



Happy Holidays to all our friends, relatives and neighbors (and everyone in-between):

*Okay, so you are probably wondering about the logo. Mark got into his fool head that the brewery needed something to make us unique. Yep, like we were not already just a bit unique without something to show it off. But, he concocted this from some suspected history of the Glewwe origins in Europe, specifically Pomerania and Neustadt-Glewe. But it looks pretty good. And it will go nicely with the new pavilion we are building in the back yard. More on that later.*

2025 has been a year to remember. Sometimes an adventure; Sometimes a challenge, but never dull.

January was an adventure. We went to Great Britain. We stayed in London for a few days where we saw the live theatre of Wicked. Laurel wants you to know that she loved the spectacular production. It was showing just down the street from our hotel (Riu Plaza London Victoria – very nice too!) at the Apollo Victoria Theatre just across the street from Victoria Station.

Hamilton was also showing in the west end theatre district (another block away), but we skipped that to explore the bunker that Winston Churchill ran the British involvement in World War II. It was hard to believe that people lived & worked underground during London's bombing.

We then traveled by British Rail to Cardiff, Wales. We visited the Welsh Parliament and Cardiff Castle. The city center is essentially an expansive pedestrian area with lots of shops, restaurants, entertainment and even a double-decker carousel. The carousel was a great landmark for when we got lost because it was just outside of our hotel (Leonardo). It was a great visit and would definitely go back.

We then took another train ride down to Plymouth and met up with a friend of Mark's from work. Keith and his wife were wonderfully gracious to us. We spent some time down in the Barbican and they took Mark on a lovely day exploring the countryside around the Dartmoor area. Laurel missed out as she was trying to recover from some sort of illness. Mark is still drooling over the stop for cream tea. Thank you Keef. After Plymouth, it was another rail ride to Heathrow and a flight back home.

After getting back, it was time to start planning for the summer of farmers markets and social activities at our backyard brewery. We are down to just one farmers market (I guess a sign of retirement) in New Prague. The brewery activities included making sufficient beverages for the guests, arranging musical entertainment, and expanding our venue. The expansion started as an enclosed building so we could entertain longer into the year and provide shelter from bad weather. Then Laurel reminded Mark that we are retired and should not be expanding our work load. Ha! So we decided that the reason for the expansion was to reduce workload – like the need to move furniture and set up tents. So the project became more of a picnic pavilion with a enclosed storage area to store stuff during the winter. As we write this, the project is now in the construction phase (a bit of a late start due to permitting delays) – a large concrete slab and building materials scattered across the yard and buried in snow. Oops! Originally, the plan was to be completed by the end of October. But we have been assured that it will be done in time for next summer. Oh my!

The last memorable event was our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual 'Banya' support event in early October. Nothing like helping out our thirsty neighbors, eh? And since we had a wee bit of a delay starting the construction we went down to Disney World for their wine and food experience in early November. We met some more of Mark's friends from work that coincidentally were visiting Orlando around the same time. We had a great time experiencing gluttony while surrounded by Mickey and friends. Ha! We got back just in time for the permit to be finally approved. I think the request was back in July. Uffda!

Enough rambling, let summarize the status of the family.

Diana is still living in North Chicago. She recently left her job with the furniture company to experience the impact of tariffs for importing aluminum. She is doing a couple side gigs too, including helping her old company as they find a replacement and working with a friend to open a distillery. Yep, a bit of a workaholic. Kind of hard to believe, eh?

Erik & Lauren are still living in St. Paul. We had Thanksgiving dinner with them. Erik is quite a good cook in their kitchen. They are thinking they need to start looking for a bigger home to house all of their activities. And pets (1 dog, 4 cats) too.

Laurel seems to be doing pretty well putting up with Mark. She is have a bit of a problem with a hip that looks like surgery may be in her near future. She has learned how to gain sympathy by using a cane and getting all sorts of special treatment. Did you know the airlines do all sorts of things for you if you are an invalid??

And Mark has gone overboard with the pavilion and branding the brewery. He has taken that logo and made a new banner and flag. And he recently acquired another 10 gallons of honey for use in the sodas and mead.

We don't have any pets to talk about, but the wildlife is still in abundance around here, An 11 point buck has been sighted in the woods, which we have started to refer to as the "Brewery Buck". We do wish we saw few more owls, hawks and eagles to balance the population of squirrels and rabbits. Otherwise the wildlife seems to still tolerate us living here.

Other news: Samuel (our 1<sup>st</sup> slave) is now a father. Viviane and baby girl are looking well.

Andrew (our 2<sup>nd</sup> slave) is getting married in 2026 to Yaël. Our neighbors are still getting along together and social events & gatherings are flourishing.

Oh! Speaking of such gatherings, we will continue getting together at Boathouse Brewery in downtown Prior Lake on Christmas Eve (Noon – 4pm) for a pot luck event. Join us if you are available. Bring something to share. First beer is on Mark.

Feliz Navidad



Mark and Laurel Glewwe  
Prior Lake, Minnesota, USA

952-440-4558

mark@glewwe-castle.com

laurel@glewwe-castle.com