

Concordia CONNECTION

August 2017



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Cover Photo: Montana Mission Trip - August 2017

PASTOR'S NOTE



Late July and August are called the **“Dog Days of Summer.”** And, boy, do we feel it in St. Louis now! The image of a dog surviving the heat sprawled out on the front porch of an old white-shingle house comes to mind.

The heat of life can lull us into a similar kind of spiritual laziness. When the pressure goes high, we choose “flight” instead of “fight,” and often hang it up instead of hang in there.

Whether it's the temperature outside your body or the fever inside your soul, keep going! Love your family. Cherish your friends. Point people entrusted to your care to the One who created them. Provide cool water to those who need it. Make sure you attend worship regularly to be equally refreshed!

The staff and lay leaders at Concordia are **working toward the new start that a new school year always offers** to a Christian congregation, as well as to our Christian homes. I

think you will like what you will see at Concordia in a few weeks (*We will have another Concordia Connection to share all that information come September!*). In the meantime, don't let the heat (outside or inside) stifle you! Speak Jesus. Be Jesus to others. Pray.

Peace,
Pastor Seidler
Senior Pastor
sseidler@CKhome.org

MISSION-CATION STORY



On a recent Rhine River cruise, from Amsterdam to Switzerland, the Carters had the opportunity to meet many interesting people from all over the world.

A Toronto couple: a retired policeman and his wife, a social worker; two sisters: one from Australia, the other from the UK, along with their widowed mother; **a retired nurse from CA;** two couples from Kirkwood whom they had never met; a rabbi from CA and the controller for the city of Los Angeles; **a classically trained trombonist who is a full professor at Howard University and his music educator wife from the Washington, D.C., area;** another couple from California, married 60 years: he, a retired engineer in

the aerospace industry recovering from melanoma, and she a Lutheran church office manager; six couples from a farming area in South Dakota; the captain and the cruise director of the AMA Prima Waterways ship—just to name a few!

In a conversation with the retired nurse from CA, they talked at the breakfast table in the Lucerne, Switzerland, hotel. She shared some of her life story and later that day they met again at the plaza of Mt. Stanserhorn, 6,000 feet above sea level. She had been searching for what God has in mind for her now that she is retired. Steve then gave her his devotional book, *“What's Next God?”* She seemed delighted and said that she wanted to learn more as she is a believing Christian of the Roman Catholic faith. A second encounter was with the couple from the D.C. area, he a former Lutheran from the Midwest and she, a Roman Catholic singing as a cantor at mass in her church. Again, they were able to share a devotional book which was enthusiastically received; the couple they said they would definitely read. A third opportunity came while sharing breakfast with two couples, a San Antonio anesthesiologist and his R.N. wife and the couple from Toronto. A meaningful conversation regarding their faith and purpose in retirement ensued. **The Carters continue to be amazed at the many opportunities that God provided during this Summer trip!**



ADULTS

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the wake of a record-breaking mid-Summer heat wave, permit me to introduce you to the “**tip of the iceberg!**”

On a really hot July Thursday, I was privileged to have breakfast with a man who has a New Year’s focus every day of the year! His name is **Dick Gast**; his New Year’s focus is Jesus. His Jesus focus is the annual **Lutheran Hour Rose Parade float**. But that beautiful float is just the “tip of the Jesus-sharing iceberg.” Dick regaled me, Jerry Witte (Ageless Generations chair), Don Wolfinger (newly elected to Council and Reformation/Germany trip organizer), and Sharon Ema (Minister for the Healing Arts) with a wealth of Jesus-sharing stories associated with the float. For example, the 5,000 volunteers often work on other floats in addition to the Lutheran Hour float. And, furthermore, Dick described an **atmosphere that is electric with enthusiasm for service in the Name of Jesus** and how that enthusiasm spreads to the thousands of folks who work to present the Rose Parade each year. Thanks be to God!



