

November 2017

Issue 230

Inside this Issue

Table of Contents
Page 1

Letter From the Editor
Page 1

Birthdays
Page 2

Coming Events
Page 2

Anniversaries
Page 2

Nicole
Page 2

Remember When
Pages 3 & 4

Family Reunion First Issue
Page 5

Mages Christmas
Page 6

Sister's Shopping
Page 7

Natalie Homecoming
Page 8

Girl's Nite Out
Pages 9,10,11,12 & 13

Kodet Sister's and Niece's
Day
Pages 14 & 15

Cards With Mom
Pages 16 & 17

Curt and Kathy in Italy
Pages 18, 19 & 20



NOVEMBER 2017

This time of the year we are always thinking of our family members who are so busy with the harvest, and praying that all of you are safe. Our best wishes for a safe and plentiful season.

The photos on this page were flowers grown by our Aunt, Mary Lou Butzer that were used at the annual Kodet Sister's Day. She had them on all the tables, and they were so beautiful.

With this issue we have completed our twentieth year of monthly issues of the "Family Reunion, " and entering our twentieth-first year, so each month I will pick a page from our first year. Kuddos to our founder, Donna for your great foresight. God's Blessings to all. Love, Linda



November Birthdays

Ruby Dammann	Nov 04
Kyle Mages	Nov 07
Grant Mages	Nov 07
AJ Zimiga	Nov 07
Sandy Zimiga	Nov 10
Alexandra Mages	Nov 11
Paul Mages	Nov 12
Cooper Mages	Nov 15
John Mages	Nov 18
Ravi Plath	Nov 18
Roger Mages	Nov 19
Michelle Strate	Nov 22
Stacie Roiger	Nov 24
Madeline Ibberson	Nov 30
Trista Mages	Nov 30

November Anniversaries

Joe and Linda Gall	
Nov. 11	50 years
Randy and Theresa Wagner	
Nov. 08	20 years
Josh and Chrissy VanDer Hook	
Nov. 12	01 year
Doug and Suzanne Pflaum	
Nov. 19	01 year

A special Hello to My Grandson Tobi Mages From Oma Barbara

A special Hello to our German cousins, Helmut, Birgit, Andi

www.TopMagesonline.com

News Deadline

20th of each month

Send articles and photos to Linda at

lindagall@rocketmail.com

Page 2

Coming Events

November 03 & 04, 2017, Sister's Shopping Weekend at Lisa Schmitz Farm.

November 25, 2017, Mages Christmas at Holy Rosary catholic church in North Mankato, Mn.

November, 2017- Baby due for Melanie and Stevie Miller.

January 26, 27 & 28, 2018- Men's and Boy's Fishing, Poker Weekend at Emerald Hideaway.

February 06-11, 2018, Sister's Week in Florida staying with Betty.

September 08, 2018, Wedding of Bonita Mages and Eric Ingersoll in Lake Henry, Mn.



Nicole receiving her scholarship from Great Grandma

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship to be used for my college education.

I am studying to be a nurse at the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth. Thank you and God Bless.

Nicole Goblirsch

CSS Box 401

1200 Kenwood Ave.

Duluth, Minnesota 55811

P# 507-317-8106

Remember When by Mom

Going to Mass on Sunday was a big adventure. We lived about four miles from Morton at our first farm home. First you had to go up the, "Indian Hill," before you got to our farm. It was called that because it ended up at the Sioux Indianan Reservation. They had their own church, St. Cornelia's, and grade school. High school kids ended up at Morton, but very few kids that age came to high school.

The road winded through beautiful trees and sumac that turned a vivid red color in the fall, but in winter it was very difficult to navigate. You had to be a good driver to get to the top on the slippery icy road. Alphonse was a good driver, so he never failed to get to the top.

