



2021 Flynn Family Christmas Newsletter

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Luke 2:8-11

After the dumpster fire that was 2020, we had high hopes 2021 would be great, but it’s proven to be just as disappointing in many regards — ongoing political turmoil, bickering over the COVID-19 vaccine, and the deaths of loved ones. I just want to tell 2021 to go sit in its room and think about what it’s done.

In February we suffered through a tremendous snow and ice storm. At first it was pretty and fun, but it quickly worsened. Power outages were widespread in our area, and we had no electricity for 3 days and no cell phone service for 2 days. Local schools were closed for at least a week. The temperature got down to 49 degrees inside the house. As we rationed firelogs as our only source of heat, Chantal almost cut up part of our backyard wooden fence in an effort to keep our family warm. We’re not kidding. Once we were finally able to communicate with the outside world and leave our home, we sought temporary refuge first at our church’s Community Center, and then at the home of one of Chantal’s colleagues who hadn’t lost power.

We’ve grieved the deaths of several folks this year, especially two beloveds: a dear friend from college in July; and Carl’s 90-year old Grandma, Michiko “Joyce” Suzuki Eckard, who he adored, in November.

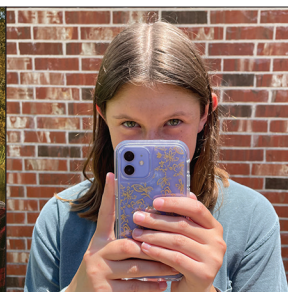
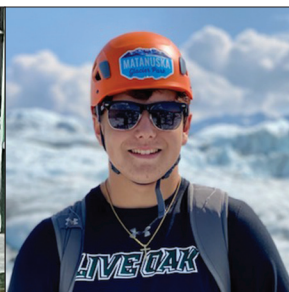
There has also been much to be glad about. In the spring we enjoyed attending the Baylor vs. Pepperdine women’s volleyball game (we wore our Pepperdine shirts), celebrated the Baylor Men’s Basketball NCAA Championship, and rejoiced in our niece Sierra’s marriage to Austin Erickson.

In May we enjoyed a visit from Logan & Mia’s grandpa, Papa Chuck. We travelled to California & Arizona in June and spent time with Carl’s family and several friends. Our trip also included a Pepperdine Admissions tour for Logan & Mia, an afternoon spent at the Getty Villa, and an adventure to Stearns Wharf in Santa Barbara with Carl’s Mom & Grandma. In July we attended the Deep in the Heart Film Festival here in Waco.

In August we adopted an adult guinea pig named Mr. Nibbles, who had been a Live Oak classroom pet. For those of you keeping track, that brings our small animal count to 5 chinchillas (3 generations) and 2 guinea pigs. This fall we had a great weekend at Family Camp with our church, Crestview Church of Christ, and also a wonderful visit from our cousin David. We gathered for our annual Friendsgiving with 4 other families from church and were very thankful to celebrate together again after COVID cancelled our plans last year.

This past month we cheered on our Live Oak Football team as it won its 6-Man State Championship, and celebrated Baylor Football’s Big 12 Conference Championship. On December 12 we celebrated our 29th anniversary!

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Logan (16 - Rhetoric 2/11th grade) played golf for Live Oak this past spring, and we got to watch him compete in a couple of tournaments. He is active in our church's Youth Group and went on the summer mission trip to Alaska. On their last day the group went to a glacier! He got his driver's license this fall and built a floating bed frame for himself in Woodshop class, and he is currently playing varsity basketball.

Mia (13 - Logic 2/8th grade) ran Junior High track for Live Oak — and also learned to throw discus! — this past spring, and was the stage manager for the Junior High play. She is active in Youth Group and received her first cell phone for her birthday. She loved playing Junior High volleyball for Live Oak this fall, and went on the 8th grade class trip to Big Bend National Park. She built her own desk in Woodshop class and is currently playing Junior High basketball.

Carl continues to serve as Director of Marketing and Communication for Information Technology and University Libraries for Baylor, coach high school volleyball at Live Oak Classical School, and coordinate the Adult Education ministry and maintain online resources for Crestview. He loves all of the teams he gets to lead and the ability to be involved in creative endeavors that seek to transform lives. He continues a productive counseling journey that bears good fruit in his life and is also a source of ministry to others.

Chantal is in her 10th year of working at Live Oak. She enjoys her role as Operations Manager, and she loves and appreciates her colleagues and the administration. She continues to be the teacher's assistant in the babies & young toddlers Sunday morning Bible class at church, as well as being active in the Soul Sisters multi-generational ministry. Her chauffeur duties have somewhat lessened now that Logan has his driver's license. Her weight loss & exercise journey has fallen by the wayside, and she hopes to get back at it in the new year.

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
May the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace

Numbers 6:24-26

Carl Chantal ~~Logan~~ Mia