

A photograph of three children standing on a rocky, moss-covered path. On the left is a young girl wearing a pink bucket hat, a light blue t-shirt, and pink and white plaid shorts. In the center is a boy wearing a black Under Armour t-shirt and blue shorts. On the right is a taller boy wearing a grey baseball cap, a light green t-shirt, and blue shorts with a yellow and green pattern. They are all smiling at the camera. The background shows a rocky cliff with some greenery and a waterfall. The top of the cover has a green banner with the title and date.

# Concordia CONNECTION

September 2017

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Cover Photo: The Hood Family on Mission-cation - Summer 2017

# PASTOR'S NOTE



If God wrote a self-help book just for you, what would He say? What topics would He touch on? What faults would He identify? What strengths would He try to refine? One thing is for sure ... while each of our chapters might be different, **ALL** of them would be anchored to Jesus! And, the final product would be a book we could share with others as others shared their books with us.

This Fall at Concordia, our **RE: formation** worship series will challenge us to be more intentional about the help we need to be better followers of God. We'll look into the past 500 years of Christian history to see the words and

phrases that have marked the hearts of those who want to change, to be different from the world around them. I hope you can make regular worship attendance a high priority during these weeks.

As you will read later in this *Concordia Connection* newsletter, we will soon be adjusting the Sunday-morning service times to ensure more space for folks to gather. The revised schedule will include a new worship service in the Sanctuary at 10:30am, featuring a blended/contemporary format with a more relaxed, conversational style. The value of this schedule is a more focused and accessible "formation/education" time during the 9:30am Concordia Center service.

I look forward to seeing you regularly in worship this Fall!

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

**RE: formation**



# HURRICANE HARVEY

In coordination with vital congregations in Texas, our Concordia-Kirkwood family will be channeling money and other resources to help with hurricane relief.

The first few weeks of September, we will be raising funds to send to our Texas partners of our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod denomination.

We will have all of funds matched by the **Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis** up to \$10,000. We will then send the full 100% amount to the **Texas District-LCMS** who will put it to best use. You can give online at [shelbygiving.com/CKhome](http://shelbygiving.com/CKhome) (choose Hurricane Harvey Donation) or bring a check to worship (write "Hurricane Harvey" in the memo).

Please watch for further opportunities to provide financial and other resources for hurricane relief.

# LUTHER FILM ON PBS

***Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World***, the full-length feature film that premiered in selected theaters in February, is set to air nationally on PBS **Tuesday, September 12, at 7:00pm**. This entertaining new film follows the great adventure story of Luther's life—packed with political intrigue, kidnappings, and life-or-death showdowns. At the same time, it is a story about the most important questions of life, including "Who am I?", "What is my purpose?" and "How do I get right with God?" It is a "MUST-SEE" for any lifelong Lutheran and a chance to share the message of your Lutheran heritage with others. This is the first time in more than 60 years that Lutherans have made a feature-length film about Martin Luther and the Reformation. It is also a chance to strengthen your faith by revisiting the birth of the Protestant Reformation and to share that experience with others. Funded by Thrivent Financial.

# WORSHIP ARTS

Over the next few weeks you will be hearing a lot about our new worship schedule beginning the weekend of **September 16/17**. In addition to many personal conversations between our staff/leadership and others, we had 500+ respond to our worship survey sent out earlier in August. The feedback was very much appreciated and helped shape the conversation about how to move forward.



The particular recommendation to Church Council for our new worship schedule included the following convictions:

- Two worship services on a Sunday for a congregation our size is too few. Four worship services is too many.
- A return to the 8:00am service time is not viable given the substantial decrease in attendance at that service the past several years.
- There is a strong desire for a continued formation/education experience on Sunday mornings. This is both a strategic direction from core leadership, as well as a cultural expectation of a large segment of our congregation.
- A large majority of people responding to the survey indicated that they do not participate regularly in a Sunday-morning formation/education experience.
- Parking is always going to be a pressure for us, and we need to become comfortable and more intentional about on-street parking strategies, as well as the use of Magic House, Nipher, and Nationwide lots.