When driving to Morton, there was another road at the bottom of the hill that was a short cut to Morton. You had to cross the river on the, "Old Wagon Bridge." It was a little scary as some of the planks were loose, and it rattled, and was a bit noisy. The kids all held their breath as we crossed the bridge, just in case. Then we went past the railroad roundhouse where they turned the locomotive engines to go the opposite direction. Morton had several men that had a regular job doing that, and they lived at the big hotel next to the tracks. The hotel was big, and had a sizable restaurant where you could get the best dish of chili that Margaret the cook made. Wedding receptions were held in the hotel. That's where my brother, Ed, and his new wife, Jean, had their wedding reception. Not too good for taking photos, but there was a beautiful little park next to it.

Across the tracks on the other side was a small road that ended at the swimming pool. It was next to the big granite quarry, and was fed by a natural spring. They gave swimming lessons there, and it was a very popular spot in the summer time.

The actual quarry was very deep as it had been mined for many years. Many of the men in Morton had jobs there. It was the reason for going deaf for some, because of noise from grinders, drills and saws. My brother in law, Jim Butzer, worked at the quarry before he joined the Air Force, and he said that was why he went deaf. Morton Granite is still being sold and used for many things including tombstones in a cemetery. When you pray at Mike's grave or Teri's grave you see Morton Granite.

Morton lay at the bottom of the deep valley, and no matter which direction you went, you had to climb or drive a big hill to get above the town. It was hit by a tornado back in 1941. The Catholic Church was badly damaged, and some homes close to the church also were destroyed. One of the houses would serve a hot meal to some of the school children at noon. The children had barely returned to school when the tornado hit shortly after noon. The school was one block from the catholic church. The tornado came from the southwest, from the top of the hill. It was a coincidence, but one of our neighbors, the Lussenhops, had damage at their farm also. They had a granary destroyed that they never found a piece of it. Not a board or nail or anything. My Dad was out farming that spring, and he found pictures and memorabilia in the fields from the Morton tornado, and we lived ten miles away to the northwest.

Most of our children were baptized at St. John's Catholic Church in Morton. They also received First Communion and Confirmation there. Lisa was baptized at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye. Linda and Dan graduated from Morton High. The rest all graduated from St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye.

Morton Parish had a lot of young families. So once in awhile we'd have a chuckle about some little one misbehaving in church. I think it was John and Jeff that one Sunday. We could hear somebody trying not to laugh behind us, so I looked to see what the boys were doing. They were matching pennies. Alphonse had taught them how to do that, and they brought their pennies to church, but it could have been worse. The little Hennen boys had brought marbles to church, and were rolling them down the pews. One of the little Crain boys was swinging the rosary, and saying, "Hang on Jesus, here we go again." Never a dull moment!!!!!! When the twins, Barbara and Betty were babies we took turns going to Mass. Alphonse would take some of the family with him, and I'd take some when I went to the next Mass. When Barb and Betty were older, we'd take them to church.

Remember When Continued

They were so cute with their curls, and they were so shy. If they looked back, and someone smiled at them, they would quick look away.

Those days every man would wear a suit for going to Mass, and the boys did too. It was always a, “dress up day,” for the Lord..

When we moved to the Sleepy Eye farm, we had almost ten miles to drive to church. St. Mary's was huge, but it had two Masses on Sunday morning. The first time we went, we had a hard time finding a place to sit as the church was full of people. We went to the front, and started down the side. Finally we were seated, so after that we always left home one half hour ahead of Mass time. When the kids were little we would stop at the Haas Bakery after church. They all had their pennies to spend, and the bakery had a huge collection of candy from which to choose, I think they had a special person on Sunday morning to help the children spend their pennies, but Mom would always have to buy some of that good, “Barrel Bread.” I think they baked the loaves in huge coffee cans. YUM—YUM! Always the stipulation if you're good at Mass. When they got older, we would stop at the Sanitary Dairy for ice cream. We'd end up with two ice cream pails of good stuff, plus the clerk would always give our, “teeners,” a wooden spoon for each one. Remember those spoons? On the way home they would open up a pail of ice cream, and share. As I said before, it was an adventure going to Mass.

