

Dorothy Renatta (Hanssen) Plum

Dorothy R. Plum, age 91, of Cedar Rapids and formerly of Grinnell, died on Saturday, February 20, 2016, at Northbrook Manor Care Facility in Cedar Rapids.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 26, 2016, at Trinity Lutheran Church northeast of Grinnell with Pastor Catherine Burroughs officiating. Pallbearers are John Smith, Bill Smith, Mike Hotchkin, Bret Crowl, Carol DeFiore and Sarah Cox. Honorary bearers are Joel Smith, Randy and Steve Hanssen, Butch DeBondt, Don Ahrens, Leroy Walters and Larry Lamb. Interment will be at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery.



Visitation began at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell and the family received friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Thursday evening.

Memorials may be designated to the Trinity Lutheran Cemetery Association, mailed in care of the Smith Funeral Home, PO Box 368, Grinnell, Iowa 50112. Condolences may be shared with the family online at www.smithfh.com. Dorothy's family would like to thank the staff at Village Place and Northbrook Manor Care Center, Dr. Alecia Allen, the Palliative care team, Gentiva Home Healthcare, and Home Choice Senior Care for their dedicated care and compassion.

Dorothy Renatta (Hanssen) Plum was born the daughter of Peter and Renatta (Dostall) Hanssen on Saturday, October 25, 1924, in Grinnell, Iowa. She was raised on the family farm near Malcom and attended country schools in the Sheridan Township until the eighth grade. She graduated from Malcom High School with the class of 1941.

Dorothy met Walter Plum while attending Luther League at Trinity Lutheran Church. Shortly thereafter, he was deployed overseas to serve his country during World War II. After four years he returned home and fourteen months later Dorothy and Walter were united in marriage on April 6, 1947, at the Trinity Lutheran Church. The couple was blessed with a daughter, Char. They farmed near Malcom for five years and then moved to Grinnell. Dorothy worked for the Grinnell schools' lunchroom program for 30 years, with most of that time at Fairview Elementary School. She loved working at the school and making sure the kids were provided a good meal each day. Shortly after her retirement, Dorothy began working at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell and resided in the apartment above the funeral home for 13 years. Dorothy was very dedicated at the funeral home in assisting families after losing a loved one, as she had experienced the death of her husband in 1972, son-in-law, Gary Herzberg in 1978, and granddaughter, Anne in 1985.

Following her second retirement, she moved to Cedar Rapids to be closer to her family. While living in Cedar Rapids she enjoyed living at Village Place and appreciated the wonderful friendships she made there. Dorothy dearly loved being closer to her family and cherished every moment spent with her daughter, granddaughter, grandson-in-law, and three great grandchildren.

Dorothy was a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church. She devoted much of her life to improving the lives of others and always lending a hand to those in need. Dorothy will be remembered for her kind, gentle and loving way, her infectious smile, and for the way in which she cared for so many people.

Dorothy is survived by her daughter, Char Weuve of Marion; granddaughter, Beth (Patrick) Morrissey of Cedar Rapids; and three great grandchildren, Graedyn, Brevyn, and Courtlyn. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Walter Plum; two brothers, Arthur and Walter Hanssen; son-in-law, Gary Herzberg; and granddaughter, Anne Herzberg.

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