

MARGERY LOUISE BAKALAR

Margery Louise Bakalar, born October 30, 1926, joined our Heavenly Father on April 19, 2010. Until November 2009, Marge lived independently in Overland Park, when she moved into a memory care facility, The Court at Overland Park. Marge, daughter of Henry and Edith Baustian, was born in her beloved Lindsborg, Kan. She attended numerous schools in central Kansas communities and received her B.A. from Bethany College in Lindsborg, and her master's degree from the University of Kansas. An actress first and in her element "on stage," Marge was a longtime, highly-regarded teacher throughout Kansas and Missouri. In March 1992, she became a member of The Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame and was named Topeka Teacher of the Year.

Her home away from home was Room B-203 at Topeka West High School, where she taught English literature, composition and drama, directing all plays and musicals. Marge developed and led the first humanities curriculum in the state of Kansas. Upon her retirement in 1989, following a 38-year career, she received a proclamation from the governor of Kansas announcing May 4, 1989, as Marge Bakalar Day. Retirement did not slow her down, as she continued to tutor advanced placement students over the last 20 years.

Marge was an accomplished musician and vocalist, singing solos during her college career at Bethany in the Messiah and St. Matthew's Passion. She was an actress in local community theater, an avid reader, and queen of Scrabble and crosswords. But most of all, she will be remembered by her family as "Pope". The coolest, most loyal, most loving and ornery grandmother that any 10 grandchildren could ever have had. She spent countless hours at their activities and with them on one of their many "pic-hikes," but found herself most at home at their sporting events. Simply put, she was their biggest fan!

Marge's children and friends will fondly remember morning coffee with her at Sophie's Coffee House.

Survivors include her sister, Elizabeth Myers of Lindsborg, Kan.; her brother James (Carole) Baustian of Topeka, Kan. Her loving children, Jon (Judy), Jane (Dave) Roberts, and Jeff, all reside in Overland Park, and Jennifer (Steve) Reser resides in Denver. The joy in her life rested with her 10 grandchildren: Jonathan (Karri), Justin (Kelsey) and Jenny (Kevin) Bakalar of Overland Park; Matthew and Patrick Roberts of Kansas City, Amanda (Zach) Roberts Fletcher of Berea, Ohio; Jeff and Danny Reser of Denver; and Kelsey and Cole Bakalar of Leawood; and two great grandchildren, Lola (Justin's) and Avery (Amanda's). A memorial service celebrating her life will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, April 23, at Atonement Lutheran Church, 9948 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, Kan. She will be remembered by all church members, friends and family for her active participation in the music program and impassioned readings.

While Marge / Pope will be missed by her family and many friends, students and associates, she will more importantly be remembered by all for her "plethora" (a Vocab Word!) of talents and contributions to the many young people whose lives she touched in so many positive ways.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to: Friends of the Messiah, Bethany College, 335 E. Swensson St., Lindsborg, KS 67456, or Atonement Lutheran Church Foundation, 9948 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66212. (Arr.: Marts Memorial Services, 816-561-8181.)