

A Pilgrim and a Stranger

1 A pilgrim and a stranger,
I journey here below;
Far distant is my country,
The home to which I go.
Here I must toil and travail,
Oft weary and opprest,
But there my God shall lead me
To everlasting rest.

2 I've met with storms and danger
E'en from my early years,
With enemies and conflicts,
With fightings and with fears.
There's nothing here that tempts me
To wish a longer stay,
So I must hasten forward,
No halting or delay.

3 It is a well-worn pathway;
A host has gone before,
The holy saints and prophets,
The patriarchs of yore.
They trod the toilsome journey
In patience and in faith;
And them I fain would follow,
Like them in life and death.

4 Who would share Abraham's blessing
Must Abraham's path pursue,
A stranger and a pilgrim,
Like him, must journey thro'.
The foes must be encountered,
The dangers must be passed;
A faithful soldier only
Receives the crown at last.

Celebrating the Life of



Lois R. Kotz

FEBRUARY 27, 1929 – AUGUST 21, 2026

Lois R. Kotz, 97, of Clear Lake, passed away on Friday, August 21, 2026 at Oakwood Care Center in Clear Lake.

Lois Ruth Kotz, the daughter of Theodore and Marie (Hinrichs) Boehnke, was born on February 27, 1929, on the family farm northwest of Ventura. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church where she was a lifetime member. Lois attended St. John Parochial School and graduated from Ventura High School where she played basketball and was elected Basketball Pep Queen. She also was elected Miss Ventura for the Mason City Band Festival. She married Edward Kotz, Sr., in 1947 and they farmed in the Garner area until 1959 when they purchased The Barrel Drive In, Clear Lake. Lois served two terms on the Clear Lake City Council and served two terms as Mayor of the City of Clear Lake.

She served her Lord in many different organizations of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, holding numerous local offices in local, district, state and international LCMS organizations. Lois also volunteered with a number of local service groups including Mercy Hospital Volunteers and Cerro Gordo County Republicans.

Lois is survived by her two children, Edward, Jr. (Kandi) Kotz of Custer, SD, and Tracie (Dale) Dean of Flippin, AR; five grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She also claimed Lowell (Carol) Washburn of Clear Lake as her #2 son because he took such good care of her through the years.

She was preceded in death by her parents; former husband, Edward Kotz, Sr.; two infant sons; a sister, Violet Kelck; and brother, Gordon Boehnke.

Memorials may be directed to Lutheran Family Service in Fort Dodge.

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Lois R. Kotz

FEBRUARY 27, 1929 – AUGUST 21, 2026

FUNERAL SERVICE

St. John Lutheran Church

Garner, Iowa

10:30 am, Saturday, August 29, 2026

OFFICIATING

Pastor Mark Lund

MUSIC

LeAnne Buns, Organist

Doug Hayes, Soloist

"The Lord's Prayer"

Congregational Hymns

"On Eagle's Wings" P. 727

"God Loved The World So That He Gave" P. 571

"Go Tell It On The Mountain" P. 388

USHERS

Jack Toppin

Neal Woiwod

HONORARY BEARERS

Lois' Grandchildren

CASKET BEARERS

Ed Kotz

Wesley Kotz

Jason Kemp

Nick Kemp

Lowell Washburn

Phillip L. Boehnke

BURIAL

St. John Lutheran Cemetery

Garner, Iowa

*All are invited to a luncheon in the church basement
immediately following the committal service at the cemetery.*

Cafaldo
FUNERAL HOMES