

Return Service

# May Newsletter

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8:30AM ADULT  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
9:30AM WORSHIP



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
*Living in God's amazing grace*

**Office: 254-597-2738**

**Pastor Joan Iker**

**Council President**

Phyllis Rieser

254-652-0676

**Office Secretary**

Angela Roberson

254-597-2738

**[www.saintolaflutheran.org](http://www.saintolaflutheran.org)**

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## he Peder A. and Otto Nygaard Families

## Family Spotlight

Peder Ole Nygaard was born 1842 in Norway and grew up in the Oslo area. In 1884 he married Ingeborg Oldsdatter Melheim. She had two brothers who came to America and became involved in the restaurant business in Chicago. In 1885 Peder, Ingeborg and baby daughter came to America.

They moved to Bosque County a year later. Seven children were born to Peder and Ingeborg: Mattie (1885-1960), Carrie (1888- 1910), Katie (1890 – 1971), Inger (1892 – 1923), Ole (1893 – 1899), Otto (1896 – 19?), and Annie (1897 – 1906).

Otto was born at Norse and was baptized, confirmed and married by Rev. J.K. Rystad. He received his education at the Norse School, where he met Hannah Caroline Olson to whom he was married in 1917. They made their first home in the Neils Creek community and later bought a farm in the Mustang community. Otto and Hannah had four children.

Myrtice Irene was born in 1921. She married Curtis Larson from Clifton in 1948. They both attended Clifton Junior College and North Texas State College. Myrtice taught school in several areas and also taught at North Texas. She and Curtis moved to Arlington in 1953, where both were teacher/Administrators in public education. Their combined years of teaching service totaled 74 years, Curtis had 34 years and Myrtice taught 40 years. The Myrtice and Curtis Larson Elementary School in Grand Prairie was named in their honor.

A daughter was born to Otto and Hannah who died in infancy in 1924. Prentice Mourine is buried in the Rock Church Cemetery.

In 1926 twins were born, Hazel Norene and Olney Noran. They were confirmed in St. Olaf Church in 1941 by Pastor Walter Maakestad. Norene attended North Texas State College and also taught school, completing 38 years upon retirement in 1984. Noran served in the Pacific Islands during World War II. When he returned he attended Texas A&M and North Texas. He was employed in geophysics and civil engineering. Noran was buried in the Rock Church Cemetery on February 24, 2016.

Myrtice continues to live in the Arlington area involved in school and community activities which she has loved all her life. We are blessed to have her continuing interest and support in the churches and school where she grew up. Thank you for families, such as this, who have contributed to the life of St. Olaf for many years. ~Geneva Finstad

### Taylor Mikel' Duderstadt, Class of 2016

Mikel', a St. Olaf member, will graduate from Hico High School on May 27, 2016. Mikel' was just honored by getting crowned as Royal Student Ambassador for Hico. Inspiration 4 Life Radio honored Mikel' for her performances and for her fundraising organization "Kaya & Co." that has raised thousands of dollars for different needs.

Mikel's love for animals has led her to pursuing a Wildlife Biology and Management degree from Tarleton State University. Mikel' is a model for Twisted J of Stephenville. She is excited about the future and will continue her "Kayla & Co." efforts to raise money where there is a need.



## Updates from Church Council



In an effort to keep you informed of church council activity, I will publish notes in each month's newsletter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 254-652-0676.

The Church Council has approved the following members to the transition team as we move forward to find an interim pastor. Committee members are Jamie Edwards (chair), Patricia Forsythe, Terry Finstad, and Rita Hanson. The duties of the committee are to facilitate closure for departing pastor, help determine readiness for the Call Process, monitor pastoral needs, facilitate beginning of the new pastor's ministry.

Faith Lutheran Church has indicated their desire to dissolve our pastoral sharing agreement. During Pastor Joan's tenure, they have assumed many duties and now feel they are capable of returning to their previous status as an independent congregation. The St. Olaf council will meet on May 4<sup>th</sup> to review their request.

As we move toward identifying an interim pastor, supply pastors have been scheduled as follows:

May 8 – Renee Barner

May 15 – Pastor Herb Lammert, Retired Pastor

May 22 – Pastor Irma Bernales, Garland, TX

Jeanne Bayless and I attended the Mission Assembly annual meeting from March 22 to 24. The meeting was energizing and helpful in making contact that would be helpful during our transition period. The primary task of the meeting was election of a new bishop.

Pastor Erik Gronberg of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Worth was elected bishop. He is very dynamic but very down to earth at the same time. Many of you probably know that members of St. Olaf were charter members of Trinity Lutheran in Ft. Worth. He is very aware of our connection. I have already asked our bishop elect to deliver the sermon for our 100-anniversary celebration on October 22, 2017.

As we move through this period of transition, please continue to keep us in your prayers. Together we can make St. Olaf the congregation God's intends us to be.

Phyllis Rieser, Council President

*Phyllis Rieser, Jeanne Bayless, Bishop elect Pastor Erik Gronberg and his daughter*



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: [saintolafthlutheran@gmail.com](mailto:saintolafthlutheran@gmail.com). Thanks!

