

# CLOKc chimes

CLOKc dot Church  
Covenant Lutheran Oklahoma City Churches

for November 2021

## Pastor's Note

I want to commend the people who have been working on the Covenant Futures Task Force and the Covenant Consolidation Task Force. They have spent much of the past two years looking to create an idea of a future for our three churches.

As the result of several discussions, a set of recommendations of what needs to be done, and a timetable under which to get them done has been created and approved in principle by all the governing bodies. These recommendations, modified with suggestions as it was reviewed by the Consolidation Task Force, Covenant Council, Ascension Church Council, Redeemer Church Council and St. Mark Church Council are on pages 2 through 5.

These recommendations, as well as the entire consolidation process, will be discussed and reviewed after our Combined Worship Service on December 5 at Redeemer. I encourage you to read the recommendations and come to that meeting after the service to ask any questions you may have.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Brian Campbell

## 2022 Annual Meeting Schedule

**Sunday, January 9**

**Ascension's** Annual Meeting after worship

**Sunday, January 23**

**St. Mark's** Annual Meeting after worship

**Sunday, January 30**

**Redeemer's** Annual Meeting after worship

*Worship times for 2022 have not yet been determined.*

## Winter Special Worship Schedule

### Thanksgiving Service

A **Thanksgiving Service** for all ELCA churches in the OKC Conference will be held at Lord of Life Lutheran in Edmond on Tuesday, Nov. 23, from 7:00 -8:30 p.m. The service will be on Zoom (882 2482 5809 / 258189) and the CLOKc dot Church Facebook page.

### Mid-Week Advent Activities

Beginning on Wednesday, December 1, we will have three Advent services. Services will be held each Wednesday at 7 p.m. and will alternate between St. Mark and Redeemer. You can attend in person or by participating online, via Zoom (882 2482 5809 / 258189) or on Facebook Live on the CLOKc dot Church page.

There will be a Bible Study before the worship service, beginning at 6 p.m. and ending around 6:55 p.m.

### Blue Christmas Service

The **Blue Christmas** service on December 22 at 7 pm at Redeemer is an opportunity to remember those no longer with us to celebrate the holidays. Please invite anyone who will be missing someone during the holidays. The service will be the CLOKc dot Church Facebook page and on Zoom (882 2482 5809 / 258189).

### Christmas Eve Services

We will have two Christmas Eve services; a 7 p.m. service at Redeemer, and a 11 p.m. service at St. Mark.

### Christmas Morn

Like last year, we will have an online Christmas To Go service available to watch any time after at 8 a.m. on Christmas Day on [CLOKc.church](http://CLOKc.church), YouTube, all four Facebook pages, Twitter, and Instagram. There will be a special showing on Zoom.

## Recommendations to Move the Consolidation Process Along

1. Have St. Mark's property assessed
  - a. Have both St. Mark and Redeemer inspected. **(DONE)**
2. Incorporate To Be Named Lutheran Church
  - a. Choose a name on November 7 at the Combined Service (moved to December 5)
    - i. The Legal & Constitution Team wants approval from the Consolidation Task Force and the Covenant Council to submit a reviewed small list of names submitted by October 31 to be voted upon by those in attendance at the Combined Service on November 7. (Moved to December 5)
    - ii. Once a name has been decided upon, the Legal & Constitution Team pursues incorporation for To Be Named Lutheran Church.
      1. Based on other parts of this plan, this needs to be done by early December
3. Covenant Churches begin to transfer assets to an INCORPORATED To Be Named Lutheran Church
  - a. Redeemer sells their building to the INCORPORATED To Be Named Lutheran Church for \$1
    - i. This needs to be approved at a Redeemer Congregational Meeting as part of their dissolution plan
  - b. St. Mark sells their building to the INCORPORATED To Be Named Lutheran Church for \$1
    - i. This needs to be approved at a St. Mark Congregational Meeting as part of their dissolution plan
  - c. Ascension, St. Mark, and Redeemer transfer at least some of their funds to INCORPORATED To Be Named Lutheran Church to fund the operations of To Be Named Lutheran Church
    - i. By selling both existing properties to To Be Named Lutheran Church, this commits the three churches and congregations to one another, and places the responsibility of maintaining a vacant facility on To Be Named Lutheran Church, in other words, on all of us.
    - ii. The previously approved transfer of funds for legal and corporation expenses by each church to the Covenant Church account should be made by each church, if possible, as soon as possible.
    - iii. The proceeds from the sale of properties (Ascension, and either St Mark or Redeemer) should not be used to fund basic operations of To Be Named Lutheran Church, but are to be used for new and enhanced ministries, or a new church facility.
4. Hold an informational meeting for ALL members after the December 5 Combined Service at Redeemer
  - a. Explain the approved process, to ALL members of ALL THREE Churches at the same time so everyone hears the same thing at the same time and can (and should) ask questions and raise concerns
  - b. The Property Team and Finance Team should provide information about the pluses and minuses of the buildings and property of Redeemer and St. Mark.
5. Decide what property into which we will move
  - a. The suggestion to make St. Mark the location of the Consolidated Church was made pre-COVID and was based upon information and trends at that time.

