

December 2023
Issue 314

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DECEMBER 2023

Our family received a miracle on November 01 when God decided Larry's work on earth still wasn't finished. Over a thousand kind people were praying and are still praying for your recovery Larry. God bless all of them from the bottom of all our hearts.

I forgot to mention last month that we are entering our 27th year for the "Family Reunion." Wow!!!

God's Blessing to all: Linda



December Birthdays

Sarah Mages	Dec 01
Rick Mages	Dec 05
Scott Mages	Dec 05
Garrett Mills	Dec 06
David Nelson	Dec 07
Linda Gall	Dec 10
Erica Mages	Dec 11
Jeff Mages	Dec 13
Rob Mages	Dec 14
Otto Mages	Dec 18
John Cook	Dec 20
Brittany Mages	Dec 21
Adam Bemmels	Dec 22
Adrienn Mages	Dec 22
Brooke Wolf	Dec 25
Alexandra Butler	Dec 25
Dan Mages	Dec 26
Amanda Cook	Dec 28
Alissa Groen	Dec 28
Theresa Wagner	Dec 30
Jory Mages	Dec 31

Wishing our loved
German cousins a
very Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year

A special Hello to our German
cousins, Helmut, Birgit, Andi,
Elena, Rosalie, Anton and
Tobi
www.magesonline.com

News Deadline

20th of each month
Send articles and photos
to Linda at
lindagall@rocketmail.com
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Coming Events

November 21, 2023 – Mages Family Mass

November 25, 2023 – Mages Annual Christmas Party
at St. Margaret's Catholic Church, Lake Henry, Minn.

November, 2023 – New Baby due for Ethan and
Becca Scharmer

December 12, 2023 – Mages Family Mass.
Christmas celebration for the children of Alphonse
and Barbara at Larry and Debra's home.

January 26, 27 & 28, 2024 - Men and Boys Fishing at
Emerald Hideaway.

March 31, 2024 – Easter Sunday Mass 9:30 am for
Dad and Mom at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye.

May 12, 2024 – Mass for Mom 9:30 am at St. Mary's
in Sleepy Eye.

October 05 & 06, 2024 – Hunters Women's Weekend
by Debbie Fischer

December Anniversaries



Mages Annual Christmas Party November 25, 2023

The Mages Family Christmas 2023 Potluck

St Margaret's Catholic Church Social Hall

Lake Henry, Minnesota

November 25, 2023

At 12 Noon


Fun for everyone

Planned for you by this years committee

John and Cindy – Jeff and LeAnn

Duke and Jermayne – Dean and Donna

And families



Mages Sibling Christmas Celebration – This includes you Helmut and Birgit. Sorry rest of the family as this is just for the siblings and their spouses.

Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye for the deceased members of the Alphonse and Barbara Mages family at 7:15 am. Anyone can attend the Mass.

Home of Larry and Debra Mages Sibling Christmas starting at 11am social hour, Potluck meal at noon. Followed by cards in the afternoon.

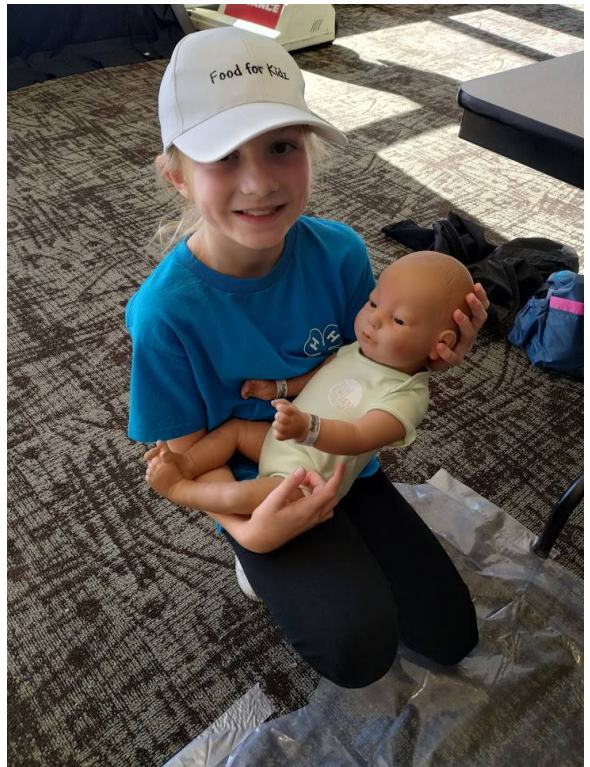
Food for Kidz/ Stewart, MN: Nov 12, 2023

