



MARCH/APRIL 2022



St. John's Lutheran Church
Burt, Iowa 50522
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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'



All Things in Common

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- Acts 2:42-47

The Scripture passage above is a description of the community of believers that formed when, after hearing Saint Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost, about three thousand souls came to faith in Jesus as their Savior and received the new birth of Holy Baptism.

If we could choose one word to describe this group of new Christians and how they now related to one another, we might choose that word *community*. These few thousand souls shared a common faith in Jesus, a common life together, and a common joy over the earthly and eternal gifts of God.

Regardless of how much has changed in the Church now two thousand years later, we recognize that this sense of community among the earliest Christians continues is one worth pursuing among ourselves.

Although Christians today are plagued with divisions and denominations, we still acknowledge that all who have saving faith in Jesus are members of the one Church. We find an even closer community of believers among those who confess the same true doctrine which we do at St. John's.

While the generosity of the early Church sets the bar quite high for us today, we too strive to spiritually, physically, and economically love our neighbor at home and across the world as a major goal of our Christian community.

Just as this community in Acts 2 worshipped together frequently at the temple and at their house churches, so do we today seek frequently to join as one in prayer, worship, and in the reception of God's grace.

This picture of what it means to be a Christian community deserves our reflection as we enter the second round of our Partnership's vacancy this Lent. Our congregation has a unique opportunity in

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the coming months to exemplify the image of the Christian community in our relationship with our Partnership congregation at Trinity. In sharing all things in common, we have the opportunity to regard their vacancy as our vacancy. While Trinity at this time does not need use of our possession and belongings, we can be generous with our time, and our pastor's time, and our prayer and support. While during this vacancy both congregations will be able to worship in their own sanctuaries, whenever we do come together for worship and teaching we can do so as brothers and sisters and as citizens of one community in the kingdom of God.

As we continue to pursue a life of community among ourselves, our Partnership, and our District and Synod in particular, we should also remember what is the glue that holds every Christian community together. *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."* It is the Divine Service of God – Christians gathered around the Word and Sacrament – that creates and sustains us as one Christian Church. Our community is not held together by our own works or plans or desires. Rather, our Christian community is held together by the Holy Spirit working through the apostles' teaching and the breaking of the bread. Let us therefore seek out these gifts of God as we rejoice to be made one with Him and made one with each another.

Joy in Christ,
Pastor Thomas Cowell
Ash Wednesday, Anno Domini 2022



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 6 - Shannon Koestler
- 8 - Brant Karels
- 9 - Janice Reimers
- 16 - Kitty Bierstedt
- 17 - Evan Posey
- 18 - Jaelyn Rae Fox
- 18 - Jessica Parsons
- 19 - Jill Cherland
- 19 - Amanda Heenan Heyes
- 21 - John Person
- 24 - Charles Christensen
- 26 - Kelsey Crosser
- 26 - Lucas Parsons
- 31 - Amy Bierstedt



SPECIAL SENIORS

- Janice Reimers - March 9
- John Person - March 21
- Ruth Nerum - April 1
- Don Reimers - April 15
- Eugene Marlow - April 24

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Ruth Nerum
- 2 - Shayla Heetland
- 2 - Angie Thompson
- 4 - Caleb Christensen
- 5 - Kelly Fitzgerald
- 5 - Cameron Haase
- 6 - Jacob Christensen
- 7 - Christina Heyes
- 9 - Tony Hatten
- 11 - Michele Parsons
- 13 - Brenda Schutjer
- 15 - Don Reimers
- 16 - Shane Trunkhill
- 17 - Doris Blocker
- 17 - Cora Christensen
- 20 - Teresa Christensen
- 21 - Kuleen Smith
- 24 - Joshua Culbertson
- 24 - Justin Culbertson
- 24 - Eugene Marlow
- 26 - Vicki Briggs
- 28 - Aaron Bixby