

Frances Bendewald, 80

Frances Bendewald, 80, Aberdeen, died Friday, July 31, 2009 at Aberdeen Health and Rehab.

Her funeral was Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009 at Zion Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, with Pastor Joanne Nagele officiating. Burial was in Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen, with arrangements by Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, Aberdeen..

Frances Delores Retzer was born May 27, 1929 to Christof and Lorentina (Spitzer) Retzer on the family farm near Ashley, ND.

She married Benjamin Bendewald, June 20, 1948 in Leola, SD. They lived in Aberdeen, and began farming near Warner in 1957. They moved in 1965 to their present farm southwest of Aberdeen.

Frances and Ben were married 59 years. She worked on the farm and also at the Virginia Cafe; St. Luke's Hospital; S&L Store; Montgomery Wards; and in 1977, she went to work at JC Penny, retiring in 2006.

Her home was always spotless. Frances loved cooking and baking and everyone enjoyed her home-cooked German food and baked goods. She was a great seamstress and enjoyed sewing for her girls. Frances' pleasure was to read the Bible. She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, Warner. Frances and Ben were exceptional dancers. She enjoyed music, encouraging afternoons of family sing-a-longs and teaching her daughters how to play the piano. She loved to travel, visiting her family in Alaska, Arizona, Minnesota, Washington D.C., Italy, Germany, Austria, Mexico and Canada.

She will be dearly missed by her son, Benny (Patty) Bendewald, O'Neill, Neb.; three daughters, Betty (James) Feist, Prior Lake, Minn.; Peggy (Steven) Gebur, Groton, SD, and Donna (Wes) Graybill, Sierra Vista, Ariz.; 15 grandchildren; 24 great grandchildren; one sister, Eunice (Don) Weismantel, Bath, SD; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband; parents, and one brother, Harvey Retzer.

Honorary casketbearers were all of her great grandchildren, Keith Rehfeld; co-workers at JC Penney; special friends, Irene Oster, Dee Blanchard, Vernon and Roylene Schwab, Charlene DeVilleries, Shannon O'Fallon, Pat and Carroll Brick, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Anderson; and her friends at Primrose, Hazel, Betty and Linda.