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August Newsletter

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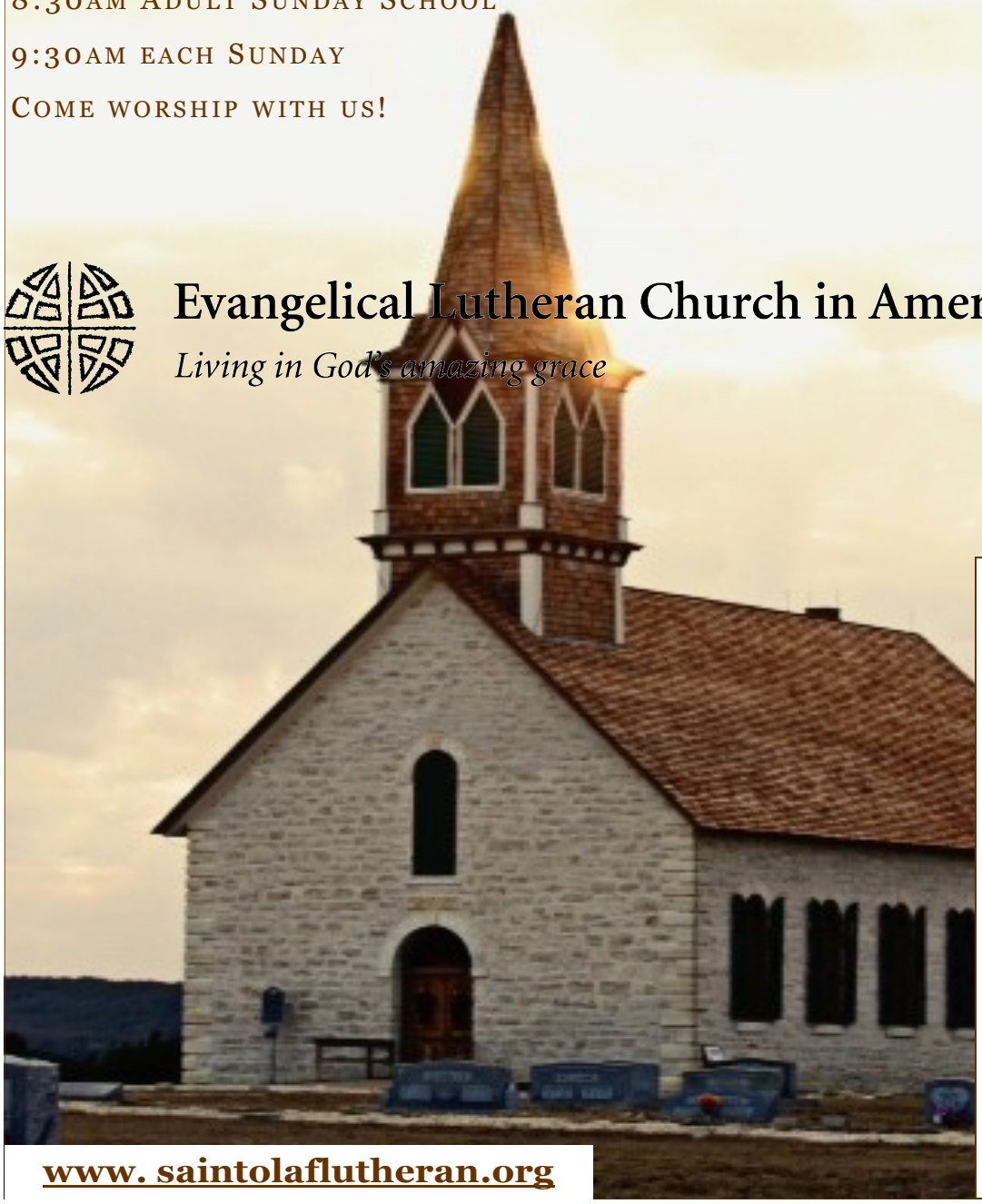
St. Olaf Lutheran Church
402 Meridian Street
Cranfills Gap, TX 76637

8:30AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30AM EACH SUNDAY
COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Living in God's amazing grace



Office: 254-597-2738
Pastor Joan Iker
Mon., Wed., Thur.
9 am-5:30 pm
Cell: 580-230-8304
Council President
Iris Hodges
254-597-2536
Council Vice President
Phyllis Rieser
254-652-0676
Secretary
Angela Roberson
254-597-2738

www. saintolaflutheran.org

Family Spotlight

The Peder Pederson Family

There are eight descendant of this family who are currently active members of our church today.

