

# Obituaries

## Maynard Eugene Wright Sept. 4, 1915 - Oct. 11, 2011

Maynard Eugene Wright was born Sept. 4, 1915, to Joseph Gibson and Nora Belle (Moss) Wright in Ruskin, Neb. He died on Oct. 11, 2011, at the Rawlins County Hospital in Atwood. The family moved to an unimproved farm north of Bird City in the spring of 1916. They lived in a granary while their house was being built. As a youngster he was responsible for feeding and watering the farm horses. When there was no wind, he would climb the windmill and turn the blades to supply water for the animals.

Maynard walked one mile with his brothers and sisters to country grade school at the red Brick School House 51. He hunted and checked animal traps on his way to and from school. His loaded rifle was placed in the back of the classroom for safe keeping. He graduated from Bird City High School where he made a cedar chest and a footstool while in Industrial Arts classes. All three of his future children learned to walk using this footstool. Maynard played football in high school and learned to swim in the Phil Fishbeck swimming pool which was two blocks east of the water tower. His high school graduation ceremony was cancelled because of a dirty 30's dust storm. He also attended one semester at McCook Junior College. When he was 15, his mother Nora died. Maynard continued to work at home and for neighbors, shucking corn for five cents per bushel. He also rented some ground that he farmed with a junked Lawson tractor and out-of-date machinery that he was able to repair for use.

In 1937, after the wheat was planted and there was no work to be found, he and four friends traveled by car as they followed the harvest through Colorado, Idaho and California. They picked potatoes and cotton and topped beets.

In the Spring of 1938, he had an opportunity to rent 480 acres of ground. At the time, the fields had dirt piles to the top of the fence posts from the drought and wind. However, by the spring of 1939, he had visions of his wheat yielding well only to watch the

drought dash his hopes. He dated and became engaged to Ruby Lucille Query. He frequently said he got her for a dime at a local dance. It was his buy of a lifetime! On May 14, 1939, Maynard and Lucille were married by Reverend Thomas Parrot at the Bird City Methodist parsonage.

In 1940, Maynard and Lucille moved to a second farm home 12 miles southeast of Bird City. When rationing made it difficult to get food, gas, tires, cars or tractors, he repaired and built the necessary farm machinery and home appliances.

Their son Gerald Jay was born Dec. 29, 1941, daughter Roberta Eileen followed on Oct. 7, 1944, and Donald Royce was born April 11, 1947. Maynard and Lucille were active in their small community. In the mid 1940s when Maynard discovered the telephone wires or insulators were broken, he would stand in the trunk of his car to repair them. In the mid 1950s, when the telephone company supplied the taller telephone poles and wire, Maynard and his neighbors provided the labor to install them. He also promoted the Rural Electric Association by holding farmer REA meetings in their home. Their children accompanied their parents to most events. The family was regular worshippers at Center Church and later the Bird City Methodist Church where Maynard served for a time on the church board and was a lifetime member. Maynard joined the Bird City Community Club and was active in its holiday and philanthropic events. Maynard and Lucille actively supported school activities, rarely missed a sporting event, class play or graduation. Maynard also served on the Bird City Alumni Committee and received much enjoyment from acting in several fund raising plays. When his children were in 4-H, he was a square dance instructor. Occasionally, square dances were held in the granary on their farm. He was always very interested in new inventions and was the second person in Bird City to have a television set. He was a thrifty sort and never saw any value in tossing something out that seemed outdated. He

retiring in 1989. Junior and Jerry celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary on Oct. 3 of this year when Jerry said that "the best parts of life are the little ones all added up."

## Clarence Junior Cress Sept. 17, 1930 - Oct. 8, 2011

Clarence Junior Cress was born on Sept. 17, 1930, on a farm south of Bird City in Cheyenne County, Kan. He died on Oct. 8, 2011, in Lakewood, Colo., where he and his wife had been living with their daughter and son-in-law. Junior was one of eight children (Lohrene, Charlie, Lee, Junior, Dan, Bill, Jim and Denny) born to Emma Eve Peter Cress and Clarence Luther Cress, all of whom preceded him in death.

