



THOMASON CHRISTMAS LETTER



I'M WRITING THIS LETTER ON DECEMBER 22 (I KNOW, I'M BEHIND), SO THAT MEANS THE END OF THE WORLD DIDN'T HAPPEN. **WHEW!** THAT WOULD HAVE REALLY CHANGED THE TONE OF THIS LETTER! WE AT THE THOMASON HOUSEHOLD HAVE HAD A GOOD YEAR. HERE ARE SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS WE'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU...

THIS HAS BEEN A YEAR OF CHILD ADJUSTMENTS. FIRST, TWO OF OUR CHILDREN ARE NOW **OFFICIALLY ADULTS!** SECOND, MICKI GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND MOVED ON TO COLLEGE. THIRD, OUR NIECE, ANNA, HAS COME TO LIVE WITH US FULL-TIME. THE MORE, THE MERRIER, RIGHT?



WE ALSO HAD A FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM FRANCE LIVE WITH US FOR 16 DAYS. HIS NAME IS LOUIS.



LONA CONTINUES TO HOLD DOWN THE FORT AT HOME. BETWEEN COOKING AT CHURCH AND HOME, MANAGING THE HOUSEHOLD FINANCES AND AFFAIRS, AND MAKING SURE PEOPLE GET WHERE THEY NEED TO GO, SHE SPENDS HER TIME READING VORACIOUSLY ON HER NOOK.

OUR LIFE IS A STAGE



MICKI, ETHAN, ANNA, AND LEAH ARE ALL VERY ACTIVE IN MUSIC AND THEATER AT SCHOOL AND CHURCH. MICKI AND ETHAN'S ONE ACT PERFORMANCE EVEN MADE IT TO THE FINALS IN FEBRUARY! LONA SANG ON THE WORSHIP TEAM FOR VBS THIS YEAR, AND STEVE PLAYS IN THE BAND AT CHURCH ONCE IN A WHILE. BETWEEN CHOIR CONCERTS, ORCHESTRA CONCERTS, PLAYS, AND WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES AND SUNDAY SCHOOL DRAMA, SOMEONE IN THIS FAMILY SEEMS TO ALWAYS BE PERFORMING.

Installing Pastor 2.0



0%

Nov. 2010

entered PhD at Luther Seminary

50%

Nov. 2011

100%

Nov. 2012




STEVE PASSED AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN NOVEMBER. HE WAS OFFICIALLY INSTALLED AS **ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION** AT GRACE. ITS THE SAME JOB, BUT NOW HE CAN WEAR THE COOL COLORS! THE PROCESS OF TRANSFERRING HIS ORDINATION TO THE ELCA (EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA) BEGAN IN NOVEMBER OF 2010. THE UPGRADE INSTALLATION TO PASTOR 2.0 IS NOW COMPLETE. ALSO, THIS DECEMBER HE COMPLETED THE THIRD OF FOUR SEMESTERS OF COURSE WORK FOR THE PHD. NEXT YEAR HE WILL TAKE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS IN THE FALL AND BEGIN THE DISSERTATION PROCESS.

(follow Steve's blog www.stevethomason.com)

JAMIN TURNED 20 THIS YEAR. HE CONTINUES TO ENJOY MANGA, ANIME, AND ALL THINGS NINTENDO. HE HAS BECOME AN AFICIONADO ON CLASSIC ROCK, MOTOWN, AND 80'S POP CULTURE. IF YOU WANT TO SEE HIM SMILE, PLAY THE MOVIE TRIVIA GAME *PASS THE POPCORN*. BUT, DON'T PLAN TO WIN, BECAUSE HE'S THE MASTER.



MICKI TURNED 18 THIS YEAR. SHE GRADUATED FROM COON RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL, WORKED AT TARGET OVER THE SUMMER, AND IS NOW A "FIRST YEAR" AT ST. CATHERINE UNIVERSITY IN ST. PAUL. SHE IS MAJORING IN AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETING. SHE'S ONLY HALF AN HOUR AWAY FROM HOME, SO SHE GETS TO BE INVOLVED IN FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND SEE THE KID'S CONCERTS WHEN SHE WANTS TO. SHE'S ADJUSTING WELL TO COLLEGE LIFE!



