



*Welcome to the online Annual Klockenga Family Christmas Letter
This version will be updated with additional photos and (hopefully) a
photo slide show in the coming days.*

Printed/Mailed or email version upon request.

This version posted on Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Dates of Future Versions will be shown following:

Update 1: 12/24/2025



○ Holy Night (Hear the Gospel Story)

VERSE 1

○ holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, ○ hear the angel voices!
○ night divine, ○ night when Christ was born!

VERSE 2

Humbly He lay, Creator come as creature,
Born on the floor of a hay-scattered stall.
True Son of God, yet bearing human feature,
He entered earth to reverse Adam's fall.

In towering grace, He laid aside His glory,
And in our place, was sacrificed for sin.
Fall on your knees! ○ hear the gospel story!
○ night divine, ○ night when Christ was born!

VERSE 3

Come then to Him Who lies within the manger,
With joyful shepherds, proclaim Him as Lord.
Let not the Promised Son remain a stranger;
In reverent worship, make Christ your Adored.
Eternal life is theirs who would receive Him;
With grace and peace, their lives He will adorn.
Fall on your knees! Receive the Gift of heaven!
○ night divine, ○ night when Christ was born
○ night, ○ holy night when Christ was born

Original words (v. 1) by Placide Cappeau. Translated by John S. Dwight. Music by Adolphe C. Adams (1847). Add. words (v. 2-3) by Kevin Hartnett. © 2014 Sovereign Grace Worship/ASCAP (adm. by Integrity Music). Sovereign Grace Music, a division of Sovereign Grace Churches. All rights reserved. Source: <https://sovereigngracemusic.com/music/songs/o-holy-night-hear-the-gospel-story/>

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

December 2025/January 2026

As 2025 comes to a close, we're pausing with grateful hearts to reflect on a year filled with family, travel, milestones, medical challenges, and many reminders of God's steady care. It was a full year—in every sense of the word—and we're thankful for each chapter.

Along the way, we made room for fun and friendships. We enjoyed Swoop games, and Brenda treasured time with friends over many lunches—especially at [Cooper's Hawk](#), [Roots](#), [Vivilore](#), [Chicken Salad Chick](#), [Iron Horse Inn](#), [Magic Noodle](#), [Xaboo Mephha](#), [Chef Aristo's](#), [Houlihan's](#), [Whistle Stop](#), [First Watch](#), [Spice of Bombay](#)—and, of course, many cups of coffee at [Starbucks](#). Kim and Brenda also enjoyed meals together with friends at [The Bristol](#), [The Metropolitan at John Knox Village](#), [Iron Horse Inn](#), [Jose Peppers](#), [Marina 27](#), [Nicolas](#) and [Metropolitan Grill](#) in Springfield, and [Ziggy's Pizza West](#), in Wichita.

Sports continued to bring commentary and humor to our year. Brenda faithfully cheered on the [Kansas City Chiefs](#), who made it to the Super Bowl, though hopes for a three-peat were dashed. With this season's playoff hopes now ended, we're trusting the draft for rebuilding. Kim's [Chicago Bears](#) are faring a bit better this season—but probably not for long (BKK). (Jealous – RKK)

On January 30, Kim drove to Clinton, MO (a little over an hour away) to golf at the [Meadow Lake Golf Course](#). Needless to say, but he was the only person on the golf course and he really enjoyed the day. His streak of playing golf every month of every year we've lived in Missouri remained unbroken (150 months).

On January 31, Kim announced his retirement to his team and the rest of [John Knox Village](#), but continued full steam ahead until his official retirement on May 1.



We celebrated Kim's 70th birthday on February 1 at [Jasper's Italian Restaurant](#) — both a local favorite and one of our favorite spots for milestone celebrations — which prompted a call from Nick wondering how Kim could possibly be 70 (we are wondering how Nick could be turning 40 in just days)!



Valentine's Day followed at [Cider House](#) (now known as Still Meadow), another favorite. We also attended the [Derby themed Chamber of Commerce Gala](#), possibly our last costume event now that Kim has retired. We traveled to Wichita for Blair care in February and again in April, allowing Lindsay to work PRN while Blair enjoyed Mimi and Grandpa time.



