

# Herman H. K. Rathke

1911 - 1995

Herman Henry Karl Rathke, age 84 of Pigeon, passed away Monday, July 24 at the Evangelical Home in Sterling Heights.

He was born in Pigeon on February 12, 1911, the son of the late Johann Heinrich Frederich August and Marie Sophie Elise (Sasse) Rathke. On August 2, 1952 he was united in marriage to Beatrice Westphal at Cross Lutheran Church in Pigeon. She survives.

In his youth, Mr. Rathke attended Cross Lutheran School as well as the Turner Rural School. During the Depression he collected and sold eggs. Throughout his lifetime, he has dined with the Damm Brothers, worked at Damm's Implement, and farmed in Iron County. In 1992, he received a certificate for the 26 years he served as Supervisor of the McKinley Township Board. Mr. Rathke also sang with the Pigeon Mens' Community Chorus for a number of years.

Mr. Rathke was a faithful lifetime member of Cross Lutheran Church in Pigeon, where he sang in the choir, taught Sunday school, and was active on the Church Council for many years.

Surviving him are his son, Arthur H. (Debra) Rathke, Sterling Heights; three grandchildren, Pamela, Kristine, and Mark; two daughters, Frieda Neurath, and Martha (Edwin) Licht, all of Pigeon; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two daughters, Emma Stecker and Lydia Fredrick.

Funeral Services will be conducted at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 28 from Cross Lutheran Church, Pigeon. Rev. Raymond E. Licht, pastor, and Rev. Frederick Henkelmann will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Cross Lutheran Church or a new Cross Lutheran School building fund.