



Mildred Ruth Kowalik

January 20, 1922 - December 9, 2023

Kowalik, Mildred, age 101+ of White Bear Lake, passed away on December 9, 2023. Born in Minneapolis, MN on January 20, 1922. Devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and church musician. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Survived by daughter Janice and husband Robert Vischer; son, Tim and wife Karen; daughter, Jeane Lerman; 6 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

Mildred grew up in a Slovak community that lived on the Bohemian Flats in Minneapolis during the 1920-30s. She spent her childhood and teen years attending the Slovak Baptist Church on Seven Corners in Minneapolis with her family. She was the church organist and pianist as a teenager. Upon graduation in 1940 from South High School in Minneapolis, she attended Minneapolis Business College. Her first job was at 3M in St. Paul in the accounting department. Mildred married Wasyl Kowalik in 1945. Together they founded and pastored the First Ukrainian Baptist Church in Minneapolis. She played piano and organ in the church services and taught Sunday School. After taking time to raise her children, she returned to work in 1954 at Flour City Architectural Metals in the accounting department where she spent 33 years. Throughout her lifetime on earth, she modeled Christian servanthood to God, family and friends. Mildred hopes to be remembered, "as one who loved the Lord Jesus Christ with all my heart, soul, mind and strength."

Celebration of Life service will be held 2:00 pm on Saturday, December 16 at the Washburn-McReavy Hillside Chapel, 2610 19th Ave. N.E., Minneapolis. 612-781-1999. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the University of Northwestern or online at unwsp.edu/giving.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 16. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Chapel Service

DEC 16. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Chapel Service for Mildred Ruth Kowalik in memory of Mildred Ruth Kowalik



Washburn-McReavy - December 11, 2023 at 11:06 AM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tim Kowalik - January 01, 2024 at 08:27 PM



“ Whenever I would go to see my great grandma with my grandpa Tim she was always happy and kind, one time she had a knot tied on her window thing and I untied it for her. She wanted to pay me for it but me and my grandpa said she didn't have too. I don't remember as much about her as most but that is my main memory of her.

-Lucas

Tim Kowalik - December 26, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ 1 file added to the album 1940



Tim Kowalik - December 23, 2023 at 08:03 PM



“ *Ministry:*

Played piano for Sunday School and church services at Slovak Baptist Church.

Wasył graduated from Northwestern College in May 1947.

Janice born on June 18, 1947.

Wasył went on a short-term mission trip in September to England, France, Belgium and Czechoslovakia. He was there about eight months. Returned home in May 1948.

Moved to Buffalo, NY to pastor a Russian church in August 1948.

Moved back to Minneapolis in late November 1949 (my sinus problem was getting worse).

Fellowship with Russian speaking Baptist church on West Bank.

Met with Russian/Ukrainian speaking families in early 1950 in our home (Santowski apt.)

1955 formed First Ukrainian Evangelical Baptist Church.

Started to meet in a Lutheran Church on West Bank.

Moved to Elim Baptist Church in NE Minneapolis.

Spring of 1957 purchased a church building in South Minneapolis – First Ukrainian Baptist Church (borrowed \$3000 for down payment from Andrew Elasky Sr. – paid back without interest). Dedication July 1957.

1965 - Moved to new church building in NE Minneapolis – Monroe St.

1986 – sold Monroe St. church building

Moved to a new church building in St. Louis Park, MN

Tim Kowalik - December 22, 2023 at 08:23 AM



“ *School/Work:*

Graduated from South High School in January 1940.

Attended Minneapolis Business College; received diploma in November.

Went to IBM school; finished training in December.

First job – January 1941 at 3M in St. Paul. In the accounting department (keypunch unit). Worked at 3M until May of 1945.

Worked at Flour City Architectural Metals in 1954-1987 (33 years) in Accounting Dept.

Tim Kowalik - December 22, 2023 at 08:22 AM



“ *Living on the Flats:*

Lowlands on the banks of the Mississippi River below the Washington Ave bridge.

Mother canned pears, peaches, raspberries, plums, cherries, tomatoes, sweet pickles, dill pickles, beets and chow-chow relish.

No fun washing jars.

Making root beer with Adolph in 1934,

Good penmanship in school was important.