Once again, the Ocala invasion occurred on March 4th, as Kim's family invaded his Uncle Larry's house in Ocala for 4-5 days of golf. Only five of us made the trip this year (Kim, Mark, Jimmy, Chris, and Karl). There is always a lot of banter as this group is very competitive, even though we are not that good at golf. Larry and Kay are saints for opening their home and putting up with us for five days.



Behind the scenes, we began the very time-consuming and ongoing process of Medicare research, weighing Original vs. Advantage plans and drug coverage, made more complex by changes during open enrollment. Given Brenda's medical needs — including costly glaucoma prescriptions, orthopedic concerns, and preventative care — careful decisions were essential. Brenda also received several steroid knee injections throughout the year, with knee replacement likely in the not-too-distant future.

March and May marked significant medical chapters for Brenda. A diagnostic procedure in March confirmed endometrial cancer, followed by surgery at KUMED on May 19. All cancer was successfully removed, and no further treatment was required. An eight-week recovery period followed, along with a two-year monitoring protocol. We are deeply grateful for excellent medical care, faithful prayer, and the meals and encouragement provided by friends and our church family as Brenda was recovering.

In the spring, Kim was winding down his work activities as he participated in the [Caring Communities Annual Member Meeting in Half Moon Bay, California](#) in early April which included (of course) golf.



On May 1st, his retirement was celebrated by the JKV staff and residents along with colleagues from organizations he worked closely with over the years. After he retired in May, his weekly golf routine from the Tuesday late-afternoon league at [Fred Arbanas Golf Course](#) to adding "Old Guys" golf on Mondays at [Hoots Hollow](#), and rotating courses around the metro on Wednesdays. As Brenda recovered at home, Kim was able to travel to San Antonio with friends for an amazing golf event at [Briggs Ranch](#), followed shortly by the annual Bella Vista golf outing with Lee's Summit friends in early June.

We also celebrated his retirement by traveling to Branson, enjoying golf at [Payne's Valley](#), [Nature at Night](#) adventure where you drive your own golf cart along a 2.5-mile trail featuring lights, waterfalls, bridge crossings, and a cave at [Top of the Rock](#). We also saw a performance of "David" at [Sight & Sound](#), and a bluegrass concert by [The Petersons](#), who have become a favorite.



Mother's Day weekend brought the entire family together in Lee's Summit to celebrate Kim's retirement and milestone birthday — cousins playing together, backyard and park time, a Sunday family gathering and photos, and a memorable visit to the [Kansas City Zoo and Aquarium](#).

Brenda also enjoyed seeing [Alison Krauss and Union Station at Starlight Theatre](#) — wonderful music, though we left early due to thunderstorms (outdoor amphitheater).



With medical clearance (and strict instructions that Brenda lift no luggage!), we traveled in July to Charleston, South Carolina, staying at [HGVC Liberty Place](#). We explored the city on foot and by Uber, enjoyed many restaurants, visited [Fort Sumter by ferry](#) (part of the National Park Service), took a [horse-drawn carriage tour of historic Charleston](#), shopped [City Market](#), watched [Patriot's Point Fourth of July fireworks](#) from [Pineapple Fountain at Waterfront Park](#), and visited [Magnolia Plantation Gardens](#) and the [Charleston Museum](#). Kim even fit in a round of golf at the [Charleston Municipal Golf Course](#). Not to mention the wonderful food – not enough

time to scratch the surface of all the dining opportunities. We managed to dine at [Delaney's Oyster House](#) (twice), [82 Queen](#), [Hyman's Seafood](#), [Revival Charleston](#), [Henry's on the Market](#), [Rappahannock Oyster Bar](#), breakfasts at [Saffron Café & Bakery](#), and comfort food at [Virginia's on King](#).

