Margaret Vander Werff

Margaret B. Vander Werff, 86, of rural Reasnor died Sunday evening, Aug. 17, at Friendship Manor Care Center in Grinnell, where she had resided since November of 2002.

Funeral services for Margaret Vander Werff were held today (Thursday) at 10:30 a.m. at St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Sully, with the Rev. Larry Peterson officiating and the Rev. H. Eugene Cerny assisting. Music was provided by Gertrude Schnell, organist, and Larry Hendricks, soloist. Casket bearers included grandsons Jonathan Vander Werff, Shawn Stubbe, Fred Stubbe and Jonathan Johnson and nephews Bryce Hendricks and Richard Tool. Interment was in St. Andrew’s Lutheran Cemetery.

The family invited friends and relatives to return to the basement of St. Andrew’s following the interment.

She was born on Jan. 31, 1917, in the Jasper County town of Galesburg, one of two daughters of George and Hattie Castorf Hendricks. The couple also had five sons.

She attended grade school and, as a young girl, aspired to becoming a missionary. She attended Wartburg College in Waverly for one year in hopes of fulfilling that desire.

She married Joseph Lawrence Vander Werff on Feb. 23, 1941, at the St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church. The couple had three children: Larry Lee, Ilene Kay and Miriam Jeanne.

The couple lived their married life in the Galesburg and Reasnor vicinity, where she served as a dedicated homemaker and faithful wife, as well as assisting her husband in raising an Ayrshire purebred dairy herd. She also worked for five years at the Sully Cafe in Sully.

She was a faithful reader of the bible and a lifelong member of St. Andrew’s, where she taught Sunday school for a number of years and joined in the bible study group.

She loved to raise flowers and will be remembered by her family for her pie-baking skills, her strawberry jam and her home-made ice cream.

She is survived by her husband; their three children and their spouses, Larry L. and Nancy Vander Werff of Rochester Hills, Mich., Ilene K. and Fred Stubbe of Edinburgh, Ind., and Miriam J and Michael McLean of Brooklyn, Iowa; a sister-in-law, Marjorie Hendricks of Reasnor; and ten grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; her five brothers, Clifford, William, Freeman, Lester and Earl; and her sister, Bernice V. Tool.

For those desiring, memorials may be made to the American Heart Association or St. Andrew’s Lutheran church.

H.R. August 21, 2003