

## Velma Messenger, 68

*Jan. 31, 1934 – May 21, 2002*

**AVOCA** – Velma Susan Messenger, daughter of Virgil Eugene and Alma Anita (Klindt) Lee, was born Jan. 31, 1934, on the family farm in Fairview Township, Avoca. She was baptized in the Lutheran faith by Rev. W.F. Kicker Sept. 23, 1934, in Walnut. Aug. 10, 1945, at church camp in Guthrie Center, she accepted Christ as her personal Savior; she was baptized in the Baptist faith Nov. 18, 1945, at Altamont Baptist Church in Cuppy's Grove, rural Shelby County. She attended Fairview #6 school and graduated from Harlan High School in 1952.

March 6, 1955, she married Jack Oliver Messenger at Altamont Baptist Church. The couple lived in Cuppy's Grove until 1985, when they moved to their present home on Highway 59, north of Avoca. She became a resident of the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn, Dec. 13, 2001. She was a longtime member of the Altamont Baptist Church in Cuppy's Grove, where she had served as a Sunday School and Bible School teacher, as well as a Jr. B.Y.F. sponsor. She died May 21, 2002, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 68 years, three months and 21 days.

Preceding her in death were her parents; one brother, Alvin Lee; and one grandson, Aaron Messenger. Survivors include her husband of 47 years, Jack Messenger of Avoca; two daughters, Kathren Messenger of Avoca and Judy (John, Jr.) Pixley of Logan; one son, Dennis (Jeri) Messenger of Atlantic; one sister, Marilyn Lee of Sioux Falls, SD; one brother, John (Sherrie) Lee of Avoca; one sister-in-law, Anna Mae Lee of Ellendale, MN; three grandchildren, Holly Messenger of Atlantic and Jared Pixley and Joel Pixley, both of Logan; and other relatives.

Funeral services were held May 24, 2002, at Altamont Baptist Church in Cuppy's Grove, rural Shelby County, with Dr. David Erickson and Pastor Terry Schoenfeld officiating. Casket bearers were Jeff Lee, Ronnie Lee, Steve Lee, Mark Lee, Ralph Klindt and James Klindt. Burial was in Graceland Cemetery in Avoca. Burmeister-Johannsen Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.