

THE CAMPEN FAMILY

Christmas 2014

In the Spotlight...

RV road trip

In June after wrapping up another busy school year, our family enjoyed a road trip out West. The first Saturday after school got out, we loaded up a (brand new!) rental 31-foot RV. Grandpa and Grandma Peterson joined us in a 25-foot rental RV. We spent 10 days seeing the beautiful sights of the Badlands, Black Hills, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Jackson WY, and Estes Park Colorado. After driving 2100 miles, we turned in the RVs and flew home from Denver, Colorado. Camping (in luxury) was a new experience for our family and a great way to see so much of the country.

Disney World

In October, Dave had a work conference to attend in Orlando so we couldn't pass up the chance to visit Disney World. Unfortunately, it wasn't during a school break, so just Amira went with mom and dad. Amira eagerly met all the characters and princesses. She is a thrill-seeker and loved the rides. Her favorite ride was Thunder Mountain roller-coaster. She also enjoyed swimming in the hotel pools. In reality, Amira LOVED everything about the trip! She thinks we should move to the hotel in Orlando, dad can work from the desk in the hotel room and we can go to Disney World everyday!



Highlights from 2014...

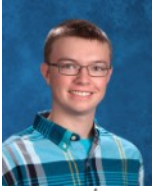
This fall has been busy with school, soccer and choirs! Amira started her second year of pre-school. She enjoys school but longs for the day she can ride the bus with all the other kids in the neighborhood. Hannah is in 8th grade. She is a great student, involved in choir at school and a community choir, and loves playing soccer! She kept us busy this summer watching her summer league soccer team and then played soccer for her middle school. Her favorite position to play is defense and she does a great job keeping the ball away from the goal! Jacob is in 11th grade. He gets a lot of mail from colleges but hasn't dived too deep into the college search yet. Jacob is also a great student and has a love and talent for singing. He is involved in 4 choirs! He continues in his 8th year singing with the Minnesota Boychoir, he sings in the top curricular choir at school and is in two extra-curricular choirs at school. If you ever want to hear some wonderful concerts I'm sure we can find one for you between Hannah and Jacob's choir involvement!



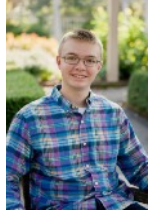
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Jacob's Jottings



Hello all! I am 16 years old in 11th grade at Rosemount High School. The day after my birthday this summer, I got my drivers license. (I really enjoy driving!) In school, I take all honors classes. In total, I am involved with 4 choirs this year - definitely enough to keep me busy! During school, I am in Concert Choir, and after school I am in both Men's Ensemble and Chamber Singers. Outside of school, I am still in Allegro of the Minnesota Boychoir. During this summer's RV trip, I really enjoyed seeing Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. They are really such beautiful places, although it was snowing in Yellowstone. I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

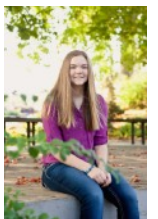


Hannah's Happenings



Hannah

Happy holidays everyone! I hope that you are having a great year so far! I'm 13 years old and in 8th grade at Rosemount Middle School. I played soccer this year and stress-injured my tibia, so that was a bummer. This summer my family and Grandpa and Grandma Peterson went on a road-trip to Colorado, and we made stops in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana. It was super fun and the scenery was beautiful. I also went to a church camp called M.U.U.C.E. which stands for Most Unbelievable Ultimate Urban Camping Experience. It was a crazy weekend going to Valleyfair, bowling, laser tag, worship services, and running on barely 6 hours of sleep over 3 days. I hope you all have a wonderful holiday!



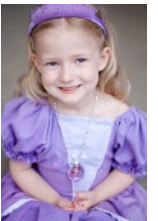
Amira's Anecdotes

(Interview style- answers are direct quotes)



Amira

How old are you? 4 1/2 **Do you go to school?** Yes **Where?** At Easter Preschool on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays **What's your favorite thing about school?** Art **Other than school, what else do we do during the week?** Oh swimming, I love swimming! I love to jump in the pool and use my alligator arms. And gymnastics, I love the big trampoline and the pit. **What is your favorite color?** dark pink is the best and dark blue and light blue are the next best. **What do you want to be when you grow-up?** That's kinda of a hard one because I want to be a lot. I want to be all my favorite princesses, Curious George, and all of the My Little Ponies. See that was a lot. **What is your favorite place to go?** Mall of America! especially the orange Pepsi Roller Coaster and Swiper Sweeper and all the rides. **Did we do one extra special thing this year?** Oh yes, that is the easiest question ever, going to Disney world and riding Thunder Mountain was the most special! **Anything else about your year we should tell people?** Oh yes, but I need to think about that for a bit. (So I guess we will be getting back to you on that one!)



Marci's Musings

I am thankful that I continue to be able to stay home to take care of our kids and home. I also continue to be active with our church, Restoration Covenant, serving on the church leadership team and hospitality team. When thinking of what is new to share with you this year, the main thing that came to mind is that I have been blessed that two different groups of women have become an important part of my life this year. One is the women's Bible study group I have through church. I am fortunate to gather with about 8 women every other week to study the Bible, pray together, and support each other. The other group is the "IF Table". A friend gathers 6 women at her house one Sunday night a month for 2 hours with 4 questions (Acts 2:46). She invites us to her home, prepares us dinner and we use 4 conversation cards to "dive deep over real stories and Christ centered conversations" (see this website if it sounds like something you might like to do: <https://ifgathering.com/new-to-the-table>). These women started as one acquaintance and 4 strangers, but it has been so fun to get to know them and start building friendships with them. Though it is a blessing and we all long for earthly love and connections, I hope that as you enjoy this holiday season that you know that you are connected to and loved by Christ whose birth is the reason we celebrate Christmas!



Dave's Declarations

I am in my 10th year working at Ties in my role as Senior Consultant in our Data Services Department. New projects at Ties keep me challenged with one of my main focuses this past year (which has been growing for the past 3 years) being role of ETL developer (sounds fancy, huh?). The software I use allows me to move and manipulate large volumes of data. I have been enjoying singing with the worship team and working the audio board at Restoration Covenant about twice a month, and am also in a men's Bible study on Saturday mornings. In my spare time, I play driving coach (friendly fatherly advice) as Jacob now has his driver's license.



We hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy and peaceful New Year!!!

Dave & Marci