

# Concordia CONNECTION

May 2017



## *In this Issue ...*

Pastor's Note, Marriage Seminar-pg2

Adults-pg3

Children, Youth and Families-pg4/5

Special Needs Ministry, CK Deaf-pg6

Our Next Step-pg7/8

Worship Arts-pg8

Council Update, Outbound Ministries-pg9

New Members-pg10

Cover Photo: KidsNight Blitz - Bible Bowl - April 26, 2017

# PASTOR'S NOTE



## Take a “Mission-cation” this Summer

With the season of rest and relaxation ahead of us, with cool pools and vacations, can I encourage you to consider at least one “mission-cation?”

Simply put, a mission-cation is an intentional, communal rest from the day-to-day routine in order to serve with mercy and grace others in need.

A **mission-cation** is *intentional*. You plan for it, schedule it and deliver it.

A mission-cation is *communal*. You involve others in the gathering, so that the body of Christ grows even while it gives of itself.

A mission-cation *serves others with mercy and grace*. It relieves human misery or provides spiritual care to souls looking for a miracle in this world.

While vacations may last a week or more, a mission-cation can last a day or two. Not long, but equally as intentional and equally as communal.

Look for our mission-cation report board in the Commons between the Sanctuary and Concordia Center beginning June 4. Take a picture. Share a short story. We will add some witness here in the *Concordia Connection*, too.

Have a great trip!

Warmly,  
**Pastor Seidler**  
Senior Pastor  
sseidler@CKhome.org

# PRE-MARRIAGE SEMINAR

Many couples today are spending a great deal of time and money planning for their wedding day, but spending little, if any, time planning for their future marriage. You must pass a test before you receive your driver's license, yet you can get a marriage license for just a few dollars. A successful relationship requires more preparation than an elaborate wedding!

**Concordia values the importance of strong Christian families** and wants to support and encourage couples who are planning to be married. We require each couple that will be married at Concordia to attend a **Pre-Marriage Seminar, led by Charlie and Debbie Davis**. This seminar will be based on the **PREPARE/ENRICH inventory** and will cover marriage expectations, personality issues, communication, conflict resolution, financial management, leisure activities, sexual expectations, children/parenting, family/friends, role relationships and spiritual beliefs. Charlie and Debbie look forward to working with each couple, helping them to prepare for a lifelong marriage. They are **trained PREPARE/ENRICH facilitators** and have been leading these seminars at Concordia for more than 10 years.



The **seminar dates for 2017** are June 3, September 2 or December 2. Visit [CKhome.org/weddings](http://CKhome.org/weddings) to register. Contact **Debbie Davis** at 314-809-8468 or [ddavis@CKhome.org](mailto:ddavis@CKhome.org) for more information.



# ADULTS

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Christ,

Still basking in the glow of our Concordia celebration of Easter? Me, too! That glow was extended for Jeanette and me when we attended **Call Day** at **Concordia Seminary**. Four fieldworkers (**Matthew Bergstresser** – Macomb, MI; **Sam (Kelsey) Fink** – Orchard Park, NY; **Kevin Koester** – Howard's Grove, WI; **Adam (Kyla) Rodriguez** – Frankenmuth, MI) and one member, **Alex (Vicki) Schroeder** – St. Charles, MO, received their assignments for their next year of vicarage (internship). **Matt (Nyssa) Lytikainen** received his first pastoral call as missionary-at-large in New Jersey, as well.

- Pray God's blessings on these great folks, as well as on the congregations and communities they will serve.
- Give thanks to God for the time we have been able to share in ministry with these brothers and sisters in Christ.



Call Day always takes me back to April of 1989 when I heard, “*David Meggers, Northern Illinois District Missionary-at-Large, Southeast Rockford Mission, Rockford, IL.*” Jeanette loves to recount how our then 6-year-old daughter, Kristina, turned to her and asked, “*Mommy, what is a large missionary?*” What followed was a **time of transition and lots of “greeting the new”**: new town, new people, new career, new place to live! There was also a lot of saying farewell to people, the place we lived, and our Seminary way-of-life.

A few years ago we, again, said farewell to a whole bunch of people we knew pretty well. It was hard!

- When I looked around at the Call Day service, I realized how many new people we have come to know. *What a blessing!*
- When I look around at the faces of worship, community and service at Concordia, I realize how God has been blessing our lives with the new. *What a blessing!*

As you enter these Summer months, let me encourage you to look around and be aware ...

- ... of the **people and relationships** God is blessing you with right now.
- ... of the possibilities that lie in your future to **forge new relationships**.
- ... of the opportunities that this season may offer for **growing our relationships** and **influencing others** in the Name of Jesus.

