

Concordia CONNECTION

April 2017



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Cover Photo: Ageless Generations Serving at Harrison Ave. Baptist

PASTOR'S NOTE



Easter entails action. For all the Resurrection fanfare contained in Scripture, actions will speak louder than words for Christ's church. As the Easter season of the church year dawns, our worship themes move forward—from **Ashes to Alleluias** and, then, idling for several weeks on **Alleluias to Action**.

At the end of the Apostle Paul's words about Easter and its impact in his first letter to the Christians in the Greek city of Corinth, we read these words: *"Therefore, your labor in*

the Lord is not in vain." Alleluias, turned into action, will bear great fruit—in families, among friends, and even with complete strangers at times! Concordia will linger with these words as we walk through wonderful Spring days in St. Louis and beyond.

We'll put these words into action as we wind down the activity of our school-year program and gear up for Summer. We'll put these words into action as we continue our specialized ministry efforts with partners in "The Lou," as well as in our own congregation. We'll consecrate new leaders to energize these actions with fresh perspective and eagerness of heart. We'll even move forward with decisions regarding the buildings in which so many of our ministry actions, inspired by loud alleluias, are housed.

Alleluias to action. The ashes of Lent are temporary. The work of God in and through us lasts to eternity! Look around. Pray God to use you each and every day. Then, with me, let's get to work.

Warmly,
Pastor Seidler
Senior Pastor
sseidler@CKhome.org

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday—April 13

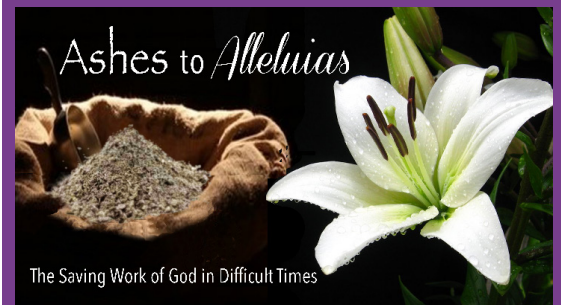
11:00am; Sanctuary
7:00pm; Concordia Center
(sign language interpreted;
childcare available)

Good Friday—April 14

11:00am; Sanctuary
7:00pm; Concordia Center
(sign language interpreted;
childcare available)

Easter Worship—April 15/16

Saturday: 5:00pm; Sanctuary
Sunday: 6:30am; Sunrise worship
at Oak Hill Cemetery
8:00/9:30am; Sanctuary
9:30/11:00am; Concordia Center
(9:30am sign language interpreted)



Lace up your shoes for the **10th Annual Resurrection Run on Easter Sunday, April 16!** The event will begin at 6:30am with a sunrise service at Oak Hill Cemetery. The 5k run/walk will follow as runners make their way to the finish line at the Magic House. Register online at CKhome.org/resrun; fee is \$30. Shuttle service will be provided at 6:00am Sunday, April 16, from Concordia to the cemetery. Proceeds from the event will benefit the **Belize mission trip**.

ADULTS

Dear Friends in Christ,

With Holy Week and the Resurrection of our Lord approaching, I was in Omaha on March 30 at my Dad's bedside awaiting his home-going. Dad passed away on Saturday, April 1. **What a Friend we have in Jesus!** And, such a great church family at Concordia, too. Your prayer, support and love have upheld us in this chapter of our lives. My family and I thank you!



Lent has been a season of "Being Still, One and Faithful." This year, our ***Soup's On*** luncheons were blessed with mini **BE FAITHFUL presentations** from a variety of missions and ministries. The two missions that were supported with our table offerings are **Lutheran Hour Ministries** and the Rose Parade float (picture, see page 8), and **St. Trinity Lutheran Church** in Carondelet.

I always look forward to the **BE STILL opportunities** of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and, then, the unfettered JOY of Easter. AND, I am anticipating the **many ways to BE ONE** beyond Easter:

- **Wednesday, April 19.** Wednesday morning Spring/Summer Bible class for **MEN AND WOMEN** begins; it is **Part II** of the **Reformation 500 study of Martin Luther**. We meet in the Library.
- Our **Men's Ministry** is gearing up for the next **Turkey Blessing in November**. We need to raise significant dollars, approximately \$35,000, in order to feed 5,000! Read about our barbecue fundraiser in this edition of the *Concordia Connection*. Your support will mean many are fed. *(Last year, we received more than 600 prayer requests and are still following up on some of those even now.)*
- Ageless Generations has a **special May Lunch and Learn, Thursday, May 18**. With this being the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, we will journey to the **Concordia Historical Institute**. After our museum tour (at the LCMS International Center), we will return to Concordia for lunch. Suggested donation \$7.50.

