

The Aardsma Weekly

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Welcome Spring!



Spring is here at last, or at least it's here in Illinois. We are all rejoicing. Spring means different things for all of us. Spring means no more shoes, for instance, and swimming in our pool. School's out, and, for Beka and I, lots of work. Spring means planting in the garden for us.

But we are glad that school is out. We have a big (3/4 acre) garden. We have to plant as soon as the weather permits. That means that school has to be done by the end of March. I just finished my school this week, and Beka and Timmy have been done for a while now. Caleb and Matthew are the only ones left.

To celebrate the end of school, Beka and I planned a cake to decorate and enjoy. Beka offered suggestions and help. I was the one who was supposed to do all the work. I planned on trying two things I had never done before: making roses and vines. The cake turned out better than we had expected, though most of the roses were a little smashed, and the ribbon we made to fill in a blank space was patched up. It tasted good, and we ate the whole two-layer cake at one time!

We haven't been able to do much work in the garden yet, since frequent thunderstorms have kept the ground too wet. This week we did get a row of t-posts into the ground (they provide support for the fences that our tomatoes grow on), and we planted five currant bushes a few weeks ago.

Of course, along with spring comes that dreaded thing called 'Spring Cleaning'. It's a major ordeal over here: floors to wash, doors to scrub, cupboards to clean. Beka and I do most of it. For the last couple days we've been down on our knees digging mud out of cracks with knives, or poking at dust-bunnies under beds. The house is looking really clean, but that won't last for more than an hour or two.

Flowers are starting to bloom. Today Mom picked some daffodils at an old broken-down house, and put them on the table. It is good to see some bright color after a winter of dull browns and grays.

Speaking of color, the grass has become as green as anybody could wish. It's fun to run through the grass in bare feet again.

As spring is marching straight on to summer, the house gets hotter and hotter. We've used the air-conditioning a few times already. Cooking makes the house very hot, and our new greenhouse has come up with temperatures in the 100's!

Spring Cleaning and garden work aside; it has been a lovely spring so far. It's great to get out of school, play outside, and look forward to using our pool once the water warms up! The boys are already talking about fishing trips they can't wait to go on, and

Beka plans wonderful and exotic things for her flower garden. And all the rest of us just revel in the beautiful weather and brace ourselves for summer!

The Weekly Bible Verse

John 12:13: So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"



Bits and Pieces



Not much has happened this week. The thunderstorms don't come so often anymore; just light sprinkles of rain. All the big puddles have drained away, and Timmy and Caleb no longer swim along the road.

The four sheep, which we got before Thanksgiving last year, have been doing well, and the three ewes are suspected of being pregnant. It is a subject of debate. Are we going to have lambs this spring, or has somebody been grossly over-feeding the poor things? In any case, it will be nice to watch the lambs grow up, if we get any, and it will give Matthew some first-hand vet experience.



A Word About The Weather



It has been hot, humid, cool, rainy, windy, still, and many other things this week. Even though the weather fluctuates a lot, we've been getting some very nice weather. It's a nice change from the constant thunderstorms of last week.



A Word Of Wisdom



Always make sure that the powdered sugar you use to make icing isn't cake flour. The two look and feel similar. The big difference is that cake flour makes disgusting icing.