



## Mrs. Bernice Emma Youngren

August 12, 1924 - April 15, 2021

"To the world you are a mother, to our family you are the world."

Bernice Emma (Johnson) Youngren peacefully went to be with her Lord and Savior early Thursday morning, April 15, 2021. She was 96, had her covid shots and was ready for her next adventure.

Bernice was born August 12, 1924, on a farm near Emery, SD. The 7th of 8 daughters, their dad wanted each daughter to either be a nurse or a teacher. Mom chose teacher and received a teaching certificate from the State of South Dakota. During the World War II years she decided to go to Minneapolis to take a position with the Veterans Administration in the government acquired Buzza Building on Lake Street. It was there she met Donald Youngren. They forever joked that Don thought Bernice, with the last name Johnson, was Scandinavian. Two generations prior Bernice's family name had been changed from Janssen to Johnson. Bernice, was 100% German! Married on July 8, 1947, they blended their 100% Swedish and 100% German traditions. Lutefisk and German Stollen were served at Christmas.

The family moved to St Louis Park in 1949, then a new and growing community. They found nearby St. Louis Park Evangelical Free Church for worship, spiritual growth, fellowship and serving. Bernice was a Sunday School teacher, attended the Marytha women's fellowship and later, the Senior. Group. She attended Sunday morning worship when she could and was a regular in Louis Balster's Sunday School Class. Her Bibles have many underlined meaningful and favorite verses. John 14:1-3 is perhaps most

significant now; words of Jesus, "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in Me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home... When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am."

When her children were young, Bernice worked in the St. Louis Park Public Schools Food Services so she could be home when her children were home. At home, she loved to be in the kitchen preparing meals and baking for the family and for friends. There was often entertaining at the Youngrens. Summers always included tent and then trailer camping with extra special time in Colorado and South Dakota visiting the family farms of sisters and their families. How she loved her extended family of her own cousins and their families. Families on her block of West 34th Street became like family too. She had membership in The German Club in Minneapolis. She loved golf. Bernice and Don celebrated 40 years of marriage. After Don's death, her traveling continued, resulting in ownership of many time shares. Here her business acumen came alive. Always a traveler, a trip with her friend Elfriede to Germany definitely was a highlight. Bernice married Ralph Cutcher in December 1996. Together they enjoyed driving, with a car fully packed, to time shares mostly in Branson, MO and Florida. Friends, often the Bakers and Parks, joined them. Bernice was an amazing caregiver for her mother-in-law, Stella, in Stella's final years at the Augustana Home in Minneapolis. What an adventure it was when it came time for Bernice and Ralph to move from Bernice's home of 60+ years to Calvary Center Cooperative in Golden Valley and then in 2017 to Augustana Chapel View Residence in Hopkins, down-sizing each time. Bernice had saved most everything, some of which her children and grandchildren now cherish. Bernice is preceded in death by husbands Don in 1986 and Ralph in 2018, her parents John and Gesina (Terveen) Johnson and her sisters, Allie, Lillian (infant), Lenora, Emma, Bertha and Ruth. She is also preceded in death by her brothers-in-law and Youngren in-laws, Carl and Stella Youngren, Ken and Eilene Youngren as well as son-in-law David Rose.

Grateful to call her Mom, Grandma and Great-Grandma are her children, Sharen Rose, Ron and his wife Gina Youngren, and Donita and her husband Steve Delzer, five grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren.

Grandchildren and great grandchildren were definitely Bernice's favorites!

Bernice is survived by one sister, Joyce Klock of Sioux Falls and many nieces and nephews. She is also survived by forever friends in her church.

A private Memorial Service will be held at Park Community Church (formerly SLP Evangelical Free). The family is grateful to the staff of Augustana Chapel View for keeping Bernice, and all residents, safe during this last year of covid-19 outbreaks. The family would like memorials to go to Park Community Church.

# Tribute Wall

SA

“ Right now I am in the UK and so just heard about Bernice passing away from Donita. I listened to the entire memorial service as it was my way of saying good bye to Bernice. The Delzer children all shared wonderful memories and it was so good to see Ron again as I think he was in the same year at Park Free church as my oldest brother Mark and that brought back memories.

When I was younger, she would encourage me to listen to the Holy Spirit and not be afraid of sounding like a ‘charismatic’ even though St. Louis Park Free Church was not charismatic. She just wanted it to be sincere.

Bernice and Ralph were both very active in encouraging our overseas service for the Lord. Whether I was in Sudan in the 1980’s or in India in recent decades she was a frequent prayer warrior and she often asked questions that showed her real concern.

Thanks to the biological Youngren family for putting together a wonderful service. And thanks to Park Community Church family that gave both Bernice and myself a great home church that nurtured our faith and gave us opportunities for service for many decades

*Sincerely in Christ, Stephen & Louise & Josiah Anderson*

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**Stephen Anderson** - May 24, 2021 at 11:49 AM

MC

“ So sorry to hear about Bernice; She was always so much fun to talk with and I enjoyed her upbeat spirit! I know she will be greatly missed by her family and her family of faith.  
Hoping you concentrate on the many great memories of this great woman!  
Bernice and Don were part of a generation that we all looked to for strength and encouragement! Now, we have to pick up the torch!  
Mike Carroll

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Mike Carroll - May 03, 2021 at 09:34 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Bernice Emma Youngren.



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April 27, 2021 at 01:47 PM

BN

“ I am so very sorry to hear about your loss. Living next door to the Youngren family in the 60's and 70's brings back many pleasant memories, and now all we have is memories. My mother (Vivian Nelson) also just passed. (3/21/2021 Obit in Star Tribune). Bernice was always congenial, easy to talk to, welcoming, and a friend to my Mother.

Thinking of you in this trying time,  
Bill Nelson (bigbrass97@aol.com)

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Bill Nelson - April 26, 2021 at 09:37 AM