



Ruth Elizabeth Ellingson was born March 29, 1915 to Norwegian immigrants Anna & Henry Haugen on their homestead near Epping, ND. Ruth attended Epping public schools graduating as valedictorian in 1933. She graduated from Minot State Teachers College and taught in one-room rural schools for four years before teaching primary grades in Epping and Williston, ND.

In 1941 she married Sanford L. Ellingson and moved to St. Paul, MN where Sanford trained for the Railway Mail System. They were soon separated when Sanford served in the army in Europe during WWII and Ruth lived with her parents on the family farm and raised their first child.

Following the war, Ruth & Sanford settled down in Williston, built a home and raised their five children. In 1963 Ruth went back

to work as a hot lunch cook at Rickard Elementary School for several years. She then received a calling to help organize and teach at the UMARC school for disadvantaged adults until retirement in 1977. She felt this work the most challenging yet most rewarding experience of her career.

Throughout her life, Ruth volunteered in community, church, school, civic, and senior citizen activities, Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts, Bible Camp counseling, and as a hospital nurse's aid. At age 80 Ruth was honored as Volunteer of the Year by the governor of ND. She continued volunteering until age 92 at the local nursing home and served several years as resident Ombudsman.

A debilitating hip fracture in 2011 resulted in Ruth moving to McMinnville, OR to be nearer to family. She was inquisitive and unafraid of change; desiring to reach 100 years "to see how things come out". Ruth lived the verses "Life is real, life is earnest, and the grave is not its goal" until her last day. She demonstrated steadfast faith in God her entire life and appreciated hard work, family, and nation as well as interesting food, discussions, cards, or Scrabble games.

Ruth died in Portland, OR on June 29, 2016. Preceding Ruth in death were her parents and four siblings, Sanford in 1983 and son Steven L. (Betty Zine Bradley) Ellingson in 1993. Surviving Ruth are four children: James H. (Kathy) Ellingson of Stanley, ND, Janet (Gary) Noland, John (Judy) Ellingson, Roger (Marie) Ellingson in Oregon and eight grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren.



Coming Home...

Ruth Elizabeth Ellingson

29 March 1915 ~ 29 June 2016

Ruth Elizabeth Ellingson

Celebration of Life

11:00am, September 27, 2016

Bethel Lutheran Home Chapel

Pastor Martin Mock, Officiating



Prelude Music & Slide Show (Kathy Ellingson)

Welcome and Prayer (Pastor Mock)

Where did Ruth Go? (Jan Ellingson Noland)

Hymn – Jesus Still Loves Me

Scripture – Psalm 16 (Jim Ellingson)

Message (Pastor Mock)

Remembering Ruth (Jane Thoring, niece; Joyce & Earl Gross, friends)

Coming Home (Roger Ellingson)

Hymn – How Great Thou Art

Benediction (Pastor Mock)



Inurnment prior to service (Pastor Betty Czubay)

Thank you Bethel Lutheran Home & Staff

Lunch following service hosted by friends and family

Ruth: "Thank you everyone for the many kindnesses you have given to me over the years and now to my family at the time of my death. I've had a good life!"

Jesus Still Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know
Though my hair is white as snow,
Though my sight is growing dim
Still He bids me trust in Him.

Though my steps are oh, so slow
With my hand in His I'll go,
On through life, let come what may
He'll be there to lead the way.

When my work on earth is done
And life's victories have been won,
He will take me home above
Then I'll understand His love.

Chorus:

Yes, Jesus still loves me
Yes, Jesus still loves me
Yes, Jesus still loves me
The Bible tells me so.

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow with humble adoration

Chorus:

Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

Ruth:

I must work with aging instead of against it. I cannot stop time and the outward changes in my body, but can say and believe: "I may be an old woman in my 80's, but inside me I'm a child full of wonder in God's great Creation—clapping my hands at the sunrise. I am finding the Good in what God has created and rejoicing in it."