



Mrs. Zelma L. Brunner

December 30, 1921 - April 26, 2012

Brunner, Mrs. Zelma L., of Saginaw, Michigan passed away Thursday, April 26, 2012, at Luther Manor. Age 90 years. Zelma Lorraine Cesar was born on December 30, 1921, in Stanton, MI, to the late Elmer M. and Lura L. (Fravel) Cesar. She was married to William (Bill) H. Brunner on November 16, 1943, in Saginaw, where he predeceased her on May 8, 1996. Zelma was a lifetime member of Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, where she worked as church secretary for 10 years, and four years as its bookkeeper. She was a member of the Ladies Guild, Altar Guild, Lutheran Womens' Missionary League, and was a Stephens Minister and Sunday School teacher for many years. Zelma also was a 4-H leader for 25 years, teaching sewing and cooking, and was active with the Saginaw Co. Home Extension. She was a charter member of (OLLI) Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at SVSU.

She is survived by four daughters, one son, and their spouses, Barbara (James) Paulsen, LaGrange, IL; Shirley Nowakowski and Michael Gietzel, St. Johns, MI; Susan (Loren) Thowe, Topeka, KS; Kurt (Janis) Brunner, Missoula, MT; Carol (Werner) Duecker, Littleton, CO; nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren. She also leaves one brother and one sister, Don (Carol) Cesar, Stanton, MI; Nona Anderson, Stanton, MI; sisters-in-law, Marcedas Cesar and Elsie Cesar, Greenville, MI; Doris Brunner, Freeland, and June Kernstock, Bay City; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Clara Jaquays, brothers, Charles Cesar and Max Cesar; brother-in-law, Don

Anderson.

The Celebration of Zelma's life will be held 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 1, 2012, at Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, 600 Court St., Saginaw. The Rev. James F. Krueger will officiate with burial in Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery. Friends are welcome to visit with the family at the church on Tuesday, from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Memorial contributions may be given to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church. Memories and sympathies of Zelma may be shared with the family on her Obituary page at WakemanFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

Holy Cross Lutheran Cemetery

4700 Brockway Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48638

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
600 Court St.
Saginaw, MI 48602

Services

MAY 1. 11:00 AM (ET)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
600 Court St.
Saginaw, MI 48602

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Zelma L. Brunner*

September 13, 2022 at 05:01 PM



“ *Mrs. Zelma L. Brunner*

September 13, 2022 at 02:27 PM



“ *I did not know Zelma very long. She was usually sitting a pew ahead of me in church, but was always ready with a quiet smile and greeting.*

My sympathy goes out to her family at this time.

Sincerely, Phyllis Rush

Phyllis C. Rush - May 01, 2012 at 07:17 AM

PK

“ It has been fun these past few months to get to hear her stories of Grandchildren and her own kids' lives, her travels, and stories of disorganized Pastors! I will so miss our Thursday visits, but I am so blessed that this amazing Christian woman has influenced my life for so long! Without encouragement, support, and financial help from her and Uncle Bill, I would not have gone to a Lutheran high school or college, and I would not have been blessed with the ministry I now get to do. I remember Thanksgiving 1990 that she was over just a few days before I left for my first real adventure, of going to New England, and she insisted on pulling out the atlas to see exactly where I was going to go. I remember her telling me that life is about going to places to see things for yourself, rather than just reading about them. I loved her telling me all the stories about our grandparents and aunts and uncles, that noone else ever did. I love that none of her daughters can sit still without doing "something productive" because thats how she was too. I love that long after retiring she continued to learn and take classes- I loved her library of reference books and Bible stuff and crafts stuff... She was an amazing woman! Heaven just keeps getting better and better. This world is not our home.

Patty J Kernstock - April 30, 2012 at 11:02 AM

NW

“ Would like to send our thoughts and prayers to all the family on the passing of Mrs. Brunner. It has been years since we have seen her, but I remember the family well as a good neighbor growing up.
Sincerely, Nancy and Russ Wise (Becker)

Nancy/Russ Wise (Becker) Shawano WI - April 29, 2012 at 06:19 PM

JB

“*Mrs. Brunner was wonderful Christian woman. Each time we talked her love for her family and for her Lord was very apparent. She had a certain "gracefulness" that is too often missing today. It was an honor to know her.*

John Brandt - April 29, 2012 at 03:06 PM

RH

“*I have not seen Mrs. Brunner or the family is years. I have many fond memories. I believe the world to be a poorer place without her in it. My prayers go out for the family. May God Bless you all.*

Rick Harrison - April 29, 2012 at 08:36 AM

PH

“*Sad to hear of Zelma's passing, but Judy and I rejoice in her eternal victory. As the new kid pastor at Holy Cross back in 1974, she was such a help to me and probably was the most organized and reliable of all the secretaries I've ever had in my 38 years of ministry. She made the beginning of my pastoral ministry a true blessing. Our prayers go out to her family as we look forward to joining her one day among the saints in heaven. Christ is risen!*
Tim & Judy Huber

Pastor Tim Huber - April 27, 2012 at 10:42 PM