An assessment of the pluses and minuses of the buildings and property of Redeemer and St. Mark, the expenses and needed maintenance should be done, and a decision based upon that information should be made by the combined members of To Be Named Lutheran Church.

This information can be prepared by the Property Team and the Finance Team.
  - b. Schedule a Farewell and Godspeed services to mark the closing of both Redeemer and St. Mark (February 27) **(DONE)**
    - i. Work with the Bishop and Synod staff for availability to attend **(DONE)**
6. Each church holds a Congregational Meeting in December (or January) to finalize the approval of their dissolution plans, approve the consolidation plan and, for Redeemer and St. Mark, vote to sell each of their buildings and property for \$1 to an INCORPORATED To Be Named Lutheran Church.
7. The Consolidation Task Force recommends March 1, 2022 as the date upon which we begin to hold one Sunday worship service as a collective body

8. Set a date upon which, assuming affirmative votes by all committees, councils, congregations and churches, the decisions to close each church and establish To Be Named Lutheran Church goes into effect.
  - a. The votes will happen on different days, but collectively can go into effect on a day to be determined (for example, March 1, 2022)
  - b. Schedule an Inaugural service to mark the start of the new To Be Named Lutheran Church
    - i. Work with the Bishop and Synod staff for availability to attend
9. Each church needs to make whatever plans and preparations are necessary to hold their 2022 Annual Meetings, which includes, but is not limited to:
  - i. Anticipated 2022 Annual Meeting Dates based upon previous year's meeting schedules:  
 Ascension – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of January – January 9, 2022 (YES)  
 St. Mark – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of January – January 23, 2022 (YES);  
 Redeemer – last Sunday of January – January 30, 2022 (YES)
  - a. Schedule and send notices, as required by each constitution.
  - b. Annual Reports, as required by each constitution.
  - c. Preparation of a budget (for an abbreviated 2022), as required by each constitution.
  - d. Election of officers and a council (for an abbreviated 2022), as required by each constitution.
  - e. Vote to: If approved by all three churches in their meetings, to be effective on a date to be determined:
    - i. Close the church in compliance with ELCA procedures as of the date to be determined.
    - ii. Close the church as a corporation in compliance with Oklahoma law as of the date to be determined.
    - iii. Transfer assets of the church to To Be Named Lutheran Church and / or other organizations as spelled out in each church's dissolution plan as of the date to be determined.
    - iv. Dissolve the Covenant agreement between Ascension, Redeemer, and St. Mark as of the date to be determined.
10. To Be Named Lutheran Church schedules a new Congregational Chartering Meeting in February, 2022 to:
  - i. It is suggested that all materials should be available at each of the churches Annual Meetings UNLESS information will come from those meetings. If so, the item should STILL be prepared with the notation(s) that noted information is subject to change in coming from those meetings.
  - a. Approve the Constitution to be created by the Legal & Constitution Team
    - i. Will this require approval from the Consolidation Task Force and/or Covenant Council?
  - b. Approve the 2022 Budget to be created by the Finance Team
    - i. Will this require approval from the Consolidation Task Force and/or Covenant Council?
  - c. Approve the Use of Assets Plan to be created by the Property Team in cooperation with the Finance Team and Worship Team
    - i. Will this require approval from the Consolidation Task Force and/or Covenant Council?
  - d. Approve the Mission and Ministry Plan to be created by the Mission & Ministry Team
    - i. Will this require approval from the Consolidation Task Force and/or Covenant Council?
  - e. Approve the Worship Plan to be created by the Worship Team
    - i. Will this require approval from the Consolidation Task Force and/or Covenant Council?
  - f. Approve a Staffing Plan to be created by the Covenant Council, in cooperation with the Finance Team, Worship Team and Property Team
    - i. Will this require approval from the Consolidation Task Force and/or Covenant Council?
  - g. Elect Officers and Council Members for the leadership needs as spelled out in the new Constitution.
  - h. Vote to extend a Letter of Call to a Pastor, or make a Pastoral leadership decision.