Barbecues, ballgames, beaches ... who knows? You might just meet a future best friend ... or you might just grow stronger in a present friendship. Let it be a Summer of “good-byes” and “hellos” in which Jesus is present in all!

In the JOY of our relationship in Jesus,

**Pastor Meggers**

Associate Pastor

[dmeggers@CKhome.org](mailto:dmeggers@CKhome.org)

## LUNCH AND LEARN

Our next regularly scheduled gathering will be an **outing to the LCMS International Center on Thursday, May 18**. Tour the museum and chapel, learn about Rev. Bill Matzat's recently completed Reformation altar replica currently on display in the International Center's chapel, and hear about the altar paintings and Wittenberg Project in an update presented by Rev. Mahsman. We will carpool from Concordia at 10am and, following the visit, return for lunch back at Concordia; suggested donation \$7.50.



On **Thursday, June 15**, Lunch and Learn will feature **local artist Kelly Schumacher**, who has created very beautiful religious artwork. She will share the motivation and thought process behind her creation of these masterpieces. A 2013 MFA Graduate from the PA Academy of Fine Arts and founder of Agnus Dei Liturgical Arts, Kelly's goal is to reestablish classical religious art in the LCMS. Join us in the Atrium at 11:30am; all are welcome! Lunch will be provided; suggested donation \$5.00.

# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



**W**hen I was younger, my Grandma Duensing wanted to take a trip from Lincoln, Nebraska, to Montgomery, Alabama, for my cousin's wedding. She was 80 years old at the time and my dad didn't want her to travel by herself, so he sent me along to be her partner on the journey.

A few days before Grandma Duensing and I left on our trip, she stopped by our house and pulled out a map of the United States. She opened it up on the kitchen table and, as I looked at it, I noticed that she had **placed small stars at various spots** along the route with a **very large star** at our destination. When I asked her what the little stars meant, she said, *"This will probably be the last trip I'm going to take (She went on to visit the Holy Land at 85 and rode a camel, mind you!), so I want to go see, for one last time, every tourist stop that your grandpa and I have ever been to on our way to Alabama."*

When the day finally came for our big Alabama journey, we loaded grandma's little olive-green Comet with all of our suitcases and presents, she pulled out "the map," and we headed out on what was one of the most life-changing vacations in my life!

A few minutes after we got on the road, grandma turned to me and said, *"Let's make this trip a **Haggadah** trip."*

"A what?" I asked. That was the first time I had ever heard that word!

*"A Haggadah trip. I've been learning in Bible study that the word 'Haggadah' means the telling of the story of when God freed the Israelites from slavery (Exodus). And, not only the telling of it, but living it! My pastor challenged us to go and live it, too, to 'free others' from slavery (Isaiah 42:5-7). Let's look for ways on our trip for God to show us people who we could help. 'To free' someone who might feel helpless, hopeless or hurting. Let's make this trip a Haggadah trip,"* grandma chimed in.

So that's exactly what we did! We set out on a mission and God showed up in all kinds of ways. What I thought was going to be an adventurous vacation with my grandma became more than an adventure ... it became a **"mission-cation."** And, when we got back to Lincoln weeks later, when we told our Haggadah story, it was as if we were reliving it again!

The most powerful thing about that trip for me was not the sights we saw, but the stories of faith that grandma shared with me while in the car together, and also the stories of God using us on our journey to help others. What would have been merely a fun, memorable vacation with grandma became more than a vacation ... it changed my faith walk forever! At the end of the trip, we could have called our trip a mission-cation.

This Summer, **Concordia will put "regular" Sunday school and KidsNight on pause** to provide families an opportunity to check out our Mission-cation **"To Go" boxes** in the Lobby. These "To Go" boxes will be available, starting **Sunday, June 4**; inside we will **map out ideas for your family** to take a few days (or more) each month of the Summer to care for others, share faith together, and **create your own Haggadah stories!**

**Audrey Duensing-Werner, DCE**  
Director of Children and Family Ministries  
awerner@CKhome.org

## JUGGLING JEFF

Join us for our end-of-the-year **Cinnamon Rolls and Celebration on Sunday, May 21, 10:45am-noon**, 3 year olds-8th grade AND PARENTS.

We are serving up cinnamon rolls and other light brunch-type foods. We will have family faith talk together and give thanks for a great Sunday School year. We will also get to see JUGGLING JEFF share Jesus while he juggles. PLUS, we will unveil the Summer **Mission-cation "To-Go" boxes**.

**YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THIS!**

# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

## WANT TO HELP MAKE A LIFELONG IMPACT ON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LIVES THIS SUMMER?

More than 20 high school students will spend portions of this Summer serving—focused on being the hands and feet of Jesus to people, both here in our own community and across the nation in other communities, as well. Through these opportunities, the high school youth will be showing others who Jesus is and how He loves His people through building relationships and providing for basic needs that they may not be able to meet on their own. Not only do these opportunities help others, but they will provide lifelong faith transformation. Through challenging leadership and service opportunities, the students will learn what it means to depend on God, that it is Him who gives them their gifts and the ability to use them to bring others to Him and fills in the gaps when we fall short!



## WE HAVE A FEW WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN JOIN US ON THIS MISSION:

### DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY CAR WASH/TURKEY BLESSING

Donate today to help support our high school youth going on Summer Mission Trips to Ohio and Montana. Our youth have committed to tithe 10% of the funds they raise through the car wash to the Turkey Blessing this Fall. Donate by texting the amount you would like to give (no dollar signs) to 314-207-0163 from your mobile phone. (If you are a first-time, text-giving donor you will be prompted to visit a secure URL. Once you click the registration link, you will enter your credit or debit card information and your donation will process. Next time, simply enter the amount and press "send." Your donation will automatically process.) Or go to **CKhome.org/carwash**. All donations must be received by May 13.



### SPONSOR A STUDENT

Even if you can't physically go on a trip this Summer, you can pray and consider helping one of our students by sponsoring them. We have a lot of students who have a heart for serving in the Name of Jesus this Summer, but the reality it costs money to make that happen. Our Ohio mission trip will cost \$700 per student and our trip to Montana will cost \$1,300 per student. You don't even have to sponsor the full amount; anything God lays on your heart would be helpful. Visit **CKhome.org/youthserving** (scroll to the bottom) or send a check to the church with Youth Mission Trips in the memo line.

### PRAYER WARRIORS

Most importantly, we need people who are willing to surround our students in prayer this Summer. We know the truth of **1 Peter 5:8**—*"Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."* And, we covet a team who can fight with us in order to make sure the work of Jesus is not hindered in any way! The weeks specifically we are looking for prayers are **June 19-23, July 9-14, and July 27-August 3.**

**Jayme Nichols, DCE**

Director of Sr. High and College Age Ministry  
jnichols@CKhome.org

## CONCORDIA KIDS CAMP

This year at Kids Camp (previously VBS Camp), designed for our 3rd-7th graders, we will explore how we are all a transformation of Jesus' work through a variety of camp experiences with our theme "Inside Out." Kids Camp is June 20-23 at Camp Trinity near New Haven, MO. Register at **CKhome.org/KidsCamp**.

**CONCORDIA  
KIDS CAMP**  
**JUNE 20-23 CAMP TRINITY**

"FIX YOUR ATTENTION ON JESUS, YOU WILL BE CHANGED FROM THE INSIDE OUT"



# 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

On **Saturday, April 22**, the Special Needs Ministry hosted its inaugural **Spring Fling** for children with special needs and their families. Guests from all over the St. Louis area were invited to attend.

Together, the children squished their hands into sensory bins; ate gooey gummy worms from their pudding “dirt” cups; danced and sang along to songs played on the guitar; listened to Springtime stories; decorated birdhouses; planted flowers; smashed clay, soil, and seeds together to make seed bombs, and so much more!

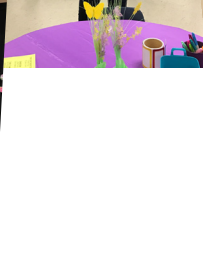
Parents in attendance felt safe enough in our Concordia home to allow their children to wander just a bit farther afield from them than they normally would, and they knew that whatever activity was presented to their child with special needs, a loving volunteer would be there to assist them. So awesome!

A big thank-you to all the volunteers who did such a fantastic job not only working at their **Spring Fling** stations, but also for showering the families with the love of Jesus! If you would like more information about volunteering, please contact me.

## Jessica Crawford

Director of Children and Families with Special Needs

[jcrawford@CKhome.org](mailto:jcrawford@CKhome.org)



# CK DEAF MINISTRY

Dear Pastor Scott Seidler,

On behalf of **Sight and Sound Impaired of St. Louis**, we want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to you and your church. Everyone from start to finish was extremely helpful and supportive, with the help of Jessica Crawford, Dr. Ralph Geisler and so many other dedicated volunteers from your church.

