



Dear family & friends:

December, 2012

Greetings from Nebraska! With this letter we send you and your family God's blessings in this wonderful season celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Here are some of the highlights from our family:

- **School** - Janie is a senior this year. How time flies!
- **Hong Kong Trip** - Janie and I had a terrific time visiting my family and friends there in early July. Janie's first solo international flight turned out to be quite adventurous.
- **Fishing Trip** - Will took a fishing trip in San Diego in early July and had a pretty dramatic experience in which he almost caught a 85-lb blue fin tuna!
- **2012 ELCA Youth Gathering** - Will, Janie, and other youth attended the gathering in New Orleans in late July. They really enjoyed the experience and fellowship together with some 30,000+ youth from all over the States.
- **Work** - Janie keeps working part-time at an assisted-living facility as kitchen staff. Will has always been busy with his social and pastoral ministry at Lakota Lutheran Church. My job as administrative assistant with Capstone Child Advocacy Center changed from  $\frac{3}{4}$  part-time to full-time in August.
- **Recovery** - My Mom continues to recover from her fall the second time. She is doing well living in a nursing home and it was so nice to see her this summer. Frankie, my brother-in-law, suffered from a stroke recently and is recovering well.
- **College** - Janie is accepted by two colleges as of this month - Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Pacific Lutheran College in Tacoma, Washington. There may be more colleges accepting her and there are lots of things to be considered as to which college she will go to.
- **Aging** - Both Will and I turned 53 this year! We are blessed with good health but we don't take it for granted. He continues to go to pilate class and I keep going to the gym, jogging, swimming, and going to yoga and zumba classes. Our dog, "Jackie", is getting old. She is a little bit slow now but she is in good shape.
- **Bucket List** - I ran the Inaugural 2012 Platte Valley Companies Monument Half Marathon here in town in September. How about a full marathon added to my bucket list? Or not?!
- **Volunteering** - Due to the discontinuation of the mentoring program, I no longer see my 8-year-old mentee weekly. I still meet with her once or twice a month and it seems like she has been growing faster each time I see her!

>< Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! >< Will, Winnie, Janie & "Jackie" ><