When, Dad, Alphonse retired, and we lived in New Ulm for eighteen years, we continued driving to St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye. It was our church, and our church family. Dad said we drive ten miles to go to Mass, We'll keep on doing that. That way I can check on the farmers, and the crops. The Lord has been good to us. Thank You, God, for all your blessings.

Love and Hugs,
Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma

The boys ready for Mass at the Morton farm. L-R: front row, Jeff, John. Back row, Rick, Dan, Larry and Duane.

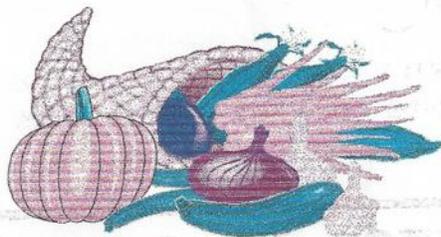


The Family Reunion

Welcome to the first edition of The Family Reunion. This is a fun new way to keep everyone up-to-date on things going on with the family. We will put in this newsletter items that you will want published. If you have an upcoming event or happening, drop me a line or call me and I will be happy to enter it.

Thanks: Donna

Deadline for information in the December issue will be November 20th.



November is a wonderful month. We have all pretty well wrapped up the harvest and can finally take a breather. The lawns are raked, the lawn chairs are put away and the kids are back to a good routine at school. Thank-you God for all good things.

November Birthdays

Doug Mages: 7th
 A.J. Zimiga : 10th
 Sandy Zimiga: 11th
 Paul Mages: 12th
 John Mages: 18th
 Roger Mages: 19th
 Michelle Strate: 22nd
 Stacie Mages: 24th
 Chuck Strate: 26th
 Madeline Schmitz: 30th



Future Events

Nov. 1st: Randy and Theresa's Hag and Stag Costume Party

Nov. 8th: Opening of Deer Hunting Season. Bag your deer by noon so you can attend: Randy and Theresa's Wedding.

November 14th : Rob Mages' Graduation of Marine Corp. Basic Training in San Diego, Calif.

November 27th: Thanksgiving Day

November Anniversaries

Joe and Linda: Tuesday Nov. 11
 Congratulations on 30 years together.

A Salute of Pride is in Order

On November 14th, 1997 at the Marine Corp. Recruiting Dept. in San Diego, California, Private Robert John Mages will graduate from his basic training. This is a very special event for the family because it is on this very location that 3 generations have graduated from the Marine Corp.'s basic training. Rob's grandpa Jerome, his dad Richard, and his two brothers Jory and Aaron.

Rick, Jane, Chrissy, Brianna and Jane's sister Judy will all be attending the proud occasion in California.

After graduation, Rob will return home to Sleepy Eye with his family and stay for 9 days. He is off again to California for one month and then he attends Computer Programming Training in Virginia.

Rob, Congratulations and we are proud of you.

Chrissy and Brianna, Hope you love your 1st trip to California.



This was the very first issue of the Family Reunion published by our founder, Donna Nelson. Only one page at that time, but what it developed into was truly wonderful. Thank you Donna from the whole Mages family.

Mages Christmas

Saturday, November 25, 2017

12 Noon to 4pm

At Holy Rosary Catholic Church
525 Grant Ave. North Mankato, Mn.

If problems call Joe at 507-340-4305

The committee will supply the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, coffee, lemonade, and all utensils, cups and plates.

WE were just informed that we can only have the church basement until 4 pm so there will be **no** supper. It was too late to try and find another location, and we found out the rent went up also. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Come and enjoy Mom's goooooood stuffing, and an appearance from Santa.

The committee, Barb and Kevin, LeAnn and Jeff, Betty and Harold, Nancy and Jerry, Joe and Linda

Hello to Mother Barbara and all of my lovely Sisters, Sisters in law and nieces.

You are invited once again to our Mages Sister's Shopping Weekend! This year on Nov. 03. I will be hosting a Friday night Wine, Cheese and Chocolate Pairing Event beginning at 7pm. Bring along a bottle of wine and/or a fun treat to pair with wine while we enjoy spending time with one another again. Be creative and have fun with it.

