



Oklahoma District Updates: August 2021

August 2021 Oklahoma News

Click [here](#) to read the Lutheran Witness Oklahoma News for June and July.

Congratulations to:

Rev. Mark Wescoatt on his upcoming 30th anniversary of ordination, which took place September 14, 1991.



**Messiah Lutheran Church & School
invites you to the**

Ordination and Installation

of

Myron D. Harms

Sunday, August 29 at 4:00pm

Messiah Lutheran Church
3600 Northwest Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

Light Dinner Reception to Follow

Please **RSVP** to Rev. Mark Muenchow if you are planning to attend the dinner reception.

Education News

We welcome to the Oklahoma District Jake Rogers, the new Headmaster at Immanuel Lutheran Christian Academy, Broken Arrow, and Richard Burdick, the new Principal at St. Paul's Lutheran School, Enid. We praise God for the returning dedicated principals: Linda Oleman, Mt. Olive, Miami; Van Guillotte, Good Shepherd, Midwest City; LaRhonda Richards, St. John's, Moore; and Sara Gage, Messiah, Oklahoma City. We also praise God for the continued service of former principal's Katherine McGrew at Immanuel, Broken Arrow, and Gary Kruschnerreit at Good Shepherd, Midwest City. May God continue to bless us and protect us in this new school year. *Submitted by David Birnbaum, Principal, First Lutheran School, Ponca City and District Education Executive.*



Messiah Lutheran School, Oklahoma City, blessing of Teachers for the upcoming school year and commissioning of Rachel Schelen as new teacher (2nd row, 3rd from right). Welcome Rachel!

Lutherhaven Retreat Center News

We at Lutherhaven Retreat Center (LRC) continue to have exciting things happening. Due to the Covid-19 scare of 2020 we had to cancel our annual Continuing Education course that was scheduled for June 2020. I am pleased to say that we were able to resume this summer. Dr. Rolf Ziegler from Concordia Theological Seminary was able to join us this past June as 14 pastors from Kansas and Oklahoma were able to go through Luther's Bondage of the Will.

On the 4th of July, I opened the camp up for an Oklahoma pastor and his family to spend a few days enjoying the solitude that LHC has to offer. The last week of July we had 12 campers for the Panhandle Circuits annual church camp experience. With fishing, swimming and boating activities along with Bible Study the kids all seemed to have fun. In August, another pastor and his family came out to enjoy Lutherhaven as well. I always enjoy asking those that haven't been here before what they thought of driving on a dirt road for 6 miles and then going through a gate that leads them through a cow pasture before they can see the lake. I have not had anyone disappointed yet.

This coming Labor Day weekend we are planning on having a weekend of fun. Our Main House (the one that didn't burn down) holds up to 23 individuals for sleeping. It is available for those that want to come and spend one, two or even three nights. On Sunday morning we are planning on a worship service at 11:30 a.m., hopefully right next to the lake. After our worship we will have a BBQ potluck. The cost for this activity will only be \$10 per person and only for those spending the night. If you are interested in coming to sleep please let me know so I can reserve a bunk for you. A few churches in our area are planning on having earlier worship services in their local churches so they can come out for a joint service.

We continue to work on finishing the building that is replacing the one that was destroyed in the Starbuck Fire a few years ago. We are making progress but it is slow.

If you are interested in coming out to just visit, just give me a call or email me.

Pastor Mark Wescoatt, 580-651-9101, wescoattmd@gmail.com

Youth News

The next C.L.A.S.S. student leadership conference will be held at Concordia University, Nebraska October 29-30, 2021. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

VBS 2021

[Watch](#) a short video featuring some of the learning and fun at VBS across the state this summer.

Fall Church Workers Conference

Fall 2021 Oklahoma District Professional Church Workers' Conference

Lutheranism in Post-Christian Times

PRESENTER: DR. GENE EDWARD VIETH

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday and Tuesday, October 11 and 12, 2021

Hosted by the Ponca City Circuit

Watch for details coming soon!

