

Merry Christmas from the Rhodes family!

As we finish off 2020, we wanted to write out a Christmas letter. This year has been difficult for many, but we have much to be thankful for. We have stayed healthy, praise God. We have a roof over our heads, heat, and air conditioning, food in the refrigerator, and plenty of entertainment options. We are very blessed. Most importantly, we can be grateful for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We can be grateful that we have the abundant life that Jesus offers (John 10:10), and the eternal life that Jesus freely gives. We have the Holy Spirit living within us, the Word of God to teach, equip, convict, and guide us, and we still have a wonderful church family. We have much to be grateful for. In the midst of a difficult year, we can be grateful.



Our children continue to get older and smarter. Mercedes finished second grade and Abigail finished kindergarten. They finished those grades with a virtual education. However, pre-COVID-19, we were able to participate in the daddy-daughter dance. With the onset of COVID-19 in March, Bethel Friends went mostly virtual until the end of May. On May 31, Bethel Friends opened again with certain precautions. Throughout the summer we tried to continue ministry with many variations in how we do things. We have had way more ministry outdoors! That has been exciting.



Throughout the summer we were able to build a deck that goes to our pool (thanks to dad Murphy for his help with that, actually, I (Steve) mainly helped him). We were then able to enjoy our pool for a second year. During these cool (getting cold) December days, we miss the summer days in the pool. We had great family time outdoors! In July, Mercedes got her ears pierced as a gift for her ninth birthday. In the end of July and beginning of August we traveled by car to visit Steve's brother's family in Wisconsin.



With the end of August, the kids started in-person school again. Abigail began first grade and Mercedes began third grade. It was a rough start for Abigail. She did



NOT like being away from home so much, but she did adjust and now seems happy at school. Mercedes was baptized in an outdoor service. Also, Mercedes started playing basketball, and she loves it! Abigail just turned seven (December 4th) and she also got her ears pierced. We are heading towards Christmas and looking forward to celebrating our Savior's birth.



Have a wonderful Christmas!



Steve, Meagan, Mercedes, and Abigail

Matthew 1:23:

"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