While there is no “perfect” schedule to meet every need or individual desire, we believe this new schedule yields some positive benefits:

- Greater sustainability and vitality for 8:30am worshipers as it affords a place for families to worship. *NOTE: We will have Children’s Messages at ALL Sunday services!*
- Reduction (but not necessarily elimination) of the awkward transfer of pastors in-and-out of worship spaces. And, also provides a little more time than the 9:15/9:30am switch allowed for fellowship after the (then) 8:00am and 11:00am services.
- The elimination of overlapping services frees up logistical concerns, including the start times of sermons and ability of each pastor to greet congregation members as they enter or leave worship.

## NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Beginning the weekend of September 16/17

Saturday, 5:00pm & Sunday, 8:30am

Sanctuary worship with traditional hymns led, by organ and piano

Sunday, 9:30am

Concordia Center with modern worship music and hymns, led by worship band (American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreted)

Sunday, 10:30am

Sanctuary worship with modern worship music and hymns. Led primarily by piano and singers and using projected lyrics on the screen.

It will take a few weeks for us to get used to the change, and we encourage you to try different options to determine what will work best for you and your family. Most importantly, we want to continue to be a church that is growing in worship and is more deeply connected to Jesus!

**Brendan Knorp**

Director for the Worship Arts  
bknorp@CKhome.org

# ADULTS



## Surprised vs. Not-Surprised, Expected, Predictable, Dependable

I was surprised that I was to be surprised at our last Lunch and Learn. I couldn't figure out why I should be the recipient of such. Then ... I was surprised to discover that the surprise had to do with my 35th year in ministry. Surprise! I hadn't done the math, but our LCMS District/Synod had ... 7 years a teacher + 28 years a pastor = 35! Thank you all for honoring those years of ministry and service to our Lord and His church.

By contrast, the only thing that would have surprised me on **Monday, August 21**, would have been the absence of a TOTAL solar eclipse. Everything went off as predicted. The event happened as expected. Our God, Creator of the Universe, He who

established sun, moon and stars to mark days, months and seasons, is dependable. He is faithful!

As the church at large, especially the Lutheran church, pauses to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, it is a pause that celebrates God's faithfulness. He is faithful to His promise to *"never leave us or forsake us,"* and that means we can live confidently on Christ the Solid Rock and our Mighty Fortress God.

The Reformation is also inspiration! This season of the church's life and our upcoming season of ministry each provide an opportunity to re-form our faith by growing in greater familiarity with God by greater familiarity with His Word. Vince Stanley and Janelle shared with us the impact of God's Word as it re-forms those who are incarcerated. At September's upcoming Lunch and Learn, Dr. John Eckrich will promote re-forming our lives and health with a presentation entitled *Vocation and Wellness*. LifeLight resumes **Tuesday evening, September 5**, at 7:15pm or on **Wednesday morning, September 6**, at 9:15am under the apt leadership of Rev. Dr. Steve Carter. Sunday morning's new service times will offer new opportunities to BE ONE.

**Re-formation:** It is not just a 500-year thing ... it is ongoing in the life of a Christian. And, as always, it is about Jesus!

In Jesus and in JOY,

**Pastor Meggers**

Associate Pastor

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

## LUNCH AND LEARN

**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. He has served church workers through Grace Place for 16 years. Please join us for a meal of pulled pork, slaw, drinks and dessert, provided at a suggested donation of \$5. Register at the table in the Commons or contact Patty Wilson at [pwilson@CKhome.org](mailto:pwilson@CKhome.org) or 314-822-7772 x128.

**REFORMATION TOUR—SEPT. 27-OCT. 8, 2018**

Our tour orientation will be **Sunday, October 1** at 11:30am. All interest levels welcome—commitment will come after this meeting. Visit [CKhome.org/germany](http://CKhome.org/germany) for more information.