Congregation Website Opportunity

Did you know that 85% of potential first time church visitors will check out a congregation's website before deciding to visit? If your congregation does not have a website or would like to replace an aging one, the Oklahoma District Communications Task Force wants to help! A program is starting up to assist congregations in obtaining a web presence with an easy-to-use Content Management System that supports sites that are low maintenance, affordable, and are designed to promote engagement. The Task Force will help congregations in setting up the website. If you are interested, contact us!

Being God's Steward

After God created the universe, the earth, plants and animals, He created man. Then God told Adam to care for His creation. In a nutshell, that is stewardship: caring for that which belongs to someone else. In Psalm 24, David wrote, "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein..."

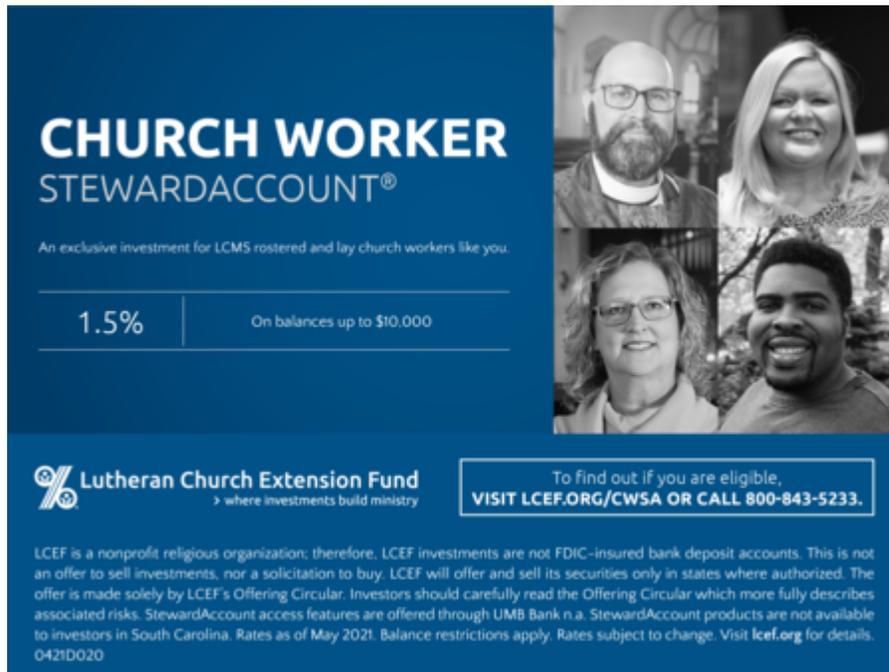
Since God created all things – including us, it follows that our very lives belong to him, therefore everything we call our own is truly his. It is only fitting then that we use all of our resources: our time, our energies, all

that we have for his glory. I'd encourage you to consider all that God has done and given to you, to use it wisely, generously, and graciously. All to the glory of God.

Rev. Rick Tabisz, Stewardship Executive, Oklahoma District, LCMS

Online Giving

New! We've made it easier to support the Oklahoma District through a partnership with LCEF / Vanco. Online giving for the District, Youth, Camp Lutherhoma, and Lutherhaven Retreat Center is now available [here](#).



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Church Worker StewardAccount

If you are a church worker. You have a mission—a call. God steered you toward a lifetime of service and sharing the message of living hope in Christ. LCEF wants to help you focus on your mission by making it easy and worthwhile to put a little money away each month. LCEF's Church Worker StewardAccount is for you. It's an investment exclusively for LCMS rostered and lay church workers. [Learn more here!](#)

The Oklahoma District Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is committed to leading people into a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ. If you have not already subscribed to this e-newsletter, visit www.oklahomalutherans.org and look for the "Join our Mailing List" box on the home page.

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