



Marie E. Demmel

November 15, 1924 - August 2, 2016

Marie E. Demmel, 91, of Kearney died Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at Prairie View Gardens in Kearney. Funeral services will be Monday, August 8, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Grace Fellowship Church in Kearney with Pastor Mitch Ivey officiating. Burial will be in the Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be Sunday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Grace Fellowship Church. Memorials are planned to Grace Fellowship Church. Visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements. Marie was born November 15, 1924 in Madison, Nebraska to William and Mary (Reeg) Knapp. She graduated from Madison High School in 1942 and received a B. A. Degree in Education from Midland Lutheran College in Fremont in 1946. In the fall of 1946 she taught at Stanton High School. The following year, 1947, she became Executive Director of the Nebraska District Y.W.C.A. On February 20, 1949 she married Arnold E. Demmel at the Green Garden Lutheran Church in Madison, Nebraska. They farmed for eight years in Madison County then lived in the Amherst area from 1962-1969, Kearney from 1969-1980 and then Holdrege from 1980 to 2012, when she returned to Kearney. In 1970 she and Arnold opened the Villager Restaurant in Lexington. From 1971-1979 they operated the Villager Restaurant in Kearney and from 1975 to 2010 the Villager Restaurant in Holdrege. Marie enjoyed playing cards and games of all kinds. She was best known for her famous cookies and was always baking and giving them away to those she loved. She also enjoyed

watching her children and grandchildren's sporting events and spending time with her family. Her passions were her family and her Lord, Jesus Christ. She spent countless hours praying, reading her devotionals and studying her marked up Bible. Her love for God was inspiring and her love and genuine concern for others was infectious. For Marie, her relationship with God and the church was her life. Marie and her husband, Arnold, were instrumental in the formation of her home church, Grace Fellowship Church in Kearney. What started as a Bible study in the mid-seventies, eventually became a church and this new fellowship of believers formally organized in January of 1980 with 35 attending the first service in the historic First Baptist Church building on the corner of 4th Avenue and 22nd Street. The church incorporated in June of 1980 as Kearney Christian Outreach Church and after being in several locations purchased land in 1984, and erected a building in its current location in 1985. In 1989, her son, Bruce, became the senior pastor, serving there for 20 years. In 1991 the church became known as Grace Fellowship Church, where Marie and her entire family attended and served, leaving behind a legacy of faith and devotion to God. Surviving relatives include her daughter, Lynne Gillespie and her husband Scott of Amherst, NE; sons, Bruce Demmel and his wife Nancy of Falls City, NE and Brian Demmel and his wife Deb of Omaha, NE; nine grandchildren and sixteen great grandchildren. Marie was preceded in death by her husband-Arnold on May 12, 1995 and one brother.

Tribute Wall



“ Marie E. Demmel

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ Our condolences to Marie's family. May you be surrounded by the unfailing peace of God.

Paul Blanchard - August 06, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Such sweet memories of Marie when I grew up in Holdrege. She knew even after I had moved away, when I would come home my favorite stop was the Villager for chicken. My thoughts and prayers for all of Marie's family.

Don Sickels - August 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM



“ Oh Marie when I think about you I always smile. That is what I will miss the most about you, but knowing that you are now an angel watching over all of us, once again it makes me smile. Your faith inspired everyone you touched, at least for me it did. I thank God that I was blessed to have you come into my life and I hope that when I grow up I can be just like you.

Tawnia Lee - August 05, 2016 at 12:00 AM