



## Ruth Messer

January 17, 1923 - February 16, 2016

The funeral service for Ruth Messer of Wadena will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 20, at the United Methodist Church in Wadena, with Pastor Mark Bateson officiating. Visitation will be held on Friday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Johnson-Schuller Chapel in Wadena. Visitation will resume at the church on Saturday from 12:30 p.m. until the time of service. Ruth, age 93, passed away Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at the Fair Oaks Lodge in Wadena, MN.

Ruth Margaret (Kohlhase) Messer, born January 17, 1923 to Rudolph and Lillian (Kruetzer) Kohlhase in Bertha, MN. She grew up on a dairy farm near Bertha, with her sister Marie and brothers Phillip, Bob and David.

Ruth met the love of her life, Leonard Messer, while attending church youth gatherings. She attended Business school at Stout University in Madison, WI, and then went to work for Honeywell in Minneapolis, MN. All the while Ruth and Len continued to see each other. They were married at the South Bertha Methodist Church on May 22, 1945. While living at Spruce Shadows farm south of Minneapolis they were blessed with the births of Steven (1948) and Donald (1949). In the early 1950s they relocated to the Wadena area, learning the turkey industry while living on the Jim Stearns farm. Soon they bought acreage just west of Wadena and began building their own farm. In 1954 they were blessed when Gary was born, followed by Kathleen in 1958. Now

settled, Ruth and Len raised their family and became very active in their church, Wadena United Methodist, and the community of Wadena.

Ruth loved being a homemaker, making a home that was full of love and laughter for family and friends. She also took great pride in their yards, enjoying many hours growing her beautiful flowers and a thriving vegetable garden. Ruth enjoyed being a Cub Scout Leader for her boys and was active in Job's Daughters with Kathy. She was a member of Eastern Star, becoming Worthy Matron, and then was involved as a Past Matron. All about helping others, Ruth served at the Wadena Hospital as a Pink Lady for 26 years. Raising their family in church was very important to Ruth and Len and she wore many hats over the years: youth leader and camp counselor, United Methodist Women, Christmas decorating, and working on many other projects. Ruth loved music and expressed her faith through singing in the choir, as a "Kingdom Heir," Praise Team and playing Handbells. Children and youth had a special place in Ruth's heart and she was always looking out for them.

Ruth and Len delighted in supporting their children and grandchildren and attending their many varied events throughout the years. They worked hard; but also loved to camp, go to the lake, and take vacation time. When they retired they continued to travel and tour around the United States and Canada....and always came home with a rock or two!!! Ruth was a wonderful example of faith and strength and was truly a woman of grace and inner beauty.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband Len, son Steven, parents, and siblings Charles, Marie, Phillip and Bob.

She is survived by sons Don (Linda) Messer of Eden Prairie and Gary (Rebecca) Messer of Northfield, daughter Kathy (Jeff) Harrison of Wadena,

her eight grandchildren and their spouses, brother David (Kim) Kohlhase, nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were her grandchildren and their spouses: Paul and Erin Messer, Michelle and Ryan de la Garza, Kevin Messer, Christopher Messer and Stephanie VanY, Jeni and Chris Feneis, Alex and Annie Messer, Josh Harrison, and Abby and Justin Rogge.

Burial will be in Wadena Cemetery, Wadena, MN

# Cemetery Details

## Wadena Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **19**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Johnson-Schuller Chapel  
205 4th Street Southwest  
Wadena, MN 56482  
(218) 631-3632

# Tribute Wall



“ *Schuller Family Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Ruth Messer*



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**Schuller Family Funeral Homes** - February 19, 2016 at 12:55 PM

ML

“ *Kathy and Jeff, My deepest sympathy on the loss of your mother (mother-in-law). I wish you and your family peace. Mary (Schwartz) Lunzer*

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**Mary Lunzer** - February 26, 2016 at 09:37 AM

BP

“ *Barry & Sandi Pratt lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer*



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**Barry & Sandi Pratt** - February 24, 2016 at 09:28 PM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



Schuller Family Funeral Homes - February 19, 2016 at 12:52 PM

BP

*Ruth is a very caring and compassionate lady. It was so nice to always get a hug from her in church. She was always so interested in people and sent many cards to us and thanking us for all we do in church. I'm so thankful for our visit with her at Fair Oaks in January. We will dearly miss Ruth. Thank you God for her and our sympathies to her dear family.*

*Barry & Sandi Pratt*

Barry & Sandi Pratt - February 24, 2016 at 09:35 PM

PA

“ Polly Amderson lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer



polly amderson - February 19, 2016 at 12:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ruth Messer.*



February 19, 2016 at 10:15 AM



“ *Dave Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer*



**Dave Schumacher** - February 19, 2016 at 08:11 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ruth Messer.*



February 18, 2016 at 10:27 PM



“ *Alan Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer*



**Alan Schumacher** - February 18, 2016 at 10:12 PM

BH

“ Bob & Donna Haman lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer



Bob & Donna Haman - February 18, 2016 at 08:19 PM

JB

“ Joan Brauch sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruth Messer



Joan Brauch - February 18, 2016 at 05:45 PM

AK

“ Amy Kleinke sent a virtual gift in memory of Ruth Messer



Amy Kleinke - February 18, 2016 at 09:59 AM

JB

“ Jack And Lucille Belch lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer



Jack and Lucille Belch - February 17, 2016 at 10:42 PM

DM

“ I remember meeting Ruth, and her family, after they had driven all of the way from Wadena to my hometown in NW Arkansas. The Messer family had lost their beloved son Steve due to an accident while he was serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Costa Rica. Steve and I had become best friends during our P.C. Service and I believe that both Ruth and myself felt that the meeting would help with some sort of closure. I guess that in some part that happened, but the major event that took place was a very valued friendship with Ruth and her whole family. The lady was soft spoken, big hearted and one of the sweetest beings that I have met in my life's journey.

*Ruth, you will be deeply missed by so many people until we meet again in Jesus's promised reward. Dan*

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**Dan Marshall** - February 17, 2016 at 09:06 PM

DD

“ Dan And Carol Derby/Osborn lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer



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**Dan and Carol Derby/Osborn** - February 17, 2016 at 07:16 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Ruth Messer.



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February 17, 2016 at 01:03 AM

MS

“ Mike And Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer



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Mike and Lea Snyder - February 16, 2016 at 08:59 PM

JS

“ Jim Stoneman lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer



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Jim stoneman - February 16, 2016 at 02:45 PM

DK

“ Dan And Beth Kern lit a candle in memory of Ruth Messer



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Dan and Beth Kern - February 16, 2016 at 01:32 PM