



DISTRICT NEWS

OKLAHOMA



LCMS/Erik M. Lumsford

defeats the three temptations of the devil. They are the exact same temptations. Adam fell for them. Jesus did not.

The devil tempted Adam and Eve to doubt God's Word and said, "Did God really say?" They fell for this temptation and doubted God's Word. The devil tempted the second Adam, Jesus, by saying, "Didn't God say the angels will bear you up? So throw yourself down from the temple." Jesus did not fall for this temptation nor throw Himself down.

The devil tempted Adam and Eve to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They gave in to the temptation and ate. The devil tempted the second Adam, Jesus, to turn stones into bread to eat. Jesus did not give in to this temptation and did not eat.

The devil tempted Adam and Eve to eat so they could be like God and become "gods" themselves. They ate and then realized their idolatry and guilt. The devil tempted the second Adam, Jesus, to bow down and worship Satan and become a "god" who would possess the kingdoms of this world. Jesus would not bow down in idolatry to Satan. God is the only true possessor of all the world's kingdoms.

The apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:47-49:

The first man (Adam) was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man (Jesus) is from heaven. As was the man of dust (Adam), so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven (Jesus), so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the man

Adam and Jesus



Rev. Dr. David Nehrenz
District President

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18. We come to the chancel and the pastor places ashes on our heads in the shape of a cross. He speaks these words:

"Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Thus begins the 40 days of Lent.

Consider various events in the Bible associated with the number 40. The Flood was 40 days and nights in length. Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days to receive the Ten Commandments. Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus was tempted by the devil in the desert for 40 days. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples over a period of 40 days.

Every time those 40 days are completed, God begins a whole new chapter for the person or people involved. In Jesus' case, after He was baptized and after the 40-day temptation by the devil in the desert, He then commenced His three-year public ministry.

As the first Adam in the Garden of Eden fell prey to the three temptations of the devil, now the second Adam (Jesus) in the desert

See **MESSAGE**, Page 6

LWML

‘Find peace’ at convention

“*Finding Peace*” will be the theme of the 59th Convention of the LWML Oklahoma District, to be held April 17-18 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Edmond. The Bible study leader will be Michelle Diercks, author of Concordia Publishing House books “*Promised Rest: Finding Peace in God’s Presence*” and “*Promised Hope: Finding Peace in God’s Faithfulness*.” She will use examples from her books and Scripture to help guide us into God’s peace in our everyday circumstances.

To expand upon the convention theme, various speakers will lead discussion groups during inter-sessions for more interaction with participants.

Rev. Dr. David Nehrenz, Oklahoma District president and Trinity, Norman, pastor emeritus, will give the keynote address, which will include remarks on the state of the LCMS.

New this year will be a Mite Market as well as the LWML store. Women from around the Oklahoma District have been asked to show their talents by making items for sale, and all proceeds will be for Mites to help fund the new Mission Grants, which will be announced during the business meeting.

The convention will address topics of interest to women young and old. A wine and cheese social, sponsored by LCEF, will allow for networking and fellowship. Special activities are being planned for young women. You can join the choral group or bell choir.

Registration is available at oklwml.org/district_convention; *The Voice of Service* newsletter; or by asking an LWML member for a registration form. The convention is being hosted by the Kingfisher and Panhandle zones. All interested women are welcome to attend. We hope to see you there!



Michelle Diercks (left) is pictured at the Concordia Publishing House (CPH) booth during the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering in Houston. She will be the Bible study leader at the LWML Oklahoma District convention in April. (She is pictured with Heidi Goehmann, also a CPH author.)



Rev. Dr. David Nehrenz, pictured visiting with children at the Trinity, Norman, early childhood center in 2021, will be the keynote speaker.



Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Cushing, is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2026 and is planning a special service and other festivities to be held later in the year. More information will be available soon.

Remington designs paraments for CUNE chapel

Hunter Remington, a member of Trinity, Okmulgee, and a senior at Concordia University, Nebraska (CUNE), was recently part of a project in which he designed and created paraments for the university's Weller Chapel.

"What started as a day dream during chapel one day turned into a reality," Hunter says. "I had an earnest desire to see paraments eventually find their way into our chapel. In my free time last year, I started to work on designs of some paraments for Weller, but once Pastor (Ryan) Matthias (CUNE campus pastor) saw them, he helped to make them a reality.

Hunter designed paraments for multiple seasons and feast days of the church year, based on the artwork already present within the chapel, which was created by Concordia Nebraska professors Mark Anschutz and Bill Wolfram. The paraments were crafted by alumnus Emily (Loy) Harding (a 2021 graduate).

"The main inspiration for my designs are from the chancel window 'Abundant Joy,'" Hunter says. "The paraments deal with one focal point across all the different sets, a central circle. This circle is present in all of the sets except for the purple when it is instead split up between five smaller, bright red circles. In all cases, the circle represents Christ and these paraments have a story to tell about His life and how we as the church relate to that.

