

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,

I recently told a story of a high school classmate in a sermon. John was an extremely talented musician and he and I were pretty close. We roomed together on band trips, played in jazz and concert band concerts, and even teamed up in a trombone and trumpet duet for music contests. But our lives took very different paths after High School. Mine led to becoming a pastor. His took him to college briefly and then on tour and into studio with renowned musicians including Chuck Mangione, Chicago, and Elton John. Life became pretty exciting at age 20 but the fun didn't last. Fast-forward through a change in career and a major stroke at the age of 45. John's life was a mess. And somehow through His Holy Spirit, God stepped into that life and at age 63 John again proclaimed His faith in Jesus.

Pentecost is here. It will be time again to celebrate that birthday of the church and the gift of the Holy Spirit. John's story reminds us that the Holy Spirit is at work through all the seasons of our lives. He never gives up.

JOYfully, PM

LUNCH AND LEARN HAPPENINGS

Thanks to everyone for the generous freewill offerings given during our Lenten "Soup's On" lunches. A total of \$1500 was received and has been shared with representatives from the Shepherd's Center and LifeWaters Diving Ministry.

A bus load of about 50 Concordians enjoyed a wonderful day trip to Perry County on May 15. A big "thank you" to Ruth Leigh who coordinated the details for this special outing. The day included a visit to Trinity Lutheran Church in Altenburg where very informative presentations were given by two local historians who are certainly passionate about keeping the story of our Lutheran heritage alive! A special treat was getting to see the beautiful communion chalice that was used by the German Lutherans who made their way across the ocean seeking religious freedom in the new land. We also visited Altenburg's Lutheran Heritage Museum and the log cabin which was the origin of Concordia Seminary. Following a delicious catered lunch in a refurbished former hardware store, the group traveled a few miles to Frohna to visit the Saxon Lutheran Memorial and hear another interesting presentation about the early lives of the settlers. Beautiful weather added to everyone's enjoyment during a day of fun, learning and fellowship!





Our June 20 Lunch and Learn gathering will be an indoor picnic featuring hamburgers, hot dogs and related fixin's, including Ted Drewes ice cream. Suggested donation is \$7.50. Please join us in the dining hall beginning at 11:30am for some good ol' fashioned food and fun! It's a picnic so dress casually. You can sign up on the bulletin welcome tab, on the list at the registration table, or by calling Patty Wilson, 314.822.7772 x121. As always, it's helpful to know how many folks will be coming so an appropriate amount of food can be provided.

There will be no Lunch and Learn gathering in July as we take a summer break. Be on the lookout for additional details regarding our August 15 event as we meet again at Concordia at 11:30am.

AGELESS GENERATION TEAM

The Ageless Generation Ministry Action team, under the direction of Sharon Ema and Pastor Meggers, recently held its annual planning retreat. The ministry is filled with both people and prepositions – it is a ministry not only “for” and “to” older adults, but also “by” and “with” older adults. Your ideas for programs, service projects, fellowship events, and any other ministry opportunities are always welcome. You are an important part of the ministry and the Ageless Generation team wishes to express appreciation to all of you for your support!

SERVANT HEARTS AND HANDS

...The response to the Lenten Giving Tree was overwhelming! Thanks to all who donated items that are being shared with local community groups. Thank you notes were received from several of these groups. A representative from Lutheran Family and Children's Services wrote, "Thank you for collecting items for us. We always appreciate everything, and many children will benefit from your kindness."



...During June and July, the Giving Center will be collecting needed items for Vacation Bible School. Be on the lookout for ways you can assist in providing these items. Concordia's VBS health table is also looking for dollar store prizes.



...Concordia's craft ministry has provided two prayer shawls for executive couples (lay and clergy) of the North American Region of Lutheran Marriage Encounter. The new executives will be installed on Sunday, June 23, in St. Louis and will use the shawls as they pray for God's blessing on marriages.

...The summer months can be especially difficult for our needy neighbors as their children are home from school. Please be generous and continue bringing non-perishable food items for Feed My People and Kirk Care to the wicker basket in the Lobby.

NEXT STEP UPDATE

...Our new Center for Christian Education is looking more and more like a reality now that the outside walls are enclosed and the work has moved indoors! Thanks to the generous pledges and offerings that have already been given, we have been able to pay in cash for the work that has been finished to this point. Your continuing generosity will be appreciated as we attempt to keep our loan needs to a minimum. The goal is to open the 2019 school year for both CCLS and our youth ministry in the new building.



YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW THAT...

...Concordia Seminary's 2019 Call Day was observed with special services in the Seminary chapel on May 1. Fourth year students received their first calls as pastors, missionaries and chaplains. In addition, vicarage assignments were given. Students with connection to Concordia received the following assignments:

- Adam Rodriguez – Associate pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Merrill, Wisconsin
 - Sam Fink – Associate pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church, Orchard Park, New York
 - Kevin Koester -- Associate pastor, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, South Dakota
 - Christian Pieper --Vicar, Concordia Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas
 - Ryan Schnake – Vicar, Kaiserslautern Lutheran Church, Germany
 - Jaron Melin – Vicar, England
- We pray God's richest blessings to these servants as they head into His mission field.



