



Magdalene Johnson

March 26, 1914 - March 26, 2011

Magdalene "Helen" Johnson, 97, was born Feb. 18, 1914, the oldest child of Lillian (Bjorklund) and Carl Wallner.

Her three brothers, Carl, Claude "Vic" and Leslie "Butch" preceded her in death. She grew up and lived in East Kingsford. Three years ago as her health declined, she moved into Evergreen Assisted Living.

Helen graduated from Kingsford High School in 1932. After graduation, she attended Marquette College and studied practical nursing. For many years, she worked in home health care.

Helen was a very active member of the community. She volunteered at the old Dickinson Memorial Hospital. She enjoyed participating in the Hospital League Auxiliary and the Iron Mountain/Kingsford Women's Club. Her life was dedicated to serving others, She tutored and nurtured many of the children in her neighborhood. Helen was always willing to offer transport to numerous friends and relatives to appointments, shopping and church. Her many friends and relatives were blessed with her telephone ministry. There were many who looked forward to her daily uplifting phone call.

Helen was a faithful member of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. She taught all grades of Sunday school and was superintendent of the Sunday school.

Helen always enjoyed being a Circle member and attended Circle meetings even while living at Evergreen.

Helen married the love of her life Duane E. Johnson in 1949. He died in 1978.

She is survived by her son, Dr. Barry (Ann) Johnson of Kingsford and their sons, Erik (Sarah) of Hamden, Conn.; Gabriel (Rachel) of Marquette and Jim (Alice) also of Marquette. Her daughter, Launice died in 2001 but her husband, Lee Bashford of Waukesha, Wis., survives along with their children, Todd of Waukesha and LeAnn (Kent) Caelwaerts of Pulaski. Three great-grandchildren blessed her life, Danielle and Kasey Caelwearts and Sarah Ann Johnson. She also leaves behind her sisters-in-law, June Wallner and Bethel Wallner, JoAnn Pilon, all of Kingsford, Myrtle Hutter and Helen Korpi, both of Marquette and brother-in-law, Robert Johnson of Ispheming along with numerous nieces, nephews and special friends.

Visitation will be Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain.

The funeral service will follow at 12 noon at the church. Rev. Stephen Cowen will officiate.

Burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Helen's grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

Memorials may be made in her memory to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.

The family wishes to offer special thanks to Drs. Ziembra and VanLaanen, the staff at Evergreen Assisted Living, the Pastors at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and her cousin, Dickie Constantine (weekly visits)

Condolences to the family of Magdalene "Helen" Johnson can be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the funeral arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 29. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Funeral Service

MAR 29. 12:00 PM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1210 S. Kimberly Ave.
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Tribute Wall

LN

“ Dear Barry, Ann and all of your family,
I really wish I could be there to celebrate Aunt Helen's life with you. I have such good memories of visiting her and Uncle Duane. They always made us feel so welcome. As I read Aunt Helen's obituary I realized how much I didn't know about her. What a generous life she led. I hope your good memories of her bring you peace and a smile to your face amidst the tears of saying goodbye.
lots of Love
Lois (and Reza too)

Lois Hutter-Pishgahi - Bloomington, IN - niece - March 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ I am so sorry I can not be there!! Helen was really the best women that I have EVER met!!!! I know she lives with Jesus now!! She is indeed dancing with Jesus!
My daughter Magdalyn, as Helen and I agreed to name her, bears the name of the most wonderful lady I have known!!
I love you all!! I will be praying for you Barry, Ann, Leann, Todd, Lee and the rest of you that that God will help you in your time of loss.
I loved her greatly she had helped me greatly through the years!!
She taught me to read!! Taught me to swim!!!
again I am so sorry for you loss.
Beth

Beth Pankratz - Lancaster, MN - was a neighbor and dear friend - March 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CF

“ Dear LeAnn, Todd, and family:
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. "Auntie Helen", as my daughter and I knew her, was a shining example of God's love here on Earth. She took time to visit with the neighborhood children, and treated every one with kindness and patience. She was concerned about the welfare of others. She brought me chicken soup when I was sick and comforted me when I was sad. She never asked for anything in return. I will always remember her with love and gratitude. My thoughts and prayers are with your family today.
Carla (and daughter, Lindsay, too)

Carla Ziehm Anderson - Friend - March 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Helen and her beloved, Duane, were like mom and dad. If it wasn't for their constant pursue of helping others. I would never have gone to college or enjoyed the relationships with their son, daughter and daughter-in-law. They raised wonderful children who followed their footsteps in giving and helping others.

I think of them both as Rose and I continue to do our volunteering and helping of others. There is a special closeness when we follow those you care for and wish to emulate.

May God be with the family and they know we are sorry for not being there physically for her service. Rose and I will be there in spirit and love...

Bud Meyer - A surrogate son - March 28, 2011 at 12:00 AM