

THEODORE J. BLEEKE

Theodore J. Bleeke, 82, rural Decatur, who lived on the same farm all his life, died early this morning in Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne. He had been a patient there since January 4.

He was born on March 11, 1910 in Union Township to William T. and Hedwig Schindler Bleeke and married Margaret Tinner on December 31, 1939. She survives. He was a retired farmer who served the past 12 years as Union Township Democratic precinct committeeman and formerly was janitor of Immanuel Lutheran church. He was a lifelong member of that church, a choir member for more than 40 years, a church cemetery trustee for 35 years, and former chairman of Branch 749 of Aid Association for Lutherans.

Other survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Max (Marlene) Poling, Fort Wayne, and Mrs. Walter (Dorothy) Reiter, rural Decatur; two sons, Martin A. Bleeke, rural Decatur, and Alvin L. Bleeke, rural Berne; two brothers, Erich Bleeke, route 2, Monroeville and Louis Bleeke, Fort Wayne; 15 grandchildren; three step-grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren. Deceased are daughter Lorena Boenker, brothers, Reinhold, Wilfred and Gerhard Bleeke and two grandsons.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 1:15 p.m. in Zwick-Sefton and Jahn Funeral Home and 2 p.m. in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rev. Peter Ledic officiating. Burial will be at the church cemetery. Visiting hours are 7-9 p.m. Thursday and 2-5 and 7-9 p.m. Friday. Preferred memorials are to the church's building fund.

Contributed by Jim Cox