



***Ellen Voran***  
***June 22, 1929 – November 22, 2020***

***Memorial Service***  
***in Celebration of the Life of***  
***Ellen Ruth Lohrentz Voran***  
***Saturday, November 22, 2020; 10:00 a.m.***  
***Hesston Mennonite Church***

<i>Prelude</i>		<i>Ken Rodgers</i>
<i>Words of Greeting</i>		<i>Rev. Kay Schroeder</i>
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>Fairest Lord Jesus (#117)</i>	<i>Marie Engle</i>
<i>Scripture</i>	<i>I Peter 1:3-9</i>	<i>Lynda Voran</i>
<i>Poem</i>	<i>Prayer of St. Francis</i>	<i>Rebecca Voran</i>
<i>Scripture</i>	<i>Psalm 121</i>	<i>Emily Voran</i>
<i>Life Story</i>		<i>Roxie Voran</i>
<i>Hymn</i>	<i>My Life Goes On (#580)</i>	
<i>Meditation</i>		
<i>Prayer</i>		
<i>Musical Benediction</i>	<i>Praise God from Whom (#118)</i>	
<i>Postlude</i>	<i>Going Home</i>	

## *Life Story*

Ellen Ruth Lohrentz Voran was born on June 22, 1929 in Newton, Kansas, the oldest of five children. Her parents were Peter R. Lohrentz and Emma Marie Ortman Lohrentz. The family lived on a farm eight miles west of Hesston on Dutch Avenue. Both sets of grandparents lived less than a mile from them and, because of this close proximity, there were frequent visits to each home. They were influential in guiding and nurturing Ellen's life. She was baptized on July 30, 1944 at Hebron Mennonite Church in Buhler and was a faithful member of Kingman Mennonite Church, Pleasant Valley Mennonite Church in Harper, and most recently Hesston Mennonite Church.

Ellen attended rural Harvey County elementary schools including Liberty School (District 78) and Berlin School (District 67), Moundridge High School, and Bethel College. After two years of college, she taught for two years at Moundridge Elementary School.

In December 1950 she married Stanley Voran and they moved to the Voran family farm in Kingman County. They celebrated 62 years together until his death in 2012. Ellen enjoyed the role of farmer's wife – milking cows by hand, cranking the cream separator, tending the chickens, gardening, yard work, driving a wheat truck and any other task that needed to be done.

In the mid-1950s several years after the birth of their son Roxie, Ellen returned to teaching. Initially she taught music in several rural Kingman County elementary schools, then the early elementary grades in Waterloo for two years, and then third grade in Harper Elementary School, teaching for a total of 34 years. During these years, she continued her own education, completing her undergraduate degree at Friends University and receiving a Masters Degree in Education from Wichita State University. Ellen loved children and enjoyed teaching. Her intention was to instill in her students the joy of learning and lasting life skills. In 1979 she was recognized as Harper County Teacher of the Year and in 1987 as Master Teacher. Ellen and Stan made many trips to visit their family in Texas which grew to include daughter-in-law Lynda and granddaughters Emily and Rebecca. Each one brought special joy into her life.

Ellen enjoyed music – singing in the church choir, playing the piano for church services, or just playing for her own enjoyment. After retirement from teaching she had time to spend on her favorite hobby – quilting. She made many items that were donated to a Mennonite Central Committee Relief Sale or given as gifts. Many pleasant hours were spent quilting or sewing while listening to classical music.

After moving to Schowalter Villa in Hesston in 2009, Ellen remained active in a variety of activities. In 2016, she was named Volunteer of the Year by Leading Age Kansas for her work cataloging and organizing hundreds of donated CDs and record albums for the facility's Music and Memory program.

Ellen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Stanley, and one brother Vernon Lohrentz. She is survived by her son Roxie, daughter-in-law Lynda and granddaughters Emily and Rebecca, all of Houston, Texas; brothers Howard Lohrentz of Hesston and Ken Lohrentz of Lawrence, sister Katherine Joann Ewert of Modesto, California, and numerous other relatives and friends.

## ***Psalm 23***

(Contemporary English Version)

You, LORD, are my shepherd.  
I will never be in need.  
You let me rest in fields  
of green grass.  
You lead me to streams  
of peaceful water,  
and you refresh my life.

You are true to your name,  
and you lead me  
along the right paths.  
I may walk through valleys  
as dark as death,  
but I won't be afraid.  
You are with me,  
and your shepherd's rod  
makes me feel safe.

You treat me to a feast,  
while my enemies watch.  
You honor me as your guest,  
and you fill my cup  
until it overflows.  
Your kindness and love  
will always be with me  
each day of my life,  
and I will live for ever  
in your house, LORD.

**~ Burial ~**

*Eastlawn Cemetary*

**~ Memorials ~**

*Mennonite Central Committee  
c/o Miller-Ott Funeral Home  
107 S Lancaster  
Hesston, KS 67062*