

Concordia CONNECTION

November 2017



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PASTOR'S NOTE



Looking forward is therapeutic. While counselors often help patients deal with the past, sometimes the best medicine is to optimistically look ahead to better days. As Concordia enters the holiday months of November and December, our KidsMin Sunday gets a renovation and restart (see page 6 for more details), our festival spirit begins to rise, and the joy of having family and loved ones come home blesses us. Concordia as a family of faith looks to increase the joy of that expectation.

Through our end-of-the-year worship weekends, we'll raise the question weekly, *"What are you expecting?"* Our culture shapes a very expectant attitude in us in the areas of customer service, pleasure and enjoyment, and achievement. God has even greater expectations for you—expectations that He longs to realize. Come and enjoy our **Greater Expectations** worship series and find your greatest hopes more realized than ever before!



Warmly,

Pastor Seidler

Senior Pastor

sseidler@CKhome.org

WHAT'S NEXT FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES?

In the short-term and taking the hand-off from Audrey Duensing-Werner, Kristin Anderson—Concordia's Chief Operating Officer—will spearhead the volunteer ministry team leading our new KidsMin efforts.

HAS A CALL COMMITTEE BEEN FORMED?

It is never wise to begin a Call or hiring process right away. As head of staff, Pastor Seidler will be listening to our staff and core lay leaders, as well as most certainly seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance through them. Please know that it typically takes nine-12 months to call or hire a church worker when doing a national search. The input of congregation members will be invaluable as a plan is developed!



COUNCIL CORNER

On **October 16, 2017**, Concordia's Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting. After opening with prayer, the meeting began with an update on the building project, the Church's budget and financial status. The Council was informed that the building project continues to progress and that we are moving toward finalizing the design and a guaranteed maximum price for the project. After that process, the project will be put before the Council and the Congregation to seek approval to move forward. Next, Pastor Seidler provided his report, and the Council discussed the new worship schedule and touched on the ongoing strategic plan. In addition, the Council discussed the departure of Audrey Duensing-Werner, the staff's plans to fill the void created by her departure, and how the Church might address filling her position in the future.



If you have any questions or would like to have something considered for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting, please contact me at matthew.schelp@gmail.com.

Matt Schelp

Church Council President

ADULTS



With "Expectation and Thanksgiving," Jeanette and I recently traveled to Appleton, MN, for the funeral of her dear step-dad, Loren Harste. There was an "expectation" that we would celebrate him as a man of deep faith in Christ; a deeply devoted man of the church; a wonderful storyteller; as well as a faithful husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. In short, he was a JOY! And, because he was all of this, we celebrated with "thanksgiving," even as we mourned his absence.

However, the journey was not all JOY. There were unmet expectations. We expected the motel pool to be open at 6:00am, because that is what their information told us; we expected the Wi-Fi to be operative because they advertised as such—disappointment on all counts! When questioned regarding these, and a few other minor insufficiencies, customer service became defensive and even insulting. I expected a better response from the staff. As you might imagine, there was little thanksgiving.

But, leaving that all behind and pressing on toward Loren's life celebration, we anticipated "expectations" that were certain and "thanksgiving" was our response.

Expectations:

Loren has the Crown of Life ...
Jesus said so of His faithful unto death.
Loren has a room in God's mansion ...
Jesus went to prepare it.

Holy Communion will be a meal celebrated together ...
with Loren, Duane,
fill in appropriate name, and all the company of Heaven.

Thanksgiving:

For a Savior whose Word is certain and reliable ...
For the Hope that is ours in Christ ...
For daily life and service ...
For life eternal!

Greater Expectations is our weekend worship theme through the end of 2017. Expect the Lord to be faithful to His Word. Thank Him for certainty, hope, comfort, and providence.

I look forward to November and beyond!

JOY,

Pastor Meggers

Associate Pastor
dmeggers@CKhome.org



OKTOBERFEST LUNCH AND LEARN

LUNCH AND LEARN VETERANS' DAY RECOGNITION

Thursday, November 16, will have a focus on women in the military. Our guest speaker will be Kitty Bickford from Rolla who served 10 years on active duty in the Air Force and was married to a career military person. Some will also share their Honor Flight experiences. We will be collecting items for the Missouri Veterans Home in St. Louis. Items requested for men and women include: socks, undershirts (Medium thru XXL), winter hats, gloves, mittens, handwarmers, and small blankets. Don't forget to register and sign up to bring soup, bread, or dessert. See you at 11:30am!

CHRISTMAS GATHERING

Tuesday, December 19, at 11:30am in the Dining Hall. Our celebration will be focused around the theme "What Child Is This?" Lunch catered by The Hawthorne Inn, the entree will be delicious pork tenderloin. The cost of the meal is \$15; bring a dozen cookies to share.

