



The Year of our Lord - 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

Prince of Peace, Eternal Love, Good News for all people. The creator of all has come, establishing righteousness and justice. Every harm is healed, every sorrow comforted, every evil ended. The weak, the oppressed, defended, the blind see, the prisoner released. It sure doesn't sound like what we experience.

He came to save us from all evil, the evil of the fallen world around and the evil within us. He invites us to come to Him, to open our hearts, minds, our very selves to receive His Spirit. To be transformed, to be instruments of His peace, His messengers, agents of His change, to speak truth, love all - including enemies. We are reborn sons and daughters of the Most High, given His Holy Spirit to represent Him here and now.

"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. . . You, therefore, must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." It is too much to ask, too much to expect. He knows. He forgives our feeble attempts and pours out His spirit of power, love, wisdom to continue His way.

Where did the time go? Too many things going on, this letter is late. Starting with the most recent, we just got the occupancy permits for our new second floor bedroom and storage after raising the roof (literally), and then for the sunroom that replaced our deck. So we have been moving furniture, rearranging and decorating, some for Christmas. Much more to do.. With the addition and space we are better set up for company. Come visit.

Before that, we celebrated Thanksgiving with Katherine for the first time in 9 years. She and Donny prepared a beautiful meal. She had just returned from 3 weeks in Thailand and Angkor Wat. She fit her vacation between her classes as a trainer at State Farm. We are very impressed with her. Donny is very nice. We stayed with her former in-laws, the Ventos, with whom she remains close.

Just before that, we spent 3 1/2 weeks in Portugal, Spain, Tanger Morocco (40 minute ferry ride), Gibraltar, Italy, Venice, Swiss Alps, Mt Blanc, Lake Geneva, Castle Chillon, top of Jungfrau, Lake Lugano. Wonderful! We usually travel off season, however we missed some sights, November is so slow some places were closed. Some others were still crowded - Jungfrau, Chamonix.

Steve continues leading worship monthly at Living Water and Berea. A treat was being invited to lead a service at his former congregation Faith. He has remained friends with the people there. He continues meeting with some folks from jail contacts.

The highlight of the year was in July. We finally are grandparents!!! I (Steve) said I am going to have to live to 120 to get my time in with such a late start. Joanna Rosalind Auerweck was born 7/10/15, 7 lb. 14 oz. , 20 " to Stephanie and Greg. Steve was honored to baptize both Joanna and Greg at their church in VA. Stephanie is a paramedic, Greg is a stay-at-home-dad, taking good care of Joanna and rehabbing the house. Joanna is a delight to us.

Lynne had some downs and ups this year. She was diagnosed with breast cancer last December. She had a lumpectomy, followed by chemo (lost her hair). and then radiation. She now takes a pill every day. Her recent check-up indicated that all is well, good mammogram, good blood work, healthy bones. We praise God for medicine, good insurances and health! We went to the 50th reunion of her graduation from Concordia Junior College, Bronxville, NY, in May, and were able to see friends from long ago. In July, 10 days after her last radiation treatment, came the high point of the year: the birth of our first grandchild. We praise God for her! Lynne was able to keep up with Steve walking around parts of Europe in late fall. We praise God for the beautiful world He made for us. If this world is so beautiful, heaven must be so much better!

Lynne continues to enjoy retirement, keeping busy with reading, cross stitch, knitting, exercising and monitoring at the fitness center at the Senior Center, leading the stained glass class there, and is active in the knitting/crocheting group at the Senior Center, leading a Moms in Prayer group. She is chair of the Outreach Team, and chair of the Prayer Shawl Ministry, and a member of the new Shepherding Team at church.

*We praise God for you and ask God to bless you
in the New Year of 2016
Lynne and Steve Funck*