

Jan. 3, 2012 The Life of Lois Severson

The memorial service for Lois M. Severson will be 2:00 p.m. Thursday, January 5, 2012, at the Zion Reformed Church of Amherst. The Rev. Don Flaherty will officiate. Inurnment of her remains will take place at a later date in the Britton Cemetery.

Lois died Saturday, December 31, 2011, at her home in Pierpont surrounded by her family at the age of 67.

Lois Marlean Murray was born to Albert Leo and Dorothy Victoria (Erickson) Murray on February 8, 1944, in Aberdeen, SD. Already in the family were three brothers, Leo (Albert Leo Murray, Jr.) Kenneth and Dennis Murray. Five years later youngest brother, Jerry Murray, joined them.

Lois attended grade school at the Wetonka two-room school, and on most days she and her brothers walked the mile to and from school. She later went to school at Amherst, starting in 1952. Her family had moved to the Amherst area when her father took a job with Dalton Docter Farms. She was baptized in her teens at the Zion Reformed Church in Amherst. She loved school and was greatly influenced by a number of her teachers, namely Mrs. Green, Mrs. Matheny, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Rames and Mrs. Auwater. They all instilled in Lois a yearn to learn. Many others of every age provided the avenues, streets, roads, highways and learning on the super highway presented the pathway to possibilities and activities. Lois graduated from Amherst High School in May of 1962 and took a job at the Coffee Bar in Britton.

Lois was united in marriage with Roger Severson at the Zion Reformed Church parsonage in Amherst. They started their married life and family on a farm near Pierpont. Soon daughter Lisa Lynn was joined by siblings Leroy Alan, Leon Ellis, Lonnie Joe, Larane Maye, Loretta June and Albert Floyd. They remained on the farm until 1971 when they moved to Langford where the children attended school.

Lois was a stay-at-home- Mom and caregiver. She worked as a cook and then as a teacher's aide for the Head Start program at the Methodist Church in Langford. She sewed for nine years for Dakotah, Inc. at the plant in Langford and later in Pierpont until the summer of 1984. She then cared for her family and for her first grandchild, Tyler. They welcomed another son, Lucas James into the family in 1986, and the next year they moved to a farm near Pierpont. In July of 1989, their son Lonnie Joe passed away, the result of a swimming accident at White Lake near Britton. Later that year, their youngest son Adam Jay was born.

Lois became the site supervisor for the Senior Nutrition Program at Bristol. She later began employment with the NESD Head Start program as a part time teacher's aide. In 1992, she took a position as the Day County Home Visitor for the program.

Lois enjoyed writing and shared her thoughts

in prose on many different occasions and as a personal gift. This obituary is primarily her own words, written with her left hand. She sometimes made a short story long and detailed, just ask her children! She learned to live making hugs a big part of everyday life and love, care and acceptance foremost



in importance in daily living.

In the fall of 2000, she began doing online education with the University of Cincinnati and in December of 2005, received an A.A. Degree in childhood education. Lois' love of learning showed her the lessons of life continue to inspire and instill values and ideals. Goals and aspirations can always be achieved during one's lifetime.

Grateful for having shared her life are her surviving children: Lisa Severson of Bristol; Leroy Severson of Pierpont; Leon (Alice) Severson of Groton; Larane (Rick) Wahlen of LeSueur, MN; Loretta (Lonnie) Dinger of Langford; Albert (Barb) Severson of Florence; Lucas (Bethany) Severson of Brookings; Adam Severson of Pierpont; 21 grandchildren which includes 14 grandsons: Tyler, Nathan, Jeremy, Nolan, Anthony, Preston, Joseph, Quenton, Dillon, Waylon, Nickolas, Aaron, Lincoln, Christopher, and seven granddaughters: Alisha, Bridgette, Leda, Elizabeth, Sarah, Lilly, Ryley; two step great-grandsons, Christopher and Gaven; and a soon to be born grandchild of Lucas and Bethany. The grandchildren's part of Lois' life was always evident in her conversation and thoughts. Her extended family, friends and anyone, anywhere she was in contact with, truly made the environment a small world after all and always full of consideration, commendation and conversation. She is also survived by her brother, Kenneth (Debbie) Murray of Claremont an sisters-in-law, Karen Murray of Frankfort, SD and Carol (Barry) Lavander of Cheyenne, WY.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her son, Lonnie and three brothers Leo, Dennis and Jerry Murray, and a sister-in-law, Leo's wife, Sharon.

In closing, Lois extends her own personal thoughts: "Mom is waiting for you to join her - In the Sweet Bye and Bye. Her last wish is for you to always sing in your own personal way because each one writes notes, is part of the harmony, tuning up and in with rhythm and rhyme. Remember you are family and the world to me and the music you make is to make merry everything in your life - - oops! Did I say MERRY? Always have a very, Merry Christmas! Thanks to my Mom for sharing her love of Christmas and trees!"