



## Esther Etter

April 30, 1933 - November 21, 2025

ARVADA, COLORADO – Beloved mother and grandmother, Esther Etter, age 92, formerly of Adrian MI passed away Friday, November 21, 2025 in Arvada, CO with her family by her side.

She was born April 30, 1933 in Adrian, Michigan, the fifth of six children to Rev. Vance & Eva (Baughey) Miller. She graduated from Adrian High School in 1951. Esther earned her teaching degree from Michigan County Normal Training School in 1952 and started teaching in a rural school grades K-6 at the young age of 19. In 1960 Esther studied abroad at the University of Grenoble in France. In 1962 Esther received her Masters of Science in Education from Sienna Heights College in Adrian, MI and in 1967 a Masters of Arts in Teaching from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, NM. From 1952-1963, Esther taught in the Adrian, MI area at Round Top; Woodside School; Birdsall School; Clayton School. From 1963-1971 she was a substitute in Las Cruces, NM and Lisle, IL. From 1971-1996 Esther taught in Colorado for Jefferson County Public Schools at Swanson Elementary, Peck Elementary, Russell Elementary, Fitzmorris Elementary and Wilmore Davis Elementary. After 44 years of teaching, Esther retired May 1996, but continued working with children at church as a Sunday School teacher and Christian Education Director; she volunteered at her grandsons elementary school; and as a tutor for WHIZ Kids.

Esther married Willis Smith, co-owner of the Adrian Dairy in 1954. Willis passed away in 1958 of Hodgkin's Disease. Her high school friend

encouraged her to go on a double date with her oldest brother, Cecil Etter. The four went in Cecil's small Corvair to the Michigan State vs Notre Dame football game and that was all it took, soon after Cecil asked Esther to "move" with him to Alaska where he was stationed for work. Esther immediately exclaimed, "Yes, I'll marry you!" On March 30, 1963, Esther married Cecil in Adrian, MI.

Cecil's job took them to Las Cruces, NM where in 1967 they welcomed their one and only child, Elizabeth (Beth) Ann and in 2003 Beth married Nathan Olsen. Beth & Nate gifted Esther & Cecil the title of Grandparents in 2007 and 2009 with the births of Chip (Nathan, Jr) and Noah. Chip and Noah were Esther's pride and joy. She spent many hours reading, playing, having slumber parties with them, watching movies and attending their school and sporting events.

In Esther's spare time when she wasn't grading papers or enjoying time with her grandsons, Esther was an accomplished seamstress making beautiful drapes, curtains, blouses, dresses (including numerous choir outfits for Beth and her choirs), many of Cecil's suits, etc.; she loved to crochet and knit; she played the violin, piano and organ; she often baked goodies for first time guests at church and made a roast with vegetables almost every Sunday to spontaneously invite friends over for lunch after church. Esther enjoyed several trips to Europe, Canada, Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, as well as visiting many of the lower 48 states.

Esther is survived by her daughter, Beth (Nathan) Etter-Olsen of Arvada, CO; two grandsons, Nathan "Chip" Olsen, Jr. and Noah Olsen; and several nieces. She is preceded in death by her siblings and their spouses: Leslie Miller, Martha (Charles) Relyea, Vance Jr (Olive) Miller, Rea (Harold) Relyea, Albert (Mary) Miller, several nieces and nephews and her parents, all of Adrian, MI. Visitation for Esther will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025 at 10:00 AM at Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian. Funeral services will begin at 11:00 AM at the funeral home with Rev. Larry Betz officiating. Esther will be laid to rest at Palmyra Cemetery. A memorial Celebration of Life for Esther will be held in

Arvada, CO at a later date.

Online condolences and memories may be shared at [www.wagleyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.wagleyfuneralhomes.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Palmyra Cemetery

East US 223  
Palmyra, MI 49268

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)  
1501 W. Maumee St.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-1400  
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

## Funeral Service

DEC 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wagley Funeral Home (Adrian)  
1501 W. Maumee St.  
Adrian, MI 49221  
(517) 263-1400  
info@wagleyfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.WagleyFuneralHome.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Wagley Funeral Home and Cremation Service created a Webcast in memory of Esther Etter



Wagley Funeral Home - December 04, 2025 at 09:36 AM

KO

*Beautiful service and so enjoyed Esther playing the piano. Sending love from cold Minnesota. Nate's Mom- Kathy Olsen*

Kathy Olsen - December 05, 2025 at 11:49 AM

DW

*I had the privilege and honor to know Esther and her wonderful family. I loved reading what you wrote in her obituary Beth. What a full and wonderful life our dear Esther had made more full by her family. What an honor to spend time with Esther each week. Esther's prayers told of her deep inner faith.*

Debra Witkop - December 10, 2025 at 09:55 AM

WD

“ With Love, Jann Demaske purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Esther Etter.



With Love, Jann Demaske - December 02, 2025 at 11:28 PM



“ With our deepest sympathy to the entire family. When I think of Aunt Esther, I immediately hear her laugh, it was contagious.  
Love your niece and my entire family,  
Mary Jo & Brian Kuney Family

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**MaryJo-Brian Kuney** - December 01, 2025 at 04:35 PM



“ I remember your mom being at every Pomona choir performance, always ready to help in any way. Deepest condolences from the Wilcox family.

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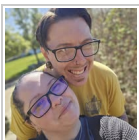
**Terri Heintzman-Wilcox** - November 30, 2025 at 10:02 PM



“ Remember Esther from Arvada Church of God, Colorado, where she was very active and I enjoyed her sense of humor and her compassion and hospitality. She was a unique lady, friendly and kind. She will be missed! I send my love and condolences to her daughter, Beth, and her family. Nancy Lawshe

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**Nancy Lawshe** - November 30, 2025 at 02:04 PM



“ I grew up living next to the Eppers, Esther was always so kind and welcoming. I felt like I had an extra Aunt in her. She will be dearly missed. Thinking of you Beth.

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**Brittany Potter** - November 30, 2025 at 12:25 PM