

The Life of Meta Pray

Funeral services for Meta Pray, 96, of Groton will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 17th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Thomas Carlson will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Visitation will be held at the chapel on Thursday beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Meta died Sunday, March 13, 2016 at Golden Living Center, Groton, surrounded by her loving family.

Meta Albertina was born on January 24, 1920 in Edmunds County, Pembroke Township, near Wetonka on her parent's farm. She was the oldest of three children born to Henry and Meta Henrietta (Plautz) Kienast. Her mother died when Meta was three years old. She had four older half-siblings and three younger half-siblings. She lived in several different communities while growing up including, Antigo, Wisconsin, near her mother's parents, Shawano and OshKosh, Wisconsin and Mitchell, Madison, and Aberdeen, South Dakota. She attended school through the eighth grade. At the age of eighteen, she moved to Aberdeen and worked at several businesses, including Pred's clothing store and the Capital and Orpheum movie theatres.

It was at a dance in Aberdeen where she met her future husband, Floyd Pray. They dated for several years before being united in marriage on October 16, 1945 at her parents' home. Floyd waited to marry Meta until he could provide her with a home and they married after he had purchased a farm north and west of Groton. They welcomed three children to this union, Sharen, James, and Clifford.

Meta was dedicated to being a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother. She loved the farm, helping with chores and preparing great meals for family and friends. She enjoyed raising a garden and harvesting the fruits of her labors. She spent many hours crocheting beautiful doilies and tablecloths. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church and was in the Lucky 13 Card Club. She and Floyd enjoyed bowling and card playing. In later years, she and Floyd moved to Groton and later returned to the farm home. After Floyd died in 1988, Meta moved to Groton. In 2005, she moved to the farm home of her son and daughter-in-law, Cliff and Carna and lived there until 2014. In July 2014, she moved at Rosewood Court, an assisted living facility in Groton and in June of 2015 when she moved to Golden Living Center in Groton. She shared many stories of her growing up years, life on the farm with Floyd, raising her children, and caring for her grandchildren. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother and remained sharp and witty throughout her life.

Meta leaves behind her children, Sharen Burckhard of Brandon, SD, James Pray of Groton, and Cliff and Carna Pray, of Groton, and her siblings Ruth (Robert) Pray of Groton and Henry (Virginia) Kienast of Aberdeen. She is also survived by her grandchildren Darren Burckhard, Brandon, SD; Tricia Burckhard, Sioux Falls, SD; Kelly Pray, Dallas, TX; Paula (Pray) and Paul Winther, Mina, SD; Michele (Pray) and Shawn Kelly, Plano, TX; Kevin Pray, Ferney, SD; Lisa Pray (Cody Monson), Aberdeen, SD; and Jasper Pray, Boston, MA, and by step grand-children, Joshua and Merrie Atherton, Bristol, SD; Adam and Becca Atherton, Grand Forks, ND; and Nathan Atherton, Grand Forks, ND. She loved her eight great-grandchildren, Jerry Burckhard, Shelby Burckhard, Corey Bieber, Alexa Rossman, Madeline Kelly, Christopher Kelly, Hailey Pray and Laila Roberts and seven step great-grandchildren, Kristin, Bryce and Harleigh Winther, Christina Guerra, Mackenzie and Delaney Atherton and Audrey and Teddy Atherton. She was blessed with one great-great granddaughter, Harper Heerde. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Floyd, one daughter Nancy, who died at birth, her daughter-in-law, Barb Pray, her parents, seven sisters, and her in-laws, Charles and Emma Pray.

Pallbearers will be Kelly Pray, Darren Burckhard, Kevin Pray, Corey Bieber, Kenny Pulling, and Nathan Atherton. Honorary pallbearers are the rest of her grandchildren and great-children.

