

I'm proud of them - these hands of mine;  
So **MANY** things they've done.  
They've planted flowers, and pulled the weeds,  
and worked out in the sun.  
They've kneaded bread and cooked the meals  
More times than I can say.  
They've washed a ton of clothes,  
I guess, and put them all away.  
They've *soothed*  
a small child's fevered brow & rubbed an aching head.  
And when the evening shadows fell,  
They put the brood to bed.  
They've borne the bite of winter's cold  
And felt the warmth of spring.  
And on the finger long ago was put a wedding ring.  
And when **MY JOURNEY** here is over,  
I still shall *be thankful*  
That these old work-worn hands of mine  
Have done so much for me.

*Celebrating* THE *Life* OF

*Lillian I. Ritter*

**MARCH 2, 1925 – JANUARY 14, 2026**

**Services At:**

St. Mary's Catholic Church - Chokio, Minnesota  
Saturday, January 24, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

**Officiating Clergy:**

Father John Paul Knopik

**Accompanist:**

Amy Blackwelder

**Music:**

St. Mary's Choir

**Gift Bearers:**

Dawn West, Adam Ritter, Jamie Duffy

**Pallbearers:**

Tim Kieffer, Charlie Ritter, James Longtin  
Frank Stanton, Greg Ritter, Jeremy Raph

**Honorary Pallbearers:**

All of Lillian's Friends

**Interment:**

St. Mary's Cemetery  
Chokio, Minnesota  
Spring of 2026

**Lillian Irene Leuthard** was born on the farm homestead on March 2, 1925, the daughter of Thomas and Anna (Waldvogel) Leuthard. She was the middle child of 11 children, born prematurely and was carried on a pillow for weeks.

On March 3, 1943, she married Robert Ritter at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chokio. The couple farmed north of Chokio before moving to the Leuthard family farm in the fall of 1950. When her mother died in 1950 at a young age from cancer, she was asked to raise her baby brother, Carl. Lillian was expecting her 4<sup>th</sup> child at the time. The couple retired from farming in 1984 and moved into Chokio.

After her youngest child started school, she began working at the Chokio-Alberta school cafeteria and worked there for 9 years. She then went to work at Grace Home in Graceville where the nuns put her through nursing school. She worked there for 12 and a half years.

She enjoyed pie, ice cream, candy, dancing in her 3-inch-high heel shoes, listening to Country music, writing letters to her friends and relatives, gardening and canning produce, planting different perennials, cooking and baking, helping on the farm with all the animals and clean and keep a presentable home. Most precious to her were all the times the entire family gathered together so she could cook and bake and serve a fantastic meal.

Lillian passed away on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at Grace Home in Graceville, MN.

Lillian is survived by her children, Catherine (Tom) Kieffer of White Bear Lake, Robert Ritter of Coon Rapids, Clayton (Nancy) Ritter of Alberta, Michael (Renata) Ritter of Delano, Ann Longtin of Minnetonka, Mary (Michael) Stanton of Lino Lakes, Dorothy Raph of Delano, Patricia Wetteroff of White Bear Lake and Anthony (Jeri) Ritter of Chokio; 25 grandchildren; 39 great-grandchildren; 4 great-great-grandchildren; brother, Carl (Jo) Leuthard of Zimmerman; sister-in-law, Virginia Ritter of Chokio and brother-in-law, Phillip Zimmerman of New Hope. Lillian was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Ritter (2002); parents, Thomas and Anna Leuthard; parents-in-law, Jerome and Ethel Ritter; granddaughter, Angel Ritter; daughter-in-law, Diane Ritter; son-in-law, Millard Raph; 2 brothers; 7 sisters; 3 brothers-in-law and 3 sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews.



Please use this QR Code to access  
Lillian's online guestbook and tribute video.

**Pedersen**  
Funeral & Cremation Service

I N L O V I N G  
*Memory*



*Lillian I. Ritter*  
1925 ~ 2026