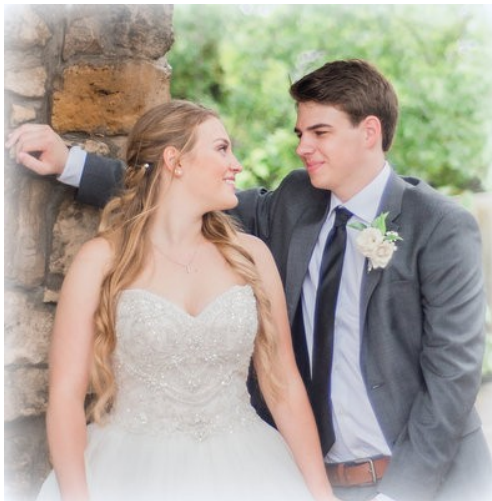




Christmas 2018 from The Lahns

Can it really be that time of year once more? It seems like just a few days ago we were writing out our news of 2017, and now 2019 is fast approaching!! 2018 has certainly been an eventful year around the Lahn household, so let's get right to it.

Last year's big news was that we were planning for Bethany's wedding to Tyler Douwes in June. Well, as you can imagine, most of the Spring was taken up with preparations for that day; and what a wonderful day June 24th was!!! We went from rain in the morning, to overcast during the wedding ceremony (great for pictures afterwards!), to an absolutely gorgeous sunset that night.



The wedding and reception were held in Cambridge, ON at the Cambridge Mill – a lovely place, right on the Grand River. The glassed-in wedding pavilion overlooked the river and created a beautiful setting for the eight bridesmaids, eight groomsmen, one flower-girl, our new son-in-law and our gorgeous daughter, the bride.

Tyler and Bethany are now settling into married life in an apartment in Brantford where they have two furry and mischievous rescue kittens – Niko and Milo.

In the midst of the planning we celebrated Mother's Day. (But more about that later.)

With the wedding of the century over, Nancy and Murray took advantage of some time off by heading to the cottage. While there, in the midst of relaxing, however, Murray decided that the odd things happening with his eyes were not just a result of stress, but seemed to be getting worse as time went on. Returning from the cottage, Murray went to the optometrist, who immediately sent him down to Sunnybrook hospital to be examined by an ophthalmologist who immediately did laser surgery to fix up a torn and detached retina in his right eye. A couple of days with a gas bubble inserted in the eye and he was back again on Saturday for another round of laser, and then, with the doctor's permission, Murray and Nancy went to a Blue Jays game!!! Back a week or so later Murray went through his 3rd laser treatment. Praise God all seems well, but it sure made for a less than relaxing summer.

Back up now to Mother's Day...

Due to a storm and power failure we were blessed to celebrate Mother's Day not in Cedar Valley, but up in Barrie, at Tim and Rachel's. The whole family was there, and after dinner, Jordan announced that before



dessert we were going to play a new game that he'd supported on Kickstarter that was to be released in November (but he had a pre-release copy). When we started to play the game we realized it was not a game at all, but their way of announcing that they were going to have a baby in late November!!! Great screaming and rejoicing ensued!!



Well, since it was Mother's Day, it was now time for Nancy to open her cards and gifts. When Nancy opened the first card, she thought it was from Jordan and Rachel, as there was an ultrasound picture in the card. However, it wasn't from them at all – it was from Tim and Rachel, who were *also* expecting a baby, due in late October! This would





mean we would be having our first two grandchildren within a month of each other!

Fast forward again to Murray's retina surgery recovery! The whole family had again gathered in our living room in August for no particular reason, other than to get together. Daniel decided to show us a video of "How to Make a Pizza" that he and Jessica made. However, when we got to the end of the video and the finished pizza was to be revealed, the "punchline" was "Jess? Why is there a bun in your oven?". That's right... Daniel and Jess are expecting their first child, now our 3rd grandchild, around March 1st, 2019, and this one we now know is a boy!!!

The entire summer and fall was spent getting updates on pregnancies and preparing for the joyous events!!

So... Jump ahead to the end of October. We were expecting our little girl, "Bean", to arrive any day. Waiting, waiting, waiting, and finally on Sunday, Nov 4th @ 9:14pm we welcomed **Arya Grace Lahn** into the family up in Barrie, ON weighing in at 7lbs even and measuring 22" long.



Melody June Lahn



Arya Grace Lahn

In the midst of all of this, Nancy has continued to work at Shepherd Village in Scarborough (for Chapel Ridge Funeral Home), to volunteer at the Pregnancy Care Centre, and lead a Women's Life Group and the Grief Care group at the church.

Murray has been fortunate enough to work from our home in the country almost every day for the last year (for a client in Newfoundland), where he cares for the dog (our 3yr-old Border Collie, Chloe), our sweet-16 year old Himalayan cat, Mocha, and the property. With the grandkids coming, he is now starting to dream of retirement in his slow moments.



Then *6 days later* on Saturday, Nov 10th, 2018 @ 2:27pm, we welcomed **Melody June Lahn** (aka "Sprout") into the family in Brantford, ON (7lbs 12 oz and 19¼"). What a joy to see God's handiwork in each of these perfect little bundles!

Since then it's been so much fun getting to know these little ones, to be able to dote on them and show them off on social media and in person, and to just be the proudest grandparents ever!!!



New babies, new life—what a gift from God they are! Even as we marvel at these precious gifts, how often our minds have turned to thoughts of the greatest Gift of all.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Praying this Christmas that the Lord Jesus Christ will fill you with the wonder of His amazing love, will counsel and comfort you in life's challenges, will protect you with His mighty strength, will assure you of His everlasting presence, and will be your joy and peace as you walk with Him this coming year.

Love and Blessings this Christmas! The Lahns

