



/ OCTOBER 2021

# DISTRICT NEWS

## OKLAHOMA

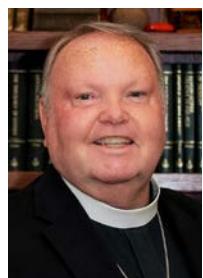


# 'Come and see, go and tell!'

### Halloween

In October, many people are pondering the impact of three little words:

- ▶ The pastors — “**Here I Stand**” — as they plan for the Reformation;
- ▶ Their parishioners — “**Bratwurst and Beer**” — as they think about Oktoberfest; and
- ▶ Children — “**Trick or Treat**” — as they anticipate a load of candy!



**Rev. Barrie Henke**  
District President

In Orlando, Halloween was not looked on as a religious observance (Hallowed Evening — the night before All Saints’ Day), but instead it was a night of mis-

chief and craziness.

Traditionally, youth would join with young adults and some old men to block Main Street with an array of junk gathered from the town and countryside. Before Orlando built a water system around 1956, outdoor privies were located at every home. The primary Halloween prank was tipping over a privy.

By 1957 most people had indoor plumbing. There was only one privy left in town — at Joe Werner’s. It was

located on the corner of Sixth Street and Fairbanks Avenue behind the Evangelical United Brethren Church. To avoid Halloween vandalism, Joe installed metal poles embedded in cement at each corner. On Halloween night he would sit in his privy with a shotgun periodically firing blank ammunition into the sky if he heard a car slowing down nearby.

Though I was above repute in such shenanigans, my older brothers were not! It became a challenge for them. One fateful Halloween, they drove by the privy, roped it, and as they heard a shotgun blast, sped away, dragging the roof of the privy behind them! Meanwhile, I was meditating on the steps of the EUB church ... OK, it was ringside seat!

### Reformation

While much of society observes Halloween, Lutherans direct their attention to the events of 1517 when Martin Luther nailed 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. It began the Reformation, wherein Luther sought to call the medieval church back to the teachings of the Bible.

We are very familiar with the primary truths espoused by Luther and his adherents: *Sola Fide* (faith alone), *Sola Gratia* (grace alone), *Sola Scriptura* (Scripture alone) and *Sola Christus* (Christ alone). As a confessional church body, The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod steadfastly clings to these truths. When there is any discussion of how salva-

**GOD'S  
BLESSINGS**  
**Saints of  
Oklahoma!**

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# Together again

The Priscilla Circle of Zion Lutheran Church held its annual Ice Cream Social, which included an evening meal of sandwiches, chips, fruits and veggies and, of course, ice cream. Our Thrivent Action Team sponsored the event, which held a free-will offering to support Rufus Comfort Dog, who resides at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Edmond. Rufus attended the event with his trainer, who spoke to the group about Lutheran Church Charities K9 Comfort Dogs ministry. The evening was a lot of fun for all of our members, and it was good to be back together again and socialize. — Submitted by Vivian Stehr; photo by Sheila Rudat

## Congregations: Boost your web presence

Did you know that 85 percent of potential first time church visitors will check out a congregation's website before deciding to visit? If your congregation does not have a website or would like to update or replace an aging one, the Oklahoma District Communications Task Force wants to help!

A program is starting to help congregations in obtaining a web presence with an easy-to-use content management system that supports sites that are low maintenance, affordable and are designed to promote engagement. The Task Force will help congregations in setting up the website. If you are interested, contact the district office!