Anybody that wants to spend the night at my home is welcome! If possible let me know ahead of time so that I can make lodging arrangements! On Saturday the 4th I will host an early morning coffee party, and then we will head off to Next to New II in Sleepy Eye, Pink Swan Creations of Springfield, and finally Brianna Jensens house for a fun visit and tour. Our shopping weekend will conclude with lunch at Tommy's Restaurant in Springfield around 12:30pm.

Hope you can join us!

Sincerely;
Lisa Schmitz
507-220-0438

**Mages Sister
Shopping Weekend**

**03
NOV** **WINE, CHEESE AND CHOCOLATE**
PARTY AT LISA'S HOUSE | 7:00 PM

**04
NOV** **SHOPPING IN SPRINGFIELD**
THEN VISIT BRIANNA'S HOUSE | 10:00 AM

**04
NOV** **LUNCH AT TOMMY'S RESTAURANT**
DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD | 12:30 PM

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 3rd-4th

Natalie Goblirsch 2017 Homecoming Attendant at Comfrey High School

Thank you for coming and
showing your love and support
during homecoming coronation
at Comfrey School.

Love,
Natalie

Photo below: L-R: Front- Karen Helget,
Nancy Strate, Natalie, Connie and Sarah
Mills. Back Row- Kathy Goblirsch, Debbie
Fischer and Lisa Schmitz.



“ Girl's Nite Out,” Weekend, September 2017 by Betts

OMG, WHERE HAVE ALL THE SISTERS GONE? This year's Sister's Weekend was spare of parties, but it was busy, busy, busy. Mom, Linda and Betty hosted this years weekend, and they had a plan, a plan and a plan. They wanted to do so much stuff that they had to start setting things up , already on Friday afternoon. Linda was picking up Mom, and Betty was traveling with Barb, and we all had our chores. Betty thought she and Barb would get there early, so they could sneak some Halloween decorations, and put them up on the corner to point the way to the weekend. They got that done with no one around except the neighbors traveling down the road, as we put up the, “party sign,” on the corner. No one yet so Betty and Barb continued onto, “EMERALD HIDEAWAY.” Next we continued up the driveway putting up spooky signs #3 and #4. No one yet! Stopped to put up spooky sign #5, I had to turn the tree so everyone could read the sign as they drove up the drive. I turned around, and was spooked by Linda and Mom's car behind me. CAUGHT!!!! What do I do????? Oh, that's okay Linda and Mom are part of the Hostesses team for the weekend. Thank God, it wasn't Larry with his BIG shotgun! I dodged one there.....Whew!!!!!!

Well, we got everything unpacked from the cars, pulled out the bedding to remake the beds. I started in the, “party” room with signs for, “Bingo Gifts, Sister's Exchange Gifts, and Door Prizes for our Category winners. While that was going on Mom and Linda made a nice supper, and we took it easy for the rest of the evening. Oh! It was so relaxing!

We got all our breakfast done, and started to clean up. Linda and I were busy sweeping the deck and cleaning off the tables and chairs, and of course Mom was supervising. What a Supervisor Mom is too!! You would think that she would have been encouraging us along the way, But No! Linda went back into the house to get a broom to sweep up the leaves, and I got a garbage bag, and we finished the chore. Linda goes inside, and while I'm outside Mom states that it seems like it's getting cooler, after I went inside she later told Linda and I that after we left it got down right COLD on the deck! Linda I guess you must have been pushing a lot of Hot air around, because Mom felt so much cooler after you left the deck! So much for incentive talks from Mom! Next we were going to get the veggies ready for our “Mystery” supper when Mom drags out the electric knife, and is totally ready for KP (Kitchen Patrol,) duties for ya non-military folks. Zoom Zoom! They finished the potatoes, Barb and I finished the outdoor signage. Mom, Linda and I hopped in the car to review the party signage, and back to getting the “Mystery” supper going. Our team worked on the rest of the menu for supper while teasing each other, talking about the rest of the day, and just getting it together. Our “Mystery” supper was ready for the oven.