Industrial School:

Ladies from the First Baptist Church

Taught us how to use a sewing machine to make a dress; embroidery. Taught boys how to make things out of wood.

Met once a week on Thursday after school. Learned songs and choruses, Bible story, flannelgraph story, missionary talk. Went to our various classes. Came back to sing and closing prayer.

Piano Teacher:

Ms Estelle Carlson – taught at McPhail School of Music. Eight girls, ended up with two after six years. I was one of the two.

Started playing in Sunday School as a teenager. Then a few years later the church asked me to be the church pianist and organist.

That is how I met your father. He came to our church to sing as a student from Northwestern College and I was the pianist. He asked me to play for him. That is how our friendship began (fall of 1944).

Engaged in January 1945. We were married on June 9, 1945.

Tim Kowalik - December 22, 2023 at 08:22 AM



“ *Holidays:*

Thanksgiving – received a large box from Blackduck, MN from Uncle Shingler. Four large chickens smoked bacon and hams. Mother made the best chicken soup.

Christmas Eve, church choir went caroling.

Christmas – mother did a lot of baking, kolachy, opeconscee and kissel soup (sauerkraut, dried mushrooms, diced potatoes and dried prunes).

Children’s program at church.

Father bought an Atwater Kent Radio for the family, battery operated, 1920s, first family in our neighborhood to own a radio.

Tim Kowalik - December 22, 2023 at 08:21 AM



“ *Brothers and Sister:*

Andrew “Andy”, oldest, 11 years older than me. Always good hearted and a very caring person.

Born June 27, 2011. Owned a grocery store on Cedar Ave.

Marie, nine years older. Shared a bedroom. Worked in customer service at MinneGasCo in Mpls.

John, ice skating, paper route, played violin. Dentist

Adolph, paper route, skating. Salesman, real estate, restaurant owner.

Tim Kowalik - December 22, 2023 at 08:20 AM



“ *Early Years:*

Born on January 20, 1922

Parents:

Andrew Elasky

Born September 16, 1888 in Vazec, Czechoslovakia

At age 16, he came to America in 1904, not knowing English

Had some friends who lived in Minneapolis

Worked for the railroad and sent money home.

Returned to Czech in 1908 for a visit and stayed until 1910.

He became better acquainted with Mary Shingler. Proposed to her and made plans to return to America to get married.

He returned in April 1910 and Mary came in July 1910.

Mary Shingler born April 1, 1892 in Vazec, Czechoslovakia.

Came to America in 1910

Married: August 1, 1910; ages 22 and 18 at the Emmanuel Slovak Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Both grew up in the Lutheran Church in Vazec.

Continued to attend Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Started attending a neighborhood Bible study led by a Baptist missionary.

Andrew started to study the Bible and made a decision to follow Christ.

Baptized at First Baptist Church by Dr. William Riley.

Mary accepted Christ as her personal savior a year later and was baptized.

Small neighborhood group later formed the First Slovak Baptist Church and bought a church building at Seven Corners in Minneapolis near the west bank of the University of Minnesota.

Mildred grew up in this church. As a teenager, she was the church organist and pianist. That is how she met her future husband, Wasył Kowalik, who was a student at Northwestern College in Minneapolis. He had come to the Slovak Church to sing and preach.

He asked Mildred if she would accompany him on the piano. Thus began a relationship that culminated in their marriage on June 9, 1945.

Tim Kowalik - December 22, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *Mildred Ruth Kowalik*

Throughout her lifetime on earth, she modeled Christian servanthood to God, family and friends.

My Wishes:

I wish to have my family and friends know that I love them.

I wish to be forgiven for the times I have hurt family, friends and others.

I wish to have my family, friends and others that I forgive them for when they may hurt me in my life.

I wish for my family and friends to know that I do not fear death itself. I know it is not the end but the beginning for me.

I wish for all my family members to make peace with each other.

I want to be remembered as one who loved the Lord with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength.

