

## Pecinovsky Update – Christmas 2017

From Luke 2: *“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about...My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations...”*

As we look back on the year, we feel so blessed – each day is a reminder of God’s redemption and faithfulness.

### Excursions

We went on two camping trips for a couple nights each. The first was in June to Whitewater State Park and the second was in July to Forestville State Park. This was a lot of fun, family time. We enjoyed hiking, playing in the water, and getting a tour of Mystery cave. Sadie collected dozens of snails at Forestville, fed them a high-carb diet and tried to get them to race, with limited success. We visited Mummu and Papa up on Lake Ida several times where the kids love playing on the beach front and in the water. And in September we took a drive up to the North Shore of Superior, one of our favorite places to visit. We stayed in Schroeder and got to spend time up there with Uncle Moses, Auntie-to-be Brigitte, and cousin Justin. Highlights included the Alpine Slide, Grand Marais, Grand Portage, High Falls, Sugarloaf Cove, and Black Pebble beach. Oh, and Jana got to take a solo-excursion at the end of May to see niece Alex for her high school graduation. Way to go Ally!

### Animal husbandry

While Jana was away in California, we had our first clutch of eggs hatch from our incubator. We got 8 chicken eggs from a friend, and the squeals of delight and excitement were priceless as 5 hatched out. 😊 The chicks went to different homes, but three returned to us later in the summer. Sadie named the returning hen ‘Willow’, and as far as the other two, we’ve all decided that rooster noodle soup has a definite leg-up on plain chicken noodle. We had an opportunity to experience a second set of hatchlings (two guinea fowl) and it was equally exciting. We love seeing God’s creation up close and personal, plus this doubles as Science!

Between us and Carl’s folks, we ran 15 hives this season and harvested over 1100 lbs of honey! The honey bees continue to amaze us and we had an opportunity to share at a childcare facility in July on the activities in the hive. Evan had a lot of fun being the “helper”. He has a deep fondness for animals and cares for our two cats, Camy and Midnight (he speaks their language, you know 😊). Our flock of hens is at 8 for the moment, and it looks like we will continue to enjoy more than enough fresh eggs for months to come.

### Other activities

**Trail Life** – Evan is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year of this program and Carl is treasurer for the troop. They had a fun campout at Oxbow Park in June and Evan took 1st place in design at the May pop bottle rocket competition. (Carl *may* have had a hand in that victory.)



Above: The kids at Whitewater. Left: Riding the ski lift to the Lutsen Alpine slide. Bottom-left: Aidan with 2 of 5 chicks. Bottom-right: Evan and grandpa inspect a hive at great-great-aunt Arlene’s.



Honey Harvest!



**Awana** – Evan, Sadie, and Aidan are all in Awana club this year. It is such a positive mid-week program for them and they do a great job practicing their Bible verses. Aidan is a happy Cubbie now that he *finally* gets to join big brother and sister.

**Homeschool** – Bright Acres Academy is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year, and Jana is busy teaching, organizing, lesson planning, doing co-op, field trips, and especially trying to keep Aidan from running havoc over the classroom. (NOT an easy task!) 😊

**Gardening** – We had another productive season of community gardening on our property with several wonderful families. The harvest was bountiful, and Jana was busy canning for weeks at a time while it kept on coming. We are fully enjoying all that work at our dinner table now.

**Piano** – Evan, Sadie, and Jana have all been taking lessons since summer at our house from the talented Brian Dunbar. The children love it and seem to be excelling...when they practice!

**The Jana train** – continues with Sunday school teaching, networking with hundreds of downline Young Living essential oils members, teaching classes, doing craft shows, and making signs/plaques to raise money for Love Justice, Int. and some friends that are on an adoption journey.

**Kids**

**Oliver** (23) – Strong and funny. Lives at an apartment in Rochester and works for Marcos Pizza as a pizza delivery guy. He likes hanging out with friends and spending time here with his brothers and sister. He also helps with lawn mowing and other jobs around the house.

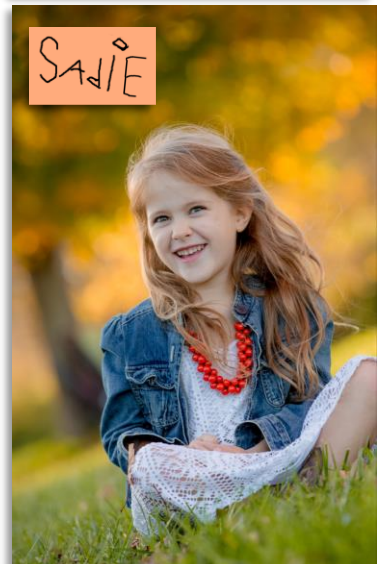
**Evan** (7, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) – Artistic and detailed. He loves stories, making little Lego films with daddy, creative building in Minecraft, and other iPad games. He has a musical knack for the piano, and his favorite subject is history.

**Sadie** (5, kindergarten) – Loving and crafty. She loves making cards (mommy and daddy may get several cards a day!), and says her favorite school subject is “crafts”. 😊 She likes camping, swimming, playing with cousins, playing Minecraft with Evan, and making silly videos on mommy’s phone.

**Aidan** (3) – Winsome and playful. He potty-trained this year and for the first time in 7 years, we are without diapers in the wash!! Aidan loves treats, balls of all sorts, and has a knack for being ‘cute’. For example: “Attention everyone! Your brother is spider-man!” and “Dad, there are eye-boogers in my nose!”



Above-left: Sadie with frog at Whitewater. Above-right: Evan with 2-liter bottle rocket. Left: Aidan presents mom with flower on the north shore of Superior.



*We are so thankful to have each of you in our lives and pray that you have a joyful and blessed 2018!*

