

Esther Dortha (Knochenmus) Berger was born on June 13, 1920, in Kerkhoven, MN to Fred and Elsie (Grothe) Knochenmus. She grew up on a farm with 6 siblings and helped milk cows and with other various farm chores. Esther attend country school in Kerkhoven through the 8th grade.

On Esther's 16th birthday, a young man asked her on a date and she happily accepted. Elmer Berger took her to the Willmar Fair and on July 7th, 1937, they were married. While living in Kerkhoven, they were blessed with one son, Elmer Jr. In 1942, the family moved to Alexandria, MN, and became members of Zion Lutheran Church. While in Alexandria, they were blessed with another son, Brian. Esther and Elmer often took their son fishing for walleye and sunfish, especially on Lake Latoka, Chippewa, and Moon Lake. Esther was a good cook, made her own bread, and was an involved and loving mother. She worked at Iverson Shoe Store selling shoes for over 35 years and being in the store's commercials. Esther was lovingly known as the "shoe lady".

Esther and Elmer enjoyed many things together such as: vegetable gardening, motor cycle riding, especially to Yellowstone, and fishing until Elmer's death in 1992. After retirement, Esther remained active and even took a ride on a Harley on her 90th birthday. Esther enjoyed playing the harmonica and going for walks. Even at the age of 101, she was still walking miles through the halls of Bethany with her Fitbit to track it. She was a wonderful woman who will be missed.

Esther Dorothy Berger passed away on Friday, September 23, 2022, at Bethany on the Lake at the age of 102. She is survived by her sons, Elmer Jr "Rusty" (Mary) Berger and Brian Berger; grandchildren, Therese, Sasha, Andy, and Cassie; step-grandchildren, Connie, Jamie, and April; great grandchildren, Axel and Hailey; 6 step great-grandchildren; 4 step great great grandchildren; and sister-in-law, Elaine. Esther is preceded in death by her husband, Elmer; parents; grandchildren, John and Laura; siblings, Walt, Betty, Edith, Fritz, Elsie, and Ethel; and daughter-in-law, Debbie Berger.



Esther D. Berger

1920 ~ 2022

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

Esther D. Berger

June 13, 1920 † Sept. 23, 2022

Funeral Service
Zion Lutheran Church
Alexandria, MN
Friday, Sept. 30, 2022
11:30 AM

Officiant
Reverend Paul Dare

Musician
Lynette Finnern

Interment
Kinkead Cemetery
Alexandria, Minnesota