

Rathke, Beatrice

Beatrice H. Rathke, 88, of Pigeon, passed away Wednesday, March 19, 2003, at the Scheurer Hospital Long Term Care Unit in Pigeon. She was born on Sept. 19, 1914 in Port Huron, the daughter of the late Herman and Alma L.T. (Thrun) Westphal. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Eastern Michigan University and a master of arts degree from the University of Michigan. On Aug. 2, 1952, she was united in marriage to Herman Henry Karl Rathke at Cross Lutheran Church in Pigeon. He preceded her in death on July 24, 1995. She began her teaching career at Bell School in St. Clair, then taught at Campau School and Lincoln School, both in Port Huron. Mrs. Rathke taught at Pigeon Elementary School from 1952 until the early 1970's. She was a member of the Huron County Association of Retired School Employees, and along with her husband, was a member of the Farm Bureau. Mrs. Rathke was a faithful member of Cross Lutheran Church in Pigeon, where she taught Sunday School for many years and was a member of the Cross Lutheran Women of the Church. She is survived by a son, Arthur H. Rathke and his wife, Debra, of Sterling Heights; three grandchildren, Pamela, Kristine and Mark; a sister, Evelyn Henkelmann of Pigeon; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Herbert and Arthur Westphal. The funeral service will be conducted at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 23, 2003, at Cross Lutheran Church in Pigeon. The Rev. Frederick Henkelmann, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Linton, N. D. and the Rev. Dellis Hudson, pastor, will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be from 2 to 9 p.m. on Saturday at Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home in Pigeon and from 1 p.m. until the time of service at 2 p.m. on Sunday at the church. Memorials for Mrs. Rathke may be made to Cross Lutheran Church or the Alzheimers Association.