
KLETKE NEWSLETTER

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The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!! Although I didn't necessarily plan it, our occasional newsletter is going to double as our Christmas letter too. Consequently, as our gift to you, you only have to read about our adventures once instead of twice. Merry Christmas.

Life in St. Louis continues to move along. Sometimes I feel as though time is flying by (Dietrich is already 14 months old) and other times it doesn't seem to go by fast enough (there are only 22 weeks left until I am done with seminary classes). I would probably be happier if I could just learn to live in the present and enjoy what I have instead of looking to the past or future. However, for now, a brief look to the past is only appropriate.

Classes this fall went very well. For the first time at the seminary I took five classes in a quarter and somehow managed to pass them all. I must admit that I was very anxious towards the end of the quarter. There were so many assignments due that I wasn't sure I would get to them all; but Tricia helped to keep me calm and one by one they all got done, on time, and to my professors' satisfaction. Praise the Lord. Winter classes began after Thanksgiving and I am back to only four classes – just enough work to keep me busy but not enough to really stress me out. It should be a very good quarter with a great history class (The Ecumenical Movement), a systematics course (Man and Woman in Christ) and two practical theology classes (Pastoral Leadership and Pastor as Counselor). I am looking forward to having two weeks off at Christmas so I can get ahead in my reading (between family meals and opening presents).

Tricia and Dietrich both are doing very well. Tricia continues to do what she does so well, keeping me calm and sane. She is also doing very well at work. Dietrich continues to grow and get into everything he shouldn't. We had his first year pictures not long ago and I have posted them on the website. If you get a chance, take a look.

On the positive side, Tricia and I found out just after the fall quarter began that she is pregnant again – and we found out just a few days ago that we are having another boy. And to be quite honest, we really aren't quite sure what to make of all of this. After the ultrasound we went out to dinner and Tricia was so worried about how she would handle two young boys running throughout the

house; but then the next day. She came home from work all excited about the opportunity to buy bunk beds. We are both very excited and nervous at the same time. Needless to say, this will be a very big adventure for all of us. Please pray for guidance, strength, support and endurance. We will need them all.

On the down side, my family suffered to major losses this fall. The first was the passing of my Aunt Joyce. She had been suffering with multiple cancers for the last year and fought hard till the very end. Although it seemed like almost every week she would lose a little ground, her spirit never waned and her confidence in the Lord never faltered. Aunt Joyce died at home peacefully on October 22nd surrounded by her family.

The next loss came just a month later. From the same family, my Uncle Edward passed away from a massive heart attack on November 25th. No one expected it or saw it coming; he was simple there one moment and gone the next. If you didn't know my Uncle Edward, he was larger than life in almost every way and his presence was felt by everyone around. His quick, sudden passing will be felt for many years.

Both Aunt Joyce and Uncle Eddie, brother and sister, were wonderful people and great relatives. Although so much has happened this year in our family which is worthy of celebration (a birth, 2 baptisms and a wedding), 2006 will forever have a dark shadow because of their passing. Your continual prayers for their families would be greatly appreciated.

With a fall quarter full of extremes, two passages come to mind. The first is from Isaiah 55:8 where the Lord declares, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways." The second comes from Job 1:21. "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." I do not understand why Aunt Joyce and Uncle Eddie were taken away. By the same token I do not understand why Tricia and I would be entrusted with another child – Dietrich is more than enough for us both. Yet I will continue to trust in the love of Christ and look for Aunt Joyce and Uncle Eddie at the resurrection of the dead. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

We pray that all is going well for you and your family. May God richly bless you through this Christmas season.

In His Care,
Dan & Tricia

Joyce Diann Morse



Joyce Diann, daughter of Theresa Emily (Stevens) and Harold Gustav Kletke was born on January 16, 1944 along with her twin brother Jason Daniel in Alva. She passed away at her home in Lahoma as the result of an aggressive cancer on the 22nd of October at the age of 62 years, 9 months and 8 days.

They were raised on the family farm 7 miles northwest of Alva. She graduated from the Alva High School with the Class of 1961 and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Northwestern State College on May 11, 1973.

Miss Kletke was married to Max Morse on February 5, 1969 at the Dacoma Church of God. To their marriage two children, Barry and Kim were born.

