

Leola Marlane Bakker, daughter of William and Mary (Koedam) Van Ginkel, was born September 20, 1934, at Rock Valley, Iowa. She attended country school through the 8th grade and went on to nursing school in Pierre, South Dakota. She worked as a licensed practical nurse in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Sioux Center, Iowa for a short period before marriage. Leola was united in marriage with Henry Bakker on November 15, 1956, on a farm near Rock Valley. Henry and Leola lived in Rock Valley their entire married life where they raised their 8 unruly and rambunctious children. Henry passed away April 15, 2009. In 2015, Leola moved to Aspen Heights in Hull, Iowa and then in 2023 she moved to Whispering Heights in Rock Valley.

After raising the children, Leola worked overnights for Hope Haven and truly enjoyed working with intellectually disabled individuals. She also volunteered for Meal on Wheels and other civic organizations in the community, giving her time in the service of others. But her greatest joy was spending time with her family and friends.

Leola was anchored by her faith and was a lifelong member of the Netherlands Reformed Church. She ran a disciplined home and in true Dutch fashion, cleanliness was next to godliness. Leola enjoyed playing “Dutch Bingo” and amazed everyone with her skill level. She was blessed with a sharp mind which she kept until her passing. She also enjoyed a good game of Rummikub with her family, as well as her friends at Aspen Heights and Whispering Heights. Leola passed away Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at Whispering Heights at the age of 90.

Leola is survived by her 8 children and 19 grandchildren:

Daughter, Brenda (Brian) Croker of Whiting, Iowa

Heath (Kristine) Vanden Bosch
Travis Vanden Bosch
Marcus (Marina) Croker

Son, Glen (Dawn) Bakker of Lake Norden, South Dakota

Nic (Jada) Bakker
Dana Bakker

Son, Mark Bakker of Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Desiree (Tyler) Burggraaf
Lucas (fiancée Caitlan) Bakker

Son, Doug (Cheryl) Bakker of Urbandale, Iowa

Brittany (Tyler) Bakker-Ballay
Andrew Bakker
Julia Bakker

Daughter, Lisa Bakker of Emmetsburg, Iowa

Son, David (Regina) Bakker of Dodgeville, Wisconsin

William (Katie) Bakker
Maria (Payton) Hanson
Mikaela Bakker
Gerrit Bakker

Son, Eric (Drennan Fischer) Bakker of Cumming, Iowa

Winston Bakker
Scarlett Bakker

Daughter, Susan (Kevin) Van Driel of Hawarden, Iowa

Tyler (Michelle) Van Driel
Marissa (Austin) Jaeger
Chase Van Driel

Leola is also survived by 15 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; sister, Wilma Van Beek of Rock Valley; brother, Gerald (Marcia) Van Ginkel of Sioux Falls; and sister-in-law, Angeline Hoogendoorn of Rock Valley.

She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Mary; husband, Henry; 3 grandsons, Ethan Van Driel, Gavin Van Driel, and Dustin Bakker; daughter-in-law, LaVonne Bakker; brother, Edwin Van Ginkel; sister-in-law, Alice Van Ginkel; brother-in-law, Mease Van Beek; and numerous Bakker-in-laws.

Remembering the Life of Leola Marlane Bakker

September 20, 1934 ~ August 12, 2025

FUNERAL SERVICE

10:00 AM, Monday, August 18, 2025
Porter Funeral Home
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIANT

Pastor Chris Van Beek
Faith Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

REFLECTIONS

Leola's Family

PIANIST

Carisa Maassen

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

“Jesus Loves Me”
“I Know Whom I Have Believed”

PALLBEARERS

Heath Vanden Bosch
Lucas Bakker ~ Nic Bakker
Andrew Bakker ~ Gerrit Bakker
Winston Bakker ~ Tyler Van Driel

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Travis Vanden Bosch ~ Marcus Croker
William Bakker ~ Chase Van Driel

MEMORIAL

Horizons Unlimited
Emmetsburg, Iowa

INTERMENT

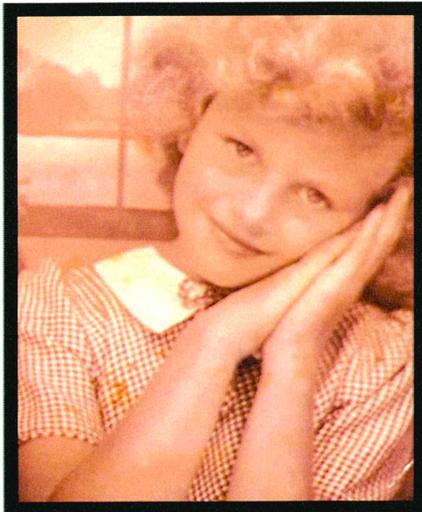
Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

*Leola's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship at
Faith Reformed Church of Rock Valley following the committal service.*



The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him.

Nahum 1:7



In Loving Memory

Leola Marlane Bakker
September 20, 1934 ~ August 12, 2025

