

Elsie Schroeder

Silas Garten:

Welcome and thanks for coming to remember Elsie and the family.

Amelia and Sara Aarestad:

Elsie Ellen Schroeder, 97, of New Waverly, Texas passed away peacefully at 4:17pm on Sunday, August 23rd, 2026 at Charlotte's Cove personal care home surrounded by family.

Elsie was born on October 27, 1928 in Oskaloosa, Illinois, the daughter of Carl Stephen and Iva Brown Stipp. Elsie met Louis Schroeder, and they tied the knot on September 1st, 1953. They celebrated 70 years together before Louis passed away in October 2023. Together, they established a home built on their love for each other and their love of God. Elsie was a homemaker and enjoyed cooking, baking, and was an incredible seamstress. Their home was always open for a hot meal and a good night's sleep to anyone passing through the area. She was mother to many and a friend to all.

Over the years, Louis and Elsie enjoyed many adventures together, exploring the United States. They were always eager to invite others to join them for coffee and games. When they moved to Pecan Grove she often was found working on a puzzle in the living room.

Elsie is survived by her children; Carol (Troy) Aarestad of Manteca, California, and Don (Becky) Schroeder of Seguin, Texas. Her five grandchildren; Candace (Brad) Sandon, Theron (Angela) Schroeder, Lana (Chase) Newman, Amelia Aarestad, and Sara Aarestad, as well as her great-grandchildren AJ, Miles, and Brynna Sandon, Everett, Lewis, Camille, and Phoebe Schroeder, and Lucy and Ellie Newman. Her siblings; Roberta Stipp, Vernice "Judy" Garner, and S. David Stipp.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Louis, her brothers Harold, John, Paul, Hubert,

William, Carl, and James Stipp and a sister Hannah Whalen.

Silas Garten:

We will now sing a hymn, all of us.

262. Patiently Continue

We can have a time of prayer. Our Father in heaven, we're very thankful to be here together. To remember Elsie and Schroeder family and Stipp family and _____. We're thankful that, just like everyone you created, Elsie, you had a plan for her life and a purpose, that she could live for that would help her to get to know you and become a part of your family. We're thankful that she did that. She, through the years got to know you better and better and learn more about her Savior and feel your love and the Story of redemption and we're thankful that you you knew more about her than any of us. You know every thought that she ever had and every prayer that she ever spoke to you and everything she ever did. That brings us comfort. We pray that you wouldn't forget those prayers and we're thankful for her testimony. And just a godly, humble, faithful servant of yours. I'm glad for all she did in her time here on this earth for her family, for her spiritual family, for the family of heaven that is here on earth. But, now we're thankful that she got to go home, like she wanted.

And, we're thankful that she never made this world her home. She was living for

things that'll last for all eternity. And, we give you thanks for creating us. We give you thanks for the plan of salvation through Jesus. And, we're so thankful for his testimony and for his blood and for the family that it's brought us into. And, we just pray that today would be special for the family and for those of us remembering Elsie and we're just thankful that we too can live for You and lay our life down for You and for others. Don't make this world our own, but live for eternal home. We pray for your spirit and help in time of need. We pray for the family and long that you comfort them. Help them to feel your presence all the closer.

We ask these things in Jesus' name.

Now the grandkids will sing a hymn for us.

317. Sweet Is the Rest

Silas Garten:

Thank you. Now Gloria Edwards and Eileen Weiss and Lyle Schober will share with us.

Gloria Edwards:

The reality of this will be for us something. A mother is loved greatly. She's the heart of the home, so we don't forget mothers.

I was in Illinois in the 70's. I knew Louie and Elsie. She was always coming to the door and smiling that we're there. You know, we were created for a purpose. And, Elsie always had a smile. So she was busy with children, but also she was busy fixing something for us. And, she

was always baking a pie when we were there because, I guess, we really we liked the pie.

We did know that the home was always open to us.

