

*Volunteer of the Year Award in 1996 & 2008*

*Audrey received the North Dakota Long Term Care Association's*



# A Life Well Lived

**Audrey Henke**, 88, Hannover, died on July 10th 2018. She was busy that day, cooking supper for the family and watering her flowers, when Jesus called her home.

Our mother was living the life she wanted! At 88, she was living in her home that she and dad had designed and built, driving her car, singing in the church and community choirs, attending every community or social event in Oliver and Morton counties that her calendar allowed, and volunteering at Elm Crest Manor. Audrey Lorraine was born on May 11, 1930, to Oscar and Mirni (Nyquist) Hoger. She grew up on the Hoger Homestead, north of Judson, and graduated from New Salem High School. When our parents married on June 16, 1949, and moved onto the Henke homestead, they had very little. Mom had a teacher's education and taught for one year. She soon became a farm wife, milking cows, raising five kids, raising chickens. (She hated chickens) gardening, driving tractor, and still managing to cook three meals a day and keep the cookie jar full. We know we had the best mom and grandma, but no words can fully convey the positive influence that this little lady, who loved the Lord, had on so many people. She freely gave her time and talents to others her whole life. She sang the Lord's Prayer at dozens of weddings, taught Sunday school and VBS, was a Hannover Farmette for 40 plus years, a 4-H leader, and was still an active member of LWML. Mom had many hobbies, but her passion was the residents and staff of Elm Crest Manor. For 39 years, she was there 2-3 times a week. It started by leading devotions. Soon, she established a card recycling program, then making quilts for the resident's beds, writing letters to families after a resident's death, Ombudsman for 34 years, and writing "The Highlights" for the New Salem Journal. Her Highlights included Elm Crest News, but what she got really excited about was interviewing each new resident and telling their story. She had the strength, love and faith to sing "Jesus Loves Me" to many residents as they were dying. She did this "job" so well that she was honored as North Dakota Long Term Care Association's Volunteer of the Year in 1996 and again in 2008. She also was named North Dakota's Outstanding Older Adult and included in the booklet, 50 Fabulous Older People from 50 States.

Mom and Dad were married for 65 years. They had five children, including Valorie Cartwright (Jim Yantzer) of Bismarck, Vickie Lambrecht (John) of Riverview, MI, Ross Henke of Albuquerque, NM, Randy Henke (Sue Kraft) of Hannover, and Rick Henke (Mary Aman) of Center. They were passionate and loving grandparents to Shannon Miskowski (Matthew), Michael Cartwright, Jenna Szuberla (Wiley), Joe Lambrecht (Chrissy Gatt), Jeremy Lambrecht, Micheal Henke (Sammy Jo Bonsness), Tristen Henke, and Wilton and Sigryn Henke and five great-grandchildren including, Josiah, Levi, and Micah Miskowski, Brendan Lambrecht Stewart, and Bennett Lambrecht. She has one surviving brother, Glyn (Nancy) Hoger of New Salem and one surviving sister-in-law, Evelyn Maier of Minot. Also three special cousins, Adelaide Nyquist Howard, Eleanor Patton, and Gretchen Nyquist and numerous loving nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends. How will we ever fortify ourselves without our regular visits to grandma's never ending cookie jar?

She was preceded in death by loving husband, Kenneth E. Henke; parents, Oscar and Mirni Hoger; and son-in-law, Ramon Gonzales. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers memorials to the Hannover Cemetery Fund or Elm Crest Manor Activity Fund.





## *Audrey's Joy*

I was asked to write a few words about the joy that I have experienced these past 16 ½ years as a volunteer at Elm Crest Manor. How can I tell about the joys and special times of so many years in a few words?

When the Activity Director at Elm Crest Manor asked me to give the Monday devotions I hesitated, but then making a prayerful decision, I accepted knowing that it would be a wonderful opportunity to witness for my Lord in word and song. It hasn't always been easy to find the right devotion, but with the Lord's help I have had a devotion for every Monday.

It has been so special to be with people that I have known. Many who come to the "Home" are parents of high school friends. What a joy to be a part of their lives and also part of the lives of many other wonderful people who come to Elm Crest for a time – waiting for their new home in Heaven.

When Gary Kreidt asked me to be Ombudsman for Elm Crest Manor in 1984 I was very honored. This has helped me to know the residents much better.

What a joy and also a strengthening of my faith – to hear and see the wonderful faith of many residents – to hear one of my special friends say, "All I know is that Jesus loves me," – to have them sing hymns from memory – to know that most will say the 23rd Psalm with me, - to have many "hugging days" and then their whisper "I love you," – to sing along with a friend as she smiles and sings "Heaven is my Home," this would be her only response for a long time, - to see a smile on the faces of residents close to death as you sing their favorite hymn, - to see a glimmer of recognition in the eye of an Alzheimer resident as you say the 23rd Psalm or sing "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," – to sing many, many songs to a lady in much pain who is calmed by the songs she loves to hear and sing.

What a special gift, a braided rug, which I received from a resident who was almost blind, - what a joy to receive letters from family after the death of a loved one thanking me for the little things I'd done for their loved one, - what a joy for me to be part of the Elm Crest "family" who all work together to make a home for those who can no longer live alone.

As I write this and think about the past years, I truly thank God for the many blessings He has given me and how He has filled my life with many wonderful loving people.

### **Funeral Service**

#### **Officiant**

Monday, July 16, 2018; 11:00 AM at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Hannover, ND

Rev. Russell Fitch

#### **Organist**

Lonnie Henke

#### **Trumpet**

Michael Cartwright, Grandson

#### **Vocals**

St. Peter Church Choir

#### **Honorary Casketbearers**

Jeremy Lambrecht, Joe Lambrecht, & Chuck Ledger

#### **Casketbearers**

Michael Cartwright, Micheal Henke, Scott Hoger, Scott Maier, Ross Kleingartner, & Wilton Henke

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### ***Order of Service ~ Lutheran Service Book, page 278***

Processional Hymn

Beautiful Savior #537

Special Hymn

Jesus Loves Me (acappella) #588

First Reading

Genesis 2:18-24

Second Reading

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Choir

Borning Cry

Third Reading

Romans 8:31-39

Gospel

St. John 15:12-17

Office Hymn

Behold a Host, Arrayed in White #676

*Trumpet Introduction*

*Verses 1 Congregation And Trumpet*

*Organ joins on verses 2-3*

Recessional Hymn

I Know That My Redeemer Lives #461

*Trumpet Introduction*

***Committal will take place at Hannover Cemetery immediately following the funeral service.***

***The family invites you for lunch catered by Tellmann's Market in New Salem and fellowship in the church basement following the burial.***