



**Mary Lee Fellrath Ebeling Pichner**  
*1940 — 2011*

OWATONNA — Mary Lee Fellrath Ebeling Pichner, 70, of rural Owatonna, died Monday, Jan. 10, 2011, at her daughter's home in West Salem surrounded by family.

Mary Lee was born in Minneapolis on Aug. 15, 1940, and was adopted into the loving family of George and Florence (Rockman) Fellrath. She graduated from Cokato High School in 1958. Mary Lee graduated from Augsburg College in Minneapolis in 1962 with a degree in Theatre Arts and English Education. In September of that same year she started her teaching career at Waseca High School in Waseca. She taught there three years before marrying William Michael Ebeling. Mary Lee took 10 years off of teaching to stay home and raise the couple's two children, Thomas and Anne.

Mary Lee returned to teaching speech and English at Owatonna High School, Owatonna, where she taught for twenty four years. During that time she did her graduate work at the University of Minnesota, Mankato. Her degree was in reading.

In 1996, Mary Lee's beloved husband, Bill, of 31 years died after a short battle with cancer. In 2000, she married Eugene James Pichner and the couple lived on the farm in Meriden, Minn. Mary Lee was truly blessed to have had two loving husbands. Her special gift, second husband, Eugene Pichner died on June 6, 2009.

Church work was of the utmost importance to her and she taught Sunday school, Bible school and confirmation for many years at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Meriden. She was also active in the women's group of the church, served on the church council, and sang in the choir. She loved to study and teach the Bible and did so through St. Paul's circle Bible study and the adult church Bible study.

Mary Lee's hobbies included reading, sewing, games, visiting with friends and knitting.

Left to remember her are: her beloved son, Thomas William (and Kathleen) Ebeling of Victorville, Calif.; her precious daughter, Anne Margaret (and Richard) Garbers of West Salem, Wis.; her four beautiful grandchildren, Ashlee Anne Garbers, Andrew Richard Garbers, Jaclyn Marie Ebeling and Scott Thomas Ebeling; her bonus daughters and son (step-children) Debra (and Duane) Pichner Gehring and Douglas Eugene (and Jeanne) Pichner; six step-grandchildren and one great-step-granddaughter. She is also survived by her brother, John Fellrath of Renton, Wash., and several cousins. God also gave Mary Lee many friends. Five special ones are Dorette Kanengieter, Jon Wilker, Sandy Dinse, Doris Gerds and Dean Jones Family. Thanks be to God for her life and the many people who shared it with her.