

February, 2025

Dear family and friends,

It has been a banner year for us since we last wrote. We moved into our new house the beginning of November, and a few weeks later our first grandchild was born!

When we wrote last year we were hoping to break ground for the new house in March, but getting permits took a lot longer than expected so ground breaking didn't happen until June. We are happy with the results, but because of so many new requirements the whole process was a lot harder than when we built our first house, and there were a lot more unexpected expenses. The best part about the process was watching the custom panelized construction pieces arrive on 3 Wausau Homes semi-trucks in July and be unloaded by crane in just a day and a half. In one week the house was completely enclosed and shingled. We spent many months getting rid of as much stuff as we could, then had some volunteers bring some of the remaining things one day and had professional movers pack and bring the rest. After we moved we had our old house re-carpeted, painted, and cleaned and put on the market in 2 weeks. Two days later was the first showing which very thankfully turned into a full price offer. We closed on the house at the beginning of January after only having to do some minor roof repairs.

If you haven't yet, please update your address book for us to 4508 Winchester Ave, Lisle, IL 60532.

Our granddaughter Adelyn Joy Hooyer was born November 22. She came a few weeks earlier than expected and so was quite small, but mature enough to not have to go into intensive care. Sarah's doctor had previously observed that the baby was in a breech position, so as expected the delivery was by C-section. Sarah recovered well and is still enjoying a lot of quality time with Adelyn during her nearly 4 month maternity leave. Both Sarah and Aaron have settled into parenthood well. So far we've been to Minnesota to see them just once but plan to go again this weekend.

Mark still has the same job in the northwest Chicago suburbs. Unfortunately his salary hasn't increased as fast as apartment rent. He is looking for a better job in Computer Science, now hoping to find one in the Minneapolis area to be closer to a special friend from North Dakota that he met online.

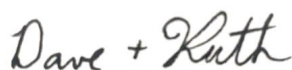
Ruth was kept busy decluttering for the move and unpacking boxes afterward. There's only a small number of unpacked boxes left. Sales were down a bit in her craft business this year but there is inventory to replace and she has been working on that in the winter as well as planning a new garden. She became an elder in our church this year and is happy that the commute for meetings is now cut in half.

In last year's letter we said that Dave was in a 2 year break from being an elder, but because Ruth is one he's actually in a 5 year break, which he doesn't mind. He led a project to get solar panels on the roof of the church sanctuary. He's still enjoying his work at Fermilab although public lectures have still not restarted and it's unclear when or even if they will. There have been struggles with a tight budget this year and a need to reduce staff and tightly control spending. Dave did have one work trip to Switzerland.

We did do a good amount of non-work traveling and enjoyed all of those trips. We went on a very fun week trip in May to O'ahu, Hawaii, with our good friends the Kostens. We also took a week driving on our own to the west side of Lake Superior at the end of August. We had weekend reunion trips with both families this summer, both in the Wisconsin Dells. We also went to southern Illinois in April to see the awesome total solar eclipse.

Since we moved we have been able to increase the pace of having people over to visit and that's been fun. It would be great to see many of you again this year. We hope you are all doing well and wish you God's blessings.

Love,



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