

## Arlene Mae Christensen, 90

Dec. 26, 1927 - April 2, 2018

**HARLAN** – Arlene Mae Christensen, daughter of Chris and Olga (Christianson) Knudsen, was born December 26, 1927 on a farm near Jacksonville. She was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville and attended country school outside of Jacksonville.

On January 10, 1949, Arlene was united in marriage to Valen Christensen at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville. After their marriage, Valen and Arlene made their home on a

farm near Kirkman, and later near Defiance where they raised their five children: Janet, Steve, Donna, Bruce, and Brian.

Arlene enjoyed gardening, sewing, quilting, cross-stitching and was the world's best apple strip and bread baker. She earned blue ribbons for apple pie at the Shelby County Fair. She worked as a telephone operator and for State Farm Insurance. Arlene was a member of Harlan Cemetery Avenue of Flags Committee serving as the secretary and was a lifetime member of the VFW Auxiliary of Harlan. Arlene was also an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Harlan.

Arlene died on Monday, April 2, 2018 at Elm Crest Retirement Community, attaining the age of 90 years, three months, and seven days. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband Valen, sister Gladys Grabill, sister-in-law Marjorie Christensen, and brothers-in-law Homer Christensen, Art Maxwell, Russ Juhl, Gerald Grabill.

Arlene has left to cherish her memory, her children: Janet Hiatt of West Bend, WI; Steven Christensen and his wife Sandi of Hatton, ND; Donna and her husband Rick Meyers of South Sioux City, NE; Bruce Christensen and his wife Tina of Harlan; Brian Christensen of Vermontville, MI; 12 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; sister Adeline Maxwell of Harlan; sister-in-law Elinor Juhl of Manilla; nieces and nephews; special friend Alice Young; other family members and many friends.

A 2 p.m. funeral service was officiated by Rev. Michael Agnew on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at First United Methodist Church in Harlan. Arlene's 27 great grandchildren served as honorary casket bearers. Cindy and Brian Bartelt, Casey and Jessica Petrick, Doug and Nicole Hiatt, Andy and Elizabeth Christensen, Sam and Dianne Sattizahn, Matthew and Tammi Thompson, Jason and Tabitha Ludwig, Paul and Ashley Bruck, Sara Sattizahn, Shane and Alison King, Tyler and Emily Christensen, and Kyle and Dani Snoeyink served as casket bearers. Interment was held at the Harlan Cemetery in Harlan.

Pauley Jones Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



*Pauley Jones*  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION

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