



Lois A. Olsen

October 31, 1936 - October 27, 2016

LOIS A OLSEN died early in the morning of October 27, 2016, four days shy of her 80th birthday. Lois was born October 31, 1936 in Williston, North Dakota, to Rev. Victor and Wilma Gilbertson. The family was living in Tioga, N.D. at the time, moving later to Souris, N.D., Cylinder, Iowa and Reynolds, N.D. where Rev. Gilbertson served as pastor of rural Lutheran congregations. Lois attended high school at Augustana Academy, Canton, South Dakota, a boarding school sponsored by the Lutheran Church. After working one year as a surgical scrub tech in Minneapolis, Lois enrolled at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota in the fall of 1955. Early during her first year at Concordia Lois met and fell in love with her future husband and partner in life, Gerald Olsen of Staten Island, New York. They were married on August 9, 1959. After two years at Concordia Lois enrolled in the Nursing program at the University of Minnesota receiving her Bachelor of Science degree and RN degree in March 1960. In the summer of 1960 Lois and her husband sailed for Norway where they lived until May, 1961. During that time Lois worked as a nurse in the operating room of a private Catholic hospital in Oslo. As her husband pursued a career as a physician and ophthalmologist, the family moved to Houston, Texas, St. Paul, Minnesota, Fort Benning, Georgia and finally to Fort Collins, Colorado where they have made their home since 1972.

Lois is survived by her husband, Dr. Gerald Olsen, her three children, Dr. Eric Olsen, his wife Lisa and their four children, Gordon, Leslie, Carlisle and

Courtney; Dr. Karl Olsen and his wife, Heather and their children Ariane, Braden and Garrett; Kari and her husband Dan Olsen (same last name) and their children, Siri, Britta and Anders. All three families live in Ft. Collins. Lois has four siblings who survive, Dr. Earnest Gilbertson of Fargo, N.D., Esther Johnson of Ft. Collins, Rev. Paul Gilbertson and his wife Phyllis of Denver, Colorado and Ruth Matson of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Nineteen nieces and nephews from these marriages also survive.

Life in Ft. Collins was good to Lois. Her children were ages 4 to 10 when she moved here and she devoted herself totally to their care and upbringing for many years. As they left to attend college her circle of friends in Ft. Collins widened. Lois used her nursing degree and skills in several venues in Ft. Collins including teaching nursing at Front Range Community College and working in a surgery center as a recovery nurse.

The 'Good News' that God was in Christ redeeming the world was the guiding principle of Lois' life from infancy until her death. Her closest circle of friends were those made from attending Trinity Lutheran Church in Ft. Collins. Perhaps Lois' single most important source of strength was her love of worshipping her Lord and Savior each Sunday through the Word and Sacrament. Here she cultivated her life-long love of the hymns of the Church which speak so eloquently of the Gospel of Christ. She sang in church choirs from teenage years until three weeks before her death.

Nothing surpassed family in Lois' value system. She devoted all her energies to the well-being of her husband, her three children and their spouses and most especially to her ten grandchildren whose lives and futures were the recipients of her unconditional love. Together with her husband, Lois created lasting, beautiful memories from travels to far flung place, from Tibet to Botswana, from Ethiopia to Papua New Guinea, from Java and Bali to South Africa and Zimbabwe, from Norway to Egypt and many other places. In 2010,

Lois and Gerry took their entire family of 18 Olsen's to South Africa, enjoying the many venues of Cape Town to the African bush at Nottens Bush Camp and then to Victoria Falls. It was THE trip of a lifetime. It was the most satisfying and fulfilling experience of her life, her most cherished memory. Her absolutely, most favorite vacation pastime was to ride in a land-rover on game drives in the African bush seeing the wildlife of Africa in their natural setting. This placid, elegant lady was always keen to see the rhythm of life taking place during an animal 'kill'.

The family wishes to publicly heap praise on the nurses and medical assistants working on the Oncology Unit of PVH for their skill and compassionate care that they rendered to her during her final days with us. They are angelic servants and ministers of love.

A Memorial and Celebratory Service for Lois will be held 10 AM. Saturday, November 5 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 E. Stuart, Ft. Collins. Those wishing to send a memorial gift should make that gift to Trinity Lutheran Church, Lois Olsen memorial. 100 % of those tax deductible gifts will be directed to Fund for Leaders, a critical program within the ELCA to help decrease student debt of seminarians attending a seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV 5. 10:00 AM (MT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
301 E. Stuart St. Fort Collins, CO US 80525
Fort Collins, CO 80525

Tribute Wall

HH

“ Gerry, Hank and I send our condolences on the passing of Lois. What a life of love and support you shared along with the wonderful memories that you will cherish. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Maureen & Hank Hansen

Henry Hansen - November 17, 2016 at 05:16 PM

BM

“ Dear Olsen Family,

I didn't know Lois, but as a long-time patient of Dr. Karl's, I must say the family resemblance is striking! The obituary was beautiful tribute to a woman who is obviously beloved.

