



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,

The tip of the iceberg; that's the part you see. The bulk of the iceberg; that's what you don't see. Over the last two months, there have been lots of tips of numerous icebergs: Getty concert, Christmas, ordination, installation to name a few. Even what you see on Sunday mornings or in this publication could be considered tip of the iceberg.

What you don't see, what we don't see, are the many ministries and volunteers that operate behind the scenes. There you will find the unseen and unheralded faithful carrying out their faithfulness in service to church, community and beyond. Sharon Ema is that faithful staff member who drives a number of these kinds of ministries unseen. There is ministry to the sick. There is the Health Ministry Action Team. Christmas parties don't just happen; they are devised and carried out by Sharon and our Ageless Generation Ministry Action Team who are also responsible for the monthly Lunch 'n Learns. Bonnie Matzat and Sharon Ema put their heads together regularly to provide this publication for you. And don't even get me started on Sharon Karleskint and Patty Wilson and all they do "behind the scenes."

"We are the body of Christ," St. Paul tells us. And that body is better when it works together. Just know that a lot of that body work is not always that visible, but our Lord knows it and receives it.

JOYfully serving with you, PM

LUNCH AND LEARN HAPPENINGS

"Emmanuel, God With Us" was the theme for our annual Lunch and Learn Christmas party attended by over 100 joyful participants. The Concordia dining hall was festively decorated, complete with a tree, table centerpieces, stocking gifts, and a welcoming "fire" on our projection screen. Those attending enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by the Hawthorne Inn and served by a wonderful group of CCLS 7th graders. A beautiful cookie table organized by Carrol Virus added a sweet touch to our meal. The entertainment was outstanding! Our preschoolers charmed everyone with their songs and we were all tapping our feet as Brendan Knorp and Phillip Magness shared jazz renditions of Christmas songs on guitar and keyboard. No one will forget the skit featuring our pastors ("Scooter Scottie" was hilarious) and staff members. A sing-a-long of favorite carols and a devotion by Pastor Schultz completed a very special event. Thanks to the members of the Ageless Generation team for their planning and to all those who assisted in various ways. It was a wonderful party!



Our gathering on January 17 was a Lunch and Serve opportunity as we brought a soup lunch, played bingo, and enjoyed visiting with our neighbors at Rose Hill House. Thanks to all who brought delicious soups, breads, desserts and bingo prizes and to those who shared their best gift of all... their time! The smiles on the faces of the Rose Hill residents testified to a special gathering.



Our Lunch and Learn on February 21 will feature a program on Genealogy and Family Relationships by Sharon Ema and Roger Burgdorf. Lunch from Psggetti's will be served for a suggested donation of \$7.50. Please join us in the Atrium at 11:30am and hear ways we can learn more about our families' stories and how we can share those stories with others.

Soup's On

Again this Lenten season, the Ageless Generation team will organize and serve lunches following our 11:00am worship services, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 6 and including Maundy Thursday. Many willing hands will be needed to prepare soups, breads, and desserts for our gatherings in the Concordia Commons. Help will also be required for set-up and clean-up. A free-will offering will be taken at each lunch and shared with ministry partners in the community. All are welcome to join us for these wonderful times of worship and fellowship!

Because of our Soup's On lunches, there will be no regularly-scheduled Lunch and Learn meetings on the third Thursdays during March and April.

For all our Lunch and Learn activities, it is always helpful to know how many will be attending and who will be bringing food. If possible, please sign up when opportunities are made available at the registration table, on the Sunday bulletin tab, or by contacting Patty Wilson, pwilson@ckhome.org or 314-822-7772 x121



OUR NEW PASTOR

Sunday, January 13, was certainly a day of celebration at Concordia as Rev. Jacob Schultz was installed as our associate pastor with a focus on Family and Youth Ministry. He had been ordained the previous day in Wood River, IL. Jacob and his wife, Rebecca, who will continue to assist with our children's ministry program, are the parents of two children, Isaiah and Gloria. We thank God for the blessing of having them in our Concordia family!

SERVANT HEARTS AND HANDS



...A special thank you to all those who responded so generously (and deliciously) in baking cookies for our homebound. The overwhelming abundance allowed us to also deliver trays of cookies to senior communities in our area where they were received with great appreciation by staffs and residents.

...Concordia members were also very generous in donating gifts for children of incarcerated parents for the annual Mission Gate Christmas parties. Thanks for sharing the love of Christ with these children.



...Concordia's Wednesday morning women's LifeLight Bible study group adopted 2 families from Unity Lutheran School in East St. Louis. Thank you for your generous hearts and showing Christ's love to others in our community!



...The Lenten Giving Tree will be located at the Giving Center beginning Ash Wednesday. Choose a tag from the tree, purchase the item, and return it by Good Friday. Your contributions will be shared with organizations in our community that serve the less fortunate. Opportunities will also be available at the Giving Center to support the upcoming Uganda mission trip by donating needed school supplies and eyeglasses/readers. Be on the lookout for specific details.



YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW...

...The financial generosity of Concordia's membership allowed our congregation to meet its 2018 obligations and to look ahead to a vibrant year of ministry in 2019. Thanks to all who gave with a sacrificial and joyful heart!



