



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022



St. John's Lutheran Church
Burt, Iowa 50522
Phone 515-924-3344
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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'



Now Thank We All Our God

As the fields around us quickly turn bare, I've been hearing from many farmers in our area that they are quite pleased with the yields they are receiving, especially considering the severity of drought throughout much of the summer. Let us therefore give all praise to God, from whom all blessings flow!

In fact, the harvest season often does draw Christians toward the thanks and praise of God, the gracious provider of all good things. In the Old Testament this came in the form of various harvest time thank offerings in the tabernacle and temple. In our day the harvest season is often accompanied by special hymns and prayers of thanksgiving during our worship services. One of my favorite hymns of thanksgiving is John Monsell's 19th century hymn, "Sing to the Lord of Harvest." Here is the (public domain) text of that hymn for you to enjoy in case you are unfamiliar with it:

Sing to the Lord of harvest,
Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices
Your alleluias raise.
By Him the rolling seasons
In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest
A joyous song of love.

God makes the clouds rain goodness,
The deserts bloom and spring,
The hills leap up in gladness,
The valleys laugh and sing.
God fills them with His fullness,
All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with blessing,
With plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar
The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest,
The souls Christ died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him
When at His feet you fall,
And with your lives adore Him
Who gave His life for all.

Another one of my favorite hymns of thanksgiving: "Now Thank We All Our God," carries with it a

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history that reminds us that every day in God's loving presence is a day to be thankful for, whether that be a time of earthly plenty or of desperate want. Pastor Martin Rinckart wrote this hymn as a mealtime prayer in Eilenburg, Germany around 1630, in the middle of the Thirty Years' War. What this means is that Rinckart penned the words of "Now thank we all our God" in a time when his city was being destroyed daily by war, plague, and famine. In 1637, for instance, Rinckart officiated at over four thousand funerals, some days leading funerals for fifty people at once.

In spite of the earthly devastation and sorrow that surrounded him, Rinckart continued to overflow with thanksgiving for every blessing to body and soul that God bestowed upon him, and to faithfully pray that God would "free us from all ills, in this world and the next."

I include for you the words of this hymn as well (also in the public domain), along with a prayer that God would give you a heart of thanksgiving to Him in both seasons of feast and seasons of famine. Above all do I pray that you would find as your foremost cause for thanksgiving Christ Jesus our Lord who died for your sins and rose for your eternal life, a gift which is yours by faith in His name.

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

* Information on the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" was taken from: *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns*, Vol. 1 (CPH: 2019), p. 1418-21.



Baptism

Magdalena Jo Cowell

Born: September 15, 2022

Baptism: September 25, 2022

Parents: Thomas and Hannah Cowell

Church Schedule

Thanksgiving Service - Wednesday,
November 23, 2022 at **6:00 p.m.** – Burt

Advent Service - Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14
Trinity Lutheran - 6 p.m.

Christmas Day
December 25, 2022 at **9:30 a.m.**

Christmas Eve Children's Service:
December 24, 2022 - **5:00 p.m.**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 - Lynda Heidecker
2 † Wendell Christensen, Jr.
2 † Rolland Peyman
3 - Halie Bengston
7 † Larry Behnkendorf
8 † Zachery Steven
9 † Mary Gilord
9 - Tessa Terwilliger
10 † Barb Schroeder
14 † John Smith
16 † Megan Crosser
17 † Kim Reutzel
18 - Richard Knoll
19 † Brynetta Lavrenz
23 † Gabrielle Kelly
24 † Donna Haase
25 - Brayton Borchardt
26 - Gary Person
26 † Bev Skadburg
30 † Eden Koestler
30 † Jerry Koestler

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 † Michael Bierstedt
1 † Nicolle Marlow
3 † Darrel Schmidt
3 † Derek Schutjer
4 † Gene Hanna
9 † Olivia Marlow
9 † Karla Schutter
10 - Barb Harms
18 † Vivian Lavrenz
18 - Maverick Smith
27 - Lisa Haase
27 † Chardonnay Lavrenz
28 † James Bowman
28 † Terry Tieman
28 † Wanda Tieman



SPECIAL SENIORS

November 2 - Rolland Peymann
November 14 - John Smith
November 24 - Donna Haase
November 26 † Bev Skadburg
November 30 - Jerry Koestler
December 10 - Barb Harms