All the volunteers helped in every aspect and things went very smoothly. We praise all the volunteers for helping to make that happen. This event would not have happened without your help. We owe the success of the event to the many wonderful volunteers including: Sharon Karleskint, Ron and Carrol Virus, Shirley and Paul Meckfessel, Jeanette Kille, Rob Grothe, Greg and Melissa Geisler, Karl Kindt, Karen and Jerry Wendt, Karen and Steve Hanske, Sarah Haughey, Sandy Kline and Michelle Hayek.

Thank you so much!

Mary & Mike Hale



# OUR NEXT STEP

## NEXT STEPS (APRIL THROUGH JUNE)

1. The Building Launch Team, along with Church Council, sent the **Request for Proposal (RFP)** to four Design-Build firms in **April**. 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). **Three firms** responded with a proposal on May 1, 2017: **Churches by Daniels, HBD, and Korte Construction**.
2. On **May 8 and 9**, our lay building leaders, Church Council President, Pastor Seidler and Kristin Anderson will interview each of the three firms as they present their respective proposals. This group is intentionally small as each person on the committee has expertise/responsibility for a particular part of the proposal. We ARE NOT deciding on the best-looking design (the detailed design comes later), but on the company that best meets our **project priorities, quality product and process requirements, budget constraints and leadership work styles**.
3. On **May 15**, the Church Council will meet to discuss the proposals and make a recommendation based on the feedback from the Interview Committee.
4. **Then, later this month or in early June, please join us at an Information Session. We will present the detailed proposal and solicit your thoughts and questions.** Hopefully, one of the following times works into your schedule:
  - **Tuesday, May 30 – 7:00pm**
  - **Wednesday, May 31 – 10:00am**
  - **Sunday, June 4 – 10:45am**
  - **Sunday, June 11 – 10:45am**
  - **Any time during the week scheduled with Kristin Anderson**
5. Finally, based feedback from those meetings, the proposals may be revised; **a final vendor recommendation AND financial package** will be presented to the congregation for a **vote the weekend of June 17/18** and at the **Congregational Voters' Assembly Meeting, June 19**.

### Why Come to an Information Session?

- **You are not sure how building a Center for Christian Education helps both the church AND school.** We recently visited a couple innovative spaces in Springfield, MO, which enlightened (and excited!) us to the possibility of Christian Education, Youth and Small Group Education space.
- **You have pledged to the project, but want more complete plans before you start giving.**
- **You have not pledged because you are unsure about the direction of the project.**
- **You have lots of questions AND you need answers.**
- **You are unsure how this project impacts the ministries to which you are deeply connected.**
- **You are concerned about the price tag and potential additional debt load.**
- **You love and trust your congregation and want to be part of the process.**

## PROJECT PRIORITIES AND PHASES

### 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.

### 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**

Continued on Page 8 ...

# WORSHIP ARTS

**W**hat a great Easter celebration we had at Concordia a few weeks ago. I'm thankful for all of the musicians, staff, and tech helpers who put in the extra effort for a big weekend—they did a top-notch job!



Later this month, we will be saying good-bye to one of our musicians. Those who attend worship in the Concordia Center have enjoyed the piano playing, vocals, and leadership abilities of **Nyssa Lytikainen** since she joined our staff in October. **Her husband, Matt**, is in his final weeks of Seminary and has received a Call as a missionary-at-large to the New Jersey District. He will be **working with Pastor Matt Peeples of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Ridgewood, NJ**, who will be training him to plant a church. Matt and Nyssa anticipate planting in the Hoboken area (a bedroom community of Manhattan).



She will be at Concordia through May and, maybe, a little into June, depending on their relocation time frame. Please take the opportunity to thank her after worship or with a message at [nlytikainen@CKhome.org](mailto:nlytikainen@CKhome.org).

In addition to assisting me in worship planning and leading, Nyssa has also been working on a CD of original music for worship, some of which we've played during the Offering. Everyone is invited to celebrate the release of her ***Spirit, Water, Blood*** EP on **Saturday, May 13, at 5:00pm** in the **Sanctuary!** Listen and sing along as the musicians who recorded with her share the songs, as well as a few other worshipful selections. Snacks, refreshments and merriment will be enjoyed afterwards! You can listen to the EP here: <http://musicofnyssa.weebly.com>

## **Brendan Knorp**

Director for the Worship Arts  
[bknorp@CKhome.org](mailto:bknorp@CKhome.org)

# OUR NEXT STEP CONTINUED

- 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**

## **WE STILL NEED PLEDGES!**

**Our current pledges stand at \$7.5 million. We believe that, in order to create a flexible design that would serve both the church and school well, the project will cost more than current pledges. In addition, we will only recommend a level of debt that will not hamper future ministry!**

- If you have not scheduled a campaign visit, contact Karen Allman at [kallman@CKhome.org](mailto: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](mailto:kanderson@CKhome.org).