On a final (JOYful!) note, **Uganda was again a tremendous mission experience!** In addition to preaching, teaching, and assisting other mission members with their work, we were able to visit the new Lutheran Seminary in Uganda. God is on the move in this African nation. Thank you for being a part of it ... and **special thanks** to four awesome youth: **Bridget Killian, Lydia Knorp, Lauren Seidler and Brandon Wytttenbach**—for their enthusiasm and excellent work.

JOY,
Pastor Meggers
Associate Pastor
dmeggers@CKhome.org

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



So Lorelei and I were sitting in the cozy red chairs in my office on Sunday. I “caught” her eating my chocolate, and my rule is that if you eat my chocolate you must sit and visit with me. **Well, we had A LOT to say to each other in between mouthfuls of chocolate M&M’s.** We visited about life. You know ... life as a 2nd grader! We are kindred souls, Lorelei and I. She loves chocolate, and I love chocolate. She loves music and I love music. She loves art and I love art. She loves life and I love life. But, most importantly, she says—with her mouth full of the Easter-colored M&M’s that she just shoved into her mouth—**she loves Jesus!**

Lorelei told me that she loved the song we’re singing for Palm Sunday because ... well ... it’s about Jesus. She told me that she couldn’t wait until Easter because she gets

lots of chocolate, but she then stopped chewing and said in a sort of hushed worshipful kind of way, *“Did you know, Ms. Audrey, that Easter is **NOT** about chocolate ... it’s about Jesus?”* Lorelei, you are indeed right, it’s about Jesus ... it’s always about Jesus. And my heart smiled at her words and I was grateful.

Grateful that her grandpa continues to raise dear, sweet Lorelei in the faith ... well done good and faithful grandpa! Thankful that the Sunday school teachers, VBS leaders, and other faith mentors have loved on and shared Jesus to that spunky little creation. **That’s what the church is all about ... sharing Jesus!**



As we head into the Spring and Summer months, it is indeed all about Jesus; nothing else matters (not even chocolate). We, as the church, have promised over and over again—to little hearts like Lorelei—to help raise them in the faith. **When we sign up our children to attend VBS, Kids Camp or mission trips, or when we sign up to help lead or serve at VBS, Kids Camp, mission trips, or other children and youth ministry opportunities, we are saying that it’s all about Jesus,** that we’ll pour Jesus into the hearts and souls of God’s children! *“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” –Matthew 19:14*

MAKER FUN FACTORY VBS

At **Maker Fun Factory**—filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, touch and even taste—kids discover not only that God made them the way they are, but for a purpose, too! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool worship songs, and yummy treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Plus, we will help kids see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call “God Sightings.” We will also participate in a hands-on “Kids to Kids” mission project, giving and showing God’s mighty love to kids in need! Mark these dates on your calendar: June 5-9, from 9:00am-noon. Ages 3 (potty-trained) through 5th grade (5th graders are Jr. Guides). Register Today at CKhome.org/VBS.

“INSIDE OUT” CONCORDIA KIDS CAMP (FORMERLY KNOWN AS VBS CAMP)

All current 3rd-5th graders (elementary camp) and 6th-7th graders (Jr. Youth camp), along with 8th graders (“God Squad”), are invited to be a part of **“Inside Out” Concordia Kids Camp, June 20-23.** How amazing to spend four days together in God’s Word, with God’s friends, immersed in God’s nature and just being a kid of Christ! Spend a week filled with crazy kid activities and, through activity and play, discover how God takes plain ordinary youth and transforms them into extraordinary kids of the Kingdom. Register at CKhome.org/KidsCamp.

