

March 2, 2010

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## The Life of Irma B. Stearns

- The funeral for Irma B. Stearns, 78, Hecla, will be 10:30 am, Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at St. John's Lutheran Church at Hecla. The Rev. Christen Prumm officiating. Burial, Hecla City Cemetery. Irma died Friday, February 26, at Avera Mother Joseph Manor, Aberdeen.
- Visitation, 1-7 pm, Tuesday, March 2, 2010 with a prayer service at 7 p.m. at Spitzer-Miller Funeral Home, 1111 S. Main St., Aberdeen.

• Irma B. Bretsch, daughter of Otto and Elsbeth (Lunow) Bretsch, was born on March 25, 1931 in Germany. This is where she was raised and attended school. In November of 1951, she immigrated with her sister to America. She settled on her uncle's farm near Hecla. During this time she worked for several area families doing general house work.

• She was united in marriage to Stanley Stearns on December 9, 1953 at Peace Lutheran Church near Hecla. They made their home on the Stearns family farm, where she remained until failing health forced a move to Mother Joseph Manor in Aberdeen.

• Irma was an avid gardener and took great pride in her flower beds. She loved cats and was known for her outstanding knitting skills. In her free time, Irma enjoyed bowling. She was a member of Peace Lutheran Church and was active in the LWML. Irma served as secretary for bowling leagues in past years.

• Grateful for having shared Irma's life are her husband, Stanley of Hecla, two sons, James (Linda) Stearns of Groton, and Rollin (Donna) Stearns of Hecla, nine grandchildren, Lester (Connie) Stearns, Stephanie (Mike Ewalt) Stearns and, Lauren (Jennifer) Stearns, Samantha (Andy) Jondahl, Celeste (Joe) Saylor, Michael Stearns, Susan (Nik) Zuhlsdorf, Scott Stearns and Trisha Stearns, six great grandchildren, Lyndsie Stearns, Abigail Stearns, Lane Jondahl, Kendra Saylor, Katarina Saylor and Logan Zuhlsdorf, three sisters, Hannelore Quandt, Edda Levine and Renate Hastings, one sister-in-law, Harriet Bretsch, cousin, Gerald Bretsch and close friends Karen and Orland Lunzman and Nancy and Ron Frohling.

• Irma is preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, Rudy and Karl Bretsch, one sister Brunhilde Petermann, one grandson, Jordan Stearns and one granddaughter, Annette Stearns.