

Escher, Barbara A.

LODI - Barbara Ann Escher, age 63, died unexpectedly at home on Tuesday, April 11, 2006. She was born July 12, 1942, in Monroe to Leo and Anna (Luethy) Gempler. She grew up in Monticello and then graduated from the University of Wisconsin X-Ray Technician program in 1962. She was united in marriage to her high school sweetheart, William Escher on July 7 1962. She lived most of her adult life in Lodi. She was an active member of the Lodi United Methodist Church. She directed the choir there for 15 years as well as served on nearly every committee in the church and conference. She retired from Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital as the credit manager for outlying clinics in 2002. Prior to that, she spent several years as a receptionist for the cardiology department at the former Jackson and Lodi Medical Clinics.

Barb was probably known most for her gift of music. She accompanied numerous music students in various competitions, shows, musicals, and plays. She played and sang for as many as 20 weddings and funerals per summer. In addition to directing her church choir, she was proud of her Women's Chorale. Every other summer, for nearly 20 years, she assembled the chorale from all over the county to produce a show that was so popular in the community there was never an empty seat. When she wasn't involved with music, she had a special passion for playing bridge. She was a member of her bridge club for over 35 years. She was also an avid reader and member of the Lodi Book Club.

She is survived by her husband of 43 years, William; a son, Tim (Terri) of Lodi, and their daughters, Marianne and Jenny; a daughter, Jane (Peter) Bulovsky of Wasilla, Alaska, and their daughters, Hannah, Chloe, and Carmen; mother, Anna Gempler Ingwell; sister, Linda (John) Goltz; brother, Bill (Juli) Gempler; mother-in-law, Genevieve Escher; sister-in-law, Shirley (James) Schommer; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Leo Gempler; step-father, Marshall Ingwell; and infant sister, Margaret Katharine.

A visitation will be held on Monday, April 17, 2006, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at the LODI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, with funeral services immediately following at 7 p.m. The Rev. Scott Walters will officiate.

A private burial service will be held at Garden Bluff Cemetery on Tuesday, April 18, 2006. In lieu of flowers, memorials to the Lodi United Methodist Church or Lodi Library would be appreciated.

Some people come into our lives and quietly go, others stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts and we are never the same.