Romans 12:1-2 (MSG) – *“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.”*

Audrey Duensing-Werner, DCE

Director of Children and Family Ministries
awerner@CKhome.org

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY



For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

– Psalm 139:13-14

ASL Class

Continuing on Monday, April 17, Concordia's Special Needs Ministry invites you to **learn American Sign Language (ASL)** with us! Class meets on the first and third Mondays of the month, from 7:00-8:30pm, in Concordia's **Atrium Room**.

7:00-7:45pm – instructional time

7:45-8:30pm – immersive practice time (optional)

Need to leave at 7:45pm? No problem! Can only attend one class? No problem! Need to miss a class? No problem! All ages and abilities welcome.

If you know a family who has a child with special needs, please invite them to the **Special Needs Ministry Spring Fling**.

If you would like more information about the Spring Fling or to volunteer, please contact me.

Jessica Crawford

Director of Children and Families
with Special Needs

jcrawford@CKhome.org, 314-374-0682

LUTHERAN DAY AT THE BALLPARK

Baseball fever is in the air! Join us for Lutheran Day at the Ballpark on **Sunday, April 30, at 1:15pm**. The St. Louis Cardinals play the Cincinnati Reds followed by the annual game between the Lutheran North Crusaders and the Lutheran South Lancers. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at lhsastl.org/cardinals-tickets.



SPRING FLING

hosted by

Concordia Lutheran Church's Special Needs Ministry

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

10:00AM-NOON

PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE

**505 S. KIRKWOOD ROAD
(ACROSS FROM THE MAGIC HOUSE)**

Live Music
Storytime
Sensory Fun
Snacks
Make and Take Activities
and More!

REGISTER AT CKHOME.ORG/SPRINGFLING

**SENSORY FRIENDLY
ROOM AVAILABLE**

Space is limited!
Siblings welcome!



OUTBOUND MINISTRIES

CHRIST COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL SPRING MISSION TRIP

The **Spring 2017** mission trip to **Kawete, Uganda**, was amazing once again! The team enjoyed their time together and became immersed in the lives of the children and families of Christ Community Lutheran School-Uganda in Kawete! We led Bible studies for the preschool children, dormitory students, men and women. **The community used Lusoga Language Bibles for the first time!** Pastor Meggers helped lead the Sunday service and delivered a beautiful sermon about how Jesus came for us all! Katie Killian and the team met with all the sponsored students. We helped paint the school buildings alongside three local painters, making the buildings look brand-new! **Dr. Killian spent several days providing medical care for the community;** the school children are very healthy. Most of the care he provided went to preschoolers, parents and



grandparents. He even made a house call to a gentleman with a broken hip! **We visited with the families who discussed their challenges because of the drought.** They were so humble and gracious. Many of us were brought to tears when they gifted us mangos and avocados. We prayed with each family. We also danced, played and shared with the school children. We were sad to leave, but know our bond of friendship and community through Jesus will bring us back to visit again!

BELIZE

The **Belize mission team** returned from **Belize City** “touched and on fire” for the Lord! All 16 team members laughed with preschoolers singing *King Jesus Is All*, cried after leaving nursing homes and hearing the patients’ stories, and shrieked at rats in outhouses (though giggling at the visual of Audrey running for her life!). It was a fabulous trip. The journey began at a **local family’s house for dinner**,



where it was soon learned how much **Grandma Peg** touched the lives of those around her! Class was held at two preschools, where the **peacock feather demonstration**—seen here at Concordia—**taught children to keep their eyes on Jesus.** The team split up into two groups to **prayer walk and deliver food** to homes with no running water; these homes were filled with people who trusted God! One man showed us his garden, where we ate home-grown okra, learned how pineapples grow, and watched