Peder Pederson was born in 1821 in Elverum, Norway; he married Anne Serine Gulbrandsdatter in 1850. They left Norway in 1867 with their four children, Ina–16 years of age, August-12 years, John Mathias- 9 years, and Julie Marie- 3 years on the ship "Nor" arriving in Quebec, Canada July 1867. From there they made their way to Texas, walking most of the way, as the family story is passed down. Anne Serine died in 1867, but the date and burial place is unknown.

Peder, who had listed his occupation in Norway as school teacher, acquired land and was engaged in farming in America. In 1869 when the first Norwegian congregation was being organized, he was elected to a three-fold position as the congregation's first secretary, treasurer and Klokker. He was said to be an excellent reader.

After the death of his first wife, Peder married Trine Christine Aanenson in 1870 and three children were born, Peder Christian Magnus, Anne Serine and Caroline.

His oldest son, August was an industrious, thrifty person and became a very successful farmer and rancher acquiring a large holding of land near Cranfills Gap at an early age. In 1889 he married Martha Johnson and they had twelve children. Many more stories can be told about the Pederson descendants. One can imagine the involvement of such a large family in the growth and life of the church, as their father was such an active member in the beginning of the Lutheran churches in this area. Looking back at our history book listing the confirmation classes beginning in 1903 when the first records are available, you will find a grandson, Guy A. Finstad, of Peder Pederson listed as being confirmed at the Rock Church in the Norwegian language in 1918. Imagine learning the Catechism in Norwegian and being questioned in front of the congregation. Another grandson, Barton Pederson was confirmed in 1919 at Cranfills Gap Church in English. The Pederson name is listed frequently through the years of confirmands. In fact a seventh generation granddaughter was confirmed in 2015.

Peder Pederson died in 1888 and was buried in the Rock Church Cemetery on July 8th, two years after the church was built. His wife, Trine is also buried in the family plot. Many descendants of this family are also buried here.

If you are wondering who the seven active members from this family are at this time, they are Guy W. Finstad, Virgil Tindall, Bob Miller, Garry Finstad, Terry Finstad, Tammy Senn, Teryn Senn and Signe Elise Senn. Billy Pederson is also a descendant, who is a member of Faith Lutheran in Meridian. If any member of this family has been overlooked, please contact Geneva Finstad.

~ by Geneva Finstad

If you would like to submit something for the newsletter, the deadline is the 20th of the preceding month. Also, if you have any questions or comments, or you would like to be added/removed from the newsletter mailing (or emailing) list, please to contact Angela at the church email: **saintolaflutheran@gmail.com.** Thanks!

News from Here and There

Notes from Semi-Annual Meeting

The St Olaf Lutheran Church Semi-Annual meeting was held on Sunday July 19, 2015 with 29 voting members signing in. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful pot luck lunch preceding the meeting. The meeting was called to order in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Ghost at 12:30 by Vice President, Phyllis Rieser.

Minutes of the January 25, 2015 Annual Congregational meeting were read. A motion was made by Barbara, seconded by Charlene, passed to accept the minutes as read.

The devotion was given by Pastor Joan from the book of Matthew reminding us our mission as a church is to minister to the world for the sake of the world.

Highlights of the following reports were given by each committee chair along with a complete written report in each packet.

