

Iva E. Swartzendruber

Iva Elizabeth Swartzendruber, age 90 of Bay Port, passed away Saturday, September 23 at Home Sweet Home Retirement Manor in Pigeon.

On June 5, 1916 she was born in Bay Port to John and Rachel (Albrecht) Gunden and graduated from the Snell Country School. She was united in marriage to Lawrence Swartzendruber at the Gunden family home on June 4, 1936.

Mrs. Swartzendruber was a homemaker throughout her lifetime, enjoying flower and vegetable gardening, and was known as a wonderful baker of cookies and rolls. She was a gracious hostess, welcoming many people into her home. She worked on the farm for many years with her husband, and continued to farm after his death on September 2, 1967. Iva was a member of the Pigeon River Sewing Circle, and made quilts for her children and many other people as well. She was a prayer warrior, praying daily for her family, and was a faithful member of the Pigeon River Mennonite Church.

She is survived by six children, Roma (Alferd) Bontrager of Darien Center, New York, Dale (Delores) Swartzendruber of Grand Blanc, Dennis (Dorothy) Swartzendruber, Karen (Thomas) Beachy, and Leland (Jeanne) Swartzendruber, all of Bay Port, and Arlin "Bear" (Kimberly) Swartzendruber of Pigeon; 15 grandchildren, two stepgrandsons; and 18 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her brothers and sister, Glen (Pauline) Gunden of Goshen, Indiana, Olin (Joyce) Gunden of Pigeon, John Dale (Ethel) Gunden of Bay Port, Lala King of Florida, sister-in-law Maggie Gunden of Pigeon; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by an infant daughter, Rosalie; a grandson, Dwight Bontrager; a sister and her husband, Clara and Mark Stalter; a brother, Delmar Gunden; a brother-in-law, John King; and a foster brother and his wife, Mike and Dorothy Sape.

The Funeral Service will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 26 at Pigeon River Mennonite Church, with Rev. Thomas Beachy, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to R U Red E Ministries or Pigeon River Mennonite Church.