



/ NOVEMBER 2023

DISTRICT NEWS

OKLAHOMA

The 'Day of the Lord'

On the 25th Sunday after Pentecost, the epistle lesson explains what it will be like when our Lord Jesus returns.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, St. Paul writes:

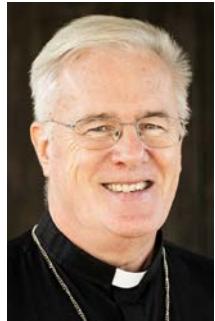
Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

The unbelieving world will not be ready. They have mocked God and blasphemed Jesus. Not one of them is prepared for the day of the Lord. Unbelief equals blindness. The signs of the times are everywhere: false prophets and christians, earthquakes, famines, wars and rumors of wars. Violence, wickedness and evil are everywhere. Jesus predicted all of this.

Then Paul assures us of our greater reality in Christ Jesus:

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do,



Rev. David Nehrenz
District President

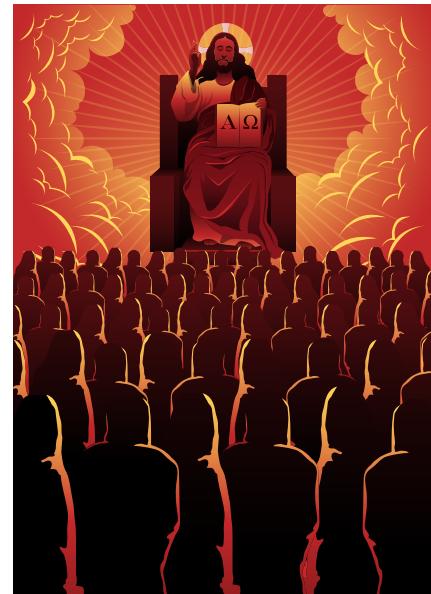
but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. (4-7)

We live in the light. We are day dwellers. We are wide awake and soberly waiting for Jesus' return. Even though Christ will come like a thief in the night, we will be right at the door waiting for Him. Rather than being drunk, we will be fully awake. Our mouths shall say, "Welcome Lord! We've been expecting you!"

However, vigilance is still appropriate. Paul also reminds us about proper preparation for that day:

But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. (8-10)

We are wearing the armor of God. We are wielding the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. We are prepared for spiritual battle every day. Jesus died on the cross. We died with



him in our Baptism. Jesus rose from the dead. We rose from the dead with Him in our Baptism. Now whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord.

So we heed what Paul says:

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (11)

“ Jesus rose from the dead. We rose from the dead with Him in our Baptism. Now whether we live or whether we die, we belong to the Lord.”

In your parish life with your pastor, and with your church leaders and fellow congregants, build each other up every week. The Word of God comes to you through preaching and teaching. It comes to you connected to water, bread and wine. These are real Means of Grace that impact your real daily lives.

So rejoice! We are fully aware about the future coming of the day of the Lord. With the church of all ages, we cry out with exultant hearts, "Come Lord Jesus!"

DISTRICT NEWS

More than 250 people from eight congregations attended the **Tulsa-Area Lutheran Picnic**, held Sept. 17 at Hailey Creek Park in Broken Arrow. Thanks go to DCE Suzanne Watt and Nikki Boyd of Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa, and Carrie Ann Swaim and Todd Stevens of Immanuel, Broken Arrow, for organizing the event.



From left, Rev. Mark Burger, Rev. Chris Hall and Paul Steitz lead a farewell for Rev. Mark Carter, who is relocating to Texas.



Top float

St. Paul's Lutheran School, Enid, was the first-place winner in the non-profit float category of the Cherokee Strip Parade in Enid on Sept. 17. The parade is part of the annual Cherokee Strip Celebration, which is for the town's founding in 1893.

CONGRATS!

