



## Evelyn Irene Axdahl

January 14, 2018

Evelyn Irene Axdahl was born on March 28, 1929 to Ted (Theodore) Barkve and Gunellia Gjerde Barkve, in Emmetsburg, Iowa. Ted died when Evelyn was two years old and a few years later Gunellia married M. Maurice Smith. It was a happy day when Maurice adopted Evelyn and she became Evelyn Smith. The family made their home first in Iowa, then moved to Minneapolis.

Evelyn graduated from Edison High School in NE Minneapolis, then attended Emmetsburg Junior College, and the University of Minnesota.

Evelyn's relative introduced her to his Augustana College roommate, Les Axdahl, and the romance between Les and Evie blossomed into marriage at Concordia Lutheran Church in NE Minneapolis on September 23, 1950. They made their home in St. Paul, MN, and later, Maplewood, MN where they lived for more than 60 years. To their family were born four children, Gwen, Lee, Jane, and Ann. She was an active member of Lakeview Lutheran Church in Maplewood, singing in the choir, teaching Sunday School, serving on the Christian Education Board and in the women's organization. She served on the Maplewood Fine Arts Board and Maplewood Boosters.

Evelyn was a homemaker and dedicated mother, and volunteered in a variety of ways within the Roseville School District while her children were students there. She was a cheerleader for all the endeavors of her kids. She was a fine seamstress and made many of the clothes for her family as they grew. She was a faithful soulmate for Les throughout their nearly 65 years of marriage. Evie became involved in politics when she was elected Chairwoman of the 4th

District Independent Republican Committee. She was elected as a voting delegate at all levels of political involvement from grassroots to state to national. She enjoyed volunteering for countless campaigns; meeting with elected representatives, senators, and presidents; traveling for state and national conventions; and meeting with other members of the Republican National Committee. She served for 22 years as the National Committeewoman from Minnesota. She had the opportunity to attend several inaugural festivities for Minnesota's governors and United States presidents. Her children recall many evening gatherings hosted by Evie and Les in their home when future governors and elected officials were seated in the living room and kitchen.

Evie enjoyed traveling. She looked forward to the annual week-long trips to the North Shore with her family. She traveled internationally as part of her political involvement to South Africa and Taiwan. She dearly loved trips to Norway and soaked up sun in the Caribbean.

Evie lived with grace, determination, strength in adversity, and a humble servant's heart throughout her life.

Evie died on Sunday, January 14, 2018 at St. Therese of Woodbury.

Remembering her life with love and joy and cherishing a wonderful mother are: Gwen (Kevin) Arneson of Cottonwood, MN; Lee (Lennis) Axdahl of Pierre, SD; Jane (Lindsey) Cartwright of Windom, MN; and Ann (Dave) Lund of Cottage Grove, MN.

Celebrating a loving grandmother are: Bjorn (Brittany) Arneson; Hans Arneson; Ingrid Arneson (Paul) Rasmussen; Erik (Rachel) Axdahl; Andrew Axdahl; Sarah (Chris) Tailowright; Marissa Cartwright; Peder Lund; Kelsey (Nick) Sullivan; and Karl Lund (fiancée Riley Steenstra).

Looking forward to hearing stories about their great-grandma are: Ella Ann Sullivan; Penelope Elizabeth Sullivan; Adrian David Sullivan; Leif Lester Arneson; Linus Samuel Axdahl; and Solveig Evelyn Rasmussen.

Evelyn is survived by her sisters, Maurine (Sheldon) Johnson; Karen (Mark) Hyland; many nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Lester, and a stillborn sister.

Memorial gifts are preferred to Lakeview Lutheran Church, the Lester Axdahl Scholarship at Lakeview Lutheran Church, Augustana University (Sioux Falls, SD), Union Gospel Mission, or the donor's choice of charity. The funeral service is Monday, January 22, 2018 at 11:00 AM at Lakeview Lutheran Church, 1194 E. Cty Rd. C, Maplewood with visitation at 9:30 AM.

# Tribute Wall

BC

“ *Evie was such a wonderful woman. She cared about everybody. I have a fond memory of her attending the service that she helped make happen, the Drawn to the Word/Water service at Lakeview where we watched in awe of Pastor Paul Oman painting an amazing piece for Lakeview. I remember Evie was very happy and pleased. She had a smile from ear to ear. I also have fond memories of her helping out my son attend the University of MN where he is studying Biomedical Engineering. Evie was instrumental in establishing the Les Axdahl scholarship which my son was fortunate to be approved as a recipient. Evie really cares about the youth and we really appreciate that. Her legacy will continue in so many ways. She is a role model for all of us to aspire to be. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Evie's whole family during these difficult time. Many fond memories will surely help.*

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**Barb Clothier** - January 20, 2018 at 11:54 AM


JW

“ *Evie was such a kind and caring lady. She was an icon at our Lakeview Lutheran Church. She and Les were so kind to me and my family. I looked up to her. She reminded me of my Mom. I was so glad to see her walking around at St. Therese. I'm so sorry for this loss. Prayers for the Axdahl family.*



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**JOAN WURDEMAN** - January 18, 2018 at 10:16 PM

 Judy Zielinski

“ *Evie was definitely an awesome woman. I was lucky to know her and her family for several years attending Lakeview Lutheran Church and singing in the choir with her and Les. She definitely will be missed. She will definitely be missed by so many and my prayers will be for all of you during this difficult time.*

*Judy Zielinski*

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**Judy Zielinski** - January 18, 2018 at 07:59 PM

JA

“ *Dear Axdahl Family,*

*Evelyn was truly a beautiful warm giving funny awesome woman, who I feel honored that I was one of her friends. And I know she has many friends. I am saddened by her passing. But i am comforted in knowing that she is now in Heaven with God, and with her wonderful husband, Les, and others who have passed before her. My prayers for all of you at this difficult time. And my love for all of you.*

*Jean Anderson*

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**Jean Anderson** - January 18, 2018 at 05:54 PM

SE

“ *I always enjoyed talking to Evie at church, her kindness was evident in all her interactions. I am so glad that I was able to greet her and talk to her briefly when she was last able to come to church for a special service recently. My condolences to Evie's family.*

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**Steve Egbert** - January 18, 2018 at 03:25 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Evelyn Irene Axdahl.* ”



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January 17, 2018 at 08:21 PM