On Oct. 3, 1948, Junior married Geraldine "Jerry" Alden, daughter of Hazel and Ervin Alden. Three children were born to this union: Patrick, Gloria and Dan. Junior started working for the Bird City Post Office in 1950 and was a rural mail carrier for many years,

and wife Vicki of St. Francis; Gloria Riemer and husband Kenny of Lakewood, Colo.; Dan Cress and wife Linda of Aurora, Colo.; eight grandchildren; Tammy, Aimee, Lisa, Jennifer, Michael, Thomas, Katherine and Stephanie; and five great-granddaughters; Dale, Caitlin, Allyson, Lakyn and Layne.

Junior is survived by his wife Jerry; three children, Patrick Cress

was the last original member of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association. He restored two steam engines, a threshing machine, his 1938 gas tractor, a player piano and numerous other items. He was the consummate farmer and always had a huge respect for the care of the land. He enjoyed painting and drawing and would do a chalk rendering every Christmas on the living room chalk board. After moving to their new home in town, in 1962, he started taking art classes and produced many pieces of historical scenes around the Bird City area. He was always totally devoted to his wife, Lucille, and enjoyed visiting with his family and friends. He took special joy when interacting with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Melvin and Floyd; his sisters LaVeda Marcellus and Mabel Robertson. He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife Lucille (Query), his son Gerald and wife Phyllis (Dankenbring) Wright, his daughter Eileen and husband Jim Moon, his son Donald and wife Donna (Geyer), his grandchildren Anita (Wright) Diltz and husband Shane, Dale Wright and wife Erin (Townsend), Whitney Moon and wife Jennifer (Bauersfeld), Heather (Moon) and husband Jim Piper, Rebecca (Moon) and husband Michael Leibowitz, Duane Wright, Douglas Wright and wife Shawna (Reynolds), Dennis Wright and wife Dana (Carpenter), and DeAndrea Wright and husband Dave Krien, 25 great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was held Oct. 15, 2011 at the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City. Honorary pallbearers were Terry Burns, Robert Brubaker, Rick DeHaven, Marvin Corder, Orion Corder, Norman Dorsch, Jim Leisure, Carol Markley and Roy Shrader.

Casket bearers were his grandchildren: Dale Wright, Anita Diltz, Dennis Wright, Duane Wright, DeAndrea Krien, Whitney Moon, Heather Piper, Rebecca Leibowitz and Douglas Wright.

Burial was in the Bird City Cemetery, Bird City.



VARIOUS BIBLES were displayed during the celebration. The oldest Bible is in the center and belonged to Paul Roesener's parents. It is printed in German. Times photos by Edna Roesener

# Church celebrates 100th year

By Edna Roesener

On Sunday Oct. 9, Pastor David Rossbach conducted the service for the 135 participants who attended the celebration of the St. John Lutheran Church's 100th year anniversary.

Services began with Austin Cobb directing the processional hymn: "Lift High the Cross," with Joan Molleker on the piano, Sandy Binning at the organ, and Joshua Keltz as the trumpeter.

The congregation was asked to dedicate the altar cross which was offered in thanksgiving and offering thanks to Jim Bell (Robert Bell's brother who made the cross) and the Bell families, for making the altar cross dedication possible.

The congregation was then asked to dedicate the chair lift in memory of Roy Troutt and family.

The anniversary homily was given by Pastor Clayton Nietreld using the text Romans 1:16. The theme was "The Joy and Power of Proclaiming the Gospel of Salvation".

The offering will go to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Disaster, World Hunger or St. John Lutheran Church. Remembrances of family members were recognized through donations.

Children's time was conducted by Dana Barnett. The children were the banner bearers, presenting the Colors of Faith. After the dinner Ms. Barnett provided activities to entertain the children.

Liturgists were Pastor Rossbach, and Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler.

Lectors were: PMA Phil Knox, Pastor Howard Ellis, and Pastor Ron Roberts.

Holy communion was distributed by Intinction of station.