RSVP for upcoming Lunch and Learn events at
pwilson@CKhome.org.

WORSHIP ARTS



It's not too late to join the Christmas Cantata Festival Choir! Our first rehearsal was Wednesday, November 1, but if you're interested, you can still join us NEXT **Wednesday, November 8**.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Beginning with Thanksgiving, and continuing throughout the month of December, there are several special worship services fitting for the Christmas season. So that our congregation can more fully experience these services, our regular worship schedule will be slightly modified. Additionally, as BOTH Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fall on Sundays in 2017, these weekends will experience different schedules to accommodate

holiday worship. **Please be sure to make note of these changes.**

Wednesday, November 22, 7:00pm

Thanksgiving Eve worship (Sanctuary)

Thursday, November 23, 10:00am

Thanksgiving worship (Sanctuary)

Saturday/Sunday, December 2/3

Regular 5:00pm, 8:30am, 9:30am, 10:30am worship

Wednesday, December 6, 11:00am and 7:00pm

Advent Midweek 1 (Sanctuary)

Saturday, December 9

Regular 5:00pm worship

Sunday, December 10*

Regular 8:30am, 9:30am, 10:30am worship schedule

**NOTE: LHSS (Lutheran High School South) Wind Symphony will play at the 9:30am Concordia Center service only.*

Wednesday, December 13, 11:00am and 7:00pm

Advent Midweek 2 (Sanctuary)

Saturday, December 16

Regular 5:00pm worship

Sunday, December 17 – Christmas Cantata

Modified schedule - **TWO** services only at 8:30am and 10:00am in the Concordia Center

Wednesday, December 20, 11:00am

Advent Midweek 3 (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 20, 7:00pm only

Early Christmas Eve (Sanctuary); this service is designed specifically for those who may be out-of-town on Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 23**

Regular 5:00pm worship

Sunday, December 24**

Single Sunday morning service at 9:30am in the Concordia Center

***NOTE: These services will be distinct from Christmas Eve services.*

Christmas Eve services (Sunday, December 24)

3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, and 10:00pm in the Concordia Center

Monday, December 25, 10:00am

Christmas Day worship in the Sanctuary

Saturday, December 30

Regular 5:00pm worship

Sunday, December 31

Regular 8:30am, 9:30am, 10:30am worship schedule;
NO evening service for New Year's Eve

Brendan Knorp

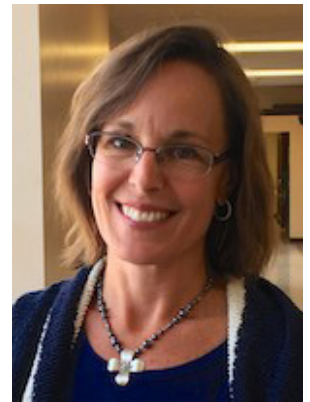
Director for the Worship Arts

bknorp@CKhome.org

EXECUTIVE REPORT

FINANCIAL PICTURE

November Inbound offerings missed budgeted expectations by \$22,000. Our offerings are \$97,000 less than our budgeted expectations and \$39,000 less than what they were at this same time last year. Staff is trying very hard to decrease expenses, but we ask that you prayerfully consider an increase in your inbound offerings.



THE STOCK MARKET IS UP – HOW ABOUT DONATING STOCK!

Did you know if you donate appreciated stock you will have no capital gains tax to pay? In addition, your tax-deductible contribution equals the market value of the stock on the date of the gift. This is a great way to maximize your gifts to Ministry and save money at the same time. Concordia has an easy process to donate stock. If interested, email me.

Kristin Anderson

Executive Director

kanderson@CKhome.org

NEW ONLINE DIRECTORY!

Concordia is migrating to a new Online Directory on **November 12!** Look for details in an upcoming *FrontPage* with instructions on how to access the directory on your phone, tablet or computer.

OUR NEXT STEP



CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Detailed design continues to go well. Currently, we are planning the “MEPs” (*We learn construction lingo daily!*); MEPs are the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. Most of the discussion is WAY over Kristin’s head! Fortunately we have experts like Dan Harper, Pete Joyce, and John Colonder ensuring that we select/approve the best systems for our needs and budget. If you have not pledged and/or given to Concordia’s Our Next Step capital campaign, and would like to help fund a specific item such as technology, flooring, furniture or signage, please contact kanderson@CKhome.org.

