

The Quilt

As I faced my Maker at the last Judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives, like the squares of a quilt, in many piles. An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that was our life.

But as my Angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares were. They were filled with giant holes! Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult, the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I had endured, (which were the largest holes of all).

I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Others had a tiny hole here and there, other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune.

I gazed upon my own life and was disheartened. My Angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air. Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed, held up to the light and the scrutiny of truth. The others rose each in turn, holding up their tapestries. So filled their lives had been.

My Angel looked upon me and nodded for me to rise. My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life, and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, death, and false accusations that took from me my world as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit, only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I had spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully; each time offering it up to the Father, in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me. And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it had been.

I rose and slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with eyes wide. Then, I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded through the many holes, creating an image.

The face of Christ.

Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said,

"Every time you gave over your life to Me, it became My life, My hardships, and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped aside and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you...Welcome Home My Child"

-Author Unknown



Gettysburg, South Dakota
www.familyfuneralhome.net

In Loving Memory

Miriam Faye Maas

December 20, 1946
Des Moines, Iowa

September 8, 2025
Gettysburg, South Dakota

PRAYER SERVICE:

6:00 p.m., Sunday, September 21, 2025
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Gettysburg, South Dakota

MUSIC: "Abide With Me"

CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE:

10:00 a.m., Monday, September 22, 2025
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Gettysburg, South Dakota

OFFICIANT: Rev. David Otten

URN BEARER: David Maas

HONOR BEARERS:

The Staff at Avera Oahe Manor
Bill and Sara Jane Wuttke

USHERS: Alfred Nagel and John Zuber

MUSICIAN: Nancy Holzwarth

VOCALIST: Emily Salinas

"Untitled Hymn (Come to Jesus)"

MUSIC:

"Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me" "Joy to the World"

BURIAL:

Gettysburg Cemetery
Gettysburg, South Dakota

Miriam Maas, age 78, passed away Monday, September 8, 2025, at Avera Oahe Manor, Gettysburg.

According to adoption records, Miriam was born Marilyn Marie Buettner "on or about" the 20th of December 1946 in Des Moines, IA to Margaret Marie Buettner. She was placed in the Lutheran Home Finding Society in Fort Dodge, IA on January 17, 1947, and was legally adopted May 16, 1947, by Walter and Rosine (Letsche) Nielsen of Marcus, IA. The couple named their new daughter Miriam Faye Nielsen and moved her to their farm home in Marcus, IA, where Miriam was raised with a brother, James Lee. Miriam attended Lutheran elementary school and graduated from Marcus High School in 1964. Upon graduation, she attended a year of school in the Twin Cities, MN to be a nurse's aide.

Miriam married Max Vernon Maas on June 6, 1965, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Marcus, IA. The couple then moved to the family farm north of Gettysburg, SD, where they raised their three children. In May 1980, the family moved into Gettysburg city limits when their oldest child, Ann, started high school. Through the years Miriam held jobs at Gettysburg Medical Center, Jones Drug, Potter County News, Duckwall's and Compassionate Care Hospice. She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary and Emmanuel Lutheran Church. She served as Sunday School Superintendent during the years her children attended, and she was a member of the choir with her beautiful soprano voice and also served as choir director for many years.

Miriam was an accomplished seamstress, making most of her children's clothing while they were young. This eventually gave way to quilting, which became a passion for her. Lots of hours of love and originality went into her many quilts made for family and friends. She was also talented at knitting, crocheting and needle work. When Vernon was commander of the VFW from 1976-79, the Avenue of Flags was established and Miriam was the one who put the names of veterans on every flag flown, eventually earning her the Non-Legionette of the Year Award, an honor she cherished.

Miriam is survived by her children: Ann (Neal) Cruse, Huron, SD, David Maas, Rapid City, SD, and Sarah Sue (Keith) Tanner, Gettysburg, SD; grandsons: Jacob (Jerrica) Cruse, Sioux Falls, SD, Nathanael Tanner, Gettysburg, SD, and Max Maas, Rapid City, SD; granddaughters: Emily (James) Salinas, Huron, SD, Darian (Colten) Lesmeister, Gettysburg, SD, and Meghan Maas (Oliver Bowman), Sammamish, WA; great-grandchildren: Ethan Nathanael Tanner, Gettysburg, SD, August Michael and Ella Louise Salinas, Huron, SD, and Ezra Miles Cruse, Sioux Falls, SD; brothers, James (Beverly) Nielsen, Marcus, IA and Martin Schipull, Brookings, SD; brother-in-law, Kenneth (Dorothy) Maas, Aberdeen, SD; 16 nieces and nephews; 37 great nieces and nephews; and 32 great-great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; in-laws, August and Pauline Maas; husband, Vernon; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law, Richard and Elma Mangin and James and Amy Lake.

Memorials in honor of Miriam may be directed to Keep Hope Local, 127 Hilltop Dr., Gettysburg, SD 57442 or Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 601 E. Logan Ave, Gettysburg, SD 57442.

In Loving Memory
Miriam F. Maas