The congregation was then asked to congregate outside for a group picture. After which everyone who wished to stay was

invited to proceed to the basement for a noon meal of: grilled pork chops, cheesy potatoes, corn, rolls and drinks. The anniversary cake was served for dessert.

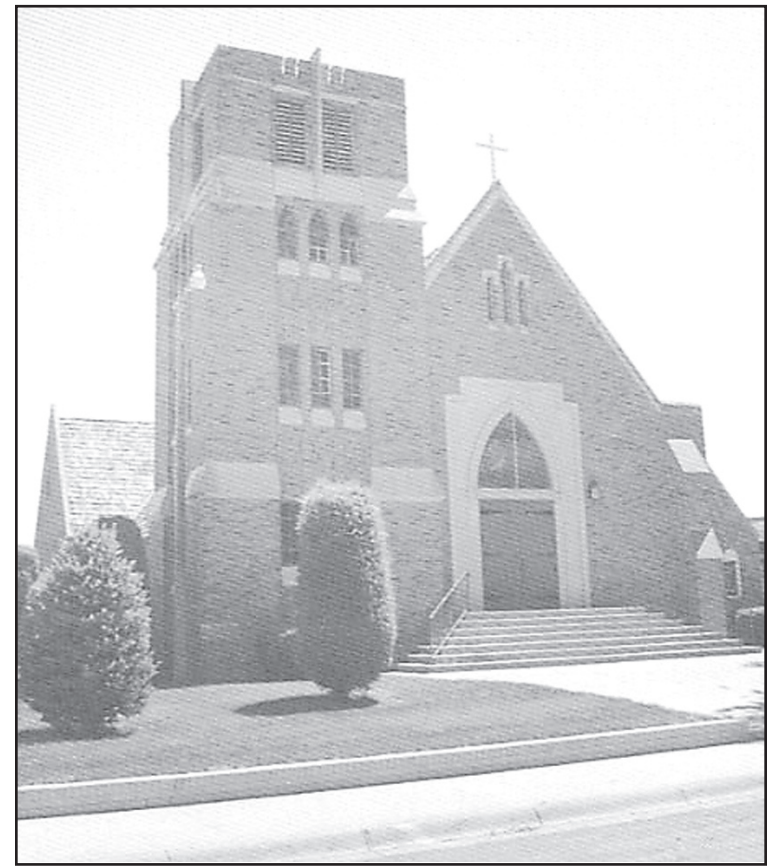
After the noon meal those who wanted to stay returned upstairs for; the reading of letters, sharing of stories and memories of St. John congregation from former pastors, guests and members.

On Saturday, memorabilia

books, pictures, and confirmation photos were on display. The quilting ladies room had many quilts and pictures of quilts on display.

As guests entered the sanctuary, they were asked to sign the guest book.

Without the many people and their dedicated work, the anniversary would not have been possible.



St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City

## St. Francis 16th Annual Craft Show

Saturday, Nov. 5 • 10 a.m.-3 p.m. CT

St. Francis Grade School • 307 E. Webster

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- Handmade Lamps • Doll Cradles & Bedding • Quilts • Handmade Leather Items
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or email: coc@cityofstfrancis.net

## School Menu

Oct. 24 - Oct. 27

**Monday**

Breakfast: apple crispsitos.  
Lunch: oven-fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy.

**Tuesday**

Breakfast: banana muffins, sausage links.  
Lunch: taco salad, rice, dessert.

**Wednesday**

Breakfast: blueberry scones,

yogurt.

Lunch: spaghetti with meat sauce, vegetable, breadsticks.

**Thursday**

Breakfast: breakfast pizza.  
Lunch: fish patty, macaroni and cheese, vegetable.

Breakfast is daily served with toast, cereal, juice and milk.

Lunch is daily served with salad bar, fruit and milk.

# Flu Shot Clinic

When: Friday, Nov. 4

What Time: 7:30 a.m.

to 4 p.m.

Where: Cheyenne County Health Clinic (St. Francis)

For more information contact

Mila Bandel, RN

County Health Nurse at 785-332-2381



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