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As we sit down to write this letter, we hope that everyone is doing well. We can't believe it's already Christmas time again. It feels like we've just taken the tree and decorations down.

In March, Tom was diagnosed with Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus (NPH) which is a brain disorder in which excess cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) accumulates in the brain's ventricles, causing difficulty with walking and light headedness. He was walking with a cane for much of 2023. They did a Lumbar Procedure which drained the fluid off his brain every hour. This was a 3 1/2-day procedure. After so many hours, they would have him walk the halls to see if there's any improvement in his walking. The doctor wanted to see if he'd qualify to have a shunt put into his head to help with the draining, and he was qualified.

On April 30, Tom had the shunt put into his head. He was still walking with the cane for a few months after the surgery, but has been walking on his own since August. He'll still use Lysa's arm as a backup now and then. He says that he's 60-70% better.

In July, Tom & Lysa did a 'staycation'. We've always wanted to see the south western part of Colorado. We've visited Great Sand Dune National Park, Colorado Gators Reptile Park and Pagosa Springs. While there, we've visited with Tom's friend, Steve Sarnow's brother, Stuart Sarnow. We had dinner at a park while listening to a Jazz music festival. We then went to Durango and did the Durango to Silverton train ride. We've always wanted to do it, and it was wonderful! From there, we went to Telluride, Ouray and the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. It was a nice trip. We drove over 1100 miles and never left the state! Nikki also got a new car. She got a 2021 Kia Seltos. She's enjoying it.

In August, we went to the Holy Roller's car show sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and St. Vincent de Paul at church. Well, needless to say, Lysa bought a 2001 Ford Mustang Convertible. It only had 52,300 miles on it and the price was right! It was also an early birthday present. Both kids were in Hawaii for Lysa's birthday. What's wrong with this picture? Dan & Kylie were there for a wedding and Nikki went with her friend Paula and her family.

In October, Tom, Lysa and Nikki flew to Florida to help celebrate Tom's sister and brother-in-law's, Janice & Patrick's 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. It was a beautiful event and it was also nice seeing the family. Nikki also received her Bachelor of Arts in Journalism on the 15<sup>th</sup>, from the University of Colorado in Boulder. We're so excited for her.

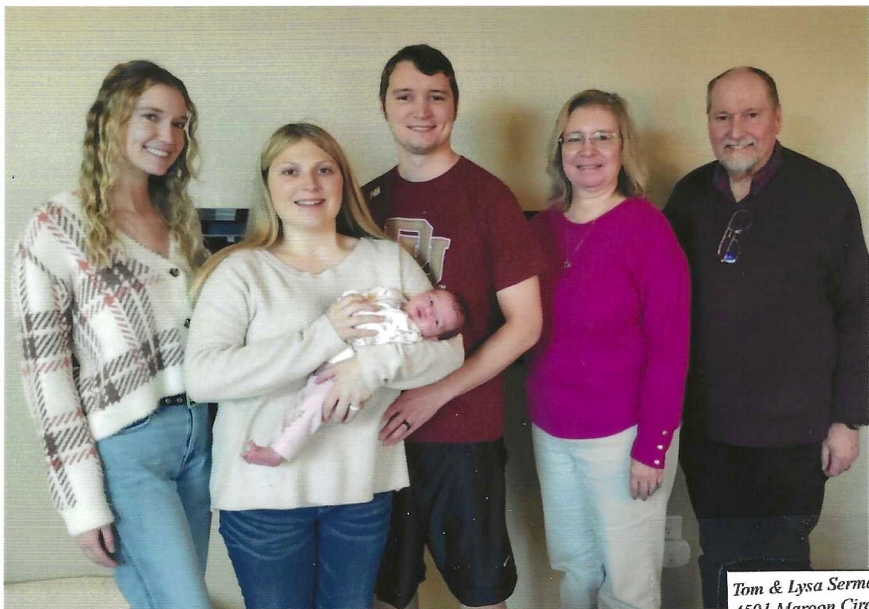
In November, the three of us flew to San Francisco for our dear friend, Kelsey Cordutsky's wedding at the Palace of Fine Arts. The weather was perfect and not that crowded. We walked all around Fisherman's Wharf, rode the cable car and also did Alcatraz. Nikki has always wanted to see it, and we did it on our honeymoon 32 years ago. Also, after an hour of getting home, we got the call that we've been waiting for. Dan & Kylie became parents for the first time! Welcome Emery Rose Sermak. She was born on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:45pm. She was 7lbs 4ozs and 19.75 inches. She's such a cutie. We are now grandparents for the first time! On the 12<sup>th</sup>, Nikki started a new job at Rover Retreat. Our former neighbor used to own it and Dan also worked there at one point. It's a doggie day care and they also board dogs. She's training on becoming an Assistant Manager. It's a great fit for her since she loves dogs.

As we close this year's letter, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. If you're ever in Colorado, give us a call. The bar is always open!

Love,

Tom, Lysa, Nikki, Dan, Kylie, Emery, Lucy & Oreo (Woof Woof)





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WISHING YOU  
THE MERRIEST  
*Christmas*

THE SERMAKS  
Tom, Lysa, Nikki  
Dan, Kylie & Emery