...Nathan Dehn and Trevor Fiala were recently consecrated as workers in our youth ministry program. Trevor will serve as a summer intern youth leader before he returns to his studies this fall. Nathan will serve on staff as the interim youth director under a one-year contract. We pray that God will use their hearts and talents to further His work among our youth. The search committee will suspend its efforts to find a permanent Senior High Youth Director until late fall.

...Rev. Billy Newell, a former pastor at Concordia, was recently installed as senior pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bloomington, IL. Pastor Billy was previously the associate pastor at Trinity. He and his wife Kristen have four children. Please continue to hold them in your prayers.

...Dr. Eric Knost recently received the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse champion award for his leadership in advocating for substance use prevention education.

...The Men's Wednesday Bible study group recently presented Rev. Dr. Steve Carter with a gift of appreciation for leading their studies in 2018-2019.



...Rev. Ron Roma, after 43 years of service at Lutheran South, will be retiring. He has served the community and school in many countless ways. Rev. Roma shares that "my position as an instructor, counselor, campus pastor, chair of Theology Department and my involvement in all the co-curricular activities over the years have been a God-send. Many thanks to all who have touched my life and allowed me to serve Christ. God's blessings to LHSS and all that the future holds."

UPCOMING

...Carillon concerts will be held in the quad on the Concordia Seminary campus each Tuesday evening in June beginning at 7:00pm. The concerts are free and open to the public. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a beautiful hour of music played by professional carilloneurs. The Seminary's carillon of 49 bells is one of only 170 such instruments in North America.

...Concordia's Vacation Bible School will be held July 15-19 from 9:00am-noon based on John 20:31: "These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." Our Health Ministry Action Team will be sharing a special health focus each day. Volunteers are needed to help at the health table. If you can assist, please contact Sharon Ema. Small new toys for prizes are also needed and may be dropped off in the lobby marked to Sharon's attention. In addition, a VBS program for special needs children and young adults will be available July 8-11 from 10:00am-noon.



...The National Youth Gathering will take place in Minneapolis, MN from July 11-15. A large group will be attending from Concordia. Appreciation is extended to all who supported the successful car wash fundraiser to help support this group. Real. Present. God – Psalm 46 – will be the focus of the gathering. "Through the gift of faith, we know our God to be real and present with us in daily troubles, fears and joys," stated Concordia's Rev. Mark Kiessling, director of LCMS Youth Ministry.

...The 67th National Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will be held in Tampa, FL from July 20-25 under the theme JOY:fully Lutheran, based on 1 Thess. 5:16-18. In preparation for the convention, a new Bible study is now available for free download. Written by Rev. Timothy Pauls, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boise, Idaho, the Bible study consists of five lessons exploring what joy is and where it is to be found. In a video recommending the Bible study, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison says that it is for everyone, not just those attending the convention. He added, "You'll see how God's gifts of Word and Sacrament bring Christ to us. And that is JOY!" You can watch the video and download the "JOY:fully Lutheran" Bible study at lcms.org/convention/biblestudy.

Golden

ANNIVERSARY

...On Saturday, October 5, Concordia will honor those couples who have been married 50 or more years. If you are among this group of special folks, please make sure the church office has your correct contact information, including your wedding date and the bride's maiden name. A Ministry Action Team is already working on details for this wonderful celebration. Additional hands will be needed the day of the event. If you would be willing to help, please let Sharon Ema know.

WELLNESS

A 3-part class on "Living with Alzheimer's: For Caregivers - Mid-Stage" will be held at the Shepherd's Center, 1333 W. Lockwood, on successive Fridays, June 7-21, 1:00-3:00pm. The classes are especially designed for caregivers (family and friends—not paid caregivers) of people with middle-stage Alzheimer's or other types of dementia/memory loss. Caregivers and professionals will discuss helpful strategies to cope with changes in communication, behaviors and relationships, and give tips for providing safe and effective care in the middle stage of Alzheimer's.

The classes are free but pre-registration is required (class size is limited). Call 314.395.0988.

MINISTRY MILESTONES

This year finds a number of area ministries marking special anniversary milestones. The 809 is featuring one of these ministries in each issue.

Our focus in this issue is Family Shield Ministries which will be celebrating its 25th anniversary with a "Step into the Future" celebration on Sunday, October 13, at Royale Orleans on Telegraph Rd. in south St. Louis. The keynote speaker will be Rev. Michael Newman, president of the LCMS Texas District. The theme is "Families Worship Him!" Tickets are \$30. Doors will open at 5:00pm with appetizers, a cash bar, and fellowship. The meal and program will begin at 6:00pm with Rev. Mark Frith, a member of the Board of Directors, serving as master of ceremonies. The evening will include testimonies from those whom Family Shield Ministries continues to reach and equip for Christ, and there will also be an opportunity to give a gift. Learn more at FamilyShieldMinistries.com.

Family Shield Ministries is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS. Its mission is to educate and equip people, through the power of the Gospel, to know Christ, grow in His Word, and strengthen individuals and their families. Ephesians 6:16 - "Take up the shield of faith."

Concordia's Kay Meyer is the founder and president of Family Shield Ministries.

REMEMBERING...

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

Joan Cox
Cass Abolahrari
Helen Smith
Mattie Maschmeier
Nancy Lorenz
Haley Sparks
Larry Alkire
Mary Ann Garrison
Richard Wetzel
Carol Solis