So, I come to Pecan Grove in May. And, so Elsie is meeting me and she still has that smile. And, I couldn't help but feel, this verse came to my mind. It is God that worketh in both to will and to do of His good pleasure. He wanted to give us His pleasure and He wants to have us give Him our pleasure. And Elsie was doing this. She was dedicated in loving. She loved, she learned to love and then she loved to live. And, that's wonderful to think that's what she was doing, she was living for others. She was dedicated, living for others, but she was also disciplined.

So she was disciplined because Jesus said you follow me, you deny yourself and you take up your cross daily and follow me. So, that's what she was doing. And, then I like to think of the focus that she had.

That's a purpose she had. And that focus was, I do want to go home. She kept saying that at the last.

But, she was knowing that there would be a bridegroom waiting for her someday. And, so she was wanting to complete her being the bride of Christ. And, she did that faithfully.

I'm thankful for my time with Elsie. Here ' , I'll never forget our smiles and coming down crippled in that wheelchair, walker. And, it was hard on her. But, she never said, oh, I should have stayed in. But,

she always sat at the table and she always had a word with us at the Bible study. But, I'm thankful that she was purchasing in her heart to do even to bring God favor and to bring God pleasure and that's what we're wanting in our day that we have to live is to show our appreciation that we have something worthwhile to go on forward to and that's our eternal home that she was desiring to go to. We're thankful for her faithful life.

Eileen Weiss:

I am so thankful for Auntie Elsie's godly influence on my life from the time I was born. And, I'm so thankful that she was my mother, my own mother. And, she loved me before I loved her.

And, she loved much. In Luke 7, Jesus said of a woman that loved much, loved God much, loved Jesus much, like my auntie Elsie, that her sins are forgiven... And, I'm just so thankful for her life that helped to shape my life from when I was little, helped to guide me in the right path.

And, we had the privilege of going to the Sunday morning meetings in her home and of learning the love and respect for God. And, Auntie Elsie, she had a lot of family. She always had room for one more. And, she took me in like a daughter. And, she would write that later, I love you like a daughter.

And it was true. And so, I had the privilege of being taken care of by her while mom and dad worked until I was five and a half. And, when we were leaving Illinois, we cried for three hours.

Mom and Dad turned around, went back, and asked if Auntie Elsie would come out with us. and fly home later. And it was because there was a bond there that was formed because of her love for me. It wasn't the love of just one that was babysitting another. It was the love of a mother. And, I'm so thankful for that. And, so I just appreciated, you know, I see my mother trying to give her something to take care of us and she would very reluctantly take anything. And, it was because she was not just taking care of us. It was because she wanted to get something for herself, because she wanted to give what she could to us. And she gave us that good foundation of teaching us what was right before God. And there's some verses in 1 John 3, Verse 14, we know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren. In verse 16, hereby perceive we the love of God because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. And, that's what I saw in my Auntie Elsie's life. She loved much. In her last days, one thing that she would tell us often is I love you. One thing that I heard often from all of her children and grandchildren, was I love you so much.! She loved much, and so we loved her much. And, I just appreciate the memory of seeing her on her knees, praying to the God of heaven that she loved. Seeing her read her Bible and get bread, bread to share with us, and fellowship with us. She was so giving, so selfless. She just spent her life living for others.

And, she was there for us when we needed her. In the most difficult days of my life, I called Auntie Elsie and Louis. And, they welcomed me into their home again.

And I lived with them for seven years and taught school. Auntie Elsie became grandma in my classroom. And, we had a beautiful, beautiful time together. Beautiful days that we spent in love, and understanding and unity because of the work that God was doing in her and in us. And, a couple weeks ago we were around Auntie Elsie's bed, the workers, the sister workers from Texas were there.

