

Oklahoma District Updates: June 2022



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Convention Recap

Rev. David R. Nehrenz, Trinity Lutheran, Norman, was elected to his first term as president of the LCMS Oklahoma District at the district's 50th convention, held June 10–11 in Edmond, Okla. He was installed by LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison (below).



Also elected were:

- Rev. Christopher D. Hall, Grace Lutheran, Tulsa, first vice-president;
- Rev. Mark R. Muenchow, Messiah Lutheran, Oklahoma City as second vice-president;
- Rev. Tim L. McCarty, Emmanuel, Kingfisher, as third vice-president.

They were installed by President Nehrenz (below).



Among the resolutions adopted, delegates voted to:

- Reaffirm the sanctity of life in the face of overturning Roe v. Wade; "We boldly and compassionately must defend all God-given life from conception unto old age. We are Christians and people of the Light of Christ. The unborn children must be allowed to live!" said President Nehrenz.
- Request expanded permissions for the 1986 translation of Luther's Small Catechism; President Nehrenz noted "This will be a helpful tool for church members to utilize the catechism app on their digital devices."
- Develop district sabbatical guidelines for congregations, schools and called church workers. "So many church workers could benefit from a sabbatical. This will get the initiative going in order to make it actually happen for workers and their parishes." commented President Nehrenz.

For a complete [recap](#) of the Oklahoma District LCMS Convention, click [here](#). The recap includes all election results, the Essayist's presentation slides, convention photo albums, a playlist of the entire convention on video and much more!

Church Worker Anniversaries

Reverend David Nehrenz – 40 years; July 26, 1982

Reverend Aaron Kotila – 15 years; July 6, 2007

Reverend Travis Orr – 10 years; July 1, 2012

COME CELEBRATE WITH US. The members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Covington invite you to join us in celebrating 125 years of blessings on Sunday, June 26. Come for lunch at 12:00 at the Fire Station. Then join us for worship at 2:00 at the church and have dessert and fellowship after the service. Since St. John's is the second oldest church in the Oklahoma district, perhaps many of you have relatives that were at some time associated with the congregation. We look forward to having you share those memories and stories with all of us. For more information please contact [Rev. Ken Wade](#).

Rev. Daniel Ross, Christ Lutheran, Mustang, was elected to be the Oklahoma District Evangelism Executive during the proceedings of the 50th Convention of the Oklahoma District. He writes:

Greetings in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord! The Oklahoma District of the LCMS just celebrated its 50th Convention. The theme for the convention was Burning Hearts, Open Lips, and Joyful Witness based around the account of the disciples encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:31-36).

The Gospel is wonderful news. The world is filled with negativity and evil. The old news slogan seems to be the world's mission statement: if it bleeds, it leads. We are surrounded by strife and conflict wherever we turn. Not to forget while also being in the late stages (hopefully) of a world-wide pandemic and all its effects.

To the world it seems strange then that what has set Christians apart is hope, peace, and love. Have we been stressed? For sure, I do not know anybody who has not experienced major stress sometime in the past few years. Have we been heartbroken? Again, I do not know anybody who has not wept over the violence ripping apart our world, in particular the latest mass shootings in Buffalo, Uvalde, and Tulsa. And yet, we are known for hope, peace, and love. Why?

For our Lord has overcome the world. Satan is impotent, death is toothless, and the world holds no power over us. This is what the preaching and teaching of the Gospel does, it creates faith and in so doing passes along life, salvation, and the forgiveness of sins.

In the coming years our witness will become more and more important. As we bring our children to the fount, hear God's word preached and taught, and receive the Sacrament of the Altar our hearts will burn within us. That burning will open our lips to proclaim the wonderous work of Christ on the cross, and witness to the peace that surpasses all understanding.

I look forward to being your Evangelism Executive during this triennium. I am excited for the possibilities that lay before us on how we can better witness the faith both inside and outside our homes. Pastor Gary Rohwer (Mission Executive) and I hope to be sending out an online survey in the near future to better gauge the mission and evangelism needs of our district.

Your Brother in Christ, Pastor Daniel Ross

DISTRICT NEWS
OKLAHOMA

FAREWELL

Signing Off
Sitting in front of our Motorola television, we have been more familiar with numerous ways in which the personalities would sign off. The Lone Ranger would sign off with "Hi, I'm Silver, away!" Jimmy Durante would sign off with "And good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are!" Red Skelton would sign off with "Good night and good-bye." And Bob Hope would sign off with his popular song, "Thanks for the Memories!"

This is my last article for the Oklahoma edition of *The Lutheran Witness* as district president. Since April 2009, you have learned more about the historical events impacting my hometown of Oklands than any of the lifelong residents even know! But on June 11, my tenure as Oklahoma District president concludes and a new man of God's choosing will assume the presidency. I have no earthly sign-off line or words to do. I do, however, have a heart filled with thanksgiving to God for your support and Christ's grace that have taken me through these 13-plus years.

Looking Back
When the saints of Oklahoma elected me in April 2009, I had been a member of the loosely defined church for 13 years. I remember the deadline for accepting the nomination as president — Dec. 31, 2008. In conversation with my beloved wife, Pat, I shared with her that there was no way I could be a church president at Holy Trinity in Edmond, president of the Oklahoma District, and her primary caregiver as her health was rapidly deteriorating. She assured me that God would provide the time and energy if I was elected.

So reluctantly, but with her encouragement, I accepted the nomination. What I did not know (or want to admit) is that she knew her time on earth was very limited. And so — January the Lord called her into His eternal presence. With the removal of care-giving responsibilities, God had positioned me for other kingdom service. Then came the nomination for president April 2009, at which I was elected Oklahoma District president.

I had no idea what that would involve, but I made myself available to whatever the Holy Spirit had in mind. I found some comfort in the Psalm 139:10: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made; in your works I am included." I am sure the Lord was referring to a donkey, so I thought, "He can still ride into Oklahoma congregations on me!" And many times I have acted more like a donkey than a president!

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The latest Lutheran Witness Oklahoma District News is available [here](#).

Read the June Issue of the **LCMS Stewardship Ministry Newsletter**.



Messiah Lutheran School in Oklahoma City is seeking teachers. For more information, contact [Sara Cage](#).



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- **Church Improvement Loans** to help churches fund critical church repairs and upgrades
- **PartnerPLUS** a fixed-rate term note for those who wish to invest even more into the future of the LCMS and its Christ-Centered ministries.
- **ConnectPLUS** is a fixed-rate term note for new LCEF investors who wish to earn a competitive interest rate while investing in the future of the LCMS and its Christ-centered ministries.

Forward this enewsletter to fellow church members and friends to share the news. They can sign up to receive it monthly on the home page of www.oklahomalutherans.org.

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