

## *Merry Christmas to all our friends and family!*

*It has been a great many years (decades?) since we've sent out Christmas cards and letters. This year however, we decided it was time again. Our family has experienced trials this year, as we know many of you have. While everyone's trials are different, we hope everyone has also felt the Lord's comfort and influence in their lives as we have.*

*We are in the same house we built in 2001 and we still love it. When we bought the property in 2000, we had no children yet, but the Lord knew what was coming. He set in motion the ability for us to build a home that seemed massive at the time, but when everyone is home, seems much, much smaller! We have been so very blessed with wonderful friends and amazing extended family who reach out and support us whenever we need it.*

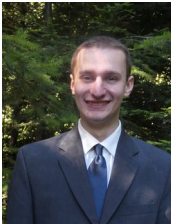
*Many of you we haven't seen in years and many of you are new friends, so for your benefit we'd love to share a little bit about what each of us has been busy with this year.*



This year marked our 26<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Charles has been very busy this year working at Intelitech (he's been there almost 25 years). He also has a side "computer consulting" business and puts in many volunteer hours with the county and church involving emergency communications. Ham radio is a common thread through our family, with 11 in our immediate family having licenses as well as both of Michele's parents. He has also put in countless hours working on a massive 5-month project that started when our well went dry. He is in charge of technology in our ward at church.

Michele keeps very busy running the house, homeschooling and just keeping track of everyone! This summer was tough on every member of the family (Michele's parents included) as we trenched, ran wires, built outbuildings and rock walls and drilled a new well – twice. That project was massive considering the many hundreds of feet of wire and conduit we needed to run over very inhospitable terrain.

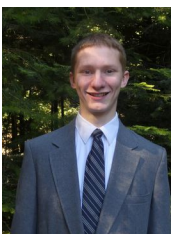
When they aren't busy with other things, Charles enjoys learning new things – both academically and hands-on. Michele loves hiking and exploring the woods as well as landscaping.



**Alexander** (23) – Alexander has been busy this year earning his CDL, working as a diesel mechanic and heading off to BYU-I (Brigham Young University – Idaho) to complete his 4 year degree in Advanced Vehicle Systems to add to his Diesel degree. He loves playing the piano and working with electricity, especially anything to do with lights. He's also found that he really misses the tall trees and dense forests of the Pacific Northwest.



**Miriana** (22) – Miriana completed her Bachelor's degree at BYU-I last December, in Child Development. She moved back to Rexburg in May because she just loves the town and the climate. She is starting her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education at ASU, online. She spent several months there doing nothing but service work. She loves the temple and has been a temple worker for years. She enjoys playing the piano and is currently taking organ lessons.



**Matthew** (20) – Matthew returned from serving a two year mission in Houston in June. He is currently attending BYU-I, finishing his degree in Physics. He loves astrophotography and anything to do with weather. He plans on going into Atmospheric Sciences. He loves running, bike riding and anything else physically challenging. He loves playing the piano and telling jokes.



**Shana** (19) – Shana is just two semesters away from graduating from BYU with a degree in Wildlife Management. She hopes to work for the Forest Service or similar agency in the green part of the Pacific Northwest. She loves animals – the more creepy crawly the better. She also has a passion for reading, writing and drawing. Anything involving dragons is definitely a good thing. She enjoys playing the violin when she is home, and she always loves singing.



**Liliana** (16) – Liliana started Running Start at LCC – Lower Columbia College (college classes while still in “high school”) this Fall. Liliana loves animals and has 11 parakeets that she is hoping to breed and sell. Her favorite place to be is curled up with a good book in front of the wood stove. She also loves snuggling with her baby sister and playing the violin.



**Jonathan** (15) – Jonathan also started Running Start this Fall. Jonathan is planning on finishing at LCC, serving a mission and attending BYU. He wants to become an Pediatric Audiologist and work with kids who have cochlear implants, which will work well because he has had phenomenal success with his own implants. When he has free time he loves reading, listening to music and drawing.



