

Merry Christmas to all from the Petersons in AZ! And a very Happy and Wonderful 2016!! Can't believe it's almost 2016!! Here's our how our 2015 has been....

Matt: Finally convinced Alicia that Alora needed a baby sister. Yep – back into the foster program we go! Did NOT enjoy a 7 day detox that Alicia and he tried at the beginning of the year, but since has lost 25 lbs! He caught lots of fish on a family trip to Ephraim, UT. Had fun teaching his boys how to gut, filet and cook a fish. Surprised Alicia with a train trip near Jerome, AZ for their 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Beautiful! Served as the 11 yr old scout leader with a VERY energetic group of 14 boys! Yes 14! He did an amazing job getting the boys advanced in scouting. He just got released from that calling and now has his favorite calling of all time: Elder's Quorum Teacher! Still Director of IT.



Alicia: Can't believe she jumped into the foster system again, but SO glad she did (more on that later)! Also CANNOT believe she gave in to getting a DOG! But again, this dog is very sweet and has made her way into Alicia's heart. Got her favorite calling ever: Primary Chorister! Totally loving that!! Loved going camping as a family! Thinks she wants to retire in Ephraim, UT. Thinks she's finally done with the "baby" stage after having newborns for almost 3 years. Is thoroughly enjoying having 2 more drivers in the family! But is definitely NOT old enough to have 16 yr olds! Still managing homes, but only has 5 now.



David: Did really well in his first high school theater production, Get Smart! Went to District Finals and lettered in swim and academics. Got his permit in May then a full-fledged driver in Nov! Went on his first date with 2 other couples. Wait, dating?!? Yes! Dating!! Got life-guard certified. Hoping to have a job next year using that certification. Had a super fun time at EFY in Provo. Still loves to dress up for fun! Favorite thing to do is hang out with friends! Blessed the sacrament for the first time with Dean and Matt next to him. (VERY proud mama moment)



Dean: Absolutely loved doing pole vaulting in track! Actually made some good advancements for his first year. Hoping to improve even more next year. Also went to finals for swim and lettered in swim and academics. Is enjoying his driving freedom, even if mom makes him run errands. Has been on 3 group dates with David as his built in double date companion. Disappointed that the life guard certification didn't end up in a job, but is hopeful for next year. Wants to go to EFY every year, but not sure about the family having adventures in Ephraim while he's gone! Works in the cafeteria during lunch time (along with David) to earn a little cash,

and get free lunch.

Trent: Became an EAGLE scout! Wow! Had a semi-lead role in the school play, Peter Panic. Did summer swim through the city and now wants to do swim in high school next year! Really enjoyed the beach trip to CA with cousins. Also loves camping with cousins and sleep overs with cousins....see a pattern here? Has decided that fishing is not one of his favs, but really loves 4 wheeling! Thinks he's taller than his mom (not yet!). Is getting straight A's in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Is currently the Deacon's Quorum President.





Jacob: Got to try out tumbling this year and completely loved it! Has discovered that he loves eating HOT things – adds chili powder to his ramen, eats jalapeños at every chance and asked for peppercinis for Christmas! Earned his Arrow of Light Award and became a full fledged Scout – no more cub scouts. Has already earned many merit badges. Had a lead role in Peter Panic, the school musical (Captain Hook). Also did swim during the summer. Caught a fish with his dad. Favorite part of the beach was boogie boarding on the waves.



Jared: Got his Wolf badge, even thru the cub scout transition. Is super excited to be a Bear now! Won 1<sup>st</sup> place at his first pine wood derby! (hard act to follow...) Is a maniac on the quads! Was honorary "Coach of the Year" during his first season of swim team. The coaches love him! Loves his sisters and can often be found playing with Alora. Really loves to read! Thought the beach was cold, but the Pirate Show was fun! Jared will be having surgery on both of his Achilles tendons at the end of December. Cast signings to follow!



Alora: Talks up a storm. Her vocabulary is amazing! She is pure girl – loves to brush hair and put on makeup, but also says, "I'm a tomboy." She wields swords and light sabers with the best of them. She absolutely loves to color and paint. She also loves to read books (or be read to). She is a very good big sister and will help mommy with all the baby needs. She loves her tutus and dresses, but would probably be just as happy in the buff! Learned to swim by herself at the end of the summer, but will probably need a refresher at the beginning of next summer. Can ride tricycles and scooters like a pro. Her dancing recently led to 6 stitches! First in the family!!

Lila (soon to be Alexis): Our sweet foster baby Lila (came to us as Delilah) is now 8 ½ months old. We got her when she was just 3 days old. She is a wonderful little ball of joy. She went through a rough patch, needing to be held all the time, but now she is mobile – crawling, cruising, babbling, loving life! Her birth mother is mentally unstable and has been MIA since August. The birth father has never been identified. It really looks good for us to adopt her. We are hopeful that by May of 2016 we will complete our



family with another little girl.

2015 has been another great year for our family! We had another little foster baby for 2 months before Lila that we loved. We are happy that she is with a loving family with her siblings. We are grateful for our blessings and our testimonies of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We love you and wish you all the very best! Check out our family website: [www.mattsfamily.com](http://www.mattsfamily.com) ! It's actually updated!



Matt, Alicia, David, Dean, Trent, Jacob, Jared, Alora and Lila (Alexis) Peterson

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