Helmut had asked Linda if we could check the lake ONE more time to locate Tobi's phone, so Betty got in the water with her trusty magnifying glass to search for the phone. NO LUCK, she didn't find the phone. Sorry Tobi!

Our other Sisters started to arrive with their luggage, and bags of bingo prizes, drinks and gifts for the weekend. WOW! Everyone brought lots of goodies with them. The bingo bed was heaped full of prizes. Lisa and Betty both took turns diving into the pile of gifts. It was like Christmas all over again! Debbie wasn't able to make it for our weekend, so we had a stand-in hanging around us for the entire time. Hey Deb! We really enjoyed you hanging around!

Once everyone got settled into their rooms it was time to go to church in Paynesville. Everyone left and Betty stayed behind to take care of supper. While they were attending Mass they met up with Jermayne. After church they went and stayed for a brief visit with Pope Francis, and friendship time with the other church goers. Meanwhile Betty was slaving in the kitchen cutting veggies, stirring food and setting the candlelit table for, “the sister arrival.” Betty was thinking this, “Mystery” supper was going to be perfect, and it was too! Time for supper, our mystery meal was ready to serve. We had scalloped potatoes with ham, ham, carrots, veggies, lettuce salad, Jeri's homemade bread and dessert. We never did eat dessert because we were all so full. Yum, Yum! Life was great with family

Girl's Nite Out Weekend Continued

And the , “outlaw.” After supper cleanup we set up the tables for Bingo. We had Bingo cards, kidney beans for marking, the Bingo spinning cage, and we were all eager to play. Mom called Bingo numbers, and we all frantically tried to keep up to Mom. We didn't even have time to talk let alone breathe. Mom was just zooming thru the numbers, and we were winning all those Bingo gifts on the beds. If you ever need a good physical or mental workout, ask Mom to call Bingo for you. Zoom, Zoom!!! As the evening progressed we sampled drinks, showed off our ugly socks, told jokes, and had lots of fun. Bedtime!

Sunday morning we all had a wonderful breakfast together, and were amazed that we all survived the night. We continued with more stories and laughter, Pretty soon we heard a disturbance out behind the house, and low and behold it was Sharon crashing our breakfast. We served her a cup of coffee, and sat her down, and of course, “Stand-in-Deb,” had to get a picture with her right away. Stand-in-Deb sure was in a lot of pictures wasn't she. She was hanging around everywhere! Later we voted on our door prize items for the weekend, they were Best Food – Linda, Best Drink – Jeri, Cutest P.J.'s – Donna, Ugliest Socks – Barb and Best Story – Sharon. If we would had thought about it we would have given Mom a prize for, “Wildest Bingo,” Everyone was a winner again this year because we had such a great time. Next year Donna, Lisa and maybe Sharon will host Sister's Weekend. Also, we want to thank Larry and Maggie for letting us use Emerald Hideaway once again for this fun weekend. Love to all, Betts.