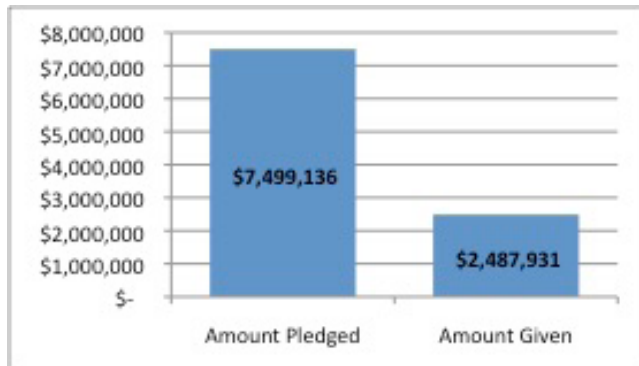


leaf-cutter ants hard at work. Nearby, the men also worked hard to **rebuild a porch on the parsonage**, where the team led Bible study. More than 50 children attended a **sports day hosted by the team**, followed by a **bonfire and movie night** attended by more than 100. The team also led worship, each member playing a role—whether singing, reading Scripture or teaching. It was an amazing service that ended with a local woman, who had suffered a stroke, making her way to the front of the church to sing a solo! We were all moved. Separate **Men’s and Women’s Nights** included sharing God’s Word in a social setting. The women and girls bonded while making journals, lip gloss and candles—everyone learned how we are all perfect in God’s eyes! Each attendee also received a goody bag of undergarments and

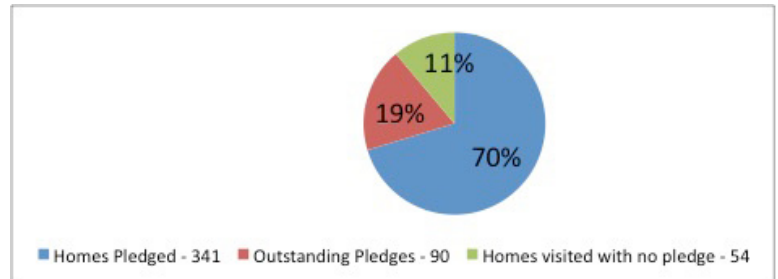
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OUR NEXT STEP

CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL UPDATE THROUGH 3/31



485 HOMES VISITED IN CAMPAIGN THROUGH 3/31



NEXT STEPS (APRIL THROUGH JUNE)

1. The Building Launch Team, along with Church Council, sent the **Request for Proposal (RFP)** to five Design-Build firms. This RFP encompasses **Phase 1** and **Phase 2** (developing a parking lot and early childhood play area in the green space along Clay Ave., as well as constructing the Center for Christian Education).
2. The firms **will present proposals in May**; the Building Launch Team, staff representatives and Church Council will select one proposal that best meets our project priorities/financial needs.
3. During **May and June**, all congregation members will have the opportunity to hear the detailed proposal, ask questions and share thoughts. We will hold at least **four (4) congregational meetings** either on Sunday mornings, during the week or in the evening.
4. Finally, based on feedback from those meetings, the proposal may be revised; a **final proposal AND financial package** will be presented to the congregation for a **vote sometime in June**.

PROJECT PRIORITIES AND PHASES

Our Next Step Priorities

- Our BE ONE community space is lacking. We need more large group space for our Older Adults and Youth. Our current facilities are inadequate for our growing ministries. – **PHASES 2 & 3**
- Our nursery space is too small and does not accommodate multiple ages effectively. – **PHASE 2**
- Finish parking lot expansion. – **PHASE 1**
- Expand early childhood facilities. Our preschool has a waiting list, and demographics show this will continue into the future. – **PHASE 2**
- The middle school building is in disrepair. We need updated classrooms with a more efficient, flexible, multi-use facility. – **PHASE 2**
- Our existing church building (outside the worship areas) needs renovation, deferred maintenance and mechanical updates. From energy-efficient lighting, windows, outdated fire panels, old roofs, accessible bathrooms, and new HVAC systems, our church facility needs improvement. – **PHASE 3**

Project Phases

- **Phase 1:** Develop parking lot and playground in green space along Clay Ave.
- **Phase 2:** Build the Center for Christian Education (completed late Spring 2019).
- **Phase 3:** Renovate the church areas (to be funded through another capital campaign).
- **Phase 4:** Tear down the existing school building.

IN THE MEANTIME

- If you have an opinion you would like to express to leadership, please let us know! **It is important to us that your voice is heard and documented. The best way to do that is to funnel those comments to one central place, ensuring all comments and suggestions are recorded and communicated to leadership.** Please email Kristin Anderson at kanderson@CKhome.org or schedule an appointment with her.
- If you have had a visit, but are still considering a pledge, please let us know either way.
- If you have not scheduled a campaign visit, contact Karen Allman at kallman@CKhome.org to schedule one.
- If you are still prayerfully considering a pledge and have made a decision, please email Kristin Anderson at kanderson@CKhome.org.

