

In Memory

*When I must leave you for a little while
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years.
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
And for my sake and in my name
Live on and do all things the same;
Feed not your loneliness on empty days,
But fill each waking hour in useful ways,
reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and
hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*



Funeral Service

Saturday, February 25, 2023 ~ 11:00 a.m.
Mattson Funeral Home
Forest Lake, Minnesota

Officiating

Pastor Al Bedard
Pastor of Sunnyside Free Lutheran Church, Stacy, Minnesota

Funeral Music Selections

“Amazing Grace”
“How Great Thou Art”
“On Eagle’s Wings”



Visitation Service

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 ~ 7:00 p.m.
Carlin Funeral Home
Fosston, Minnesota

Officiating

Pastor Mark Erickson
Pastor of Lengby Baptist Church, Lengby, Minnesota

Music Selections

“Amazing Grace”
“How Great Thou Art”
“The Lord’s Prayer”

Honorary Pallbearers

All of Elna’s Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren
& Great Great Grandchildren

Active Pallbearers

Jonathon Gunderson ~ Joey Gunderson ~ Jeff Gunderson
Travis Picotte ~ Chris Naffziger ~ Kevin Drasko

Place of Rest

Sunrise Cemetery
North Branch, Minnesota

*Please join the family for a bite to eat and visiting after the burial service at
the Forest Lake VFW, 556 12th St. SW, Forest Lake, MN 55025.*



Elna Mae (Mostrom) Gunderson was born on March 16, 1926, in Pennington County, Minnesota to parents Alfred and Johanna (Hanson) Mostrom. She was born two months premature at home and weighed only four pounds two weeks after birth. She was kept warm in a shoe box by the oven or hot irons. She was the youngest of nine children and grew up on the farm in Hickory Township.

Elna was baptized in April of 1926 and confirmed in 1940 by Pastor Floodgard at Nazareth Lutheran Church, rural Trail, Minnesota. Elna left home at the age of 16 with two of her sisters and picked potatoes in Hoople, North Dakota and worked for a railroad in Minneapolis when she was 18.

On May 24, 1947 she married the love of her life, Gunder Archie Gunderson in Minneapolis. To this union, four children were born, Galen, Bev, Sandi, and Debbie. The family lived in various places in the suburbs of the Twin Cities.

Elna did bookkeeping for Archie's construction businesses and did payroll for the workers. She also had other careers, including at Control Data (Cambridge), Arsenol in New Brighton during the Vietnam war, and others.

She was living in Rush Lake, Minnesota when her husband, Archie, passed away. Then she lived with her daughter, Debbie, in Ham Lake, Minnesota for a few Years. She then lived in Stacy, Minnesota for 7-8 years before moving to Fosston. She lived with Sandi in Fosston for 7 years and then entered McIntosh Senior Living where she lived for the final 10 months of her life.

Elna was a certified firearms instructor. She enjoyed adventure; loved camping, fishing, and hunting. She enjoyed old-time music, country music dancing, and going to the casino. She was President of the McIntosh V.F.W. Auxiliary in the 1980's for a couple of years.

She loved being in Arizona in the winter months with her daughter, Bev, and summers in Fosston at Sandi's. Above all she enjoyed smiling and laughing...just being happy!

She is survived by three children, Galen, Sandi, and Debbie; 9 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren and 6 great great grandchildren.

Blessed be her memory



Celebrating the Life of
Elna Mae Gunderson

March 16, 1926 ~ February 16, 2023