



DISTRICT NEWS

OKLAHOMA

Our Lord's passion

The Pageant

For many years an annual event for the Orlando community was the Easter Pageant. Ben Kolb had come up with the idea and it lasted for many years. The spot chosen was along the creek at the intersection of U.S. highways 77 and 51. Ben considered the location perfect because one side of the creek featured a high, wide bank and the opposite bank was a low level area.



Rev. Barrie Henke
District President

His idea was simple: he would build a stage set for the pageant on the high side, and allow seating on the low side with the creek in between. It worked well. He worked tirelessly and recruited help from young and old in the community to develop this project. His sister, Susie Kolb, would work with several other individuals to develop a cast of characters from the local school and community.

Since the Kolb family belonged to the local Evangelical United Brethren Church, many of the cast and workers came from there, but everyone was invited to be a part of the pageant, so the whole community took part. With special lighting, sound

effects, multiple trails leading from one scene to another, it was for Orlando an extravaganza.

When I was in high school, I was invited to play one of the disciples. "Just follow the group and do what they do," I was told. But I had to ad-lib just a little, so I took two drinks from the chalice at the Last Supper! I considered the most impressive role was played by Loren Hafner, who was cast as Jesus. It was a good role for Loren because he was just an all-around nice guy. It was great when we were following him around on the trails from the temple to the upper room, but then came the crucifixion! It looked so real. For me it was a very emotional scene. And yet, for all of us, it was just pretend.



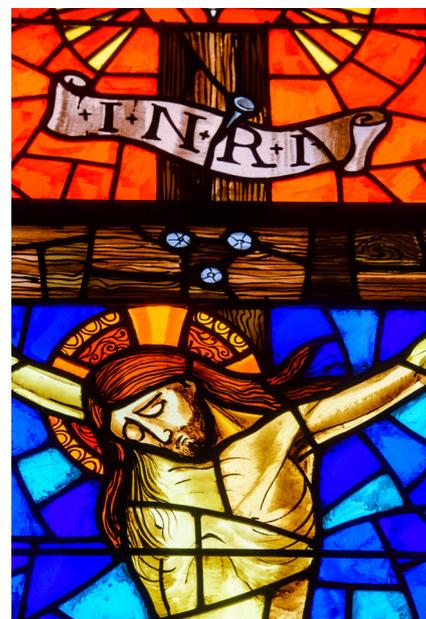
SPRING BLESSINGS
Saints of Oklahoma!

The Passion

During 30 days of March, we will walk intently to the cross. We will recall our Lord's Passion. That word, "passion," may seem strange to use in reference to the redemptive work of Jesus, but it is quite fitting.

In our understanding, the word "passion" is connected with the heart. It is the deep emotion of love that we feel toward someone or something. Jesus demonstrated a

genuinely perfect "passion" for His sinful creatures when He chose to "be born of woman, born under the law, to redeem



those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:4-5). Jesus engaged His very heart in the work of redeeming us from the wrath of the Father, from the curse of sin and from bondage to death and hell.

He engaged the fullness of His heart, his full passion, as He poured out his love and His life-blood for us! Nothing would stand in His path to the cross — nothing! Now that is passion! And that is love! On the 31st day of March — Holy Saturday, marking the Vigil of Easter — our walk begins to change in pace. Instead of dragging our feet in a reluctant walk to the cross, we begin jogging. We pick up our pace as we, like Peter and John, run with passion to the open tomb in celebration of Christ's victorious resurrection!

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District LWML celebrating 90 years

At our LWML Oklahoma District Convention April 13-14, we will celebrate our 90th anniversary. This will be a time to reflect on our past and to look forward to the future. Our history tells us of the visionary women who stepped out in faith to serve the Lord, not only with their mites, but also with the knowledge of being “blessed to be a blessing” to others, locally and around the world.

This ministry of helping others was fueled by these faith-followers, who were led by the Holy Spirit. This recognition of the needs of so many led them to join together and form the Lutheran Women’s League (LWL) of Oklahoma on March 11, 1928.

