

FRANZ JULIUS BILTZ

Undaunted Servant in Eventful Times

BORN: **JULY 25, 1825** *Mittel-Frohna, Saxony, Germany*

DIED: **NOVEMBER 19, 1908** *Concordia, Mo.*

FRANZ JULIUS BILTZ CAME TO AMERICA in 1839 as part of the Saxon migration. He was 13 years old and one of the first students in the Log Cabin College in Perry County, Mo. He grew up to be a key figure in the early history of the Synod.

While still a seminary student, Biltz attended the founding convention of the Synod in 1847. The following year, he received his first call as a pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Friedheim (Dissen), Cape Girardeau County, Mo. In 1849, he married Maria von Wurmb, a member of the Saxon group and a former student at the Log Cabin College. From 1853, he served a Lutheran congregation in Cumberland, Md.

In 1860, Biltz accepted a call to serve as a pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cook's Store, Lafayette County, Mo. He was also the postmaster there and later changed the name of the town to "Concordia."

On their 13th wedding anniversary, October 5, 1862, the Biltzes endured a great hardship. It was a frightening time during the Civil War. Concordia was in an area backing the Union cause but surrounded by Confederate supporters. "Bushwhackers" on the side of the secessionists attacked Concordia and kidnapped Pastor Biltz and a group from the congregation. The bushwhackers killed all but two of the men. Biltz was spared, in part through Maria's plea on his behalf. The family was reunited, but their joy was mixed with mourning at the loss of others in the congregation.

Undaunted, Biltz continued his pastoral work. After the war he was instrumental in founding four other congregations and four parochial schools in western Missouri. He served as president of the Western District of the Missouri Synod from 1875 to 1891, a period of dramatic growth in the Synod. In 1883, he played a leading role in the establishment of St. Paul's College in Concordia, Mo.

The Biltzes had thirteen children, only seven of whom lived to adulthood and two of those still died before their parents. Two of their daughters married sons of C.F.W. Walther; another daughter married the son of F.C.D. Wyneken.

In 1891, Maria von Wurmb Biltz died at the age of 61. Franz Julius continued to serve as pastor in Concordia for ten more years until illness forced his retirement. He died there in 1908, at the age of 83.

Biltz served as a pastor for more than 50 years, many of them eventful. By God's grace he persevered and remained faithful to his calling as a servant proclaiming God's Word to His people.

For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit lcms.org/175.

DISCOVER MORE

William Arndt, "Several Episodes from the Life of the Sainted Pastor F. J. Biltz," *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 6, no. 2 (July 1933): 41–52

Lee R. Hagan, "Franz Julius Biltz: A Faithful Shepherd During the Terrors of the Civil War," *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 88, no. 4 (Winter 2015): 7–16.



1847 . 2022

ONLY JESUS
NO OTHER NAME

– 175 YEARS –



FRANZ JULIUS BILTZ

Undaunted Servant in Eventful Times

BORN: **JULY 25, 1825** *Mittel-Frohna, Saxony, Germany*

DIED: **NOVEMBER 19, 1908** *Concordia, Mo.*

FRANZ JULIUS BILTZ CAME TO AMERICA in 1839 as part of the Saxon migration. He was 13 years old and one of the first students in the Log Cabin College in Perry County, Mo. He grew up to be a key figure in the early history of the Synod.

While still a seminary student, Biltz attended the founding convention of the Synod in 1847. The following year, he received his first call as a pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Friedheim (Dissen), Cape Girardeau County, Mo. In 1849, he married Maria von Wurmb, a member of the Saxon group and a former student at the Log Cabin College. From 1853, he served a Lutheran congregation in Cumberland, Md.

In 1860, Biltz accepted a call to serve as a pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cook's Store, Lafayette County, Mo. He was also the postmaster there and later changed the name of the town to "Concordia."

On their 13th wedding anniversary, October 5, 1862, the Biltzes endured a great hardship. It was a frightening time during the Civil War. Concordia was in an area backing the Union cause but surrounded by Confederate supporters. "Bushwhackers" on the side of the secessionists attacked Concordia and kidnapped Pastor Biltz and a group from the congregation. The bushwhackers killed all but two of the men. Biltz was spared, in part through Maria's plea on his behalf. The family was reunited, but their joy was mixed with mourning at the loss of others in the congregation.

Undaunted, Biltz continued his pastoral work. After the war he was instrumental in founding four other congregations and four parochial schools in western Missouri. He served as president of the Western District of the Missouri Synod from 1875 to 1891, a period of dramatic growth in the Synod. In 1883, he played a leading role in the establishment of St. Paul's College in Concordia, Mo.

The Biltzes had thirteen children, only seven of whom lived to adulthood and two of those still died before their parents. Two of their daughters married sons of C.F.W. Walther; another daughter married the son of F.C.D. Wyneken.

In 1891, Maria von Wurmb Biltz died at the age of 61. Franz Julius continued to serve as pastor in Concordia for ten more years until illness forced his retirement. He died there in 1908, at the age of 83.

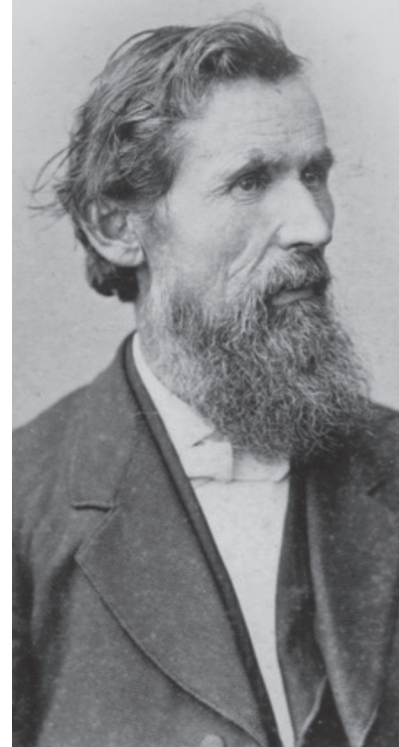
Biltz served as a pastor for more than 50 years, many of them eventful. By God's grace he persevered and remained faithful to his calling as a servant proclaiming God's Word to His people.

For more information about the 175th anniversary of the LCMS, visit lcms.org/175.

DISCOVER MORE

William Arndt, "Several Episodes from the Life of the Sainted Pastor F. J. Biltz," *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 6, no. 2 (July 1933): 41–52

Lee R. Hagan, "Franz Julius Biltz: A Faithful Shepherd During the Terrors of the Civil War," *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* 88, no. 4 (Winter 2015): 7–16.



1847 2022

ONLY JESUS
NO OTHER NAME

– 175 YEARS –

