



/ JUNE-JULY 2022

DISTRICT NEWS

OKLAHOMA



FAREWELL

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.

GOD'S BLESSINGS

**Saints of
Oklahoma!**

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!

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CELEBRATIONS

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 Marilynn 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 Counter
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

Osawo, 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 Abbhul
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

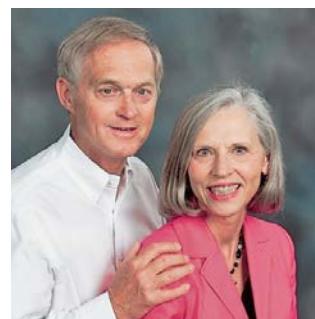


Lynn and Freida Burton
57 years, June 5



Bill and Marilyn Ninke
55 years, July 29

Tulsa, Christ the Redeemer

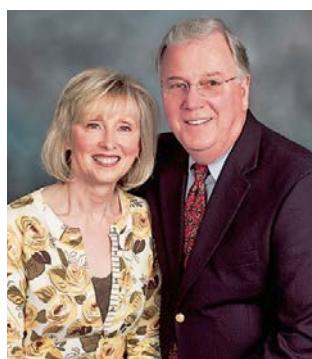


Dale and Cheryl Davison
51 years, June 5

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

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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. 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.

DISTRICT NEWS

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.