

the 809

April 2018
Volume XXXX



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

Inspire



Involve



Inform

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

A WORD FROM PASTOR MEGGERS....



Dear Friends in Christ,

More sun is a reminder of More of the Son. Sunlight starts to increase and we increase our anticipation of celebrating the Son and His Resurrection from the dead on Easter. Why all the excitement? Because His Resurrection is our victory over death, too. We approach death not as some final, even terminal point of life, but as a passing through to life everlasting. And while we rejoice in God's providence for us with His beautiful creation, we are assured of being a new creation when we behold Him face to face. I look forward to celebrating this Easter with many of you. I look forward to celebrating the resurrection and life everlasting as well.

In Easter JOY, Pastor M.

LUNCH AND LEARN HAPPENINGS

Again this Lenten Season, the Ageless Generation team organized and served lunches following our 11:00am mid-week services. Many willing hands prepared an array of delicious soups, breads, and desserts which were enjoyed in the Concordia Center Commons. Special thanks to all who helped with set-up and clean-up as well as to those who brought food. Worship, food, fellowship – what a wonderful combination! The generous luncheon free-will offerings, were divided between All Nations Lutheran Church in University City and Concordia's Turkey Blessing project.

Our regular monthly **Lunch and Learn** gatherings will resume on **Thursday, April 19**. Concordia's beloved former Pastor Walter Schoedel will share reflections from his life and ministry entitled "Stories (Funny – Not Always) During My Pilgrimage." Sub sandwiches will be provided at a suggested donation of \$5.00; please bring a dessert or salad to share. All are welcome to join us in the Atrium at 11:30am.

On **May 17**, we plan to visit the **Holocaust Museum & Learning Center**, 12 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis. The Center is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust, educating about its causes and illustrating how what happened during this tragic period relates to our lives today. Admission is free. We will meet at Concordia at 9:30am to carpool and will spend approximately two hours at the Museum. We will return to Concordia where lunch will be provided at a suggested donation of \$7.50.

As always, **registration** for the Lunch and Learn events helps with planning. Please sign on the bulletin welcome tab, on the list at the registration table, or by calling Patty Wilson, 314.822.7772 x 128.



AGELESS GENERATION TEAM

Under the direction of Sharon Ema and Pastor Meggers, Concordia's Ageless Generation team strives to ensure that social, service and spiritual opportunities are provided for our older adults. The team meets monthly for a planning session and will additionally hold their annual retreat on April 10. Jerry Witte serves as chair of the team; other members include Linda & Roger Burgdorf, Jackie Eggerding, Ruth & Joe Leigh, Bonnie Matzat, Jeanette Marcus, Carol Witte, and Don Wolfinger. Your ideas for programs, service projects, fellowship events, or any other ministry opportunities are always welcome.



THE 809 TURNS 40!

This issue is the 40th newsletter since The 809 was begun in May, 2011 at the urging of the sainted Rev. LeRoy Biesenthal, a devoted advocate of older adult ministry. BZ, as he was affectionately called, wanted to make sure that our older members, especially those were not receiving electronically-sent congregational news and those who were not able to attend worship, would continue to feel connected to their Concordia family. BZ chose the "809" title, a number which represented the approximate number of Concordia's membership ages 50 and older in 2011. BZ felt the title would call attention to the large number of members in the adult/older adult category at Concordia. We have not changed the newsletter title since then.

The bi-monthly 809 is now sent electronically to those ages 60 and older for whom we have email addresses. It is mailed to those who do not receive electronically-sent messages. If you are aware of anyone not receiving the newsletter, please contact the church office.

Issues for the remainder of this year will be published in June, August, October and December. Deadline for information to be submitted for inclusion in the 809 is the 20th of the month preceding publication. Please contact Bonnie Matzat, 636.527.4046, or Sharon Ema, 314.822.7772 x 132, if you have information for the newsletter.

