Obituary

Jordan Keith Carlson

1983-2026



Jordan Keith Carlson was born on August 25, 1983, and passed away suddenly on November 6, 2026, at the age of 43.

Born in Gothenburg, NE, to Keith and Jodi Carlson, Jordan grew up on the family farm. He enjoyed the country life. Living on top of a canyon made for lots of fort building, epic paintball battles, and games of hide-and-seek. He liked hunting, boating, ice hockey, running around with "The Cousins" and working on farm tasks and projects with Dad. Of course, he always had time to pester and annoy his sisters.

He attended grade school at Liberty Heights Christian School in Gothenburg, NE. At Arnold High School, he competed in sports, had lots of fun with his classmates and friends, and graduated in 2002. After high school, Jordan went to New Tribes Bible Institute in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

While in Wisconsin, he built upon his welding knowledge taught by his dad, while working for a metal fabrication company. Upon completion of his studies, he returned to Lincoln, NE, where he attended the University of Nebraska, and earned a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Mechanized Systems Management.

He married Elizabeth (Purcell) Carlson, the love of his life, on July 8, 2006. Knowing each other since childhood through family friendships, the connection grew into a spark – maybe a bit quicker for Jordan than Liz. After much persuasion, Liz agreed to a date, to a few more dates and then proms. Yet Liz kept him wondering. The persuading finally turned into 2.5 years of long distance dating and eventually blossomed into 20 years of a beautiful marriage. He claimed they "met in the sandbox."

They spent their first few years of marriage in Lincoln, where Liz helped put him through school at UNL, working nights as a nurse. Upon graduation, Jordan worked at E3 Biofuels in Mead, NE. This job added yet another layer to the foundation of his developing vision for the future of agriculture and its potential for innovation.

The call of the farm had never been silenced. In 2008, he and Liz moved back to the land he loved. They purchased a 160 acre dryland farm with a trailer house on Tallin Table. During their time at Table 4, Lainy was born. In 2011, they moved to a property that they purchased in Sand Valley, west of Callaway. They welcomed Gideon, Claire, and Jude to the family and continued raising their children in the country. He found great joy and immense pride in being a father to his beautiful children, day in and day out and in knowing he was raising them to know the Lord. His love for his family surpassed even his passion for the land.

Jordan gave his life to Jesus at an early age and never stopped being a servant. Together, he and Liz grew in their faith and pursued the Lord's purposes for their family. He loved their church and church family, serving as an elder. He was a beloved Sunday school teacher to the early elementary class. Bestowing them each with special a nickname.

As a farmer, Jordan had a passion for learning everything he could about the life of the soil that he knew God created. Over the years he developed a network of experts and like-minded farmers to help him in this journey. His goal was to restore what damaging practices had degraded and implemented practices that healed and enhanced soil health. He even added cattle to the operation! Most of the equipment on the farm he modified, or designed and built to accomplish his style of farming. He took pleasure in seeing how these practices brought an increase in wildlife population, which translated into hunting opportunities for the family.

The roles he played were vast in number: husband, father, son, brother, friend, and leader. He fulfilled each role and relationship with intention and integrity. This intentionality left an impact on every person in his life, no matter the role or relationship.

He is survived by his beautiful wife Elizabeth (Purcell) Carlson, their children: Lainy (15), Gideon (13), Claire (11), and Jude (9); parents, Keith and Jodi Carlson; sisters, Jailyn (Justin) Strasburg, Joelle (Peter) Hargadine; in-laws, Lane and Patty Purcell; sisters-in-law, Naomi (Brett) Latimer, Julia Nelson; brother-in-law, David Purcell; nieces and nephews, Piper and Parker Strasburg; Zadie and Phoenix Latimer; Story, Susanna, Noble and Lucia Nelson; blessed with many dear and loving aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members, and special friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Wallace and Ruth Carlson, Clare Bargholz, and Paul and Patricia (Bargholz) Thompson; his uncle, Jeff Bargholz; and his niece, Juliet Strasburg.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations in Jordan's name to Homeward Trail Bible Camp or the Women's Resource Center.

Services were held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 14, at Cornerstone Bible Church in Gothenburg, NE. Lunch followed immediately after the service. Private burial was held at Tallin Cemetery.