

Merry Christmas 2019 from Jim and Esther Bartsch

We are so glad we have Jesus on whom we can rely. We live in a troubled world and a troubled country. We can't trust nations, we cannot trust governments, we can't rely on politicians nor upon the media. And we cannot rely on people. But we can trust in Jesus to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life ([John 14:6](#))! And we can trust in Jesus to come back to this earth and set up a fully reliable, honest, and just government from Jerusalem, Israel ([Isa. 2:1-4](#); [Zech. 14:1-21](#)). From there He will govern Israel and the world in righteousness, justice, and truth ([Isa. 11:1-9](#)). I can hardly wait!



Since April of this year, Esther and I have been living in Scotland, South Dakota. I am the [Interim Pastor](#) for [Scotland Community Church](#). We have a Search Committee in

operation, and we hope and pray things will move forward in a rapid, but orderly fashion. A candidate is coming in January.



We had a wedding! Our oldest son Brian's daughter Katie was our first grandchild to marry! We welcome Jonathan Krutz into the

extended Jim Bartsch family. We now have two Jonathans and two Levis in our family! Pictured above from L to R are Emily, Sarah, Christa, Katie, Jonathan K, Brian, Matthew, and Jonathon B.

Our youngest (and only daughter), Erica and her husband Cornel Tuns and their four children have moved from Ames, Iowa to Lincoln, Nebraska. Cornel works for Lincoln Public Schools, and Erica is a busy home-schooling Mom! They enjoy worshipping at Heartland Bible Church. The pastor there is a friend of Cornel's from The Master's Seminary in Los Angeles.



From L to R, Laura, Levi, Erica, JD, Cornel, and Merry.



We only get to see Dave and Jen and their three children once a year. We enjoyed having them come visit us in Scotland, SD for a couple of weeks in July. It was warm here, but not nearly as warm as Doha, Qatar! All three children enjoyed taking swimming lessons.

Both boys are learning to speak a bit of Arabic. Dave continues to teach English at Qatar University. He also has worked hard at developing standardized tests for the English department. Jen's mother in North Liberty, Iowa, has been working hard at adjusting to life without her

beloved husband Tom, Jen's father. Jen's dad passed away unexpectedly a year and a half ago. Top row, L to R, Dave, Keila, Jen. Bottom row, L to R, Alex, Andy.

Jeff continues to edit for American Ninja Warrior. Since he does contract editing, his work is seasonal. He ended season 11 in October, and will be starting season 12 in March. Levi is enjoying preschool and makes lots of art projects. He also is known on



Facebook for the precise formulas he uses to park his matchbox cars! Noa adds the feminine touch that Mommy had been missing. We were privileged to help out

with Noa's adoption in Minnesota in 2018 around Thanksgiving. She just recently turned 1 year old! Chantel enjoys meeting with friends and (most of the time) keeping ahead of a 4-year-old and 1-year-old. Plus she does a lot of work for family businesses and projects. We were able to spend time with our California Bartsches earlier this year at Jonathan and Katie Krutz's wedding in Omaha. Above, L to R, Noa, Jeff, Levi, Chantel.

This last May we closed on a house in Omaha. We now have a permanent home to stay in when we are regrouping between Interim church assignments. The great thing is that our grandson Jonathon Bartsch is able to stay in the basement apartment and look out after our home in our absence. We praise the Lord for this home and we are grateful Jonathon can help us out as long as he is living in Omaha.



Esther has always enjoyed being creative with her sewing machine. Lately she has been doing a lot of quilting and creating place mats, table runners, and napkins. Here she is with a quilt she sewed for Jonathan and Katie's wedding.

We enjoy hearing from you at Christmas time. We wish you God's blessings as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday, and as we journey into 2020. May God bless you, and help you to be a blessing!

Love in Jesus,

Jim and Esther Bartsch



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