

# **JULY-AUGUST 2023**



St. John's Lutheran Church Burt, Iowa 50522 Phone: 515-924-3344 www.stjohnsburt.org He remembers his **Testament** forever, the **Word** he appointed for a thousand generations Psalm 105:8(JP) Rev. Thomas Cowell Pastor Phone: 515-924-3344

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

Happy 4th of July, Christians!

As the Fourth of July approaches, Christians have the chance to consider how we can best celebrate our nation within our worship and congregational life. No doubt, our country in recent years has been guilty before God Almighty of committing great evils in our land. Therefore, we can see this holiday as a call to repentance for the sins which our country has allowed, promoted, and written into law. However, there is still also much to celebrate as a Christian citizen of our United States. For example, articles like this which confess the truth of Christ and His Word can be published in public newspapers without fear of the writer being fined or jailed (even though the censorship of Christian content is becoming increasingly common). We are also blessed to be able to maintain public places of worship and to openly share our faith with others because of the liberties which our Constitution and government provide.

How then can we Christians join in celebrating the history and future of our nation this Independence Day? While the public has parades and fireworks and streets lined with American flags, the Church can add something uniquely Christian to the celebration. We can celebrate with prayer and praise to the God of all nations who graciously preserves and governs our land by His grace.

As you decorate your house with red, white, and blue this July, consider also adding the following prayer to your celebrating - one of the several prayers for our nation and civil leaders contained in our congregation's LCMS hymnal:

Almighty God, You have given us this good land as our heritage. Grant that we remember Your generosity and constantly do Your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Grant that we, who came from many nations with many different languages, may become a united people. Support us in defending our liberties, and give those to whom we have entrusted the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, may our hearts be thankful, and in troubled times do not let our trust in You fail; through lesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

As you celebrate, you might also offer your praise up to God with the hymn: Before You, Lord, We Bow, written by Francis Scott Key of Star Spangled Banner fame. This

hymn contains the important message that whatever blessings our Lord has given to our nation, we are even more blessed to be citizens of the eternal kingdom of heaven through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Before You, Lord, we bow,
Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below,
Boundless in pow'r and love.
Our thanks we bring
In joy and praise,
Our hearts we raise
To You, our King!

The nation You have blest
May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest,
Protected by Your care.
For this bright day,
For this fair land—
Gifts of Your hand—
Our thanks we pay.

May ev'ry mountain height,
Each vale and forest green,
Shine in Your Word's pure light,
And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev'ry tongue
Be tuned to praise
And join to raise
A grateful song.

Earth, hear your Maker's voice; Your great Redeemer own; Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone. Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore, And bow before The Crucified.

And when in pow'r He comes,
Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs
Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng,
With joy to sing
To heav'n's high King
Salvation's song!

God bless you and our nation this Fourth of July!



#### **Funerals**

#### Sheryl Ann Weaklend

September 4, 1938-April 8, 2023

Service: April 15, 2023

#### Merlin (Red) Jens Madsen

August 25, 1930-May 8, 2023

Service: May 13, 2023

Internment: Burt Township Cemetery



#### Confirmation

#### Caelum Matthew Blocker

May 21, 2023

Parents: Michael and Doris Blocker

#### **Bible Verse:**

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my son and He has become my salvation" – Isaiah 12:2.





### Seminary Food Bank Thank You!

Dear St. John's Lutheran, Thank you for your contribution to the Food Pantry at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis! My family really appreciates it!

God's Blessings

Eric, Heather and Violet Bear

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Greetings in Christ! Thank you so much for your generous and loving support of seminary students and families in your gift to the Concordia Seminary food bank. We praise God together with you for His steadfast love and faithful providence I n all matters of body and soul. We are greatly blessed by the food bank and appreciate the help with foods for baby and household goods. God bless you and give you joy in our Savior as you continue to love and serve those around you!

Sincerely, The Vanderhydes, Ben, Grace, Larson, Hollen, Charles & Adeleide

To the Congregation of St. John's, Greeting from Concordia Seminary! My name is Julianna and my husband Luke is a PHD student. We thank you for your generous food bank donation. We appreciate the security of knowing meals are taken care of. May God continue his work in you this Pentecostal season.

