

Bernita J. Darveaux died at the age of 88 on Monday, November 1, 2021, appropriately, All Saints Day. She was born in Pelican Rapids, MN, on October 14, 1933, daughter of Agatha (Bertha) Bertine (Erickson) and Edwin A. Toftely. She attended school in Pelican Rapids, graduating as class salutatorian in 1951.

Bernita met her music-loving high school sweetheart, Wesley Gordon Torgerson of Dalton, MN, in the music store she worked at in Fergus Falls. On May 11, 1952, they married in Pelican Rapids. Together they had four children—Bruce, Joni, Jill, and Eric—and lived in several county seats, including Fergus Falls, Wheaton, Morris, and Sauk Centre, due to Wes's work with the Soil Conservation Service. They served the communities in which they lived, most notably through the Jaycees and the church, holding several offices and leadership positions. Wes died of scleroderma in 1970, so Bernita raised the kids on her own for the next seven years, taking a job at the Sauk Centre School District.

On October 22, 1977, Bernita married Gerald (Jerry) Darveaux of Alexandria and moved to beautiful Lake Le Homme Dieu, offering a view she cherished for the next 39 years. She loved walking on the road with Jerry or her good friend Alice Giefer and entertaining hundreds of family and friends over the years. No one left "the lake" hungry or not having had a wonderful time. Bernita was an excellent cook, making the long hours she spent cooking and baking for large groups of hungry visitors look easy. We also marveled at how she made one large family out of the two families that came together through this marriage, loving her four children and Jerry's six, as well as all their families, equally.

During her years in Alexandria, Bernita was a faithful member of First Lutheran Church, participating in Bible study groups, singing in the choir for over 30 years, and serving as co-chair of the district for many years. She considered her most significant achievement being actively involved in starting the Central Lakes Concert Association, for which she served as membership co-chair for 30 years. She and Jerry enjoyed the concerts, rarely missing one. Despite all the ways in which she served others over the decades, she never felt she did enough; her humility was just one of the qualities that made her so loved by all who knew her.

Jerry passed away in April of 2012, and Bernita moved to Arabella Manor four years later, living there until her death. She appreciated the kind, friendly people and the many activities Arabella offered.

Bernita was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Wesley Torgerson; husband, Jerry Darveaux; and siblings, Maurice, Ole, Clarence, Norma, Ethel, and Helen.

She is survived by her children, Bruce (Karen) Torgerson, Joni Torgerson, Jill (Brad) Jenson, and Eric (Sue) Torgerson; Jerry's children, Lana (Rick) DiGangi, Jan (Bonnie) Darveaux, Rene (Chris Clardy, deceased) Darveaux, Dion (Brenda) Darveaux, Alicia Darveaux, and Blaise (Bettina) Darveaux; 22 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and friends. She was greatly loved by all who knew her and will be dearly missed.

Memorials preferred to First Lutheran Church in Alexandria.

In Loving Memory



Bernita J. Darveaux

1933 ~ 2021

The Day God Called You Home

*God looked around His garden
and found an empty space.
Then He looked down upon the earth
and saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you,
lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful,
for He only takes the best.*

*He knew that you were suffering.
He knew you were in pain.
He saw the road was getting rough,
and the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyes,
and whispered, "Peace be thine".*

*It broke our hearts to lose you,
but you did not go alone.
For part of us went with you,
the day God called you home.*

In Memory of

Bernita Jean Darveaux

October 14, 1933 ✠ November 1, 2021

Funeral Service

First Lutheran Church
Alexandria, Minnesota
Monday, November 15, 2021
11:00 AM

Officiant

Reverend Kari van Wakeren
Reverend Edward Anderson

Musicians

Randy Morken
First Lutheran Chancel Choir
Susan Johnson

Urn Bearers

Benjamin Torgerson Alice (Torgerson) Cullen

Honorary Urn Bearers

All of Bernita's Grandchildren

Interment

Zion Lutheran Cemetery
Dalton, Minnesota