Their mission was and is the same as ours today — to serve the Lord with gladness, and to serve as God’s stewards in helping people with their needs. By putting words into action, the people

being helped would be a witness and beneficiary of God’s love for them.

The first mission endeavor supported by our district LWML — the Orphanage and St. John’s College in Winfield, Kan. — received money, canned goods and bedding. From these small beginnings of mite contributions in 1928, today’s mission grant goal, for the biennium 2016-18, is \$103,000!

As important as looking back, it is vitally important to look to the future. Our young women are the future — they need to be invited, encouraged and mentored so they are equipped to step into leadership roles, whether it be on



the national, district, zone or society level.

Do you think that little girl, named Patti, growing up in Stillwater, ever had thoughts of one day being the national LWML president? The seed of mission service was introduced to her by her mother, also an LWML member. The mite box was always in plain sight on the kitchen table in their home and as this little girl grew, mission mindfulness took root in her heart by the Holy Spirit.

We, today, remain true to the same “Calling of Service” as our dearly departed sisters in Christ ... to be in His Word, to let the Holy Spirit lead us and to be about our Father’s business of reaching out and helping others. That’s what LWML is all about ... we are Lutheran Women in Mission! Happy 90th anniversary, LWML Oklahoma!



Confirmation blessings in Claremore

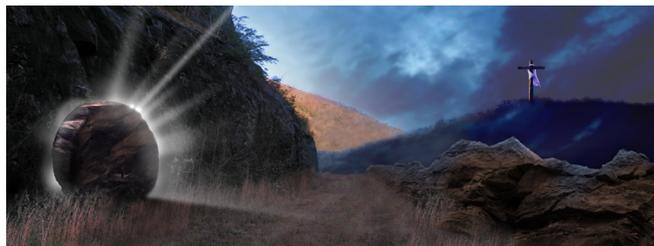
On Nov. 19, seven youth were confirmed by the Rev. Mark Burger at Redeemer, Claremore. They are, from left (front row) Sara Smith, Laura Karamitis, Caitlyn Smith; (back row) Roman Morris, Garrett Merrell, Braydon Inman and Seth Inman

Submitted by Lisa Teter, youth director, Redeemer, Claremore



Thespians

Five talented youth, who are members of Christ Lutheran Church, Perry, and Perry High School students, were recently in the high school play “Two Fronts.” They are, from left, Ethan Calhoon, Mitchell Hartwig, Avery Justus, Will Calhoon and Tali Stover.



Shortened Luther movie now on Netflix

A one-hour version of “Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World” is now available on Netflix (netflix.com), the popular streaming service, and will be offered for two years. The full-length film premiered last year.

“We worked hard to retain the theological core of the

film in the Netflix edition,” said Mike Trinklein, the film’s producer.

“Netflix is very selective, adding just 50 new programs in January,” he noted. “‘Martin Luther’ is one of just two documentaries to be added.”

Funded by Thrivent Financial, the film dramatizes

the events that shaped Luther and examines the questions he wrestled with. Included are insights and commentary from LCMS theologians and historians.

Because Netflix “watches viewership levels closely ... if ‘Martin Luther’ does well, it could lead to similarly themed productions going forward,” Trinklein said. The streaming service also reaches audiences worldwide, providing programs with subtitles in a range of languages.



A DVD of the full version is available for \$17.92 from amazon.com and \$19.99 from shop.pbs.org. Shipping charges may apply.



Also available is a **six-week Bible-study package** with discussion topics, handouts, related readings and leader guides — as well as a DVD of the full-length film — for \$75 from NewLutherMovie.com.



For more information about “Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World,” visit NewLutherMovie.com.

THE GOSPEL IS SIMPLE, BUT THE WORLD IS COMPLEX.

How do we share the Good News of Jesus in today’s world?

Every One His Witness™ equips Lutherans to witness.

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2 Visit the website: everyonehiswitness.org to explore the vast array of resources available.



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH Missouri Synod
Witness & Outreach Ministry

lcms.org/witness-outreach
LCMSE1HW

WANTED:

Trinity, Okmulgee searching for photos/ other material for its October celebration

Trinity, Okmulgee, is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its building on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 28. The congregation is searching for former members who may have photos, articles or memorabilia that could be used for the celebration.