Pastor Joan:

- An addition of 5 new members for 2015 – 3 by baptism & 2 by transfer
- Encouraged the council to consider appointing a youth director & to finalize adopting goals for our church

Deacon's Report:

- Appreciation was expressed to Cindy Wiese for accepting to complete the term where Faylene had resigned due to health reasons & also to Carolyn Melde for assisting with visitations during this time.
- With the help of volunteers, a new addition of sharing food & the love of God has been added where after various church gatherings, food is now being delivered to homebound members

Trustee Report:

- Updates to the church electrical system has been completed except for converting an overhead line over the Sunday School building to underground. United Co-Op will do the actual work after a few prep adjustments are made by the church.
- Facelifts are being made to the interior of the Sunday School building.
- The timers on the exterior lights in the front of the main church building will be checked out & be used again

Board of Ed:

- There will a total of 9 youths from St Olaf attending Briarwood camp this year
- Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the 2015 Day Camp a success – there were 24 attending.

Cemetery:

- There have been 4 burials, 5 plots sold & a total of $1,555.00 in contributions for 2015

Treasurer Report:

- The expense amount shown as Church Improvements is to the Wallace Group & for electrical improvements
- The note payable under Liabilities are draws from the short term line of credit at FSSB made available for expenses towards planning for the renovations/ updates thru the Wallace Group
- This is the 1st month since the 1st of the year our YTD income/expense has shown in the black
- Under Income, the offering amount has so far been somewhat smaller than usual
- With our income/expense no longer in the red, the amounts committed under Benevolences will be paid soon
- The investments show an increase of 2 to 3% depending on the investment

WELCA:

- The written report shows the projects WELCA has contributed to

Memorial Funds:

- There will be a disbursement shortly from the Camping Fund towards the youth attending Briarwood

Facilities Study Committee:

- The last proposed draft from the Wallace Group was not a workable plan. With the suggestions from the committee, new information & costs should be available for review in August to then be presented to the congregation. These changes will also need to be in compliance with the Texas Historical Committee.

All of the above reports were approved as presented.

Old Business:

- Each member present was asked to complete a "Reflection on Goals" giving their thoughts & ideas towards the proposed goals for our church
- Emily agreed to meet with the Girls Scouts about meeting in the newly remodeled youth room in the Sunday School building

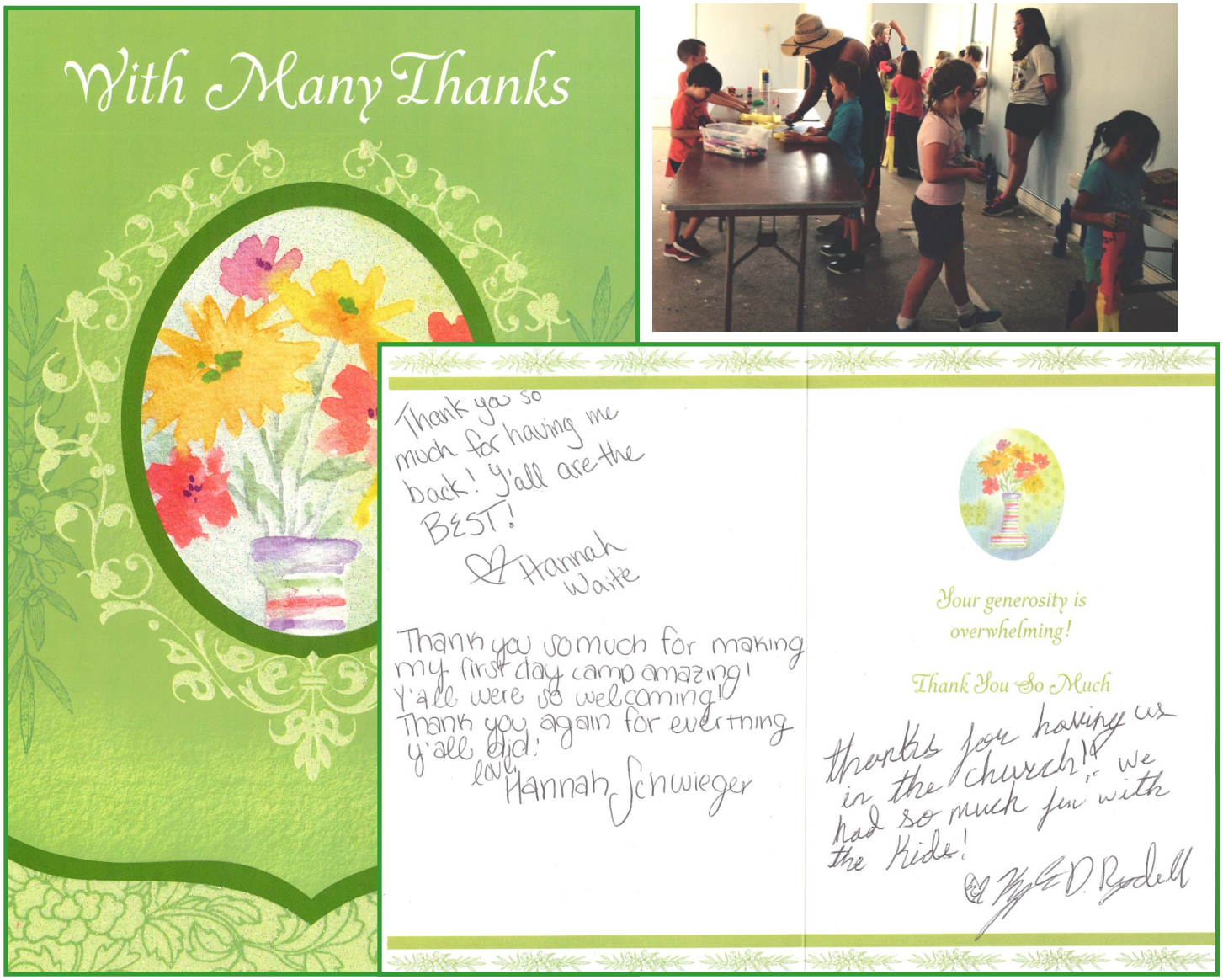
New Business:

