



DISTRICT NEWS

OKLAHOMA

Truth and joy



Jesus explains:

“All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. A little while, and you will see me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see me.” **v.15**

Since Jesus would ascend into heaven back to His Father, He was assuring them of a direct connection to God. In the Holy Spirit, through the words of the Son, we receive the truth from the Father.

It took awhile for the 12 disciples to understand this.

So some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this that he says to us, ‘A little while, and you will not see me, and again a little while, and you will see me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’” So they were saying, “What does he mean by ‘a little while’? We do not know what he is talking about.” Jesus knew that they wanted to ask Him, so He said to them: “Is this what you are asking yourselves, what I meant by saying, ‘A little while and you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me?’” **v.17–19**

Soon they would be with Jesus on the mountain. They would watch Him be lifted up on the clouds into heaven. The angels in white clothes would then explain what was happening. Jesus would ascend into heaven back to His Father. Jesus would return on the Last Day to also take us to our Heavenly Father.

Jesus prepared them for that event:

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Rev. Dr. David Nehrenz
District President

Where is truth and joy to be found? In a world of lies and sorrow, this is a question many people ask.

As we continue in the 50 days from Easter Sunday to Ascension Thursday to Pentecost Sunday, Jesus answers that question. In the Gospel of John 16:12-14, He says:

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

Truth comes from the words of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, written down by the apostles in the New Testament. Now we read, teach and preach these holy words in our churches all over the world.

Mercy in Beggs

A Lutheran Early Response Team was in Beggs to show God's love and mercy to a family whose home had been destroyed by an EF-3 tornado on March 6. The team safely felled 15 trees. Neighbors with heavy equipment worked alongside our LERT team to clear this debris and give the homeowners a measure of hope.

— Submitted by Denny Rader
LERT volunteer



DISASTER RESPONSE

Also present in Beggs was a Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) Care Team from Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa — including Comfort Dog Persis. The team also delivered Hearts of Mercy and Compassion (HMC) in memory of Todd and Becky McClelland, a couple from Beggs who were killed in the storm. An HMC provides a physical and spiritual symbol through the giving of hearts and crosses to families and friends who have suffered a loss or are experiencing the illness of a loved one.

The Care Team served for three days, providing emotional and spiritual care.

We continue to pray for those affected by the storm in Beggs and for all response teams helping in the area.



Comfort Dog Persis is pictured with her team from Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa, from left, Eric and Jenny Wendelbo and Terry and Kevin Brown.



All joy with Jesus!

When Sadie arrived on Sunday with her sleeping bag and a shy smile, her grandmother shared her hope that Sadie's first camp experience would be a positive one. Sadie quickly settled into her cabin, bonding with her counselor and cabin mates. Throughout the week, her goofy and fun-loving personality truly shone, and she shared her joy with everyone she met.

On Friday, as I walked with Sadie's cabin group to our opening worship, her counselor asked the girls what they had learned during their week. While others shared stories about their favorite activities and songs, Sadie simply said, "I know that Jesus is my friend and He's always with me." During her time at camp, Sadie came to know the most important truth of all: that Jesus is her Savior and friend who will never leave her.

My prayer is that every camper this summer experiences the love and joy of Jesus just like Sadie did. Our summer theme, "All Joy," centers on Psalm 16:11:

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Through Bible studies, Christian friendships and devotions, we hope campers learn that true joy is found in Jesus, who lived, died and rose again to give them eternal life.

Registration is still open for our summer programs. Youth camps are available for ages 7-18, and family camp is open to everyone. We invite you to sign up your child or family for an unforgettable week of adventure, spiritual growth and relaxation in God's creation. Visit lutherhoma.com to learn more and register.

— Submitted by Erin Busch
Camp Lutherhoma Program Director





The Womens' Guild of **First Lutheran Church, Ponca City**, held its Valentine salad luncheon on Feb. 13. Over 200 people from the congregation and community attended and enjoyed hot chicken salad and a variety of other salads.

Pictured are, from left, Kathy Brockhoff, Jan Pinnegar, Jane Miller, Edith Hunt, Jeanette Pameticky, Becky McCoy, Della Rein, Marcella Matthews, Martha Schwanke, Trudi Stigge, Linda Lyons, Barbara Mayer, Sandy Sibley, Glenda Hager and Dolores Barnhart.



Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa, held its annual Women's Retreat March 6–8 at Camp Lutherhoma. The group engaged in activities and hikes around the beautiful property. Meals were provided by the camp staff. DCE Suzanne Watt led Bible study on Jesus' parables, and the group enjoyed fellowship between new and old friends.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

“Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.” **v.20–21**

Sorrow in the world lasts for a night, but joy from the Lord comes in the morning!

Jesus assures them:

“So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you.” **v.22**

The promise of the return of Jesus on the Last Day is what solidifies that reality. While we await that day, we have truth and joy in our hearts right now.

Jesus is the atoning sacrifice for our sin. He is Truth and Joy Incarnate. Jesus is risen from the dead. In Him is our justification by grace, through faith. In Him you have actual truth and lasting joy into eternity!



Oklahoma Lutheran Schools Academic Bee 2026

Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy, Broken Arrow, hosted the 2026 Academic Bee for fourth- through eighth-graders on March 6.



First Lutheran School, Ponca City ▶



▲ Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy, Broken Arrow

◀ Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Edmond



‘Eager and willing spirits’

LWML future in faithful hands

We currently have four Young Woman Representatives (YWR) in the LWML Oklahoma District. Two of them were raised by mothers who took them to LWML meetings and guided their walks to becoming “purple ladies.”

The YWRs attended the LWML national convention in Omaha last June. Connections were made for a lifetime. I was blessed to connect with women of all ages, in different walks of life, from across all 50 states. I am grateful to still have them praying with me and keeping in touch nine months later.

Eager and willing spirits, the YWRs have in bushels. We’re firm believers that God will provide this help through the women of the LWML, and allow us to follow in the footsteps of the hardworking and caring women we serve under and beside.

— Submitted by *Gabby Wenneker*
LWML Young Woman Representative

Gabby Wenneker, LWML YWR, is pictured second from left. Also pictured are Gay Cocherell (left) and Debbie Phipps, Robyn Anderson and Alane Jordan (third through fifth, from left).

Happy Birthday

- Redeemer, Bartlesville**
Irene VanWey
91 years, May 20
- Our Savior, Bethany**
Rev. George Gustke
93 years, May 28
- Immanuel, Breckinridge**
Ladova Roggow
93 years, May 2
- Martin Middleton
94 years, May 22
- St. John’s, Covington**
Lettie Cheeseman
92 years, May 16

- First, Ponca City**
Joann Ward
92 years, May 1
- Dolores Barnhart
95 years, May 2
- Bob Prescott
93 years, May 14
- St. Paul’s, Enid**
Milburn Kroll
90 years, May 10
- Richard Simpson
95 years, May 23
- Trinity, Norman**
Gene Channell
90 years, May 15

- Trinity, Broken Arrow**
Ardys Knapp
93 years, May 28
- Messiah, Oklahoma City**
Don Ewing
94 years
- Ann Hallum
95 years
- Russell Hixon
91 years
- Patricia Morgan
92 years

Redeemer, Shawnee



Mary Jane Bradford
100 years,
May 31

Christ, Mustang



Doyle Brown
93 years,
May 1

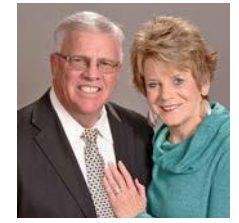
CONGRATULATIONS!

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

- Bethlehem, Adair**
Ray and Jackie Mathison
63 years, May 25
- Our Savior, Bethany**
Dennis and Janet Patterson
57 years, May 31
- Redeemer, Bartlesville**
Bill and Sharon Norwood
62 years, May 12
- Tom and Brenda Bucher
54 years, May 20
- Redeemer, Enid**
Darl and Teri Thorp
51 years, May 24
- Tom and Gloria Kimak
52 years, May 26
- Trinity, Norman**
Ron and Ruth Barnes
54 years, May 27
- Mount Calvary, Watonga**
Rodney and Donna Jacks
51 years, May 24

