Whew! Sometimes, it's hard to keep up with things.

Just as I was getting into full Thanksgiving mode, we learned Lotus injured her knee and may have to have surgery next week and the family won't be able to come home for Thanksgiving.

Big - fat - bummer!

I haven't seen my husband's sister, her husband or Lotus since they were home for Thanksgiving three years ago. I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone and catching up and, especially, decorating the tree with Lotus. My husband and I have it all planned out. We'll go from Thanksgiving to Christmas in a few short hours.

I am hoping to share the stories behind some of my ornaments and drink hot chocolate and eat pumpkin pie and just have auntie time and make some memories.

My other nieces and nephews are grown and scattered and some have children of their own.

I'm, of course, concerned about Lotus and her knee. It bothers me to see young athletes, I'm talking middle- and high-school aged, with braces and bandages and facing surgeries. They are too young! What are their bodies going to be like when they are my age? I don't have any sports-type injuries and some days I feel old.

We were also going shopping on Black Friday. Can I tell you, Lotus is the only thing that would drag me out of the house and to the mall on such a day. Against the nature of my gender, I am the anti-shopper.

I am actually looking forward to seeing what kind of clothes and accessories she likes and

talking and giggling and just messing around.

Can you tell I miss her? I know the roads travel both ways and my husband and I are going to have to get serious about visiting both sides of the family that no longer reside in Ohio. The older I get, the more important it becomes for me keep those ties and closeness. And who else loves you like family?

So, anywho, I'm crossing my fingers and toes that we get to see everyone. We also have an extraordinary amount of food for Thanksgiving because we were expecting a full table of family. I know it will be hard to take but with a few less chairs, someone's going to have to take home a lot of leftovers.