

Funeral services for Esther Baumgartner Pauling, 90, of Maple Park, formerly of Bensenville, will be held at 10:30 am Thursday, at Conley Funeral Home, 116 W. Pierce St., Elburn. The Rev. Kay Dillard, pastor of the Grace United Methodist Church, Maple Park, will officiate. Born May 20, 1913, in Addison Township, Bensenville, the daughter of Edward and Emma (nee Hartke) Scharringhausen, she passed away peacefully, just before dawn, Monday, June 23, 2003, at her farm. Interment will follow services Thursday in Gardner Cemetery, Route 38, Maple Park. Esther grew up in the Bensenville area, on the site that today is O'Hare Airport. On Oct 10, 1942, she was united in marriage to Roy Baumgartner. They made their home with Esther's family, until 1950, when the whole family moved to Wheaton. On March 23, 1963, Esther moved with her family to the present farm near Maple Park. Esther described herself as a farmers wife and indeed she was. She loved farm life and to share that labor of love with her husband. Even to her 90th year, just weeks before Heaven called her home; Esther proudly straddled her John Deer Mower and cut the lawn at the farm. As a young woman, Esther was active at St. John's Church in Bensenville, where she sang in the church choir and participated in many church activities. She attended St. Paul's Church, Bloomingdale, for a number of years, with her second husband, Wilbert. In more recent years, she attended the Grace United Methodist Church, Maple Park. Esther was also a proud member of the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. She was famous through the generations for her cheesecake that was the star attraction at every family gathering. Esther was one of those rare souls who never found fault with anyone, but looked for the good. Without question, Esther would rather be gardening than house-keeping. She filled her life and time with activities that were important to her and she saw to it that one of the activities was preserving her family history for the next generation. Though she would have seen no reason to be remembered herself, she is the reason that so many others live on in memory today. She is survived by her children, Leonard (Judy) Baumgartner and Betty Reingardt, both of Maple Park; grandchildren, Vernon (Kym) Baumgartner of Roselle, Tammy (William) Ring, Allen (Jaime) Baumgartner, and Kimberly (Ron) Payton, all of Maple Park and Sherry Reingardt of Rochelle; and nine great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Roy Baumgartner, who passed away exactly 35 years ago to the day of her own death; her second husband, Wilbert Pauling; siblings, Alfred Scharringhausen and Rosa Kolze; and son in law Harry Reingardt. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 pm Wednesday, at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the DeKalb County Hospice, c/o PO box 66, Elburn, IL 60119. Friends may visit www.dailyherald.com/obits to express condolences and sign the guest book.

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