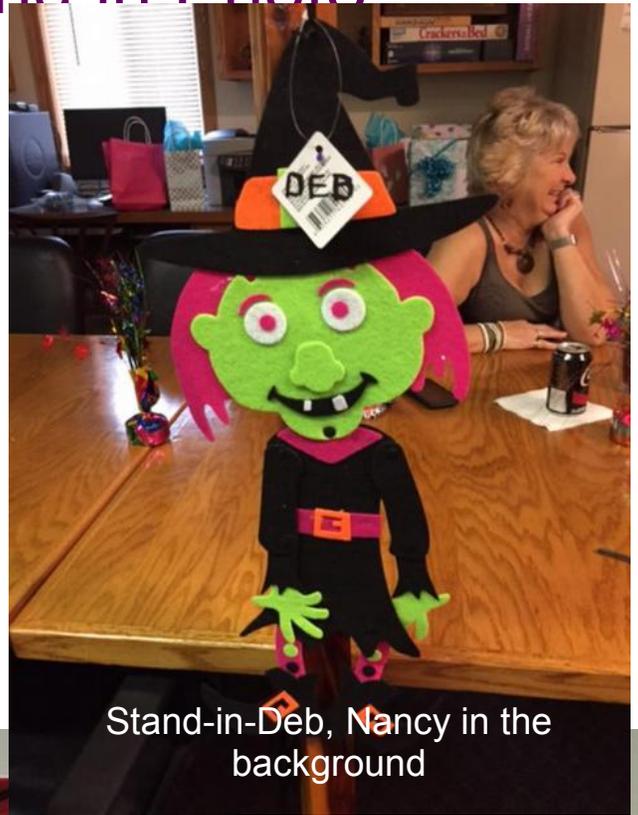


L-R: Donna, Barb, Mom, Nancy, Linda, Lisa, Jermayne and Betty.
Sharon joined us on Sunday. Here we are modeling our ugly socks.

Sister's Weekend in Photo



Betty looking for Tobi's phone



Stand-in-Deb, Nancy in the background



L-R: Barb, Lisa, Mom, Pope Francis, Nancy, Donna and Linda

Sister's Weekend in Photo Continued



Mom being funny with trying to peel potatoes with an electric knife



Betty in the bed full of Bingo gifts



Above three photos are some of the signage upon entering the grounds



Playing Bingo, Barb, Nancy, Donna, Mom, Jeri, Betty and Lisa



The winners, Lisa, Linda, Donna, Sharon, Barb. Jermayne is missing



Mom calling Bingo

Sister's Weekend Photos Continued



Upper left at breakfast, Barb, Nancy, Jeri, Donna, Betty, Mom and Lisa. Upper right is Mom and Donna with the lap blanket Donna made for Mom. Right middle. POOR Lisa, Betty only left her have room from her little rolled up pillow to the orange tape to sleep in.



Getting ready for Sunday's activities. L-R: Barb, Lisa, Nancy, Donna, Mom, Betty, Stand-in-Deb, and Sharon

Kodet Sisters and Niece's Day

On Saturday, September 30, 2017, the annual Kodet Sisters and Niece's Day was held at the Senior Citizen Center in Morton, Minnesota hosted by our wonderful Aunt Mary Lou Butzer. The morning started with potluck breakfast that was so good and plentiful. Little by little the other Aunts and cousins arrived, and we visited, shared in turn what we had all been doing since we met last year, and laughed and laughed. Susie Butzer had been busy since last year making hundreds of large potholders which she generously shared with all of us with more than one set a piece. Thank you Susie. Mary Lou shared with us the doll she made from scratch by croqueting her whole outfit outside and inside. Even her shoes. This year the doll was red. Many brought door prizes, and we all entered our names for the drawing. Bingo prizes were brought by everyone by the basket full, so when we played Bingo, with Adella as our caller, we were rewarded with many, many Bingo prizes. We had potluck dinner, and we were all full again, but such wonderful food. Some brought decorated pumpkins to share with everyone, or flower bulbs to plant next year, balls of homemade soap decorated so cute, jars of homemade strawberry jam, and Susie brings tons of post it notes and other tablets for all of us. No matter who you are you go home a winner. Those present were, Mary Lou Butzer, Susie Butzer, Rachel Butzer Edwards, Doreen Serbus, Dani Ourada, Connie Serbus, Mary Welshons, Martha Serbus, Joyce Deming, Barbara Mages, Betty Jass, Barb Plath, Gail Christensen, Brenda Siers, Katelyn Siers, Adella Mages, Julie Johnson, Carol Feldman, Sharon Mages and Linda Gall. I just love this day, and we all thank Mary Lou for all her hard work. Love, Linda



Our beautiful Aunts and Mother. L-R: Adella Mages, Mom, Martha Serbus and Mary Lou Butzer.

