



## Flora Matzat

June 8, 1924 - February 7, 2017

### FLORA EDNA (KOTHE) MATZAT

Born: June 8, 1924

Died: February 7, 2017

North Judson, IN – Flora Edna (Kothe) Matzat was born June 8, 1924, in Steeleville, Illinois, the youngest of six children born to Herman and Bertha (Eilers) Kothe. She was baptized on June 15, 1924 and was confirmed in 1938 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wine Hill, Illinois. Flora graduated from Steeleville and Campbell Hill Community High Schools. On June 26, 1948, she married Ewald Matzat in Steeleville, Illinois. They were blessed with five children.

Flora died on Tuesday, February 7, 2017, at her home in North Judson at the age of 92 years. She is survived by four children: Dolores Matzat, North Judson, IN; Eugene (Linda) Matzat, Walkerton, IN; Paul (Barbara) Matzat, Greenwood, IN; and Annette (Matzat) Zeller, North Judson, IN; and sister, Marie Ahrens, of Addison, IL. She is also survived by 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Herman and Bertha Kothe; her siblings Anna Wolters, Albert Kothe, Edward Kothe, Edna Buescher; her daughter, Nancy (Matzat) Woolery; and her husband of 65 years, Ewald Matzat.

After high school graduation, Flora worked at the Lutheran Children's Home in Addison, IL. When Flora was asked to sew bridesmaids dresses for Harold

and Lelia Matzat's wedding, she met the other Matzat brothers. Ewald was the first brother to write to her, and it didn't take long before they were a couple. Flora helped establish the family home by raising a big garden, preserving fruit and vegetables, milking cows, raising chickens and sewing. Flora and Ewald encouraged musical and academic education for their children, assuring that all graduated from college.

Flora was an active member of St. Peter Lutheran Church, North Judson, having sung in choir and participated in PTL, LWML, Ladies Aid and was a charter member of Artisans. She faithfully attended church and Bible studies. She was also trained in Stephen Ministry, which focuses on caring for others who were hurting. Flora could also be counted on to provide baked goods or other side dishes for church functions.

Flora was also active in the community. Encouraging her children to participate in 4-H, she served as a leader of the Merry Makers 4-H Club. Flora was a gifted baker. She frequently entered her yeast crescent dinner rolls and crispy nut "squirrels" in open class at the fair, acquiring many ribbons over the years. She regularly attended annual meetings of Kankakee Valley REMC and Starke County Farm Bureau Co-op.

Flora had a talent for quilting. She completed dozens of quilts, many as gifts for her children's weddings or upon the arrival of new grandchildren. She quilted a special quilt for each of her eleven grandchildren as a high school graduation gift.

Flora's gift of hospitality was unmistakable. When visitors would stop by to say "Hi," they were often invited to share coffee and coffeecake (and many times a meal) around the dining room table. She was also generous with her garden vegetables and poultry and dairy products.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. CST on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at St. Peter Lutheran Church, North Judson, IN. Visitation will be held on Saturday, February 11, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. CST at O'Donnell Funeral Home in North Judson. Visitation will also take place on Sunday, February 12, at the church one hour before the funeral service. Burial will be in Highland

Cemetery, North Judson, IN.

The family invites memorials for Flora Matzat be given to St. Peter Lutheran Church and School, North Judson, or to a charity of your choice.

# Tribute Wall

KB

“ She was always so kind and encouraging to those of us who were Blessed to have her as our Merry Makers' 4-H leader. My prayers are with her children (my friends) and all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was memorable and loved by many!

Kim Barker - April 29, 2018 at 07:50 AM

HT

“ Gene, Your mom was quite a model with all that she instilled in her children. I have been impressed with how she passed down those qualities that have made you the respectful son that you are. From your faith to those traits that have made you a caring and responsible co-worker, her legacy lives on through you and your siblings. Remember those good memories and cherish the times you had her here with you. We will be out of town and not able to attend the viewing times, but just wanted to let you know, that she was an impressive lady from knowing her through you. Take care and God's blessings to you and your family. Hugh

Hugh Tonagel - April 29, 2018 at 07:50 AM

TB

“ Flora was a Saint if there ever was one. She is a precious jewel of God's. She will be missed by us all. RIP.

Tim & Peg Brettin - April 29, 2018 at 07:50 AM

NH

“ She was a great woman; my sympathies to the families

Nona Hollenbaugh - April 29, 2018 at 07:50 AM

LH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. She raised wonderful children. God bless you all.

Leigh Ann Hofferth - April 29, 2018 at 07:50 AM

MR

“ My sympathies to the Matzat Family. You will have so many stories and memories to share. Your mom is a wonderful woman. Marlene Troike Rork (Clarabelle's daughter)

Marlene Rork - April 29, 2018 at 07:50 AM

LC

“ Nancy was my friend and classmate. My siblings and I spent MANY nights and shared many meals with the Matzat family. Many wonderful memories of summer nights, Boggus "River", 4-H Fairs, St. Peter's Church and School. Our parents are all together now Praising the God they worshiped and taught us. Lois Rastl Cain

Lois Cain - April 29, 2018 at 07:50 AM