

**Elmer Hugo Gottschalk, 92**  
**Sauk Rapids, MN**  
**Oct. 8, 1923 - Dec. 12, 2015**



Funeral services will be 11 a.m., Dec. 16, 2015, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sauk Rapids for Elmer H. Gottschalk, age 92, who passed away Saturday at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Home in Sauk Rapids. Rev. Paul Cloeter will officiate and burial will be in Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Sauk Rapids. Visitation is one hour prior to services on Wednesday at the church.

Elmer was born Oct. 8, 1923, in Lewiston, to Hugo and Emilie (Benicke) Gottschalk. He was a U.S. Army Veteran of WWII. He was married for 69 years to the love of his life, Ruthie Thurley, and the two were married Sept. 28, 1946, at St. Martin's Lutheran Church in Winona. He lived in Rochester before moving to Sauk Rapids in 1968. He was a district representative for

Thrivent Insurance for 33 years. Elmer was a very active member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Sauk Rapids. He was a member of Sauk Rapids VFW Post No. 4847 and Sauk Rapids Legion Post No. 254. Elmer enjoyed coin collecting, travelling, music and playing the piano, especially "Elmer's Tune." His love of faith, family and his country defined his life. Elmer was a marvelous man who followed Christ all the way to the end and is walking with him now. Today we lost a good man. A man that always loved the Lord, loved that you loved the Lord and loved you. He always brightened the room with his smile and laughter. May we all be honored and glad that we have someone that we love, so close to our Savior. Elmer especially enjoyed spending quality time with his family. Elmer Hugo Gottschalk will be greatly missed.

Survivors include his wife, Ruth of Sauk Rapids; sons and daughter, Gary (Ann) Gottschalk of LaGrange, Ill., Bruce (Jan) Gottschalk of Prior Lake, Nancy (Kurt) Knettel of Boerne, Texas; daughter-in-law, Lorilyn Gottschalk of Minneapolis; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Elmer was preceded in death by his parents; and son, Stephen, March 6, 2008; and brothers, Lester, Vernon and Alvin.

Memorials preferred in lieu of flowers.