

Esther Lorraine Rutherford, 64

~~May 29, 1955 -~~ Sept. 19, 2002

HARLAN – Esther Lorraine Rutherford, the daughter of Ed K. and Dorothy I. (Lacy) Andersen, was born April 11, 1938, in rural Audubon. She attended school in rural Audubon.

May 29, 1955, she married Dale Arlis Rutherford at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Audubon, the same church in which she was baptized and confirmed. The couple farmed in Audubon County until 1971, when they moved to Elk Horn. Esther worked at the Salem Lutheran Home from July, 1971, until May, 2002. During that time, she furthered her education, earning her Associate of Arts degree from Iowa Western Community College (IWCC) in 1989, and her RN degree, also from IWCC, in 1991. In the spring of 1992, Esther moved to Harlan, and on Sept. 2, 2002, she became a resident of the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn. Esther was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, where she was active in the women's quilting group, Bible studies and Bible School. When her children were young, she was a 4-H leader and a Boy Scout den mother. She died Sept. 19, 2002, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 64 years, five months and eight days.

Preceding Esther in death were her parents; her husband, Dale, Dec. 22, 1981; and one brother-in-law, Dallas Christensen. Survivors include one daughter, Mary (John) Taggs of Harlan; four sons, Kevin (Deb) Rutherford of Harlan; Kent (Gayleen) Rutherford of Eagle Grove; Keith (Amy) Rutherford of Marinette, WI and Kelly (Sheryl) Rutherford of Hickman, NE; one sister, Doris Christensen of Audubon; one brother, John (Sandy) Andersen of Hiawatha; 20 grandchildren; seven great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Sept. 23, 2002, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, rural Jacksonville, with Pastor Henry Flessner officiating. Casket bearers were Duane Christensen, Dalton Christensen, Todd Andersen, Troy Andersen, Jim Wakelin, John Thomas and Tyler Andersen. Burial was in the Elk Horn Cemetery. The Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