***Kristin had hoped to share architectural plans with you this month, but the team is hesitant to publish anything on a broad basis due to some circumstances/approvals we still need that are out of our control (i.e. the City of Kirkwood or MSD). If you would like to view the plans we hope to follow, please drop by Kristin’s office; she also has a table option and carpet sample(s) to share. She is ALWAYS excited to talk about Concordia’s new Center for Christian Education!*

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



NEW BEGINNINGS

I am excited about the opportunity to lead the Children's Ministry at Concordia. With every loss there is a new beginning. As we say goodbye to Audrey and your child misses her greatly (mine cried several times over the last month) please know we move forward with purpose and direction. In the next season of ministry, our vision for KidsMin at Concordia involves spiritual formation and faith filled relationships. To that end, our goals are:

1. Every child develops a personal relationship with Jesus. The majority of people come to Christ as children. Growing a relationship with Christ involves building a foundation of Biblical knowledge, prayer, and service to others.
2. Every child encounters a faith-filled youth or adult that loves and nurtures them in their faith.

Everything we do will support that vision. KidsNight and our new Sunday KidsMin were formed around those principles. Speaking of Sunday, KidsMin...

KIDSMIN SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 5

For all kids 3 years old through 5th grade! Let's praise God! Let's learn the Bible in ways that are memorable and fun! Whether your family worships at 8:30am, 9:30am or 10:30am, KidsMin Sunday will work for you.

- 9:20-9:40am ALL kids check in outside the Dining Hall, on the parking lot side of the building (before 9:30am worship or after the 8:30am service concludes)
- 9:30-9:50am **Let's Praise GOD!** All age groups are welcomed and encouraged to praise God, together, through fun worship songs and faith-filled activities.
- 9:50-10:10am **Let's Learn the Bible Point!** Kids separate into age-specific groups to reinforce the Bible Point through age-appropriate activities.
- 10:15am For those parents in 9:30am worship, kids will be brought to the Concordia Center to join their families at the altar for Communion. All others will return to the Dining Hall for prayer and closing, pick up at 10:20am.

Parents of 2's

2-year-olds and their parents will learn basic Bible stories and songs led by Karen and David Lanius. You will also have the opportunity to break away with Karen and learn on how to share faith with your toddler. Parents must be present for a 2-year-old to attend. This class meets in the preschool hallway in the 2nd room on the right.

*Children with special needs who require assistance are invited to attend on November 5 with a parent. Special Needs Ministry services will begin **Sunday, November 12.***

WHY SUNDAY KIDSMIN AT 9:30? THAT IS OUR MOST POPULAR SERVICE!

To the Family with Crazy Schedule ...

Your family is most likely much busier today than you were growing up. Your children have many more extra-curricular options that require significant time commitments (even on Sunday mornings). As a result, the frequency of your church attendance and family devotion time may be less than you wish it was. Did you know that national statistics define **REGULAR** worshipers as those who worship 1-2 times per month? That is a direct result of our busy culture. For many of our young children, the reality is their spiritual development happens in the one or two children's messages they hear each month. That is about 4-8 minutes per month!

To the Parents who haven't heard a sermon in years ...

Parents with young children often tell us they have not heard a sermon in years as they try to corral young children and keep them quiet. Many of you indicated on our worship survey this Summer that you would love a 9:30 KidsMin option. This is an opportunity to take this time and experience our core value to BE STILL and worship. Fill yourself up with God's Word so you can in turn fill up your children. We hope you find this a blessing. That being said, we do greatly value children in worship. That is why we will bring your children to you so you can come together as a family for Holy Communion. (continued on next page ...)

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

To the Parents who believe their children need to be in worship with them ...

We value that! This schedule enables you to worship at 8:30 or 10:30am and still have your children experience a deeper dive into Scripture at 9:30am without long delays or overlaps in worship times.

To the Parents who value worshipping with their children but also need a period of personal worship as well ...

KidsMin gives no special stars for attendance. We encourage you to make different decisions each week - sometimes take your kids to worship and sometimes send them to KidsMin. Experience the best of both worlds. All services will still have a Children's Message.

At Concordia, we will not tell you how to raise your child or the best way to structure your Sunday morning. What we will do is partner with you to provide you with options knowing you will make the best decision for your family's circumstances and faith development.

As a church we take very seriously the opportunities we offer for children to learn to love Jesus and know and understand His Word. That is why we believe strongly in this new Sunday KidsMin schedule. Kids will praise God and learn a Bible point each week directly related to a Bible story. Your children will build Christ-filled relationships with other adults and youth. Our goal is for each child to build a solid foundation of Biblical knowledge and experience strong, lasting faith-filled relationships with others.

We hope you join us.

Kristin Anderson

Executive Director and Interim Minister to Children
kanderson@CKhome.org

KINDERGARTEN BIBLE GIFTING—NOVEMBER 12

One of the most important jobs as parent is to teach the love of Jesus and invite kids to have a personal relationship with the One who created them. An essential part of this is getting the Word of God into their hands and spending time with them learning it. On **November 12**, we will gift a *Story Book Bible* to your child. As your youngster learns to read over the next two years, how wonderful it will be if some of those first words are God's Words!

