



Inspire



Involve



Inform

(The number 809 represents the approximate total of Concordia's membership age 50 and older)

A WORD FROM PASTOR MEGGERS....

Blessed Advent dear Friends in Christ,

Advent is a season of anticipation and preparation.

Advent is the church's invitation to itself to watch, anticipate and prepare in Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Be Still - Each week the advent wreath will present yet another candle lit until finally on Christmas the center or Christ candle will celebrate the birth of the Savior. Each Wednesday at 11 am and 7 pm, we can gather with our worship family for our own "booster shot" of watchfulness at our mid-week Advent services.

Be One - One of our Older Adult most anticipated annual events is our Christmas Party Lunch 'n Learn. This year it will be on December 19. You should join us! Delicious fare, Joyous carols, and warm connection with one another will add joy to your advent.

Be Faithful - Basking in the afterglow of our third Turkey Blessing, I want to share some stories from this event that I hope will encourage you to seek ways to serve those around you with JOY. For me this "Be Faithful" event has become the kick-off to this festive season.

- Among the 800 Turkey Meals we gave away were 20 meals to People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO). Missionaries Hady and Vicky Matta delivered these meals along with a copy of the Jesus film to 20 muslim households. Of these 20 households, 4 responded favorably when asked if they could be prayed for in the name of Jesus. Christmas is coming! Let's bring Jesus to many more homes.
- From Matt Schelp: "My personal highlight was two women in one of the last two cars that didn't get a Turkey (we slightly miscalculated) but waited in line and were told a dinner would be available." (Meanwhile we ran out)

"Without hesitation, a group of guys just reached into their pocket and we gave both cars \$40 in lieu of a dinner." Matt goes on to say that they prayed for the passenger's daughter, a niece recently killed in a bicycle accident, and prayed about the promise of heaven. "I plagiarized from Pastor Seidler's sermon."

Turkey Blessing was an amazing outpouring of love from us to the community. Let it point you to the much, much more amazing outpouring of love in a manger in Bethlehem when God became Immanuel for us.

Blessed Advent JOY,
PM

LUNCH AND LEARN HAPPENINGS

Our annual Oktoberfest celebration was once again a time of delicious food and an interesting program combined with plain ol' fun! Rev. David Mahsman shared information on the Wittenberg Project following a brief visit and introduction from "Katie Luther." The lunch of brats and related fixin's, including home-brewed beer provided by the Wilsons, was wonderful. Thanks to all who made this fun event possible.





Our November gathering took a slightly different turn when our planned guest speaker was not able to be present. Instead, attendees were touched by John Hartmann's story of his recent Honor Flight to Washington, DC. In addition, veterans who were present shared a few details of where and when they served our country. A large in-gathering of personal items for Missouri Veterans Home in St. Louis was received.



Please note the date change for our December Christmas gathering. This year's event will focus on the theme "What Child Is This?" and will be held on **TUESDAY, December 19, 11:30am**, in the Dining Hall. The meal will be catered by The Hawthorne Inn at a cost of \$15 per person. Pork tenderloin with blackberry sauce, whipped potatoes, asparagus bundles, salad and Italian bread will be served. Please bring a dozen cookies to share. As always, there will be special entertainment, devotional time and fun fellowship. Kelly Schumacher will have copies of the book she illustrated, "The Creation, The Fall and The Promise," available. Since the meal is catered, an accurate "head count" is needed. Please RSVP by calling Patty Wilson, 314.822.7772 x128, by signing the welcome tab on the Sunday bulletin or by signing the list in the Concordia Commons. We hope you will join us for this special celebration. All are welcome!

Looking ahead... As we have done for the past several years, we will turn our January 18 gathering into a "Lunch and Serve" opportunity. We will bring a soup lunch to a nearby facility and share some fellowship time with the residents. Be on the lookout for additional details!

Our annual *Soup's On* luncheons will begin following the 11:00am service on Ash Wednesday, February 14 and will continue throughout the Lenten season. Start gathering those delicious soup recipes! Because of the soup lunches, there will be no regular Lunch and Learn gatherings.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Midweek Services

Wednesdays, December 13 & 20; 11:00am and 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. (Dec. 20, the 7:00pm service will be our "Early" Christmas Eve.)

