

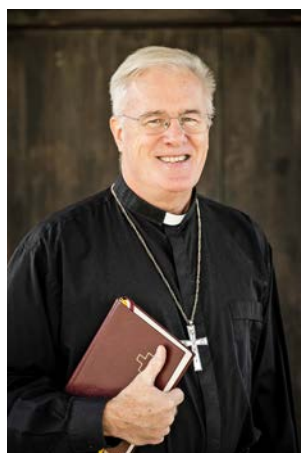


/ AUGUST 2022

DISTRICT NEWS

OKLAHOMA

Let us hold fast our confession!



Rev. David Nehrenz
District President

Dear Saints in Christ,

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. **HEB. 4:14-16**

For 13 years we have enjoyed reading the articles from Pastor Barrie Henke. His winsome and engaging witness to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ has been an inspiration to me and our entire district. Thank you Pastor Henke for leading us through some difficult years. You did so with grace, dignity and wisdom. We thank the Lord for your leadership and pray God's blessings on your future years of serving in God's kingdom!

This is my first article as your district president. It is my honor and joy to serve our Oklahoma District in the LCMS. I already know many of you. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future. The newly elected vice-presidents and circuit visitors will also assist us in faithfully serving our Lord and His people.

What was my path to Oklahoma? I am the oldest of eight children and was raised in Lakewood, Ohio. My father was a painting contractor. All of us siblings worked for my dad. My wife, Kathy, was raised in Pasadena, Texas, and was trained as a dental hygienist. We met and were married in Pagosa Springs, Colo. That is where I began my ministry in

1982, in a mission congregation, Our Savior Lutheran Church. Our sons Kurt and Mark were born in Durango, Colo. Our son and daughter Stephen and Michelle were born in Norman. Our daughters-in-law are Laura and Kaitlin and our granddaughters are Corrie and Beatrice.

I have been serving Trinity, Norman, since 1988. The mission statement of our congregation is "One Family in Our Church, Early Childhood and Campus Ministry." Thirty-three vicars have assisted us in the Oklahoma District LCMS U campus ministry at the University of Oklahoma (tlenorman.org).

The future opportunities for serving our Lord in Oklahoma are exciting! We are living in a time when the old things have now become new. Our fidelity to the inerrant and inspired Word of God is a necessity. Our commitment to the confessional standard of the *Book of Concord* is a strength. Our administration of the Means of Grace in preaching, teaching, Baptism, Absolution, and Holy Communion is what the world most needs.

We know that the Divine Service, in which "God gives and we receive," is powerful. To a confused world, we bring sacred words in sacred spaces, with sacred music, sacred liturgy and sacred actions. Being in church should be different than being in the world. This is described by the apostle Paul in Eph. 5:19-20:

Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,

See **MESSAGE**, Page 4

DISTRICT NEWS

Confirmations

Eleven students and three dads were confirmed at Zion, Oklahoma City, on May 22. Following the service, the congregation enjoyed a luncheon honoring the confirmands and their families. From left, (front row) Carter Mathia, Trey Thomas, Rev. Ron Christie, Dakota Flowers, Hadlee Walker, Camden Grizzle, Elizabeth Braddy; (back row) Presley Hayes, Jacob Wright, Maece Wright, McKenzie Flowers and Hollen Hayes. The fathers not pictured are Adam Flowers, Joe Mathia and Chad Walker.



Messiah, Oklahoma City, confirmed five eighth-graders on April 10. Each year, leading up to confirmation, the class attends a retreat at Camp Lutheroma, where they do the Group Initiative Course and go through catechism lessons on Baptism. The students also make their own stoles to wear on Confirmation Sunday. They each share a faith statement based on their chosen verse, and choose three symbols of their faith to put on their stoles. Blessings to, from left, Ava, Bella, Adela, Nina and Drake on their faith journey. They are pictured with Rev. Mark Muenchow.



First Lutheran Church, Chickasha, held confirmation services on June 5 for sisters, from left, Alexandraya and Charramaiyne Brown. They are pictured with Rev. David Thompson.

Share your news with us!

To share news, birthdays or anniversaries, visit oklahomalutherans.org/lutheran_witness and use the forms. Articles may also be sent to commsokdistrict@gmail.com. If you are including images, high resolution (300 dpi or greater) is desired.

The deadline for the October issue is Aug. 15.

Congrats!

We rejoice with those in the Oklahoma District who are celebrating anniversaries of **50 years** or more!

Redeemer, Bartlesville

Tom and Marsha Woodson
53 years, Aug. 9
William and Irene VanWey
66 years, Aug. 12
Ron and Roberta Hall
62 years, Aug. 27

St. John's, Blackwell

Charles and Berneita Boesch
57 years, Aug. 7

Redeemer, Claremore

Don and Dorothy Debolt
68 years, June 4
Denis and Sharon Nelson
60 years, June 8
Jack and Dorothy Gilbreath
56 years, June 11
Tom and Mitzi Stanley
63 years, July 18
Randy and Kathy Iwanaga
53 years, July 24

Holy Trinity, Edmond

Bruce and Shirley Confer
65 years, Aug. 25
Louis and Evelyn Kastens
57 years, Aug. 14
Don and Paulette Owens,
50 years, Aug. 12
Phil and Lois Parduhn
67 years, Aug. 7
John and Linda Seikel
56 years, Aug. 16

Bob and Yvonne Swanson

63 years, Aug. 23
Dale and Cheryl Swiggett,
55 years, Aug. 5
Darrel and Annette ZumMallen
64 years, Aug. 23

