



Obituary

Born: Thursday, July 2, 1925

Died: Tuesday, March 26, 2019

Woodland Hills Funeral Home
507-387-5504

Orla Alida (Anderson) Petersen, age 93, formerly of Mankato, passed away on March 26, 2019 at the home she shared with her daughter and family in Minneapolis.

Funeral services will be Friday, April 5, 2019 at 11 A.M. at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Mankato, with Rev. John Petersen and Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, officiating. Interment will be in Woodland Hills Memorial Park in Mankato.

Visitation will be on Friday morning from 9 A.M. until the hour of services at the church. Woodland Hills Funeral Home of Mankato is handling arrangements.

Orla was born on July 2, 1925 to Oscar and Betsy Anderson in Winnebago County, IA and raised on a farm west of Emmons, MN. She was baptized as an infant at Lime Creek Lutheran Church. Growing up during the Great Depression Orla learned the value of hard work, helping with farm chores and caring for her older sister, Kathryn, who was born with a developmental disability. Orla attended Scarville Lutheran School and was confirmed in her faith at Scarville Lutheran Church by Rev. Justin A. Petersen, the father of her future husband. Orla graduated from Scarville High School in 1942 and attended Bethany Lutheran College and Mankato State College.

At the age of 19, Orla was persuaded by church elders to leave college and teach at Norseland Lutheran School, as there was a teacher shortage due to WWII. Orla taught for two years and then returned to Mankato to complete her education. She taught at Saude Lutheran School near Lawler, IA for 4 years and did a brief stint as a newspaperwoman for the Lake Mills (IA) Graphic before returning to Bethany, where she worked as a secretary for over 30 years until her retirement in 1992.

Orla married Justin C. Petersen on July 3, 1960 in Mankato. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters, Rebecca and Judith. Orla and Justin shared 40 years of faithful service to God, their family, and others.

Orla's faith was central to her life and was reflected in both her words and actions. Orla believed she was put on earth to serve others, and that she did. Everyone in her orbit knew her unfailing love and dedication. In addition to being a devoted wife and mother, she frequently opened her home to her nieces and nephews. She cared for her sister Kathryn for 11 years following their mother's death and for her beloved Justin when he was stricken with Alzheimer's disease until his death in 2000.

In 2003 Orla moved to Becketwood Cooperative in Minneapolis to be near family. During these years she enjoyed researching and compiling family histories, attending

Service Summary

Visitation

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Fri Apr 05, 2019

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

1123 Marsh St
Mankato, MN 56001

Funeral Service

11:00 AM Fri Apr 05, 2019

Mount Olive Lutheran Church

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Mankato, MN 56001

her Tuesday morning bible study, solving sudoku puzzles, and especially being a doting grandma to her four granddaughters, who in turn loved spending time with their Grandma O.

At the end, as her mind and body weakened, Orla found comfort in reciting verses from the many hymns she had committed to heart.

Orla is survived by her daughters and their husbands, Rebecca and Gregory Loll of Marinette, WI; Judith and William Anderson of Minneapolis; granddaughters Kaitlin and Courtney Loll; Kathryn and Helen Anderson; brother, Donald J. Anderson; sisters-in-law Esther Faugstad, Shirley Petersen, and Lois Petersen; and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by her husband, Justin; her parents; sisters Beatrice and Kathryn and brother, Benjamin.

Orla's family would like to thank Visiting Angels Home Care and Fairview Hospice for their compassionate and invaluable help in her final weeks, and the pastors and members of King of Grace Lutheran Church for their love and support.

Memorials are preferred to Bethany Lutheran College or Fairview Home Care and Hospice.