Kodet's Sister's and Niece's Day in Photo



Below is Mary Lou with her red doll entered in the Renville County Fair this year, and the purple doll from last year. Beautiful

Photo above is some of the guests, L-R: front row, Betty, Adella, Mom, Martha, Mary Lou, Katelyn, Brenda. Back row, Barb, Joyce, Carol, Gail, Julie, Sharon, Mary, Rachel, Susie, Connie and Linda



Enjoying each others company and sharing

Bingo Prizes



Cards With Mom - October 17, 2017

On Tuesday, October 17, our family started our day with Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye for the deceased members of the Alphonse Mages family. Breakfast was served after Mass, and followed by much laughter and the card game, "Hand and Foot." The winners of the game were Mom and Harold Lanz, Betty's friend. We went to the Railway for lunch where Sharon Mages, Alissa Fischer, Michelle Strate and Amanda Cook joined us. Those present were Maggie Mages, Arlene Mages, Mom, Barb Plath, Betty Jass, Harold Lanz, Nancy Strate, Curt Mages, Debbie Fischer, Lizzie Fischer, Lisa Schmitz and Linda Gall. Thank you Debbie for the delicious Raspberry French Toast Bake that we enjoyed for breakfast, YUM YUM!!!! Linda



L-R: Lizzy, Debbie, Mom, Harold, Betty, Linda, Maggie, Curt, Nancy and Barb. Arlene is behind the camera.

Cards With Mom in Photo



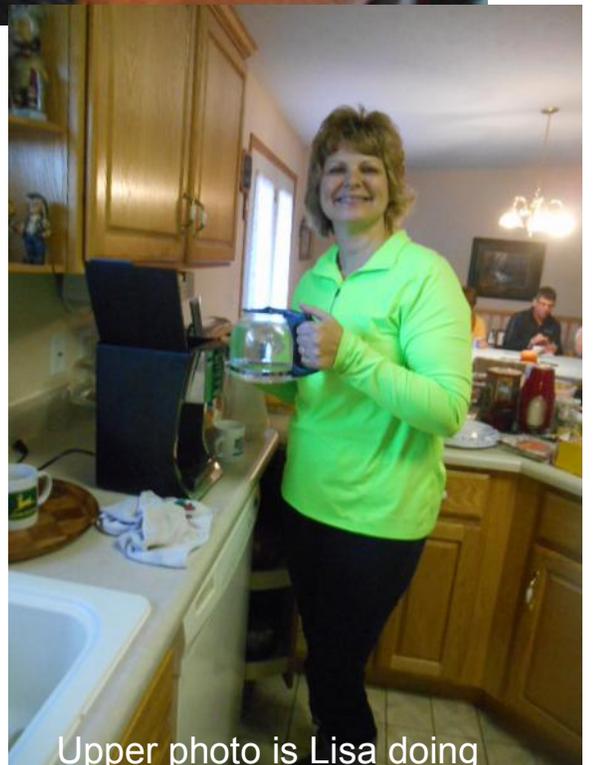
At the Railway, L-R: Mom, Barb, Betty, Harold, Alissa, Debbie, Lizzy is hidden, Lisa, Sharon and Curt. Back row is Maggie, Michelle, Amanda, Linda and Nancy.



Middle left photo is Mom with ALL that food at breakfast
Page 17



Photo to the left is Betty holding a plate of huge tomato slices she claims she grew in her Florida garden. I think I smell a rat.



Upper photo is Lisa doing Dan's job with the coffee pouring. You had better step it up Dan!!!!!!!

Curt and Kathy's Vacation to Italy

Kathy and I recently spent two weeks in Italy (Sept.26 – Oct 12, 2017). We had a great time, and saw many wonderful sights. We flew in the big Airbus A380-800 airliner to Milan. This plane can be configured to hold 850 passengers, so we had a lot of room. We saw the big Duomo Cathedral, (4th largest in Europe,) in Milan, and walked through the “old city”. Old City is defined as being over 400 years old.

