

Elma Irene Smith passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on January 25, 2024 at the Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd in New Rockford, ND at age 90. Elma was under Hospice care.

Elma Irene (Edwardson) Smith was born on February 11, 1933, to Edward & Elvida (Halvorson) Edwardson at the family farm, in Nordmore Township, rural Carrington, ND. Elma was the 4th child in a family of 7. She was baptized in March of 1933 and confirmed in December of 1946 at Kvernes Lutheran Church in rural Carrington, ND. Elma held strong to her faith and loved to attend church and later in life listening to church services on the radio from the comfort of her home.

Elma attended Nordmore Estrabrook County Schools and High School in Carrington, ND. She was married to Lester P. Smith on November 9, 1951, at Kvernes Church. They resided and farmed in rural Sheyenne, ND, where they raised 4 daughters and cared for several foster children. In 1982 they purchased the Longhorn Saloon in Sheyenne. Elma was very proud of her daughters. Whether it be her own daughters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or family friends, she was always surrounded by children. Elma had a way of making sure everyone was taken care of and no one ever went hungry, whether it was a meal at her home or a treat at a business establishment.

Her compassion for family and friends extended into her choice of employment. She loved being around people. She was employed at the New Rockford Hospital, Tastee Freeze in Sheyenne, Social Services, and several other places. In 1986, she started employment with the 4th Corporation in New Rockford. In 1987, she moved to New Rockford. Elma really treasured the years with the people she cared for and her co-workers. In 2004, she started working for Support Systems, caring for an individual who lived in New Rockford. During these years of employment, she received her Developmental Disability Curriculum requirements for ND from Minot State University in 1988. Elma was also an EMT for the New Rockford Ambulance at one time. Her work ethic and compassion for people are such a source of pride to her family. In her mid-80's she reluctantly retired.

Elma enjoyed going to concerts, plays, musicals, the casino, and shopping. She enjoyed going on trips, eating out with family & friends, driving around and her biggest compassion was sitting on her front porch sharing good conversation with Kathy Allard and anyone who would stop for a visit.

Elma is survived by her 4 daughters, Deanna Erickson, New Rockford, ND, Denise Hanson, Fargo, ND, Pamela Loree, Minot, ND and Patricia Smith, Fargo, ND. She is survived by 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great-granddaughter: Christopher (Bobbie) Bichler and their 4 children, Hannah (Jarret) and her daughter, Haddie, Abigail, Dashyl and Riley; Carissa (Darin) Engstrom and their 2 children Olivia and Carter; Travis Hanson, Thea (James) Grindeland and their daughter, Estelle; Paul Loree, Patrick Loree and his 2 children, Liam and Eliza; Bethany (Dave) Lindsay and their 2 children, Charity and Gabriella; Phillip (Sabrina) Loree, Payton Loree, Jeremy Smith-Nerlien, Jade (Makenzie) Smith-Nerlien and their 2 children, Emmett and Zoe; Tiffany Smith-Nerlien and Tate Smith-Nerlien and several special nieces and nephews.

Elma's family was very special to her and she cherished any time she had with them.

Elma is preceded in death by her parents, 2 sisters, Mary Ellen and Verna Mae, and 4 brothers, James, Edwin, Elvin, and Norman. Her former husband, Lester P. Smith, and son-in-law, Richard Nerlien.

In Loving Memory Of



Elma Smith

FEBRUARY 11, 1933 – JANUARY 25, 2024

Always There

*When you remember me,
Please do not weep.
My body may not be there,
It has chosen to sleep.
I'm not that far away,
My soul lives on.
Looking down,
Watching over you and everyone.
And when you feel sad
And life seems so blue,
Just remember
That my spirit has
Its arms around you.
And on those special days,
Times that you wish I could see,
That cool breeze
Flowing past you...
Well, that will be me.
So don't be sad,
Have no fear.
God has taken me under his wing,
But I'll always be near.
I still watch you
Every minute, every day.
My love and soul are with you,
And that's where they will stay.
~Emma Etwell*



Celebrating The Life Of *Elma Irene Smith*

February 11, 1933 - rural Carrington, ND

January 25, 2024 - New Rockford, ND

VISITATION

Monday, January 29, 2024

2:00PM - 4:00PM

Evans Funeral Home, New Rockford, ND

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

1:00PM - 2:00PM

First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

FUNERAL SERVICE

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

2:00PM

First Lutheran Church, New Rockford, ND

OFFICIATING

Pastor Amy Kippen

MUSIC

Kerstin Allmaras ~ Organist

Congregational Hymn

Softly & Tenderly

Patrick Loree ~ Solos

On Eagle's Wings ~ Precious Lord Take My Hand

Lord's Prayer

PALLBEARERS

All of Elma's Grandchildren

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

All of Elma's Family and Friends

BURIAL

Kvernes Lutheran Cemetery, Carrington, ND

Arrangements by

Evans Funeral Home - Carrington & New Rockford, ND

www.EvansFuneralHomeND.com