"The reason we have a church year and a liturgical calendar is so that we are constantly reminded of Christ's birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension. Having these paraments is a guide and a reminder of this rhythm that the church lives together, a bold focus on Christ"

Hunter is pursuing a bachelor of arts in music. He is in his fourth year as a member of the CUNE A Cappella Choir and is coordinator of the university's twice-weekly Evening Prayer services. He chose to attend the university after visiting campus during a Higher Things conference in 2019.

He comes from a multi-generational Lutheran family. While neither of his parents serve in church work, they are extremely passionate about their voca-



Hunter Remington

tions and are constantly pointing others to Christ. His mother, Stephanie, also attended Concordia University, Nebraska, in the 1990s as an art student.

When he's not in class, you'll find Hunter playing organ, thrifting, collecting vinyl records, hiking and traveling.

After graduation, he plans to attend Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., to become an LCMS pastor. He dreams of serving in a very musical parish that also has a school. He said his time at CUNE has well prepared him for seminary and his future vocations.

"The music department at Concordia

Nebraska is special," Hunter says. "The professors in the music department are widely known and so well learned in their respective disciplines. Students are able to glean a firehose of information from them. Each professor knows you so well and truly cares about seeing your growth not only as a musician, but also as a person.

"The student side of the department is also very tight knit. After all, living life together, such as during a two-week A Cappella Tour, brings together such lasting and special connections.

"Essentially running parallel in my education have been the theology department and the music department. Interacting daily with my professors who hold such a strong Lutheran faith, they constantly encourage me to continue to head down the path of church work. It has given me not only head knowledge, but I've grown in relationships with friends, especially as it relates to our shared faith. The most important education here happens outside of the curriculum, when you have the chance to ask your professor a hard question or to talk with friends about a difficult subject."

This article was written by Amy Crawford for cune.edu.



Rev. Ryan Matthias is pictured with the new paraments at CUNE's Weller Chapel.

DISTRICT NEWS

'For to us a child is born'

Pictured are children and youth from Oklahoma District congregations participating in Christmas programs.



**Redeemer,
Enid**



Shepherd of the Hills, Skiatook



Redeemer, Claremore



**First,
Ponca City**



St. Paul's, Enid

CONGRATULATIONS!

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

Redeemer, Bartlesville
Ivan and Karla Winger
51 years, Feb. 8

Zion, Stillwater
Les and Janice Hinton
53 years, Feb. 11

Trinity, Broken Arrow
Bill and Sue Pahmeier
66 years, Jan. 1

**Immanuel,
Broken Arrow**

Robert and Judith Wessels
61 years, Feb. 14



Gary and Kathy Siffr
54 years, Feb. 3

St. Paul's, Enid
Gene and Christine Hollrah
65 years, Feb. 5

Melvin and Crystal Kingcade
52 years, Feb. 17

Trinity, Norman
Paul and Donna Bushore
60 years, Feb. 19

Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa



Robert and Lanece Young
62 years, Feb. 28

Messiah, Oklahoma City
Ron and Kristi Barsotti
62 years, Feb. 22

Glen and Ann Hallum
67 years, Feb. 20

Bill and Nancy Varner
66 years, Feb. 13

First, Ponca City
Ron and Janel Geiser
53 years, Feb. 17

Happy Birthday

Zion, Alva
Bob Larson
91 years, Feb. 8

St. Paul's, Enid
Marilyn Simpson
91 years, Feb. 18

First, Ponca City
Lenora Veloz
95 years, Feb. 4

**Redeemer,
Bartlesville**
William Van Wey
92 years, Feb. 23

**Messiah,
Oklahoma City**
Jan Glos
94 years, Feb. 9

Darlene Alley
93 years, Feb. 10
Frances Brackett
98 years, Feb. 13

**Trinity, Broken
Arrow**
Luella Mahan
92 years, Feb. 8
Beulah Sullivan
91 years, Feb. 18

Alice Giles
92 years, Feb. 17
Gerrie Helling
93 years, Feb. 22
Patricia Morgan
92 years, Feb. 25

Betty Schwanke
99 years, Feb. 15
Ablaze, Tulsa
Charlie Gilmore
96 years, Feb. 23
Katie Duenow
93 years, Feb. 26

**Redeemer,
Claremore**
Ruby Smith
98 years, Feb. 11

**Mount Calvary,
Watonga**
Maxine Strack
96 years, Feb. 12



Immanuel, Grove, welcomed three new members by confirmation on Nov. 30. Pictured are, from left, Bill and Debbie Renard, Rev. Mark Burger and Gary Foreman.



The Camp Lutheroma 2025 summer staff held a reunion over the Dec. 13 weekend. The fun included Christmas charades, cookie decorating, bowling, hiking to the grandfather tree, and late-night chats.

Share your news with us!

Submit articles and photos to oklahomalutherans.org/lutheran_witness.

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



MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

of dust (Adam), we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven (Jesus).

