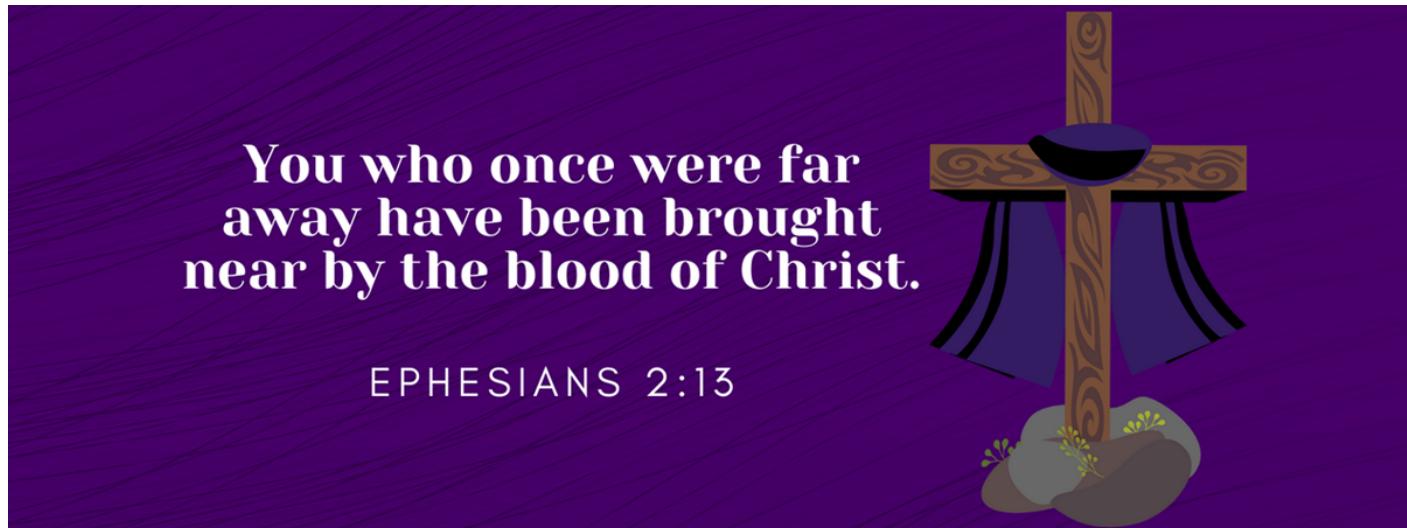


**Oklahoma District Updates: March 2022**

## Oklahoma District Updates: March 2022



Laudamus, the select choir of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is coming to the Oklahoma District. The choir will be performing at Immanuel, Broken Arrow on Saturday, March 19; Grace, Tulsa the next morning, and at Holy Trinity, Edmond on Sunday afternoon. All concerts are free and open to anyone. Please let your congregations know they are welcome at these special musical events!

"This theme of this year's program, 'Gone Home,' is expressed in the nature of the concert program, pointing toward the eschatological hope we have in Christ, His resurrection and His return," said Dr. James Marriott, the Seminary's director of Music Arts and the Kreft Chair for Music Arts. "That hope guides our Lenten journey together."

Immanuel, Broken Arrow | Saturday, March 19 | 7:00-8:30 pm

Grace, Tulsa | Sunday, March 20 | 8:00 & 10:30 am

Holy Trinity, Edmond | Sunday, March 20 | 3:00-4:30 pm

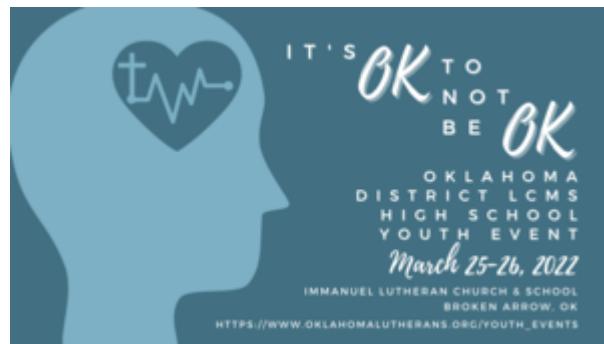
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As the situation in Ukraine continues, the church prays for peace and for those in harm's way. We also strive to provide for those affected. Learn how you can help at <https://www.lcms.org/ukraine>

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The Oklahoma District Event at the National Youth Gathering will be held Sunday, July 10th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Hall A, in Houston. [Learn](#) all about it!



[Find out](#) about the Oklahoma District LCMS High School Youth Event on Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 Immanuel in Broken Arrow, "It's OK to Not be OK".



