



Ethel Barbara Marie Heckman

December 22, 1920 - July 11, 2025

Ethel's service will be viewable at <https://vimeo.com/event/5255997>

The funeral service for Ethel Heckman, 104, Valley City, ND will be 2 pm Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Valley City. Visitation will be one hour before the service at the church. Burial will be in Memory Gardens, Valley City. She passed on Friday evening at CHI Mercy Health, Valley City.

Ethel Barbara Marie Spoerl was born December 22, 1920 in Duluth, Minnesota to Edward and Selma (Kohn) Spoerl. Ethel was baptized and confirmed in Marion, North Dakota where she grew up and attended school graduating from Marion High School in 1938. She graduated from Valley City State College (VCSTC) with a standard degree in 1941.

While attending VCSTC, she worked at a local café and met Lawrence Heckman. They were married February 7, 1942. As a new bride, Ethel followed Lawrence and his military services living in many places throughout the United States. Following his discharge, they moved to Valley City, raised their four girls and built their home where Ethel resided for 72 years.

Ethel worked at Fidelity Savings and Loan and later at H & S Auto Electric, Lawrence's business, where she was bookkeeper and much more. Following

their retirement, Ethel and Lawrence spent several winters in Russellville, Arkansas where they built their retirement home.

Ethel was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Valley City since 1945, where she was an active member of the church and Trinity Quilters. In 1947, Ethel was a charter member of her birthday club and card group, still getting together until she was 103.

After her family Ethel, had a love of three things: Travel: she was able to visit all 50 states with Lawrence, music: she attended any and all musical events held by the church, high school and college in Valley City, and books: Ethel was a voracious reader logging over 26 pages of single spaced book titles with the librarian always looking for new books she hadn't read.

Most important to Ethel was her family. Her family will remember her as the faithful leader of the family who was the "calm" in the good times and bad. She will forever be remembered.

Ethel is survived by her daughters Kathleen A. (Tom) Langemo, Janet L. Heckman; son-in-law Rydell Becker; grandchildren Michelle (Jay) Hansen, Stacey Hanson, Ben (Stacey) Langemo, Chris (Jo Ellen) Langemo, Stephanie (Darren) Volk and Tami (Chris) Olsen; 17 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. She is also survived by sisters in law Clarice Heckman, JoAnn Heckman; and many nieces and nephews.

Ethel is preceded in death by her husband, daughters Barbara and Pam, son-in-law Gordon Erickstad, brother Edward, sister Darlene and her grandchildren's spouses Chad Hanson and Laura Langemo.

Cemetery Details

Memory Gardens of Valley City

3416 121st Ave SE
Valley City, ND 58072
(701) 845-2881

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
499 - 4th Ave. NW
Valley City, ND

Funeral Service

JUL 16. 2:00 PM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church Valley City, ND
499 4th Ave NW
Valley City, ND 58072

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - October 16, 2025 at 10:44 AM



“ *Oliver - Nathan Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Ethel Barbara Marie Heckman*



Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - July 14, 2025 at 05:53 PM

AP

“ *I'm so sorry I wasn't able to be at Ethel's funeral. I just returned from a 2week trip to Wy and CO. I'm an happy that I was able to visit with her just a couple of weeks before. I told her who I was and she did know me she asked questions about the family. She was such a sweet lady. I loved to visit her when I could. You all have beautiful memories to dwell on of your mom and dad.*

Alice Pekarski - July 23, 2025 at 12:41 PM

SP

“ *Many fond memories of your Mom, Jan.
My condolences to you and Kathy.
Sue Phillips (Pederson)*

Sue Phillips - July 17, 2025 at 06:50 PM

DO

“ Sincere condolences to Ethel's family especially Kathy and family.
I knew Ethel though Joie. I didn't realize the family connections until I saw it printed. 104 yeas is a lot of living..... a lot of changes.
May you find peace and comfort in those special family memories.

Durward and Phyllis Otterness - July 16, 2025 at 10:22 AM



“ Oh, Jan, so sorry to hear about your beautiful mother. I wish I could be there to give you a big, gentle hug, Please call me. .I miss you.
Hugs to Kathy and the rest of Ethel's loved ones.
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Kimberlee Toll - July 15, 2025 at 06:30 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ethel Barbara Marie Heckman.



July 15, 2025 at 04:36 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ethel Barbara Marie Heckman.



July 14, 2025 at 11:30 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Ethel Barbara Marie Heckman.



July 14, 2025 at 02:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ethel Barbara Marie Heckman.

July 14, 2025 at 02:27 PM