### Selling Chances on a 2007 Road King!!

Buy your chance(s) on a 2007 Road King motorcycle (less than 3,500 miles!!) in GREAT condition!!

**Proceeds to benefit St. Olaf Scholarship Fund in memory of Niki Carlson and Lexie Finstad and to the Niki Warms the Cold Building Repair Fund.**

Our goal is to have all the tickets sold by May 14th and have the drawing @ our 7th Niki de Mayo event.

If we still have tickets we will continue selling and have the drawing June 4th @ the Crawfish Boil.

Tickets available at the Horny Toad Bar and Grill: 1 for \$20, 3 for \$50, 10 for \$100, or contact Owen or me. For more info call Owen or me @ 254-597-2574 or email sandi@hornytoadbar.com. Thank you!

### Wool Judging Fun

One of our members, Kameron Wiese, is celebrating success in 4-H and FFA with his participation in wool judging competitions this past month. He, along with his 4-H team, placed 2nd in Intermediate Wool Judging, and he placed 4th as an Individual. Kameron, along with his FFA wool judging team, then, made it to the State competition in Lubbock. There were several other 4-H kids who placed. Congratulations to all!



*Cranfills Gap FFA State Wool Judging Team: Kameron Wiese, Bennie Wright, Kassidy Patrick, Caleb Ince, and Ag Teacher, Jim Bob Webb*

*4-H Wool Judging Team: Marcus Wright, Bennie Wright, Kameron Wiese, and Caleb Ince (not pictured)*



## **Please Join US**

**Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30pm**

**St. Olaf Church Basement**

***"Apron Strings That Tie Us  
to Our Past, Present, and Future"***

**Mothers, Daughters, and Friends**

**Pot Luck Dinner and Program**

*\*If possible, please bring a prepared dish, the recipe written on a 3x5 inch card, and your favorite apron.*

# Mary, Martha, & Ruth

## Mary Circle:

Will meet May 11 @ Heckmann Hall, 2pm

## Martha Circle:

Will meet May 19, St. Olaf, 7pm

## Ruth Circle:

Will meet May 12 at 2pm at St. Olaf

Mary Bible Study met on April 13, 2016 at Heckmann Hall. We had nine members and one visitor, Mary Stratham. We were blessed to have Pastor Joan attend our study.

Billye Dunnahoe led the lesson from Philippians 4:4-23, "Keep on Keeping on." We are to respond to God and to witness to each other. We are to rejoice in the Lord.

Our offering total was \$72. We discussed the May 6 Pot Luck Dinner for Mothers, Daughters, and Friends. All circles are responsible to clean after dinner. We are to wear aprons and bring a dish with the recipe. Our next meeting is May 11, 2016.

Ruth Circle met in the Church Basement, Thursday, April 14. Because so many of the group had been or were ill, Ruth Circle did not meet in March, but Betty Tindall brought the April lesson instead of the March lesson, continuing with Paul's letters to the Philippians. Mary Ann served refreshments to eight members and Pastor Joan.

Love and prayers go out to members Anne Parkin, Betty Knudson, and Elaine Moore. Each of us hugged Pastor Joan as we said our goodbyes and wished her well.

Next Circle meeting will be Thursday, May 12, 2 pm in the Church Basement. Shirley Thompson will bring the lesson; Anne Parkin is to bring her key lime cake!

**PRAYER LIST:** Haley Rae Tarver, Heather Christensen, Margret Turpin, Gene Lee, Rodney Barner, Mary Ann Stokely, Brady Warrick, Betty Johnson, Darcy Cassidy, Kathy Johnston, Ronnie Ogle, Cooper Brown, Elaine Moore, Wayne Mixon, Martha & Helena McCormick, Dacey Patrick, Josh Wilhelm, Raymond Bailes, Ron Brooks, Chris Lujan, Larry Barger, Kinsley Norris, Charles Osborn, Daniel Smith, Sherry Finstad Roberts, Rev. C. A. Mangham, Al Carlson, Makayla Pierce, Riley Hardcastle, Gwyn Christensen, Family of William Payne, Geraldine Jenson, Manuel Estrada, Tom & Linda Thiele Lane, Bettye Knudson, Ivan and Junelle Johnson, 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.

Parish Lay Mission Academy Classes are being offered May 21. Join in this renewed venture of personal growth in areas of Bible Skills, Christian Education, Preaching, Leadership Skills, and Community Care. For more information contact Dean Russell Vardell at [dean@plmacademy.org](mailto:dean@plmacademy.org) or visit the website at <http://www.plmacademy.org>.

## Day Camp, Summer 2016

We have chosen July 17 for the week of day camp. Please put it on your calendar, and share the word!

## Note from the St. Olaf office secretary:

With Pastor Joan leaving May 1, we will not have regular office hours. I am a full-time teacher and mom to four kids so life is pretty busy for me.

However, I take my job as the St. Olaf office secretary very seriously. If you need something in a hurry, please don't hesitate email me at the church email ([saintolaflutheran@gmail.com](mailto:saintolaflutheran@gmail.com)) or **text** me on my cell phone (254-979-2103). These two methods are the best way to reach me, as I check them several times a day. I will do my best to help you with whatever you need. If I can't help you, I will put you in touch with someone who can.

