Happy Thanksgiving!

We had a small Thanksgiving BBQ on the beach this year. The kids needed to be flying home on Thanksgiving Day so we celebrated a few days early. Clarity loved the ocean. She kept trying to run away from Cheyenne. She would go as fast as she could in the water, fall down, laugh and jump up and start out again. We had tacos and salad. Super simple but a lot of fun. Teancum helped the kids built a sand turtle and we finished with pie when we got home.





The kids swam and enjoyed Florida's weather this week. The pool wore them out each day. Rayden and Mercy both swam across the pool without life jackets. They were so excited and proud of themselves! Sophie has been swimming for a long time without a life jacket but Rayden doesn't like water splashing in his face so it has taken him a minute to learn how to swim.



However...Rayden seems to move/ float on the water in the boat. He has Teancum's balance. Ray kept telling him to not stand on the ledge of the boat but Rayden seemed so sure of himself and kept getting up there to fish that finally Ray decided to just go in after him if he fell in. He didn't.

One day when Teancum was not quite 2 years old, Ray was working on building a house. The walls were framed. Ray and I were talking and Teancum disappeared. Not a minute later he was up on the top of the framed wall standing on the top plate. My heart stopped... lol. He was little enough that he couldn't talk. I just kept saying "hold still, hold still" until Ray could get up there after him! I use to find Teancum on top of the fridge often as a baby. He loved to climb and never fell.

There were only a couple of days that the weather permitted fishing but there were a lot of fish. Brody caught 3 Goliath groupers! We have fished in Florida for probably 10 years and NEVER caught one of these fish. In a one week Ray and Brody have caught 4. Seeing the Goliath groupers was exciting. They are a protected species so they released them.



Rayden and Sophie had a double...



There was an accident this week that Ashley, my friend from church in Marathon was telling me about. Her son is 13. His best friend went out spear fishing with another 13 year old. In marathon a lot of 13 year olds have their own little fishing boats. This boy saw a Grouper and speared it. There are certain fish that when they get caught or wounded, begin to circle really fast. Groupers are one of them. This grouper started swirling around and tangles the line around the boy and drowned him. It was a tragedy. Ashley's family is dealing with the sadness of this terrible accident. Life is precious.

I have thought a lot about this boy's family this week. Their loss is immense. I hope they know of our Savior. I hope they feel His love. I hope that they are comforted by the knowledge of the resurrection. As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints we believe that all will be resurrected. Christ broke the bands of death for all of us. After Christ was crucified, Angels spoke to the woman who came to prepare Christ's body and said;

New Testament

Luke 24:5

5... Why seek ye the living among the dead?"

New Testament

Matthew 26:6

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

New Testament

1 Corinthians 15:55

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Book of Mormon

Mosiah 16:7-8

7 And if Christ had not risen from the dead, or have broken the bands of death that the grave should have no victory, and that death should have no sting, there could have been no resurrection.

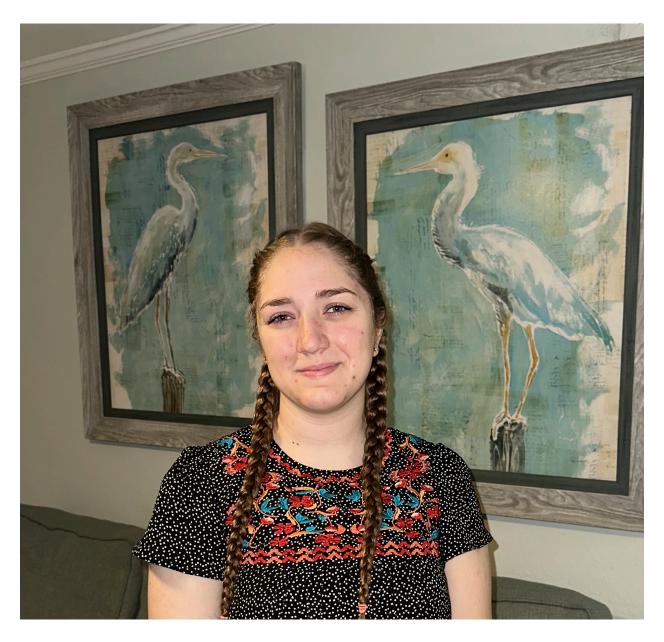
8 But there is a resurrection, therefore the grave hath no victory, and the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ.

I know that we will see our loved ones again. I believe in Christ. I hope that this family who lost their son will feel our Savior's love and comfort at this time.

The kids flew home on Thursday, Thanksgiving Day. This is what an airport looks like with our crew... always an Aunt or Uncle giving the kids lots of food and snacks!



Ray and I had the missionaries over for dinner on Thanksgiving day. They didn't have dinner plans, they were super happy to have left over tacos! Before they left they offered a small spiritual thought about finding something to be grateful for each day. I think most of us can think of something to be grateful for every minute! Starting with, our sweet Raymie is doing much better! Healed enough that she was willing to let me take a picture of her!



With love, Leslie

The key deer on Big Pine walk right up to you. The kids love it.





Fishing was awesome on the days that it wasn't too windy!