SERVANT HEARTS AND HANDS

...**Congratulations to Jeanette Kille** who recently received the Norwood Award which recognizes those who have given many years of extraordinary service to Bethesda. Jeanette has been a long-time Bethesda Southgate volunteer.



...The response to the **Lenten Giving Tree** as well as to the recent Feed My People food drive and Belize/ Uganda requests was very generous! Thanks to all who donated items for these mission efforts.



...Please remember that each **Thrivent member** is eligible to apply for two \$250 **Action Grants** annually. A variety of servant projects have been developed and carried out by Concordia members using funds from these grants. If you are a Thrivent member and are unable to take advantage of this opportunity, please contact your Thrivent representative or call the church office for assistance.

...**Concordia Outbound Ministries**, the mission arm of our congregation, is continuing to process grant applications for this year. In addition to helping fund short-term mission trips, COM also provides funding for other mission endeavors both within and outside our congregation. Recent grant recipients include Christian Friends of New Americans, Lutheran Association of Special Education, and Feed My People. To give to COM, earmark a portion of your offering on your envelope or through the online giving form.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Friend to Friend

Befriend a person in the community or congregation for fellowship and care by a call, card, or visit.

Sunday Prayer Minister

Prays with those who have urgent and ongoing needs on Sunday mornings between services.

For more information, contact Sharon Ema, sema@ckhome.org or 314-822-7772 x132.

YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW

...At our **February Voters' Assembly meeting**, Concordia's 2018 budget, totaling \$2,657,800 was approved. This budget represents a 2% increase from 2017. In addition, Kristin Anderson, Concordia's Executive Director, presented a financial overview for the next 24 months during which Concordia will spend approximately \$13.3 million -- \$5.5 million to fund ministry operations and \$7.8 million to fund the cost of our new Center for Christian Education.

...**Concordia's Special Needs Ministry**, under the leadership of Jessica Crawford, is offering a weekly Bible fellowship class for adults with special needs, ages 18 and older, on Tuesdays, 6:00-7:15pm, in the Library. The class, led by Jerry Witte, includes refreshments, Biblical instruction delivered in a way that is accessible to adults with special learning needs, and conversation.

...**The Concordia Men's 2018 Golf League** is looking for players of all skill levels, Tuesday evenings from April through August. Tee times 4:45-5:15pm at Paradise Valley Golf and Country Club (Hwy 44/141). Greens fees: \$17 walking, \$21 with cart. To sign up or receive more information, contact Ray Herweck, ray.herweck@gmail.com or 314.680.9925.

...**Karen Allman**, who has served our congregation as an administrative staff member for six years, will be taking a position at the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis as Grants Administrator. We are thankful for Karen's faithful service and wish her God's richest blessings in her new position.



...**Tai Chi classes** will continue at Concordia on Monday and Wednesday mornings beginning at 11:00am through May 2. The classes incorporate a series of gentle movements to improve balance, strength, flexibility, and stamina. Summer classes will be offered at Concordia for a fee. To check on registration availability, call 314.862.4859 x24 or oasisnet.org.

NEXT STEP UPDATE

We have received approval from the City of Kirkwood for Our Next Step project. The next steps will be to finalize a construction contract, refine our design to fit our budget, get approval from the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District, and obtain permits to begin work.



UPCOMING

...**Huge Treasure Sale** on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10-11, 7:00am-2:00pm at Meramec Bluffs Retirement Center. Furniture, adult clothing, household goods, décor, small appliances, linens, purses, shoes, book and more. For more information, call 636-861-0600.

...It's not too late to get your tickets for the **Shepherds Center's Chef Wars** to be held on Sunday, April 15, 5:30-8:00pm at the Kirkwood Community Center, 111 S Geyer, Kirkwood. Chefs from Senior Living Communities will compete for the best entrée and best dessert. Local establishments will share their best appetizers and libations. A silent auction will also be held. Tickets (\$40 each) are available from either Sharon Ema or Carol Witte, both of whom serve on the Shepherd Center's board.



