

**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

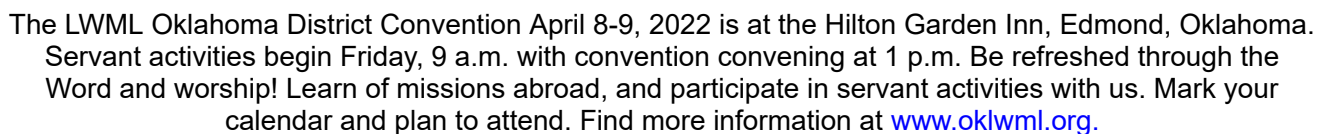
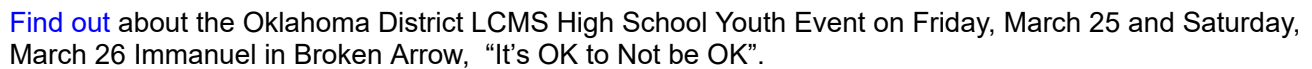
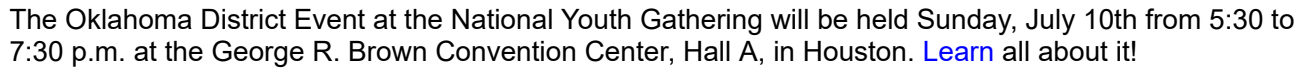
Grace, Tulsa | Sunday, March 20 | 8:00 & 10:30 am

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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2/7



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



**StewardCAST**  
A monthly e-newsletter of LCMS Stewardship Ministry  
[lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

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## The true meaning of "stewardship"



**A**s Lutherans, we know the power of the Word. Words have power. The Word of God is the force 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 author of eternal life in the faithful Christian. On the other hand, despite the pithy rhymes of childhood, human words can and do inflict emotional lesions 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 century ago the term "gout" meant something 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 "gout." A generation ago, to be the "gout" was not a good thing. Shirley Casey at the bat striking out for the Nashville team made him the "gout." To be the "gout" was to be a failure. But not so today. The label "GOUTY" is attached to Michael Jordan, Tom Brady and LeBron James. These athletes are certainly not failures. These "GOUTY" are the "Greatest of All Time" in their particular 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 quiet, steady response of the faithful Christian for the sake of the Gospel. Stewardship gestures like this inspired people to begin new mortgage farms to build new churches 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 depths of Great Depression.

However, since the 1980s and 1990s an unfortunate shift has happened in the meaning of stewardship. Unlike the word "gout," stewardship has taken on a much more ominous tone. It has been marked more with a sense of failure than faithfulness. Much of this transition was driven by new realities in congregational ministry. Salaries and benefit plan costs expanded exponentially during this time frame. Coupled that with the number of large congregational and educational campus expansions that occurred to support the growth of programmatic ministry needing 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  
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February 2022 Page 1

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



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 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. Upraised 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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## INVEST WITH THOSE WHO SHARE YOUR LUTHERAN FAITH

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Forward this enewsletter 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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