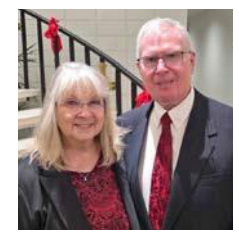
- Messiah, Oklahoma City**
Bill and Barbara Chaple
56 years, May 29
- Rick and Sharon Olmsted
53 years
- Bill and Nancy Varner
66 years
- Zion, Stillwater**
Harl and Ann Hentges
51 years, May 24
- Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa**
Russ and Carole Hansen
59 years, May 26

Zion, Alva



Dean and Ann Goll
52 years, May 18

Christ the Redeemer, Tulsa



Barry and Daphnee Brian
50 years, May 20

Ablaze, Tulsa

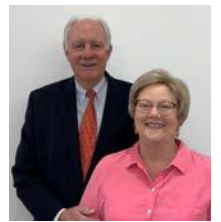


Debi and Steve Hardin
54 years, May 27

Christ, Mustang



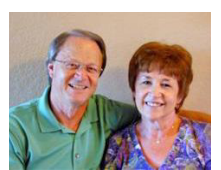
Garry and Linda Hinrichs
60 years, May 15



David and Teresa Nightingale
53 years, May 26



Doug and Eileen Honeman
53 years, May 26



Jerry and Diane Morlock
56 years, May 9

Fire impacts Lutherhaven again

It's been said that men are from Mars. I've never been there, but the landscape at Lutherhaven Retreat Center sure looks like the pictures of Mars I've seen.

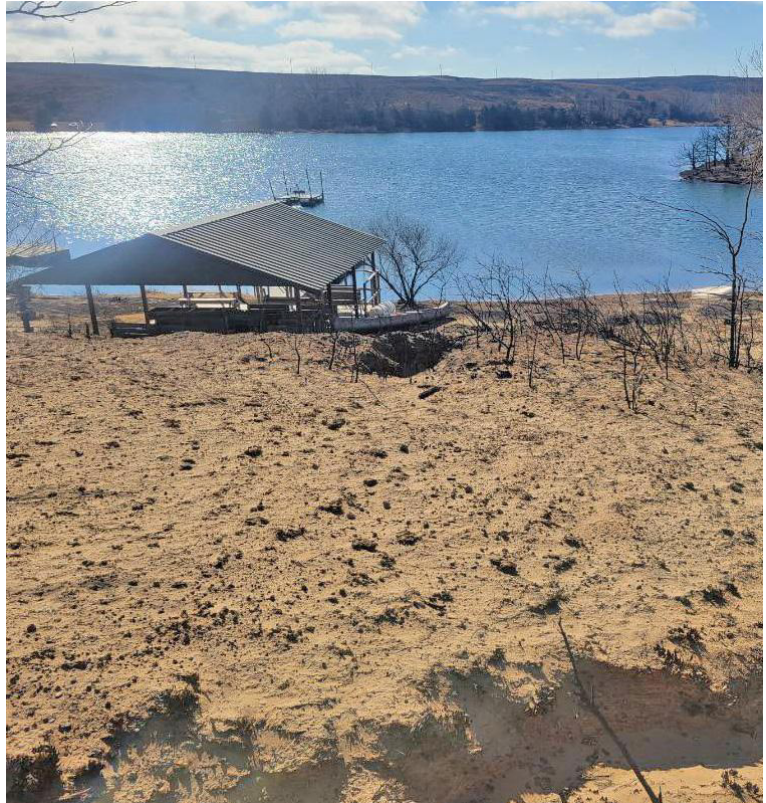
Fire in Beaver County has hit Lutherhaven again. This time it was the Ranger Road fire, which started near Beaver. Fortunately, this time the buildings were spared. The fire burned right up to Martin's Manor (the new building).

There is still damage, however. All of the kayaks and three canoes are now ash. Along with a broken window, damage was done to the top of the aerobic septic system to Martin's Manor. The buildings have ash and dirt inside and will be cleaned.

Photos of the landscape are from Feb. 21 and the Oklahoma District's Lutheran Early Response Team is involved with clean-up efforts.

If you would like to donate to Lutherhaven Retreat Center, please visit oklahomalutherans.org. Go to the "About" tab and select "Donate" from the drop-down menu.

— Submitted by Rev. Mark Wescoatt



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