

THE CAMPEN FAMILY

Christmas 2015

In the Spotlight

Family vacations

Cruising

We all love to travel so we were blessed to experience a change of scenery provided by some amazing family trips this year. For spring break in March we took a Disney Cruise. The boat was beautiful, the food more than delicious, the character interactions fun, the shows amazing, and the warm weather a welcome treat during a Minnesota winter.

Water fun

In June, were able to get away with the Campen's (Dave's parents and Dave's brother's family) for a special vacation at Great Wolf Lodge in Wisconsin Dells. The highlights were the hours spent enjoying the waterparks and all the fun and laughter playing games as a family in the evenings.

Showtime

We ended the summer with accompanying Papa Peterson (Marci's dad) to his favorite destination; Branson, Missouri. We enjoyed many music shows, Silver Dollar City amusement park, and the scenic Branson train ride.



2015 in review

2015 has been a year of change: some fun and exciting changes and some hard changes. The year started out with a very hard change. Marci's mom passed away very unexpectedly on January 31, 2015. As the year has been filled with other changes and adventures, the grief of losing a loving mom and grandma and not having her with us to experience and celebrate the changes has been hard.

Schools have been another big change for us this year. September had all three kids embarking on new adventures. Jacob started his senior year in high school so we had his last first day of school send off. Hannah started 9th grade changing schools to be at the high school. Amira started kindergarten her first every day, all day school experience.

Jacob's college search has also been an adventure preparing all of us for a big change next fall. He plans to study engineering and was accepted into several schools with excellent reputations in that field. After visiting schools throughout the summer and fall, just in time for writing our Christmas letter, Jacob decided that Iowa State (in Ames, Iowa) is the school for him. We are proud of Jacob and though it will be hard to send him off we are confident he is ready and that Iowa State will be a great fit for him.

The birth of Jesus, the reason we celebrate Christmas, gives us hope that in a world full of changes, good and bad, exciting and hard, we have the promise of God's unchanging love and eternal life with him beyond this unstable world. We pray that you will be blessed with joy and peace through during this Christmas season and into the new year.

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Jacob

Hello all! I am now 17 years old and in my senior year at Rosemount High School. I keep pretty busy with school, taking mostly college-level classes. Next year, I will be attending Iowa State University to pursue engineering. I am still heavily involved in choir - 3 at school (Concert Choir during the day, Men's Ensemble and Chamber Singers outside the school day) and the Minnesota Boychoir. This summer I also participated in the All-State Mixed Choir for a week in Moorhead, MN and will be performing with the group again in February. It was an amazing experience! I plan to find ways to stay involved in choir in college as well. I am also in a musical review show at school this December called OnStage. It is really a lot of fun! I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Jacob's



Hannah

Hello everyone! Hope you are having a good year! I'm am now 14 years old and a freshman at Rosemount High School. This year I am also in OnStage, a singing and dancing show that Jacob is involved in. It is an honor to get in as a freshman, and I'm super excited to be in it! Last spring, our family went on a Disney Cruise! It was amazing, we went to St. Thomas, Puerto Rico, and Disney's island in the Bahamas, Castaway Cay. I hope everyone has a great holiday season and a fantastic New Year!

Hannah's Happenings

(Interview style- answers are direct quotes)

How old are you? 5 1/2 **Do you go to school?** Yes, I'm in Kindergarten.

I love school because this is my first year. What's your favorite thing

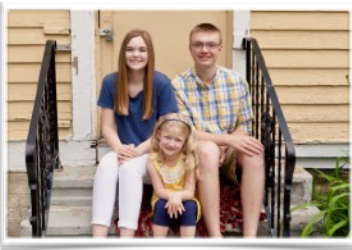
about school? Computers and library and my teacher Mrs. Thompson. Her real name is Shelia but we call her Mrs. Thompson, even though we know her first name, because she is a teacher. She is the best teacher ever. **Other than school, what else do you like to do?** Play with my friends. I dance on Tuesdays and I love it. I do swim lessons. I like swimming because we swim the whole length of the pool. I love swimming on my back the best. **What is your favorite color?** Pink, blue, orange and green. **What do you want to be when you grow-up?** A tooth fairy because they give money to other people. And I'll get wings because you have to fly to be a tooth fairy because otherwise they would see you and flying is the quickest way. **What is your favorite place to go?** Mall of America for all the rides. My favorite ride is the Pepsi rollercoaster, it is really fun. **What are some special things you remember from this year?** We went to see The Wizard of Oz at the Children's theater. I went to Toys 'R Us with Papa Peterson for my half birthday and got to pick out some toys. Ohh, and I got a giant Milky Way for Halloween while trick-or-treating. **Anything else about your year we should tell people?** No, I don't have anything else.

Amira's Anecdotes



Amira

What is your favorite thing about school? Computers and library and my teacher Mrs. Thompson. Her real name is Shelia but we call her Mrs. Thompson, even though we know her first name, because she is a teacher. She is the best teacher ever. **Other than school, what else do you like to do?** Play with my friends. I dance on Tuesdays and I love it. I do swim lessons. I like swimming because we swim the whole length of the pool. I love swimming on my back the best. **What is your favorite color?** Pink, blue, orange and green. **What do you want to be when you grow-up?** A tooth fairy because they give money to other people. And I'll get wings because you have to fly to be a tooth fairy because otherwise they would see you and flying is the quickest way. **What is your favorite place to go?** Mall of America for all the rides. My favorite ride is the Pepsi rollercoaster, it is really fun. **What are some special things you remember from this year?** We went to see The Wizard of Oz at the Children's theater. I went to Toys 'R Us with Papa Peterson for my half birthday and got to pick out some toys. Ohh, and I got a giant Milky Way for Halloween while trick-or-treating. **Anything else about your year we should tell people?** No, I don't have anything else.



This has been a tough year. My mom passed away very unexpectedly, one day after her 71st birthday. It has been a year shadowed by sadness, experiencing many special events, that my mom should have been at, and learning to find joy and happiness despite learning to live without my mom. I'm very thankful that at this time I do not need to work out of the home so that I can be available to see the kids off to school and welcome them home after school. While they are at school, there is never a shortage of things to keep me busy whether that be keeping up with the housework, volunteering in Amira's classroom, participating in a women's Bible study, helping my dad, keeping up with tasks for my role on the Leadership Team at church, or occasionally taking a bit of time to indulge in one of my favorite pastimes- reading a good book or having lunch and seeing a show with friends.

Marci's Musings

I am in my 11th year working at Ties and am the Senior ETL Developer. What does ETL mean? Extract Transform and Load. In street talk it could be called data ninja, or in other words, I take data from many sources and blend/massage the data to be used elsewhere. I truly enjoy this work as it regularly exercises my problem solving skills. I have been enjoying singing with the worship team and working the audio (sound) board at Restoration Covenant, and am also in a men's Bible study.

Dave's Declarations

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

Dave & Marci