"Early" Christmas Eve December 20

For our church family members who travel during the holidays, we will have a candlelight worship service at 7:00pm the Wednesday before Christmas Eve in the Sanctuary. Childcare available.

Christmas Eve December 24 (Sunday)

All services are identical candlelight worship and will be held in the Concordia Center. Service times are 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 (sign-language interpreted) and 10:00pm. Childcare available at 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00pm. *NOTE: We will have our 4th Sunday in Advent services at 5:00pm Sat. and 9:30am Sun. morning in the Sanctuary.*

Christmas Day December 25 (Monday)

10:00am service in the Sanctuary

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

...Kirk Care and Feed My People need food items to share with the less fortunate during this holiday season. Please consider bringing canned goods and other non-perishable items to Concordia's Market Basket in the lobby.

...Christian Friends of New Americans is requesting help in gathering new and gently used blankets for recently arrived New American families. This seemingly common item is greatly needed by those who are facing the cold reality of winter in a new land. Blankets may be dropped off at the designated table in the Concordia Center Commons.

SERVANT HEARTS AND HANDS

...Appreciation is expressed to those Concordia members who assisted with Christian Friends of New Americans recent annual fundraisers – the Golf Benefit and Trivia night. CFNA's Gospel-centered ministry assists refugees and immigrants in the greater St. Louis area.

...On a recent Saturday, Lutheran World Relief used Concordia's parking lot as one of three regional pick-up points in Missouri. The total ingathering included 949 personal care kits, 1077 school kits, 453 baby care kits, 23 fabric kits, 58 pounds of soap and 3293 quilts. These items will be delivered to the headquarters in Minnesota before being distributed throughout the world.



...Believe it or not, it takes more than 100 volunteers each weekend to make sure that our worship services at Concordia run smoothly. Volunteers serve as greeters, communion assistants, ushers, hospitality and fellowship workers, altar guild assistants, and in many other ways. If you would like to consider being a volunteer, visit CKhome.org/serve or call the church office, 314.822.7772.

...The Shepherd's Center of Webster/Kirkwood needs more Handy Hands volunteers to help older adults with simple home repairs like changing out-of-reach light bulbs, installing grab bars, fixing leaky faucets, etc. To volunteer or to request assistance with these types of repairs, call Karen Zelle, 314.395.0988.



...Looking ahead – A mission trip to Belize is being planned during spring break, March 15-21, 2018. The group will lead worship, visit preschools and nursing homes, work with special needs children and do some light construction work. Contact Kippin Schelp, Kimberlysanchez@hotmail.com, for additional details.



OUR NEXT STEP

Concordia's design team continues to work on details for the first phase of the parking and educational facilities of our Next Step program. If you have not yet sent in your capital campaign pledge for this year, please consider doing so on or before December 31.

On November 17, our building proposal was submitted to Kirkwood! Over the next 2-3 months, we will go through many reviews and approvals with the City of Kirkwood. We will have an informational meeting to review the drawings and ask questions about the detailed design, Sunday, December 17, 9:30am - Dining Hall



YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW THAT...

...Concordia relies heavily on a seasonal increase in giving during the Christmas season to support its ministry now and through the year. Recent inbound offerings have missed budgeted expectations. Please plan your year-end gifts, knowing that they must be received or postmarked by December 31 to be considered a 2017 tax contribution

...Offering envelopes for 2018 giving are available in the Sanctuary Commons.

...Audrey Duensing-Werner has transitioned to her new position at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Austin, TX. She concluded her ministry at Concordia at the end of October. We wish Audrey God's richest blessings in her new ministry!

...29 of Concordia's youth affirmed their baptismal vows during their confirmation service on Reformation Day.

