

Jeraldine Karstens, 87

Dec. 29, 1922 - Feb. 2, 2010

AVOCA — Jeraldine "Jerry" Nora

Karstens was born on her father's birthday, December 29, 1922, in Lincoln Township, rural Walnut, to Jerry and Nora (Linkletter) Glissmann. She was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Atlantic. She attended grade school in Lincoln Township and graduated from Lewis High School with the Class of 1940. Jerry worked for the telephone company and the United States Navy Supply Depot during World War II and met Vernon in Long Beach, CA, even though they grew up about ten miles apart.



December 12, 1945, Jerry was united in marriage to Vernon Karstens at her parents' home south of Walnut, on her parents' anniversary. Three children were born to this union: Karen, Ronald, and Donald. Jerry was a housewife and helped her husband with the field work on the farm. She did a lot of cooking, baking, and canning vegetables from her garden. The family was active in the 4-H program and in Trinity Lutheran Church. She enjoyed polka dancing and playing cards. Going to the neighborhood card club was the highlight of her month. She also enjoyed camping and fishing after retirement. Jerry and Vernon lived on the Karstens family farm for over sixty-three years. She moved to the Avoca Assisted Living in May of 2009 and lived there until September 14 when she moved to Avoca Nursing and Rehab. It was there that she died on Tuesday, February 2, 2010, having attained the age of eighty-seven years, one month, and four days.

Jerry was preceded in death by her parents and her son Donald and his wife Debra. She is survived by her husband of sixty-four years Vernon Karstens of Avoca; her daughter Karen and her husband James Hansen of Walnut; her son Ronald Karstens and his wife RoseMarie of Woodbury, MN; five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; her sisters Hazel Henningsen of Walnut, Dorothy Beckendorf of Walnut, and Ethel Wood of Omaha, NE; other family members and friends.

Pastor Dennis Reich officiated the 11:00 AM funeral service on Saturday, February 6, 2010

at Trinity Lutheran Church in Avoca. Honorary casket bearers were Kevin Hansen, Nathan Hansen, Philip Hansen, Nicole Campbell, and Brooke Maine. A private inurnment was held at Graceland Cemetery.

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