Thinking of You All...

*Love,
Brenda Rader Mross*

Brenda Rader Mross - November 07, 2016 at 12:42 PM

JP

“ Gerry and family,

In Arizona this week we received word of Lois' death. We are so sorry. I knew her as passionate in her commitments, kind and soft spoken in her manner. She will be missed! May God uphold you in God's promises today and in the days ahead.

*Pastor John R. and Ruth Pederson
Denver*

John Pederson - November 04, 2016 at 03:15 PM

BS

“ *Ingrid and the bel ami Salon staff send our deepest condolences to the Olsen family.*

bel ami Salon - November 04, 2016 at 11:50 AM

GR

“ *God Bless, the Alessi Family, grace , rick purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Lois A. Olsen.*



God Bless, the Alessi Family, grace , rick - November 04, 2016 at 10:04 AM

TS

“ *Dr. Olsen and family,
We want to express our sorrow by the death of Lois. May God's comfort support you and your family during this time. Our memories will continue to include the kindness and joy shown by Lois during our time with the Trinity Church Music Dept.*

Sincerely, Timothy Snyder and Mrs. Teddy Snyder

Teddy Snyder - November 04, 2016 at 08:24 AM


Wendell
Frey

“ *To Gerry and Family - So sorry to see of Lois' passing. Wishing everyone peace and comfort through this trying time. ~Wendell Frey*

Wendell Frey - November 03, 2016 at 09:09 PM

PJ

“ We are thankful to have known Lois all these years and share the sorrow of your loss. However, she is celebrating in her Heavenly home where she sings in the choir of Angels. And we know we shall see her again! May you find peace in the love of family and strength in the care of friends.
God Bless each of you. Love.....Pat & Reid Jacob

Pat Jacob - November 03, 2016 at 11:16 AM

GN

“ The world truly lost a lovely soul with Lois's passing. She was a wonderful lady, wife and mother and it was a privilege to have known her. We have fond memories of when we first got acquainted with her and Gerry after their son, Karl and our son, Ty became friends in high school. They were both divers on their respective swim teams, Karl for Poudre HS and Ty for Rocky Mountain. Even though they were competitors, they became life long friends. We remember meeting Gerry and Lois in the summer of 1985 trying to decide if we should allow our sons to take a scuba diving trip to Mexico. It wasn't an easy decision, but we decided to let them go. They have lots of fun, even though some scary memories. Here's hoping the family can carry on without her, she truly was a very special lady and she will be greatly missed. . Blessings to all of you from the Nordic Family

Gary & Sharon Nordic - November 02, 2016 at 09:03 PM



“ Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Lois A. Olsen.



November 02, 2016 at 09:02 PM

TS

“ Dear Jerry,
We were so sorry to hear of Lois's passing. She was a great gal and gave new meaning to the phrase "Gave it the good fight. We'll be thinking of you and your family this week.

Regards, Tom Schilling

tom schilling - October 31, 2016 at 07:55 PM

JH

“ We are saddened to hear of Lois' passing this week. We remember her gentle smile, her soft laughter and kind ways. We send our heartfelt condolences to your family. We know you will miss her deeply.

John and Nancy Hanck

John and Nancy Hanck - October 31, 2016 at 05:11 PM

DH

“ Gerald;
My sincere condolences to you and to your family on Lois' passing.
Larry Housley, OD

Dr. LJ Housley - October 30, 2016 at 04:00 PM

JG

“ She was a beautiful and wonderful lady and will be greatly missed.
Jack and Clara Giuliano

john Giuliano - October 30, 2016 at 12:12 PM

KA

“ To Gerry, Kari, Britta and family, We are saddened and heavy hearted to hear about Lois' passing. You are an amazing, loving family and we know that Lois is a big reason for that. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during your grieving. We love you!
Mike & Kelly Allen

Kelly Allen - October 30, 2016 at 10:40 AM

DJ

“ Dear sweet Aunt Lois -- I can't believe she's gone. What a kind and gentle soul she was, generous to laugh and upbeat in every way. My thoughts and prayers are with Uncle Gerry, Eric, Karl and Kari and their families during this difficult time. May your memories of Lois fill your hearts in the days ahead. Much love to all of you. --
Deborah Liv

Deborah Liv Johnson - October 29, 2016 at 04:26 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Lois A. Olsen.



October 28, 2016 at 08:00 PM