



Lucille E. Jarka

July 21, 1931 - September 10, 2025

Lucille E. Jarka, 94, of Bradley, Illinois, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born on July 21, 1931, in Chebanse, Lucille was the daughter of Arthur and Edith (Peters) Rahn. She grew up in a close-knit family and carried with her the values of hard work, kindness, and devotion throughout her life.

In her younger years, Lucille worked at Erickson's Bakery, where she nurtured her love of baking—something she continued to share with her family for the rest of her life. She also worked full time at Roper in repair parts. In 1976 she became part of the clerical staff at Dataproducts in California, where her diligence and warmth touched many colleagues.

On December 4, 1971, Lucille married Bernie H. Jarka, at Zion Lutheran Church in Chebanse. Together they built a home and family filled with laughter, good food, and the company of family and friends. Bernie preceded her in death on January 1, 2011, but their story remained an enduring part of her life.

Faith was central to Lucille's journey. She was not only a devoted member of Zion Lutheran Church in Chebanse but also on the ground breaking

committee for its current location as well as a volunteer church secretary—something she took great pride in.

Lucille was a homemaker whose gifts extended far beyond the walls of her home. She loved bowling, gardening, sewing, and crafting, but was happiest when gathered around her kitchen table, baking, talking, jigsaw puzzles and cooking for the people she loved most. She was the family historian who loved scrapbooking and documenting family events and milestones. She cherished every moment spent with her children, grandchildren, and family, who were the true joy of her life. She greatly looked forward to the occasional hot fudge sundae treat from Dairy Queen.

She is survived by her daughter Dawn Learned, three grandchildren: Jordan, Justin, and Lauren Learned, two stepsons and one step daughter, as well as one great-grandchild on the way and many nieces and nephews who will carry on her memory.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Bernie; her sisters, Darlene Hartman and Betty Dummer; and her brothers, Marvin Rahn, Laverne Rahn, and Durl Rahn.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. An additional visitation will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, September 19, 2025, until the time of the 10:30 a.m. funeral service at Zion Lutheran Church in Chebanse. Pastor Benjamin Hayter will officiate. Burial will follow at Kankakee Memorial Gardens in Aroma Township.

Memorials may be made in Lucille's honor to Zion Lutheran Church in Chebanse.

Lucille will be remembered for her generous spirit, her unwavering faith, and the love she poured into her family and friends. Her legacy will live on in the traditions she started, the recipes she passed down, and the countless lives she touched with her warmth and kindness.

Cemetery Details

Kankakee Memorial Gardens

15 S. 3000 E. Rd.
Kankakee, IL 60901

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **18**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Kankakee - Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home
1480 W. Court St.
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 932-1214
cgfuneral@gmail.com

Visitation

SEP **19**. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
190 Concordia Dr.
Chebanse, IL 60922

Funeral Service

SEP **19**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
190 Concordia Dr.
Chebanse, IL 60922

Tribute Wall

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“ Aunt Luci always checked in with me by e-mail to ask how I am doing. Luci was a strong Christian woman with a great love for family and friends. When I think of her I think of faith her faith in God was always strong. Prayers and Love are being sent out to the family and friends of my Dear loving, caring and faith filled friend. we will see Luci in Heaven that is our hope forever!



Leila Owen - September 18, 2025 at 10:50 AM

KT

“ Where do I start? I'm going to miss you so much Aunt Luci. I'll miss your hugs, your giggle and your positive attitude. I'm going to miss our visit to Family House where we would get cream of chicken soup, that you loved. You were truly one of a kind. Until we are united again may you, Mom and Aunt Betty bake up a storm. Love you ❤️💔❤️

Karen Thurston - September 11, 2025 at 05:27 PM