



## The Tyler & Natalie Christensen Family 2014



After a one year hiatus from Holiday greetings (too busy working on our house last year) the Christensens are back and better than ever. This year's model is a little older, a little larger, a little more traveled, a little more sleep deprived, and features a cute baby, a more finished house, and even an adopted cat (Mittens).

We hope y'all are doing well and enjoying this holiday season. We wish we saw you more (or at all) and could spend some of this holiday time with you. But we can't so instead you get this letter. Here is what all the Christensen's have been up to...

**Claire Mae** (9 months) had a big year. She was born, spent two awful months refusing to sleep outside of Natalie's arms, and had major difficulty keeping food down. Then she became a beautiful, delightful baby that sleeps through most nights and makes everyone in our family feel awesome. She has cut four teeth, likes to climb to a standing position, and when she isn't standing she's crawling everywhere getting into mischief of one kind or another.



**Spencer** (almost 4) is improving everyday with his listening and rule following. He has started participating in an Early Childhood program that gives him access to a physical therapist and speech therapist four days a week. We have not been successful at finding a diagnosis, but we do know that Spencer is very bright and determined. He seems to have a neurological issue that affects his muscles and his language processing skills. The good news is we are seeing major progress every week. In addition to school (and riding the bus) he loves to go to gymnastics.



**Sharon** (7) overcame several fears this year and learned how to ride her bike and swim. She also mastered tying her shoes and continues to progress very well in reading. She is also taking gymnastics and really enjoys it. Both she and Eli have made some great friends this year.

**Eli** (9) completed his Wolf rank in Cub Scouts and is now working on his Bear. He is very excited. He has also been doing great in school it is fun to watch him learn and come home excited to tell us what he read about. He got to take an engineering class this summer as well as swimming. He is looking forward to starting Karate in January.

**Natalie** built a pantry that extends over our stairs, refinished a chair and small sofa table, and is currently finishing up a desk turned kitchen island. Tyler setup a website to showcase some of the work she/we are doing on the house ([www.thisforeclosedhouse.com](http://www.thisforeclosedhouse.com)). Natalie continues to work with the Young Women organization in our church and is active in our neighborhood and community. Life is busy, but good.



**Tyler** still loves teaching at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and this year put more focus on supporting undergraduate research. He founded the academic *Journal on Best Teaching Practices* and is currently serving as its managing editor ([www.teachingonpurpose.org](http://www.teachingonpurpose.org)). He has also decided to give sports writing a try (in place of watching t.v. at night) and his blog [www.byuinsider.com](http://www.byuinsider.com) gets literally dozens of views each day ☺.

The TyandNat Christensens now have an extra room in the house and would love for you to come visit us any time (although January and summer months work best). We live just outside the Twin Cities (MN) with easy access to kayaking, fishing, Mall of America, several sports venues, and the world's best cheese, ice cream, and (root) beer. Time to start planning a trip to the upper Midwest!

