Lorraine Gaard

- Lorraine Gaard, 98, died Friday, Dec. 2, 2016 at St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester, Minn., following problems with intestinal obstructions and related breathing problems.

- A visitation is scheduled at the Bayview Funeral Home in Albert Lea, Minn., Friday, Dec. 9, from 3 to 7 p.m. A funeral service is scheduled at the Oakland Lutheran Church on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. with interment to follow in the Oakland Cemetery.

Lorraine requested that gifts be made to Lutheran Day Nursery in Chicago; Psalm of Life; Pastor Natanael Lutheran Mission in Colombia; the Plymouth Youth Center in St. Paul; and the Navajo Mission in Arizona rather than flowers at the funeral. Gifts can be made to Oakland Lutheran Church which will be then divided among the specified missions.

- Lorraine was born April 16, 1918, at the Clausen family farm near Kiester, Minn., the youngest child of Carl Peter and Marie Bendickson Clausen. She had eight older sisters and three older brothers. Lorraine was baptized at Bethel Lutheran Church in Vinge, Iowa, by Pastor Fjelstad and confirmed at the Lutheran Church in Kiester by Pastor J.S. Arness. Lorraine’s education began in the rural one-room school near the farm, and continued at Kiester High School where she graduated in 1937, then at the Naevae Hospital School of Nursing, from which she graduated as a registered nurse in 1940.

Lorraine had nursing positions at St. Olaf Hospital in Austin, Minnesota, and the Coleman Hospital in Estherville, Iowa. During this time she was courted by Marvin Gaard and they married in Kiester on Jan. 14, 1942, at the home of her sister Maureen and her husband Joice Rovang. They rented farms near Frost and Thompson, Iowa, before purchasing the present farm near the Oakland Lutheran Church in 1951. The Oakland farm has been her residence since 1952. Lorraine returned to work as a nurse at the St. Olaf Hospital in Austin in 1959 and worked on the surgical floor until her retirement in 1978. She was head nurse from 1975 to 1978.

She is survived by her sons Lamoyne, of Grinnell, and Sheldon; three grand-children; five great-grandchildren; and many cousins and other relatives.

Lorraine was preceded in death by her husband Marvin in 2008, her son Adrian in 2007, and by all 11 of her siblings.