Esther Irene Groothed was born on August 9, 1915, on a farm near Knoxville, Iowa. She was the youngest of thirteen children born to Henry and Elsie Groothed. The family moved to an acreage near Pella, Iowa, in 1920. Esther attended the Pella public schools and graduated from Pella High School in 1932. She taught in the rural schools in the Pella area for four years.

Esther was united in marriage with Harris Vande Noord on June 4, 1937, in Pella. They moved to Grinnell, Iowa, in 1942 and Harris was employed by the Phillips 66 Petroleum Company. Esther taught for the Grinnell-Newburg School System in their country schools. She was among the last of the early rural teachers in Iowa. She was affectionately known by her students as "Miss Esther," even to this day, and many kept in touch with her long after finishing school. Esther and Harris were blessed with two children, Edwin and Richard.

For the majority of her adult life, Esther was active in a variety of church and community organizations. Some examples include: twenty-five years as a Sunday School teacher in the Grinnell Methodist Church; at the First Reformed Church in Pella, she was a member of the Elizabeth and Hope Circle; she loved to play the organ and piano, and for years she played at church and school events; another great love was singing, especially hymns. Esther was also a long-time member of the TTT. Among her family and friends, she was known as an excellent cook and baker, and a person with a quick wit.

Harris passed away in September of 1965, and Esther continued living in the Grinnell family home until 1971. At that time she and Marion De Zwart, her brother-in-law, were married on December 12, 1971, and they moved to Pella. Marion passed away in November, 1977, and Esther continued to live in the Midtown Apartments where she and her sister, Janet Steenhooch, shared their lives together as sisters and best friends. As Esther advanced in age, she became a resident at care facilities in Pella until her death on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at The Cottages. She had just recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Esther was truly a lady always gracious, giving, and loving. She never failed to take time for others to provide sympathy, compassion, comfort, or help someone in need. She will be remembered by all whose lives she touched.

Esther leaves her two sons, Ed and Rhonda Vande Noord of Boulder, Colorado, and Richard and Diane of La Jolla, California. Ed and Rhonda have two children: their granddaughter Kimberly Daugs (Denison) and their three great grandchildren Haydn, Olivia, and Esther; her grandson Scott Vande Noord and her two great grandchildren, Nella and Harris. She also leaves three step children: Elaine De Zwart (John) of Granville, Ohio and her grandchildren: Dave, Judy, and Tomi; Lola and LeRoy Van Weelden of Oahe Beach, Missouri, and her grandchildren: Lowell, Lynn, Kelly, and Stuart; and Roger De Zwart of Howell, Michigan and her grandson, Ryan.

Esther was preceded in death by her two husbands, her parents, and her five brothers and seven sisters and their spouses: Jake and Fide Groothed, John and Roxie Groothed, Cornie and Laura Groothed, Minnie and Dick Hugen and Bertha Hugen, Cora and Andrew (Brooks) Kluy, Margaret and Bill Vande Voort, Hattie and Abe Vandere Beek, Herman and Joan Groothed, Bill and Ena Groothed, Janet and Gerrit Steenhooch, Mary and Robert Ver Hoeg, and Helen (Marion) De Zwart. With Esther's passing, this is the last of a beloved family generation.

Family memorial service was held at the Oakwood Cemetery in Pella. Memorial service was held on Monday, October 26, at The Cottages in Pella.

Memorial contributions may be designated for the Activity Programming Fund at The Cottages or the First Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa. Van Dyk - Duven Funeral Home in Pella was in charge of arrangements.