# Congrats!

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

## Bartlesville, Redeemer

Barry and Bonnie Eggert  
54 years, Oct. 28

Robert and Doris Mills  
59 years, Oct. 11

**Blackwell, Trinity**  
Trish and Darrel Gross  
50 years, Oct. 23

**Edmond, Holy Trinity**  
Steve and Debbie Kukuk  
50 years, Oct. 2

Larry and Marquita Whitaker  
62 years, Oct. 23

**Enid, St. Paul**  
Paul and Sally Dunbar  
53 years, Oct. 5

Ron and Kris Young  
50 years, Oct. 15

**Guthrie, Zion**  
Jim and Kay Freuenberger  
57 years, Oct. 3

**Hooker, St. John's**  
Tom and Vickie Arnold  
53 years, Oct. 21

**Norman, Trinity**  
Peter and Kay Brueckner  
62 years, Oct. 3

**Oklahoma City, Messiah**  
Danny and Candy Oden  
52 years, Oct. 2

Erik and Bonnie Ahlquist  
50 years, Oct. 15

**Perry, Christ**  
Ray and Patty Decker  
53 years, Oct. 4

**Ponca City, First**  
Gary and Kathryn Horton  
56 years, Oct. 1

Dennis and Vicki Dronberger  
57 years, Oct. 16

**Fairmont, Zion**  
Ted and Virginia Loesch  
59 years, Sept. 2

J.C. and Velda Pralle  
60 years. Sept. 3

Dennis and Barbara Gerken  
52 years, Sept. 6

**Hooker, St. John's**  
Larry and Vicki Hofferber  
54 years, Aug 11  
R.G. and Linda Grounds  
59 years, Sept. 17

## Oklahoma City, Messiah

Darrell and Dorothy Grob  
71 years, Aug. 12

## Blackwell, Trinity



Charles and Waunda Storck  
56 years, Oct. 23

## Tulsa, Christ the Redeemer



Martin and Rosalie Weber  
t55 years, Oct. 8



Tom and Barbara Sprunger  
50 years, Oct. 2

## Tulsa, Our Savior



Carolyn and Jim Rapp  
50 years, Oct. 3



Linda and Ed Edwards  
52 years, Oct. 14

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Enid, St. Paul's**  
Melvin Schroeder  
98 years, Oct. 7

Esther Mittelstet  
94 years, Oct. 21

**Fairmont, Zion**  
Ralph Meier  
90 years, Oct. 9

Arnold Schweer  
103 years, Oct. 27

**Okarche, St. John's**  
Arnold ZumMallen  
90 years, Oct. 14

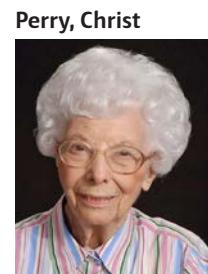
## Tulsa, Grace



Ervin Postier  
95 years, Oct. 8



Betty Smith  
97 years, Oct. 4



Virginia Eggers  
90 years, Oct. 8



Calvin Harman  
90 years, Oct. 20

## Share your news with us!

We are always in need of more submissions for the Oklahoma District *Lutheran Witness* insert. Please send them to Janice Hedrick at [jhedrickokdistrict@gmail.com](mailto:jhedrickokdistrict@gmail.com). You may also mail your submissions to Janice at P.O. Box 70, Owasso, OK 74055 (918-629-1225). Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution.

The deadline for the December issue is Oct. 15.



# DISTRICT NEWS

## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

tion is obtained, the answer is simple: by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone as revealed to us in the Bible.

The apostle Paul stated it simply as he wrote to the Ephesians:

And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked. ... But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus ... so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Eph. 2:1ff**

What a magnificent gifting to us by our Heavenly Father — salvation in Christ by grace through faith — a free gift from God's heart of love just by trusting His Word!

### Guard It Or Share It

God does not intend for us to guard this gift and scare off anyone who may come

“

Our good work is to share the Good News. If you need three words to guide you, heed the three-word combination spoken by the Easter angel: ‘Come and See! Go and Tell!’”

near, lest we fall into Joe Werner's trap and end up losing it all! God gifted it to us for the purpose of sharing it. There is nothing “privy” about the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His Gospel is intended to be totally public! This truth is clear in His great commission:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” **Matt. 28:19-20**

The Holy Spirit has made us the “goers” and the “makers” and the “baptizers” and the “teachers” to those among us! Paul defined how Christ's salvation impacts who we are:

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

**Eph. 2:10**

Our good work is to share the Good News. If you need three words to guide you, heed the three-word combination spoken by the Easter angel: “Come and See! Go and Tell!”

We who have *seen* Jesus in faith then *go* as His witnesses to *tell* of His love with open mouths and embracing arms to all who intersect our life. You have to admit, “Come and See! Go and Tell!” sure beats “Trick or Treat!”

## Fall Force is coming!

Your church's youth are invited to attend Fall Force at Camp Lutherhoma, to be held Nov. 19-21.

Fall Force is a weekend retreat designed for children 8-12 years old in your Sunday school classes and communities! Through this fun weekend program, the hope is campers will reconnect with friends and counselors they met at summer camp, create new relationships and grow in their faith as they study God's Word.

This retreat will be led by the summer camp counselors, who are eager to share God's love with each camper. Online registration is open now at

[lutherhoma.com](http://lutherhoma.com). There are three ways to encourage children to register:

**Register as a Group:** Gather all the 8-12 year old kids in your congregation and send them to camp for the weekend! This could be an awesome bonding experience for your youth. An adult leader from your church group would be responsible to organize registration and transportation for the children in your group. Adult leaders are encouraged to stay through the retreat and will be housed in Pine or Aspen retreat cabins and will participate in special adult sessions and Bible studies.

**Register as a Family:** If only a couple of families from your church are interested, encourage them to register as families. We think it could be really special

for a parent and child to experience this weekend retreat together. Parents will be housed in Pine or Aspen retreat cabins and will participate in special adult sessions and Bible studies.

**Register as an Individual Child:** If a parent wants to drop off their child on Friday and pick them up on Sunday, encourage them to register their child as an individual. The child will be cared for by a loving camp counselor and they will make many new friends through the weekend.

Please spread the word about this retreat in your congregation. Camp Lutherhoma staff would be glad to visit your church to share more information about this retreat and other retreat opportunities at Camp Lutherhoma.