

**Roestel, Gertrude M.**

Gertrude Magdalena Roestel, 93, of Pigeon, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009 at Home Sweet Home Retirement Manor in Pigeon.

Born in Pigeon on Dec. 24, 1915, she was the daughter of the late J.F. Otto and Anna (Meyer) Rathje. She graduated as salutatorian for the Pigeon High School Class of 1934.

On Oct. 23, 1937, she was united in marriage to Henry Edward Roestel at St. John's Lutheran Church, Berne. They were married for almost 69 years when he preceded her in death on Oct. 6, 2006.

Mrs. Roestel was a homemaker throughout her lifetime. She enjoyed spending time with her family, as well as cooking and baking, and was a member of the McKinley Farm Bureau and the McKinley Happy Homemakers Extension. She was a faithful member of St. John's Lutheran Church, Berne, where she enjoyed church activities, especially the Women's Society and the Ladies Aid.

Gertrude is survived by two sons and a daughter, Leon and Janice Roestel, Don and Peggy Roestel, and Margie and Mike Stevenson, all of Pigeon; 13 grandchildren and their spouses; 29 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; three brothers, Alvin and Gladys Rathje of Pigeon, Arnold and Harriet Rathje of Solon, Ohio, and Marlin and Marion Rathje of Pigeon; several nieces and nephews; and a sister-in-law, Geraldine Steinman of Pigeon. She was preceded in death by a sister, Esther Weaver.

Funeral service will be conducted at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 9, 2009 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Berne, with the Rev. James A. Gorsegner, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1 to 9 p.m. Thursday at Meyersieck-Bussema Funeral Home in Pigeon and from 10 a.m. until the service at 11 a.m. Friday at the church.

Memorials may be made to St. John's Lutheran Church, Heartland Hospice, or Home Sweet Home Retirement Manor.