



## Elmer Henke

May 5, 1916 - August 31, 2012

The funeral service for Elmer Henke of New Ulm, and formerly of Wadena, will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 6, at the St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, with Pastor Stephen Meltzer presiding. Elmer passed away on August 31, 2012 at his home in New Ulm, at the age of 96 years. Elmer William Walter Henke was born on May 5, 1916, in Penn Township, McLeod County, Brownston, MN. He was the son of Emil and Minnie (Lentz) Henke. He was baptized when he was three days old due to illness and was later confirmed as a youth at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bartlett Township, rural Verndale. He attended grade school at District #80, near Staples. On October 6, 1940, he was united in marriage to Lillian Meinhardt at the Bartlett Immanuel Lutheran Church and they were later blessed with three sons. He farmed until 1950, when they moved to the Wadena area. In 1954, they moved to New Ulm where Elmer was employed at the New Ulm Grocery Distribution. He drove truck supplying groceries in Southern and Central Minnesota. In 1978, he retired and they moved back to Wadena. By November he started work at Super Valu and stayed as a part-time employee for 33 years. Elmer enjoyed fishing, hunting, and operating a steam engine at the farm shows. He also enjoyed wood-working in his shop where he made furniture and grandfathers clocks. Most of all, he enjoyed time with his family. He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Wadena, and had held church offices as a member of Immanuel Lutheran and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches in New Ulm. He had also been a member of the Dalton Church.

Elmer was preceded in death by his parents Emil and Minnie, and one brother. He is survived by his wife Lillian; sons Douglas (friend Sharon Henke) of Kenyon; Galen (Barb) of Shakopee, and Dwayne of New Ulm; grandchildren Robert of New Ulm, Dana (Ronda) of Bakersfield, CA, and Ann (Steve) Goldie of Nelson; seven great-grandchildren; sister Zelda Stresemann of Glenwood; and several nieces and nephews. Burial was in Wadena Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

PL

“ I had the wonderful pleasure of getting to know Elmer. He was one of the kindest and most caring person. He always saw the good in everything. There aren't many people who would work as long as he did. He always met you with a smile. He so loved his wife. God's blessings to Lillian and family.

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**Peggy Loween** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Elmer was a very nice guy, i really enjoyed working with him at the super valu in wadena... he told me so many stories and how he knew my grandpa, he was like a grandpa to me.... he lived a long wonderful life he will be missed by me....

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**sherry scribner** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ What a guy! I will always remember the face of Elmer Henke! We had several great chats when meeting him. His vigor for life and his smile and willingness to visit was delightful. Doug, I offer my condolences to you and your family, and mom! God Bless you all!

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**Diane Hahn** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ If only everyone could be the kind of person that Elmer was. The world would be a better place!

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**Debbie Keller** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Here is a man that has given me drive in all that I have done and will continue using his wisdom in the walk of life.

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**Robert William Henke** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ When I think of Elmer it brings a smile to my face. I remember him as a very special customer at the bank always closing with his famous line of " Have a Happy Day". He always had an awesome way of making your day a little brighter. With deepest sympathy to his family. He was one of kind!

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**Cheryl LaBarre** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

WB

“ We always thought he would live forever. We knew better. The time comes for all of us. The good times we had at the Butterfield Threshing Bee will be remembered by all of us forever. What a pleasure to have known him. God Bless his memory.

*Wayne, Roger, Ryan, and Shannon*

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**Wayne Kispert & Roger Braaten** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ Lillian,  
we extend to you our deepest heartfelt condolences in this time of grief and loss. Thank the Lord for all those seventy-one plus years of wedded life with your helpmate, husband and loved one. Elmer was a gem! Debbie and I much appreciate the Christian faith and witness that the two of you have shared and displayed throughout our years of friendship. May the God of all comfort, bless and keep you in His peace and love as you hear the words of the gospel at Elmer's funeral service today, and may you - in the weeks and months ahead -- continue to be comforted with the presence of Immanuel - Jesus - our Savior. Pastor Gary and Debbie Rokenbrodt

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**Rev. Gary Rokenbrodt** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ I remember when Elmer started to work at Archies, I was a high school senior and we had the best times.  
He was always happy to see me whenever I came home from college and until recently as this year. May He rest in Peace. My sympathies to the family.

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**Mary (Schwartz) Lunzer** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM

NJ

“ To Elmer's family,  
So sorry for your loss. What a wonderful person!  
I worked with Elmer at Super Valu in the early 1980's when I was in high school. He was a joy to work with-always a smile on his face and a joke to share! I always enjoyed going back into the store to see him when I would return to Wadena for a visit!

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**Nancy Johnson** - August 31, 2012 at 12:00 AM