Please send any information to Trinity Lutheran Church, 1314

E. 6th, Okmulgee, OK 74447; or email tlcoksecretary@gmail.com or call 918- 756-6046.

The members of the congregation would also like to invite you to its annual Luther’s Oktoberfest, which will feature live oompah music and German food and beverages, on Saturday evening, Oct. 27.

How will **YOUth** serve this summer?

Find upcoming Servant Event opportunities and resources for youth at lcms.org/servantevents.

LCMSServantEvents

CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES

We congratulate those in Oklahoma District congregations who are celebrating 50 years or more!

Breckinridge, Immanuel

Ron and Sharon Clinton
52 years, March 4

Broken Arrow, Trinity

Ray and Marilyn Dalla Rosa
52 years, March 4

Jim and Martha Wilson
61 years, March 8

Covington, St. John's

Gerald and Arba Jo Pope
63 years, March 11

El Reno, Trinity

Fred and Ruby Peterman
59 years, March 24,

Enid, St. Paul's

Roland and Marcella Schroeder,
68 years, March 5

Fairmont, Zion

Lyle and Mary Reinhardt
54 years, March 21

Mustang, Christ

Joe and Bettye Haller
66 years, March 15

William and Gen Allen
60 years, March 22.

Oklahoma City, Messiah

Richard and Linda Shults
50 years, March 28

Okmulgee, Trinity

Clarence and Sue Carr
63 years, March 27

Perry, Christ

Robert and Linda Oberholzer
53 years, March 12

Shawnee, Redeemer

John and Barbara Kienzle
62 years, March 7

Belated

El Reno, Trinity

Gary and Linda Baker
50 years, Feb. 17

Okmulgee, Trinity

Dan and Janet Colombin
65 years, Jan. 3



Tulsa, Lutheran Church of Our Savior

Jim and Twila Lewis
58 years, March 25



Broken Arrow, Trinity

John and Pat Andrews
63 years, March 4



Ponca City, First

Berno and Janet Ebbesson
54 years, March 29

BIRTHDAYS

Adair, Bethlehem

Robert Erdwin
98 years, March 7

Covington, St. John's

Louis Schweer
91 years, March 20

Edmond, Holy Trinity

Robert (Bob) Perry Jr.
94 years, March 16

Jean Bauer

93 years, March 18

Fairmont, Zion

Mildred Schneider
102 years, March 11

Evelyn Wyssmann

91 years, March 19

Norman, Trinity

Arlesa Tarver
97 years, March 6

Okarche, St. John's

Emmalein Schroeder
90 years, March 27

Oklahoma City, Messiah

Gladycy Williams
96 years, Mar. 15

John Daly

92 years, March 31

Tulsa, Christ the Redeemer

Ken Eggers
90 years, March 8

Tulsa, Lutheran Church of Our Savior

June Jordan
92 years, March 15



Broken Arrow, Trinity

Maralyn Brauer
91 years,
March 10



Ponca City, First

John Fetrow
95 years,
March 27

Belated

El Reno, Trinity

Ray Patrick
90 years, Feb. 3

Okmulgee, Trinity

Sue Carr
91 years, Jan. 18

Marina de Tiews
90 years, Feb. 9

MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The Power

The Orlando Easter Pageant offered those who watched it and those who took part in it a great visual of the Passion of our Lord. But, as I said, it was all pretend. However, the happenings being recalled by that pageant were not pretend. They were real and the Bible gives us a sure and certain record of them. That record of Christ's Passion and Resurrection has been preserved for us so that we might share it with those who may not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our individual lives and the ministry of our congregations are living Easter pageants ... and people are watching! Are they seeing the story of Jesus' forgiveness being lived out and shared through our lives? May the Holy Spirit's power fill each of our pastors, congregations and individual members so that we might all be witnesses of these things — to the glory of Christ's name and the building up of His holy Church!

Share your news with us

2018 Deadlines:

- > May issue, March 15
- > June-July issue, April 15

Send to:

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or

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Owasso, OK 74055

Phone: 918-396-9629

