



Ruth Selma Meyka

March 12, 1929 - August 25, 2019

Ruth Selma (Schury) Meyka, 90, of Traverse City, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, August 25, 2019 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City, Michigan. She entered into the presence of her Lord surrounded by her beloved family.

Born on March 12, 1929 in Flint, Michigan, she was one of two children born to Selma Marie (Schiefer) and Benjamin John Schury. She was baptized at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Flint and was also confirmed at Our Savior Lutheran Church on March 30, 1942. She was a graduate of Flint Technical High School.

Ruth and Charles William Meyka were married on May 20, 1951. He preceded her in death on December 20, 2009.

In her early years, Ruth worked as a librarian in Flint and then, while Charles was attending Michigan State University, she worked in the bookkeeping department at MSU. In addition to raising their four daughters, she spent 18 years working as the Administrative Assistant for Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills, a job she cherished.

After spending years of family summers in Traverse City, Ruth and Charles moved permanently to their lake home in 1997. Ruth was a faithful and active member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Traverse City and participated in weekly Bible study. She was a member of the Dorcas Society, worked as one of the "Cookie Ladies" for the Trinity Cookie Sale, made quilts, and supported and participated in many other Church activities. She enjoyed playing cards, attending community events, and travelling with her many friends. Her devoted love for family resulted in their frequent visits to spend time with her in her home (which she graciously tolerated even with all the additional noise and mess). Ruth was the rock and foundation for her family, and they will always remember her big heart, strength, generous and thoughtful spirit, and her fun-loving nature.

Ruth is survived by her children, Debra Ruth (David) Gift, Cynthia Marie Steinhauser,

Judith Ida Meyka and Mary Susan (David) Watkeys; and her seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren, Jason (Alice) Gift Enevoldsen and their children, Vera and Ida; Ryan (Kimberly) Gift; Arin (Laura) Steinhauser and their children, Jacob and Marcus; Alex Steinhauser; Kelsey Steinhauser; David (Hayley) Watkeys and Tanner Kai Watkeys. Also surviving are Ruth's sister in law, Janice (Trombley) Schury, and many nephews and nieces.

In addition to her husband, Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, her brother Arno Benjamin Schury, her in laws Charles Henry and Augusta Ida (Fiedler) Meyka, and brother in law John Henry (Donna) Meyka.

Visitation for family and friends will take place on Friday, September 6, 2019 from 4 until 7 p.m. at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. The funeral service will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, September 7, 2019 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Traverse City, with Pastor Michael Goers officiating. Visitation will also take place one hour prior to the service at church. Interment will be in Flint Memorial Park on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at 12 noon with E. Dale Evanson, Pastor Emeritus, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Waterford, Michigan officiating.

The family has asked that Ruth be remembered through memorial contributions to: Trinity Lutheran School, Trinity Lutheran Church Alms Fund or Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network.

Cemetery

Flint Memorial Park Cemetery

9506 N. Dort Hwy.

Mt. Morris, MI, 48458

Events

SEP 6 **Visitation** 04:00PM - 07:00PM
Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

SEP 7 **Visitation** 10:00AM - 11:00AM
Trinity Lutheran Church
1003 S. Maple, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

SEP 7 **Funeral Service** 11:00AM
Trinity Lutheran Church
1003 S. Maple, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ I will always be grateful for all the love Mrs. Meyka showered upon me as a child. There are so many ways she blessed my life and cared for me that it would fill up the pages of a very large book.

I remember so vividly all that she taught me but, what I am most eternally grateful for is that she thought of me and regularly took me with her to Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. As a child, I thought this was very nice and I learned lots of interesting things about God, the Bible and Jesus and even sang in the choir! But, not until I was much older in life, did I really understand what a gift this was. When it came time for my husband and I to raise our own children - I wanted to replicate what Mrs. Meyka had done for me - I wanted our children to also feel like they belonged to a church and learn about God, the Bible and Jesus.

It was amazing - what I had learned about Jesus as a child somehow I kept in my heart all these years!! As I revisited these seeds of Truths planted long ago at Cross of Christ, I began to understand why Mrs. Meyka did what she did for me!! Suddenly, these “stories” from so long ago were not just “interesting things” but I knew they were real and eternal Truths. How grand it is to know that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior!! Wow! Thank you Mrs. Meyka - because of you I know Jesus Christ personally today and will enjoy Eternal Life with Him. Amen.

And incredibly - today my entire family can joyfully proclaim they too love Jesus Christ! Thank you Mrs. Meyka for planting a seed so long ago when I was a child - a seed that was watered much later in life and has grown and praise the Lord there has been much fruit. My whole family is eternally grateful and look forward to thanking you personally when we meet again in Heaven!!

Finally, adding to this eternal blessing... In 2016, my father, Thomas Fritchek at the age of 89, was baptized at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church. My dad's choice to be baptized at such a late time in his life I know is also a result of Mrs. Meyka's investment in our lives so long ago.

So, although Mrs. Meyka isn't with us today - her lasting loving kindness and example of strong Christian faith is still very much with us. I pray everyone has a “Mrs. Meyka” somewhere in their life like I did.

Goodbye for now Mrs. Meyka - I look forward to seeing you again with Mr. Meyka, my father and other loved ones. It'll be a great time of rejoicing and celebration. Until then, I will always love you and miss you and cherish our time we had together.

Tracy Fritchek Curran - September 03, 2019 at 06:41 PM



“ Ruth was a treasure to me and a shining example of a Christian. She helped me in more ways than I can say. She will be dearly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the Meyka Family.

-Esther Lowe



Esther Lowe - August 30, 2019 at 07:22 PM



“ I will never forget the times I spent with Ruth. I was happy to have spent some time with her just a few short months ago when I visited my dear friend Mary. Ruth was always so exceptionally kind and welcoming. She really always made me feel as though I was part of her family. I have a feeling that she made everyone feel the same way. Hy heart is hurting for her friends and family. She was truly loved by many...

Vikki Graham - August 30, 2019 at 09:49 AM



“ Deb Sternaman lit a candle in memory of Ruth Selma Meyka



Deb Sternaman - August 27, 2019 at 11:14 AM



“ I m so sorry to hear of Ruth's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with your family during this difficult time.

Deb S
Commission on Aging

Deb Sternaman - August 27, 2019 at 11:14 AM



“ Aunt Ruth was an amazing lady. I have so many dear memories of her. From her leading us in singing "Down by the Old Mill Stream" around the fire at the lake, teaching us some craft when we were little, making us laugh by doing something silly to holding my hand at Dad's funeral just 2 weeks ago. I love you and will miss you.

Kristi Gugel - August 26, 2019 at 11:00 PM



“ I miss Ruth. We had many wonderful times at cross of Christ lutheran church and also at Long Lake when we all gathered for vacation. Ruth would always bring out the song sheets when we were sitting round the fire at night. She was very gracious loving lady.

Doris Bland - August 30, 2019 at 08:23 AM



“ I'm surprised and saddened. Knowing Ruth for 50 years (Cross of Christ and Trinity) are treasured memories.

Flo Schermerhorn - September 02, 2019 at 01:03 PM