

## AUGUST – SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHTS

### Spotlight - Gwenyth Jayne Curtis – 6th Ward – August 22

Gwen is our little sweetheart. She is the oldest child in our family and is such a good example to us and to her siblings. She is always making us laugh and also making sure that we're doing the right thing, like saying our prayers and reading our scriptures. Gwen is sensitive to others' feelings, and she is aware of people around her that she can befriend and help. She loves to make others happy and is very kind. Gwen has such a strong desire to do what is right and to follow our Savior's example. You can see that the light of Christ shines through her countenance. Gwen loves to draw, paint, color and do pretty much anything with art. She creates some of the coolest things all by herself just using her imagination. She is very creative. She is always singing and making up songs that are super silly. Gwen also loves to rock climb, play basketball, play soccer, and dance. Gwen works very hard to learn and do what is expected of her at home and at school. Gwen has been so excited to get baptized, and we are so proud of her decision to take this first step in returning to live with her Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ again. We are grateful for her example in showing her brothers and sister how to follow Jesus Christ. We love her so much.

### Spotlight - Jacob Michael Rogers (aka Rocket) – 4th Ward – August 1st

We are so blessed to have Jake in our family. He not only has the biggest beautiful brown eyes but the biggest heart. He is kind to all, especially his siblings. His little brother thinks he's the greatest kid ever! Jake gets along with everyone and is a very loyal friend. He loves to play sports, especially soccer, basketball and tennis, any chance he gets. He is willing to work diligently for the things he wants to excel at. He is also a great student. Jake was born with a desire to learn and has spent MANY hours asking me questions about every subject out there. He's a great reader with an incredibly active imagination. He is always the one to remind us to say nightly prayers with he and his little brother. I can see and feel the love Jake has for our Heavenly Father. He thought long and hard about whether or not he wanted to be baptized and decided on his own that this was right. Jake will be an amazing missionary and leader one day because of the kind sincere soul he is. We love you buddy! We are so happy you decided to be a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

### Spotlight - Collin Thaddeus Carter – 7th Ward – August 1st

We feel so blessed to have Collin in our family! We're so excited and happy that he has chosen to be baptised and make covenants with the Lord. Collin has a strong testimony that he nourishes with daily prayer and scripture study. He has read the New Testament and Book of

Mormon with our family. He has also read the Pearl of Great Price on his own and is currently working on the Doctrine and Covenants. Because of this, Collin has a close relationship with His Heavenly Father and His Savior. He has been looking forward to his baptism, when he could make covenants with them and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Collin also has many other talents and gifts. He is a hard worker, a loving brother to his 5 siblings, and a great friend. He's always looking for ways to serve others and make them feel happy and loved. Some of Collin's other interests include rock climbing, riding his bike, learning interesting science facts and reading. He wants to be a wildlife biologist for his career when he is grown.

#### Spotlight - McKenna Rose Salmon – 6th Ward – August 1st

We are so excited for McKenna and the choice that she has made to be baptized. McKenna has been the baby of our family until just a few months ago. She has been a great help with her new little baby brother. She loves to hold him, read to him, and does her best to help him stop crying when he starts to cry. She has a very good imagination. Lately she has liked to do challenges. She tried to go a half a day without leaving her parents room, it was a long half of a day!! She is a happy girl, and has the cutest laugh. When she starts to laugh it usually will get you to smile, if not laugh yourself. McKenna loves music and dancing. There are songs that we hear in the car that she knows better than her mom when they come on. McKenna is very excited to be baptized. She has been talking about it for quite awhile. This was her "golden" birthday. Her birthday was on the 8th, she got her ears pierced, and best of all she gets to be baptized. She loves Jesus and Heavenly Father very much.

#### September Baptisms

##### Spotlight – Luke Barton Sanders – 4th Ward – September 5

Your name means “giver of light” and that is exactly what you do, you radiate light. From the moment you were placed on my chest I knew you were special. The first feelings I had while holding you were of complete love and an overwhelming feeling testifying that my spirit knew you before we came to this earth and that I had been waiting to be reunited with you. I feel so grateful to be your mother. You are kind. You are compassionate. You are obedient. You love to snuggle. You are silly. You are funny. You want what is best for everyone. You find joy in the simple things. You are a disciple of Christ. Your prayers are so tender and beautiful. When I told you different Saturday's in the month of September you could be baptized you were upset and said that none of them were soon enough! You wanted to be baptized the very day you turned eight years old! You made a countdown chain and have been counting down the days to be baptized. I have been looking through old pictures of you leading up to your birthday and baptism and in every picture you radiate light. And most of your pictures you are either being a

total goof ball or you are holding or snuggling your brothers! We are all lucky to have you in our life. Thank you for being one of four of my greatest teachers. I love you and am so proud of your decision this day to follow Christ and be baptized. Love, Mom

