Lillian (Bickel) Vilhauer went to be with her Lord on August 8th, 2018. She was born on December 14th, 1931 to Edna Bickel (Kurle). She was raised in Herreid, South Dakota. Her difficult childhood was made easier by her very best friend, Mary Ann Ritt. She married Floyd Vilhauer on 5/28/1949 in Eureka and settled in Mobridge. Together they raised five children. In addition to her very busy job raising her children, she also worked as a telephone operator, a dispatcher for the police department, and a cleaning woman for various businesses in town, Mobridge Community Hospital and the last being the Mobridge Family Practice.

Lil loved music and had a beautiful singing voice. She was able to naturally harmonize with any song which was a gift enjoyed by many of us during family sing-a-longs and which was a gift passed to her children and grandchildren. She also loved country music and old Gospel hymns. As a former high school percussionist one of her favorite songs was “Wipe Out!” Lil also loved to read which was another gift she passed along to her children.

The thing she loved most was having her huge family together even when she was yelling at the grandchildren to get out of her kitchen when she was trying to cook for the horde of people! There were many nights of grandchildren sleeping on the floor until there wasn’t a single space left to walk. These were memories she cherished as the grandchildren grew and had families of their own. She also cherished her husband’s family as they became the family she never had. His brothers and sisters became her brothers and sisters, especially Ione Naasz who was her very best friend until Ione’s death.

Lilly taught us so many things. She taught us strength during adversity. She taught us to be truthful to ourselves and to others. She taught us to forgive even those who hurt us. She was so much better at that then we are but we will still keep trying for her. She taught us to love even those who aren’t always loveable and to be kind and to do good. She taught us all these things in her quiet voice and her powerful example. This she left us.

Lil is survived by her five children, Pamela Belden (Kerry)-Green Bay, WI, Hollie Wiest (Bill)-Mobridge, SD, Dean Vilhauer (Michelle), Mitch Vilhauer and Lynnette Vilhauer all of Aberdeen, SD. She is also survived by her grandchildren Brett Belden, BJ and Justin Wiest, Wendy Kelly, Jared Vilhauer, Amy Hoiland, Leah Lane, Brandy Faehnrich, Dusty Helland, Jade Klaudt, Kylie Vilhauer, Mason Vilhauer, Lauren Esser and Tylor Vilhauer as well as 19 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Floyd Vilhauer, 6/1/04, and her mother Edna Kurle, 11/2/03, as well as a number of sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

The funeral service will be held at The First Baptist Church in Mobridge at 2:00 with a coffee reception following. Burial will follow the reception at the Fairview Cemetery in Herreid, SD.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that memorial donations be made in Lillian Vilhauer’s name to the National Kidney Foundation either online or sent to 2601 S. Minnesota Ave., Suite 105-196, Sioux Falls, SD 57105.

In Loving Memory of:

Lillian Vilhauer
December 14, 1931 ~ August 8, 2018
You can shed tears because they are gone,  
Or you can smile because they lived.  
You can close your eyes and pray they will  
come back, Or you can open your eyes and  
see all that they left for you.  
Your heart can be empty because you can’t see  
them. Or you can be full of the love you shared.  
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live  
yesterday, Or you can be happy for tomorrow  
because of yesterday,  
You can remember only that they are gone, Or you  
can cherish their memory and let it live on.  
You can cry and close your mind and feel empty,  
Or you can do what they would want.  
Smile, Open your heart, Love...and go on.  
—Elizabeth Ammons

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:
Lillian Vilhauer
86 years ~ 7 Months ~ 25 Days

BORN:  
December 14, 1931  
Campbell County, South Dakota

PASSED AWAY:  
August 8, 2018  
Aberdeen, South Dakota

CELEBRATION OF LIFE:  
2:00 PM ~ Saturday, August 25, 2018  
First Baptist Church  
Mobridge, South Dakota

CLERGY:  
Pastor Gary Street

PIANIST:  
Janice Saylor

SPECIAL MUSIC:  
Mitch Vilhauer

EULOGIST:  
Pam Belden

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS:  
“Amazing Grace” ~ Will The Circle Be Unbroken”  
“It Is Well With My Soul” ~ “Just A Closer Walk With Thee”  
“Precious Memories”

HONORARY CASKETBEARERS:  
All Lillian’s Grandchildren

INURNMENT:  
Fairview Cemetery  
Herreid, South Dakota

Arrangements Entrusted to Kesling Funeral Home of Mobridge, SD