



St. John's Lutheran Church
 Burt, Iowa 50522
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www.stjohnsburt.org

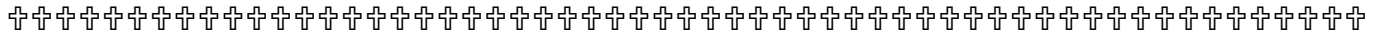
January/February 2023

He remembers His **Testament** forever,
 the **Word** he appointed for a thousand generations
 Psalm 105:8 (JP)



Rev. Thomas Cowell
 Pastor
 Phone: 515-924-3388

'Telling the good News about Jesus-In Burt, Iowa, and the World'



A New Year in the Lord

Dear friends in Christ at St. John's,

As we enter this new year, let us enter it under the care and blessing of our Lord. To help us in this task, I am sharing with you a prayer from a companion to *The Lutheran Hymnal* titled *The Lutheran Liturgy*. This long and thoughtful prayer does a wonderful job of bringing together several new-year themes such as repentance for our failings of the past year, thanksgiving for a year of earthly and eternal blessings, and petitions for God's protection and guidance in the year ahead. Here is that prayer in its entirety:

O Almighty God, who art from everlasting to everlasting and unchangeable in Thy gracious dealings with the children of men, our Maker, Preserver, and most bountiful benefactor, we bring Thee blessing and worship and praise on this, the first morning of the year. Thou hast during the past year upheld us with Thine everlasting arms, crowning our lives with innumerable blessings, granting us peace and health and daily bread, protecting our homes and our bodies and souls from every evil, and continuing unto us the possession of Thy holy Word. O Lord, we are not worthy of the least of all the mercies and all the truth which Thou hast shown unto Thy servants; and if Thou shouldst now enter into judgment with us, we could not stand. But Thou art merciful and gracious, and art pleased to blot out our transgressions from Thy remembrance for Thy name's sake. We praise Thee for the gift of Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, our only Redeemer and take refuge in the merits of Him, who taketh away the sins of the world.

We give Thee thanks also for sparing us from year to year, and for having given us further time for amendment through trials. Mercifully grant that with this new year we may begin a new life. Deliver us, not only from the guilt of sin, but also from its power and dominion. Govern us by Thy gracious Spirit, and quicken us in the way righteousness, that we may set out afresh in our Christian course. Give us a due sense of the rapid flight of time, the certainty of death, and the Judgment to come. Help us to bear in mind that we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, and direct our desires to the city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. May we seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and where thieves do not break through nor steal. Give us grace to watch and pray, that, as becometh Christians, we may praise Thee with holiness of living and be always ready for Thy coming.

Heavenly Father, take us and the whole human family under the wings of Thy gracious protection for this new year of our earthly pilgrimage. Let us experience the continuance and renewal of all Thy wonted mercies. Grant peace to our land, health to our bodies, and joy to our souls. Pour down the choicest blessings on all men, according to their various wants, and teach them to use the world without abusing it, seeing that the fashion of it passeth away. Prepare us for all the duties, trials, and afflictions of the new year. Comfort us in every distress, and enable us to work with all our might while it is day, before the night cometh when no man can work. And should this year be our last on earth, grant that we may depart hence with triumphant faith and enter into the mansions of eternal rest and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Amen (p. 336-7).

Joy in Christ,

Pastor Thomas Cowell

The Feast of the Circumcision and Name of Jesus, Anno Domini 2023



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Peyton Marlow
3 - Doris Madsen
4 - Jordan Jahnke
5 - Betty Koestler
5 - Ken McFarland
9 - Reid Fox
12 - Tysen Wickman
13 - Clark Christensen
15 - Stefanie Hatten
16 - Harold Lavrenz
16 - Christie Schutter
17 - Duane Peter
19 - Alfred Schadendorf
20 - Rialyn Heyes
21 - Caley Marlow
23 - Nicholas Christensen
24 - Maci Marlow
25 - Troy Fox
25 - Eric Reimers
28 - Austin Witham
29 - Michael Crosser
30 - Lynn Bierstedt
30 - Howard Eimers
30 - Eric Thomas



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - LaVonne Boderius
1 - Rhett Briggs
2 - Pam Reimers
2 - Mary Shipler-Oleson
3 - Brielle Fox
3 - Alba Lavrenz
4 - Russ Parsons
4 - Alice Wilhelmi
9 - Allison Christensen
10 - Reyna Fitzgerald
11 - Reid Briggs
12 - Hannah Cowell
14 - Devyn Briggs
18 - Macy Heetland
18 - Makayla Heetland
19 - Laura Knoll
27 - Kia McFarland
27 - Joan Peymann



SPECIAL SENIORS

Doris Madsen - 3

Al Schadendorf - January 19

Lavonne Boderius - February 1

Russ Parsons - February 4

Alice Wilhelmi - February 4

Joan Peyman - February 27