



## Elsie Mae Schafer

May 10, 1936 - March 6, 2023

Elsie Mae Schafer, 86, of Chebanse, died Monday, March 6, 2023 peacefully at her home surrounded by her loving family. Elsie was born May 10, 1936, in L'Erable, the daughter of William and Marie Louise Lanoue Kempen. She was the beloved wife of Donald H. Schafer, whom she married on January 15, 1955 in L'Erable. He preceded her in death on January 8, 2018.

Surviving are four daughters and three sons, Kim Schafer Astroth of Normal, Dianne (Terry) Schaafsma of Bourbonnais, Judy Schafer-Torres of Texas, Ann (Keith) Jensen of Clifton, David (Suzie) Schafer of Kankakee, Dennis (Barb) and Dean (Elizabeth) Schafer of Chebanse.

She is also survived by 22 grandchildren: Luke and Seth Astroth, Erin Astroth Belt, Kate (Nick) Schaafsma Hornyak, Drew (Ashlee) Schaafsma, Tricia Kendrick, John (Gennifer) Gateley, Jill (Michael) Jackson, Scott (Jenna) Schafer, Beth (Chad) Garrison, Josh and Brooke Schafer, Kyle (Erin) Jensen, Karley (Aaron) Uchida, Allison (Jake) Anderson, Brandon (Aimee) Ponton, Amanda (Justin) Stipp, Joe (Kaley) Ponton, Evan, Ben, William and Landon Schafer and 31 great-grandchildren: Liam Astroth, Louis and Cedric Belt, Finn, Kallie and Cora Hornyak, Saylor Schaafsma, Jade (Alex) Ramart, Max Kendrick, Blane Campbell, Jalynn, Hayden, Maci and Ryleigh Gateley, Abbie, Kinsey, Caden, Cooper, and Lily Jackson, Ainsley and Beau Schafer, Jack, Kennedy and Knox Garrison, Jaxon and Jemma Ponton, Asher and Nora Stipp, Laikyn, Chase and Tate Ponton plus 1 more on the way (at this time). Also surviving are one brother and 3 sisters-in-law, Bob (Kathy) Kempen,

MaryAnn Withrow and JoAnn Froidcoeur.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Dawn; one great-grandson, Logan Kendrick; and siblings Bill, Henry and Merrill Kempen, Norma Cowan, Marilyn Geelan, Kathryn Greenburg, and Betty Lou Fred. Elsie attended school in Ashkum and then Central High School. She was employed over the years at A.O. Smith and Chebanse Ag Service as well as being a devoted wife and mother. She was a member of the Catholic Council of Women at Sts. Mary & Joseph Church.

Elsie loved watching Hallmark movies, doing puzzles, and spending time with her family.

For many years, Don and Elsie wintered in Arizona where they made many wonderful friends.

Visitation will be held from 3-7 p.m. on Sunday March 12, 2023 at Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home in Bourbonnais. The funeral Mass be celebrated on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in L'Erable. Burial will follow at Sts. Mary & Joseph Cemetery in Chebanse. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St Jude Children's Research Hospital, Uplifted Care; for masses; or donor's choice.

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# Cemetery Details

## Sts. Mary & Joseph

Chebanse, IL

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 12. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Mass

MAR 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
L'Erable, IL

# Tribute Wall



“ *To the Schafer Family.  
It was a pleasure to be a longtime friend of Don and Elsie and a  
privilege to serve as their attorney for so many years. My  
condolences to you all.*

*Denny Marek*

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**Denny Marek** - March 13, 2023 at 12:48 PM

