



## Norma E. Raak

September 14, 1921 - December 25, 2016

Norma E. Raak, 95, of St. Joseph went to be with the Lord on Sunday, December 25, 2016.

She was born September 14, 1921 in Erie, Pennsylvania and upon the passing of her parents moved to the Baptist Childrens Home in St. Joseph at age nine. She was married to her loving husband, Claude G. Raak, for 62 years. She was a faithful member of the First Baptist Church and the First Church of God until her passing. Norma will always be remembered for her strong faith and as a loving mother, wife and grandmother.

Norma was reunited in heaven with her husband, Claude, and her sister Alma and her brother Erwin. She is survived by her sons Joel (Diane) Raak of Vernon Hills, IL and Bruce Raak of Bath, MI and grandchildren Peter, Spencer, Jason, and Adam (Alise) Raak.

Norma's celebration of life will be at 1 PM on Friday, Dec. 30, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Harbor. The family will receive friends and relatives beginning at Noon on Friday at the Fairplain Chapel. Cremation has taken place and burial of the ashes will be with her husband at Riverview Cemetery. Please share memories, messages or photos at [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

In lieu of flowers, the family asks all memorials be dedicated in her memory to Prime Time Ministries at First Church of God in St. Joseph.

# Cemetery Details

**Cremation has taken place**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**DEC 30.** 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
1053 East Napier Avenue  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
(269) 926-7222  
staff@florin.net

### Services Celebrating Her Life

**DEC 30.** 1:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
1053 East Napier Avenue  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
(269) 926-7222  
staff@florin.net

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ Norma was such a sweet woman. I have fond memories of growing up with her and Claude as my neighbors. As a kid, she never said no to a bowl of freshly picked raspberries I brought her from our back yard. After I moved out, she was always there to greet me in the driveway with a hug and a smile when I came back to visit my parents. She will be dearly missed!

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**Michelle Knapp** - January 02, 2017 at 12:11 PM

SS

“ I was so sorry to read of your Mom's passing, Joel. She and your Dad were such nice people and left a great legacy in you and Bruce. May God surround your families with peace and comfort.

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**Suz Schalon** - December 31, 2016 at 10:16 PM

C(

“ I was so sorry to hear of Norma's passing. I spoke with her on Christmas Eve and she sounded so happy. She told me she was very blessed to be able to still walk and to see at her age. She loved staying at the Whitcomb. She said that she could see the lake from her window. I was hoping to visit with her the next time I came to Michigan. I live in the Pittsburgh area now and I only get to Michigan every few years. My family was great friends with Norma and her family for many years. I always thought of her as such a beautiful and sweet lady. I have many fond memories of visiting at her home with my dad and brother. She will be missed.

*Cheryl Mooney (Shramek)*

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**Cheryl Mooney (Shramek)** - December 29, 2016 at 07:22 AM

NE

“ Our deepest sympathies to the family of Norma Raak. Although we only actually met her a few times, she was always the most gracious, positive and kind person. I was touched that she invited our son, Matt, into her home for meals when he was doing an internship in St. Joseph during his college days. Her legacy of kindness, humor and caring is so strongly evident in her children and grandchildren. We particularly were privileged to see her influence through our dear friend, Bruce and his boys, Jason and Adam. She will leave a hole in the hearts of all who knew and loved her, however anyone whose life was touched by her can consider themselves truly blessed. Sending love and prayers of peace to you all.

Blessings,  
Gene and Nancy Evans

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**Nancy Evans** - December 28, 2016 at 09:39 AM

TS

“ I'm Terry Shramek. I attended 1st Baptist from toddler age through 19yrs old, when I got transferred to Indiana. I knew Norma during that time. I'm now 63. One funny memory I have is going to the Raaks for dinner at age 5 or so, with my father and sister. As she served dinner she said that the mashed potatoes came out terrible. Thinking that agreeing with an adult was a good thing I told her a couple times during dinner how terrible the potatoes were. Actually they were fine. I suppose everyone must have known why I said it and didn't reprimand me. Norma was always sweet to me and I liked her a lot. May the good Lord comfort those she leaves behind.

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**terry a shramek** - December 27, 2016 at 04:43 PM