

Epiphany Greetings from the Rockrohrs!

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world; a Light that no darkness can overcome.

As we celebrate the Light of the World, our Savior Jesus Christ, during this Epiphany season, our prayer is that His Light will also shine brightly in your hearts and in your lives.

So much of our family life seems to revolve around school and learning that we decided this year to provide a

Comprehensive Scholarship Update Report

Rev. Dr. Carl, in his sixth year on the faculty of Concordia University Ann Arbor, is the only scholar in the family assigned to attend classes but not actually enrolled in school. Last June he completed a 2-year contract as Dean of the School of Religious Studies and Social Sciences at CUAA, and then stepped down so that he could return to the classroom. Fall term found him focusing instead on university re-accreditation as an editor of the institutional self-study report. With that task completed this month, he is happy to be carrying a full teaching load for spring term.

Deaconess Deborah returned to the (online) classroom in fall 2009, and will complete coursework leading to an Ed.D. in higher education leadership and management from Regent University (VA) in August. The dissertation will take a bit longer, but is already underway. In contrast to Carl, Deb is enrolled in school but doesn't actually attend classes except for a one-week residency each summer. She resigned her position at CUAA last February to focus on her studies. In June she was called and installed as deaconess at our congregation, St. Paul in Farmington Hills, MI, where she continues as organist and music director. She continues as vice-president of the Concordia Deaconess Conference until June, having reached the 4-year term limit.

Paul, both scholar and world traveler, enjoyed a study-abroad course to Turkey this month. He will graduate from Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) on Saturday, May 14. His studies will continue next fall when he enters the seminary. We are still waiting to hear whether he will attend the St. Louis or Fort Wayne seminary. Paul broke his foot last August, and had surgery to pin the break, known as a "Jones fracture." If anything, he was faster on crutches than on foot, and his mother was glad to be in another state for most of that period so she didn't have to think about him falling (which he didn't). Paul was taking a PE course at the time, and crutched a mile the day before his surgery.

Jim, just a year younger, is a junior at CUW but not far behind Paul in scholarship. He is planning to graduate next December, so we will have two 2011 grads in the family. Jim will take his second 6-week segment of Officer Candidate School (OCS) in the Marines this summer. With successful completion, he expects to be offered a commission upon graduation from college. Jim tells us he wants to fly either helicopters or fixed wing planes for the Marines. Jim will be on the lacrosse team at CUW this spring. It is a new sport for both him and the university.

Becky, our 2010 high school graduate, was co-salutatorian of her class at Westland Lutheran High School. Two days later she moved to Wisconsin, since her brothers had found her a job with CUW maintenance, where they also worked for the summer. The cafeteria was not open, but a dorm kitchen

January 2011

was available; Paul and Jim agreed to buy food if Becky would cook. Back in Michigan, half the Rockrohr family was missing out. For one term this past fall, three Rockrohrs were enrolled at CUW. Becky decided in September to change her major and enter deaconess studies, so this month she transferred to Concordia University Chicago which has the only undergraduate LCMS deaconess training program.

Ted, our youngest budding scholar, was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society last May. He is in the 6th grade and enjoys soccer, basketball and track in season. With the three older kids away at college, the house has seemed rather quiet, but that is changing. This month Ted took up trumpet. We are enjoying the sounds he makes, and look forward to the day he is skilled enough to play something in church, accompanied by Mom on the organ.

Family gatherings are getting more difficult to organize, so we really value the time when we can be together. This year we were amazed to note that all four schools had the same fall break, so we planned a brief family vacation on Washington Island, off the tip of Door County, Wisconsin. Carl's parents were able to join us for one of the days.

We also enjoyed a long weekend together in Cape Girardeau/Jackson, Missouri as we celebrated on July 4th the 50th wedding anniversary of Deb's parents. Their true anniversary is August 21, an inconvenient date for most of us with a new school year getting underway. However, having come that far we were confident they would make it a few more weeks; we have not been disappointed. They planned their own private celebration on the date and managed to get two parties in the same year.

We look forward to connecting with many of you, dear family and friends, both near and far, in the coming year. Advances in technology make this easier year by year. Our website at www.rockror.net has many photos, events, sermons, etc.

God's richest blessings to all in the year of His grace, 2011!

Carl and Debbie Rockrohr
Paul, Jim, Becky and Ted

www.rockrohr.net



Photo from Washington Island, Door County Wisconsin, October 21, 2010. The smaller island in the background is a nice Wisconsin state park, Rock Island. Left to right: Paul, Grandpa David, Grandma Jane, Becky, Ted, Deb, Jim and Carl.

If your computer is online, click the link on the smiley face below to see in “street view” on Google maps where this photo was taken.



Where we took the photo.