#### Spotlight Michael Tyler Olsen – 1st Ward – Sept, 27

This is Michael Tyler Olsen, but he likes to be called Mikey. Mikey loves sports and is currently participating in flag football and soccer. He is a great friend and is always making new friends. He is in the 2nd grade and excels in math and reading. He loves sharing a room with his brother Josh and feels particularly grown up since he moved down to the basement with his big brothers. In his free time Michael likes to play Legos and Nintendo. Michael is a name from the scriptures. Latter day revelation tells us that Michael is the name of the arch angel Adam. As the song Follow the Prophet states “Adam served the Lord by following his ways”. Michael you are like Adam and serve the Lord by following his ways. You always remind us to pray and read our scriptures. You have a strong desire to follow your Savior and get baptized. Mikey, our family is proud of you and your decision to get baptized and love watching you as you progress on the covenant path.

#### Spotlight- Thomas Holmes Wasson – 4th Ward – Sept, 5

We have been so blessed to have your sweet and energetic spirit in our home every day since you arrived 8 years ago today. I remember when I said how much I would miss you when you moved out of the house and you said, “It’s ok mom, I have special faraway seeing eyes so I will still be able to see you.” A few years later I brought that story up and you told me sadly that you really didn’t have far away seeing eyes. It’s true, you don’t have far away seeing eyes, but you are about to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost which is by far a better power. It will always be with you as long as you do what is right and it will help you discern between right and wrong. You have always had a strong fighting spirit that helped get you through your first few weeks in the NICU and that fighting spirit will continue to guide you throughout your life so you can go forward with faith and confidence. You are so loving toward your friends and family and have always had a very tender heart that has helped you gain love for those around you, a strong testimony of our savior Jesus Christ and a true love for the scriptures—which you always remember to read. You would give anything—even if it was something you loved very much...to make those around you happy. You are very courageous, creative, adventurous and have a wonderful sense of humor. I love that you chose to be baptized because you want to be like Jesus AND because you want to be a good example to your little brother. We are so blessed to have you and I will be forever grateful that I am your mother.

#### Spotlight - Braxton Chad West – 4th Ward – Sept 26

Today is Braxton's big day and what an important day it is, he has made the choice to be baptized and become a member of our Heavenly Father's church. As Braxton's parents, Larry and I want him to know how proud we are of him for this decision and that we are so very thankful to have been given the opportunity to have Braxton be a very special part of our family. Braxton was a bit of a surprise, but the most wonderful type of surprise and he filled a void that we did not know existed until he filled it. As the youngest, Braxton has felt the pressure of trying to keep up with his much older siblings, but has always risen to the occasion. Braxton is a very charismatic boy, always ready for an adventure. He loves being the center of attention and naturally becomes the life of the party. Braxton has a very playful personality, but can also focus and achieve what he sets his mind to. He has a natural ability to adapt to most situations or obstacles. Braxton is very observant and doesn't miss much. He is very independent, and hard working and helps out around the house without being asked. One of his new favorite chores is mowing the lawn and he will get it done before his Dad can even get outside to assist him. He reminds me a lot of Nephi ready to go and do the things that the Lord commands. I know that when Heavenly Father has a special task for Braxton, he will have already completed it before the invitation was fully extended. I also would describe Braxton as a good friend, very kind, sharing, friendly, brave, creative, and has a strong desire to learn. Braxton is so talented, he learned to ride a scooter at 2, a bike at 3 and to ski on his own at the age of 4. He quickly became a great skier, which makes his Dad very proud. He also loves mountain biking, soccer, flag football, basketball, swimming and he enjoys all things outdoors. Braxton we love you and want you to know that your Heavenly Father loves you too. We look forward to watching you progress at anything you strive for in life, and as the Dr. Seuss Book states, "Congratulations, today is your day, you're off to great places, you're off and away. You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes You can steer yourself any direction you choose. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go. Oh the places you'll go...kid you'll move mountains!" Love, Mom & Dad