

## I Am Standing Upon the Seashore

I am standing upon the seashore. A ship, at my side,  
spreads her white sails to the moving breeze and starts  
for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength.  
I stand and watch her until, at length, she hangs like a speck  
of white cloud just where the sea and sky come to mingle with  
each other.

Then, someone at my side says, "There, she is gone "

Gone where?

Gone from my sight. That is all. She is just as large in mast,  
hull and spar as she was when she left my side.  
And, she is just as able to bear her load of living freight to her  
destined port.

Her diminished size is in me - not in her.  
And, just at the moment when someone says, "There, she is  
gone,"  
there are other eyes watching her coming, and other voices  
ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"  
And that is dying...

*Henry Van Dyke*

*Brooks Funeral Home ~ Langdon, ND*

## *In Loving Memory*



*Phebe Helen*

*Esther Ratzlaff*

*May 11, 1930 - June 23, 2023*

# CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Friday, June 30, 2023 ~ 3:00 p.m.

Brooks Funeral Home ~ Langdon, ND

## CLERGY

Pastor Bob Blackburn

## MUSIC

Accompanist ~ Kim Hart    Soloist ~ Steve Hart

“The Old Rugged Cross”    “How Great Thou Art”

## RECORDED MUSIC

“ I Wish You Well” ~ Daniel O'Donnell

## CASKET BEARERS

*Phebe's Grandchildren*

Wolfgang Ratzlaff    Annie Rose    Dustin Ratzlaff

Brock Ratzlaff    Krystal Ratzlaff    Serena Ratzlaff

## HONORARY BEARERS

Phebe's Great-grandchildren, August and Olive

The women friends from her years on the farm and in Langdon with whom she enjoyed many hours of card and game playing.

## INTERMENT

Bethel Cemetery

Rural Langdon, ND

Phebe Helen Esther (Etterman) Ratzlaff was born May 11, 1930, at the Penner farm in Waterloo Township, Cavalier County, ND. She was the 7th of 12 children born to Adolf “AG” Etterman and Annie (Penner) Etterman. Growing up, she spent most of her time traveling with her family as her father was a traveling evangelistic minister who founded the Church of God of the Firstborn in 1937, currently headquartered in Newton, Kansas. They traveled from North Dakota to Texas with numerous stops at his churches, returning to Edinburg, ND, for the summers.

She married Paul Ratzlaff on June 20, 1953, at the Bethel Mennonite Church in rural Langdon, ND. They made their home in Moscow Township where they farmed and raised their four sons. In 1973, Paul and Phebe built a new house on the farm, and in 2000, they moved to Langdon.

Phebe was an avid crafter. She took pride in making afghans, quilts, or anything with a needle and thread. Very few flea markets opened their doors without her table set up. She enjoyed gardening, and the garden cellar was never empty of preserved goods. Playing cards and other games with all her family and friends was a large part of her life. She especially enjoyed her game days with her lady friends after moving to Langdon. She also volunteered for many years with the American Cancer Society and the Legion Auxiliary.

She is survived by three sons: Jerry (Nancy) Ratzlaff of Devils Lake, ND; Steven (Denise) Ratzlaff of Wales, ND; Michael (Tara) Ratzlaff of Lake Bronson, MN; grandchildren: Wolfgang and Annie of Tacoma, WA, Dustin and Brock of Devils Lake, ND, Krystal of Fargo, ND, and Serena of Grand Forks, ND; great-grandchildren: August and Olive of Tacoma, WA; three brothers: Paul (Marie) Etterman, James (Karen) Etterman, Simon “Pete” (Dolores) Etterman; one sister, Annie (Leonard) Bergley; one sister-in-law, Eileen (Richard) Etterman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her husband, Paul; parents AG and Annie Etterman; son Douglas; granddaughter Ashley; three brothers: Edwin (Irene) Etterman, Herb (Anna) Etterman, and Richard (Eileen) Etterman and two brothers in infancy: Arthur and Philip; and two sisters: Gertrude (Walker) Wellman and Ruth (Ronald) Steen.

Phebe Ratzlaff, 93, of Langdon, ND, passed away Friday, June 23, 2023, at her home in Langdon surrounded by her loving sons.