St. Paul's, Enid

Richard and Bonnie Szczepaniak
52 years, Aug. 15
Ron and Cindy Krey
51 years, Aug. 21
Richard and Marilyn Simpson
68 years, Aug. 22
Michael and Cynthia Koehn
50 years, Aug. 26

Zion, Fairmont

Harlo and Carol Breitenkamp
60 years, Aug. 31

Zion, Guthrie

Leroy and Charlotte Corn
62 years, Aug. 17

Messiah, Oklahoma City

Bill and Michele Ackerman
54 years, Aug. 24
Don and Beverly Davis
53 years, Aug. 30
Don and Char Ewing
65 years, Aug. 28
Larry and Majorie Gateley
62 years, Aug. 14
Larry and Gail Olson
58 years, Aug. 17

Mike and Sharon Rosser
51 years, Aug. 7

Christ, Perry

Randy and Lonna Shiever
51 years, Aug. 15
Lavern and Carol Lenaburg
59 years, Aug. 20

First, Ponca City

Gery and Marilyn Pralle
59 years, Aug. 3
Bob and Kathryn Prescott
67 years, Aug. 19

Trinity, Norman

Ken and Pat Ortgies
71 years, Aug. 18
Rev. Myron and Dorothy Maltz
52 years, June 20
Tom and Ann Anderson
53 years, June 8
Nancy and Norman Parker
65 years, June 9
Joel and Barbara Anderson
52 years, June 20

Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa

Terry and Valarie Kolkman
52 years, Aug. 15
David and Marion Penka
52 years, Aug. 15
Richard and Debbie Burling
50 years, Aug. 19
Virgil and Carolyn Bening
53 years, Aug. 23
Dennis and Pat Morris
55 years, Aug. 26
Bruce and Edie Cottrell,
52 years, Aug. 29

Trinity, Blackwell



Ed and Jackie Veith
51 years, Aug. 7

Redeemer, Shawnee



Charles and Marvine Nix
63 years, Aug. 29

Trinity, Guymon



Richard and Linda Hill
64 years, June 21

happy BIRTHDAY

Holy Trinity, Edmond

Jim Voight
91 years, Aug. 14

Christ, Perry

Johnny Kroll
93 years, Aug. 27

Redeemer, Claremore

Rev. Fred Naumann
90 years, Aug. 13

Redeemer, Shawnee

Joan Zemke
92 years, Aug. 8

Trinity, Norman

Jim Bollinger,
90 years, Aug. 22

Howard Kramer
98 years, June 6

Pat Ortgies
90 years, June 30

Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa

Bob Paulsen
92 years, Aug. 13
Jean Paulsen
91 years, Aug. 28
Bob Wilson
96 years, Aug. 29

Messiah, Oklahoma City

Ken Hamm,
92 years, Aug. 31
Val Reed
102 years, Aug. 7

Zion, Oklahoma City

Olinda Berry
103 years, July 24

Happy 75!



The four members of the 1947 Immanuel, Breckinridge, confirmation class were all present at Immanuel's annual Confirmation Reunion and New Member Welcome on May 1. Celebrating their 75th confirmation anniversary were, from left, Ron Schulz, Joann (Riekenberg) Schardt, Ladova (Ragoss) Roggow and Bernice (Roggow) McCanless. They were confirmed by Rev. Edwin F. Peter on May 4, 1947.

READY TO RESPOND

Trinity, Broken Arrow, hosted a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training and certification event May 13-14. Volunteers learned how to safely operate a chainsaw, fell trees and remove debris. This event was part of a plan to increase the pool of LERT volunteers in the Tulsa and Miami circuits of the Oklahoma District. LERT wishes to thank Karen Steitz for serving a meal Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Attending the training were, from left, Greg Wade, Denny Rader, Steve Lockhart (trainer from Trinity, Tyler, Texas), Paul Steitz, Brad Young and Mike Marquart. Wade, Steitz, Young and Marquart became LERT certified.

LERT ministry helps to meet both spiritual and physical needs of victims of natural disasters. For more information, visit lcms-lert.org.



MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we now begin the new triennium (2022–25), may the Triune God lead us in the paths He has set out for us. I was reading again in a morning devotional in 1 Peter 4:7 that “the end of all things is at hand.” This is all the more reason to recognize the urgency of the task before us. Indeed, let us hold fast our confession!

Pastor Nehrenz, with his wife, Kathy, at his side, addresses the convention after his election as president. At left is Rev. Barrie Henke, who served four terms as district president.

LWML

Grants approved at convention

The LWML Oklahoma District confirmed 18 mission grants at the district convention, held April 8-9 in Edmond. The grants cover projects in Oklahoma and internationally for a wide range of needs.

The district LWML Board of Directors approved the funding of two of these grants at their May meeting. One of the grants will help fund the upgrading and maintenance of air conditioning units at Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City. Two nonfunctional air conditioners and associated pipes and ductwork will be replaced.

Also funded is half of the grant for Mission Central. Located in Mapleton, Iowa, Mission Central helps LCMS missionaries with financial support to go and remain in the field.

To learn more, visit oklwml.org and click the “Missions” tab.

Help Oklahoma LWML meet their Mission Grant goal of \$120,000! Prayerfully consider filling that Mite Box at home or church. Donations are also accepted at: OK District LWML Financial Secretary; P.O. Box 1464; Lawton, OK 73502