11. The Covenant Council, along with each church council, will need to act as a *de facto* Nominating Committee for the To Be Named Lutheran Church Council. While everyone who has served in a leadership position for their church and the covenant deserves some time out of leadership, we cannot afford for everyone to take a break at the same time.
12. To be good stewards of the blessings To Be Named Lutheran Church will receive from Ascension, Redeemer and St. Mark, the monies transferred from the sale of properties should be placed in a safe, but as high as possible return, investment vehicle. The proceeds from the sale of properties should be used to fund new and enhanced ministries, or a new church facility.
  - a. A designated time frame of three to five years should be established during which annual reviews of the ministries and finances of To Be Named Lutheran Church are made.  
Is the new church growing or sustaining members? Is the new church financially viable?  
Are the ministries of the church serving our neighbors in need?
    - i. If that review shows that To Be Named Lutheran Church is not a viable, vital, and engaged congregation, discussions should be had to create a dissolution plan for the church's assets, and close the new congregation.

### Immediate Steps

1. Approve the plan to name To Be Named Lutheran Church
  - a. By the Consolidation Task Force at their meeting on Tuesday, October 19 (**DONE**)
  - b. By the Covenant Council at their meeting on Thursday, October 21 (**DONE**)
2. Approve this plan (with adjustments)
  - a. By the Consolidation Task Force at their meeting on Tuesday, October 19 (**DONE**)
  - b. By the Covenant Council at their meeting on Thursday, October 21 (**DONE**)
  - c. By each Church Council at their November meetings
    - i. Ascension – Wednesday, November 3 (**DONE**)
    - ii. Redeemer – Monday, November 8 (**DONE**)
    - iii. St. Mark – Tuesday, November 9 (**DONE**)
3. Each church needs to schedule Congregational Meetings in December or January.
  - i. Note: This will require at least two weeks' notice and mailing notices to members.  
If multiple meetings are scheduled, such as the December meeting and the Annual meeting, notices can be combined.
  - a. For Ascension to finalize their dissolution plan
  - b. For Redeemer to sell their property to **To Be Named Lutheran Church**, and to finalize their dissolution plan and the consolidation plan
  - c. For St. Mark to sell their property to **To Be Named Lutheran Church**, and to finalize their dissolution plan and the consolidation plan

Each church needs to schedule Congregational Meetings in December or January
4. Determine whether the Consolidation Task Force and/or Covenant Council want, or need, to review and approve which of the items for the new Congregational Meeting in February listed above in step 8
  - a. Constitution for To Be Named Lutheran Church; 2022 Budget for To Be Named Lutheran Church; Use of Assets Plan; Mission and Ministry Plan; Worship Plan; and Staffing Plan
  - b. If so, by what date will these items need to be submitted?
  - c. It was suggested earlier that these items be available at the January Annual Church Meetings.  
Is that early enough? Will two sets of documents be confusing?