I call this story the “tip of the iceberg” because, like so many BE FAITHFUL efforts, there is so much that goes unseen. The Adult/Older Adult ministry presented Dick with a \$750.00 check (proceeds from our Lenten **Soup’s On** luncheons). We also presented St. Trinity Lutheran Church with a \$750.00 check earlier this Summer, another blessing from our luncheons. What you and I don’t see are the faithful servants who give of their time for each of these luncheons. What we don’t see, but do hear about, is the 10-year-old boy who attended St. Trinity’s VBS and asked Pastor David Lewis if he could be baptized.

These kinds of stories have me hungry for more! Wouldn’t it be great to see more than just the “tip of the iceberg?” Consider this an invitation to share your own BE FAITHFUL stories. You will be an encouragement and inspiration to others.

In JOY,
Pastor Meggers
Associate Pastor
dmeggers@CKhome.org

THE SHEPHERD’S CENTER IS OFFERING THE FOLLOWING:

... “*Powerful Care for Caregivers*” at Webster Hills United Methodist Church, 1333 West Lockwood, on Mondays (August 21–October 2) from 1:00-3:30pm (*NO CLASS on September 4*). The workshop gives caregivers tools of self-support to use while also caring for loved ones at home, in a care facility or at a distance. \$10 for the six-week course. To register, call 314-395-0988.

... “*Tai Chi for Arthritis for Fall Prevention*” will begin on September 11 at Concordia. Classes will be held at 11:00am in the **Library** each Monday and Wednesday for eight weeks; there is **NO CHARGE**. *NOTE: The US Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that one out of three adults age 65 years or older will fall each year.* This class incorporates a series of gentle movements to help improve balance, strength, flexibility and stamina. Registration begins August 9; call 314-862-4859 x24.

FALL BIBLE STUDIES

LifeLight Bible Study, led by Rev. Dr. Stephen Carter, begins Tuesday evening, September 5, at 7:15pm or on Wednesday morning, September 6, at 9:15am. **Session 1** (Sept. 5 – Nov. 1) will focus on *Wilderness Wanderings*, while **Session 2** (Nov. 7 – 29) and **Session 3** (Jan. 2-Apr. 11) are based on the *Book of John*. Come and enjoy this weekly in-depth study designed to teach us how to apply Biblical truths to our daily lives.

Women’s Bible Study

This Fall, our women will begin Priscilla Shirer’s *Voice of God: How to Recognize When God Speaks*. Study guides, with extra resources for digging deeper if you desire, will be provided. Bring a friend!
Wednesdays, beginning September 13, 9:00-11:00am; childcare provided. Facilitated by Audrey Duensing-Werner.
Thursdays, beginning September 14, 6:30-8:30pm. Facilitated by Lynn Finer.
Fridays, beginning September 15, 9:00-11:00am. Facilitated by Nancy Knost.

WORSHIP ARTS



On behalf of the staff and Church Council, I'd like to thank you for your flexibility with this Summer's worship schedule. As Fall approaches, we will send out further communications to outline changes, beginning in mid-September.

This Summer, I've been giving some extra thought to how our sermons and services can reach out beyond our walls. In this age of social media and digital streaming, **the ability to share something from your church with those in your "circles of influence" is a powerful witness!** Two years ago, the idea that you could have what is essentially a TV camera in your pocket—with the power to broadcast to anyone in the world—was cutting-edge. Today it can be done by anyone with a smartphone! Concordia's digital presence has been mostly limited to sharing audio streams of sermons on our website

and sharing videos of missions, new members, announcements and, occasionally, something musical. I'm **beginning to lay the groundwork for Concordia to stream worship services live**, as well as **creating a quick (and easy!) way to share videos** of sermons or musical moments from worship. One part of that process is gradually updating our video equipment, which was all built for an era of recording to VHS tapes and DVDs, and the other component is **putting together a team of volunteers we will need on a weekly basis** to help record the services and handle all of the "techie" stuff.

In an effort to expand our reach, we will need more people to help with sound, screens, and video. **I'm happy to train anyone (junior high though adult) who would be interested in getting involved.** Please email me if you would like to learn more about how you can participate. We have some openings that could use volunteers immediately, and then we will gradually transition to recording and streaming as the technology and process is put into place.