Later in July, we returned to Wichita for Blair care, helped Chris with home projects, and celebrated Chris' upcoming birthday at [Sabor Latin Bar & Grille in Old Town](#) — leading us to wonder if he was getting a little bougie. We also made an outing to [Scheels Wichita](#), which was entertaining for Blair and Mimi & Grandpa as well.

August began with the Klockenga Family Reunion in Prophetstown, Illinois. On the way, we stopped in Coralville, Iowa — a favorite pause for golf. and dining in the [Iowa River Landing](#) area. Kim played great new course called [Finkbine Golf Course](#) where the Iowa State Golf Team Course was practicing. Before the reunion, we visited the [Leon cemetery](#) where many Klockenga ancestors, including the earliest, Harm and Sena, are buried.



Later in August, we headed back to Branson for a complimentary stay at [Stonebridge Village](#), enjoying golf at [Ledgestone Country Club](#) (Kim), the [Haygoods Music Show](#), [Bass Pro's Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium](#) (highly recommend), dinner with friends in Springfield at [Nicola's Ristorante](#), and a memorable [Cody Johnson concert at Thunder Ridge Nature's Area](#) near Branson.

Labor Day weekend followed in Wichita where we enjoyed some down time before baby James' arrival including a trip to [Botanica Gardens Wichita](#). Kim helped Daniel with some home projects and golfed with Daniel and Chris.

September included a cherished family vacation to Hilton Head Island, staying again at [Coral Sands Resort](#) with Nick, Kat, and the girls. We loved the three-bedroom layout, proximity to the beach, and nearby [Low Country Celebration Park](#), which features a playground named after the ship Captain William Hilton was on when he discovered Hilton Head Island. It features a reimagined design of the ship, playground, wading pool and more. Brenda and Kim enjoyed reconnecting with Brenda's former Michigan (ROLM/IBM/Siemens) colleagues and spouses at [Sunset Grill](#). One of the highlights was Brenda and Kat took Eleanor and Audrey to the [Pirates of Hilton Head](#) adventure. They dressed in their pirate gear and received props and face painting before the adventure commenced – including shooting water cannons at a rival pirate boat! Nick and Kim golfed a couple rounds at [Bear Creek Golf Course](#) and [The Shipyard Golf Course](#).



One of the greatest joys of the year arrived on September 21 at 3:00 a.m. - James George, the first grandson of eight grandchildren, weighing in at almost 9 pounds and measuring 22½ inches. In early October, we traveled to Wichita to meet him in person. Family lore now includes the story of Uncle Chris (AKA Uncle Christmas) and his friend Miguel being called in overnight to watch Blair for a few hours before reinforcements (Lindsay's parents) arrived — and Chris being “fatigued” the next day (cue the eye rolls).

In October, Brenda attended the [2025 ACBC Biblical Counseling Conference](#) virtually as part of her ongoing path toward certification, having completed [Phase 1](#) this year.

A major family transition unfolded as Matt, Ashley, and the girls relocated from the mission field in Cat Lake, Canada, to West Chicago, where Matt joined the headquarters team as VP of Recruiting and Training at their sending organization, [To Every Tribe](#). We loved visiting their new home, helping the girls with homework (they are attending Wheaton Christian Grammar School), enjoying time together over a school holiday, and revisiting favorite spots — including Nick's Pizza in Crystal Lake and Country Donuts (Boston Creams claimed immediately). The girls also made sure we were fully educated on “6–7,” keeping us culturally relevant (maybe). And of course, Dad and Matt played a round at [St. Andrews Golf and Country Club](#).

We finally attended the [Johnson County Home & Remodeling Show](#) together and began planning potential kitchen and bathroom updates (no walls or cabinets!), selecting carpet, quartz, tile, sinks, and a cooktop for a possible 2026 project, along with some maintenance items like window glass replacement. This will create some “exciting” times in 2026.



