

Friends of Peace!

It has been a while since we've been able to write to you! We were so sad that we were not able to join you over Christmas. It was difficult for Hannah and I to be away from family (and snow) during the Holidays, but we made the most of our time in STL. On Christmas Eve we attended our fieldwork church's service, and on Christmas Day went to an inner-city LCMS church – which was a wonderful experience! On Christmas Day we called family and enjoyed dinner with our pastor and his lovely family.

On January 11th, we welcomed our son – Judah Francis Brockman – into the world! Judah and Hannah have been doing great; Judah surpassed his birth weight by his 12th day! We were welcomed home from the hospital to a -28-degree day here in St. Louis – the coldest it's been here since 2006! That snap of cold killed the heat in our apartment. That first night home, Hannah and I alternated holding Judah to keep him warm. Not a great experience.

Thankfully, Hannah's sister and our brother-in-law live on the Seminary's campus and took us in for a little more than a week. **We are back home now** and getting used to this whole "parenting" thing. Hannah is back at school, and I am helping teach theology there on Wednesdays as part of my education. As some of you saw, **we welcomed Judah into God's family through the Word and waters of Baptism on February 25th!** We are so thankful for the goodness God has given us and Judah over the last 2 months!

We are hopeful to be home around the Easter season. That does depend on the weather and how Judah, who will be around 3 months old by then, does with longer travels. **We really miss all of you**, something that was amplified with the various Christmas Programs and updates we see on Facebook of the Youth Group. It truly was difficult to not see you as planned over the Holiday Season.

Through all the craziness of birth, being displaced, figuring out parenting, and the start of the 2nd Semester, we have found comfort, rest, and renewal in the promises of God. Namely the promise He gave Satan: that His Son would crush his head, redeeming and restoring God's People (Gen. 3:15). **This promise has reminded us that even in the most difficult times, God prevails; And He prevails for us.** We hope that you can find the same comfort, rest, and renewal in this promise of God this Lent and always!

With Love & Gratitude,

Blake + Hannah

Blake, Hannah, and Sweet Little Judah

P.S. - Thank you for the quilt
for Judah!

