



## Ellrene B. Sortland

May 5, 1940 - March 16, 2018

Ellrene Sortland, 77, Valley City, ND passed away at Ave Maria Village in Jamestown, ND on March 16, 2018, after a long battle with kidney disease.

Ellrene Betsy Berntson was born May 5, 1940 in Valley City, ND to Alfred and Helen (Sorenson) Berntson. She was raised in rural Barnes County attending schools in Green Township and Hastings before graduating from Svea High School in 1958. She attended Valley City State Teacher's College for two years prior to becoming a first grade teacher at Litchville Public School in 1960. She taught first grade in Litchville for eight years until retiring in 1968 to start her family. She finished her teaching degree at Valley City State Teacher's College in 1970.

In 1961 Ellrene married Duane Sortland at First Lutheran Church in Valley City. They farmed near Litchville, ND until moving to Valley City in 2007. Family was always very important to Ellrene. Being the oldest in a family of 14 children prepared her well for her role as a wife, mother, and grandmother. She was devoted to her husband and her three sons, taking interest in all of their activities, and often putting their interests before her own. She loved being a grandmother and looked for every opportunity to see her grandchildren and spend time with them. Ellrene also had a very special circle of friends and family that she kept in contact with frequently. She was always looking out for the needs of her loved ones and was eager to celebrate their

accomplishments and also to mourn with them and pray for them in the difficult times.

Ellrene was a member of Elim Evangelical Free Church of Litchville and Valley City. She served as Sunday School Superintendent and church board secretary. Ellrene also served on the Valley City State University V-500 Board and the Mercy Hospital Advisory board.

She is survived by her husband, Duane; son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Jennifer and their children, Haley, Brady and Adam; son and daughter-in-law, Kent and Jeanne and their children, Reagan, Synneva, Tylea, and Solomon; and son and daughter-in-law Bradley and Kristina and their daughter, Natalie; siblings, Vivian Nelson, Lois (Bud) Badger, Anita (Tom) Erickson, Douglas (Ruth) Berntson, Barbara (Raymond) Mewes, Olive (Howard) Rasmussen, Delbert (Joan) Berntson, Gail Christl, Durwin (Mary) Berntson, Dallas Berntson and Darryl (Jeanne) Berntson; sisters-in-law, Eileen Berntson, Lorraine Miedema and Darlene Miedema; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her father and mother-in-law, Olaf and Edith Sortland; brother, David, brother and sister-in-law, Denton and Paulette Berntson; brothers-in-law, David Nelson, Elmer Christl, John Miedema and Ernest Miedema; two nephews, Larry Miedema and Tod Erickson.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 20. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Elim Evangelical Free Church  
1141 9th St. SW  
Valley City, ND

## Prayer Service

MAR 20. 7:00 PM (CT)

Elim Evangelical Free Church  
1141 9th St. SW  
Valley City, ND

## Funeral Service

MAR 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Grace Free Lutheran Church  
2351 W. Main St.  
Valley City, ND

# Tribute Wall

MM

“*Mrs. Sortland, as I called her in 1st grade, was a great teacher. She was a gift from God to the 1st graders in Litchville. I will always remember her kind voice, her sweet smile, and her patience was us little children. She taught us very well. She is the reason I learned to read and write, as she opened the doors of education to us and placed the love of learning in our hearts.*”



---

**Mavis Monson** - April 20, 2018 at 02:42 AM



“*Mike Cyplik lit a candle in memory of Ellrene B. Sortland*”



---

**Mike Cyplik** - April 11, 2018 at 10:52 AM

BO

“*To all the family we are so sorry for your loss. Her sister Barb and I were in the same grade in Svea and new the family well , many good memories of both families . Prayers to all*”

---

**Barb (Elton) O'Neill** - March 20, 2018 at 10:56 PM

KB

“ *Kaye (Tait) Belzer lit a candle in memory of Ellrene B. Sortland*



---

**Kaye (Tait) Belzer** - March 20, 2018 at 09:21 AM

BH

“ *Wonderful lady and a special lady to Vivian Nelson. Just want you to know our thoughts and prayers are with you and the family*  
*Bonnie and Terry Hochhalter Jamestown*

---

**Bonnie Hochhalter** - March 19, 2018 at 01:57 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ellrene B. Sortland.*



---

March 19, 2018 at 10:55 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ellrene B. Sortland.*



---

March 19, 2018 at 02:05 AM



“ *Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Ellrene B. Sortland.*



---

March 19, 2018 at 02:00 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ellrene B. Sortland.*



---

March 18, 2018 at 06:58 PM



“ *Diane Busche lit a candle in memory of Ellrene B. Sortland*



---

**Diane Busche** - March 18, 2018 at 05:22 PM



“ *Bob/Kay Willson lit a candle in memory of Ellrene B. Sortland*



---

**Bob/Kay Willson** - March 18, 2018 at 04:46 PM

PB

“ Patrick and Carolyn Blake purchased the Pretty P lease for the family of Ellrene B. Sortland.



Patrick and Carolyn Blake - March 18, 2018 at 03:14 PM

LF

“ Lorraine Miedema & family purchased the Sweet est Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Ellrene B. Sortland.



Lorraine Miedema & family - March 18, 2018 at 10:16 AM



“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - March 17, 2018 at 03:48 PM

ME

*I always looked up to Ellrene throughout the years in the Green 4-H Club. She was so helpful and kind to the younger members. Ellrene, her parents, and her siblings were such fine upstanding citizens who earned everyone's respect. My prayers and thoughts go out to her family. Mary Mortensen Enge*

---

**Mary Enge** - March 17, 2018 at 09:37 PM



*I am very sorry for your loss. I always remember Ellrene as one of the nicest people I have ever known. Prayers for your family.*

---

**Russell Benson** - March 18, 2018 at 06:33 PM

PB

*Our lost loved ones are frequently remembered in terms of the family they leave behind. Duane, Kevin, Kent, Brad and families are sterling examples of a wonderful wife and mom. May she rest in peace.*

---

**Pat and Carolyn Blake** - March 18, 2018 at 09:22 PM

BW

*Very sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers to your entire family.*

*Brenda (Stevens) White*

---

**Brenda White** - March 20, 2018 at 04:48 PM