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

Redeemer, Bartlesville

Bob and Diane Seemann
61 years, Nov. 18

Ed and Marsha Durkin
55 years, Nov. 30

St. Paul's, Enid
Gene and Catherine Breitenkamp
50 years, Nov. 24

Redeemer, Enid
Robert Dale and Linda Gray
56 years, Nov. 24

Kem and Karin Keithly
59 years, Nov. 7

Larry and Ann Keller
50 years, Nov. 8

St. Paul's, Fairland
Jerry and Donna Wood
53 years, Nov. 6

Zion, Fairmont
Darrell and Glenda Tobiason
50 years, Nov. 10

Good Shepherd, Midwest City
Charles and Erlinda Murphy
55 years, Nov. 19

St. John's, Okarche
Freddie and Jeannie Peters
57 years, Nov. 4

Marlin and Kathy Kremeier
57 years, Nov. 5

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

Daniel and Doris Lucas
55 years, Nov. 21

Trinity, Norman
Jerry and Charlene Jerman
51 years, Nov. 4

Faith, Owasso
Richard and Phyllis Durham
64 years, Nov. 26

Christ, Perry
Roger and Kathy Lewis
59 years, Nov. 13

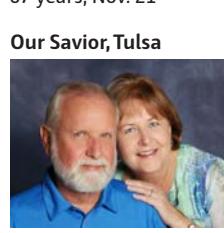
First, Ponca City



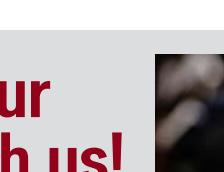
Grace, Tulsa



Our Savior, Tulsa



First, Ponca City



Good Shepherd, Midwest City

Marge DeFrees
101 years, Nov. 22

St. John, Lone Wolf
Evelyn Miller
90 years, Nov. 10

Our Savior, Oklahoma City
Flo Boneau
97 years, Nov. 7

St. John's, Okarche
Clifford Meyer
90 years, Nov. 12

Happy Birthday

Redeemer, Bartlesville

Marge DeFrees
101 years, Nov. 22

St. Paul's, Enid
Geraldine Heidrich
95 years, Nov. 3

Marjorie Chandler
98 years, Nov. 8

Phyllis Blaser
90 years, Nov. 12

Delores Theimer
92 years, Nov. 21

Good Shepherd, Midwest City

Jim Tanner
91 Years, Nov. 7

St. John, Lone Wolf
Evelyn Miller
90 years, Nov. 10

Our Savior, Oklahoma City
Flo Boneau
97 years, Nov. 7

St. John's, Okarche
Clifford Meyer
90 years, Nov. 12

Laurnell Lenz

93 years, Nov. 29

Messiah, Oklahoma City
Mildred Kiefer
100 years, Nov. 29

Tim Parker
91 years, Nov. 5

Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa
John Woods
102 years, Nov. 9

Phyllis McKay
97 years, Nov. 9

Trinity, Broken Arrow



Martha Wilson
90 years, Nov. 11



Arthur Fabrizius
93 years, Nov. 17



First, Ponca City
Rosemary Rutter
102 years, Nov. 1



Rev. Mark Burger's 30th ordination anniversary was celebrated at Redeemer, Claremore, on Sept. 3. He is pictured with his wife, Roz, and their grandson, Michael. Pastor Burger is retired, but serves as the Miami Circuit's visitor.



Redeemer, Enid, hosted the Enid Zone LWML Fall Fest on Sept. 23. Pam Wiederkehr, LWML district president, opened the meeting, Rev. Dwayne Schroeder, Redeemer pastor, gave the opening devotion; Rev. Tim Roggow, pastor of Zion, Alva, led Bible study; Tree Kelly (pictured), executive director of Youth and Family Services of North Central Oklahoma, was the mission speaker; and Mona Hein played piano. Pictured are the ladies preparing to assemble school kits for Lutheran World Relief as the service project.

The November mission focus is \$6,250 for Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Midwest City – Technology for Learning. The grant will help provide laptops and software for the students.



To learn more about Mission Grants and how you can help, visit oklwml.org/mission_grants.



Share your news with us!

Submit articles and photos to oklahomalutherans.org/lutheran_witness. Articles and photos may also be sent to commsokdistrict@gmail.com. The deadline for the January 2024 issue is Nov. 15.

DISTRICT NEWS

Singers from Concordia Life Plan Community and Messiah, Oklahoma City, performed the National Anthem at the Oklahoma City Dodgers game on Sept. 1. Lutheran Night with Concordia benefited the Concordia Community Foundation.



▲ **Zion, Alva**, held a Back-to-School Bash on Aug. 20 for the community. About 60 attendees enjoyed waterslides, steer roping and a homemade ice cream contest. An LCEF grant helped with funding.

◀ Also on Aug. 20, a dedication was held for the new paraments and stoles, which were made by the women of Zion.



First Lutheran Church and School, Ponca City, will host the 12th annual Christmas Market Oklahoma Festival from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2.

There will be a wide variety of vendors selling their arts and crafts and Christmas decorations; activities for children; and much more. Traditional German brats and pulled-pork sandwiches will be available for lunch. In addition, there will be for sale a selection of Christmas cookies and other sweet treats, ready to be served your holiday guests.

If you would be interested in being a vendor for this event, call 580-761-4657.