Jesus defeated the devil's temptation as true man, quoting the written Word of God each time he opposed the devil. The second Adam did this in our place. He defeated the devil for all of us "fallen Adams."

James 1:12 tells us that we are able to battle temptation in the strength of Jesus Christ and the Word of God:

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

The 40 days of Lent teach us our true identity. When you receive the ashes on your head you understand. Your mortal death comes from Adam. Your eternal life comes from Jesus.



“
When you receive the ashes on your head you understand. Your mortal death comes from Adam. Your eternal life comes from Jesus.”

Grow Your Future *Grounded in Faith*

Opening an **Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** might not be on your radar, but it's crucial for your financial future.



SUPPORT LCMS MINISTRIES
WITH YOUR INVESTMENT



\$100 MINIMUM



ENJOY COMPOUNDED INTEREST
PAID MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY



ONLINE ACCESS AND
MOBILE APP



LUTHERAN CHURCH
EXTENSION FUND



lcef.org/tomorrow

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF Investments are not FDIC insured, are not a federally insured savings or deposit account or insured by any state or federal agency. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank n.a. serves as the custodian for the LCEF IRA/HSA programs.



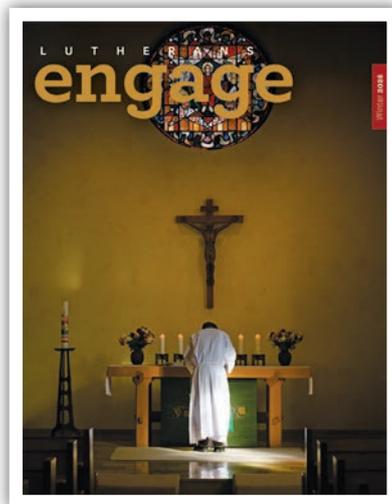
GOD’S MISSION EVERYWHERE

In the Winter 2026 issue of *Lutherans Engage the World*, you’ll read about many amazing things that God is doing around the world: engaging youth in the faith, caring for refugees, forming deaconesses for service to the church, sharing the Gospel with people in far-flung places. But the mission of the church is not something that “they” are doing “out there.” It’s work that all Christians are involved in — whether in their own neighborhood or by partnering with others across the globe.

In an article on the recent FORO in Germany, Eurasia Regional Director Rev. Dr. David Preus says he hopes the FORO

participants will return home and tell others, “We have a mission in Germany, and this is what we are doing.” In the same way, we hope you will be encouraged by these examples of how your church is sharing the love and mercy of Jesus Christ all around the globe — all to the glory of God.

The issue started arriving in mailboxes in late December. Read it online at engage.lcms.org. If you aren’t currently receiving the magazine but would like to, visit engage.lcms.org/subscribe to sign up for a free subscription. Both individual and bulk subscriptions (for congregations) are available.



Advocate for life in 2026

The LCMS speaks up for life, cares for people in body and soul, and teaches about the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. The LCMS Life Ministry network is composed of thousands who are engaged in pro-life efforts, both in their churches and in the culture at large. Lutherans speak for human life by witnessing to our Lord’s creation of life and by advocating for the God-given value of all human life in the public square.

Join LCMS Life Ministry and your fellow Lutherans as we stand together at life marches across the U.S.

To see a list of upcoming events, order pro-life gear and find resources on life ministry, visit lcms.org/march-for-life.



ENGAGED IN MISSION:

Congregation and Community

APRIL 24TH - 25TH, 2026

Messiah Lutheran Church
3600 Northwest Expy, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

REV. DR. QUINTIN CUNDIFF DIRECTOR OF CHURCH PLANTING

Rev. Dr. Cundiff has lived and served as a pastor in various contexts in the United States. This has included experience in church planting on the local level. He also served as an international missionary where he helped to plant both the English language seminary in Riga, Latvia and an English speaking congregation. Currently, he works with church plants all over the United States to work through the LCMS Church Planting Process to see new gatherings of believers around the Word and Sacraments.

REV. DR. HEATH TRAMPE DIRECTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP

Rev. Dr. Trampe served as a parish pastor – in rural and urban settings – for 15 years before accepting a call to the Office of National Mission (ONM). During that time, each congregation worked together to revitalize and to make a greater impact on the communities around them. As the Director of Discipleship, Heath oversees outreach and evangelism, revitalization, stewardship, and more. He has over a decade of experience with LCMS re:Vitality, first as a pastor and now at ONM.

REGISTRATION: \$20

Registration fees will be collected at the door. Dinner is included in fees.

Please book lodging separately.

Registration Form:

<https://forms.gle/BFTBpkzRj8dGBQmDA>

ACCOMODATIONS

A block of rooms are reserved at the following:

Home2 Suites by Hilton, OKC NW

<https://group.home2suites.com/x2fi0n>

Tru Hotel by Hilton, OKC NW

<https://group.trubyhilton.com/b1ut3k>