DISTRICT NEWS

OKLAHOMA



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'Well done!'

When a child completes a chore that a parent has assigned to her, and did a good job, the mom or dad says enthusiastically, "Well done!" When a boss looks at the excellent work that an employee has done in stocking the shelves of the store, he says, "Well done!" Everyone appreciates being acknowledged when a task has been carefully accomplished.



Rev. Dr. David Nehrenz
District President

The Gospel lesson for the 25th Sunday after Pentecost is the "Parable of the Talents" (Matthew 25:14-30). Jesus says:

> "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away." **14–15**

In the first century, a talent was a weight of silver or gold. A common value was 6,000 denarii. A talent of silver weighed about 100 pounds. A talent of gold weighed about 200 pounds. Whatever the exact amount in terms of modern equivalency, this was a considerable amount of money.

The one entrusted with one talent hid the talent in the ground. He considered his master to be a hard man. This servant was wicked and slothful. He did not even invest the money with the bankers to earn interest. This worthless servant was cast into outer darkness, where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Thus is the fate of all those who reject God, live life only for themselves and disregard His Word.

Jesus, however, explains that the worker who was entrusted with two talents made two more, and the worker entrusted with five talents made five more.

Jesus says:

> "Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'" **19–21**

The master said the same thing to the servant who made two more talents for his master.

This parable teaches us that our Father in heaven has entrusted us with every blessing we have in abundance. Our physical blessings include food, drink, clothing and shoes. Our spiritual blessings include forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. In His Son Jesus Christ, we have been given stewardship of His creation, His church and His Means of Grace.

In 2 Corinthians 8:9, we read:

> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

Jesus Christ crucified, buried, risen, ascended and returning is our greatest treasure. His righteousness is our eternal wealth!

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Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Piedmont, held its inaugural Divine Service on Aug. 23, marking an exciting new chapter in the ministry of the Oklahoma District. Rev. Dr. David Nehrenz, Oklahoma District president, led the service.

The Oklahoma District gives thanks to God for this new congregation and prays for its continued growth in faith and fellowship. May God bless Risen Savior as it proclaims Christ and gathers His people around Word and Sacrament.



Immanuel, Broken Arrow, welcomed 27 new members on Aug. 16. The congregation rejoiced as they were received into its family, joining in worship and fellowship. Pictured are 20 of the 27 new members.





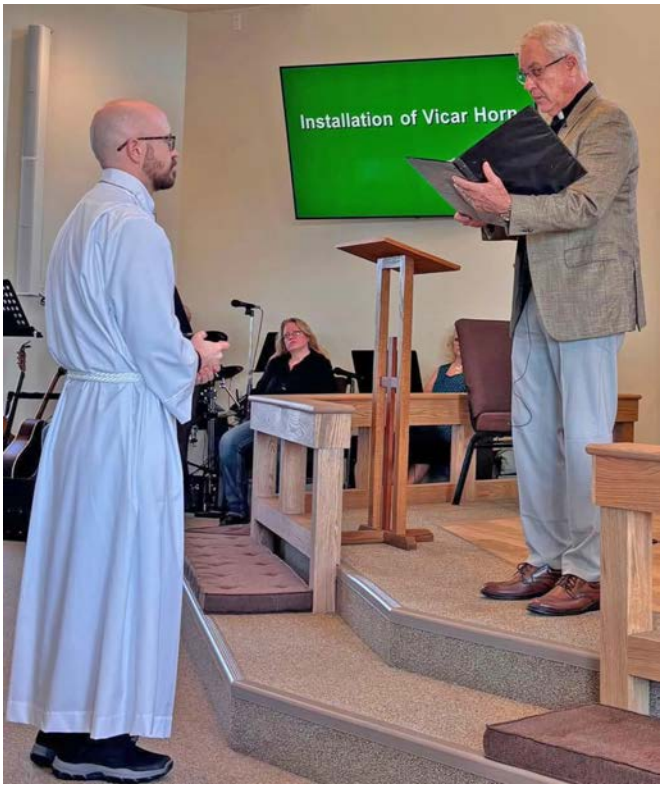
Christmas Market Oklahoma is celebrating its 15th year!

What began as a small community event has grown into a beloved Christmas tradition, thanks to the incredible vendors, volunteers and shoppers who have supported the market. As we celebrate the 15th Annual Christmas Market Oklahoma, we're planning to make this milestone year the best one yet!

Join us at First Lutheran Church and School, Ponca City (1104 N. Fourth Street), from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5, for a festive day of Christmas shopping, delicious food and plenty of holiday fun! With a variety of local vendors and unique gifts, it's a great opportunity to get a head start on — or finish up — your Christmas shopping while supporting local small businesses.

We invite you, your congregation and your community to join us as we celebrate 15 years of Christmas Market Oklahoma!

— *Submitted by Jennifer Heitman. First Lutheran Church, Ponca City*



Mike Horn (left) was installed as vicar of King of Kings, Glenpool, by Rev. David Boyd on Aug. 30. We give thanks to God for Vicar Mike as he begins his ministry in Glenpool, and pray that God would continue to guide and strengthen him. We also pray for the King of Kings congregation, for spiritual growth as well as growth in number, as they continue to serve their community and share the Word of God.

The annual service at Lutherhaven Retreat Center in Knowles was held Sept. 13 with about 80 Lutherans (including guests from Kansas and Texas) attending. Visitors also enjoyed the camp facilities and activities, including kayaking, canoeing and fishing.

