

Girard, Erma E.

Erma E. Girard, 94, died Wednesday morning, July 23, 2003, at Bortz Health Care of Traverse City, in the company of her loving family. She fought a good fight against the debilitating effects of a stroke. She was born on April 19, 1909 in Wyandotte, the daughter of Alvin and Emma (Ziesmer) Unger. Erma was one of eight children and grew up working on the family farm. In 1932, she married Carl Wenzel. After four years of marriage, Carl died in 1935. In 1939, Erma married Lawrence Girard and the two were happily married for 63 years. She was a happy, joyous person, who enjoyed nothing better than taking part in a breakfast table conversation. Erma was an avid gardener, golfer, bowler, euchre player and cook. She also loved to travel; but most of all, she enjoyed being with her family at the family cottage in Bay Port. For many years, she served as chief cook for the family duck camp and over the years, she became well known for all the meals she served the family duck hunters. Erma and Lawrence lived in Lincoln Park from 1939 to 1999. During this time, Erma was busy raising three sons, working primarily as a seamstress, and running the family home. In 1999, Erma and Lawrence moved to Traverse City to be close to their sons and their families. Erma was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and was blessed with a deep and undying faith in God. This faith she imparted to her entire family. She is survived by her sons, David Wenzel and his wife, Patricia, Clifford Girard and his wife, Susan, Renne Girard and his wife, Lynette; eleven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Erma was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence, in 2003; her parents; and three sisters. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church on Tuesday, July 29, 2003, at 3:30 p.m. The Rev. Dr. Paul Zimmerman will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to Trinity Lutheran Church. The family is being served by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City.