Tim Kowalik - December 22, 2023 at 08:15 AM



“ Theme Song:

I Need Jesus

*1) I need Jesus, my soul I now confess; No friend like Him in times
of deep distress;
I need Jesus, the need I gladly own; Tho' some may bear their load
alone,
Yet, I need Jesus.*

Chorus:

*I need Jesus, I need Jesus, I need Jesus every day;
Need Him in the sunshine hour, Need Him when the storm clouds
low'r;
Everyday along the way, Yes I need Jesus.*

*2) I need Jesus, I need a friend like Him, A friend to guide when
paths of life are dim;
I need Jesus, when foes my soul assail; Alone I know I can fail,
So, I need Jesus.*

*3) I need Jesus, I need Him to the end; No one like Him, He is the
sinner's Friend;
I need Jesus, no other friend will do; So constant, kind, so strong
and true,
Yes, I need Jesus.*

Tim Kowalik - December 22, 2023 at 08:14 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Gravesite



Tim Kowalik - December 18, 2023 at 08:58 PM

“ Tollhouse Recipe

*Every time we'd drive to see her
She'd hide tins up in the freezer
Stuffed with wax paper and cookies just for me
Grandma knew they were my favorite
But every time I'd say it
She'd just laugh, and say, It's the tollhouse recipe*

*Whenever I taste it
Milk and cookies seem sacred
Life aint just what I make it
It's what's been made for me
Flour, sugar, and butter
Remind me how much I love her
Be missing my mother's mother
Til eternity
It'll be a while until I see her there
I'll remember her each time I add a tear
To her tollhouse recipe*

*Every night I'd go to listen
Eat some baked goods in the kitchen
She told antique stories that always felt brand new
She learned piano as a child
Her brother Andy made her smile
When she mentioned him, she cried a little too*

*Whenever I taste it
Milk and cookies seem sacred
Life aint just what I make it
It's what's been made for me
Flour, sugar, and butter
Remind me how much I love her
Be missing my mother's mother
Til eternity*

*It'll be a while until I see her there
I'll remember her each time I add a tear
To her tollhouse recipe*

Rob Vischer - December 18, 2023 at 10:43 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mildred Ruth Kowalik.*



December 15, 2023 at 10:48 PM



“ *Please view a special photo tribute of my beloved Grandma Kowalik. <https://animoto.com/play/ye4fYTc2bVewnR51bhXHww>
Love you always, Doug & Kristin*



Kristin Ward - December 15, 2023 at 10:01 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Bruce Fleming - December 15, 2023 at 09:59 PM

BF

Niece Joy Elasky Fleming and Millie on her 101st Birthday!

Bruce Fleming - December 15, 2023 at 10:00 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mildred Ruth Kowalik.*



December 14, 2023 at 11:07 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mildred Ruth Kowalik.*



December 14, 2023 at 09:23 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Wedding 1945*



Tim Kowalik - December 13, 2023 at 04:25 PM



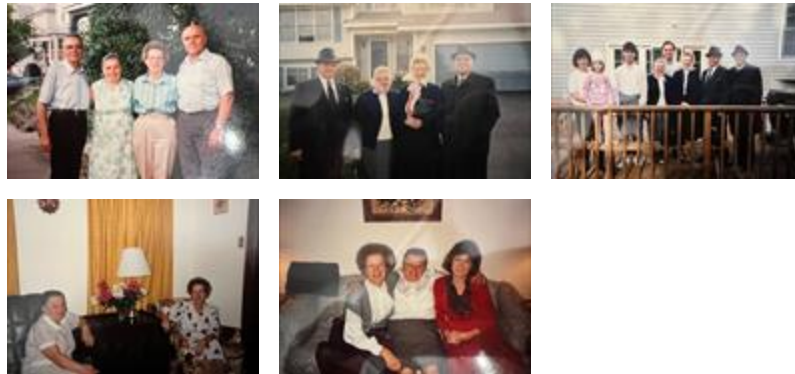
“ 1 file added to the album *Elasky Family*



Tim Kowalik - December 13, 2023 at 04:20 PM



“ 8 files added to the album *Mildred*



Tanya Gruzdov - December 13, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ *From Peter Kowalik's Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mildred Ruth Kowalik.*



From Peter Kowalik's Family - December 13, 2023 at 03:36 PM

SL

“ We call her Millie at Scandia Shores. We remember her as gracious, pleasant, strong in her love for Jesus, consistently letting her light shine wherever she is, and a loving mother.