The service was led by Rev. Mark Wescoatt (emeritus), Rev. Tom House (emeritus); Rev. Jason Toombs (Peace, Beaver, and Grace, Liberal, Kan.), and Rev. Gary McClellan (Christ, Shattuck).

Lutherhaven Retreat Center was destroyed by the Starbucks Fire in 2017 and later rebuilt. Earlier this year, the grounds and water sports equipment were damaged by the Beaver Range Fire.

— Submitted by Dianna Jenkins, Trinity Lutheran Church, Guymon



Fred Hintergardt, left, was the winner of a cookie contest at Lutherhaven Retreat Center. He is pictured with Rev. Mark Wescoatt.

Share your news with us!

Submit articles and photos to **oklahomalutherans.org/lutheran_witness**.

Articles and photos may also be emailed to **okdistrictmedia@gmail.com**.

CONGRATULATIONS

We rejoice with those who are celebrating anniversaries of 50 years or more.

Zion, Alva
Trayce and Randy Lohmann
51 years, Nov. 8

Redeemer, Claremore
Bob and Diane Seemann
64 years, Nov. 18

Ed and Marsha Durkin
58 years, Nov. 30

Trinity, Okmulgee
Bill and Carol Luchtel
57 years, Oct. 10

First, Ponca City
Dan and Carla McGregor
64 years, Nov. 20

Immanuel, Broken Arrow
Earl and Rita Sweet
58 years, 10/25

Holy Trinity, Edmond
Gene and Jan Queri
64 years, Nov. 17

Jim and Lee Ann Kuhlman
55 years, Nov. 20

Don and Jane Scherdt
52 years, Nov. 29

Messiah, Oklahoma City
Kevin and Margo Baker
55 years, Nov. 20

Daniel and Doris Lucas
58 years, Nov. 18

St. Paul's, Enid
Eugene and Catherine Breitenkamp
53 years, Nov. 24

Redeemer, Enid
Gehl and Marsha Caldwell
54 years, Nov. 18

Kem and Karin Keithly
62 years, Nov. 8

Larry and Ann Keller
53 years, Nov. 8

Robert Dale and Linda Gray
59 years, Nov. 24

St. John's, Covington
John and Darla Schminke
60 years, Nov. 5



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Immanuel, Breckinridge
Gerald Roggow
91 years, Oct. 29

Immanuel, Broken Arrow
Anne Siegmeier
92 years, Nov. 10

Jean Dresher
92 years, Oct. 2

Silver Morris
91 years, Oct. 6

Redeemer, Claremore
Wilma Buckner
92 years, Nov. 6

Redeemer, Enid
June Calaway
92 years, Nov. 20

First, Ponca City
Ken Wilson
90 years, Nov. 19

Messiah, Oklahoma City
Ron Barsotti
91 years, Nov. 13

Rev. Marvin Henschel
92 years, Nov. 12

Shirley Henschel
90 years, Nov. 7

St. Paul's, Enid
Phyllis Blaser
93 years, Nov. 12

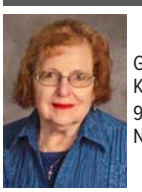
Caroline Cowan
92 years, Nov. 13

Geraldine Heidrich
98 years, Nov. 3

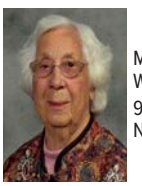
Deloris Theimer
95 years, Nov. 21

Orville Walton
91 years, Nov. 29

Trinity, Broken Arrow



Glenda Kolbe
92 years, Nov. 26



Martha Wilson
94 years, Nov. 11



Arthur Fabrizius
97 years, Nov. 17

LWML



A choir is pictured singing during the 59th Convention of the LWML Oklahoma District, held April 17–18 in Edmond.

The LWML has much to offer the women of the Oklahoma District, including conventions, Fall Fests and Spring Flings. Women gather for Bible study and fellowship. Many events include service projects to benefit various ministries, and mite offerings are collected to support local and worldwide missions.

Groups serve in a variety of ways in their church and communities. They furnish altar flowers, change paraments, make baptismal banners and prepare funeral dinners. Others donate funds to our seminary food banks or for equipment needed for churches and schools. Many groups provide spiritual encouragement through prayer, cards and visits.

Community organizations benefit from LWML groups' cash donations and collections of non-perishable food for the needy. They also assemble school kits, baby kits and hygiene kits, and collect clothing, blankets and quilts to be given to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train, which distributes the gifts to those in need.

Learn more at **oklwml.org** and **lwml.org**.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Our daily work now is to love the Lord our God with heart, soul and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. To make disciples of all nations means to teach, baptize and preach the Gospel to everyone. We use our own time, talents and treasures to do so. This is the true purpose of life. We use God's gifts to serve Him, not ourselves. Through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, we have the promise of our inheritance in heaven.

The gift of heaven and paradise is the greatest reward! There we eat of the tree of life and drink from the river of life. There we will hear, "Well done good and faithful servant, enter in the joy of your Master!"

All Access Account

Everyday Access to Your Funds with Competitive Rates

At Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), we align your investments with your faith, empowering LCMS ministries to grow and serve for the glory of His kingdom. With the All Access Account, you'll enjoy competitive rates and full access to your funds, designed for your daily needs.

Easy access with the LCEF mobile app

No monthly fees

Online bill pay through MyAccount

Interest accrued daily, paid monthly

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Open your investment online in about 5 minutes.
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