

Martha K. DeNayer was born on April 3, 1917, in Garden City, Kansas, the daughter of Charles Adam & Anna Bertha (Maune) Krug. Martha was one of 11 children born to Charles and Anna, and she was blessed with happy years growing up in the Garden City community, attending school in Garden City, Holcomb, and Satanta, and obtaining her GED in Ft. Collins, Colorado. While growing up, Martha was taught to love one another, to help others, share with others, and to pray for guidance. Martha met her future husband Lawrence Earl DeNayer while attending school in Holcomb, and they were united in marriage on September 12, 1936, in Topeka, and to this marriage, five children were born. After raising her family, Martha worked as an insurance agent, a notary for the State of Missouri, clerk at a pharmacy and hospital, and a full time bookkeeper for her husband's business. Later, she was the owner of Mankato Storage. Martha loved to travel, and she toured in Europe, Mexico, Alaska, and Hawaii, collecting many hats along the way. She enjoyed telling stories and working with genealogy and family history, and enjoyed making lap quilts for veterans. Martha radiated her infectious smile and wholesome giggles, professing her love of her God and gospel music, which would bellow through her room and down the halls. She wrote the song "My Jesus" to the tune of "Mansion Over the Hilltop", a song that will be sang at her funeral. Martha enjoyed spending time with her family, having a special party for her 100th birthday with many family members in attendance. She was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mankato, Kansas. Martha passed away on February 25, 2021, at the Blue Valley Lutheran Home in Hebron, Nebraska, at the age of 103 years, 10 months and 22 days. She is preceded in death by her parents, her husband Lawrence, brothers Emil, Charles, Albert, and Leo Krug, sisters Mena Wolff, Frieda Duree, Anna Jean Durant and Delores Urban. Martha is also preceded in death by sons-in-law Wayne Dunn, Ron Featherstone, daughter-in law-Wanda DeNayer, grandchildren Julie Shipman and Hether Archuleta, and granddaughter-in-law Sarah DeNayer. Martha will be forever remembered by her children; daughters Judy Dunn of Belleville, Kansas; Kathy Ruffus and her husband Stephen of Salt Lake City, Utah; Lori DeNayer of Ft. Collins, Colorado; sons David DeNayer and his wife Ping of Deltona, Florida, and Charles DeNayer and his wife Ellen of Raymore, Missouri. She is also survived by her sisters Marian Hazelwood and Phyllis Krug, 14 grandchildren, 26 great grandchildren and 9 great-great grandchildren.



Martha



The Three Little Ones

Once upon a time, there was a family of four,
they worked hard and played a lot, with plenty of pep to do even more.
They played ball, skated and swam, and roamed the mountains high.
So young, carefree and gay, not realizing the years rolling by.
They sold their business and belongings, packed the car and an old truck,
headed to a new land in the east, not knowing they'd really be stuck.
More work and less free days, the home and business
were built again in a few short years, was very good gain.
These two children were growing fast, they had friends now of their own,
Mama and Papa didn't matter so much,
as long as they had fun away from home.
They'd bring their friends in and tear up the house, pop popcorn and eat
till they were full, then go to bed and be as quiet as a mouse.
All this time they are full of pep, Mama and Papa are slowing down
wondering too why all the giggling and why they'd act like a clown.
These two have grown and went far away,
We don't see them often, but, count the day.
We have no time to sit and knit and have to be right on our toes now, we
have three little ones to feed, care for and buy ribbons and bows.
Our life starts all over again, mistakes with these two we can correct with
the three, no time for days to sing the blues.

