

Unplanned Thanksgiving

11-24-25

A Thanksgiving that didn't go as planned – that would be last year. We had planned that Casey, Bob and I would join Ian and Layla, along with Layla's parents, at their house for Thanksgiving. The routine, begun several years ago, is that I start the turkey at our house and then we all gather over at their house for appetizers and conversation. This works out well because we live only a few short minutes from their place by car. I picked up a good-sized bird, one that would feed seven people and still leave some leftovers. It was a good plan and we had done this successfully before.

Then Layla got sick. I can't remember if she had COVID or something else. No dinner there! She sent over, via Ian, in a big paper shopping bag, all of the food that she was planning to prepare with supplies for all of the trimmings that go with the turkey.

The extra large turkey was stuffed and put in the oven as planned. No returning it for a smaller one. There were only the three of us to feed, Bob, Casey and me. Ian stopped by briefly but didn't stay long. I think he didn't want to spread anything to us or leave Layla alone. He also, it turns out, is not a big fan of turkey. The meal worked out with what Layla had supplied plus whatever Casey had agreed to bring. It is a good thing that both Bob and I really love turkey. We feasted on it into December.

This year there is a complete change in plans. Ian and Layla are heading to Milwaukee to spend the day with her extended family. Casey is bopping down to Chicago to eat turkey with Connie and her dad. Bob and I are going to a pot-luck at Prairie UU. I thought we would be without turkey but I found out during Writing Group that Rick is going to make one for the gathering – a first for him. I'll make the gravy with his pan drippings. It should be a fun and festive gathering.