As a woman born in 1965 my life has been very eventful as well as interesting and painful all at the same time. I am the oldest daughter of 3 girls and the mother of 2 girls and 2 boys. I got married in 1984 one year after graduating from High School. And August of 1985 I became a mom for the first time. Not only am I a mother of 4 but, I am now the grandmother of 6 kids! I have survived a divorce and a big move and so many more things!

Through everything I have remained a Christian and I know God is by my side. The best gift I have been given are my children.

People ask me when I knew I was saved. It was a pin point in a long list of things that I knew were God things. I had been seeking Him in everything I do! I may not always feel him there but in my heart of hearts I know he is in my heart and my soul.

I attended a church retreat weekend many years ago when my kids were still young and I was so emotional getting to the camp. We had quiet time and then some praise time. For Lutherans to sing praise music it was impressive. The song “Have you seen Jesus my Lord” was the song we were singing and I was crying. I looked into the trees in the distance and there he was looking at me with his arms out! I of course cried harder and just stared at him. He was beautiful and had a very warm smile. I don’t remember hair color or skin color. Those were not important anyway! That night I knew I was his and He was mine!

Life after that was not perfect to say the least but, I tried to rest in the knowledge of Him. Some days were harder than others… like being screamed at everyday by your husband who just seemed to hate you now. Who screamed at my kids and scared them to death. Or his pulling a big kitchen knife on me in front of all the kids! I lived in fear almost every day. I had a wonderful church family and parents that loved me. But, I could not get out of my personal Hell. You see my parents had been married forever, my grandparents had been married forever. I had to follow that and put up with it because that how it was done.

During this time I had to have a hysterectomy and the doctor said I died on the table because of massive bleeding during the surgery. I had Endometriosis. They could not save either ovary. But they saved me. My body immediately went into menopause. It took quite a while to feel better after that. But, thanks to that I got the courage to tell my husband to leave. It was the hardest and best thing I had ever done.

When you grow up believing you stay no matter what, it is hard to face it. I know I was not perfect and I know that I gave it my best shot for a long time. I knew my kids needed to not live in a house full of anger and hatred. I know Jesus was with me holding my hand thru it all. And I thank him every day for my kids and my family who supported me along the way.

My Mom told me when she saw the light go out in my eyes she didn’t know what to do except pray. She has said the light is back. It took a few years to feel right again. Some things take me back. I believe PTSD is alive and well in me. But I thank God I am still here and that I get to see my youngest son become a wonderful young man.