- It was agreed to leave the Sunday School board in the auditorium but the information will be taken off
- ·A master calendar will be placed in the entrance hall of the Sunday School building

Meeting adjourned at 1:40.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rita Hanson, Council Secretary

Briarwood Day Camp was a success! We had around 24 campers, several junior counselors, and wonderful cooks! The food, music, activities, and worship were amazing. It was a great week. Thanks to all attendees and helpers.



Martha & Ruth

Martha Circle:

Will meet August 27, at 7 p.m.

Ruth Circle:

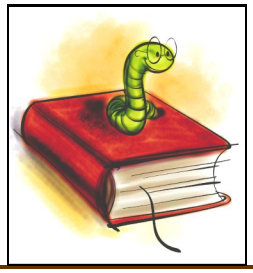
Our next meeting will be Sept. 10th at 2pm with Anna serving as hostess, and Mary leading our new Bible study.

Calling all people with voices who are willing to make a joyful noise to the Lord!

We will resume choir practice after church beginning August 2nd. This is a month with five Sunday's, so we will be preparing for a program at the Methodist church on **August 30th**.

Anyone interested with a special talent of some kind is welcome to show your talent!

Come by the church library located in the Sunday school building this summer. We have a great selection of books for all ages!



Doland Olson, Joe McGowen, Martha Holland, the family of Bonnie Algren, Mary (Ray) Hastings, Haley Rae Tarver, Heather Leahy, Margret Turpin, Tom Gary, Gene Lee, Rodney Barner, Mary Ann Stokely, Brady Warrick, Betty Johnson, Darcy Cassidy, Kathy Johnston, Ronnie Ogle, Ann Clark, Cooper Brown, Elaine Moore, Wayne Mixon, Martha & Helena McCormick, Dacey Patrick, Josh Wilhelm, Pearl Lewis, Larry Mickelson, Raymond Bailes, Ron Brooks, Dusty Wells, Rita Hoggett, and **The Lutheran Church Sierra Leone, Persecuted Christians.**

SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN: Matthew Medina, Justin Barnes, Kevin Moore, Michael Crackhome, Alex Saborsky Kirk Luedeke, Daniel Ramirez, and Lane Carlson

Prayer List

LWR School Items Urgently Needed:

- 70 sheet ruled spiral notebooks
- Centimeters/inches rulers
- Pencil sharpners
- Blunt scissors
- #2 pencils
- Ballpoint pens (black or blue)
- Crayons (16 or 24)
- 2 1/2" erasers

There is a basket in the back of the church for all items. Thanks!

