



President Henke ~ Welcome

The Oklahoma District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod is a fellowship of congregation committed to caring, sharing, teaching, preaching and reaching people so as to bring them into a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Oklahoma District is made up of an all-volunteer staff of lay and called workers. These dedicated and gifted workers are committed to the work of the district while continuing to serve in their specific full-time calling. The only salaried and stipend positions include the Administrative Assistant, the Outdoor Ministries Director, and the Business Manager. Whether salaried or volunteer, the District Staff is composed of gifted people who freely and readily share their gifts and time in extending the work of Christ's kingdom.

The Holy Spirit continues to work dynamically within and through the 82 congregations of the Oklahoma District. The district continues to work toward the goal of planting new congregations while providing revitalization efforts for older and more rural congregations. Equipped with the effectual Word of God which is the Sword of the Spirit, many new people groups are being touched with Christ's grace.

In the Western Region, which includes the Panhandle, outreach has continued among the Burmese Karen person that has resulted in over thirty baptisms. Camp Lutherhaven continues to be refined for greater outdoor ministry.

In the Central Region of Oklahoma the Hispanic ministry continues to grow and flourish, and a district called Islamic outreach pastor is in place for one-on-one witnessing primarily in the Oklahoma City area.

In the Eastern Region, which includes the Tulsa area, spiritual doors miraculously open as outreach continues among the Hispanic, the Liberian, and the Hmong people. Camp Lutherhoma has constructed two large year-round retreat centers to expand its outreach to adults and families, as well as continuing its ministry to hundreds of youth. Two new congregations were chartered in the last triennium, one in Bixby and the other in Skiatook.

Preaching stations continue to be maintained throughout the district with some serving as satellites for some well-established congregations. There has also been some recent experimentation with bi-vocational pastorates in an attempt to provide Word and Sacrament ministry to struggling congregations. And in southeastern Oklahoma, a prison ministry continues to bring blessings to the Oklahoma State Prison at McAlester.

In spite of drought, grass fires, tornadoes and an ongoing national economic dilemma, the saints of the Oklahoma District continue to give generously of the resources entrusted to them by God. We thank God that He has counted us worthy to serve Him through our varied landscapes in unique ways within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Reverend Barrie E. Henke, President