RL

“ Dear Bob, Kathy, Carrie, & family members;  
Sincere condolences on the loss of your sister.  
My husband, Michael Lacey, drove for Don & Elsie doing fall transfer of grain to various sites like Morris elevator & Staley Syrup company in Champaign ~ year 1982. Mike had been out of work for a year from Kroehler Mfg when Don called him to haul. It was so very much appreciated because those 3 months of hauling paid as much as a whole year at Kroehler!! Mike's parents farmed in Bonfield for many years after Elizabeth's mother had died in 1971. Elizabeth was the only daughter of Elmer & Bernice Yeates and inherited the farm, equipment, and her husband started farming the property around 1976 after renting farmer left. Mike loved working the farm acreage & driving the grain truck to Chebanse Grain Elevator! We married in 1977 & I began riding w/him in the beautiful fall harvest & helping Elizabeth cook the lunches & suppers for the crew which included hilarious stories once we all gathered around the table! We have 2 daughters of which our older daughter would wake up early, get dressed, & ride w/dad all day until home when finished! Kelly absolutely loved being w/dad. She like going into the Chebanse office because the ladies always offered candy or some treasure! My friend/mom n law, Elizabeth, sold the farm March 2007 when the accounting/record keeping just became too overwhelming and she was ready for Assisted Living soon thereafter. Gene had passed 6-25-2004 & Elizabeth on 8-19-2011 ~ the day before my birthday. They had always stored at Chebanse trusting Don wholly. We attended the farming/Ag program's & awesome dinners ~ Redwood Inn. It was always a pleasure for me to talk w/Elsie & Don ~ very cordial people.

Our prayers for each of you & to Bob's siblings to have peace & comfort in these coming days, months, & many holiday seasons upcoming.

Kathy, I have wonderful memories of our neighborhood and happy conversations on your porch w/your humorous mother! I remember her pregnant w/Laurie, pregnant tummy, gravelly voice, & her

*humorous stories.*

*We had a great neighborhood when everyone knew everyone through the adventures of us kids!! I see in my mind your dear dad fishing off the bridges & waving as I drove by slowly to see his smiling face & a wave back to me.*

*I haven't met Bob that I remember, however, I still remember his steamed windows of his car parked in front of your parents house, for 'Mrs. Nosey' across the street's pleasure, then on the south side of their house so she couldn't stare at you 'necking' teenagers! LOL! I just saw the images of the two-headed person in the front seat as I walked by at night after babysitting in the area! Oh the memories! Happy neighborhood memories.*

*Take care of each other. I miss Carrie & Dr Meguid. Carrie is a sweetheart & was fun to talk w/at each of my cardiac visits!  
With Christian love , Ramona Zullo Lacey & Michael Lacey*

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**Ramona Lacey** - March 12, 2023 at 09:26 PM

RB

“ *My Mom, Marie Lanoue Berns was Elsie's cousin. Mom has passed but my Dad, Ernie, heard of Elsie's passing today and spoke very highly of her. Apparently my Dad worked for Don at one time. I have passed along Elsie's obituary to Dad for him to read. May God bless and comfort your family during this time and enjoy eternity with Elsie smiling brightly by His side! Rick Berns*

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**Rick Berns** - March 12, 2023 at 06:33 PM



“ Sympathy Gift Vintage Wind Chime - "I Have You In My Heart" was purchased for the family of Elsie Mae Schafer.



March 11, 2023 at 05:50 PM



“ [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was purchased for the family of Elsie Mae Schafer.

March 09, 2023 at 08:28 PM



“ We have many fond memories of Elsie. Both her & Don were always there for Mom & Dad and were special friends. Condolences to the Schafer family during this difficult time.

Gary, Tami, Bryce, Aaron, Michelle, and Noah Clausen

Gary Clausen - March 08, 2023 at 06:53 PM



“ God has gained another angel by His side. My memories are of a mother with time and love for her kids, her husband and her church. She set a fine example for others with her many kind acts. May she rest in peace. She will be missed by many.



Rose Devine Mitchell - March 08, 2023 at 10:16 AM

Colorado  
Todd

“ I remembered when Elsie and Don came to visit Elsie's sister, my mother, Betty. Elsie said she heard Jane and I were in town and came to Mom's house to see us. I will always remember that little fib, it brings back good memories now. I also remember in 1987 when all the Kempen sisters came to help Jane & I celebrate our Wedding in Colorado Springs. This picture is from another gathering.



Colorado Todd - March 07, 2023 at 09:15 PM

BE

One of my favorite picture of these ladies! Beautiful! ❤️❤️❤️❤️❤️  
Beth (Schafer)

Beth - March 08, 2023 at 07:08 AM

GP

“ George And Jodi Papineau lit a candle in memory of Elsie Mae Schafer



George and Jodi Papineau - March 07, 2023 at 08:32 PM

CS

“ *Elsie and my mother, Dora Mann shared many a good time on many trips to Indiana to visit us and to shop. We always had a good time and enjoyed the search for her treasured bears! She will be missed.*

*Stanley and Carol Schoettmer*

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**Carol Schoettmer** - March 07, 2023 at 05:54 PM