Thank you to everyone who came to the 19th annual Food for Kidz- of Stewart, MN packaging food event held at the Sleepy Eye Event Center. We had a record year of BEST EVER!. We had an amazing turn out of over 220+ volunteers and we packaged 97,920 cinnamon/sugar/oatmeal meals for hungry children. This year the food is heading to Slovakia near the Ukraine border. Oatmeal meals were requested to package for this year's event. We also are sending gently used coats and cold weather clothing to add to the packaging. Our own Christine Mages- Vanderhook was on a trip there through her job with UNICEF late October of this year, and she saw first hand the need for us to help out. Thank you Christine for your bravery going overseas for 10 days. We appreciate all the family donations we have already received. Contact Rick Mages at 320-583-7442 and/or mail to Rick at 508 Prescott St NE, Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 if you wish to still donate. Those in attendance from family this year were Jenny Fischer-teacher advisor for the National Honor Students, Larry & Deb Fischer, Rick & Jane Mages & Everly Jensen, Mary Kay, Grace, Adam, Anna & Martin Mages. We know Mom/Grandma Barabara was there in spirit as Mary Kay mentioned driving to the event, she was thinking she will talk to grandma, then realizing she is right beside us all the time in spirit. This was Grandma's first year missing to sit at the table to help since started in 2003. We had to chuckle at Grace Mages- remember when we all had a week in school to take home a baby and treat it with loving care. Well Grace had Everly babysit "Baby Jadon" while she worked packaging the food. Everly was a great babysitter I noticed. God's blessing for your generosity with Thanksgiving so near Deb

Food 4 Kidz in Photo



Food 4 Kidz in Photo Continued



Hunter's Women's Weekend 2023

On Nov 3rd & 4th, It was fun hosting the Hunters Women's Weekend 2023 with stories, food, drink, prayers, games, shopping fun and laughter. What tastes better than a pretzel bar and charcuterie board eating to graze on all evening. A big kitchen island was cozy to sit around and catch up with each other's busy lives. Eventually we got around the dining room table and played 10 rounds of Card Bingo for nickels, dimes, quarters and a \$1 bill ante, along with bonus wrapped prizes donated by Barbie for a winner to each game. This year was extra special as we prayed together as a family for our (Hunters weekend) Deer brother, uncle, great-uncle "Larry Mages" who is in the Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center in Corvallis, Oregon for a major heart surgery. We would laugh and tell story then stop again for a prayer in our thoughts often. We spoke about Mom & Dad's hard working lives and their estate that was such a gift to us all. We talked late into the evening, then talked some more with our sleeping bed partner- sister for another hour before drifting off to sleep. Something like 2-4am rings a bell. But it was Up Early again at 6:45am for coffee on the sofa and warm blankets around the fireplace to start up the stories. Everyone chipped in for a large brunch of good eating. In keeping up with this weekend's tradition of visiting a niece's home or two, we all got changed into our day clothes and left to tour the Fischer Beef farm with Jenny Fischer and the four kiddos- Lizzy, Luke, Gabe and Maria. We seen the front of their house, a new patio created and designed by Joe Mages completed in September. The grand kids like to show off the chickens that just started laying eggs being raised in the old milk house. We seen the 550 new beef Angus cattle that just arrived from Wyoming, North Dakota and Yellowstone River, Montana. The truck driver that delivered the Montana cattle said the farm ranch looked just like Yellowstone Series on TV. The little boys showed off the JD equipment climbing up the steps into the cab and back down again. We seen the shop getting an addition built on each side, numerous building changes, plus a 2nd driveway and grove added since most have been to the farm in the last - 15 years, about Jacob's graduation party. Next we drove into Sleepy Eye to visit Alissa and Cody Groen's home. Colette and Baby August greeted us inside. We toured a beautifully remodeled home by Cody and Alissa that was built by Leona Seidl back in the 1970s. It was the grandma's house of our niece -Michelle Strate. Michelle's (4-H grandma) lived to be 99 years old and was a long time 4-H adviser for the Fischer kids. Wow all that touring, guess what, we were hungry and thirsty again. We had lunch at the New Daug House Bar & Grill that opened 3 days ago. They had great service and good hot food. Finally shopping afterwards in Sleepy Eye checking out the shops. We could not help but laugh when we found baby blue short-shorts with sides raised up high to purchase after Sharon told us the story the night before of Tom coming to pick her up on a date with the motorcycle wearing a tank top & baby blue short- shorts just like they were selling again in the Serendipity Store. My Oh My-how times flies and they are back In-Style. Hey Tom, we would love to see you try them on with a tank top too???

