

Irma Olson, 80

Irma Olson, 80, Groton died May 4, 2001 at Avera St. Luke's Hospital, Aberdeen.

Her funeral will be 2 p.m., Wednesday, May 9, 2001 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Groton, with the Rev. Craig Grams officiating. He will be assisted by Rev. John Israel, brother of the late Israel Olson. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton, with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, in charge of arrangements. A prayer service was held Tuesday evening at the funeral chapel. There will be visitation at the church for one hour prior to services, Wednesday.



Irma Anna Israel was born February 1, 1921 to the Rev. William and Esther (Schornack) Israel in Milbank. Rev. Israel served parishes in South and North Dakota and Steen, Minn. She grew up in these Lutheran congregations. She graduated from Hills-Beaver Creek, Minnesota High School. As a young woman, she worked at various positions helping families with their housework and child care in Sioux Falls.

She married Arthur H. Olson, May 25, 1941 in Steen, Minn. They lived in Sioux Falls, Wagner, Timberlake and Miller. They moved to Groton in 1947. Her husband, Arthur, died in January 1990, after many years as an Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) District Representative.

She was a lifetime student of the Bible, South Dakota PTA President, member of the South Dakota Committee for Education, and lobbied for education in South Dakota for many years. She was a member of the Brown County Landmark Commission, AAL Lamplighter, and served in many other volunteer positions at St. John's Lutheran Church, including Sunday School teacher, President of the Ladies Aid, member of the Christian Literature Circle, and the ladies quilting group. She enjoyed reading, sewing, knitting, having coffee with friends, and serving as chauffeur for friends.

She is survived by one son, Rev. David (Roberta) Olson, Brookings; one daughter, Julie (Jack) Berry, Minocqua; two brothers, John (Jeane) Israel, Loveland, Colo., and Fred (Nancy) Israel, Rogers, Ark., and six grandchildren, Dr. Tania Berry, Coldwater, Mich.; Christopher (Laurie) Berry, Osh Kosh, Wis.; Nathan Berry, Plattville, Wis.; David Berry, Green Bay, Wis.; Aaron Olson, Lawrence, Kan., and Daniel Olson, Indianapolis, Ind.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; one sister, Ruth Kennedy, and a brother, Martin Israel.

Casketbearers will be Aaron Olson, Daniel Olson, Christopher Berry, Nathan Berry, David Berry and Roy Olson.