- A poem by Martha

In Loving Memory Of

Martha K. DeNayer

Entered This Life

April 3, 1917

Departed This Life

February 25, 2021

103 years ~ 10 months ~ 22 days

Funeral Service

Saturday, March 6, 2021 ~ 2:00 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church ~ Butler, Missouri

Officiating

Pastor Jennifer Thomas

Pianist

Margaret McLaughlin

Musical Ministry

“Amazing Grace” congregational hymn

“My Jesus” as written by Martha

“How Great Thou Art” violin solo by granddaughter Jessica Ruffus

“I Love to Tell the Story” congregational hymn

Casket Bearers

Jeremiah Webb ~ Dennis Webb ~ Trenton Webb ~ Phillip Miller

Fabian Fernandez ~ Mathias Klinedinst ~ Brian Swartzendruber

Ron DeNayer ~ Danny DeNayer ~ Duston DeNayer

Devon DeNayer ~ Larry DeNayer ~ Jonathon DeNayer

Stephen Ruffus ~ Nick Ruffus ~ Dakota Crane

Brayden DeNayer

Committal Service following at

Green Lawn Cemetery ~ Rich Hill, Missouri

Tibbetts-Fischer Funeral Home of Belleville, Kansas

www.tibbettsfischerfuneralhome.com

Help us, in the midst of things we cannot understand, to believe and trust in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection to life everlasting. God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Savior Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God gives us a foretaste of the feast to come.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 114) AMEN

SENDING

COMMENDATION (ELW p. 283)

SENDING HYMN I Love to Tell the Story ELW # 661

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace, **In the name of Christ. AMEN.**

FUNERAL WITH COMMUNION

Martha DeNayer

Saturday, March 6, 2021, 2:00 P.M.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Butler, Missouri

FAMILY MEMORIES AND FLOWER READING WILL START AT 1:30, FOLLOWED BY MUSICAL PRELUDE.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit, the comforter, gathers us in worship.

PRELUDE

HOW GREAT THOU ART

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all mercy and the God of all consolation, who comforts us in all our sorrows so that we can comfort others in their sorrows with the consolation we ourselves have received from God.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (ELW p. 280)

When we were baptized in Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live a New life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the earth, who by your breath gave us life, we glorify you.

We glorify you.

Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who suffered death for all humanity, who rose from the grave to open the way to eternal life, we praise you.

We praise you.

Holy Spirit, author and giver of life, the comforter of all who sorrow, our sure confidence and everlasting hope, we worship you.

We worship you.

To you, O blessed Trinity, be glory and honor, forever and ever.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

OBITUARY BREANNA WEBB

EULOGY STEPHEN RUFFUS

GATHERING HYMN - MY JESUS AS WRITTEN BY MARTHA
(TO THE TUNE OF "MANSION OVER THE HILLTOP")

IN TIMES OF SORROW SOMETIMES WE LIVE.
MY JESUS IS THERE – HIS PEACE TO GIVE.
YOUR HEART IS HEAVY AND YOU FEEL THE LOAD.
REACH UP FOR JESUS ON YOUR JOURNEY ROAD

CHORUS

IN TIMES OF SADNESS – WE ALL HAVE THESE.
REACH FOR MY JESUS; HE HAS THE KEYS
UNLOCK YOUR HEART; LET JESUS COME IN.
THE JOY OF JESUS IS FOUND WITHIN

CHORUS

IN TIMES OF SICKNESS, WORRY AND STRESS
MY JESUS IS THERE FOR COMFORT AND REST
YOU'LL FEEL HIS STRENGTH; YOU'LL FEEL HIS POWER
YOU'LL PRAISE HIS NAME EVERY DAY AND HOUR

CHORUS

HAPPINESS IS EVERYWHERE; EVERYONE CAN SHARE.
GIVE UNTO OTHERS TO SHOW YOU CARE.
LOVE, JOY AND GRACE ABOUND THROUGHOUT THIS LAND.
I LOVE MY JESUS; HE HOLDS MY HAND

CHORUS

JESUS IS REACHING, JESUS IS REACHING.
MY JESUS IS REACHING RIGHT DOWN FOR ME.
JESUS IS REACHING, JESUS IS REACHING.
JUST LET MY JESUS REACH DOWN FOR YOU.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

**Almighty God, source of all mercy and giver of comfort, graciously
tend those who mourn, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may
know the consolation of your love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

READINGS

ECCLESIASTES, CHAPTER 3

SERMON

PASTOR JEN THOMAS

HYMN OF THE DAY *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* ELW
#779

CREED (ELW p. 282)

The Apostles' Creed may be spoken.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose
again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of
the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness
of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (ELW p. 282)

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in holy baptism you have knit your chosen people together
into one communion of saints in the body of Christ. Give to your whole
church in heaven and on earth your light and your peace. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant that all who have been baptized into Christ's death and resurrection
may die to sin and rise to share the new life in Christ. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Give courage and faith to all who mourn, and a sure and certain hope in
your loving care, that, casting all their sorrow on you, they may have
strength for the days ahead. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith,
that, where this world groans in grief and pain, your Holy Spirit may lead
us to bear witness to your light and life. God of mercy,
hear our prayer.