Those able to attend this year were: Sharon Mages, Stacie Roiger, Donna Nelson, Linda Gall, Barb Plath, Lisa Schmitz, Connie Goblirsch, Jennifer Fischer, Alissa Groen, Julia, Abby & Makayla Strand and myself.

NOTE: Mark your calendars for next year Sat. Oct 5th & Sun. Oct 6th, 2024. I will be hosting the Fall Sisters-Nieces weekend at my home. We wil be attending the famous New Ulm Ocktoberfest Celebration. Further details to come... Hugs to you All, Auntie Deb Fischer

Hunters Women's Weekend in Photo



Left photo is our beautiful supper. Photo below is the next morning after 4 hours of sleep, Debbie, Barb, Lisa, Linda, Donna, Stacie and Sharon



L – R: Stacie, Debbie, Barb, Julia, Abby, Makayla, Lisa, Linda and Sharon



Photo above is Stacie, Barb, Lisa, Linda, Donna, Abby, Julia, Alissa, Debbie and Sharon playing BINGO



Julia, Alissa, Debbie, Sharon, Connie, Stacie, Jenny, Abby, Barb, Lisa and Linda



Preparing supper, Sharon, Debbie and Stacie

Hunters Women's Weekend in Photo Continued



Maria



L – R: Sharon, Lizzy, Debbie, Stacie, Donna, Lisa and Jenny



New cattle at the Fischer Farm



Luke, Gabe, Lizzy, Debbie, Maria, Stacie, Donna, Sharon, Lisa and Jenny



Alissa and Coco

Touring Alissa and Cody's beautiful home, Debbie, Lisa, Stacie, Sharon and Alissa



Hunters Women's Weekend in Photo Continued



Coco, Cody and Baby Auggie



Cody's beautiful Orchids he grows himself



Middle left photo is at the Dawg House in Sleepy Eye. L – R: Lisa, Debbie, Stacie, Alissa, Coco, Sharon and Donna. Photo to the left is Linda with a pair of shorts that would look nice on our brother Tom. Photo to the right is Stacie with a purchase of a Christmas tree made from wood.



December Angels



Teresa Lynn Campbell

December 29, 1978 – December 29, 2012



Michael Joseph Gall

July 31, 1972
December 24, 2009

Duane Michael Mages

August 03, 1952 – December 28, 2015



Thank You from Larry and Debra

Debra and I are so thankful for the prayers and love to get us through this tough time. It has been quite the experience blowing out my heart ventricle and getting it replaced with a bovine valve. I hope every single one of you is getting your heart checked out. Yes, I can feel the prayers. It is remarkable knowing you have so many people in your corner. It means so much. I just want to hug each and everyone of you.

The doctors have said I am having a remarkable recovery. I am trying to put the work in, the last thing I want to do is go backwards.

We will be seeing many of you throughout the Christmas season. Unfortunately, we will not be able to come to Lake Henry. I wish I could. If you ever get near here, please plan to stay for a few minutes and say Hi. It just lifts me up when someone walks through the door. Thank you from Debra and I.

Men and Boy's Fishing Weekend

The Men and boy's fishing will take place at Emerald Hideaway on the last weekend in January starting on Friday, January 26. We will have supper at 6:30pm on Friday evening and cards at 8pm. Same for Saturday night. And then breakfast and clean up on Sunday morning. Would love to see as many of you there as possible. Larry, Ed, Matt and Joe



Photo from Larry's hospital bed in Corvallis, Oregon.

Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra

If you're gonna play in 'Kato, you gotta have a cello in the band! Martin Mages worked hard this fall playing cello with North Star Strings, the training ensemble for the Mankato Area Youth Symphony Orchestra. Martin's concert was Sunday, November 19 at Mankato East High School. (If you watch the KEYC coverage you will see Martin wave for the camera at 1:24—goofball!) Practices were Sunday afternoons September through November in Mankato which meant Martin missed a few days of harvest. But there were a couple of those Sunday harvest days that Martin did a Superman-style quick change from orchestra clothes to farm clothes so he could immediately meet Grandpa Dan, Dad Greg, or Uncle Tim hauling beans to the soybean plant in Mankato! We are pretty sure Martin was the only kid who went from orchestra to a semi-truck in a matter of minutes!

Anna Mages plays violin with Allegro Strings in New Ulm. Her Christmas concert will be Sunday, December 17 at 6 p.m. Call Mary Kay for details!

