

The Life of Vivian Luce



Vivian Almeda Luce of Gettysburg died February 11, 2015 in her home. A Visitation will be held from 5:00-7:00pm, Monday, February 16, 2015 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Gettysburg followed by a Wake Service at 7:00pm. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30am, Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Gettysburg with Interment at the Gettysburg Cemetery.

Vivian was the youngest of three children born to E. Carrol and L. Evelyn (Britting) Klapperich in Conde, SD on September 14, 1936. Vivian attended school near Conde through the eighth grade. When she was sixteen she moved to Maryland to stay with her sister for a short time. Upon her return to SD, she moved to Aberdeen. When working as a carhop, she met her husband Francis Luce. They were married on January 28, 1956. To this loving union, two boys & three girls were born. Four were of them were born in Aberdeen and one in Groton. After moving to Groton in 1967, all five kids graduated from school. Vivian ran a daycare from their home for many years. All the kids brought their friends home to "mom" many times. Francis & Vivian hosted many house parties where thousands of 'cups of coffee' were served, traveled each summer to rod runs and enjoyed camping (even in the rain).

In 1983, she worked cleaning houses for people and at Groton Veterinary Clinic as an assistant.

In 1985, the couple purchased the Larson Print Shop in Gettysburg. They ran it together until 1994 when Francis passed away. She ran the shop until 1996 when she went to work for her son John Jr. at Luce Funeral Home until John's death in 2005. At that time, she went to work for Kesling Funeral Home and Gettysburg Senior Center. She also enjoyed her time volunteering at Gettysburg Manor.

In 2000, she met her second love Neal Rausch. They have spent many years together traveling all around the country, playing cards, and gardening flowers and food for themselves, family and friends. Vivian spent many hours playing bridge at the senior center. She was a greeter at Sacred Heart Catholic Church where she was proud to have learned how to video the services.

Vivian's greatest joy was spending time with her family and friends. She loved to tease and be teased even while in the hospital. There was always laughter and love. She was strict and "grouchy" with her grandchildren, but that's how they knew she loved them.

Those blessed to have shared in her life are her special friend Neal Rausch of Gettysburg; her dog Whiskey, son Steve (Terri) Luce of Atlanta, GA; daughters, Victoria (Bruce) Sippel of Groton, SD, Kathy (Bryan) Evjen of Strandburg, SD and Sherrie (Dean) Van Zee of St. Lawrence, SD, 26 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren (and counting), her sister Genevieve (Arvid) Holsing of Wecota, SD, sisters-in-law Marie Schnell of Aberdeen, SD and Madeline Boyd of the Netherlands, brother-in-law Robert (Wilma) Luce of Aberdeen, SD and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband John "Francis" Luce Sr., son John Luce Jr., brother Willis "Bill" (Adonna) Klapperich and granddaughter Lisa Sippel.