And, we each chose a hymn. And we prayed. It was a very special time. And the hymn that I chose was 290 All the way. And, it felt like I was singing to Auntie, "you have gone all the way." And, now I am singing to you, and I am committed to go all the way. And, I've committed to God and I'm committing again. It's in my heart. I want you to know that's my purpose. And, then again, the next day, on Sunday, Becky and Angela and Candace and myself. We had the privilege of singing hymns by her bed that afternoon. We had sung that morning too and had a little meeting. But that afternoon, we sang those hymns to her. The last hymn we sang was 401, Art thou waiting for the day? And, that hymn about the Lord's appearing. And, it wasn't very long after we finished that hymn and her breathing changed and everyone entered. And she was gone.

And, her spirit went back to the One that she spent her life serving, to the One that she loved so much. And just so thankful for her godly influence in my life. She was a mother to me.

She was there at the convention when I started in the work. She was there at my first out-of-state convention. She was there at all the important events, she was there for all of her family and their important events because she loved much. I'm just so thankful that we can patiently continue because her influence, her influence lives on and encourages us, and it has helped us, and we can remember that, and it can encourage us in days ahead to keep on going and to give God our all and our best to keep serving Him to the end. And may God help us in this.

Lyle Schober:

I appreciate what we've heard about our sister, Elsie. I don't know why exactly, except that I do feel it was a responding to the spirit. When I thought of Elsie, I thought of the last chapter of Romans. It's interesting in that chapter, we have a record of many men and many women. I don't have as many personal memories of it Elsie as we've been hearing about so far, but I do respect and appreciate that she was a mother to us who were in this work. You know, we don't have homes, so we do appreciate all we can go in and feel that we are at home there. So, looking through this list again yesterday, this morning, in Romans 16, it is so interesting to me the number of women that are mentioned here. And,

when I read about these different ones, I thought, well that's Elsie. That's Elsie. I commend them to your Phoebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:. She was very likely was one of the one servants that is what we call a worker today, we don't have that settled for sure that that was who she was, but I do believe she was. She was a succourer of many and of myself also. In other words, she took our part. Took our part.

The next one mentioned is Priscilla and Aquila, you would understand this as a couple that have a meeting in their home. And, so in that respect also, just caring for the church. It says, who laid down their necks for me. Paul was very fond of that couple because they accompanied him in several of his missionary journeys and providing a home, and Paul didn't have a home, not only for themselves, but also for all of these quarters and for the church. Then the sixth verse says, greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us. Like I say, I cannot speak so much for Elsie's personal service to me. But, I do appreciate that we saw that in her spirit and it was one that she wanted to do what you could. And, before I go any further, I would just like to mention this very solid fact in my mind. It wasn't just because Elsie was kind. She was that, or, because she had a good human nature, or because she had a husband and cared for her husband. But, what we know was the result of a God. And, so today, rather than speaking so much

about Elsie, I've been thinking about the God that worked in Elsie, worked in Elsie, and in us also.

So these different women that we're reading about here in Romans, it was their service for God, motivated by God. I don't know that any of us would hardly know what Elsie would be like if she wasn't a servant of God. And as someone who honored the God of heaven and lived in a way that would bring joy to him, we hardly would recognize her if she was didn't have that relationship in her life. But, we're thankful that she did you are looking for that.

Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsman, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

So, before Paul had heard the gospel himself, in former days.

Well there was a woman and I don't know that Andronicus and Junia were husband and wife. I have a feeling they were. We don't know that for sure, but, very likely they were. And, later on it speaks about Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labour in the Lord. I don't know if this is a couple of sister workers, perhaps so. But, labouring in the law isn't just only done by those who are in this group of the ministry. The present order is done by everyone who sees an opportunity in some way to serve in the church.