## LUTHERAN OLDER ADULT RETREAT— "IN CHRIST ALONE WE STAND"

Join with others on **Wednesday-Thursday, October 25-26**, at Pere Marquette Lodge in Grafton, IL. Relax amid the beauty of God's creation and consider how the themes of the Reformation apply to you and what Scripture has to say about how you live out your calling as a Christian in today's world! Register now at [SIDLCMS.org](http://SIDLCMS.org).

## SHEPHERD'S CENTER OF WEBSTER-KIRKWOOD

Looking for volunteers (called "Handy Hands") to serve the older adults in our community. Volunteers may help with changing light bulbs, tightening hinges, installing grip bars, among other things. If interested in serving, contact the Shepherd's Center at 314-395-0988 for more information.

## HANDS ON KIRKWOOD

Hands on Kirkwood (HOK) will be **Saturday, October 7**—a day when the community is encouraged and empowered to go and to serve—HOK provides an easy opportunity to get involved. Just sign-up—serve neighbors in need. The events and volunteer opportunities are open to everyone—not just Kirkwood residents! See the list of needs and volunteer at [CKhome.org/HOK](http://CKhome.org/HOK).

# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

**C**hildren's Ministry is all about teaching and fostering a lifelong pursuit of discipleship (becoming more like Jesus) in children. Concordia and our Children, Youth and Families ministry department are honored and humbled to be a small part of that journey for each young person. We also recognize parents are the primary faith-developers in the life of a child. To that end, we are committed to supporting and caring for families in their homes and providing age-appropriate Bible teaching at church. A significant emphasis of our program is connecting children to the truths of God's Word and encouraging meaningful relationships with one another.

Children gather on Sundays, at KidsMin, and on Wednesdays, at Concordia Kids Night:

## KIDSMIN SUNDAY MORNING

Begins **November 5**, from 9:30-10:20am – Ages 2 years old-5th grade. The 2-year-olds and their parents meet in the main-level preschool room with Mrs. Karen Lanius and her husband, David; the 3- and 4-year-olds and their parents meet in the main-level preschool room; while Kindergarten-5th graders meet in the gymnasium for KidsPraise and Small Groups led by Audrey Duensing-Werner, Jayme Nichols, parent volunteers and an amazing group of Jr. and Sr. Youth Small Group Crew Leaders. We will also provide a healthy snack each Sunday during KidsMin.

## CONCORDIA KIDS NIGHT

Begins **September 13**. Each Wednesday evening (with only a few exceptions), during the school year, children in Grades 1-5 are invited to be a part of this fun weekly event. This BE ONE experience consists of four different activities, all designed to strengthen your child's relationship with God and with others:



### Kids Song (5:00-5:45pm)

For those who love to sing for Jesus. During Kids Song, we prepare children to present special songs for worship.

### Dinner (5:45-6:25pm)

Kids share a meal together and celebrate being a part of God's family as they grow in relationship with each other and with caring adults of Concordia. Meals prepared by our fabulous chef, Mary Vann, and our Krazy Kitchen Krew. Mary and Krew are amazing and the food is so good! Cost per semester is \$50.00 per child.

### Recreation/Bible Study (6:25-7:10pm)/(7:10-7:45pm)

Half the group participates in Recreation time, while the other half meets for Bible study; groups switch midway through the allotted time.

Designed to support the home—the primary environment for faith formation—Concordia Kids Night is open to ALL children of our congregation (Grades 1-5) and their friends! Please feel free to contact me at the email address shown for more information. **Register at [CKhome.org/KidsNight](http://CKhome.org/KidsNight).**

### Audrey Duensing-Werner, DCE

Minister to Children, Youth and their Families  
[awerner@CKhome.org](mailto:awerner@CKhome.org)



## MY CALL

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas, has voted to extend a Call to me to serve as their Director of Family Life.

At this time, I have two calls to lay before the Holy Spirit:  
Concordia Lutheran Church--Kirkwood  
Redeemer Lutheran Church in Austin

Know that God uses all of these moments to draw us closer to Him and to clarify His purpose for us. I pray He transforms all of us through this Call process and we will be drawn deeper into a relationship with Him and clearly know God's Will, which is good and pleasing and perfect. My heart's desire is for it to be about Jesus, only about Jesus!

# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



We are so excited to kick off the new ministry year at Concordia's upcoming All Youth Retreat, September 8-10! Now that we are all "back in the swing of things" with the start of school, our regular youth ministry will also resume.

## JR. YOUTH MINISTRY

Wednesday evenings; 6:00-8:00pm. Starts on **September 13** with our first Jr. Youth Impact Night! Each week we will come together for pizza, friend connection and large group/small group time together.

## SR. YOUTH MINISTRY

1st and 3rd Sunday evenings; 6:00-8:00pm. Begins on **September 17** with our first Sr. Youth Night! We come together in the Youth Room to study the Bible, talk about life, eat some food and have tons of fun together.

Along with our weekly programming, Concordia's Youth Ministry also features age-specific small groups and other special ministry opportunities, such as mission trips in the Summer. So be on the look-out for that information, too!

## SUNDAY-MORNING MINISTRY

As many of you have probably heard, the worship service schedule will change the weekend of **September 16/17** (see page 3 for more details). Along with this change has come a shift in our Bible Hour time, as well. Starting **Sunday, November 5**, KidsMin will be held from 9:30-10:20am. During this time, 6-12th grade students will have the option to either worship in the Concordia Center or, having already worshiped at a different time, join with an energetic team to help show the love of Jesus to the little kiddos through games, songs, teaching and relationships!

**Jayme Nichols, DCE**

Director of Sr. High and College Age Ministry

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# EXECUTIVE REPORT

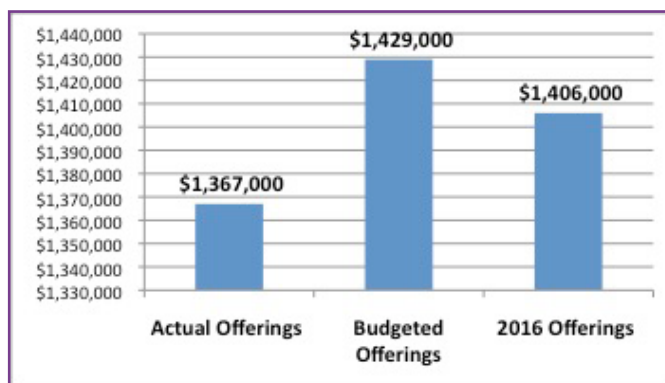
## INBOUND FINANCIALS

Over the last month we communicated that our Inbound offerings are considerably down over budgeted expectations. Although we are still down for the year (see chart), our August offerings exceeded expectations! On a budget of \$174,000 for August, actual offerings were around \$200,000. Thank you for all you do to support the ministry at Concordia.

**Kristin Anderson**

Executive Director

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



# OUR NEXT STEP



Detail Design Sessions began in late August and will continue over the next several months to create a design for Concordia's new Center for Christian Education. Currently, we are discussing overall room structure; by the end of this fundamental project phase, we will know the color and material of even the window sills! Please pray for this process as we work to develop the best multifunctional facility that serves BOTH the church and the school.

# 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 September, we will be collecting personal hygiene items for the Uganda Mission in October. Please visit the Giving Center for a list of needs.

## COM PARTNER SPOTLIGHT—FEED MY PEOPLE

The **Manna March Walk for Hunger** is **Sunday, September 10**, from 1:00-3:00pm. This is an event designed for everyone's participation. Enjoy beautiful and historic Jefferson Barracks Park. Start with walking the 1- or 2.3-mile walking path in support of Feed My People, Manna March Walk for Hunger, then take in one of the five museums, the Mississippi River overlook, the Frisbee course or the new Pavilion at Lemay Recreation Center. Details on this "Sunday of FUN in the Park" at [feed-my-people.org](http://feed-my-people.org). Be a Walker! Be an Event Sponsor! Can't Walk? Be a Virtual Walker!

