

Remembering the life of...

Esther Christine Opp, 95, of Napoleon ND, passed away on February 21, 2022 in West Fargo, ND.

Esther was born November 27, 1926, to Reinhold and Frieda (Wanner) Mertz on the family homestead near Dawson, North Dakota. She attended a one room schoolhouse through eighth grade. Esther was determined to achieve her high school diploma and did so through correspondence classes.

Without any college education she passed the exam to become a teacher and taught in one room schools for several years. While teaching she met her future husband of 65 years, Reinhold (Reiny) P. Opp. Esther married Reiny on her 21st birthday, November 27, 1947 at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Streeter, ND. They lived on the Opp farmstead located in the "flat" between Streeter and Napoleon ND. Esther participated in St. Luke Lutheran Church as a Sunday school teacher, the women's group, and singing in the choir. After moving to Napoleon, she and Reiny became active members of Trinity Lutheran. She was also a member of the American Legion Auxiliary in both Streeter and Napoleon. She loved auction sales, furniture refinishing, sewing, and baking. She was a 4-H leader and served with the American Cancer Society.

Esther and Reiny were blessed with children and raised Julie, Galen, and Pamelyn on the farm while working to build a cattle and grain operation with hard work and dedication. Esther encouraged the expansion and growth of the farm operation, which included irrigation. Esther lived and worked on the family farm until 2000 when she and Reiny moved into Napoleon.

She enjoyed flowers and gardening and even at 94 years young was still pickling, canning, and freezing her produce. Esther was an excellent seamstress and created many quilts and crocheted doilies over her lifetime that are family treasures. Esther enjoyed trips with family to Medora, Washington DC, and a Germans from Russia trip to tour where her ancestors immigrated from in the Ukraine area. Esther was interviewed several times by the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection and was featured in the Prairie Public "Women Behind the Plow" documentary.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents, husband Reinhold Opp (2012) and son-in-law Bradley J. Burgum (2010). Esther's legacy lives on through her children: Julie Burgum, Casselton ND; Galen (Barb) Opp, Napoleon ND; Pamelyn (John) Galegher, Thompson ND and her grandchildren: James (Abigail) Burgum, Benjamin Burgum (Lindsey Eichenlaub), Lance (Heather) Sherman, Shane (Meredith) Sherman, Andrew (Amy) Galegher, Jenna (Peter) Kulenkamp, Shannon Galegher and twelve great-grandchildren. She is survived by her siblings: Melvin Mertz, Allean Boschee, Alvin (Edna) Mertz, Quentin (Arlyss) Mertz, JoAnne (Larry) Gauper, Bernice Rau, Sandy (Lloyd) Olsgard and sisters-in-law Genny Opp and Alice Opp.

The family would like to thank the staff at Kinder Care in West Fargo, North Dakota, and Hospice Red River Valley.



*Dahlstrom Funeral
Home*

*Wishek/Napoleon/Kulm, ND
www.dahlstromfuneralservice.com*



Esther's tulips, Spring 2021



*Barb's geraniums from slips of Esther's plant
which she got from her mother Frieda Mertz.*

*GOD GIVES US EACH A GIFT OF LIFE
TO CHERISH FROM OUR BIRTH.
HE GIVES US FRIENDS AND THOSE WE LOVE
TO SHARE OUR DAYS ON EARTH.*

*HE WATCHES US WITH LOVING CARE
AND TAKES US BY THE HAND,
HE BLESSES US WITH COUNTLESS JOYS
AND GUIDES THE LIVES WE'VE PLANNED.*

*THEN, WHEN OUR WORK ON EARTH IS DONE,
HE CALLS US TO HIS SIDE,
TO LIVE WITH HIM IN HAPPINESS
WHERE PEACE AND LOVE ABIDE.*



*Esther's interviews done by Germans from
Russia Collection:*
www.digitalhorizonsonline.org and at [https://
www.youtube.com/watch?v= XYnXDqgX5A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYnXDqgX5A)

*Memorials to Germans from Russia Heritage
Collection:*
<https://library.ndsu.edu/grhc/donations>

Celebrating the life of ESTHER CHRISTINE OPP



MEMORIAL SERVICE

Trinity Lutheran Church

Napoleon, North Dakota

Saturday, March 26, 2022 - 11:00 a.m.

Officiant

Pastor Susan Anderson

Music

Lois Ruff ~ Organist

Robert Erbele ~ Soloist

"Gott ist die Liebe" (God is Love)

"Take Thou My Hand Oh Father"

Congregational Songs

"Abide with Me" ~ Softly and Tenderly"

"Blessed Assurance" ~ "What a Friend"

Scripture Readers

Shane Sherman & Ben Burgum

Scripture Readings

Psalm 23 ~ John 14: 1-6,27

Matthew 11: 28-30 ~ Psalm 61: 1-4

Eulogy

Jenna Kulenkamp

Interment

Napoleon City Cemetery

The family wishes to express their appreciation for your
kindness and support. Please join us for lunch and
fellowship following the service.

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