Mid-November brought early Thanksgiving in Wichita, followed by our final scheduled trip of the year returning to Branson to stay at [Angler's Lodge](#). Kim played golf at [Pointe Royal Golf Course](#), we went to a [Hughes Brothers Christmas](#) and [The Peterson Christmas](#) shows, spent an afternoon and evening at [Silver Dollar City's Old Time Christmas event](#) with over 6.5 million lights, Christmas themed shows, tree lighting, train and seasonal treats and a [Wildlife Tram tour of Dogwood Canyon](#). Beautiful warm weather and light crowds early in the Branson Christmas season made it especially enjoyable. We also enjoyed a meal with friends in Springfield, MO at the excellent [Metropolitan Grill](#).

In early December, we returned to Wichita for extended Blair and James care while Lindsay worked 3 days PRN. This also allowed Daniel and Lindsay to attend two Koch Christmas parties with Daniel's work colleagues. Kim golfed both with Chris at [Tex Consolver](#) and solo at [MacDonald Golf Course](#), and we soaked up sweet everyday moments (Brenda changed all the diapers when Lindsay was working protecting Kim's reputation). We enjoyed lunch with Wichita friends we know from our Crystal Lake, IL days, too!

We came back from Wichita in high gear to prepare for Christmas, but both of us have been out of commission for over a week with a respiratory virus that has been lingering. We've had to cancel and adjust plans so that we can recover in time for Christmas.

We are celebrating Blair's second birthday on December 23. She started the day at [Kaleidoscope Crown Center](#) and we joined family to have lunch at [Fritz's Railroad Restaurant](#) (train that delivers food running the perimeter ceiling) before we will needed a nap before having birthday cake! On Christmas Eve, Chris (and his canine Bear) will join us from Wichita, along with Daniel and Lindsay, Blair, James, and our Yaffa (standard poodle) sure to be a lively and joyful day.

We remain deeply grateful for our [Summit Woods Baptist Church](#) family and the privilege of growing and serving together through women's small groups, growth group, equipping classes, choir, Ironmen's ministry, and Sunday gatherings — rhythms that anchor us in Christ through His Word.

Usually, our letter contains updates from each son/family, but we're still waiting! Hopefully the update comes soon and we can update this letter with details and pictures!

This much we know:

- Nick & Kat continued to enjoy the Asheville area and having his mom, Denise, and Kenny nearby to enjoy time with Eleanor & Audrey. Eleanor started preschool, and Audrey enjoys daycare at the Y with Kat as she works out. Nick continues with Oracle helping to support the installation of their software at an HCA health system.
- Matt & Ashely and the girls had a major transition filled with time in the Chicago area to start the transition to living in West Chicago, time back in Cat Lake to say goodbyes and transition new team members, the logistics of moving including acquiring cars and a home, enrolling the girls in elementary and pre-school, and Matt settling in with a new role as Vice President of Recruiting and Training at To Every Tribe. They are already having lots of company as family and friends enjoy time with them back in the states.
- Daniel & Lindsay had a busy year. Daniel had hernia surgery and continued working on the house as they anticipated the arrival of James George in September. Daniel had paternity leave and helped Blair give hugs to her new brother. Daniel was promoted to Managing Team Lead at his division at Koch Industries.
- Chris continues to work at [ElectroMech Technologies](#) in Wichita where he was promoted to Staff Accountant. He continues taking a couple of classes a year towards his accounting degree at Wichita State while working full time. He had a front yard tree fall during one of the summer Wichita storms, and Kim and Daniel helped him to finish taking care of debris and some other maintenance at the home that he bought – he's been a homeowner for a year!

Through every mile traveled, every challenge faced, and every celebration shared, we've been reminded how richly blessed we are — by faith, by family, and by friendship. The Lord has been faithful in uncertainty, generous in joy, and near in every season. We rest in the truth that His mercies are new every morning and that He continues to guide our steps.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with peace, good health, and hope.

*Merry Christmas and Love to all,
Kim & Brenda and Yaffa,
Nick, Kat, Eleanor and Audrey
Matt & Ashley, Gracie, Emma, Ava and Ellie;
Daniel & Lindsay, Blair and James, Chris and Bear*



YAFFA SPENT MANY DAYS AT "PLAYCATION" WHILE WE TRAVELED!