The next day we took the train to Florence, and met a couple from Hastings, (John and Tracy Steiner.) John and Tracy did most of the vacation planning, as we were last minute add-ons to the trip. In Florence, we toured a couple of museums, toured a few churches, walked the old town. Also, in every city we ate at cute sidewalk ristorante's. We ate a lot of awesome food, mainly pastas, pizzas, and homemade bread. Wine was good but inexpensive (less than \$10 per bottle or carafe.) Next we toured the medieval city of San Gimignano. This is a walled city about 80 acres in size, and all of the buildings are authentic from the time period. Next we saw the leaning Tower of Pisa. The tower is still standing. Then we toured the 5 ocean side villages of Cinque Terra. These beautiful villages are built on the mountainside, and we accessed them by ferry. The streets were steep but worth the walk.

Next we spent four days in Rome. We spent the first day at the Vatican. We heard the Pope's message. The Pope drove within 30 feet of us when he rode around in his pope-mobile. We toured the Vatican museum, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter Basilica. Kathy took a few illegal photos in the Sistine Chapel. We were going to attend Mass inside the basilica, but we were a couple minutes late, and couldn't get in that section so we spent 15 minutes doing adoration instead. The next couple of days we toured the Coliseum, The Forum, The Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, and several churches. We also ate at several nice ristorante's.

Then onto Assisi. Assisi is another walled city from medieval times. I was looking forward to seeing this city as St. Francis is my confirmation saint. I didn't realize it but two other saints come from this town, St. Rufino and St. Claire. St. Claire studied under St. Francis and later started several nunneries.

After Assisi, we headed to Venice. Unfortunately, we got kicked out of Venice after only one day as they had enough of the Mages'. Apparently Tobi was in Venice a few weeks before us, and must have raised a lot of hell. Luckily, we saw a lot on our one day. We had a boat tour of the Grand Canal, spent time roaming around the city, saw a few churches, and ate at a couple of nice ristorante's.

Now it was time to take the train back to Milan to catch a flight home. We spent a day in Milan touring the Leonardo Science Museum, The Sforza Castle, and a few churches. There were many huge churches in each city we visited, and they were all beautiful.

Then we fly back on another A380-800. We had great weather. It was in the mid-70's each day. Early October is a good time to tour Italy as the weather is mild, the tourist crowds aren't bad, and many hotels are available. We mainly took trains from city to city, and used the subways in the larger cities. Everything went great, and we Have many good memories. Curt and Kathy

Curt and Kathy in Italy in Photo

Venice



Florence



Cinque Terra



Milan Duomo Cathedral



Pisa



Right photo is Curt hanging out with St. Francis



Typical high speed train



Italy in Photo Continued



Pope Francis in the popemobile



Rome Coliseum



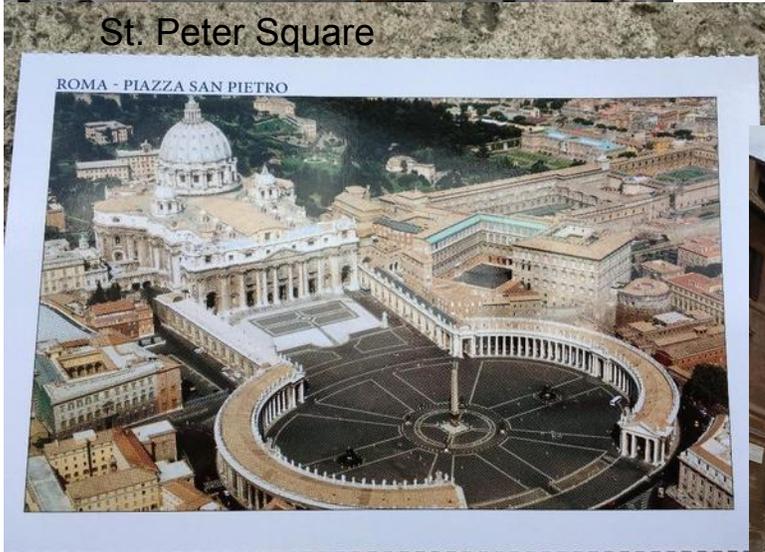
Rome Pantheon



Typical ristorante

Sistine Chapel to the right

Below is the Roman Spanish Steps



St. Peter Square



St. Francis Basilica

Venice