

**Esther Opp Wetzel** was born on Sept 14, 1926 to Gottlieb and Martha (Luithle) Opp at their family home near Zap, ND. She was raised on their ranch. Esther finished her first eight years of education in a country school in Mercer County. She graduated from high school in 1945 in Hebron, ND. She met Art Wetzel when she was a senior in high school and eight months later, they were married. Their son, Keith, was born the following year. Two years later Sharan was born. In 1952, tragedy struck when conjoined twins, Mary and Martha, died shortly after birth. A few years later, the family welcomed Renee in 1954 and Lynette in 1965. Esther considered herself blessed to serve God for 45 years alongside her husband Art in full-time pastoral ministry. She enjoyed helping in the nursery and children's ministries. Esther taught and mentored younger women in the Bible. The Wetzel's ministered in North Dakota, Montana, Colorado, and Nebraska. After Art's passing Esther returned to Baker to live closer to her daughter, Sharan, and longtime friends. She enjoyed living in the Parkview Retirement Complex for twenty years. In her spare time, she volunteered at the Superior Care Villa and the FMC nursing home where she fixed hair, led Bible studies and helped with games. She also enjoyed traveling to see her children and grandchildren. She spent the last five months at Superior Care Villa, where she was blessed with wonderful care-givers. Esther was a faithful member of the Evangelical Free Church of Plevna, MT. Preceding Esther in death were parents, Gottlieb and Martha Opp; her sister, Elaine Peltz; brother, Vern (Faith) Opp; son-in-law Don Fried, daughters Mary and Martha, and husband Art Wetzel. Esther is survived by her brother Wilbert Opp (Elsie), brother-in-law, Leo Peltz, son Keith Wetzel (Suzanne Painter) of Phoenix, AZ, granddaughter Martha Wetzel (Abilash Pulicken), daughter Sharan Fried of Baker, MT, granddaughter Londa Stanley (Allen), great grandchildren Scott and Alena; grandson Terry Fried (Patricia), daughter Renee Kokoszka (Steve) of Green Valley, AZ, granddaughter Summer Marshall (Trip); great grandchildren James and Rosie; grandson Patrick Epperson (Angel) great grandchildren Addie and Arthur; grandson Tony Epperson (Whitney) great grandson Jackson, daughter Lynette Baker (Mark) of Collinsville, OK, grandsons Matthew and Brennan. Memorials may be given to Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church of Plevna, MT or The Gideons International.



# Esther Wetzel

September 14, 1926 - November 3, 2021



For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7



My Mother's Bible

Send me a Bible -  
A King James Version, please.  
With modern translations  
I'm not entirely at ease.

She sent me a Bible  
Her very own  
Not even aware  
Of the seed she had sown

Does she know that this Bible  
Is my comfort at night?  
Waking up in my sleep,  
I grasp and hold it tight.

This Bible of hers  
With the tear stained pages  
Holds inspiration and joy  
Of generations and ages.

This Holy Book  
With its well known title  
Is so very dear to me -  
My Mother's Bible.

-Renee Kokoszka



# Esther Wetzel

## **FUNERAL SERVICE:**

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:00 am  
Stevenson Funeral Home  
Baker, Montana

## **PRAYER SERVICE:**

Monday, November 8, 2021 6:00 pm  
Stevenson Funeral Home  
Baker, Montana

## **OFFICIATING:**

Pastor Eric Botzet

## **MUSIC:**

Arlis & Richard Schaefer  
Deb Barth                      Mark Baker

## **PALLBEARERS:**

Tony Epperson                      Matthew Baker  
Brennan Baker                      Summer Marshall  
Martha Wetzel                      Sheldon Ridenhower

## **INTERMENT:**

Friendship Cemetery  
Glen Ullin, North Dakota

## **ARRANGEMENTS BY:**

Stevenson Funeral Home  
Baker, Montana