**Steven** (15) – Steven is working hard in calculus and physics at home this year. He plans on starting LCC next Fall and take all the upper math and physics classes they offer. He then wants to serve a mission and head to BYU as well. When he has free time he likes being outside restoring an old dilapidated cabin we have or inside reading astrophysics books. He enjoys helping people and playing the piano. He will likely go into electrical or mechanical engineering.



**William** (14) – William is a powerhouse – everything he does, he does with enthusiasm. He has become, in a very short time, an amazing pianist. He performed as a soloist in three concerts (other than at church). He also loves making Lego stop motion movies. Outside, he loves building large structures out of wood. He’s very mechanically inclined and loves vehicles. He’ll likely go into Diesel Mechanics like Alexander. He loves dogs – most especially his black lab, Midnight.



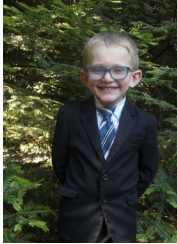
**Kayliana** (12) – Kayliana has stepped up with all of her older sisters either being gone, or buried in school work. She has quickly filled in the role of the “oldest daughter”. She keeps our house clean and organized and keeps us on schedule and on our toes. She loves reading and writing. Her favorite place to be is out hiking through the woods, not on the beaten path, but exploring new things. She loves collecting rocks especially in creeks around us. She also loves singing and is in the stake choir.



**Ariana** (11) – Ariana can often be found somewhere around Mom. She loves watching and learning and snuggling. She has a great sense of humor – as is evidenced by the eye-ball rings she is always wearing on her hands. They always makes us smile. She enjoys the piano and singing, as well as being outside. She can climb higher, faster, than anyone (William disputes that!) and she’s an acrobat in trees. She loves running and hiking.



**Joseph (9)** – Joseph is working hard at school subjects. He enjoys reading and has finally found the joy in reading novels. He is working hard to be recognized as one of the middle kids rather than little kids. He helps out around the house a lot and likes participating in the “older” conversations. He asks very thoughtful questions, and really wants to know the answers. He loves drawing and hiking.



**Timothy (7)** – Timothy is a bouncy happy child. He loves being outside, running around and laughing. He is spontaneous and has a curious disposition that sometimes gets him in trouble. He loves hiking all over our area and coming back and jumping on the trampoline. He loves playing with cars and other toys with Christopher. He loves animals, especially dogs.



**Christopher (4)** – Christopher is smart little guy and cute as a button. He is very inquisitive and thoughtful. He is really starting to read and getting pleasure out of that fact. He also very much enjoys math and writing his own stories. He loves playing with cars and other toys as well as playing outside. He is very clingy to Mom in public, but is gradually becoming more confident. He enjoys picking out songs on the piano. He also absolutely and completely adores his younger sister.

**Juliana (2)** – Juliana is truly the jewel in our family. Born on Easter morning (2021), her full name “Juliana Esther Boling” seemed fitting. She loves life and everyone loves her. She has Down Syndrome but is very high functioning. She is on track for “normal” kids her age in gross and fine motor skills. She is starting to talk more and has many dozens of signs she uses regularly. She can run down the hill on our driveway and climb our wall. She’s knows many of her a lot of pleasure out of the letter “O” animals – especially William’s dog – and “leads” the music. Everyone in our light into our home and she brings many She is also “very two”. She is stubborn throws tantrums when she doesn’t get loves being outside more than anywhere amazing distance. She follows her also adores books and will sit and flip through books for an hour solidly. She’ll often come, excitedly, talking or signing about something she saw in a book, wanting to share it with Mom. Just over a year ago she had heart surgery that was very successful. She loves snuggles and will just melt into people’s arms. Hugs are common as are whole face smiles. Everyone should have such a light in their family!



up and down the bars up to the ceiling on colors and is learning her letters and gets (easy to say and easy to spot!). She loves music. She “sings” hymns with us and family adores her. She brings so much smiles to people at church and in stores. and wants to do things herself. She her way, and will test boundaries. She else and can hike through the woods an siblings around wherever they go. She

*Have a very happy holiday season, and keep the Lord close to your hearts!  
We love you all!  
The Bolings*