Following their marriage they made their home in Lahoma where she taught for 29 years, teaching kindergarten through the third grade at the Christian Life Learning Center, the Zion Lutheran Preschool and the Cimarron Public Schools.

She was a member of the Zion Lutheran, and they attended the Community Bible Church, the Association of Professional Oklahoma Educators and The Cherokee Strip Reading Council. As a woman of Faith and dedicated to her family, she possessed a gentle sweet spirit and even in ill health she never gave up and continued to inspire those around her.

Mrs. Morse was preceded in death by her mother on April 2, 1948 and her father on November 16, 1979.

Joyce is survived by her husband, Max, her son Barry, her daughter and husband, Kimberly and Mike Morris and a granddaughter, Lainey Morse. Three brothers and their wives, Dale and Virginia of Aurora, Colorado, Edward and Barbara and Jason and Pat all of Alva and her Aunt Martha Tecklenburg a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives and many friends.

Edward Martin Kletke



Edward Martin, son of Theresa Emily (Stevens) and Harold Gustav Kletke was born on December 29, 1938 in Alva. He passed away at the Alva Share Medical on the 25 of November at the age of 67 years, 10 months and 2 days.

They were raised on the family farm seven miles northwest of Alva.

He attended the Zion Lutheran Grade School, then the Riverview Rural Grade school and graduated from the Alva High School with Class of 1957 and Panhandle Oklahoma State University. He was a member of the Alva 45 National Guards.

On February 21, 1965 at Anadarko he was married to Barbara Jean Littrell. To their marriage a son Jeff was born. Following their marriage they lived in Alva and in 1978 moved to the farm and he has farmed and ranched all of his life.

He was a member of the Alva Zion Lutheran Church and was baptized on January 29, 1939 and was confirmed in 1953.

Mr. Kletke was preceded in death by his mother on April 2, 1948, his father on November 16, 1979 and his sister, Joyce Morse on October 22, 2006. Ed is survived by his wife, Barbara of the home, a son Jeff, two grandchildren, Brittney and Justin all of Alva. Two brothers and their wives, Dale and Virginia of Aurora, Colorado, Jason and Pat of Alva an aunt, Martha Tecklenburg of Gallup, New Mexico and a brother-in-law, Max Morse of Lahoma. A number nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Tricia's Corner

Cravings can be funny things. I know the food combinations I crave are strange, but yet I still can't think of anything else I would rather have. For example, have you ever dipped a French fry in sour cream? Yes, I know it is strange, I can't explain it either. However, it really tastes good to me right now. Lately, the biggest craving has been dill pickles and hot chocolate. I just can't get enough!

All signs to this point show that this new little boy is healthy and growing. I feel great and have more energy now that at the first part of the pregnancy. I've been 'nesting' something fierce. Last weekend I cleaned the house, packed a few boxes to get rid of some of the clutter, and decorated the house for Christmas. Today I did some Christmas shopping, did all of my mending and baked 7 pies. All this baking, shopping and cleaning I'm beginning to feel very domestic. I like it.

Dietrich is growing so fast. I'm amazed at the amount of energy that he has. He loves being chased and pretending most everything is a telephone. He found a gift card that accidentally had fallen to the floor and talked on it like it was a telephone for quite some time. I'm discovering that paper towel tubes, cardboard boxes and paper can give many more hours on entertainment than most anything else. Although when he pushes his cars around and says "brooom, brooom" I can't help but be overwhelmed by how cute that really is. Although he is starting to test our limits, we are having a lot of fun together. He is fearless and enjoys climbing. So far he has not figured out how to climb on the dining room chairs but the coffee table is free game. The hard part is catching him before he stands up on the coffee table and starts to spin in circles.

Looking at the amount of energy that Dietrich has, the thought of two little boys made me a little worried at first. Now that I've had some time to think about it, they'll have a lot of fun together and hopefully, keep each other entertained. My mom was telling me of a story my great grandmother had told her about raising two boys. She said that great grandma got good use out of her broom trying to contain them when they were swinging from the chandeliers. Whew, this is going to be fun!

Tricia



The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. Job 1:21
