

MARY FINKE HARFF BRANDT

ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH
710 East Broadway St., Osseo, Minnesota
The Memorial Service for **MARY FINKE HARFF BRANDT**
Saturday, January 16, 2016, 11:00 AM

THE ORDER OF SERVICELSB 278

**Please note the responses of the congregation during the Service.
These responses are marked with a red box with a white “C.”
You may remain seated throughout the Service**

Processional Hymn: “Lift High the Cross”.....LSB 837

Invocation

Remembrance of Baptism

Psalm: Psalm 23 ‘The Lord is my Shepherd’

Kyrie

Salutation and Collect of the Day

First Reading – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Solo – “Amazing Grace”

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Alleluia Verse

Gospel Reading – John 14:1-4, 6-7

Apostles Creed

Sermon Hymn: “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”.....LSB 461

Sermon – “Legacy of Faith”

Hymn: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”LSB 770

Prayer of the Church

The Lord’s Prayer

Nunc Dimittus

Concluding Collect

Solo: “Müde bin ich, geh zur Ruh”

Rite of CommittalInsert

Closing Hymn “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”.....LSB 715

Officiant ----- Reverend Daniel R. Burns

Organist ----- Eric Raisler

Soloist ----- Carol Emmans

Biographer ----- Carol Emmans

Crucifer ----- Christopher Kittilson

Mary was born to William and Emma Finke on March 13, 1912 in Corcoran MN. The family included sister, Sarah and six brothers---Herman, Erick, Clarence, Elmer, Rueben, and Leonard.

Mary’s job, as the third oldest child, was to keep the kitchen clean and help with baking and cooking for the family of 10. She seemed to take to those tasks naturally, for the kitchen remained her favorite room—where people were warmly welcomed and where food and laughter reigned. If you dropped in at Mary’s house, chances are you would find her cooking or baking. She would seat you at her table for a bite to eat and then send you off with freshly-baked cookies, caramel rolls or some other homemade goodies.

Mary loved to play cards! It may have been the games between neighbor men and her Pa that fueled her passion. Severe macular degeneration didn’t stop her-- with help from her family, Mary continued to play cards—500 or euchre—until age 98! Mary worked as a waitress at Aslesen’s Café in Osseo before becoming a cook at Osseo Senior High where she worked for 22 years. She and faithful friend, Evelyn Hartkopf walked to the high school and home daily. Neither woman ever learned to drive, but were like a “dust storm” (Mary’s words) as they energetically crossed town. Mary served God in many ways at St. Paul’s. She recalled the annual Beef Dinners for which she and Evelyn roasted the meat (starting at 2 a.m.) peeled all the potatoes, and made the cole slaw. She also served as a Sunday School teacher, on the Visiting Committee, Dorcas Society, the AAL, Funeral Committee, and the legendary Book Club luncheons. She attended the Monday morning Prayer Group for 29 years. She was a faithful volunteer to the “old folks” (often years younger than Mary) at the Berkshire Residence.

In 2012 Mary received a letter from Hennepin County summoning her for jury duty—at age 100, her first such request. After a phone call, the county excused her but sent a follow-up card asking her to reconsider should she be called again.

Elmer Matthew Harff and Mary Finke were united in marriage on July 6, 1932. They were blessed with three children—Betty Jane (who died at one month), Duane, and Carol. Elmer died January 4, 1978 after almost 46 years of marriage. Soon after, Mary was asked to consider providing a home for the new Director of Christian Education coming to St. Paul’s. Someone to bake and cook for, someone to eat and visit with—we suspect that God had a hand in this arrangement. With encouragement from her family, Mary took in Linda (Voetberg) Paschka—and the rest is history-- a precious lifetime friendship!

On February 10, 1983 Mary and Ted Brandt were united in marriage at St. Paul’s. It was a union of two good friends--both devout Christians, but it might be considered historic as well. As Rev. Bob Brandt (Ted’s son) pronounced the two “husband and wife”, he also said these words—never before heard at St. Paul’s—“You may kiss the bride”. Ted and Mary shared the first kiss at St. Paul’s altar. Now it happens at every wedding.

The couple lived in Mary's house until 2005, when they moved to Steeple Point. In March of 2011, Mary moved to the Good Samaritan; Ted joined her a short time later. We all remember the festive days when the two celebrated their mutual 100th birthdays! Ted died on August 11, 2012. Mary spent her remaining days at the Good Samaritan until her Lord called her home on Tuesday, January 12.

Mary was thankful for every blessing—"God has been very good to me" was a favorite phrase. Upbeat and positive, interested in others, never complaining, Mary was always ready for the next adventure. And how she prayed! Who knows how many passionate petitions were sent to the throne of God on behalf of us all. We loved this 103-year-old "child" of God! How blessed we were to have her among us. Praise God that she is now in the heavenly home she so longed for.

*"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death is your sting?
But thanks to God! He gives us victory through our
Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 15:55-57*

Mary was preceded in death by her husbands, Elmer Harff and Theodore Brandt, infant daughter, Betty Jane, daughters-in-law, Karen and Sally, Ted's son, Rev. Bob Brandt, and her siblings, Sarah Bursch, Herman, Erick, Clarence, Elmer, Rueben, and Leonard Finke.

She is survived by children Duane (Doris) Harff and Carol (Gary) Rud, granddaughters Kimberly (Greg) Kittilson, Melanie (Roger) Peterson, and Stefanie (Greg) Carlson; great-grandchildren Christopher and Katelyn Kittilson, Rachel and Matthew Peterson, Eli and Sam Carlson, sisters-in-law Leona and Jessie Finke, nieces, nephews and friends.

Mary is also survived by Ted's children—Barbara (Jerry) Kassanchuk, Harriet Brandt, Joanne (Tom) Deshaw, Vicki and Wendy Brandt; grandchildren Christopher (Debbie) Brandt, Joy (Mike) Weier, Hope (Dave) Beissel, Sarah (Erik) Sundman, and Aaron Smale; great-grandchildren Kylie, Shelby, Ryan, Connor, Nathaniel, Annastacia, Matthew and Crosby; sister-in-law Mary Brandt, nieces, and nephews.

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The family thanks everyone for coming today to celebrate Mary's long life. Special thanks to Pastors Tyler, Colgrove, and Burns for their many visits and for giving Mary Communion.

We are grateful to the staff at Good Samaritan. They were wonderful!