

HALVORSON, Helen (Benson) Westergaard

March 27, 1926

Hurley, SD

July 16, 2020

Viborg, SD

Viborg Enterprise

July 23, 2020

Helen Halvorson

Helen Halvorson, 94 of Viborg, passed away on July 16, 2020. Memorial Service will be at 11:00 AM Friday, July 24, 2020 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Irene. Burial will be at 1:45PM at the Bang Lutheran Cemetery, rural Freeman. Due to COVID-19, the family strongly encourages the public to wear masks. Arrangements by Hofmeister-Jones Funeral Home.

Memorials will be donated to the Bang and Meldahl Cemeteries, the Viborg Public Library, and to Feeding South Dakota.

Helen was born on March 27, 1926, to Ernest and Elva Benson. She attended country school and graduated from Hurley High School in 1944. After graduation, Helen joined her parents working at the Bremerton Ship Yards in Washington for a year. She married Leslie Westergaard on August 18, 1946. While Leslie was in Korea, she taught country school. After Leslie returned, they started farming in Turner County; Helen stayed home until Dan and Sue were in school and then went back to teaching. She taught until the country schools in Yankton County were all closed. After that, Helen and her sister, Phyllis, went back to Yankton College to finish their degrees; they graduated on the same day.

After Leslie died in 1980, Helen worked for Purina Feeds in Viborg. Later, she bought the Homestead in Yankton, a reli-



gious card and gift store, which she owned until she married Harold Halvorson on February 17, 1990.

Helen was active in her church and the local Ladies Aid, as well as the Synod Ladies Aid for many years. She had fond memories of the Pork Show in Viborg. Over the last years, Helen focused on her flowers and her yard, as well as her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She has crocheted many stocking caps ... some for the veterans in local nursing homes and others to donate to the homeless and to hospitalized children. Helen also donated blankets and pillows to the Pathways Shelter for the Homeless in Yankton. Her cookies, jams and jellies, and special Christmas treats will be greatly missed.

Helen is survived by her daughter, Susanne, and her son, Daniel; her grandchildren, Julie Westergaard and Tracey Westergaard-Gunlogson (Andy); her great-grandchildren, Austin, Brook, and Max; and many nieces and nephews (too numerous to mention) as well as friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Leslie Westergaard, husband Harold Halvorson, and by her sisters, Marilyn and Phyllis.