

Merry Christmas 2024 from The Lahns



Once again, the season of Christmas is fast approaching and we take time to look back on, and thank the Lord in midst of the ups and downs of this past year.

For us, our crazy year started on Christmas night 2022 when our pet cat, Gizmo, decided to swallow six feet of wool and had to have expensive surgery over the following days. He did survive, fortunately, and is back to his crazy self. His sister, Trinket, joins him in Christmas "decoration relocation."

This was followed by our dog, Chloe, coming down with something that upset her digestion and she refused to eat. After much back and forth with the vet, she seemed to be on the road to recovery, however in June she took a sudden turn for the worse, and we opted to have her put to sleep and not suffer any longer. [Our prediction is that in 2025's newsletter we'll be introducing you to a new pup.]



This past year, Nancy has continued with her work at Shepherd Village in Scarborough. She is involved in preparing and leading various Bible studies, hymn sings and fellowship gatherings for the residents as well as one-to-one visits. This works out wonderfully, as she can visit her Mum on a regular basis after work and help with her dinner. While she works 5 days/week, she is able to work from home on Wednesdays so she can prepare her studies and events with less interruption.

Murray has been very busy in his retirement working around the property and participating in various ministries at our church. He sings on the Worship Team very regularly (almost every week!), helps organize the monthly Men's Ministry, leads the music (with Nancy) at a home for disabled adults, and helps out at a few of the local Seniors residences leading worship services. He does miss his outings with Chloe however.



Last year we were letting you know that Bethany and Ty had blessed us with grandchild #9 — Brinley. This year we are happy to announce that they purchased a wonderful home in Simcoe, ON (just minutes from Jordan & Rachel) and are expecting a little boy in March 2025!! That will even the

score for us at 5:5 (grand-sons : grand-daughters)!

In the meantime, Josephine (at 3½) has become quite a little dancer and loves to listen and interact with any and all music. She is even in a dance class on Saturday mornings, which she loves. Brinley (at 1½) is growing, and since becoming mobile this past year, she is very much enjoying keeping up with her big sister, and blooming in personality.



For Daniel and Jess, life continues to be busy looking after their 3 kids. Landon (coming up 6 in March) is in Kindergarten and loves the bus ride, imaginative play, crafts, and his Hot Wheels. Isla (4) now joins him at school every day. She's the social butterfly of the crowd, and loves to play with her dolls, creating art, and helping Jess cook. Lincoln (turning 3 in February) is the cute little trouble-maker of the bunch. He loves to follow his around older siblings, singing songs, and anything 'animals', and enjoys the one on one time he now gets to spend with Mom and Dad while the older ones are at school.

Daniel's job at "Kingdom Concrete Drilling & Sawing" has gone through some slow periods this past year, and with the unpredictability, he has been toying with the idea of going back to school part-time with the eye to a career change. Jess is a stellar mother and also continues her photography business doing many family photoshoots and weddings.

Both Daniel and Bethany's families were able to go on a cruise together in late November which was great fun, but unfortunately they met up with some flu bugs that had joined the cruise.



For Jordan and Rachel, 2024 has been similar to 2023. Jordan continues his work as a teacher in a Grade 1-2 split class just minutes away from their home in Simcoe, and Rachel is continuing to enjoy work in the dental office in Simcoe, with increased responsibilities. Six-year-old Melody is in Grade One now and reads books constantly, winning a contest at school for the most books read. She also enjoys learning piano and played wonderfully at her recent recital. Oscar (coming up on 5 in April) is enrolled in Junior Kindergarten this year. His obsession is still Spiderman but also loves to examine things and figure out how things work. They both love to play board games with Dad as well!

Tim's and Rachel's continue to be busy up in Barrie, where Tim owns Complete Care Chiropractic with a staff of 4 working for him. They were voted the top Chiropractic and top acupuncture clinic in Barrie in 2023. Rachel continues her work in Vaughan where she leads a team in Interior Design. Fortunately she is able to work from home a few days per week, which makes the commute much less stressful. Arya (now 6) is doing wonderfully in her Grade 1 class and is still the highly imaginative and active granddaughter



that she's always been. She loves to dress up (Disney princesses, unicorns, etc.) and still insists on Grandma playing games with her the moment she arrives at our place. Arya also loves to create bead wrist-bands and decided that she wanted to help others by selling them on Facebook. She ended up donating \$190 to the Barrie Food Bank in mid-December. Aaron (coming up on 4 in March) still loves his cars and trains and can entertain himself for hours. I think of all the grand-kids, he's the one that misses Chloe the

most, and asks about her at nearly every visit.

The biggest event of the year however, had to be Nancy's Mum's 100th birthday on November 2nd. We were able to gather as a family at Shepherd Village and even managed to include ones who couldn't make it in person using technology. Mum did wonderfully well that day, and really seemed to enjoy all the excitement of the day, and having her picture taken with each family that was there, as well as with nearly all the great-grandkids. Her physical health is still pretty good but unfortunately, her memory is such that she will only remember the party through the picture book that Nancy created for her of the day.



As we approach this Christmas season, may we never be too busy to ponder this amazing truth...

"In the fullness of time" the God of all eternity, might, and power, shrank to the size of a small Son of Man, born under the least inviting roof in Bethlehem. He limited Himself to the loveliest of all earth's languages—the language of a newborn baby's cry.

"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth."

May Emmanuel—God with us—fill your hearts this Christmas.