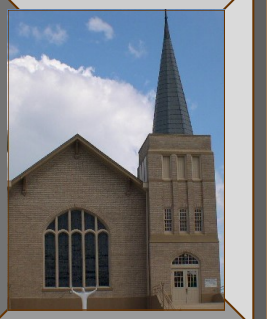
WELCA business meeting Wednesday, August 5th. Please join us in the basement for a short meeting. Refreshments provided by the executive committee. All ladies of the church invited! **Meeting is at 2:30.**

Financial Report *Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer*	**Receipts**	**Disbursements**	**Net**
Budget through June 30, 2015	$57,075.00	$56,975.00	$100.00
Actual through June 30, 2015	52,604.99	52,488.95	116.04

August 2015

Birthdays: Jim Bayless (3), Chance Finstad (4), Ryan Hastings (5), Faylene Patrick (7), Larry Kinney (10), Renee Barner (11), Pr. Joan Iker (15), Kenneth Reierson and Scott Reierson (16), Teryn Senn (20), and Kameron Wiese (29)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Pastor attends MEF board mtg
2 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Choir Practice after church	3	4	5 WELCA mtg at St. Olaf, 2:30pm	6	7	8
August 2-7, Younger kids attend Camp Briarwood with Pastor						
9 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Choir Practice after church	10 Worship & Music, St. Olaf, 1:30pm	11 Worship & Music, Faith, 2:00pm	12	13 Pastor leads service at LSM, 10am	14	15 Community Breakfast St. Olaf, 8am
16 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Choir Practice after church	17	18	19 WELCA CG Teacher Luncheon, 12 pm Council, St. Olaf, 6pm	20 Deanery, McGregor, 12:30pm Faith's Out to Eat, 6 pm	21	22
23 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Blessing of students & staff Choir Practice after church	24	25 Pastor attends PLMA Board	26	27 Martha Bible Study Circle, 7pm	28	29
30 Adult SS, 8:30am Worship, 9:30am Fifth Sunday Singing @ Methodist Church	31					



St. Olaf Lutheran Church

Worship, teach, nurture and share Christ's love.

Dear Friends in Christ,

2 Samuel 23:2 (NRSV) "*The spirit of the LORD speaks through me, his word is upon my tongue.*"

The tongue is a powerful instrument. It has the power to bring death or life to one's body, mind, or spirit. I have been thinking about how what we say, perhaps casually to others or about others or about ourselves even, has a powerful affect. I remember in high school one of the cooks in our school cafeteria indicated to me that I was a pretty "good-sized girl." (I think I weighed about 115 pounds.) Her words killed my heart. I immediately went on a very strict diet. It was so strict that I soon became weak and anemic.

Yes, words hurt. I am sure you have been hurt by someone's words to you or even your own words to yourself. Maybe you berate yourself and forget that you are God's beloved child. How in this broken world will we be able to speak God's words to ourselves and others? *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you."* Acts 1:8.

"We are always in need of a fresh flow of the Holy Spirit. Ask for one daily. Every morning, say, 'God, I need a fresh flow of Your Holy Spirit power working in me this day. I am weak, but You are all-powerful. Be strong in me this day.' This is a power-full prayer of blessing." (Stormie Omartian, Devotionals Daily by faithgateway email) Ask God by the power of the Holy Spirit to guide your words that they may be Spirit-filled, healing words of hope.

Martin Luther wrote in his *Small Catechism* concerning the Fifth Commandment, "We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs." Yes, this commandment is talking about murder, but what "murders" are done to hearts by a few nasty words? Luther puts a positive spin in his teaching. Our words are a way we can help and support those we come into contact with, face-to-face or on social media. Our words heal or hurt. We are to use our words wisely. We are responsible for what we say. *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue."* Proverbs 18:21.

