

Arlene M. Baethke, 84

Arlene M. Baethke, 84, of Brooklyn, died on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009, at Brooklyn Community Estate.

A funeral service was held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, at St. James Lutheran Church in Victor with the Rev. Michael Kolesar officiating. Organist was Pam Cronbaugh and vocalist was Katie Cooney. Casket bearers were Bill Baetsle Jr., Mike Baetsle, Jim Baethke, Dan Rockamann Sr., Zachary Baetsle and Joel Baetsle. Honorary bearers were Daniel Rockamann Jr. and John Junior White IV. Interment was at St. John's Cemetery in rural Iowa County.

Memorials may be directed to St. James Lutheran Church or to Grinnell Regional Hospice.

Arlene was born on June 7, 1925, in Protivin, to George and Abbie Voves Kostka. She was raised on the family acreage and attended the Rudolphium School in Protivin.

On Oct. 26, 1943, she was married to Harold Baethke in Cresco. The family operated a grain and livestock farm near Victor for many years. She was a homemaker and mother of three children. She also worked in Brooklyn and was a hospice volunteer.

Arlene was a member of St. James Lutheran Church and the Victor American Legion Auxiliary. Her hobbies included needle work and sewing, bingo, gardening, dancing to polka music and working a variety of puzzles.

She is survived by one daughter, Wanda (Bill) Baetsle of Victor; one son, Loys (Janet) Baethke of Ladora; seven grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two great-great-granddaughters; one sister, Helen Fencil of Protivin; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harold; and one son, Gordon.



PCR Dec 9, 2009