...**Laudamus**, a select choir of seminarians preparing for full-time service as pastors in the LCMS, will conclude its spring tour with a concert at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 812 Souland Street in downtown St. Louis, on Sunday, April 15 at 3:00pm. The choir is under the direction of Dr. James Marriott, the Seminary's Director of Musical Arts and an assistant with our congregation's music ministry.



...**Lutheran Schools Day at Busch Stadium** will be held on Sunday, April 22 at 1:15pm as the Cardinals take on the Cincinnati Reds. Discounted tickets are \$20 and can be ordered online at lssstl.org by April 15.

...**Candidates for the pastoral ministry** will receive their first calls at a 7:00pm Call Day service in the St. Timothy and St. Titus Chapel on the Seminary campus on April 24. Vicarage assignments will be made that same day at a 3:00pm service. The public is invited to share in the joy of these special services as God's servants are sent into His harvest field.

...**The Shepherd's Center** will hold its annual **Spring Chores Galore** event on May 5. The Shepherd's Center also offers a Handy Hands Simple Home Repair service. There is no charge for the service although the homeowner is responsible for hardware or other material fees. If you need help with simple household or yard chores, or if you wish to volunteer, please call 314.395.0988.

...The next **Germany Reformation trip** informational meeting will be held on May 6 in the dining hall beginning at 4:00pm. Rothenberg will be the focus and additional travel tips plus a little German language instruction will also be offered.

...Concordia's youth will hold their **annual car wash** on Saturday, May 12 beginning at 9:00am (rain date May 19). Proceeds will help support their summer servant events, including a July 7-15 trip to Houston, TX where they will join 400 other high school youth from around the nation to help with Hurricane Harvey recovery. If you are not contacted and wish to participate in this fundraiser, please call the church office. The youth hope to see you and your dirty car on May 12!

...The **MO District LWML Convention** will be held at the Lodge of the Four Seasons from June 8 – 10 under the theme "He Knows My Name" based on Isaiah 43:1. Additional information can be found at their website missourilwml.org or by calling Shirley Meckfessel, 314.892.3807.

WELLNESS

As Concordia values the health of our members and the community, we are offering an educational health tip or resource for you to consider...

Jump start your day with a glass of water. It helps us absorb nutrients, eliminate toxins, digest food, and avoid dehydration. Some medications reduce our sense of thirst, so drinking water earlier in the day keeps us hydrated and energized during our active hours. Consider a reminder note until it becomes a healthy habit.

For more information, contact Lisa Hautly, Certified Health Education Specialist, 314-825-6557 or lisa@lisahautlywellness.com

...A workshop on the *10 Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's* will be held at Laclede Groves, 723 S. Laclede Station Rd, on May 11 at 10 am. To RSVP call 314.395.0988. The workshop will be presented by the Alzheimer's Association.



...The theme for Concordia's Vacation Bible School, July 16-20, 9:00am-noon, is "Gear Up! Get Ready! Game On!" Registration will open in early April for children ages three years old through 5th grade. Necessary support for special needs children will be available.

Our **Health Ministry Action Team** will be sharing a health focus each day. Contact Sharon Ema, sema@CKhome.org or 314-822-7772 x132, to let her know if you would like to volunteer at the VBS Health Table. If you can purchase some small toys for the health prizes table, please bring them to the church office.

...Join us on Thursday evenings, beginning April 5, 6:30pm, as we begin a journey getting to know *10 Women of the Bible*. Workbook/study guide by Max Lucado can be purchased online at Christian Book Distributors (~\$12) or Amazon (~\$16). Please bring your copy to the meetings. For additional information or questions, please contact Lynn Finer, 314-909-0709.

REMEMBERING...

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

Alma Buesching (1/9)
Lois Whitesitt (2/18)
Earl Nold (2/23)
Sheri Roschke (2/24)
Annette Boyet 2/25)
Mary Ellen Elbring (3/19)

