



Maggie & Nate record bells for Ukrainian Carol Vacation with Irene (Left) and Josh (Right) and their families.



Hot dog cookout at church retreat (Can you identify 8 of our family members?) Alé, Hope, & Jed replace a counter

Happy New Year Catch-Up

Shortly after our last newsletter, we conducted our first **church retreat** since 2014. The biggest downside was that it made us feel more keenly the loss of the families that had left us over the year, but the teaching sessions by Mark Travers on **Biblical conflict resolution** were excellent, and I also got to **baptize** a couple of folks in the lake!

For the rest of the fall, in addition to regular church activity, we had some special church events, including an **infant baptism**, an **infant dedication**, attending my first **Simeon Trust preaching workshop**, hosting a **Reformation Day festival**, multiple **counseling** issues, and a prayer meeting to banish a **ghost** from a member's apartment building! **Paula** also **visited her mom** in NC, taught **childbirth education** classes, **babysat** a lot of grandkids, put on a community **dance**, and we finished producing the **Kansan Celts Christmas** music album. Then we took a week of **vacation** in CO over Thanksgiving with our oldest son Josh and our daughter Irene and their families.

After Thanksgiving, we jumped into the **Bethlehem Revisited** outreach, acting out the Christmas story, singing, and preaching the gospel alongside friends from a dozen local churches to about 800 guests each night. We also **marketed** our Christmas music (including getting interviewed by a local radio station!) and got a few hundred listeners on Spotify. We also **remodeled** our bathrooms and kitchen and hosted a **Messiah-Sing**. And there were so many **guests** for Christmas and New Year's that we celebrated our own family Christmas a week later at a pastor retreat place, where we also planned out the coming year.

We hope you'll overlook the fact that our "Christmas" letter is late!

Family News In Pictures



Big kids-at-home learning how to walk on water (ice)



Nate reads to grands



3 Generations: Paula, Annie, & Maggie



Nate praying with Maggie and Jed after discipleship



Paula holds new grandbaby Elanor

Kid's Corner: Aletheia

Hello fans! Lots of things have happened in my life these past



two years since my last "corner." Some highlights have been: learning to drive, playing cello in the youth orchestra, getting a baby-sitting job, receiving coronavirus thrice, hosting Scottish country dances, and wrangling

all my new nieces and nephews. I also recently discovered Airsoft with Jed and my two adopted brothers (aka neighbors), and I enjoy pretty much anything else that involves the great outdoors, hanging out with friends and cousins, and/or dancing! In

my morning devotions I have been learning the importance of being humble and thinking before I say or do things. These are not things that come naturally to me, of course. I'm also finding things to be thankful for; this helps me see blessings God gives me throughout the day. I hope you will take the time to pray for my spiritual walk with the Lord and for wisdom in finding out God's will in this stage of life. Thanks for reading! God bless.



- Praise God for the safe birth of **Elanor** to (son) **Peter & Hope**, and pray for their recovery, as well as for our daughters **Lillian** and **Grace Anne** who are expecting!
- Praise God for His blessings on our church retreat, on the Bethlehem Revisited Christmas outreach, and on our family holiday time. Please pray for God's guidance and blessing as **Nate** continues leading weekly **worship** services, **mentors** other pastors, **counsels** couples and families, **teaches** Bible studies, makes more **music** (yep, already working on another Kansan Celts album!), and as we **disciple** our own children!
- Praise God for the **unity** our church has experienced over the last few months, and pray for God to preserve that unity as we buy a **church building**. Also please keep praying for God to bring us **new families** with men who could make good elders.
- Pray for God's blessing on our daughter **Aletheia** (see Kid's Corner) and for all of our children to engage well with **school** studies in the midst of so many other goings-on. Also pray for healing for our daughter **Hope**, as doctors have recommended surgery for a serious **knee** condition.

