



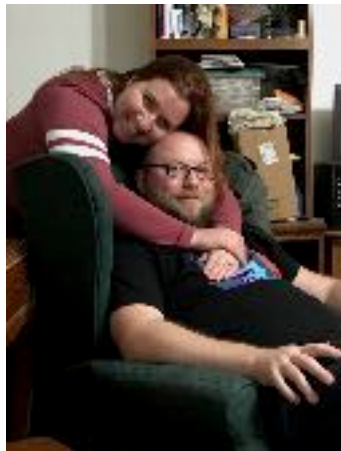
The Year of our Lord - 2018

Dear Family and Friends,

Christmas is coming. John the Baptizer announced, get ready, repent. Repent? What does that have to do with Christmas? Love comes down. We are not filled with Love as we should be. Repent, be filled with the Love of God. He loves you passionately, eternally. Let Him fill you with overflowing Love. We don't overflow as we should. Repent. Love with all the Love He gives you for everyone, everywhere. Allow His love to flow through you, overflowing love in this love needing world. Love more!

Steve continues his retired Rev. program, leading worship at two small churches, mailings Tuesday Bible studies with some folks with "issues" and fill in preaching. Living Water has added a family with 4 small children. Now they started Sunday School.. Berea also continues and with them he is in the Coalition of Lutherans in Black Ministry.

Lynne continues with the same activities, volunteering at church as a communion assistant, counting the offering, heading the Shepherding and Outreach Teams, heading the Prayer Shawl Ministry. This is the 20th year she has led Moms in Prayer at Concordia Prep School. At the Senior Center she is the teacher for the Stained Glass Class, assists in the knitting/crocheting group, monitors in the Fitness Center. She continues to enjoy reading, cross stitching,



Greg Joanna Stephanie
Katherine and Donny

Joanna in Turn Out gear
Easter Vigil in Lalibela



knitting, and crocheting. She enters items in the Maryland State Fair and has received ribbons

Stephanie continues working as a paramedic/fireman at Reagan Airport in D.C. Greg is an excellent stay-at-home dad. Joanna, 3, continues to delight us with her knowledge and enthusiasm for life. Katherine continues as a trainer of new hires at State Farm. She and Donny will be married in the spring. He works in IT at Atlanta History Center.

Ethiopia and Kenya were the highlights of this year. It was dry just after harvest in Ethiopia, many new barns. The nation is rapidly developing, schools, clinics, banks. We worshipped at the "Lutheran Cathedral" in Addis Ababa. The nation has the largest Lutheran population in the world, 9 million, grown from 50,000 in 60 years of oppression. Steve attended part of the Easter Vigil in the Coptic Holy City, Lalibela, Saturday Eve from 8 pm till 3 am Easter morning. The Churches there are World Heritage sites dug down through the rock and hollowed out. He stood in socking feet on stones right behind the leaders for the liturgies, chants, lighting of the Pascal Candle. He could not stay after midnight since he is not a Copt. Women were on one side and men on the other. They had fasted since the crucifixion. Lynne passed on that ordeal of service. Our Easter worship was on the net from a church in Sioux Falls, SD.

We went next to Kenya, so a Safari had to be. It was everything we could have wanted: lions, cheetahs, elephants, zebra, ostriches, hippos and more. There it was planting season - wet, with sprouts coming up. Steve preached at a Lutheran church in Nairobi.

We went to Chicago for Lynne's 50th from college and stayed with her sister Debbie, visiting family and even a Bears game. Later we were in St Louis for Steve's 50th from Seminary and saw his brother's family there.

Our fall trip was to St. John, Newfoundland - 2000 miles from Baltimore, with Nova Scotia, PEI, Bay of Fundy. Along the way we visited Lynne's niece, college roommate, her 55 HS reunion and the 1st Birthday party of a great niece. Thanksgiving was with Katherine and Donny in Atlanta and visit to Lynne's sister Barb and family in Columbus GA. Our 10 year old Honda has over 220,000 miles .

*We praise God for you and ask God to bless you
in the New Year of 2019*



*50th Sem Reunion
Falls on the Blue Nile in Ethiopia
Lynne and Steve Funck*