## Work To Be Done By Consolidation Teams

1. **Legal & Constitution Team** provides possible names for To Be Named Lutheran Church
  - a. BY **December 5** to be voted on by those in attendance at the Combined Service that day at St. Mark
2. **Property Team** and **Finance Team** should provide information about the plusses and minuses of the buildings and property of Redeemer and St. Mark
  - a. BY December 5 to be reviewed and discussed at a meeting following the Combined Service that day at Redeemer
3. **Legal & Constitution Team** incorporates **To Be Named Lutheran Church**
4. **Legal & Constitution Team** drafts identical language for motions for December Congregational Meetings
  - a. Prior to any December Congregational meetings TO:
    - i. Close the church in compliance with ELCA procedures as of the date to be determined.
    - ii. Close the church as a corporation in compliance with Oklahoma law as of the date to be determined.
    - iii. Transfer assets of the church to To Be Named Lutheran Church and / or other organizations as spelled out in each church's dissolution plan as of the date to be determined.
    - iv. Dissolve the Covenant agreement between Ascension, Redeemer, and St. Mark as of the date to be determined.
5. **Legal & Constitution Team** creates a Constitution for **To Be Named Lutheran Church**
  - a. For review and comment of the Consolidation Task Force and Covenant Council in December
  - b. For review by the Synod Constitution Committee (Holly Lantagne) prior to presentation for approval
  - c. For review for Congregational Annual Meetings beginning in January
6. **Finance Team** creates a 2022 Budget for To Be Named Lutheran Church
  - a. For review and comment of the Consolidation Task Force and Covenant Council in December
  - b. For review for Congregational Annual Meetings beginning in January
7. **Property Team** in cooperation with the **Finance Team** and **Worship Team**, creates a Use of Assets Plan for To Be Named Lutheran Church
  - a. For review and comment of the Consolidation Task Force and Covenant Council in December
  - b. For review for Congregational Annual Meetings beginning in January
8. **Mission & Ministry Team** creates the Mission and Ministry Plan for To Be Named Lutheran Church
  - a. For review and comment of the Consolidation Task Force and Covenant Council in December
  - b. For review for Congregational Annual Meetings beginning in January
9. **Worship Team** creates the Worship Plan for To Be Named Lutheran Church
  - a. To be used when Combined Sunday Worship Services become weekly
  - b. For review and comment of the Consolidation Task Force and Covenant Council in December
  - c. For review for Congregational Annual Meetings beginning in January
10. **Finance Team**, **Worship Team** and **Property Team** work with the Covenant Council to develop a Staffing Plan for **To Be Named Lutheran Church**
  - i. For Secretarial, Cleaning and Musical duties. The plan should include job descriptions.
    - a. For review and/or approval of the Consolidation Task Force and/or Covenant Council in December
    - b. For review for Congregational Annual Meetings beginning in January

## Meeting & Worship Dates to Note

### **Sunday, November 22**

St. Mark Congregational Budget Meeting after worship

### **Tuesday, November 23 at Lord of Life, Edmond**

OKC Lutheran Thanksgiving Service at 7pm

### **Sunday, November 28**

Redeemer & Ascension Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. Mark Worship at 11:30 a.m.

### **Wednesday, December 1 at St. Mark**

Bible Study at 6 pm / Advent Service at 7pm

### **Sunday, December 5**

Combined Worship at 10:00 a.m. at Redeemer

Covenant Informational Mtg at 11 at Redeemer

### **Wednesday, December 8 at Redeemer**

Bible Study at 6 pm / Advent Service at 7pm

### **Sunday, December 12**

Redeemer & Ascension Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. Mark Worship at 11:30 a.m.

St. Mark Congregational Meeting after worship

### **Wednesday, December 15 at St. Mark**

Bible Study at 6 pm / Advent Service at 7pm

### **Sunday, December 19**

Redeemer & Ascension Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. Mark Worship at 11:30 a.m.

### **Wednesday, December 22 at Redeemer**

Blue Christmas Service at 7 pm

### **Friday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm at Redeemer

Christ Mass Service at 11 pm at St. Mark

### **Sunday, January 9**

Ascension's Annual Meeting after worship

### **Sunday, January 23**

St. Mark's Annual Meeting after worship

### **Sunday, January 30**

Redeemer's Annual Meeting after worship

## Covenant News

- ✝ Thanks to everyone who suggested and voted for proposed names for the combined church. Several entries received a comparable number of votes, and so we will ask you to vote on the top vote getters at the December 5 combined service.
- ✝ Directories with addresses and phone numbers of members of all three Covenant Churches have been printed and are available at each church. If you would like a .pdf version, email [Pastor@CLOKC.church](mailto:Pastor@CLOKC.church).

## Covenant Lutheran Oklahoma City Churches

### **Ascension Office**

*At Redeemer*

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### **Redeemer Office**

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### **St. Mark Office**

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