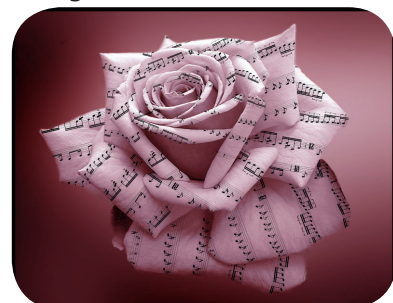
...Concordia held a special service following the regular worship services on All Saints' Day to remember those who went to be with their Lord during the past year. Those who attended found the service to be a powerful and healing worship experience.

..."Bringing Christ to the Nations" is the theme of the Lutheran Hour Ministries float that will be featured in the 2018 Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA on New Year's Day. It will be the only Christian-themed float in the parade. Its purpose is to provide a Gospel witness to millions of viewers along the parade route and in some 150 countries worldwide. Part of this year's Lunch and Learn Lenten Soup's On free-will offerings were contributed to the project.



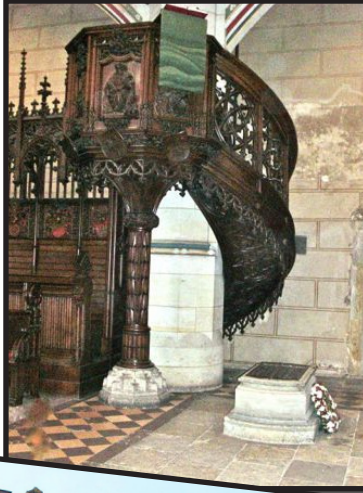
UPCOMING.....

Our annual Christmas Cantata will be held on Sunday, December 17 in the Concordia Center. Built around traditional carols as well as newly-composed pieces, "The Winter Rose" is a musical creation telling the story of Christ from prophesy to the Passion. This beautiful service of music provides all of us an excellent opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to Concordia.



2018 REFORMATION TOUR

In preparation for the Reformation Tour scheduled for September 27-October 8, 2018, Pastor Meggers and Don Wolfinger will be holding a series of informational meetings. Each session will focus on one of the sites to be visited and will include travel tips, as well as a little German language instruction. The meetings will be held at 4:00pm in the cafeteria. January 21 – Wittenberg and Eisleben; March 11 – Erfurt and Eisenach; May 6 – Rothenberg; July 8 – Oberammergau and Salzburg, September 9 – Munchen and last-minute details. For more information, please contact Don Wolfinger, 636-484-0248 or dlwolf@charter.net.



REMEMBERING...

Please keep the families of these departed saints in your prayers....

James Horvath (11/10)

Robert Wagner (11/10)

*Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life.
Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.
Everyone who lives in me and
believes in me will never ever die..."*

John 11:25-26

A TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WAGNER

For several years, I have had the privilege to visit Robert Wagner regularly. At 100 years and two months, Robert died on Veterans Day, November 10. It was fitting that this World War II veteran entered eternity with Christ on that day. This humble Soldier was wounded three times during intense fighting in France and Germany. As a retired Army chaplain, I felt a close kinship with Robert... a brotherhood with a man who remembered details of his months in Europe as the Allies fought and defeated Hitler's military.

Robert was baptized and confirmed at Concordia Lutheran Church. He was one of a handful of members over 100 years old. When I first began making visits on members who cannot always get to church, Robert was the first one I visited and communed. I spent an hour listening to his stories on that first visit. When he was young, he played semi-pro baseball locally. One of his infield teammates was a young man named Harold Carabina. An old newspaper Robert showed me has both him and Harold completing a double play. Harold was later known as Harry Caray.

I was struck by his vivid memories of time spent in the Army. He recalled the battlefield commission when one day he was a corporal, the next day a lieutenant. That happened frequently when officers were killed or wounded and needed to be replaced. I suspect that due to Corporal Wagner's intelligence and leadership ability, he was an easy choice to fill the vacancy.

According to Robert, one of his Purple Hearts was for injuries sustained due to "friendly fire," an oxymoron if there ever was one. He survived the war and returned home to his wife, Betty. He worked for 40 years for Southwestern Bell AT&T and lived in Kirkwood all his life. His sense of humor, his love for God and Country, and his quiet confidence were always evident. I was privileged to have known this hero and will miss him greatly until our reunion in heaven.

Eric J. Erkkinen
Chaplain (LTC) US Army,
retired