WORSHIP ARTS

One of the many “behind-the-scenes” jobs at Concordia is the **team of volunteers who regularly assist in running sound, media, and lighting for worship**. During the season of Lent, when we have more worship services, I wanted to highlight what the Tech Team does.

Our soundboard operators arrive early for services to set up microphones, test batteries, run a sound check, and almost always do some kind of troubleshooting. Most importantly, during worship, **they make sure the music and message is clearly heard**; without their help, we couldn’t gather in such large rooms for worship. We also have a team of young adults and high schoolers who manage the lighting in the Concordia Center and **make sure song lyrics, liturgy, and videos are displayed on the screens**.



Most of us only notice when we have a technical issue and something goes wrong, but **99% of the time our volunteers are ensuring that things run smoothly!** The challenge is that all of the equipment is electronic, so it’s never a question of “if” something might fail, but more like “when” and how do we fix it quickly?

We could use a few more helpers in all areas of the Tech Team. So, if you are one of those people who feels comfortable and intuitive with technology, I would love the opportunity to get together and tell you about what we do in greater detail!

And, while we are talking about our tech volunteers, I would like to thank by name those who are regularly scheduled, as well as those who jump in from time-to-time to fill in for someone:

Our Sound Operators: Ron Allman, Kim Boothman, Mike Dehn, Jon Fiala, John Hoffmann, Sharon Karleskint, Andrew McCormick, Carl Schick, and Paul Witbrodt

Our Computer and Screen Operators: Michael Allman, Briana Dehn, Jeremy Dehn, Nathan Dehn, Trevor Fiala, Andrew Finer, Jordan Lanius, Seth Lanius, Carson Taylor, Logan Stoppel, Anna Watson, Brad Wilson, and Zack Wilson

Brendan Knorp

Director for the Worship Arts

bknorp@CKhome.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

LUNCH AND LEARN OUTREACH

A monetary gift shared with Betsy Solomon from the Shepherd’s Center as a thank you for her February Lunch and Learn program on “Angels in Art” turned into a **wonderful joint servant project**. Using the remainder of a Thrivent Action Grant, bolstered by an anonymous Concordia giver, Betsy and a few Concordia members purchased sandwich fixings which were brought to Harrison Avenue Baptist Church. Their members, in turn, assembled the sandwiches to share with a local homeless shelter.



SOUP’S ON

Free-will offerings received at these Lenten lunches will be divided between **St. Trinity Lutheran Church** in the Carondelet area and **Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM)**, specifically the Rose Bowl parade float (typically the only Christian witness in the parade)—a 67-year tradition, carrying on the mission to provide Gospel witness to viewers worldwide. The parade is watched each year by approximately 40 million Americans and tens of millions across the globe. This year’s float, “Celebrate Jesus,” recognized LHM’s 100th Anniversary, as well as the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

COUNCIL CORNER

Church Council met on March 27, 2017, to explore two critical aspects of Concordia's future. First, Council conducted a very **detailed discussion of Concordia's Our Next Step capital campaign** and the anticipated timeline/milestones regarding the project. Members were briefed on the RFP process and the Building Launch Committee's guiding work in that regard. In addition, Council discussed how the RFPs will be evaluated, vetted and ultimately presented to the congregation, as well as the communication plan that will be utilized to keep the congregation updated and fully informed as Concordia progresses toward the congregational vote in June. Concordia stands incredibly blessed by the staff and volunteer leadership who are helping with this truly historic project!



Pastor Seidler then led an important discussion regarding **Concordia's future strategic plan**. In that conversation, Council's focus centered on measuring Concordia's performance relative to its existing plan and identifying aspects of a future strategic direction for the church. Over the next two months, Council—in conjunction with Pastor Seidler and Concordia's staff—will continue to refine our strategy for future endeavors. We pray that God grant's church leadership the vision to fulfill His will and continue to advance His Kingdom.

If you would like to submit an issue for consideration at the next Council meeting, please contact **Karen Allman** at kallman@CKhome.org.