And I believe that also is very effective in doing what you could in that respect as well. It says, salute Rufus chosen the Lord, and his mother and mine. This

brings up the point that we were hearing earlier about Elsie being a mother to so many. And I, like I said, I don't have some personal experiences with her. But one thing I didn't sense from her very clearly was a motherly spirit. She wanted to take care of us. She wanted to help us along. And, it wasn't just the mother's love, not just the mother's love for her children, because I was not that, and most of you were not that. But, it was because she had a spirit of God and she understood those words that Jesus said, by this shall all men know that you are disciples, by the love we have one to another. And, her love, which bridges many generations, many different families, many places, many states. And, we all appreciate the love that she had toward us. Now the care that she expressed in that was wonderful to me. Because as you know, we left our homes.

And Jesus said, Whoever has done that, shall have a hundred other fathers, brothers, brothers and sisters, have we experienced that? I don't know. A hundred would be very, very small level compared to the places, I could feel like I could go, you know. I think ten times that much. We appreciate homes like Louis and Elsie had. And, wanting to offer them who are in this work as well.

At the bottom is in the fifteenth verse. At the bottom in the sixteenth verse, fifteen, two of the fifteen verse actually.

Anyway, I've just been thinking about these different women who mentioned nine of them totally in this chapter alone.

And Paul reads very specifically. He was away from there.

I don't think he had ever been at Rome at this time. Some of those he'd known had moved there and that's why he was speaking specifically about what they've been to him, but to others, maybe he didn't know personally but then. We're thankful for the heavenly spirit that this gospel has given to us.

It is so unique, very unique. I remember riding that train one day. And, I went to the dining car for lunch and I sat on the same table through them and I didn't know them, they didn't know me.

But they were discussing where they were from before I came. So when I found out where, I said, do you know what part of the state? I said, do you know the roots of the locals? I mentioned the friends there and they knew them. And the next morning I went back and saw one of those same ladies again. She said to the person beside her, this man knows people everywhere. Tell him where you're from. She said, Wisconsin, a specific place in Wisconsin. And I knew friends there that she knew. So, it's interesting to me.

I began thinking that we know people from so many places. People like you, people like Elsie. And we can go there and we can feel at home and they tell us this is your home, and it was our home. To have over 500 homes, it's beautiful. That's kind of experience only possible because of what God has done in our lives.

So we appreciate that. I was looking also at the last chapter of Proverbs. You think about the last chapter of Proverbs. The last chapter of Proverbs is speaking about the virtuous woman. And those things about her, I feel would fit many of them into Elsie's life. One of the things I love particularly is what it says about her husband doeth safely trusted in her. So that he has no need of spoil. In other words, you don't have to go and capture anything else. He's got what he needs right now.

And, we appreciate those who are companions of their spouses. Who can provide something so the spouse feels very satisfied. We have what we need. And we love it. And I believe Elsie was like that. So just in respect to that. We're thankful for God and His Son.

I noticed that verse in John 17 verse 3, where it says, And this is life eternal that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. That's like a time to know God.

We've had life, I think Elsie enjoyed natural life, but it's nothing compared to what she's going to have now, because it's a new dimension, a totally new dimension, where there's no more tears or crying or disappointments, and it's all spent in a relationship with our Father and with His Son. We think of that, and we rejoice in that.

Today we don't mourn like others, like Paul said, who have no hope. We're glad

she's gone. Not that we're glad she's taken from us, but, we're glad she's gone to a place that's without pain, without any of difficulties of this life. She's getting her reward.

I love this verse in Ephesians 2, we are saved through grace by faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. So it's God's gift to us, through Jesus, He has given us life.

He has given us this family for real and appreciate much. I just want to honor her and be like her.

Silas Gartin:

We'll finish our service for Elsie by singing number 318. Everybody can join in.

Thank you all for coming and for those who called in. Everybody's welcome to stay for lunch too, if you can.

318. As You Journey Home

Don Schroeder:

On behalf of my sister, our families, and myself, I'd like to say thank you to Ken and Kathy Newman, and the staff here at Pecan Grove, and every resident here. And, for those of you that mom and dad had fellowship with the last years of their lives, you made those years some of their best years. And, I want to thank you. I appreciate it along with every one of you.