on December 11, 2020, at 1 pm at Eden Prairie Cemetery, 8810 Eden Prairie Road, Eden Prairie, MN. The wearing of masks and social distancing will be required. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorial gifts may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 5701 Eden Prairie Road, Minnetonka, MN 55345 or Lutheran World Relief. Sympathy cards can be mailed to Washburn-McReavy Eden Prairie Chapel, 7625 Mitchell Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 and will be forwarded to the family.

Events

DEC **Graveside Service** 01:00PM - 01:30PM

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Eden Prairie Cemetery

8810 Eden Prairie Road, Eden Prairie, MN, US, 55347

Comments



“ Wanda Ethen lit a candle in memory of Esther A. Marquardt



wanda Ethen - December 07, 2020 at 09:11 PM



“ Dick And Marcy Otto-Schuetze lit a candle in memory of Esther A. Marquardt



Dick and Marcy Otto-Schuetze - December 06, 2020 at 10:52 PM