



**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,

Thanksgiving may seem a fading memory but the opportunity to give thanks is always before us. I give thanks for the upcoming Advent Season. I give thanks for the music of the season, especially the Getty/Concordia Christmas Concert on Dec. 20. I will be thankful to see many of you there. I give thanks for our Christmas Party Lunch 'n Learn TUESDAY, DEC. 11. Our theme this year is "Emmanuel-God with Us". He is always with us but how wonderful to celebrate the special way in which He came to be with us at Christmas.

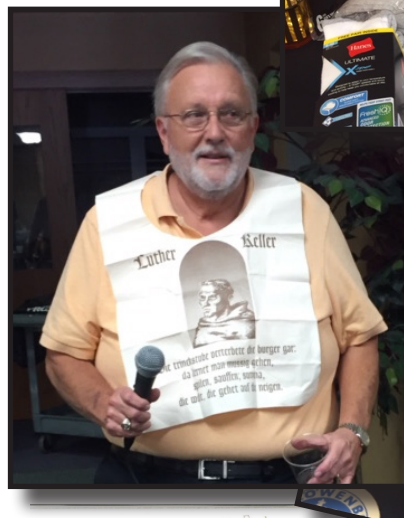
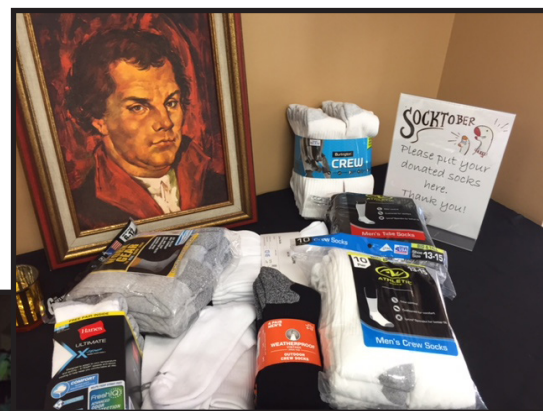
JOYfully,  
Pastor M.

## LUNCH AND LEARN HAPPENINGS

Our sixth annual Oktoberfest was once again a time of fun fellowship and delicious food! The large group in attendance enjoyed a lunch of brats and related fixin's as well as Don Wolfinger's pictures and stories from the recently-completed Germany Reformation trip. The response to the "Socktober" socks for the homeless ingathering was tremendous. Thanks to all who made this celebration possible.

Because our November Lunch and Learn gathering had to be cancelled due to snow, we will reschedule the program on women in the military featuring veterans Kitty Bickford and Paula Wilson. Items already donated will be delivered to the St. Louis Fisher House, "a home away from home" for the families and caregivers of our military men and women during their time of need.

Please note the date change for our December Christmas gathering. This year's event will focus on the theme "Emmanuel - God With Us" and will be held on Tuesday, December 11, beginning at 11:30am in the dining hall. The meal will be catered by The Hawthorne Inn at a cost of \$15 per person. Chicken Modoga, new potatoes, green beans, salad and bread will be served. Please bring a dozen cookies to share. As always, there will be special entertainment, devotional time and fun fellowship. Since the meal is catered, an accurate "head count" is needed. Please RSVP by contacting Patty Wilson, 314.822.7772 x121 or pwilson@CKhome.org, 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 17 gathering into a *Lunch and Serve* opportunity. We will bring a soup lunch to Rose Hill House and share some fellowship time with the residents. Our February 21 program is still in the planning stage. Put the dates on your calendar and be on the lookout for additional details!



Our annual Soup's On luncheons will begin following the 11:00am service on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 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 gathering in March.

## NIGHT *to* Shine

SPONSORED BY THE **TIM TEBOW** FOUNDATION™

### NIGHT TO SHINE

Concordia is proud to be an official host church for the 2019 *Night to Shine*, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, an unforgettable prom-night experience centered on God's love for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. The event is Friday, February 8, 6:00-9:00pm. An estimated 700 churches around the world will be hosting similar events the same evening! Around 250 volunteers will be needed to help with this wonderful event at Concordia. Please visit [nighttoshinekirkwood.com/](http://nighttoshinekirkwood.com/) volunteer for more information or contact Jessica Crawford, Director of Special Needs Ministry, 314.374.0682 to see how you can help.

### GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

...Cookies for our homebound members are needed again this year. Last year's response was overwhelming and allowed us to also bring trays of cookies to area facilities such as Kirkwood House, Rose Hill, Mary Culver Home, Concordia House, Bethesda, etc. The residents and staffs of those facilities were very appreciative of the Christmas joy we shared with them! Please bring 2 dozen cookies (preferably in some type of container) to the lobby desk by December 9. If you are interested in helping to deliver cookies, please contact Sharon Ema, [sema@CKhome.org](mailto:sema@CKhome.org) or 314.822.7772 x108.



...Mission Gate Prison Ministry will be sponsoring a Christmas party for children of inmates and ex-offenders again this year. You can share the love of Christ with these children by taking a tag from the tree at the Giving Center and bringing a gift, appropriately marked for boy or girl and the approximate age.

...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.

## Christmas

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

### Advent Midweek Services

11:00am and 6:45pm  
December 5, 12  
December 19 - 7:00pm  
(Early Christmas Eve service)

### LHSS Wind Symphony

Sunday, December 9, 9:30am  
(10:45am service will meet in the Sanctuary)

### Keith and Kristyn Getty Concert

Thursday, December 20 - 7:30pm  
(Sold Out)

### Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24  
3:00, 5:00, 7:00, and 10:00pm  
Tuesday, December 25  
10:00am

There will not be a New Year's Eve service.



