



## Elizabeth LaNell (Clark) Smith

March 6, 1975 - April 7, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Elizabeth LaNell (Clark) Smith

Serving Location:

CRAIN FUNERAL HOME – ANNA

135 West Vienna Street, Anna, Illinois

Elizabeth LaNell (Clark) Smith, age 50, passed away on Monday, April 7, 2025.

She was born on March 6, 1975 to Barry and Barbara (Hamer) Clark in Evansville, Indiana. On October 2, 2009 she married Anthony Smith, and he survives.

LaNell was a 1993 graduate of Dongola High School. She went on to get her master's degree in social work at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. In June of 1999, she went to work for the State of Illinois and held many different titles throughout her years of employment. LaNell started her career as a technician at Choate Mental Health, after that she worked with the Department of Human Service for several years and currently was serving as

a Clinical Specialist for the Department of Child and Family Services. She was very passionate about her job and even fostered many children herself throughout the years with her husband. Many children's lives were touched by the love and care that she provided them. Everyone who knew LaNell knew that she had the biggest, giving heart and always put other before herself. She loved holidays, and she always made sure at Christmas that any person who came to her house had a gift under the tree.

Survivors include her husband, Anthony Smith; father and step-mother, Barry and Julia Clark; father and mother-in-law, Mike and Shirley Smith; children, Alycia (Eric) Ellett, Kelsie Hand (Tyler Marnati), Anthony Noah Smith, Kajayah Clark, Brilea Smith; grandchildren, Liam, Raelynn, Kaden, Blayne, Makenna, Charlotte, Everleigh, and Holland; siblings, Amy (Patrick "Joey") Ferguson, Brian (Patty) Clark, Greg (Jennifer) Keller, Jennifer (Shane) Osman; brother-in-law, Matthew (Robin) Smith; along with several nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

She touched the lives of many foster children.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Barbara (Hamer) Clark; paternal grandparents, Harry and Ethel Clark; maternal grandparents, Otto and Loetta Hamer; step grandmother, Lela Casper; aunt and uncle; Ron and Norma Clark; uncle, Tom Clark; and cousin, Andy Clark.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 from 4:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Crain Funeral Home Anna.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 10:00 AM at Crain Funeral Home Anna with Rev. Lonnie Lewis officiating.

Interment will follow the service at Jonesboro Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests with gratitude that memorial be made to The Restore Network, 9835 Old Bainbridge Road, Marion, IL 62959. The Restore Network exists to change the culture of foster care and equip God's people to meet the needs of vulnerable children and youth.

Crain Funeral Home in Anna, Illinois is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

**Jonesboro**

## Previous Events

### Visitation

**APR 16.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna  
135 W. Vienna St.  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-2176  
crain@crainsonline.com

### Funeral Service

**APR 17.** 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Crain Funeral Home - Anna  
135 W. Vienna St.  
Anna, IL 62906  
(618) 833-2176  
crain@crainsonline.com

### Interment

**APR 17.** 10:45 AM - 11:15 AM (CT)

Jonesboro City Cemetery  
Ashlar Street  
Jonesboro, IL



# Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Elizabeth LaNell (Clark) Smith.* ”



April 16, 2025 at 01:39 PM



“ *Heaven gained another Angel. Taken way to soon. RIP Lanell. Prayers for the family.* ”



**Matt A Wettig** - April 16, 2025 at 09:17 AM



“ *DCFS CLINICAL (Central &Northern Staff) purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Elizabeth LaNell (Clark) Smith.* ”



**DCFS CLINICAL (Central &Northern Staff)** - April 14, 2025 at 03:44 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Elizabeth LaNell (Clark) Smith.* ”



April 14, 2025 at 02:30 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Elizabeth LaNell (Clark) Smith.*



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April 13, 2025 at 09:36 PM



“ *LaNell and I became best friends during the 8th grade. When I was 14, my parents divorced, and my mom moved back to New Orleans. After that, every summer, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Spring Break, I would visit my mom via the Amtrak train from Carbondale. Every trip, before I left Anna, LaNell would give me a Manila envelope and tell me with a smirk, “Don’t open until you’re on the train.” After getting on the train and opening the envelope, I found pages and pages of homemade crossword puzzles made from inside jokes, detailed drawings of those same inside jokes, and magazine cutouts of celebrities who she swore we would marry someday. (Her pick was always Val Kilmer.) The train ride to New Orleans was 13 hours but I couldn’t tell because I laughed the whole way. I don’t know how many hours she spent on those packets, but they were the best, and I looked forward to them for the next four years. After I married and moved to Florida, we began sending birthday and Christmas gifts to each other each year for the next 27 years. With each gift, we had to one-up each other so the gifts became more hilarious and inappropriate through the years. We would text each other with, “I sent you a package.” And the recipient’s response would be “I’m scared.” Our humor never changed. Some may have felt that we needed to outgrow our silliness, but I’m glad we never did. I will forever miss her inappropriate gifts and will always be grateful that she was in my life. Love ya forever, Nell.*

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**Ann Marie Lindsay** - April 11, 2025 at 08:10 PM