In the meantime, if you would like to share a sermon audio or a video from worship on social media, check out these links:

CKhome.org/sermons
vimeo.com/CKhome

Brendan Knorp

Director for the Worship Arts
bknorp@CKhome.org

SPECIAL THANK-YOU

... to our tech team members who will be heading off for new adventures: **Trevor Fiala** is studying at Concordia University, Seward, NE; **Zack Wilson** is attending welding school in Nevada, MO; and **Nathan Dehn** will be teaching at Word of Life Lutheran School and regularly attending St. Lucas Lutheran Church. Their years of service running lights and screens in the Concordia Center have been much appreciated!

LUNCH AND LEARN

August 17—Atrium; 11:30am

Rev. Vince Stanley will share stories and his experiences with prison ministry. Bring a salad or dessert to share. A free-will offering for Pastor Stanley's ministry will be received. *(There may even be a special surprise for Pastor Meggers!)*

September 21—Atrium; 11:30am

Dr. John Eckrich will present "Vocation and Wellness," a discussion focusing on the importance of balancing mind, body, and spirit.

October 19—Concordia Commons; 11:30 am

OCTOBERFEST! **Rev. David Mahsman** will provide information on the Wittenberg Project, and a brief visit from "Katie Luther" is expected!

November 16—Atrium; 11:30am

This year, we hope to feature women who have served in the military. If you are aware of any female veterans, please share those details with **Don Wolfinger** at dlwolf@charter.net or 636-778-0416.

December TBD—Dining Hall; 11:30am

Helping hands are always needed in planning our Christmas celebration! If you would like to be of assistance, please contact **Sharon Ema** at sema@CKhome.org or 314-822-7772 x132.

Be on the lookout for more details as Fall progresses!

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

A few weeks ago a dear sweet momma in our congregation, Katherine Lange, shared this with me:

"Hey! Just had to share a **sweet story with you about the impact children's ministry is making on my Ella!** Today Ella woke up from nap, found a toy microphone, and started to deliver a Children's Message. She invited all of us—specifically to the rug—for the Children's Message and then proceeded to tell us, *'You don't have to look at me with your eyes, but you do need to use your ears to listen!'* Then she went on to tell us that today we were learning about baby Jesus, but next week would be about big Jesus.

"Then yesterday, she wouldn't stop singing the Bible songs that she has learned, so I asked her if she knew what the Bible was; her answer, *'A book about Jesus dying on the Cross.'* I asked why they put Him on the Cross, and her response was, *'Because they didn't know what they were doing.'* Ella then went on to share the Easter story!"



My heart rejoices that Ella's momma and daddy share Jesus boldly in their home, **but I also rejoice that Ella's church family shares Jesus boldly, as well. And, we do share Him BOLDLY in all kinds of ways.** Ella's faith formation is being built at home, which is God-designed. And we, the Church, walk beside as their community.

The Children, Youth and Families unit has been in prayer throughout the Summer and, as we go forward into the Fall, **our hope is that God will call youth and adults alike to share Jesus with the little souls of Concordia.** If you feel that God is tugging at your heart to be a part of this exciting ministry, please let me know; I'd love to take you out for coffee and chat more!

Audrey Duensing-Werner, DCE

Minister to Children, Youth and their Families
awerner@CKhome.org

**FALL KIDSMIN SUNDAY SCHOOL,
KIDS NIGHT, YOUTH MINISTRY
AND FAMILY MINISTRY ALL BEGIN
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, OR
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17.**

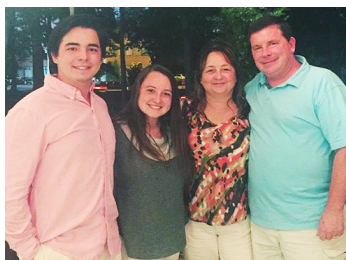
GOD'S BLESSINGS!

Kyla Rodriguez and Kaysie Corbett said good-bye to us this last week.



Kyla came to Concordia five years ago as a Director of Christian Education (DCE) intern, served in Wisconsin for a few years and, then, she and her husband (Adam) returned to St. Louis to attend the Seminary. In August, Adam, Kyla and baby Carson will **begin vicarage at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth, Michigan.**

Kaysie joined us in early June as a Summer intern. She will be **returning to Concordia University Nebraska** in August as a **senior DCE student** and then head out for **internship during the 2018-2019 school year.**



We will miss these amazing women of God tremendously and pray God's richest blessings on their new journeys!

