



Oklahoma District Updates: December 2021

Watch this very short video to see what some of our congregations are doing in preparation for Christmas.
Live nativities, local parades, decorating our churches!



New Children's Ministry at Cristo Rey in Oklahoma City

[Read](#) about the new children's ministry at Cristo Rey in Oklahoma City.



Messiah Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City Stewardship Challenge

At Messiah Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, a Confirmation Stewardship Class Challenge is resulting in outstanding results. Pastor gave each student an envelope with money in it. The money represents our talents and confirmands are putting it to work and making it grow. The money will go to Pastor Ersland's son, Michael, who is a Lutheran Bible Translator in Ghana. The reason for the challenge is to show each student how our talents can be used for the glory of God. One confirmand and her Grandma responded to the stewardship challenge as shown in the photos below. Rev. Fred Muenchow also contributed some woodworking crosses and other crafts and so far **\$347 dollars** has been raised!



Redeemer Lutheran Church, Claremore, LWML Christmas Dinner

Wonderful food and fellowship. Sheets were collected for Redeemer's mission quilters to use.



Journey in January at Camp Lutherhoma January 14-16, 2022

The Priceless Journey: You are valued by God because Jesus paid the price.

Register as a youth group for a weekend full intentional community, thoughtful Bible studies, and fun camp activities! Ages: 14-18

Sign up by January 4th for the best price. Retreat cabin housing and summer cabin housing available.

[Download Registration Packet](#)

[Registration Link](#)



Summer Camp Staff

Camp Lutherhoma is seeking to hire 20 Christian young adults to serve this summer as counselors, lifeguards, craft director, and more! Our summer staff are vital to our summer camp ministry. They work hard

to care for the needs of the campers and proclaim the Gospel message. The summer staff members are committed Christian young adults, trained in all aspects of safety, nurturing, mentoring and teaching about Jesus.

All summer staff must be 18 or older to apply. Counselors must have one year of college or post high school experience. We are asking you to think about who you can encourage to apply for this very rewarding experience in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Camp Lutherhoma works with the National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Association (NLOMA) to recruit and hire all of our summer staff. Anyone interested in applying to serve on staff should visit <http://www.lutherhoma.com/Summerstaff.php> or www.nloma.org to learn more. And, please pray that God sends us just the right people to care for and nurture all the campers and families that will be coming the Camp Lutherhoma in 2022!



If you haven't yet read the **Lutheran Witness Oklahoma News** for December, find it [here](#).

Four Reasons Why Your Church NEEDS a Working Website

1. 97% of consumers use the Internet to find local businesses.[1] While a church is not a business and the church does not think in terms of consumers, this number tracks over for people looking for churches in their area. 46% of all searches on Google are things local to the person searching.[2]
2. Using a phone is quickly becoming the way that people look up things in their area. 89% of people use a smartphone once a week to search for a local business. 88% of searches for local businesses lead to either a phone call or store visit within 24 hours.[3] Again, these numbers track over to churches as well.
3. It takes 17-50 milliseconds for people to form an opinion about your website and therefore your congregation. That is 0.017-0.05 seconds that people decide to learn more, visit, or decide to not visit your congregation.
4. The Internet is now (and has been for a few years) the "front door" of your congregation. A non-existent, broken, non-working, or outdated website leads non-members to believe the church is closed or otherwise does not exist.

Anecdotally, this past year I performed a baptism for a family that drove one hour and past three other LCMS churches because the mother could not find those churches online. In talking on the phone with the mom I

pointed out there was churches closer and was able to find their information on the LCMS locator. But, because my congregation had a website she decided to still do the baptism at the church which I serve.

Understandably, building and maintaining a website can be daunting especially if you have never done it before. Which is where the Oklahoma District Communications Task Force comes in to help. The Task Force is offering to build an easy to maintain website for you. Are you worried about cost? The Task Force has worked out a discount with an Oklahoma based provider for these simple website that is easy to maintain.

Want to learn more about the 101 of a church website? Sign up for the webinar being hosted by the Task Force in early 2022 and bring your questions.

Submitted by: Rev. Daniel Ross, Christ Lutheran Church, Mustang

[1] <https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbestechcouncil/2018/04/11/online-reviews-are-the-best-thing-that-ever-happened-to-small-businesses/?sh=7f9286b4740a>

[2] <https://blog.hubspot.com/marketing/local-seo-stats>

[3] *ibid*

The **Website 101 Workshop** will include topics such as why churches need a website, how to build a church website, how to improve an existing church website, and how to improve your website's search engine performance. It will be a virtual workshop via Zoom. Registrants will be notified of proposed date(s) during the upcoming weeks. Church workers and others who wish to implement a new church website or improve an existing one are encouraged to register and attend. [Register here.](#)

The **Social Media 201 Workshop** will review Social Media 101 (presented at the 2019 Fall Church Workers Conference) and incorporate new topics including "Facebook vs. Instagram", Promoting Events, Advertising, and Creative Tools. It will be a virtual workshop via Zoom. Registrants will be notified of proposed date(s) during the upcoming weeks. Church workers and others who support Social Media for their congregation are encouraged to register and attend. [Register here.](#)

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM ALL OF US AT
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

We rejoice in the blessing of
Our Lord and Savior's birth
during this special time of year.
We wish you joy and hope in
this new year ahead.

*Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.*

*Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!*

LSB 388, st 3 and refrain

 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**
where investments build ministry

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

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