Matt Schelp

Council President

matthew.schelp@gmail.com

BBQ EVENT/CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

Concordia's **Men's Ministry** will be hosting **BBQ/Smoker Event** on **Saturday, April 29**, to raise funds for this year's Turkey Blessing. The goal is to offer men's fellowship opportunities while raising money for a good cause. The barbeque will be packaged into picnic baskets for sale Saturday between 1:00 and 3:00pm. **Reserve your basket at CKhome.org/MensMinistry**. For those competitive men, there will also **Corn Hole Tournament** while the meat smokes, from 10:00am-1:00pm. **Sign up your two-man team at CKhome.org/MensMinistry**.

Below are a list of volunteer opportunities for that weekend. You can sign up here CKhome.org/MensMinsitry for any of these activities.

- BBQ site set-up and socialize - Friday, 6:00-8:00pm
- Learn meat preparation techniques from the professionals of the **Smoke and Honor BBQ** team - Friday, 8:00-10:00pm
- Camp out and tend the meat overnight under the stars - Friday, 10:00pm - Saturday, 6:00am
- Corn Hole site set-up - Saturday, 9:00-10:00am
- Cook burgers/brats for the Corn Hole tournament - Saturday, 11:00am-1:00pm
- Pull finished meat off BBQ and prepare baskets for pick-up - Saturday, 11:00am-1:00pm
- Distribute baskets to customers - Saturday, 1:00-3:00pm
- Site clean-up - Saturday, 3:00-5:00pm

For any further questions, please email,

Corn Hole Tournament - Mike Vahl, mvahl@yahoo.com

Volunteer Sign-Up - Nick Simokaitis, nick.simokaitis@fmr.com

Any Other Questions - Eric Gjelvik, eric_gjelvik@yahoo.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Krueger Family

The Kruegers have returned to St. Louis after Ken served as pastor at Grace Celebration Lutheran Church in the Memphis area. Lily is in the 7th grade at CCLS, Grace is a sophomore at Lindbergh High School. Amy is an audiologist and Ken serves as CEO of the Lutheran Federal Credit Union. The Kruegers also are blessed with a Tibetan Spaniel named Buzz.



The McGlassen Family

Scott and Monica have three children; Evelyn is in the 7th grade at Nipher; Emily is in the 3rd grade and Bruce is in the 1st grade, they both attend Robinson Grade School. Scott is a Logistic Broker for Mid'X Corp and Monica is the Call Center Manager for Premium Retail Services, a third-party merchandiser. They enjoy bike riding, roller skating, swimming, puzzles, games and movies.

Zach and Jordan McDowell

Zach and Jordan are originally from the Cape Girardeau, MO, area, where they both went to high school and college. Jordan is employed by Francis Howell School District and is a 3rd grade teacher at Harvest Ridge Elementary. Zach is employed by Anders CPAs and Advisors and is a CPA Tax Associate. They enjoy going to Cardinal baseball games, spending time with family and friends, trying new places to eat and having new adventures in life.



The Kuebler Family

Danielle is becoming a member and joining her husband, Alex, and their family who are already members of Concordia. Alex and Danielle have two children; Sophia is in the 3rd grade at Eureka Elementary and Nathan was born in September. Alex works for Delta Dental of Missouri as a Group Accounts Specialist and Danielle works for Citi Mortgage as an Operations Senior Supervisor. They enjoy spending their weekends as a family playing outside, taking walks and having game nights.

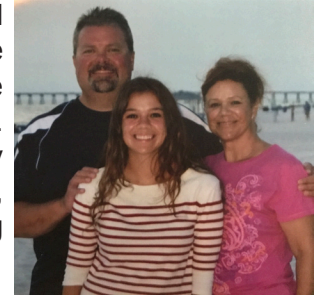
The Windeknecht Family

Nathan and Beth were married in 2010. They have two children; Hazel age 4 and Grant is 2. Nathan is a Project Leader at Edward Jones and Beth is a Trust Administrator at Commerce Bank. They enjoy camping, traveling, soccer, hiking and dance parties at their house.



The Jennings Family

Sue and Paul have been married for more than 21 years. Their daughter Chelsea is a junior at Missouri State in Springfield. Sue is an RN at St. Anthony's Hospital and Paul works at Edward Jones in the compliance division. They enjoy vacationing, hiking, biking and golf.