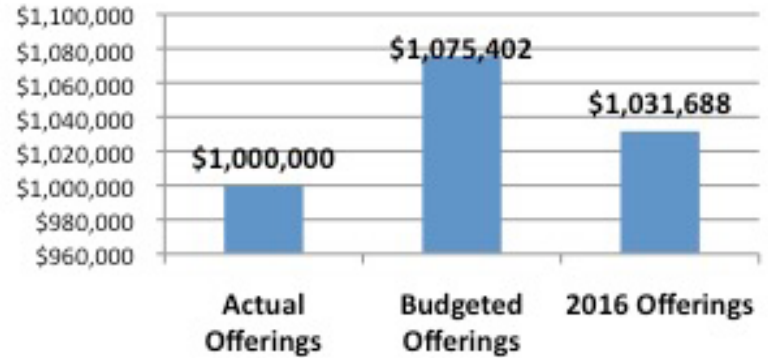


More than 100 students will gather for a unique two-day camp experience that happens annually for students in 6th-12th grade—**ALONG WITH** parents of the 6th graders—the All Youth Retreat is a great way to kick off the school year! Each day is packed full with activities like community building, ropes courses, bonfires, lake swimming, basketball, ping pong, worship, and interactive learning. We desire for lives to be transformed through encountering Jesus and connecting with other believers, all while having a blast doing it in a safe and loving environment. **Register at CKhome.org/AYR.**

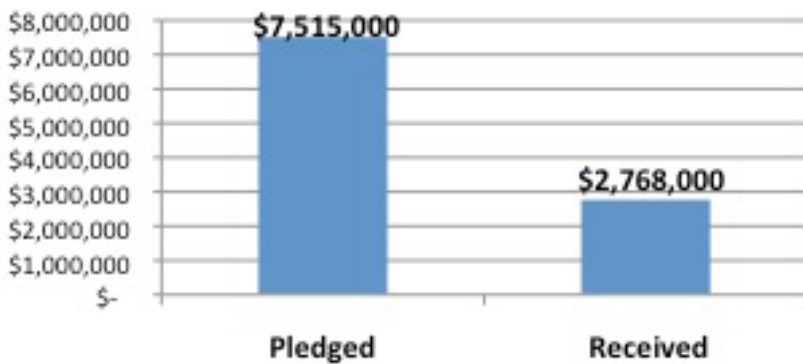
EXECUTIVE REPORT

INBOUND FINANCIALS

As we enter the second half of 2017, offerings are missing our budgeted target by 7% and are 3% lower than last year. This is concerning as we hope to rebuild Youth staff and also have some significant HVAC expenses on the horizon with a failing Sanctuary system. The staff is working hard to cut expenses in order to help balance our offerings and expenses. You recently received contribution statements in your email (regular mail if no email address on file). **Please prayerfully consider your 2017 Inbound offerings.**



OUR NEXT STEP



DESIGN PHASE

After the congregation overwhelmingly approved moving forward to the Design phase by 89%, we are progressing! We have partnered with **Korte Construction** and **Arch Images** going forward. The chart reflects the current status of our pledges and receipts. *If you are still considering a pledge or visit, now is the time to let us know!* During the Design phase, we will need to make certain tradeoffs and compromises based on what Concordia can afford. Our **updated vision** for the Center for Christian Education has **so many posi-**

active directions for both church AND school ministry. If you were unable to attend a recent Information Session and would like more details, please contact **Kristin Anderson** at kanderson@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 September 2, September 17 or December 2. Visit CKhome.org/weddings to register. Contact **Debbie Davis** at 314-809-8468 or ddavis@CKhome.org for more information.

CONCORDIA OUTBOUND MINISTRIES (COM)

GIVING CENTER SPOTLIGHT

As you walk up the main staircase towards our worship area, you will find the **Giving Center** on your right-hand side. The Giving Center offers opportunities to provide, most often, physical items to help organizations or Concordia groups with mission projects. During August, we will be collecting school supplies and personal-care items for refugees and immigrants connected with **Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA)**. Last year, the recipients were so grateful for your generosity!

