

Lillie Anna Emma Neitzel, 83

Lillie Anna Emma Neitzel, 83, of Brooklyn, died Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City. In the act of selflessness, she donated her eyes for research to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.



A memorial service was held at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 13, at St. James Lutheran Church in Victor with the Rev. Michael Kolesar officiating.

Memorials may be directed to the Lillie A.E. Neitzel Memorial Fund and sent in care of the Smith Funeral Home, P.O. Box 485, Victor, Iowa, 52347. Memories and condolences may be shared with the family at www.smithfh.com.

Lillie was born on June 20, 1926, on the family farm near Homestead to Carl and Meta Huedepohl Walter. She attended Immanuel Lutheran School and she was baptized and confirmed there.

Lillie was united in marriage to Laverne Marvin Neitzel on Jan. 2, 1949, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Williamsburg. Lillie and Laverne farmed in the Brooklyn, Victor and Guernsey area in Poweshiek County. When the Star Inn opened in 1965, at the Brooklyn exit on Interstate 80, Lillie worked as a waitress and eventually became a manager and co-owner in the 1970s and 1980s. She worked countless hours there until her retirement in 1985. Since Lillie enjoyed children and babies so much, she started another career of babysitting until all of her "children" headed off to elementary school.

Lillie was a member of St. James Lutheran Church in Victor and St. James Ladies Aid. She worked at congregational meals in Victor and she donated blood every month until her health forced her to stop doing so. She will be missed by all of her friends and family, especially her soul-mate Laverne.

Lillie is survived by her husband of 61 years, Laverne Neitzel of Brooklyn; her children, Jeanette (Neitzel) Scotton of Palm Harbor, Fla., and Gary Neitzel of Brooklyn; three grandchildren, Ethan Laverne (20), Alena Marie (10), Zachary Lewis (8); her siblings, Reno Walter of Oxford, Orville (Rita) Walter of Homestead; and her sisters-in-law, Laverne (Adolph) Walter, and Lois (LeRoy) Wallace.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Arnold, LeRoy, Melvin, and Adolph Walter; and her sisters, Norma (Walter) Schmidt and Erna (Walter) Collingwood.

PCR March 17, 2010