



IN LOVING MEMORY OF

## *Helyn Marion Mertens*

WHO WAS BORN

January 16, 1925  
Milbank, South Dakota

AND CALLED TO HER ETERNAL HOME

March 13, 2018  
Milbank, South Dakota

FUNERAL SERVICE

Friday, March 16, 2018 - 2:30 p.m.  
Emanuel Lutheran Church  
Milbank, South Dakota

OFFICIANT

Rev. Caleb Schewe

MUSICIANS

Kristy Tostenson, Organist  
Chris, Max, and Maci Salvevold, Vocalists

CASKET BEARERS

Jeff Mertens Josh Worley Doug Mertens Justin Mertens  
Dan Mertens Tyler Grabow Matt Boogaard Nick Kunde

INTERMENT

Milbank City Cemetery  
Milbank, South Dakota

APPRECIATION

Helyn's family is grateful for your attendance at this service.  
Your expressions of kindness and love are deeply  
appreciated. Following the interment, please join the family  
for lunch and fellowship in the church dining room.

ARRANGEMENTS BY  
Mundwiler Funeral Home  
Milbank, South Dakota

*Let not your hearts be troubled;  
believe in God,  
believe also in me.  
In my Father's house  
are many rooms; if it were  
not so, would I have told you that I  
go to prepare a place for you?  
And when I go and prepare a place for you,  
I will come again and take you to  
myself, that where I am you  
may be also.  
—John (14:1-3)*

**H**elyn Marion Steltz was born on January 16, 1925, in Milbank, SD. She was the daughter of George G. and Effie (Hoeke) Steltz. Helyn was baptized on April 19, 1925, by Rev. Fred Wessler at Zion Lutheran Church, Geneseo Township, Roberts County, SD. In that same church, and by the same minister, Helyn was confirmed on September 17, 1939.

Helyn attended eight years of school at Geneseo No. 3, the same school that her father had attended. She lived on the family farm northeast of Milbank for the first 14 years of her life. Her father died in 1936. In 1939, she and her mother moved into Milbank. Helyn graduated from Milbank High School with the Class of 1942.

Helyn was united in marriage with Melvin Mertens on June 8, 1941, in Bellingham, MN. They farmed together for several years in Madison Township before moving to Grant Center Township. Melvin died in 1994, and Helyn continued living on the farm until moving into Milbank in 1999.

Helyn was a faithful member of Emanuel Lutheran Church. She was a member of the Jolly Madison Extension Club for nearly 40 years. Helyn worked at Big Stone Cheese Factory (now Saputo) for several years before working at the Milbank Herald Advance. She later worked for the Grant County Review.

Helyn's hobbies were many including a love of bird watching and feeding. She enjoyed dancing, gardening, and flowers. Helyn was an avid reader and enjoyed crocheting. Her family will treasure the many projects given to them. However, her ability to read and crochet was hampered when she was diagnosed with macular degeneration. With the help of a "reading machine" she was able to keep reading the newspapers and other correspondence.

Left to cherish her memory are her children: Roger "Pat" (Sally) Mertens of Aberdeen, SD; LeAnne (Jim) Worley of Jamestown, ND; George (Julie) Mertens of Milbank, SD; Melody (Jim) Kunde of Milbank, SD; Wendy (Greg) Grabow of Twin Brooks, SD; daughter-in-law, Michelle Mertens of Brookings, SD; 17 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; two nieces and two nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; step-father, Adolph Kruger; husband; son, Mike, and two infant brothers.

*Memorials may be sent to Emanuel Lutheran Sunday Radio Broadcast, Salvation Army, or Milbank Community Transit Bus.*

