



## Ellen Spear

November 25, 1930 - March 29, 2024

The funeral service celebrating the life of Ellen Mae Spear of Wadena, will be held at 11:00 am. on Saturday, April 6, at the Joyful Spirit Methodist Church in rural Wadena, with Pastor Riccardo Alcoser presiding. Visitation will be held at the church on Saturday, from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service. Burial will be in Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, MN.

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You may view the service by going to Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services' FACEBOOK page or YouTube page. (approximately 5 minutes before the service begins.)

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Ellen, age 93, passed away at the Lakewood Health System Care Center in Staples, MN, on March 29, 2024.

Ellen was born to Louis and Jessie (Gordon) Gemmill on November 25, 1930, at their home in Elm Creek Township, Martin County, MN. After completing high school, Ellen married Ralph "Shorty" Spear on June 20, 1948. They lived in Sherburn, where the four boys were born, later moving to the Bertha area to begin farming. Known for her resilience and adaptability, Ellen held various jobs over the years, especially after Ralph's stroke at an early age. Community members will remember her as a bookkeeper at Uselman Electric, a Homecrest Ind. employee, and the spark who started the Nutrition Center on north Jefferson Street. Her energy didn't end there. At home, she was a skillful

seamstress, quilter, and gardener. Her family always looked forward to her baked goods, especially her delicious homemade ginger cookies! A recipe now treasured by them all. Most important to Ellen were the hours she could spend with her family along with volunteering and quilting with friends at Joyful Spirit Methodist Church.

Preceding Ellen in death were her husband, Ralph; parents, Louis and Jessie; son, Doug; sister Bonnie Birch, and brothers-in-law Cliff Birch and Earl Tokle.

Surviving Ellen are her sons: Bill (Judy) Spear of Wadena, Dan Spear, and Brad (Pam Roehl) Spear of Hewitt; daughter-in-law Penny Spear; five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; sister Twyla Tokle, along with numerous extended family and friends.

Honorary casket bearers will be all of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Serving as casket bearers will be Caleb Spear, Jaxson Brown, Johnny Marchwick, Chad Harting, BJ Spear and Cody Spear.

# Cemetery Details

## Wadena Cemetery

Franklin Drive & 5th St. SW  
Wadena, MN 56482

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 6. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Joyful Spirit Methodist Church  
61847 State Highway 29  
Wadena, MN 56482

## Service

APR 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

Joyful Spirit Methodist Church  
61847 State Highway 29  
Wadena, MN 56482

# Tribute Wall



“ Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Ellen Spear



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - April 04, 2024 at 12:39 PM

GA

“ Gala Allen lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear



Gala Allen - April 11, 2024 at 11:39 AM

JB

“ Janice Bastian lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear



Janice Bastian - April 08, 2024 at 09:25 AM

BS

“ Bruce & Trish Steinkopf lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear



Bruce & Trish Steinkopf - April 07, 2024 at 09:32 PM

JH

“ Ellen was a very special lady. I knew Bill back from high school and worked with Brad at Boondocks's but had the pleasure of being a neighbor down the street. I remember seeing her walk every day and admired the way she was always working in her yard and cutting her lawn even in the last few years. She stopped every year to smell the blossoms from my mock orange tree which she told me what the tree was because I didn't know. Rest In Peace Ellen; you will be missed.

Jane Hieb - April 06, 2024 at 11:28 PM

NS

Ellen, you were always a special lady with a big heart. You will be truly missed. Rest in peace.

Nola Schultz - April 14, 2024 at 07:58 PM

GW

“ Glen Donna Wood lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear



Glen Donna Wood - April 06, 2024 at 11:07 AM

BE

“ Ben & Regina Sorry for your loss, May she rest in peace.



Ben - April 06, 2024 at 10:34 AM



“ 48 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - April 04, 2024 at 12:35 PM

JD

“ Jerry & Janice Denny



Jerry & Janice Denny - April 04, 2024 at 08:36 AM

JU

“ *john uselman lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear*



john uselman - April 03, 2024 at 10:50 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Ellen Spear.*



April 03, 2024 at 07:10 PM

HA

“ *Ellen always had a smile on her face. Was so nice to visit with her when I would run into her.*



Helen Allee - April 03, 2024 at 11:46 AM

DH

“ *Deb & Jay Hutson lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear*



Deb and Jay Hutson - April 02, 2024 at 12:16 PM

DA

“ Ellen was a wonderful caretaker of our previous home in SE Wadena. I always enjoyed our visits. God bless our memories of this dear lady.



Di Schiller Anderson - April 02, 2024 at 08:51 AM

LT

“ I have good memories of Ellen. My condolences. RIP Ellen!

Les Thorstenson - April 01, 2024 at 12:08 PM



“ 10 files added to the album Ellen



Cassandra Spear - April 01, 2024 at 11:47 AM

CE

“ 10 files added to the album Ellen



Cassie Spear Erickson - April 01, 2024 at 10:41 AM

RJ

“ Randy Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear



Randy Johnson - April 01, 2024 at 10:29 AM

SD

“ Forever in the hearts of many Ellen. Rest in eternal peace forever and ever 🙏🏻✝️



Shelly and Josh Dukowitz - April 01, 2024 at 02:40 AM

TL

“ *Tim Becky lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear*



Tim and Becky Lee - March 31, 2024 at 03:26 PM



“ *Condolences to the Spear family.  
Tim and Becky Lee*



Becky Lee - March 31, 2024 at 02:49 PM

DB

“ *Doug Deb Brueske lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear*



Doug and Deb Brueske - March 31, 2024 at 01:01 PM

BB

“ *Bob Branstner lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear*



Bob Branstner - March 30, 2024 at 08:09 PM

LB

“ *Lucille Belch lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear*



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**Lucille A Belch** - March 30, 2024 at 07:28 PM

MF

“ *Marie Fraune lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear*



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**marie fraune** - March 30, 2024 at 03:00 PM

KL

“ *Ken & Nancy Lawson lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear*



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**Ken & Nancy Lawson** - March 30, 2024 at 12:55 PM

JJ

“ *Jon & Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Ellen Spear*



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**Jon and Patty Johnson** - March 30, 2024 at 11:49 AM

JP

“ *Jerry & Kathy Peterson sent a virtual gift in memory of Ellen Spear*



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**Jerry and Kathy Peterson** - March 30, 2024 at 11:39 AM

TM

“ *So sorry for your loss! Ellen was a wonderful person! She will be missed!*



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**Tonya Matthews** - March 30, 2024 at 11:36 AM