



Lila Lorraine Bemis

March 18, 1920 - November 17, 2025

Lila L. Bemis, Valley City, ND, passed away November 17, 2025, at the age of 105 at SMP Health-St. Raphael. The funeral service will be 10:30 am Monday, November 24, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City. Visitation will be one hour before the service at the church. Burial will be in Woodbine Cemetery, Valley City.

Lila Lorraine Anderson was born March 18, 1920, on her mother's birthday, on a farm in southern Barnes County, ND to parents Thorsten E. and Rosalie (Gertz) Anderson. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Faith. At a young age the family moved to Jamestown, ND, where she attended school through the eighth grade. The family moved to Sanborn, ND, where she participated in many school activities and graduated in 1938. In 1939 she married Melvin "Meg" Bemis at her aunt's home in Moorhead, MN. They made their home in Fargo, ND, for a time before returning to Valley City, where they operated a shoe repair shop for many years. After retirement in 1971 Lila went to work at Stephan Law Office as a tax consultant, where she worked for 39 years, enjoying her work and her clients. After retiring from tax work, she began work as a weekend host at the Rose Bud Visitors Center. She greatly enjoyed visiting with local and foreign visitors. She was also a volunteer in our beautiful city.

The Bemis's were members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church where she was a long-time member of Women of Our Savior's circles, also serving on the church council, Archives Committee, Good Samaritan's Quilters, as well as participating in Bible studies, Prayer Break and as coordinator and member of Our Savior's Servants groups.

Lila is survived by her grandsons Merlin Smart and Marlin Smart, both the Twin Cities, MN; Miles "Bud" (Gwenn) Smart, North Carolina; Rufus Jefferson (Kris Gruber), Fargo; Randolph Jefferson, Portland, OR; two great grandchildren, Ryan and Erica; several great great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Meg, two daughters Lila Mae Smart and Marsha Jefferson, stepson Giles Bemis, two brothers, and three sisters.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at www.olivernathanchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

Woodbine Cemetery

Valley City, ND

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 24. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
138 3rd St. NW
Valley City, ND

Funeral Service

NOV 24. 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
138 3rd St. NW
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall



“ *View and Download the Funeral Program*

Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel - November 20, 2025 at 03:53 PM

DB

“ *I will always remember Aunt Lila who was my mother's older sister. Visits with her and Uncle Meg, visits to the shoe shop, visits when I was in college and later when she insisted I stay overnight, to visits over the phone these last years. As a history buff she was a great source of information in many areas. She will be missed but fondly remembered. Darrell Buck [nephew].*

Darrell Buck - December 01, 2025 at 09:51 PM

DI

“ *Lila came to my rescue when I needed someone to staff the Rosebud Visitor Center back in 2007. She was such a gracious host to visitors who stopped by and loved to tell stories about the people she met there.*

Dean Ihla - Tucson, AZ

Dean Ihla - November 25, 2025 at 10:44 AM

MN

“ *Lila was one of our first weekend docents at the Rosebud Visitor Center. She was a gracious host to all the visitors. She enjoyed helping others and we were fortunate having her there.*

Mary Lee Nielson - November 24, 2025 at 09:50 AM

LF

“ *My condolences to Lila's family. I work with Rufus and have heard stories of his grandma in Valley City. The staff of HMR are holding you all in our hearts.*

Lydia Faulkner - November 23, 2025 at 02:06 PM

CA

“ *while I do not know any of present family members I was a classmate of Marcias. We spent many good years at Friday coffee. I have missed her these past few years. I did however visit with her Mom. I was not at Lilas Many birthday parties, but they were shared by other classmates of Marcias. She certainly had a long and very busy life!*

Carol Artis - November 21, 2025 at 07:58 PM

FD

“ I met LILA when I started shineing shoes for her husband and Ed Hirshkorn, I had a chance to visit with her several years ago and she had not lost a beat. The Bemis family was great to me, they helped a lot of us kids learn resposibility etc. Meg and Eddie gave many of us the satisfaction of knowingt that a shoe shiner was not degrading but an art. Francis Punk Dahl ...may Lila RIP

Francis Dahl - November 21, 2025 at 06:13 PM

JT

“ I would like to extend my condolences to Lila’s family. My mother lives at St Raphael’s and when visiting my mother for the last 2 years and taking her to meals I have had the privilege of getting to visit with Lila. She reminded me so much of my Grandmother Lyla. She was so sweet and kind. She will be missed. Please take care.

Jody Taylor - November 20, 2025 at 12:11 PM

DS

“ Lila (and Meg) were close friends of our family. She and my Mother worked together as tax consultants at Stephan Law Office, for decades. Their friendship extended beyond the office.

Lila was always a pleasant person to be around. Over the years our family shared many happy times with both Lila and Meg. For many years she volunteered much of her time in retirement working at local museums and helped to promote Valley City, the place she called " home" for a century!

She will forever serve as an inspiration to everyone that a positive attitude can help keep you going well past 100 years! I will always remember a wonderful visit I had with Lila two years ago. She was still sharp and spoke well. She loved talking about some of the special memories she still treasured from her long life well lived.

A great lady, with a lasting legacy that life can sometimes give you both longevity and quality. Thanks for all the good memories your presence always gave to everyone you welcomed into your life.

Daniel D Stephan - November 19, 2025 at 09:43 PM

LG

“ I only met her once when they had a garage sale years ago but she was so fun to visit with, so kind. The world need more people like her. Rest in peace.

Len Grindler - November 19, 2025 at 02:41 PM