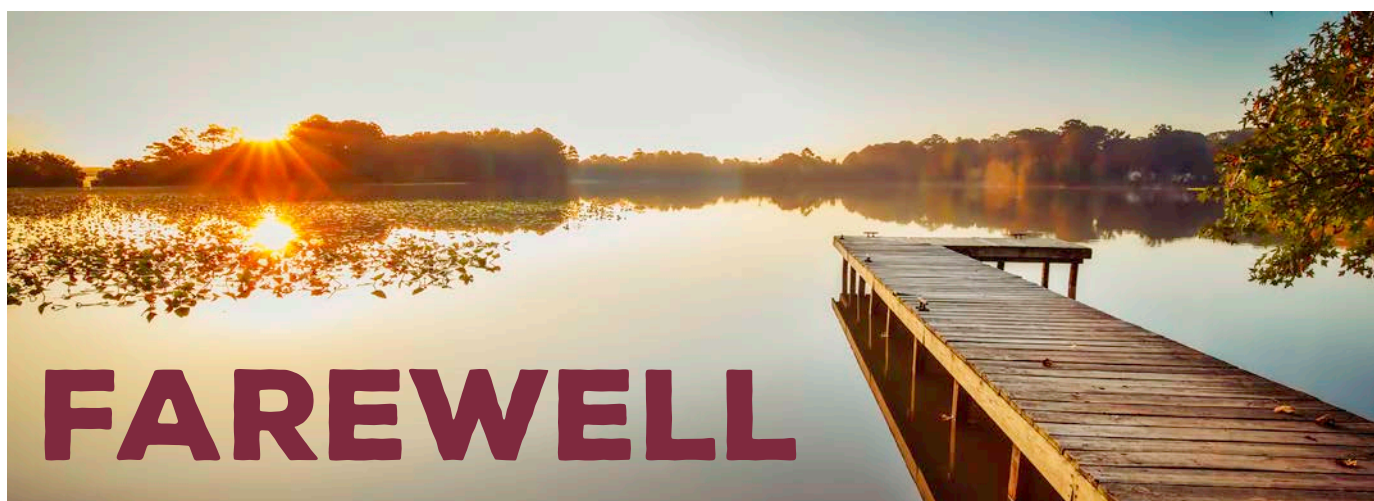




/ JUNE-JULY 2022

# DISTRICT NEWS

## OKLAHOMA



### Signing Off

Sitting in front of our Motorola television, we became very familiar with numerous ways in which the personalities would sign off. The Lone Ranger would sign off with

“Hi -Yo Silver, away!” Jimmy Durante would sign off with “And good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are!” Red Skelton would sign off with “Good night and God bless!” And Bob Hope would sign off with his familiar song, “Thanks for the Memories!”

This is my last article for the Oklahoma edition of *The Lutheran Witness* as district president. Since April 2009, you have learned more about the historical events impacting my hometown of Orlando than any of the lifelong residents



**Rev. Barrie Henke**  
District President

even know! But on June 11, my tenure as Oklahoma District president concludes and a new man of God’s choosing will assume the presidency. I have no catchy sign-off slogan or song. I do, however, have a heart filled with thanksgiving to God for your support and Christ’s grace that have taken me through these 13-plus years.

### Looking Back

When the saints of Oklahoma elected me in April 2009, I had been a widower barely three months. I remember the deadline for accepting the nomination as president — Dec. 31, 2008. In conversation with my beloved wife, Pat, I shared with her that there was no way I could be senior pastor at Holy Trinity, Edmond; president of the Oklahoma District; and her primary caregiver as her health was rapidly deteriorating. She assured me that God would provide the time and energy if I was elected.

So reluctantly, but with her encouragement, I accepted the nomination. What I did not know (or want to admit) is that she knew her time on earth was very limited. And in mid-January the Lord called her into His eternal presence. With the removal of care-giving

responsibilities, God had positioned me for other kingdom service. Then came the district convention in April 2009, at which I was elected Oklahoma District president.

I had no idea what that would involve, but I made myself available to whatever the Holy Spirit had in mind.

I found some comfort in the Palm Sunday Gospel text in which Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, so I thought, “He can still ride into Oklahoma congregations on me!” And many times I have acted more like a donkey than a president!

