



Taos Pueblo



Cottage Tahiti



The Year of our Lord - 2016

Dear Family and Friends,

We have received our first Christmas Cards, so we need to get going. Going, where are you going? "Quo Vadis?" Look it up in Wiki. Sometimes it feels like we are not going anywhere, stuck, stymied. Sometimes flying with no time to spare. The Lord of all places us where we are, and equips us with all we need to accomplish His purposes. We have His mind, His Spirit, His power, His love. His ways, purposes are nothing like ours, so we find ourselves confused wondering what is going on, what we are to do? Some have limited abilities in our terminology, but all have all the abilities He, the Lord of all, planned. We experience conflicts He plans as opportunities to serve, do His will. The Scriptures are the long record of God working out His salvation for all, blessing every single one of His children. He knows what human life is like, all our trials, evil. He does not turn away, offended. He is Immanuel, God with us. Christmas, the birth of Mary's son, the coming of the only begotten Son is the guarantee, proof. Celebrate His Love for you, for us all. Where are we going? His invitation is for us to come home to our Father.

Steve continues leading worship once a month at white suburban Living Water and black city Berea. Each is an excellent group of Christians and a delight to be with. On occasion he has agreed to

lead an additional place. Berea is in a Coalition of Lutherans in Black Ministry from our SE District so Steve was able to participate, seeing old friends. The downside of integration, minority groups can be ignored while in the midst of the whole, so groups like this are still vital. He continues meeting most weeks with a small group of ex-offenders, and other marginalized people. The best of the worst can be better than the best of the average, since they better know the greatness of God in their lives. Working out, monitoring at the fitness center keeps him in shape for yard work.

Lynne continues with much of the same as she has in the past..She leads Moms in Prayer at the local Lutheran high school. She is chair of the Outreach Team at church and therefore on church council. She leads the Prayer Shawl Ministry at church. She teaches the stained glass class at the Senior Center., monitors at the Fitness Center there as well is very active in the Knit/Crochet Group. She continues to knit and crochet prayer shawls, Linus blankets, and hats. She enjoys reading Christian fiction.

Lynne and Steve continue to enjoy their 17 month old granddaughter Joanna, daughter of Stephanie and Greg. Stephanie is a paramedic in a nearby county, Greg is an excellent stay-at-home Dad.

Katherine obtained the CPCU designation (Chartered Property Causality Underwriter - similar to CPA but for insurance) and was sent from Atlanta to Honolulu, Hawaii for the conferment ceremony with Donny as her guest. They extended their trip to vacation in Maui, where they became engaged. We plan to visit them before Christmas.

For our spring vacation we drove to Atlanta to see Katherine and then on to the Alamo, Tombstone, Kitt Peak, Sedonia, Grand Canyon. We saw a pair of very rare condors crossing the Colorado. We had seen a pair years ago. Bryce, Mesa Verde (Greg spent a summer there as National Park Police), Pueblo at Taos, Moses in

Branson "Sight and Sound" where we knew Miriam from Baltimore Lutheran. We visited the Laura Ingalls Wildner's home in Mansfield MO on our way to see the family in St. Louis. Our country is beautiful.

During our fall vacation we went to our 50th state: Hawaii (so we've been in all 50 now, 23 nations, worshipped in 17 languages). We met Katherine and Donny there and climbed Diamond Head together. We also went to the Big Island and Maui. Took a submarine to the bottom. Saw red lava which is very unusual. Then we flew to New Zealand where we drove around both islands - a really beautiful land. Saw little blue penguins coming back to nest. Snow capped mountains everywhere. Steve said he could move there. On our way home we flew to Tahiti where we stayed at an interesting cottage with plants growing on the roof, no air-conditioning or heat or screens needed. God makes such interesting and varied scenery in this world for us to enjoy! And heaven will be so much better!

*We praise God for you and ask God to bless you
in the New Year of 2017 Lynne and Steve Funck*

