

Leppien, Helen J.

Helen Jane (Topps) Leppien went to be with her Lord and Savior on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009. Helen was born on Jan. 28, 1925, in Clare, the daughter of Anna (Gamble) and Charles Topps. Helen was raised in Saginaw where she graduated from Arthur Hill High School.

On March 16, 1945 she was united in marriage to Karl J. Leppien, her junior high sweetheart. They were married for 63 years and together they raised two children, Marianne and Raymond. Helen worked as a bookkeeper and homemaker. Helen and Karl moved from Saginaw to Pigeon in 1957 where they resided until moving to Alma in 1979. In 1992 Karl retired and they moved to Arizona to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Helen was an active member of Faith Lutheran Church in Saginaw, Cross Lutheran Church in Pigeon, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mesa, Ariz. and Sun Lakes United Methodist Church in Arizona. She was also active in the Pigeon Women's Club and loved to support and entertain young people.

Surviving are her husband, Karl, of Chandler, Ariz.; daughter, Marianne Leppien-Oleson, Chandler, Ariz.; son, Raymond Leppien and wife, Kelly, of Tempe, Ariz.; grandchildren, Jennifer Oleson of Chandler, Ariz., Parker Leppien of Columbia, Mo., David Oleson II of Las Vegas, Nev., and (Anna) Clarisse Leppien, Tempe, Ariz.

Her parents and three sisters preceded her in death.

A graveside service will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009, at the Valley of the Sun Mortuary and Cemetery, 10940 E. Chandler Heights Rd., Chandler, Ariz. in celebration of her new birth to her eternal home.

Memorial contributions may be made in lieu of flowers to any of the following: Corona del Sol High School, Choir or Theater departments, 1001 E. Knox Rd., Tempe, AZ 85284; Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2745 N. 32nd St., Mesa, AZ 85213; CHW Foundation East Valley for Chandler Regional Medical Center, 1727 West Frye Road, Suite 230, Chandler, AZ 85224.