Martha K. DeNayer

April 3, 1917--February 25, 2021

As you all know, Martha was born in a small town and lived in small towns for her entire life. But, despite this or because of it, she also had a true sense of adventure and traveled to different countries in Europe such as Germany, France, and the Netherlands. She also visited Alaska, Hawaii (you should know that she did a mean hula), and Mexico with, by the way, Lawrence, who had finally grown tired of having her trapse off for weeks at a time without him. Her sense of herself and the world was also reflected in her style. She loved jewelry and fine clothes. In fact, I can't recall ever having seen her when she wasn't dressed to the nines. Even later in life, when getting herself prepared to meet the day took some extra time, she put herself together without skimping on the details, down to the necklaces, bracelets, rings (always the rings), and the fingernails. And of course, there was her hat collection. Martha looked great in a hat, even the Greek fisherman's cap, which she may have bought on a trip to Greece. Anyway, to look at her you'd think she was getting ready for a stroll down 5th Avenue in New York City on a spring day.

A basic feature of her personality was her sense of humor (which could be a little naughty at times), enhanced by a laugh that was so animated that her entire body would shake, which my children always found entertaining when they were young. She loved a good joke whether she or someone else was the one telling it and had a real comedic sense of timing. But she was more than merely funny. She possessed an extremely sharp wit, at times with a bit of the trickster, the joke's-on-you element to it, such as at a family reunion when she pretended not to recognize someone she knew quite well. All this is a clear sign of intelligence. And she was smart, having worked as an insurance agent, a bookkeeper, a pharmacist assistant, a postal clerk and, reflecting her business sense, as the owner of Mankato Storage. Also, in keeping with her regard for education she set up scholarships in Garden City and Ft. Scott. What's more, she was almost voted the mayor of Hume. How would that have been? "Vote for Mayor DeNayer." Has a real ring to

it. Kathy didn't call her "Smarta" for nothing. Often, Kathy called Martha by her first name instead of Mom to the confusion of others. Yet, it seemed appropriate even for a daughter to refer to her mother in this way. After all, she was "Martha," a colorful figure with an outsized personality.

Despite having lived through difficult times, such as the Dustbowl and The Great Depression, Martha was unfailingly optimistic and happy, traits derived from her mother Anna Maune. Happiness was Martha's way of paying homage to her. "Wake up to a beautiful day and smile at that person in the mirror," she would say. In her later years while living in one or another care center, she would often say "I go to bed happy and I wake up happy." She was proud of her father, Charles, who as an interpreter spoke several languages and worked as an agent for steamship companies to bring immigrants to America. She took pains to preserve her parents' history and never stopped honoring them. This disposition extended to her four brothers—Emil, Charles, Butch, and Leo—all of whom had been overseas during WWII, and to her sister, Frieda, who served in the U.S. Coast Guard during the war. She kept careful records of the family history, including information housed in a Garden City museum. In general, she loved family and was pleased that everyone in her family sphere turned out alright, that none of them, as she once put it, "never became bank robbers."

Martha lived for 103 years, 10 months, and 22 days. What's remarkable about that is despite the terrible hardship extreme old age brings she did not lose the positive view of life and people, the love of family, and her religious beliefs that made her who she was. She loved reading the Bible or listening to the Scriptures on her "Wonder Bible." Gospel music was a favorite of hers, particularly as sung by George Beverly Shea. Still, toward the very end of her life she often wondered on the meaning behind living for so long. If this was part of God's plan for her, she asked, what was it? She asked this question because, in truth, she had been ready to meet her heavenly father for some time. While I don't think she ever came up with an answer to that question, it didn't matter. Ultimately, it was a matter of faith. But we knew the answer. And for that we are thankful.