See **BLESSED**, Page 3

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

# Congrats!

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

**Bartlesville, Redeemer**

Fred and Jackie Malone  
55 years, June 3  
Nolan and Marilyn Jones  
60 years, June 11  
Lewis and Becky Trentman  
59 years, June 16  
Ralph and Lois Bergstad  
56 years, June 17  
Ken and Cheryl Byam  
57 years, June 26  
Daryl and Vickie Doughty  
55 years, July 7  
David and Melanie Bocher  
52 years, July 11

**Breckinridge, Immanuel**

Gerald and Judy Roggow  
59 years, July 7  
**Edmond, Holy Trinity**  
John and Patricia Steffens  
60 years, June 1  
Wayne and Carolynne Bechler  
60 years, June 2  
Neil and Carol Ford  
54 years, June 2  
Jim and Carol Flasch  
60 years, June 9  
William and Jan Fraase  
63 years, June 13  
Dennis and Rita Paul  
54 years, June 14  
Ray and Clara Hasselwander  
59 years, June 15  
Bill and Susan Foster  
54 years, June 16  
Richard and Connie Lewellen  
61 years, June 23  
Jim and Pam Duit  
53 years, June 27

Gary and Linda Johnson  
54 years, July 1  
Roger and Linda Bradford  
54 years, July 3  
Richard and Patricia Glasser  
62 years, July 10  
Marvyn and Audrey Olson  
63 years, July 11  
Sam and Susan Erwin  
51 years, July 24  
Scott and Sheri Waugh  
51 years, July 29

**Enid, St. Paul's**

Ralph and Barbara Kroll  
59 years, June 1

Ray and Sharyn Mueller  
54 years, June 8  
Merlin and Linda Decker,  
50 years, June 10  
Gerald and Mary Ann Hoeltzel  
65 years, June 22  
Rev. Ken and Carole Wade  
58 years, June 28  
Jere and Carole Courter  
60 years, June 30  
Joe and Marjorie Chandler  
53 years, July 16

**Fairland, St. Paul's**

Mike and Carol Tudor  
50 years, June 5

**Fairmont, Zion**

Bruce and Karen Lohse  
52 years, June 6  
Bob and Caroline Gash  
63 years, June 14  
Robert and Verla Helberg  
56 years, July 8

**Guthrie, Zion**

John and Ada Schneider  
64 years, June 1  
John and Kay Williams  
62 years, June 4  
Harold and Joy Flasch  
66 years, July 15  
Fred and Phyllis Zachary  
52 years, July 21

**Mustang, Christ**

George and Linda Danielson  
51 years, July 31

**Okarche, St. John's**

Dewain and Margaret Kochenower  
62 years, June 4  
George Ray and Deanna Heupel  
50 years, June 23

Mike and Nancy Bomhoff  
54 years, July 10

Keith and Karen Schroder  
50 years, July 21

**Oklahoma City, Messiah**

Ronnie and Dorothy Shaw  
51 years, June 6  
Terry and Molly Pufahl  
53 years, June 7  
Hank and Denise Spielmann  
55 years, June 17  
Phil and Karen Woodward  
52 years, June 20  
George and Carol Williams  
66 years, July 1

Rev. Marvin and Shirley Henschel  
63 years, July 18

Hugh and Dorothy Simpson  
65 years, July 28

**Oklahoma City, Zion**

Richard and Vivian Stehr  
50 years, June 25

**Owasso, Faith**

Galen and Carma Rustan  
51 years, June 5  
Eugene and Loretta Reeves  
62 years, June 11  
Dick and Carolyn Casper  
54 years, June 29

**Ponca City, First**

Loren and Denise Scott  
55 years, June 1  
Karel and Sherry Blubaugh  
58 years, June 10  
Gary and Sandy Sibley  
52 years, June 13  
Phil and Joyce Abbuhl  
52 years, June 14  
Glen and Barbara Mayer  
59 years, June 30

**Tulsa, Ablaze**

Carol and Steve Empson  
50 years, June 24

**Tulsa, Good Shepherd**

Mike and Peggy Poston  
52 years, June 25  
John and Donna Ellis  
58 years, June 28  
Leon and Carole Tibbs  
67 years, July 1

**Tulsa, Christ the Redeemer**

John and Sally Neas  
56 years, June 10

**Tulsa, Our Savior**

Virginia and Mike Kelliher  
51 years, July 16

**Woodward, Trinity**

Larry and Gwen Meier,  
56 years, June 5  
Bill and Vura Moser  
59 years, June 15

