



## *When Tomorrow Starts Without Me*

When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see  
If the sun should rise and find your eyes are filled with tears for me

I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today  
While thinking of the many things we didn't get to say

I know how much you love me, as much as I love you  
And each time you think of me, I know you'll miss me too

But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand  
That an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand

And said my place was ready in Heaven far above  
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love

But when I walked through Heaven's gate, I felt so much at home  
When God looked down and smiled at me from His great golden throne

He said this is eternity and all I promised you  
Today your life on earth is past but here it starts anew

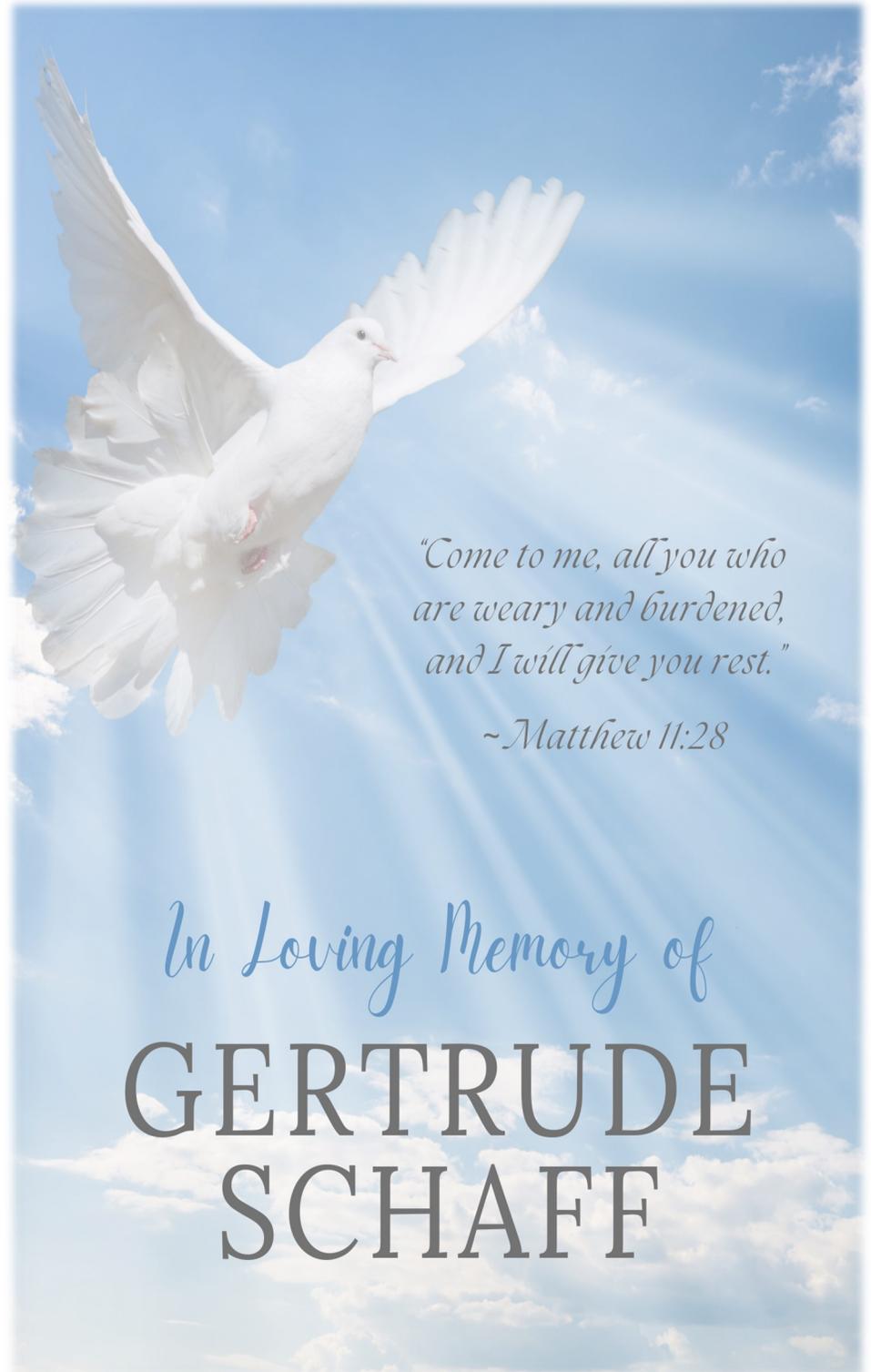
I promise no tomorrow for today will always last  
And since each day's the same way, there's no longing for the past

So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart  
For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart



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Celebration of Life video

**WEIGEL**  
Funeral and Cremation Service



*"Come to me, all you who  
are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest."*

*~Matthew 11:28*

*In Loving Memory of*  
**GERTRUDE  
SCHAFF**



**Gertrude “Gert” Schaff**, 91, passed away peacefully on December 31, 2024, at Sanford Health, Bismarck.

Gert was born in Fort Rice, ND on July 13, 1933. She graduated from Mandan High School in 1952, and went on to work as a Nurse Aide at the Mandan Hospital for many years. Gertrude married the love of her life, Joseph Schaff on October 15, 1953, and together they made their home in Mandan where they raised their four girls.

Gert loved knitting, crocheting, and puzzles. She

was unapologetically herself. With a mouth that could curse like a sailor and a spirit that could never be broken, she was the person who’d tell you exactly what was on her mind—whether you asked for it or not.

A lover of good food and hearty meals, Gert wasn’t about to tolerate anything lukewarm—whether it was soup or an opinion. She liked everything the way she liked it, and that included people. Her honesty might have ruffled a few feathers, but those who truly knew her understood that underneath her crass exterior was a heart that beat fiercely for her family.

One of her signature phrases, “Oh my stars,” will forever echo in the hearts of those who knew her—often accompanied by a soft chuckle or a loving shake of the head when something surprised or delighted her.

In addition, Gert often shared she wasn’t fond of obituaries and didn’t want hers in the Bismarck Tribune. When asked why, she would simply reply, “If you knew me, you knew me. If you didn’t, it doesn’t matter.”

Blessed to have shared in her life are her daughters, Kathleen Olzweski, Pamm (Troy) Keller-Teske, and Bonnie Repnaw; siblings, Ellen (Clarence) Small and Dennis Hilfer; seven grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Schaff; parents, Adam and Mary (Gangl) Hilfer; daughter, Colleen Schaff; grandson, Trent Repnaw; son-in-law, Raymond Olzweski; as well as many siblings, her husband’s siblings, and other relatives.

## *A Mother Never Dies*

You have never lost your mother,  
Though you’ve said the last good-byes  
Though there’s heartbreak in the parting,

No one’s Mother really dies.

If you love to hear the old songs

For the memories they bring

It’s because you had a mother

Who taught your heart to sing.

If you stop to help a neighbor,

Search your heart and you will find,

It’s because you had a mother

Who taught you to be kind.

If you go to church when weary

Seeking God to guide your way,

It’s because you had a mother

Who taught you how to pray.

No, you’ve never lost your mother

Though you’ve said your last good-byes,

Through your thoughts and deeds,

She’s living, no one’s Mother really dies.