Family, thank you for your love and compassion for your mother, grandmother, great-grandmother; for being present regularly during this last part of Millie's journey. Know that you have done well! Now Millie is with her Lord and the struggles of this earthly body are over! From Scandia Shores we greet you and give you our love and sympathy.

Millie's life was about Jesus. That is what her favorite hymn spoke-- "I need Jesus!" Her faith is seen in her words from our visits in recent years:

"I don't know what lies ahead but I trust Him!"

"I am not afraid, I am ready to go."

"If I don't see you down here, I'll see you up there!"

Millie, I miss you and am so very grateful to know you! See you later!

Sherree Lane, Campus Pastor Scandia Shores Senior Living

Sherree Lane - December 13, 2023 at 03:35 PM

CL

“ Corrine L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mildred Ruth Kowalik.

Corrine L. - December 13, 2023 at 11:09 AM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Mildred Ruth Kowalik.*



December 13, 2023 at 11:09 AM



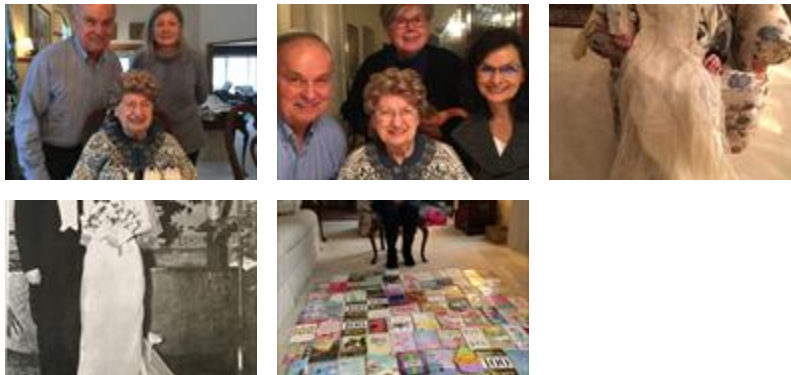
“ *The "Aleksuk Family" purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mildred Ruth Kowalik.*



The "Aleksuk Family" - December 12, 2023 at 07:37 PM



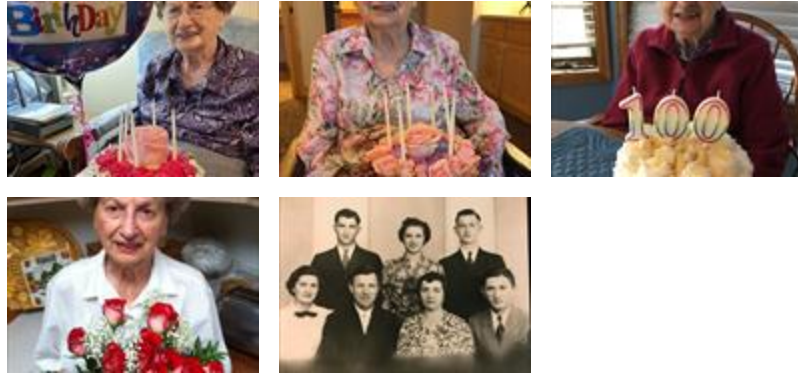
“ *16 files added to the album Mildred*



Tim Kowalik - December 12, 2023 at 01:25 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Mildred



Tim Kowalik - December 11, 2023 at 09:02 PM

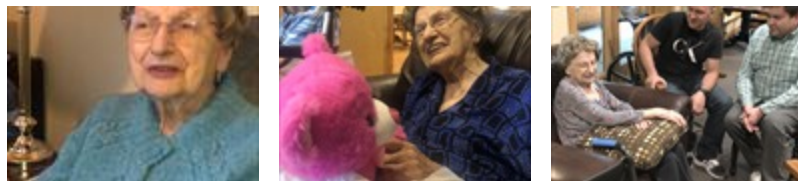
ZL

“ Beloved Sunday School Teacher & Friend. How we will honor and treasure your memory and the love and dedication you demonstrated. You have now met the Savior. Love you always. Z & H.

Zina M Lisak - December 11, 2023 at 11:05 AM

ZL

“ 3 files added to the album Mildred



Zina M Lisak - December 11, 2023 at 11:01 AM

TK

“ 1 file added to the album Mildred



Tim Kowalik - December 10, 2023 at 04:12 PM