The LWML Oklahoma District Convention April 8-9, 2022 is at the Hilton Garden Inn, Edmond, Oklahoma. Servant activities begin Friday, 9 a.m. with convention convening at 1 p.m. Be refreshed through the Word and worship! Learn of missions abroad, and participate in servant activities with us. Mark your calendar and plan to attend. Find more information at [www.oklwml.org](http://www.oklwml.org).

A Tre Ore Service will be held at [Holy Trinity in Edmond](#) on Good Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 12pm – 3pm. The service is three hours in its entirety, but is broken up into seven sections based upon the seven words from the cross with a number of Pastor's from the area participating in the service.



**Educators! Registration** is now open for the October 2022 LEA Convocation in Milwaukee, WI. Learn more about the convocation [here](#).



### The true meaning of “stewardship”



**A**s Lutherans, we know the power of the Word. Words have power. That is why God created the Word that took a formless and void chaos and made it an ordered, magnificent and perfect creation. That same Word became flesh in Jesus Christ and has become the word of eternal life in the form of Christ. On the other hand, despite the purity of the Word of childhood, human words can and do inflict emotional, human and spiritual broken bones. The rise of anxiety, depression and other maladies in youth and adults can be tied to the ubiquitous use of harmful words in social and broadcast media.

While God's Word is unchanging, human words and their usage shift generationally. A quick search of the Urban Dictionary is totally different than it does today. The influence of the Urban Dictionary makes this generational shift in word usage even more complex and confusing. One example of this is the term “goal.” A generation ago, he who scored the most goals in a game of Candy at the bat ordering out for the McDonalds meal made him the great. To be the goal was to be a failure. But not so today. The label “GOAT” is attached to Michael Jordan, Tom Brady and LeBron James. These athletes are currently and forever “GOATs” and the “GOAT” is the “Greatest Of All Time” in their respective sports. The meaning of the word has shifted.

#### The shifting meaning of “stewardship”

“Stewardship” is one of those words which has shifted as well. In previous generations stewardship was the quick, steady response of the faithful Christian for the sake of the Gospel. Stewardship greatness like this inspired people to begin endowments for the sake of the kingdom. A congregation in South Wisconsin was blessed with stained glass windows which were commissioned and paid for in cash during the depth of Great Depression.

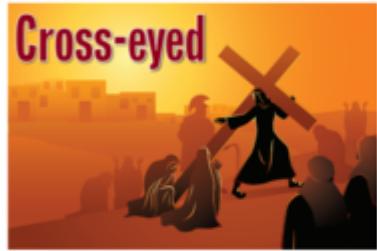
However, since the 1980s and 1990s an unfortunate shift has happened in the meaning of stewardship. Unlike the word “goal,” stewardship has taken on a much more ominous tone. It has been marred more with a sense of failure than fulfillment. Much of this transition was driven by growth in the LCMS stewardship ministry. Salaries and benefit plan costs expanded exponentially during this time frame. Coupled with that with the number of large congregational and educational campus expansions that occurred to support the growth of people, the cost of maintaining dedicated space, and the cost of ministry in the business sense expanded beyond what anyone had ever imagined.

This also came at no little expense. Growing staff and expanding buildings became more and more expensive to maintain. The

StewardCAST  
resources

February 2022 Page 1

**Read** StewardCAST, the monthly e-newsletter of the LCMS Stewardship Ministry.



### Lenten Blessings, Saints of Oklahoma!



Rev. Barry Henke  
District President

**The Elevator**  
I vaguely remember the grain elevator setting along Main Street, adjacent to the railroad tracks. It gave Orlando a typical small-town Oklahoma skyline: an elevator jutting high above other buildings clearly visible as someone neared the town. At one time the elevator was a matter of pride for the community, as well as a hub of excitement. Trucks lined up to bring their loads of grain and cotton. Soon a freight train would stop to load and transport the products to a distant market. Then one day, the railroad decided not to stop at every small town and in some places even abandoned that portion of the track. Orlando had to haul its grain and cotton extra miles to a larger market. By the early 1900s the towering elevator stood almost idle and fell into disrepair. People no longer viewed it with pride but looked at it as an eyesore.

Consequently, when a building, especially a tall one, is left vacant it often becomes a magnet drawing young boys to explore. On one particular day while some boys were exploring

the indoor heights of the elevator, a boy fell to his death. In reaction to this tragedy the city fathers decided to demolish the elevator.

That old grain elevator which was once a symbol of blessing and economic life to the residents of Orlando had become for them a symbol of tragedy and untimely death.

