

Many Mourn the Passing of Hope Lutheran Matriarch

The Hollywood community is mourning the death on October 4 of Esther Rasbach, wife of the late H.K. Rasbach, a former pastor at the Hope Lutheran Church on Melrose Avenue.

Rasbach passed away at the age of 88 and was laid to rest on October 11 at Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills.

Esther was born in Olean, New York on December 31, 1918. She was the third child of Alvina and George Haase, and had two sisters, Elvera and Thelma, and a brother, Alvin Haase.

When the children were young, the family moved to Highland Park, California where Esther graduated from Franklin High School. Her family church at the time was The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, where she was a faithful member and sang in the choir.

While there, she met her husband, Hubert "H.K." Rasbach, with whom she enjoyed 58 years of marriage. After their wedding on June 13, 1937, she and H.K. moved to Columbus, Ohio, where she worked to help support him through three years of seminary.

They returned to California in 1940 where they moved to Hubert's first parish, First



Esther Rasbach

Lutheran in Fullerton. Esther played an active role in the congregation, and during that time gave birth to four children, Sharon, Judy, Mark and Pat.

In 1947, the family moved to Hollywood to take a call to Hope Lutheran Church. Esther served in many capacities at the church and assisted her husband for 47 years. In 1990, H.K. Rasbach sustained a debilitating stroke, and Esther cared for him at home until he died three-and-a-half years later. After his death, she continued to assist her son, Mark, who is now the spiritual leader at Hope Lutheran Church.