...Concordia relies heavily on a seasonal increase in giving during the Christmas season to support its ministry now and throughout the year. Please plan your year-end gifts to our general fund and Concordia Outbound Ministry, as well as your capital campaign pledge for this year, knowing that they must be received or postmarked by December 31 to be considered a 2018 tax contribution.

...Construction on Concordia's new Center for Christian Education continues! Although parking has been somewhat of an issue, everyone seems to be adjusting well as we watch this exciting venture grow. Thanks for your patience and flexibility!



Our pre-schoolers make daily inspections.

## SERVANT HEARTS AND HANDS

...Concordia's men's ministry completed a very successful fourth annual Turkey Blessing community outreach to needy families and to area ministries, including All Nations Church in University City, Christian Friends of New Americans, and People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) on November 17 and 18. Because of construction at Concordia, Meramec Community College at Rose Hill/Geyer was the site for the project. Twelve hundred uncooked turkey dinners were distributed, each of which contained a frozen turkey, stuffing, green beans, gravy and potatoes. In addition to receiving the food recipients were given an opportunity to share prayer requests. Some very touching stories were shared by our volunteers. Appreciation is expressed to all those who served as well as to those who donated towards the cost of this mission project. Christ's promise is that when we serve "the least of these," we serve Him!

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

...Appreciation was recently expressed to our veterans and first responders for their service on our behalf.

...We also express appreciation to Paul Meckfessel and Ed Winkelmeyer for their many years of counting our weekly offerings.

## YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW THAT...

...Rev Jacob Schultz has been called to serve as Concordia's Associate Pastor with a focus on Family and Youth Ministry. He will be installed at Concordia on Sunday, January 13. His wife Rebecca will continue to serve in her role with the children's ministry. We are blessed to have them on our ministry team!

...Advent devotional materials are available on the wall rack in the Lobby and at the Spotlight Table.

...A Search Committee (Kristin Anderson, Jan Duesenberg, David Lanius, Sarah McCarthy, Jacob Mohnke, Paul Roettger, Emma Simpson) has formed to seek candidates for Concordia's Director of Sr. High Youth Ministry.

...Twenty-five of Concordia's youth affirmed their baptismal vows during their confirmation service on Reformation Sunday.

...Pastor Vince Stanley, Chaplain for the St. Louis County jail, has formed a faith-based and confidential support group for individuals who have loved ones currently or formerly incarcerated. The group meets monthly at Concordia on the third Thursday at 7:00pm. Anyone dealing with the stress of having a loved one in jail is welcome to participate.

...Concordia member, Dale Kreienkamp, has recently published a book *How Long, O Lord, How Long? Devotions for the Unemployed and Those Who Love Them*. For more details go to [howlongolord.org](http://howlongolord.org).

...LWML: A spring retreat in March 2019 will be hosted by St. Mark's, Eureka and Zion, Valley Park. Be on the lookout for details.

...Congratulations to Debbie Davis, Director of Resource Room Services at Lutheran South High School, who recently received the *Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award* and to Rev. Al Buckman, who received the distinguished alumni award from Concordia, St. Paul. Also to Jim and Marcy Scholl who received the *Freitag Ministry Award* from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund "for couples who have made significant contributions through their faithful and tireless service to church and world."



## COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES...

In addition to our own Advent and Christmas services, here are several of many other opportunities to enjoy the music and message of the season:

...The Gateway Ringers, a choir of handbell ringers from the St. Louis area, will present a holiday concert at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway, O'Fallon, MO on December 7, 7:30pm. The concert is free and open to the public.

...The United States Air Force Band of Mid-America presents "Ringing in the Holidays" on Saturday, December 8 and Sunday, December 9, 3:00pm at the St. Louis Scottish Rite Cathedral, 3633 Lindell Blvd. Free tickets available at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

...A German Christmas Worship Service will be held at Peace Lutheran Church, 737 Barracksview Rd, on Sunday, December 9, 2:30pm. Most of the service will be spoken in German with some English. Speaker will be Rev. Dr. Robert Kolb from Concordia Seminary.

... **ATTENTION** all retired military veterans and surviving spouses (eligible for TRICARE)! Those who currently have dental coverage the TRICARE For Life Dental Program be aware that that coverage expires on December 31. We are given to option to enroll in the Federal Employees Dental and Vision insurance Program. You complete enrollment by December 10. Go to this website to verify your eligibility: [tricare.benefeds.com](http://tricare.benefeds.com) and then go to this website to enroll: [benefeds.com](http://benefeds.com). If you like your current dentist, take the list of plans (10) to their office and asks what plans their participate in before completing enrollment. If you have questions or need help navigating the websites, please contact Don Wolfinger, 636-484-0248.

## LOOKING AHEAD....

...The Gospel of Mark, a dramatic portrayal by a group of Concordia Seminary faculty and area pastors, will be presented on January 30, 2019, 6:30-9:00pm at Zion Lutheran Church, 3866 Old Hwy S, St. Charles. The presentation is free and open to the public.

...Concordia's Health Ministry Action Team will hold a Health Resource Fair on Sunday, February 10. Service opportunities as well as information on spiritual, physical and emotional health for all ages will be available.

...The 2019 Hearts on Fire CCLS Dinner Auction will be held Saturday, February 16 at Orlando Gardens Banquet Center in south St. Louis County. Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend. For more information, please visit [ccls-stlouis.org](http://ccls-stlouis.org).

## REMEMBERING....

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

Adeline Fields  
Ben Orwig