



Ruth Gillen

September 29, 1921 - August 23, 2016

Millie Ruth Gillen, age 94, of Winter Garden, FL and formerly of Kankakee, died Tuesday, August 23, 2016 at her home.

Ruth was born September 29, 1921 in Kankakee, the daughter of Omar & Lulie McCall Jordan.

Ruth married Walter N. Gillen June 8, 1946 in Kankakee. He preceded her in death May 17, 2004.

She was a longtime member of St. Mark United Methodist Church in Kankakee, where she had been the church secretary and church organist.

Ruth loved music and enjoyed playing the piano. She was devoted to her family and church was important to her.

Surviving are three daughters, Linda & Alfred Lilienthal of GreenAcres, FL, Susan & Terry Brinkman of Clermont, FL, and Barbara & David Halteman of Normal, IL; her grandchildren, Sara Tiano, Sean & Lin Lilienthal, Kevin & Sipra Halteman, Becky & Heath Atwell, Brooke & Ethan Law, and Jennifer Brinkman; and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, she is preceded in death by her parents and one son, James Walter Gillen.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday, August 27, 2016 with the funeral service immediately following. Visitation and funeral will be at Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home in Kankakee. Rev. Dalene Kuebler will officiate the service.

Interment will follow at Mound Grove Cemetery in Kankakee.

Memorials may be made to St. Mark United Methodist Church.

Cemetery Details

Mound Grove Gardens Cemetery

1000 N. Greenwood
Kankakee, IL 60901
(815) 933-6726

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 27. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

AUG 27. 12:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

JM

“ *Continuous blessings to the family.
My memories of Mrs Gillen were such that it would be her kindness,
generosity and discernment that will have helped journey on.*

Jan-L. Munk - March 20 at 08:08 AM

CF

“ *Connie Foster purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Ruth Gillen.*



Connie Foster - August 29, 2016 at 02:13 PM

JL

“ *Our deepest sympathies to the Gillen family. You are all in our thoughts and prayers during this time of great loss.*

*Love,
Jeff, Ronda, Kim, and Laura Beth Lilienthal*

Jeff Lilienthal - August 27, 2016 at 09:31 AM

LB

“ Like a sparkle that never fades, Ruth Gillen was and will always be one of my most favorite human beings on this planet. Blessed with the faith of a truly Christian woman, the talent of a truly gifted musician, and the value-laden character that made every room she entered a brighter and more beautiful. As a lifelong inspiration to me, my mom, and my Aunt Boots, she will forever exemplify the strength of real gentle goodness. I loved narrating the cantatas and special music Sundays with her with her playing the amazing St. Mark organ. Whether it was Christmas Eve at midnight or Easter Morning at sunrise, she always sent me a little wink from her left eye after our last word and note. She accompanied a 9 year old ventriloquist in her first gigs--and played Bernstein at our wedding. She played the notes of my mother's doorbell at Mother's and Edelweiss for my father. To her truly wonderful daughters and their amazing families, you are in our thoughts and prayers today and always. Heaven is sparkling.

Lana Weiss Brown

Lana Weiss Brown - August 27, 2016 at 01:06 AM

RC

“ I only knew Ruth in her latter years through Susan and Terry so I didn't get much first knowledge of her character, but I can attest that she HAD to be a great person and mother to have raised as wonderful a person as Susan.

Rodney Cartwright - August 26, 2016 at 12:23 PM

JV

“ *What a lovely, sweet lady your mother was! I recall as a youngster, she and your father took me to an outdoor Easter Sunrise service in the stadium at the old Kankakee High School. She was also the organist at our wedding on Apr 11, 1948! It was always comforting to see her at the organ. I also worked at the American Marietta plant where your father worked, as well as knowing them through St. Mark's. So happy she could spend her last years near her children in sunny FL. Please accept our condolences. I am sure she is enjoying the companionship of her Lord and her husband at this time. Jeannine G. (Gagnier) Verhoeks, Sun City West. AZ*

Jeannine G. Verhoeks - August 26, 2016 at 09:46 AM

PB

“ *This saddens me to read of Ruth's passing. She was very important in my life when I was a child and young adult at St. Mark United Methodist Church. She was my music supporter and helped me sing may solos at St. Mark for services, weddings and funerals. She was patient, encouraging, loving and positive always! Her smile was genuine and her spirit true to the Christian nature! Rest in peace, Ruth! God bless your family and friends who miss you and your tender way!*
Pamela Bruso

Pamela Bruso - August 25, 2016 at 07:49 PM

KB

“ *My deepest sympathy to Ruth's family. I have such fond memories of your parents from St Marks United Methodist church. They were special friends of my parents. Been a member my whole life. Your mothers music talents were very special. She and Reverand Brusso were a special team. Prayers to you and your family. I never knew she moved to Florida. I'm in Clearwater. Kathy Bradley. (Geistwhite)*

kathy bradley - August 25, 2016 at 03:02 PM

KP

“ I'm so sorry to learn of Ruth's passing. I attended St Mark for many years and have fond memories of her. She played at the funeral's of my mom and dad. I last saw her at your dad's visitation. Also have fond memories of him. He and my dad were boyhood friends. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.
Kathy Lund Philpott

Kathy Lund Philpott - August 25, 2016 at 10:34 AM

JC

Terry & Susan Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Jan & Carl Coleman

Jan Coleman - August 26, 2016 at 07:28 PM