# COUNCIL CORNER

Church Council met on **April 17, 2017**, and continued with its conversations concerning Concordia's future. Council was updated on the Building Launch Committee's work and the upcoming evaluation of the RFPs that will take place the second week of May. Again, 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. Pastor Seidler then led another installment of Council's discussion regarding Concordia's future strategic plan. In that conversation, Council worked at identifying aspects of a future strategic direction for the church and outlining specific end goals to help fully align the church's quest to BE STILL, BE ONE, and BE FAITHFUL. Concordia is certainly on the brink of a momentous time in its history as the **Our Next Step** capital campaign/building project comes to fruition and as the strategic vision for the congregation and the church's ministry is set. We continue to pray for God's leadership at this important time for all of us.



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

**Matt Schelp**  
Council President  
[matthew.schelp@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.schelp@gmail.com)

## OUTBOUND MINISTRIES



Thank-you to everyone who participated and volunteered for the **11th Annual Resurrection Run**! The weather held off just enough for everyone to enjoy the 5K through Kirkwood.

We had 153 runners and raised more than **\$3,000** for missions at Concordia! It was amazing to see how many young people turned out (especially for an early run). Next year, we will definitely have medals for a kids' division. Thank-you for your support and continuing this fun tradition. We hope to see you again next Easter at the 12th Annual Resurrection Run – April 1, 2018!

Thank-you to all the men who served, stayed overnight, played cornhole and prepared the BBQ baskets at the **Men's Ministry BBQ Sale and Cornhole Tournament**. We had 15 cornhole teams play; the rain didn't keep anyone away! Thank-you also to the 120 families who purchased BBQ baskets. We raised **\$5,000** for this year's Turkey Blessing.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



## Trystan and Maiya Brown

Trystan and Maiya are granddaughters of Stan and Kathy Brown. Trystan is in the 5th grade and Maiya is in the 4th grade; they both attend Murphy School. Trystan and Maiya like to help cook, go on special events and really enjoy bike riding with Grandma and Grandpa.

## The Hayek Family

Michelle is a sign language interpreter, certified as Missouri Master and nationally certified. She works part-time for Sorenson Video Relay Service and does freelance work for college and university classes, medical appointments and legal issues. Michelle often interprets the 9:30am worship service here at Concordia. Michelle has three sons. Matthew is a senior at UMSL, Nathan works for Leslie's Pool Supply and has recently joined the Missouri National Guard, and Aaron is a junior at Marquette High School.



## Austin and Lindsay Johnson

Austin is a safety manager and is employed by AE-COM, an energy and construction company. Lindsay is a pediatric audiologist at Mercy Hospital. They are currently preparing for the arrival of their first two children, twin boys in June! Austin and Lindsay couldn't be more excited!

## The Knapp Family

Brian and Ali met in college at Mizzou. They live in Des Peres and both work for Edward Jones; Brian in marketing and Ali in operations. They have two children who go to CCLS Glendale. Roman is in the 3s class and Ceci is in the 1s class. They have two lab-mix dogs and they love to travel.



## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Our next orientation is **Monday, June 26, 6:30-8:30pm**. Childcare provided. Register at [CKhome.org/membership](http://CKhome.org/membership) or contact **Marcy Scholl** at [mscholl@CKhome.org](mailto:mscholl@CKhome.org).

## Holly Bushur

Holly was born and raised in St. Louis. She graduated from Mizzou with a Masters of Accountancy degree. Holly is an internal audit manager at Energizer. Her job gives her the opportunity to travel the world, which she really enjoys. Holly has travelled to Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, Germany, France, UK, Italy and Chile.

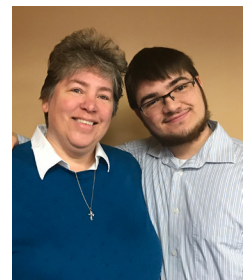


## Melissa Engelson

Originally from Minnesota, Melissa is now employed by Logan University as a chiropractic physician. She loves to explore St. Louis, traveling and sports. Melissa has a four-legged "child," a black lab/border collie mix who stays closer to her than her own shadow.

## Colin Yungbluth

Colin has a long heritage of family at Concordia. He moved back to the Kirkwood area to live with his aunt, Charlotte Busch. Colin is a server at Bethesda Gardens. He enjoys interacting with the residents and having fun with them. Colin likes to play computer games.



**CONCORDIA**  
Lutheran Church

**BE STILL, BE ONE, BE FAITHFUL**

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