Sarah Schmerber

Sarah is originally from Chicago and moved to St. Louis for graduate school. She is now an Occupational Therapist. She works part time at Des Peres Hospital and she is also the Program Director at the American Parkinson Disease Association – Greater St. Louis Chapter. She enjoys playing volleyball, hiking and spending time with friends and family. She is also an avid Cardinals fan!

Phyllis Ritko

Phyllis is a life-long Lutheran. She and her husband, Gerald, have three children and four grandchildren and a granddaughter due in March. Phyllis accepted a teaching job in Streator, IL, and taught there for 40 years.



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Our next orientation is **Monday, May 1, 6:30-8:30pm**. Childcare provided. Register at CKhome.org/membership or contact **Marcy Scholl** at mscholl@CKhome.org.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

OHIO SUMMER MISSION

Join CK Youth for this life-transforming mission opportunity in **Middletown, Ohio**, July 9-15, 2017. **Register today at CKhome.org/youthmission**. You will demonstrate Jesus' love and compassion in tangible ways, serving real people in need while working on projects like ...

- Building wheelchair ramps and handrails
- Weatherizing homes and trailers
- Reconstructing sagging porches
- Significant painting projects
- Interior and exterior carpentry
- Other home-repair projects that the homeowner cannot otherwise complete

SENIOR LEGACY NIGHT 2017

We want to celebrate you and the legacy of faith you will leave behind, here at Concordia, as you move on to your next steps in life! **Sunday, April 30**, from 6:00-8:00pm, is your time! We will have everything—games, food, and a special night of worship—celebrating God at work in your life! Please invite family and special friends to join us, and let us know by April 19 how many will be coming. RSVP at CKhome.org/hsyouth.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Life after high school ... now what? New routines, new people, new everything! Whether you are looking forward to the new start or filled with anxiety of what is to come, Concordia wants to walk this journey with you. One way that we are going to do this in the year to come is through our **Mentor Ministry**. Our goal is that each high school senior will start next year with someone who is dedicated to praying for you, supporting you, helping you connect to a faith community wherever you are and providing Godly counsel for whatever you encounter. The best part? You get to pick who it is! Sign up at CKhome.org/hsyouth.

SPIRIT NIGHT AT CHICK-FIL-A SUNSET HILLS

Support our Summer mission teams by dining at Chick-fil-A between 4:00-8:00pm on **Monday, April 17**. Contact Jayme, jnichols@CKhome.org, for a flyer to show so our teams will receive a portion of the proceeds from your meal.

STAFF FAREWELL

This year the Children, Youth and Families Unit has had the honor of working alongside **Carlea Halverson** as she has assisted us in Children's Ministry. Carlea is a graduate of Concordia University Chicago in the DCE program and has worked in various venues the last few years.

When God brought Carlea to us she was working part time at a program adopted by Messiah Lutheran Church in the city called *Compass*, and she also began working part time for us. *Compass* is a Christian organization that provides before-school and after school care to children who live in at-risk situations. Carlea has a great love for children as you can tell, if you have had any interaction with her in any way, but she especially has a great passion and love for children in at-risk situations in need.



In the last few weeks, Carlea has been offered a full-time job as the Director of the Compass Tower Grove location, which is where she works part time already, and has accepted that position. What that means for us is that Carlea will no longer be working for us at Concordia as of May 1. **We will miss her terribly**, but know that the Lord "*knows the plans He has for her and for us.*" —**Jeremiah 29:11**

OUTBOUND MINISTRIES CONTINUED



toiletries; thank you, Concordia, for all your donations! Before heading home, we **visited a nursing home and stopped by a school for children with disabilities.** The principal and teachers welcomed us; we hope to return next year to work with these students, some of whom are deaf or have other special needs.

Team members learned more about themselves and, hopefully, grew closer in their walks with God. Each stepped out of their own particular comfort zone, whether singing in public, painting a stranger's toenails, or loaning out shoes so a child did not have to run barefoot. Many tasted termites, took selfies with monkeys, and saw a tarantula on the loose! But, most of all, **they witnessed amazing faith in people who have so little, but love so much.** Thank you, Concordia, for supporting this trip, attending our fundraisers and praying for us along our journey. Through the relationships we have built with those in Belize, we have grown stronger as a church in Kirkwood, as well.

KIDS NIGHT AT THE MAGIC HOUSE