This has been a summer of many bad words spoken against groups or individuals that are in the news and out. I have done it myself. It's not too late to stop the madness and follow Jesus' command, "Love your neighbor; love yourself." AMEN.

Pastor Joan

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)
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In Memory of

Bonnie Algren

February 21, 1970—July 22, 2015

The Vine

BRIARWOOD

AUGUST 2015

Women's Retreat - August 28-30

The theme for Briarwood's first Women's Retreat is "Women are..." We will be discovering how women are beautiful, strong, faithful, powerful and phenomenal! We will discuss what being a Christian woman looks like in today's society and how we can take steps to forge bonds of Christian sisterhood. So, moms bring your daughters, aunts bring your nieces or grandmas bring your granddaughters, etc.

Proverbs 31:10 For her worth is far above jewels.

Sunday Brunch August 23

Join us we celebrate the end of another successful season of summer camp on Sunday, August 23. Brunch is served from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm and you are invited to bring your friends and family for a fun day with plenty of food. Enjoy this great brunch prepared by Executive Chef Carlos Carrasquillo and assisted by our welcoming staff. The food along makes this a worthwhile event, but there is nothing better than Briarwood Fellowship so join us as we celebrate the 2015 Summer Camp Season!

Claiming Your Vocation for Life September 20-23

"Claiming Your Vocation for Life" is a *Learning for Life* Event from Wartburg Theological Seminary hosted by the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest at Briarwood. This event is for all the baptized living out your Christian vocation in the next stage of life – those contemplating major life transitions of all kinds, both church members and professionals: retirement, job changes, family transitions, next calls and other life transition are encouraged to participate. More information go to www.briarwoodretreat.org or by contacting Liz Stein at estein@lsps.edu or calling 713.249.8471.

Briarwood Invitational Golf Outing, October 9, 2015

The annual Briarwood Invitational Golf Outing will be held on Friday, October 9 again at the beautiful Bridlewood Golf Club in Flower Mound. Visit **bidpal.net/briarwoodgolf** for more information and to register or sponsor the event! Contact Phil Geleske at phil@briarwoodretreat.org with questions.

This year the Briarwood Fall Festival is joining Thrivent Financial's 2nd Annual Cooking For Christ Cook-off on Saturday October 3rd from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

The festival will be a fun-filled family day at Briarwood beginning at 10:00 am ! There will games available for children of all ages, wonderful treats, face painting, raffles, tours of the camp and the Annual Meeting of the Advisory Board. We will also have the usual treats, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn and sodas available throughout the day – the highlight will be barbecue served from the cook-off with all the trimmings provided by Briarwood's Chef Carlos!

In addition to the new date and time this year, will be the Cooking for Christ Cook-off sponsored by Thrivent Financial. Team will compete in three categories: brisket, ribs and chicken. The Judging Panel consists of one Pastor and one Church Council from each registered Church team. Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category.

Tickets for the Fall Festival will be available at the event. Space for the Cook-off is limited to the first 20 teams to turn in registration form and $100 Registration fee, payable to Briarwood. For more information or registration forms please contact the Briarwood office at bw@briarwoodretreat.org or call 940.241.2099.

This will be a "can't miss" event so make plans not to attend!

Confirmation Retreat 2015 - September 25-26 *Living Stones- 1 Peter 2:1-12*

This summer at Briarwood, we explored how we can be living rock stars for Jesus, and the Confirmation Retreat is a continuation of that message! Come join us as we explore how the actions we take and the words that we say impact how we live our day to day lives! The Confirmation Retreat is a great way for you to kick off your Confirmation class with your group. There are 4 hours of time set aside for Pastors or Sponsors to begin lessons with the group, and plenty of activities and resources from Briarwood to help as well! Cost: $50/youth, Adults are FREE

Mark your Calendars!

* Via de Cristo - Aug 13-16
* Sunday Brunch - Aug 23
* Women's Family Retreat - Aug 28-30
* Claiming Your Vocation for Life -Sept 20-23
* Confirmation Retreat - Sept 25-26
* Table Talk - September 29
* Fall Festival/Thrivent Cook-Off - Oct 3
* Golf Outing - Oct 9