## FAMILY SHIELD MINISTRIES

On **Friday, October 13**, Family Shield Ministries (FSM) will host Florida's Adams Road Ministry at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood from 6:30–8:00pm. The group, composed of ex-Mormons, will share their testimonies and music. The event is **FREE**, but a free-will donation will be taken. It is open to the public. For information or to volunteer, email FSM at [witnesstofamily@gmail.com](mailto:witnesstofamily@gmail.com).

## MISSION-CATION STORIES



The **Pfister family** brought their Mission-cation "To-Go" box on a float trip this Summer and found a Cross-shaped rock!

This Summer, **Grace Koehn** had an internship with Extreme Faith St. Louis at St. Trinity Lutheran Church in south



St. Louis. While mission teams from our city were traveling to distant places, she was helping to welcome other mission teams from Texas, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Illinois to St. Louis. As a Project Leader, Grace helped lead service projects that included a Christian Friends of New Americans soccer camp, supporting the work of the Center for Women in Transition (which helps women transition from prison back into their home communities), and a homeless ministry that provides everyday necessities and relational ministry for the homeless of St. Louis. Grace is currently at Concordia University, Nebraska, where she will be studying to become a Director of Christian Education (DCE).

This Summer, the **Basler family** traveled to five national parks in Southern Utah. The trip was amazing, something to never be forgotten! It was so nice to spend time together as a family—hiking, talking, laughing,



and enjoying God's beautiful creations. The Concordia National Parks booklet fostered some great conversations about God and

His creations, as well as His love for all. The kids loved each page and the topics that were included. Thank-you, Concordia, for making this trip so special!



**The Hoods** went to Smokey Mountain National Park for their Mission-cation. They enjoyed reflecting on God's amazing creations while hiking along the Laurel Falls trail, focusing on the importance of keeping the trail clean. It was a treat talking about God in this beautiful place! Jackson said that "*God's kindness flows like a waterfall*," and Matthew said that "*God's love is as big as a mountain*." Thank-you for providing this experience for our family!



# 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



## TRUNK-OR-TREAT

It may still technically be Summer, but that does not mean children of all ages aren't already planning their Halloween costumes and dreaming about trick-or-treating and, of course, ALL that candy! For many kids with special needs, though, trick-or-treating may not be an option due to sensory difficulties, anxieties, dietary restrictions or even the physical restrictions of their own neighborhoods.

For this reason, the Special Needs Ministry will be hosting an inclusive and accessible, sensory-sensitive **Trunk-or-Treat** event on **Sunday, October 22**, from 2:00-4:00pm, for children with special needs and their families from the community.

### WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS EVENT!

If you would like to decorate your trunk and hand out goodies, participate in another way, have any questions or wish to donate to this event, please contact me at the email address shown or by calling/texting 314-374-0682.

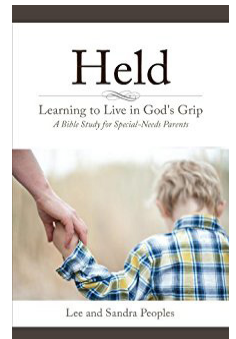
**We hope to fill the parking lot with 20 festively decorated cars!**

## FALL BIBLE STUDY

This Fall, the Special Needs Ministry will offer a monthly Bible study for parents who have a child/children with special needs. Grandparents and caregivers are invited to attend, as well.

Based on, and following, the book *Held: Learning to Live in God's Grip*, this study will be an informal, yet structured, time for family members to come together in fellowship with others who can relate to life with a child with special needs:

*"In this Bible study written for special-needs parents by special-needs parents, you will learn you are not alone. Even when life feels out of control, it will help you remember He is in control. You will learn there is a future hope we all can cling to. You will learn there are others out there, just like you, who need to be shown they are also in the grip of God."*



Beginning **October 11**, we will meet the **2nd Wednesday** of each month from **6:30-7:45pm** at Concordia; facilitated by Jennifer Haughey. If you would like to attend, are in need of childcare or would like more information, please contact me at the email address shown or by calling/texting 314-374-0682.

### Jessica Crawford

Director of Children and Families with Special Needs  
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**CONCORDIA**  
Lutheran Church

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

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