...Our new Center for Christian Education is progressing on time and on budget. From the \$7.5 million pledged, \$5.7 million was received by the end of December.

...Concordia Outbound Ministry, the mission outreach arm of our congregation, is beginning to receive 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. To donate to COM, earmark a portion of your offering (second line on your envelope) or through the online giving form.

...Jenna Hartmann is Concordia's new Director of Communications. She graduated from Bowling Green State University with a degree in Visual Communication Technology and previously worked as a Production Artist at Dierbergs. She is replacing Katie Mulchek who served as our Director of Communications for the past five years. We also wish God's blessings to Kelly Callahan who served on our support staff in various roles over the past 6+ years. Thanks for your faithful service, Katie and Kelly!

...Thanksgiving was also recently expressed for the ministry of Sharon Ema, Director for the Healing Arts (22 years), and Sharon Karleskint, Administrative Assistant (30 years). Concordia is very blessed to have our two Sharons, as well as Kristin Anderson, who recently marked her 15th year of service at Concordia!

...Concordia's Search Committee is in the process of conducting interviews with prospective candidates for our Senior Youth position. Their goal is to recommend a candidate to the Church Council and then to the congregation during the first quarter of this year.

CHRIST COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL

UPCOMING...



...Come and enjoy a hot bowl of soup on Sunday, February 3, 10:45am-12:30pm in the dining hall. to help support Christ Community International, the organization supporting CCLS-Uganda. A free-will offering will be accepted. Take-out containers will also be available. A team will be heading to Uganda over spring break, March 14-24, to continue our ministry under the direction of Dr. Kent and Katie Killian.

"EXPRESSING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH SERVICE"

...Concordia is proud to be an official host church for the 2019 Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, on February 8. The evening will be a wonderful prom-night experience centered on God's love for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. Under the direction of Jessica Crawford, our Director of Special Needs Ministry, many helping hands will make this evening very special for our guests.

...A Health and Resource Fair, sponsored by Concordia's Health Ministry Action Team, will be held from 9:00-11:00am on Sunday, February 10, in the upstairs Commons. Representatives from the congregation and the community will provide information on health resources and ways for you to serve others.



...A Blood Drive in memory of Benjamin "Pounder" Schriber will also be held on February 10, 8:00am-1:00pm. He would have been 11 years old this year. The blood drive is the Schriebers' way of paying forward the generosity that was given to them in Pounder's time of need. For an appointment, call 314-941-1324 or RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: Pounder.



...The 2019 Hearts on Fire CCLS Dinner Auction will be held Saturday, February 16 at Orlando Gardens Banquet Center in south St. Louis County. For more information, please visit ccls-stlouis.org.

...A spring LWML mini-retreat will be held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Eureka on March 30. The National Convention will be held in Mobile, AL on June 20-23 under the theme "In Praise to the Lord." Please continue saving your mites and postage stamps.



...Mark your calendars now for the Chef Wars which will be held on Sunday, April 14 beginning at 5:30pm at the Kirkwood Community Center. This event will benefit the Shepherd's Center of Webster/Kirkwood which offers a variety of programs

and services for seniors in our community. Sharon Ema, Jerry and Carol Witte serve on the Shepherd Center's board and a number of our members are dedicated volunteers at the Center. Tickets will be available from Sharon, Jerry, or Carol or by calling 314.395.0988.

MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

...The Collegium Vocale of St. Louis will present a concert of sacred cantatas by Christoph Graupner (1683-1760) on Sunday, February 3, 3:00pm in Concordia's sanctuary. Graupner was a celebrated contemporary of J.S. Bach and a significant Lutheran composer. The Vocale will be supported by historical string and wind instruments, including trumpet, oboe, flute, and bassoon. Bruce Carvell, artistic director, will give pre-concert remarks in the sanctuary at 2:30pm. Admission is free; donations will be appreciated.

...The National Lutheran Choir will present Norwegian composer's Kim Andre Arnesen's Holy Spirit Mass on Friday, March 1 at First Presbyterian Church, Kirkwood at 7:30pm. The composition was commissioned to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Tickets are required. Go to nlca.com.

...Two concert opportunities will be presented at the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the Concordia Seminary campus. The concerts are free and open to the public; a freewill offering will be taken:

Sunday, March 3, 3:00pm – The Valparaiso University Chorale, the Leipzig Baroque Orchestra, the Valparaiso University Bach Orchestra and Choir, and the Ft. Wayne Children's Choir will present J.S. Bach's St. Matthew's Passion.

Sunday, March 31, 3:00pm – One of the country's oldest Lutheran collegiate choirs, the University A Cappella Choir from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska will present *I AM Forever WHO I AM: The 80th Anniversary Tour*.



SPLENDORS OF AUSTRIA AND THE PASSION PLAY IN 2020

Austria is a stunning country with snow-capped mountains, glistening lakes and cities vibrant with music and culture. You are invited on this 13-day slow-paced tour of Austria ending with the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play, departing June 13, 2020. Highlights of the tour include a Danube cruise, Melk Abbey, tours of Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck and Munich, plus a day in the Austrian lakes. The tour website link is ReformationTours.com/package/rdm20/ or contact Don Wolfinger at 636.484.0248.

REMEMBERING...

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

Imogene Ansorge
Zona Pinski
Baylor Kohut