COM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

One of the organizations COM supports financially is **Family Shield Ministries (FSM)**, whose 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. The name is based on Ephesians 6:16 that says, “*Take up the shield of faith.*” FSM leads evangelism, educational and human-care ministries that reach beyond the walls of the Church. One of its important outreach ministries is the weekly, half-hour Family Shield radio program heard on 54 radio stations throughout the United States by more than 800,000 people. **In St. Louis, the Family Shield radio program—hosted by**



Kay Meyer, a member of Concordia Lutheran Church—is heard every Saturday from 10:00–10:30am on AM 1320 KSIV, a Bott radio station. FSM is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It is self-supporting and self-governing.



On **Friday, October 13**, FSM will host an Adams Road Ministry Concert at Concordia from 6:30–8:00pm. The group, composed of ex-Mormons, will perform a Christian concert and share their testimonies. The concert is FREE, but a free-will donation will be taken.

FSM volunteers are needed to promote the concert to Concordia members and Christian congregations in the St. Louis metro area. Greeters and ushers are needed for the October 13 event. If you are interested in learning about volunteer opportunities, send a note to witnesstofamily@gmail.com or call 314-772-6070. Learn more at familyshieldministries.com or adamsroadministry.com.



CHURCH COUNCIL CORNER

On July 24, 2017, Concordia's Council met and bid a fond farewell to its departing members while also welcoming oncoming leadership. Those leaving Council include: **Jonathan Davis**—Treasurer, **Pastor Mark Kiessling**—Secretary, and At-Large Members—**Mike Patterson** and **Sharon Burkhardt**. Newly elected include: **Carrie Duesenberg**—Treasurer, **Nate Schmoll**—Secretary, and At-Large Members—**Don Wolfinger** and **Keith Fatzinger**. We extend a grateful prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings God provided through the leadership and guidance of our departing members and rejoice in the new faces joining our team. We also pray that Concordia's Church Council will provide wise leadership and governance over Pastor Seidler and the staff.



During the meeting, Council **reviewed Concordia's governance model**, as well as the church's **By-Laws and Constitution**. We also discussed the process used to select the contractor for the building project and the **upcoming milestones anticipated as the project moves forward** into the Design phase. In addition, time was spent in **robust strategic conversation about Concordia's next season of ministry and worship**. The meeting concluded with the **formal installation of Reverend Ken Krueger** as Concordia's Pastoral Assistant for Worship.



If you have questions or would like to suggest an issue for potential inclusion at the next Council meeting, please contact me (email below) or **Karen Allman** at kallman@CKhome.org.

Matt Schelp
Church Council President
matthew.schelp@gmail.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Fred and Doyne Bauermeister

Fred and Doyne's family consists of six children and nine grandchildren. Before retiring, Doyne was a legal secretary. Fred currently serves as chief operating officer for Prairie Technology Solutions, Inc. He is also the owner of Kraut and Associates, an electronic security engineering consulting firm.

The Dart Family

Tim and Rhonda have been married for 29 years and have three children: Malory, a graduate of OSU; Megan, a junior at Mizzou; and Christopher, a junior at Chaminade. Tim works for McCarthy Construction in risk management. Rhonda works part-time for Zea Vision as a customer support specialist and for Arbonne International as a consultant.



Abby Hawken and Caden Wheeler

Abby, a high school science and engineering teacher at Ladue, has a 10-year-old son, Caden Wheeler, who will be in the 5th grade at CCLS. Both enjoy hiking, running and golfing, but Caden especially loves art, music (plays piano), science and math. They spend their Summers at a family cottage in Massachusetts, where they enjoy playing games, swimming and relaxing as there is no TV or Internet.

The Kuhlman Family

James is a developer at Worldwide Technology, and Kristi is a pediatric audiologist at St. Louis Children's Hospital. They are incredibly blessed to have 2-year-old Jillian. The Kuhlman family enjoys traveling, theater and baseball games. They are also active members at Kirkwood Theater Guild (KTG), where they met on stage and began dating. James currently performs the third Friday of each month with KTG's "Twisted Improv Group."



