

Erna Riskedahl

Erna Riskedahl, 90, Bismarck, died July 26, 2006, at her home. Since June 5, 2006, she had been receiving care from the St. Alexius Hospice Program due to a recurrence of cancer. Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 29, at Bethel Lutheran Church, 615 E. Turnpike Avenue, Bismarck, with the Rev. Tim Jenks officiating. Burial will be held at 2 p.m. at Tuttle Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway, Bismarck, where a prayer service will be held at 7 p.m.

Erna Sauter Riskedahl was born to Eberhardt and Mathilda Sauter, May 28, 1916, on the family farm in Tuttle, the fifth of 10 children. After graduating from Tuttle High School in 1933, Erna went to Chicago and worked as a nanny for three years, then returned to Tuttle and married Clifford Riskedahl, at Tuttle.

Erna was very active throughout her life. She was the church organist at English Lutheran Church, in Tuttle, for over 30 years and served as Sunday school superintendent for many years. Clifford and Erna operated Riskedahl's Store in Tuttle, until Clifford's untimely death in 1972. One year later, Erna sold the store and four years later, moved to Bismarck, where she has resided since 1977.

Erna touched many lives throughout her long life and her family and friends will miss her very much. The focus of her life was her family, Clifford and their three children. Family also included a large extended family and many dear friends. During the early years of their marriage, Clifford and Erna worked very hard at building and maintaining a successful business but still did much to promote a strong sense of family, including many Sunday dinners with friends and family, overnight company on weekends, family reunions, and many holiday celebrations.

After moving to Bismarck, Erna developed a new community of friends in her north Bismarck neighborhood, at Bethel Lutheran Church, and then at Plaza Towers, where she resided for the past 10 years. She also maintained contact as much as possible with her friends in Tuttle. She looked forward to seeing her children, grand-children, siblings, nieces, nephews and friends on a regular basis. Throughout her life, Erna always emanated strength, honesty and a very strong work ethic, which was still apparent in her own home. She loved to create many different kinds of handwork, including quilting and counted cross stitch, which she enjoyed sharing with family and friends.

She is survived by three children, Burt (Margo) Riskedahl, Bismarck, Barbara (Don) Vellenga, Ada, Minn., and Laura (Bill) Riskedahl-Hampton, Center Harbor, N.H. She was very proud of her grandchildren, including Mark (Melissa Powers) Riskedahl, Portland Ore., Diane (Muhammad Ali Khalidi) Riskedahl, Beirut, Lebanon, Kara Hisley and Joshua Hisley, both of Minneapolis; and one great-grandson, Zayd Khalidi. She is also survived by one brother, Edwin Sauter; two sisters, Lynora (Art) Scherbenske and Mae McFerran; four sisters-in-law, Judy Borlaug, Helen McCormack, Emma Riskedahl and Lydia Berg; four step-grandchildren, including Bill Hampton Jr., Wendy (Todd) Kennedy, Dean (Jennifer) Vellenga, and Karla (Gene) Redmond; seven step-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clifford Riskedahl; her parents, Eberhardt and Mathilda (Freeh) Sauter; her brothers, Walter and Fred; her sisters, Hilda Hinkel, Viola Bailey, Louise Sauter and Ruby Sauter; and many sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins.

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