

Florine Lillian Wendel

July 16, 1929 – December 19, 2017

Mrs. Florine Lillian Wendel of Fredericksburg passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017, at the age of 88 years.

She was born to Felix William and Lilly Ida (Itz) Baethge on July 16, 1929 in Gillespie County, Texas. She was baptized and confirmed in Zion Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg. Florine married Rev. Rudy O. Wendel on June 15, 1951 in Zion Lutheran Church.



Mrs. Wendel is survived by three of her children – daughter, Naomi Nielsen of Woodhull, Illinois; son, Mark William

Wendel of Austin, Texas, and daughter, Melissa Smith of Atlanta, Georgia; sister, Rosalee Heimann; 5 grandchildren – Clara Nielsen, Krista Johnson and husband, Luke, Katrina Nielsen, Shareena Lewis and Tariq Smith; 3 great-grandchildren – Toby Johnson, Asher Johnson and Joy Annaliese Lewis.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Rudy O. Wendel; her parents, Felix W. and Lilly Ida Baethge; son, Nathan John Wendel; granddaughter, Chelsi Lewis-Smith, and son-in-law, Jim Nielsen.

Florine was born in the Baethges' home at Live Oak. She went to school at Live Oak, Honey Creek and Meusebach, being taught by her mother when bedridden during First Grade. She graduated from Fredericksburg High School in 1947.

She then worked as a lab assistant at Keidel Hospital before attending Texas Lutheran College in 1948-49. She had fond memories of the opportunity she had to work with babies and children at Muscatine Lutheran Homes in Muscatine, Iowa during the next two years. She married Rudy Wendel in the spring of 1951. She worked at Social Welfare during a summer and 1951-52 while her husband interned at Holy Ghost Lutheran in Fredericksburg.

Florine enjoyed serving alongside her husband, Rudy, in churches at Sagerton and Sweetwater, Texas during the next five years. From 1957 to 1960, they served as missionaries in Ethiopia, Africa.

Florine loved being a mother and homemaker. She remained busy as a Pastor's wife as they served churches at Bloomfield, Iowa and St. John's Lutheran Church at Boyden, Iowa. They also served churches at Lost Nation and Fort Dodge, Iowa and Elmore, Minnesota.

Florine loved and prayed for her family. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren were especially dear to her. She also loved and prayed for her many dear friends. She enjoyed making new friends, visiting with people, and sharing their joys and sorrows. It was her delight to be part of the Cheer Committee, Evangelism Committee, Bible Study groups, and helping with Vacation Bible School.

Her hope and prayer for each of her family and friends was that they would know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. As Florine wrote in her own words, "Being a follower of Jesus is not always easy, but ... what joy we will all share as we worship and praise Him, the Lamb of God!"

Visitation with the family will take place at Fredericksburg Funeral Home from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2018. Funeral service will take place on Thursday, Jan. 4, 2018 at 10 a.m. in Zion Lutheran Church of Fredericksburg with interment to follow at Christ Lutheran Cemetery in Cherry Spring.

Memorials may be made to Water to Thrive, Open Doors USA or the charity of choice.