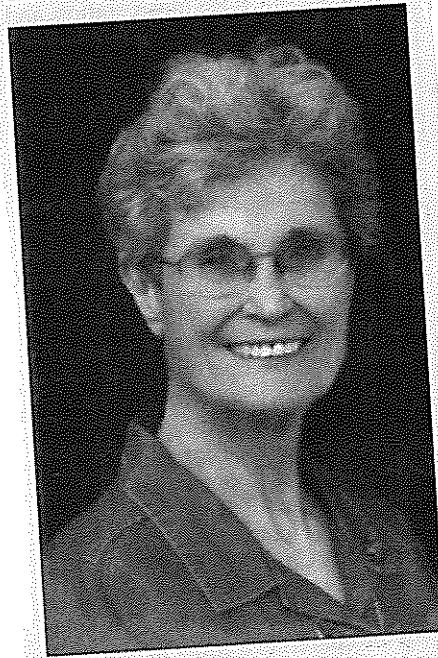


Esther L. Stevens



Esther L. Stevens, 85, of Newton and formerly of Grinnell; died Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2016, at Skiff Medical Center.

A funeral service was held Tuesday, Jan. 19, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Memorials to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church may be left at the church or at the Wallace Family Funeral Home and Crematory.

Esther, the daughter of Esper and Helen Bracy Tiedemann, was born Sept. 6, 1930, in Poweshiek County. She started school in Malcom and then as a young girl moved to Grinnell, where she was in the class of 1947.

Esther was united in marriage with George Stevens on Dec. 31, 1945, in Waterloo. They made their home in Grinnell and Melbourne, before moving to Newton in 1955.

Esther was a homemaker, raising two daughters, and also co-owned Henry's Drive-In in Newton. She was a member of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and the Moose Lodge. She loved getting together with people for coffee or supper. Once a month she would meet with a group of her classmates in Grinnell and every Thursday, a group of seven, including Esther and George, would go out for supper in Newton. She was also a talented quilt maker.

She is survived by her husband of 70 years, George Stevens of Newton; two daughters, Susanne Berkland of Belmont and Kristine Burch of Shawnee, Kan.; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; twin daughters, Jean and Jane who died at birth on Dec. 9, 1954; and a half sister, Jo Ann Hargraves-Lewis.

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