



Geraldine Naomi Drefke

December 27, 1924 - June 8, 2018

BLISSFIELD - Geraldine Naomi Drefke, age 93, passed away on June 8, 2018 in Fort Wayne, IN. Her funeral service will be June 11, 2018 at 3 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Blissfield, MI. A visitation of her family and friends will be at St. Paul's before the service from 1 to 3 p.m. She will be laid to rest at Pleasant View Cemetery.

Geraldine was born on December 27, 1924 in Alpena, MI to the Rev. William Weinlander and Amalia Steutzer Weinlander. She received a teaching certificate from Lenawee County Normal in Adrian, MI, a bachelor's degree in Education from Capital University in Columbus, OH, and a Masters degree in Curriculum and Supervision from Wright State University in Dayton, OH. During her 27 years of teaching, Gerry influenced countless students with her positive, can-do spirit in Riga, MI, Logan, OH, and Dayton, OH. She would start their day with cheer songs and encourage them throughout the day to never, never give up.

On April 15, 1944, Geraldine married Willard Owen Drefke. They shared 56 years together, serving God and raising a family. After Willard became a Lutheran minister, Gerry supported his ministry for 35 years as they served congregations in Arlington, OH, Logan, OH, and Dayton, OH. In addition, Gerry served others by using her natural skills as a salesperson, selling health products and food supplements. Upon her retirement from teaching in 1990,

Willard and Gerry moved back to the farm in Blissfield, MI where Willard was raised. They enjoyed being with their family, dancing, playing cards, and traveling.

After the passing of Willard, Gerry met Elwyn Gafner while playing cards, and they were married in 2003. They enjoyed playing cards together and spending their winters in Florida. Gerry's favorite thing to do was to document every activity and event with pictures and then relive all her memories through those pictures.

Anyone who knew Gerry, knew that she was a positive thinking person with an affirmation for any circumstance! If asked how she was, she would reply, "I feel, healthy, happy, and terrific...and rich!" Over the years, the answer to that question grew to a list over 30 adjectives. She loved God, her family, and life, and was always willing to help anyone in need. She fervently professed her faith in Jesus Christ and shared that faith with her children, grandchildren, and all whom she met.

She is survived by her sons, David (Judy) and John (Theresa) Drefke; daughter, Sally (Ted) Wilson; grandchildren, Richard, Robert, Steven, Michelle, Amy, Karen, Christopher, Kathleen, Austin and Lauren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Geraldine was preceded in death by her husbands, Willard and Elwyn; son, Donald; a daughter in infancy, Kay; great grandson, Zachary; and siblings, Ruth Ingram, Vera Greenwood, William Weinlander and Arlene Eklund.

Memorials in Geraldine's name may be made to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Blissfield, MI. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home, Tagsold Chapel in Blissfield where online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Pleasant View Cemetery

9175 E. US 223
Blissfield, MI

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 11. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
306 E. Jefferson Street
Blissfield, MI

Funeral Service

JUN 11. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
306 E. Jefferson Street
Blissfield, MI

Tribute Wall



“ *Geraldine Naomi Drefke*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *3 files added to the album New Album Name*



Linda James - June 11, 2018 at 10:55 AM



“ *2 files added to the album New Album Name*



Linda James - June 11, 2018 at 10:48 AM

JV

“Gerry was a positive person, in fact one of the most positive people we have ever met. She once colored a cute picture of a frog saying Never Give Up. We always got a kick out of that little picture, it was so typical of Gerry.

We will always remember a wonderful trip to Hawaii with Gerry & Willard. It was a Barley Green trip earned by selling there products. What a dream trip, we had so much fun. Such a special memory to look back upon.

Everything and everyone we love is just loaned to us for a time. It's sometimes hard for us to realize this but it is so true.

We will always remember Gerry and what a special generous person she was. It was truly a blessing to have her & Willard as friends for several years.

Larry & JoAnne Virgilio

JoAnne Virgilio - June 11, 2018 at 09:38 AM

TB

Gerry was overwhelmingly loving and extremely uplifting to my wife and I when we were suffering through our first few years in Blissfield. She sent cards with beautiful prayers and words of encouragement. She stopped by to cheer us up and even sent some money during difficult financial times when she “sensed” difficulty. Gerry was one of God’s angels sent to love us. Welcome home, Gerry! Enjoy the light, love, and warmth of the Communion of Saints!!! Rest in the arms of Jesus dear heart! Your energy lives on!

The Reverend Paul Benjamin - June 15, 2018 at 03:08 PM



“Secret Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Geraldine Naomi Drefke.



June 11, 2018 at 09:18 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Geraldine Naomi Drefke.*



June 10, 2018 at 09:43 PM



“ *Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Geraldine Naomi Drefke.*



June 10, 2018 at 09:23 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Geraldine Naomi Drefke.*



June 10, 2018 at 03:20 PM



“ *On behalf of Keith, Grace, Kirsten and Ruth Gafner we want pass along our condolences to Gerry's family. Gerry was the only American Grandmother that the girls have known. She was a real Blessing to dad, and a positive and encouraging Blessing to us on each visit. She will live forever in our hearts!*

Keith - June 09, 2018 at 10:06 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Geraldine Naomi Drefke.



June 09, 2018 at 12:18 PM



“ I will GREATLY MISS a GRAND LADY known as MOTHER. She lived 93 years of her life and 71 of those she took great care of me and my brothers and sisters. She lived her life to the fullest because she loved life. She is well remembered to those who knew her and was always there to help anyone in need. HER LOVE OF LIFE AND HER JOYS WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AND NEVER FORGOTTEN. GOD BLESS YOU MOTHER WITH MY LOVE TO ALWAYS. AMEN



David A Drefke - June 09, 2018 at 10:37 AM



“ I remember her hands as she held a book reading to us. She was such a special lady. She was my kindergarten teacher.

Jan Feller - June 09, 2018 at 06:33 AM



“ So sorry for the loss of your Mother. She was one positive lady. She never seemed to have a negative thought or problem. Love and prayers. Alice Behnken Gilreath

Alice Behnken Gilreath - June 08, 2018 at 09:25 PM

RD

“ Rob Drefke lit a candle in memory of
Geraldine Naomi Drefke



rob drefke - June 08, 2018 at 07:26 PM

DW

A very lovely lady...loved by many!....deb w.

Deb wysong - June 09, 2018 at 03:35 PM

LJ

Mrs. Drefke was one of the most positive people in the world. She was always cheerful and kind, and always willing to help. I have known her most of my life, and she influenced me greatly as I was growing up. She and Pastor Drefke were second parents to me, and I loved them so much. The world is a much better place because of Mrs. Drefke. I will always remember her with love and gratitude. David, Sally, and John, I'm so sorry for your loss, but know she is so happy to be reunited with your father, sister, and Donald. Love always. Linda (Mantor) James

Linda James - June 10, 2018 at 07:26 PM