#### The Cross

We have entered the season of Lent, with its 40 days leading to Easter. Lent is a time intended for personal spiritual reexamination as Christians consider their sin that took Jesus to the cross. (Do note: the days from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday number 46, but Sundays are not considered part of Lent, instead they are to be mini-Easters reflecting the midst of this penitential season.)

During Lent we focus upon the cross of Christ. It is interesting to compare Orlando's grain elevator to Calvary's cross: the elevator was praised, then scorned; the cross was scorned, now praised! It is difficult to imagine that an execution tool used by the Romans over 2,000 years ago would become the center of Christian sanctuaries throughout the world.

But it has! The elevator began as a symbol of productivity and life and ended as a symbol of death. The cross began as a symbol of death and has ended up being a symbol of forgiveness of sins, life and salvation!

See CROSS, Page 4

MARCH 2022 / 1

The latest Lutheran Witness Oklahoma District News is available [here](#).

## Lutherhaven Retreat Center

It has been a long and slow process but there is light at the end of the long tunnel. On March 6, 2017, the Starbuck fire (named after a local fireman) started east of Forgan, Oklahoma. Forgan is located 27 miles west of Lutherhaven Retreat Center, which is 7 miles north of Knowles, Oklahoma, off of U.S. Hwy 64. With gusts of wind blowing over 50 miles per hour the fire spread rapidly and eventually consumed much of the natural habitat of Lutherhaven. In addition, the major building, a log cabin style, two story, 3,600 square foot bunkhouse, was completely destroyed. After a few starts and stops and a lot of waiting, and if everything goes as planned, the new building will be dedicated on Sunday, September 4, 2022, Labor Day weekend!



## Spring Retreat Groups at Camp Lutherhoma

Spring is a great time to visit Camp Lutherhoma. The retreat cabins are booked with men's retreats, youth retreat, women's retreats, scrapbook groups, and more. Camp also hosted a servant event group from Valparaiso University who came to serve the Tahlequah community during their spring break. We are so grateful to be able to provide a relaxing retreat for so many church groups and guests. Visit [www.lutherhoma.com](http://www.lutherhoma.com) to view our calendar and schedule your personal retreat or church group retreat soon.



### Camp Lutherhoma Seeking Summer Staff

Each summer Camp Lutherhoma is blessed with dedicated Christian young adults who come to serve Jesus by serving campers and families. As of today camp still has some staffing positions to fill for the coming summer. We are seeking Lutheran young adults ages 18-24 who are eager to serve children and families at camp May 30 through August 1<sup>st</sup>. If you know of someone who might be a good fit for this ministry, please talk to them about applying to serve at Camp Lutherhoma this summer. Please encourage young adults in your communities to apply for this very rewarding experience in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ. Interested young adults can [apply online](#) or visit our [Summer Staff page](#) to learn more. Please pray that God sends us the right people to care for and nurture all the campers and families that will be coming to the Camp Lutherhoma in summer 2022!



### Summer Camp Registrations Rolling In!

Many families are already signed up for summer programs at Camp Lutherhoma, are you? Make your plans today for your fun adventure at Camp Lutherhoma this summer. Registration is open online and we have had more early registrations than any time we can remember. This means that you should not wait any longer! Soon some weeks will be filling up and you don't want to miss out. Go to [www.lutherhoma.com](http://www.lutherhoma.com) for more information. Encourage the families in your congregations to register soon for their summer camp experience.

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The 50th Convention of the Oklahoma District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will be held June 10 - 11, 2022 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond, Oklahoma. Stay in touch with the latest updates and news about the convention at [https://www.oklahomalutherans.org/district\\_conventions](https://www.oklahomalutherans.org/district_conventions).

The convention logo is based upon the convention theme from Luke 24:31-36: "Burning Hearts! Open Lips! Joyful Witness!"



The cross of Jesus is key to the heart of the faithful. The Holy Spirit leads us in faith to see the glory of the cross through the perspective of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In His Word we encounter the risen Christ. Like the Emmaus disciples, the Holy Spirit ignites our hearts to burn within us in faith and joy. When hearts are ignited, then lips are opened to "go and tell" others about Jesus and His victorious resurrection. That same Spirit empowers us to give a joyful witness to others about the salvation sealed to us by the cross and the empty tomb of Jesus. This joyful witness is expressed by all ages whose lives and eternities have been changed by the risen Christ. Praised arms express a life of praise and witness action.

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Support the Mission of the Oklahoma District LCMS, Camp Lutherhoma, Lutherhaven Retreat Center, or Oklahoma District Youth through [online giving](#).



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Forward this e-newsletter to fellow church members and friends to share the news. They can sign up to receive it monthly on the home page of [www.oklahomalutherans.org](https://www.oklahomalutherans.org).

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