**Enid, Redeemer**

Eugene and Shirley Sharp  
57 years, April 30

**Blackwell, Trinity**

Joe and Loretta Bersche  
63 years, June 7

**Broken Arrow, Trinity**

Lynn and Freida Burton  
57 years, June 5



Bill and Marilyn Ninke  
55 years, July 29

**Tulsa, Christ the Redeemer**

Dale and Cheryl Davison  
51 years, June 5

## Tulsa, Christ the Redeemer



Dick and Linda Hamilton  
51 years, June 26



Norm and Bernie Zanter  
57 years, July 3



Harold and Colene France  
57 years, July 24

# Happy Birthday

**Covington, St. John's**  
Marie Fischer  
96 years, July 7

**Edmond, Holy Trinity**  
Mildred Treiber  
92 years, July 12

**Enid, St. Paul's**  
Lee Scheffe  
91 years, July 13

Kathleen Gray  
95 years, July 21  
Lindy Eck  
93 years, July 31

**Fairmont, Zion**  
Norma Ruth Miller  
96 years, June 5

**Norman, Trinity**  
Rev. Dr. Howard Kramer  
98 years, June 3

**Okarche, St. John's**  
Florene Tipton  
90 years, June 26

**Oklahoma City, Messiah**  
Pauline Cox  
93 years, June 2

Jeanne Haynes  
90 years, June 1  
Jerry Mauck  
95 years, June 25

Delphine Zajic  
97 years, June 26

Rita Malan  
97 years, July 30  
Dellora Elise Manske  
100 years, July 30

**Ponca City, First**  
Joe Banks  
92 years, June 28

Jonie Paynter  
91 years, July 2

Pat Setzkorn  
90 years, July 15

**Tulsa, Christ the Redeemer**  
Gayle Pumpelly  
91 years, June 4

Berniece Rowland  
97 years, June 26

Tulsa, Our Savior  
Gene Duenow  
90 years, July 10

**Watonga, Mount Calvary**  
Frances Ice  
90 years, June 14

## Blackwell, Trinity



Nancy Priebe  
91 years, June 29

## Broken Arrow, Trinity



Leona Meadors  
91 years, July 18

# BLESSED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

## Learning Times

My tenure has been marked with sadness as well as much joy. Sadly, I have had to remove some men from the pastorate because of unacceptable or immoral behavior. I have grieved at the graveside of faithful church workers or their family members. I have led the rite of closing congregations and grieved to see such rich history come to an end.

I have intervened when congregations mistreated their pastors, and when pastors mistreated their congregations. I have ached with congregations struggling to economically survive, especially during COVID-19.

But God has balanced the sad times with great joy. I have been privileged to ordain and install pastors in congregations that have viewed their shepherd as an answer to their prayers. I have celebrated anniversaries of congregations and pastor ordinations. I have rejoiced to be in the midst of the fellowship of saints who love meeting and greeting, feasting and festing, praying and praising. What joy!

## Farewell

As I said, I have no catchy sign off as I complete my service as district president. I only want to thank God and thank you for the great blessings I have received from His hand and from yours. I will sign off with the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Philippians (whom he loved greatly, as I love you):

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. **PHIL. 4:4-7**



**With Joy in Jesus,**  
Rev. Barrie E. Henke, President

# 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 be sure photos are sent in high resolution (at least 300 DPI).

**The deadline for the August issue is June 15.**



# SET APART TO SERVE

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), held Call Day services in late April. The Oklahoma District received one candidate and one vicar, both from CTSFW. Pictured are, from left, Jonathan Anderson, who was assigned as vicar to Trinity, Norman; Rev. Barrie Henke, Oklahoma District president; and Kyle Nelson, who was called as pastor of First, Chickasha. With Kyle is his wife, Stephanie. Please keep these faithful servants and their families in your prayers!



## Greet our new LWML officers!

"Chosen to Love and Serve" was the 2022 LWML Oklahoma District Convention theme. On April 8-9, 228 LWML women and 26 pastors met together to celebrate being chosen by God to love and serve His people.

New elected officers are, from left Rev. John Wackler, senior pastoral counselor; Sherrie Shroeder, treasurer; Katie Schroeder, VP of Gospel Outreach; Sandy Hentges, recording secretary; Cynthia(Cyndi) Smith, VP of Communication; Delia Collard, VP of Christian Life; and Rev. Joel Heckmann, junior pastoral counselor.

## Blessings in Breckinridge

The Oklahoma District celebrates Rev. Travis Nelson Orr's 10-year anniversary in the pastoral ministry.



Pastor Orr was ordained and installed at Immanuel, Breckinridge, on July 1, 2012, by Oklahoma District President Rev. Barrie Henke. Orr a graduate of Concordia University Chicago and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., still serves Immanuel as pastor.

He has also served the Enid Circuit as vacancy pastor for Trinity, Enid, and is currently serving as vacancy pastor at First, Pond Creek.

We give thanks for the blessings God has given us through Pastor Orr and his family. A card shower will be held on Sunday, July 3, to commemorate this special occasion.