



## Eleanor Jean Whiteford

March 27, 1937 - October 21, 2014

Eleanor Jean Whiteford, 77, of Traverse City went to be with her Lord at the home of her daughter, surrounded by her family, on Tuesday, October 21, 2014.

Eleanor was born on Saturday, March 27, 1937 to the late Peter and Rose (Reamsma) Vander Ark. in Banks Township, MI. Eleanor attended Ebenezer Christian School until she reached the 8th grade and then attended Ellsworth Public School, graduating in 1955 as the Class Valedictorian. On Friday, May 11, 1956, she married Lawrence H. "Larry" Whiteford in Ellsworth.

Eleanor began working at an early age. First, on the farm and then at VanderArks Grocery and Smalley's Grocery after school and during the summers. She also had worked for Keith Dressel Realty in East Jordan, Montgomery Ward Credit Office in Sault Ste. Marie and the East Jordan Co-op. In 1966, she and Larry moved to Traverse City where she had worked for R. L. Polk for a few months and then as the secretary of Faith Reformed Church for 10 years. Eleanor then became the manager of Kim's Hallmark Korner for 18 years until her retirement. A member of Faith Reformed Church since 1966, she was very active in various ministries of the church. She had also been an active member of the Sabin PTA when her children were in school.

Following retirement, she and Larry enjoyed many winters in Florida and she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband Larry; her son Gregory of Traverse City; her daughter, Sandra (James) Rautio of Traverse City; her grandchildren, Amy Jean, Matthew James, Layla Rose and Alyssa Grace and her sister Nanette Wertman of East Jordan. Eleanor is also survived by two sisters in law, Lyndel VanderArk of Ellsworth and Judy VanderArk of Charlevoix and many nieces and nephews She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Keith and Peter VanderArk and a brother in law Ed Wertman.

Visitation for Eleanor will take place from 4 until 8 p.m. Friday, October 24 at the

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. The funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 25 at Faith Reformed Church with visitation beginning at the church at 10 a.m. Randy Burgess will officiate. Burial will be in Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens.

Memorial contributions in Eleanor's name may be directed to Faith Reformed Church Youth Programs.

Please share your favorite memory of Eleanor with her family by way of her online guest book at [www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com](http://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com).

The family is being served by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

# Cemetery

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## Grand Traverse Memorial Gardens

3575 Veterans Drive  
Traverse City, MI, 49684

# Events

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**OCT 24** **Visitation** 04:00PM - 08:00PM  
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home  
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

**OCT 25** **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM  
Faith Reformed Church  
1139 East Front Street, Traverse City, MI, US,  
49686

**OCT 25** **Funeral Service** 11:00AM  
Faith Reformed Church  
1139 East Front Street, Traverse City, MI, US,  
49686

# Comments

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“ Larry, Greg, Jim, Sandy and family our thoughts and prayers go out to you. We have known Eleanor a long time and would always sit next to her and Larry in church. She was always there with a smile and a hug! She was a great neighbor and will miss her speeding by us on our way to church on Sundays! She was the first Christian lady I met when I became a member of Faith! We will see her again and she will remain in our heart's forever! All our best. Fred & Susan Rohdy

Fred and Susan Rohdy - October 24, 2014 at 01:10 PM

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“ Larry, Greg, Sandy, Jim and family  
I have so many wonderful memories of Eleanor as a neighbor and friend. She was one of the first to greet me into the neighborhood when I moved here 30 years ago. She was always there if I needed help or just someone to talk to. I will remember the wonderful snacks she would share with me when she was cooking/baking. Also the person who always put up and took down my clothesline each year. Glenda and I have already mentioned we missed that this fall. Once i realized she worked at Kim's I have always looked forward to going there and have continued even since she retired. As you said to me Larry she has gone to a better place but I am sure she will still be doing the Lord's work up there.  
My thoughts and prayers are with all of you.  
Deborah Kohn

Deborah Kohn - October 24, 2014 at 10:10 AM

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“ Our prayers and condolences are with the Whiteford family. We want to remember Eleanor as the most dearest loving, kindest person and dedicated steward in the church. Eleanor always express her love by saying, "Come and give me a hug." The bible study class says farewell to her by saying, "We know she has gone home to be with the Lord." From The Faith Reformed Bible study.



The Bible Study Class - October 24, 2014 at 09:22 AM