

Elmer Martens, 98

Elmer John William Martens, 98, died May 2, 1999 at Brookhaven Nursing Home in Brooklyn.

His funeral was May 6 at St. James Lutheran Church in Victor. The Rev. Alan Hafner, pastor of the congregation, officiated.

Music was by organist Julia Hafner, who played "The Old Rugged Cross" and "Jesus, Lead Thou On."

Casket bearers were Gerald Byerly, Gary Hanchett, Oris Martens, LaVern Schlesselman, Gerald Wyant and Maynard Zimmerman. Interment was in St. John's Lutheran Cemetery, rural Victor.

Mr. Martens was born Dec. 17, 1900 in Castalia to William and Martha Heins Martens. He was baptized at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Postville on May 16, 1901 and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church near Victor by the Rev.

Otto Kitzmann in 1914.

He was educated at St. John's Lutheran School. On March 4, 1925, he married Laura Caroline Timmerman at the Timmerman farm home. The couple farmed for many years in the Deep River area.

Mrs. Martens died June 29, 1969 and Mr. Martens moved to Victor in 1982. He was a Brookhaven resident since July 6, 1987. Mr. Martens was the oldest living member of St. James Lutheran Church in Victor.

He was preceded in death by his wife, two brothers, Fred and George Martens; one sister, Emma Leitz and one half-brother, William Martens.

Two daughters survive him, LaVera Wiedemeier of Cedar Rapids and Marlene Mantz of Marengo, as well as four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

MR May 19, 1999