Thank you!

~Angela

Financial Report	Receipts	Disbursements	Net
<i>Submitted by Gerald Nelson, Treasurer</i>			
Budget through Mar 31, 2016	\$27,823.00	\$27,823.00	\$0.00
Actual through Mar 31, 2016	20,517.94	26,439.34	(5,921.40)





# St. Olaf Lutheran Church

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



Just a short blurb this month as I say my goodbyes to those of you at St. Olaf on May 1:

Phyllis Rieser, President of the Council, asked me to write what I am most proud of in our ministry together at St. Olaf. You probably know the many of the community related events – you may not know about things in worship, and worship is the major thing that a congregation does that sets it apart from other organizations. So these are some of my favorite worship memories at St. Olaf.



I was so happy to see a total of five young people confirmed, with a large supportive congregation attending worship. We baptized 17 in worship during my time here, and they included children and adults. We received a total of 39 new members! We lost 24 members in death and also buried about 20 of our friends and family around St. Olaf. Though they are sad times, each of those burial services is special to me as we care for the family.

We had special worship events that I won't forget – bell choir, harpist, missionary speaker, and guest pastors who taught us more about Ebola and the NTNL Prison Ministry. St. Olaf opened their hearts to them with generous offerings! And then there were the joint services with Faith Lutheran Church each Pentecost Sunday. Once it even ended with a picnic in the park! There have been plenty of good times that I won't forget. And I certainly won't forget you all!

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever!  
~ Pastor Joan



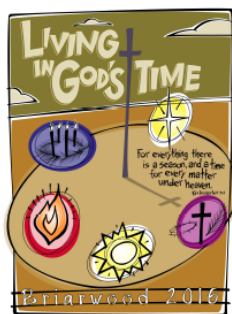
PS. And then there is Day Camp, but that would require another blurb... :)

**Lesson from a Butterfly** - *"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Romans 12:2*

When a butterfly starts its journey, it is a small helpless caterpillar. What if a caterpillar decided one day that the changes were too hard and it just was not going to do all that hard work to become a butterfly? What if it decided it was going to stay a caterpillar forever? We know that if that were possible, the caterpillar would never reach its full potential. It would never be all that it was meant to be. We as Christians are the same way. God may point out some things to you that need to be changed. If we refuse, if we decide that it is too hard, we will never reach our full potential. We can not remain where we are and expect to become anything more than what we are now. We need to allow God to work in us, to transform us into the beautiful creation He has planned for each one of us. I pray today that you will allow God to grow you, to transform you, and then to use you for His honor and His glory. The changes may not always be easy, but I promise you the end result will be well worth it.



**MAY 2016**



## Summer 2016! "Living in God's Time"

In Ecclesiastes 3:1, we are told, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." During the week that your campers are here, they will get to learn about the different seasons of the church, from Advent all the way to Pentecost. The lessons are full of activities and fun, while also incorporating Gospel lessons and a connection to our Catechism!

Registrations are already filling up, so make sure you reserve your spot TODAY! and you can e-mail our Program Director, Aaron Colwick, with any questions you might have! Visit our Summer Camp page on our website to pick out your camp and register!

## High Schooler Looking for Leadership Development? Sign up for LYLE!

All high school students are invited to participate in one of our flagship programs, and become a LYLE! It stands for



Lutheran Youth Leadership Experience and if you're looking for lifelong friends, awesome games, and tools to be a great and faithful leader, this is definitely for you.

We have two programs, LYLE I and LYLE II, and it starts right when camp begins! So sign up today, and be a LYLE! Click here for more info, and to register! Visit [briarwoodretreat.org](http://briarwoodretreat.org) for more information and to register.

## Pre-Camp Work Day - June 4

Summer Camp is almost here, and there is a lot to do! Mark your calendars and come help out the Briarwood staff as we prepare our facilities, and get ready for our campers. We need help of all varieties, both working inside and outside. You'll also get a chance to meet our Summer Camp Coordinators! So make plans to be at Briarwood on June 4 from 9:00-4:00, with Lunch provided! Can't wait to see y'all!

## Briarwood's Run for the Roses Gala!

It's not too late to get your ticket to Briarwood's 'Run for the Roses' event where you can get on your derby hat and join us for an evening of friends, food, fun and show your support for Briarwood!



Visit [bidpal.net/briarwoodgala](http://bidpal.net/briarwoodgala) to purchase tickets and find out all the details! Let's have some fun and help make camp more affordable for all kids!

## Summer Staff Training

Our Coordinators & Counselors will begin their staff training beginning on May 31st! Please add our staff to your church's and your personal prayer lists as we begin our journey together, learning what it is to be "Living in God's Time", and how we can all be effective leaders for Christ! Make sure you pay attention to our Campfire News, as we will be introducing our staff to everyone through there!



Good times at the Young at Heart Retreat!

## Mark your Calendars!

- \* Briarwood Gala - May 14
- \* Angel Pre-camp Workday - June 4

- \* Summer Staff Training - May 31- June 17
- \* Summer Camp Begins - Jun 19