Taller than DAD! he's 6'2"

I CAN DRIVE!



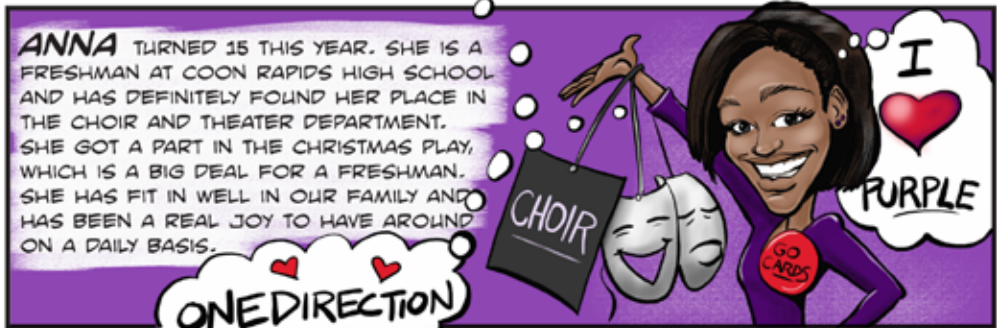
ETHAN TURNED 16 THIS YEAR AND IS A JUNIOR AT COON RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL. HE IS NOW AN OFFICIAL DRIVER! HE CONTINUES TO EXCEL IN CHOIR AND THE SPECIAL VOCAL ENSEMBLE AT SCHOOL AND MADE IT INTO THE ALL-CONFERENCE CHOIR. HE HAD A LEAD ROLE IN THE MUSICAL, FALL PLAY, AND THE CHRISTMAS PLAY. HE'S TAKING AP THIS YEAR AND REALLY ENJOYING IT. IN HIS SPARE TIME HE PRINTS T-SHIRTS, COMPOSES MUSIC, AND MAKES CUBER VIDEOS.

ANNA TURNED 15 THIS YEAR. SHE IS A FRESHMAN AT COON RAPIDS HIGH SCHOOL AND HAS DEFINITELY FOUND HER PLACE IN THE CHOIR AND THEATER DEPARTMENT. SHE GOT A PART IN THE CHRISTMAS PLAY, WHICH IS A BIG DEAL FOR A FRESHMAN. SHE HAS FIT IN WELL IN OUR FAMILY AND HAS BEEN A REAL JOY TO HAVE AROUND ON A DAILY BASIS.

I ♥ PURPLE

CHOIR

ONEDIRECTION



LEAH TURNED 13 THIS YEAR. SHE IS IN 8TH GRADE AT COON RAPIDS MIDDLE SCHOOL. SHE PLAYED TENNIS, MADE IT INTO THE HONORS ORCHESTRA WITH HER CELLO (THE ONLY 7TH GRADER TO MAKE IT, BTW), AND IS GETTING ALL A'S IN ALL HONORS CLASSES. SHE WENT ON A MISSION TRIP TO MILWAUKEE, WENT TO CAMP, AND PARTICIPATED IN A SUMMER MUSIC CAMP AT CHURCH. THIS FALL SHE GOT A PART IN THE PLAY AT SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME!

I ♥ PJ

Ich liebe Deutsch

HONORS ORCHESTRA




SHASTA TURNED 7 THIS YEAR AND IS...JUST ABOUT THE CUTEST THING IN THE WORLD!

I ♥ BONES



ON THE ROAD...

STEVE GOT TO GO TO SEATTLE FOR A CONFERENCE IN APRIL. LONA AND ETHAN SPENT A COUPLE WEEKS IN INDIANA IN JUNE HELPING HER SISTER AND HER HUSBAND, KARI AND JOE, PACK UP TO MOVE BACK TO DENVER. EVERYONE BUT STEVE GOT TO SPEND SOME TIME IN WISCONSIN VISITING THE GARRETTS IN JULY. IN AUGUST WE ALL GOT TO SPEND SOME MUCH NEEDED DOWN TIME ON VACATION WITH FAMILY IN DENVER. IT WAS A NICE TIME TO GET AWAY AND RELAX.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!