The Maise Family

The couple will be married 22 years. John, a mechanical engineer, enjoys all sports and is an Alabama fan, while Lois is a stay-at-home mom, who enjoys reading, cooking and baking. They have two children: Auston is a junior at Mizzou, studying civil engineering and architecture; Emily will be a senior at Rockwood Summit. She plans to attend college and study law.

Chris Kew

Chris lives in Crestwood, MO. A senior at Maryville University, studying nursing, he also works at St. Luke's Hospital in Chesterfield, MO. His hobbies include: Olympic weightlifting; sports; and spending time with friends, family, and Katie Kennedy.



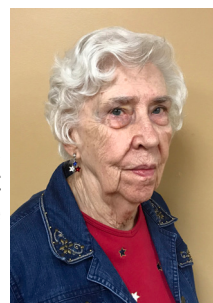
Luann Liefer

A resident of the St. Louis area for more than 50 years, Luann is a retired school teacher from the Special School District. She spends the majority of her free time playing bridge, visiting antique shops and taking life easy.



Patricia Reichwein

Originally a member in 1959, Patricia is rejoining Concordia. Before retiring, she practiced nursing for more than 20 years. Patricia has three daughters and lives at Bethesda Gardens, where she enjoys the activities provided and the company of fellow residents.



Ted and Freda Vollmar

Ted and Freda have two children. Before retiring, Freda was a registered nurse for 27 years; her last position was director of staff development. Ted was a building contractor and real estate agent, selling what he built. They have a condo at Lake of the Ozarks.



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Our next orientation is **Monday, August 14, 6:30-8:30pm**. Childcare provided. Register at CKhome.org/membership or contact **Marcy Scholl** at mscholl@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



Hello again from the Special Needs Ministry! I want to share with you, once again, precisely what we do here at Concordia.

First and foremost, **we are here to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to learn about the love of their Savior, Jesus Christ!** This past year, our focus has been to include children and youth with special needs in programs that Concordia already offers to all children and youth.

But how exactly do we do that?

The answer: However it needs to get done!

- If a **child requires a trained buddy to work alongside them** so they can attend KidsNight, we do that!
- If a **youth requires shadowing** to be fully included at Kids Camp, we do that!
- If **crew leaders at Vacation Bible School require extra training and support** so they can best serve a child with special needs, we do that!
- If a **child would learn about their friend Jesus best on Sunday mornings in a self-contained classroom** designed to meet their individual learning and sensory needs, we do that!

The Special Needs Ministry is also here for the whole family, so stay tuned for new opportunities for families in the year to come, including a Bible study designed especially for parents of children with special needs.

Jessica Crawford

Director of Children and Families with Special Needs
jcrawford@CKhome.org

Concordia's Special Needs Ministry **thrives on having volunteers who are ready, willing and able** to pour their time and hearts into making sure everyone has access to programs. The ministry would be impossible without them! As we welcome new families into our Concordia family, it is vitally important that we have a pool of trained volunteers ready to work alongside any child or youth with special needs who would require extra assistance to participate.

We currently have opportunities for volunteers ages 14 through adult, with exceptions made for those exceptional friends willing to serve who are younger. **A group training event will take place in September.**

If interested, please contact me at the email address listed or by calling/texting 314-374-0682. I look forward to the conversation!

LEARN GERMAN!



The German School offers Saturday morning and Thursday evening classes, as well as Summer immersion camps, here at Concordia.

- Classes for adults and children (ages 4+) start in mid-August
- Beginner through advanced levels
- No previous language experience necessary
- Classes Saturday mornings 9:00am-noon (adults and children, all levels)
- Classes Thursday evenings 6:30-9:30pm (adult beginner classes only)
- 30 sessions or 90 hours of class

For more information, visit germanschoolstl.org or email info@germanschoolstl.org.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP PICTURES

MIDLAND, OH WORK CAMP MISSION



ASHLAND, MT MISSION TRIP



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!