

## **Esther M. Schmaltz**

Esther M. Schmaltz, 89, of Bad Axe, passed away Tuesday, April 3, 2012 at Lakeview Extended Care and Rehab Center of the Harbor Beach Community Hospital.

She was born on Jan. 19, 1923 in Port Hope, to the late Walter and Lillian (Fisher) Lange. Esther and Edwin Schmaltz were united in marriage on Aug. 16, 1941 at St. John Lutheran Church in Port Hope, by Rev. August Frederking. They resided in Port Hope and farmed for 20 years. Edwin preceded her in death on Aug. 29, 1964.

Esther graduated from the Port Hope High School in 1941. She was a lifelong member of St. John Lutheran Church in Port Hope and a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Esther worked at Kritzman's Store in Bad Axe for many years. She enjoyed gardening and made many beautiful quilts for her family and friends. Esther enjoyed being with her family and spending time with her many grandchildren.

Esther is survived by her children: Howard Schmaltz and his wife, Lillian, of Flint, Dave Schmaltz and his wife, Gloria, of Port Hope, Janet Weiss and her husband, Rodney, of Port Hope, Nancy Osentoski and her husband, Ken, of Port Hope, 17 grandchildren; five step grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren; four great great grandchildren; two sisters: Betty Lawitzke of Caro, Margaret (Vern) Page of Warren; and one brother Walter (Grace) Lange Jr.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter Sr. and Lillian Lange; her husband Edwin Schmaltz; and her brother James Lange.

Funeral Services for Esther will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 6, 2012 at St. John Lutheran Church in Port Hope, with Rev. Greg Eilers officiating. Burial will follow in Colfax Township Cemetery.

Visitation on will be from 1 to 9 p.m. Thursday in the Ramsey Funeral Home of Harbor Beach and from 9:30 until time of services at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the church. A scripture service will take place at 6 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.