

Martha Mary Thomsen, 95

August 26, 1903-April 16, 1999

ELK HORN - Martha Mary Thomsen, daughter of Tyge and Marie (Bendtsen) Mortensen, was born Aug. 26, 1903, at Des Moines. She was baptized and confirmed at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Des Moines. She graduated from high school in Des Moines, received her bachelor of arts degree in physical education from St. Olaf in Northfield, MN and her master of arts degree in physical education from the University of Iowa. She taught physical education and health in Des Moines and Denmark, WI public schools.

Feb. 24, 1943 she married Pastor Jens Harry Thomsen at the Bethesda Lutheran Church in Des Moines. She assisted Pastor Thomsen in church and Chaplain ministries and was the activities director at the Salem Lutheran Home in Elk Horn, retiring in 1987. She was a member of numerous churches; Bethesda Lutheran Church, Des Moines; First English Lutheran Church, Poysippi, WI; Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Denmark, WI; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Harlan; and Elk Horn Lutheran Church, Elk Horn. She was the organist at several of these churches. She was also a member of the Federated Womens Club and took part in many church activities. She died April 16, 1999, at the Salem Lutheran Home at age 95 years, seven months and 21 days.

In addition to her parents Martha was preceded in death by her sisters Elizabeth Hansen, Clara Mortensen, Johanna Mortensen and one brother, Oje Mortensen. Survivors include her husband Pastor J. Harry Thomsen of Elk Horn; her children Don R. Thomsen (Andrea) of Denver, CO; Mark W. Thomsen (Mary Lou) of Chicago, IL; Carol L. (Keith) Skogman of Seguin, TX; and James H. Thomsen (Barbara) of Madison, WI; 11 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren and other relatives.

Funeral services were held April 20, 1999 at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church in Elk Horn with Pastor Michael Williams officiating. Burial was in the Elk Horn Lutheran Cemetery. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.