Sincerely, Lulianna and Luke Elawsky

# St. John's Day at the Pool Party!



Sunday July  $9^{th}$  from 2:00 - 5:00 pm come and join us for an afternoon of swimming at the Bancroft Swimming Pool. Let the front desk at the pool know that you are with the St. John's – Burt church for free admission

If you're not a swimmer, we will have snacks and games at the park as well. Bring your lawn chairs and plan on an afternoon of fun!

At 5:00 pm meet in the park next to the pool for devotions and lessons with a meal immediately following.

A sign-up sheet is located in the back of the church if you would like to bring a pan of bars or cookies to share for our snacks and meal.

### Ark Encounter/Creation Museum Trip



For those still interested, we have the opportunity to join an already scheduled bus tour, and although there are no minimum sign-up requirements, seats will fill up, so reservations should be made in a timely manner. This trip is planned for Oct 9-13 (Mon – Fri), and the bus will load in Fort Dodge. A sign-up sheet and informational flyer are available in the Narthex. Contact Jo Centgraf, of Trinity at (308-641-5452) with questions.



Rev. Briton Nelson

# Meet the Nelson Family!



Briton Nelson was born September 30, 1996 and adopted into God's family through the waters of Holy Baptism on October 16, 1996. He grew up in Reedsburg, Wisconsin. After attending one year at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, he transferred to Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa to study religion, graduating in 2019.

He then entered Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri and just graduated in May. While there, he served his vicarage at Messiah Lutheran Church in Clio, Michigan.

Briton met his wife Jade at the University of Northern Iowa while she was a freshman student there and he was starting his first year at Wartburg College. They married on June 6, 2020 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Reedsburg, Wisconsin. Their daughter Autumn was born in Saginaw, Michigan on December 15, 2021.

Briton's parents recently retired and moved to Cherokee, Iowa. Cinda (his mom) was an accountant and Jeff (his dad) worked for American Family Insurance. Briton's younger brother Mack just graduated from Marquette with a doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT) and currently lives in Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

Jade has a degree in education from the University of Northern Iowa and taught middle school math last year at Word of Life Lutheran

School in St. Louis. Her parents, Nick and Mechelle Carter, live in Marion, Iowa along with her younger sister Zoey. Jade's older sister Ariel lives in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

Briton enjoys hiking, sports, and cooking. He and Jade are excited to take up gardening. They are very excited to be joining our church and community and look forward to meeting everyone soon!





- 1 David Haase
- 2- Bailey Marlow
- 3 Kali Karels
- 6 Joel Smith
- 6 Debra Steven
- 8 Bruce Heetland
- 9 Caradene Parsons
- 11 Jordan Blocker
- 12 Craig Steven
- 13 Breckin Borchardt
- 13 Del Reutzel
- 15 Pat Eimers
- 20 Barb Meyer
- 20 Halie Reimers
- 22 Marcia Hanna
- 22 Kenna Rae Hatten
- 22 Jeff Schutjer
- 24 Alex Feuring
- 24 Wilma Smith
- 26 Amelia Cowell
- 29 Joseph Heves
- 31 Janice Schaeller



## **Special Seniors**

Caradene Parsons - July 9
Pat Eimers - July 15
Wilma Smith - July 24
Janice Schaeller - July 31
Mary Schmidt - August 14
Vernal Koestler - August 25
Doris Nutt Gifford - August 28
Peggy Schadendorf - August - 30

#### **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Wade Briggs
- 4 Esther Lavrenz
- 5 Penny Cowell
- 8 Beth Borchardt
- 8 Joseph Culbertson
- 13 Chris Heves
- 14 Stan Eimers
- 14 Linda Kerkove
- 14 Mary Schmidt
- 15 Mary Steven
- 19 Ben Borchardt
- 19 Pam Crosser
- 20 Denise Shipler
- 21 Randy Reimers
- 23 Micah Lavrenz
- 23 Vickie Madsen
- 25 Rachel Heyer
- 25 Vernal Koestler
- 26 Sylvia Loken
- 26 Ryder Parsons
- 28 Connie Aaron
- 28 Doris Nutt Gifford
- 29 Nick Symonds
- 30 Michelle Feuring
- 30 Peggy Schadendorf
- 31 Marvin Heidecker
- 31 Linda Peter