We will begin the day at **9:30am** in the Dining Hall as part of KidsMin Sunday. You will be part of the opening large group and, then, break off into a smaller group for just kindergarteners and their parents. You will look through the Bible together, examine the stories, and make a plan to spend time at home in His Word! Then, at **10:30am**, join us for worship in the Sanctuary where you will formally present the Bible to your child. All parents will be commissioned as "teachers of the faith" for their homes.

EPIC NIGHT—NOVEMBER 17

Pastor Seidler will lead our first EPIC Night of the school year. This EPIC Night is all about sugar (within reason!)—and the sweet grace of God that makes life delicious. Before you come, try to memorize this verse from Scripture:

"He brought us to this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey." Deuteronomy 26:9. Meet in the Youth Room at **6:00pm** for pizza, soda and more! Cost is \$10. Pick up at 8:30pm. Register at CKhome.org/EPIC.



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



WE NEED BUDDIES!

We have a growing number of kids and youth with special needs who would like to attend programs here at Concordia, but they can't do that without your help! Buddies work alongside their friend with disabilities to help them access the programs they would like to attend; they typically serve on Wednesday evenings and/or Sunday mornings.

Buddies are usually in high school or college, but anyone who has a passion for working with kids and adults with special needs is welcome to talk to me about joining the team! Please email at the address shown or call/text 314-374-0682.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

On **Sunday, October 29**, Concordia's Special Needs Ministry hosted our first Trunk-or-Treat for kids with special needs and their families. More than 30 families attended! They played games, made crafts, took silly pictures and, of course, trunk-or-treated!

A HUGE thank-you to all the volunteers who made this event such a success! We could not have done it without YOU!

Jessica Crawford

Director of Children and Families with Special Needs

jcrawford@CKhome.org



CKDEAF MINISTRY

CKDeaf invites you to learn American Sign Language (ASL)! Class meets from **7:00-8:00pm** on the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays** of each month. All ages and abilities welcome. Join us!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Morgan Baldwin; Cathryn and William Fast

Morgan, a pediatric nurse practitioner in the department of pediatrics surgery at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital, loves her work and feels blessed that God has given her the opportunity to serve others at their most difficult times. Her daughter, Cathryn (a 5th grader at CCLS), plays volleyball and basketball. Her son, William, also at CCLS in the 3rd grade, enjoys baseball and basketball. Dixie, a 1-year-old golden retriever, was recently added to the mix. They are so excited to be part of Concordia's faith family and look forward to opportunities to serve and make connections. Morgan said, *"When I first visited Concordia Lutheran Church, I walked into the Sanctuary and felt a peace come over me. I could feel the Holy Spirit working and it just felt like home."*



The Pasch Family

Adam, Emily, Grant (3 ½ years old), and Luke (born October 14) live in Creve Coeur. The family recently relocated back to St. Louis after spending eight years in Northern California, and Adam works as a meteorologist leading the Weather Data Strategy and Operations Team at The Climate Corporation, a subsidiary of Monsanto. Emily works part time at PS Kids and



Ranken Jordan as a pediatric physical therapist and is busy with newborn Baby #2. Grant attends Lucky Lane Nursery School two days a week and enjoys all things construction, trucks, and outdoors. Adam enjoys watching and playing sports, especially hockey and volleyball, and is an avid St. Louis sports fan. He enjoys attending Blues and Cardinals games. Emily plays volleyball and enjoys a good book. The Pasches look forward to getting to know other Concordia members, especially those with children Grant's age.

Shane Patton and Heather Yarbrough

From Jupiter, FL, the family is really enjoying getting to know the St. Louis area. Shane is a mechanical engineer by trade, but is the general manager of generator services for MD&A, which is a company that services power electrical generation companies. Heather is an attorney who has been a public defender for many years and eventually became a contract manager. She is currently helping her family get acclimated and settled in the city and surroundings. Their son, Kiernan, is in the 9th grade at Lutheran South and a recipient of an academic scholarship. The family is looking forward to meeting friends and being more involved at Concordia.



Jeremy Campbell

Jeremy was looking for a place to grow his faith and found Concordia. While visiting, Jeremy—a Lutheran South graduate—recognized several classmates

who were also members. He has three daughters and a son.

Shirley Eno

Shirley moved from Jefferson City, MO, where she raised four daughters, and currently lives at Meramec Bluffs Senior Services Community. After 56 years of marriage, she was recently widowed. A nurse, Shirley worked at Capital Region Medical Center for 32 years and presently volunteers for St. Clare Hospital and Concordia's main desk. She also enjoys Bible studies several times a week, has developed many friends and loves to read.



Robert and Julie Hawkens

Originally from New England, the Hawkens go back every Summer to their cottage. Robert is a small business



consultant. Julie is a newly retired teacher from Word of Life Lutheran School. They moved to St. Louis to be near their daughter Abby and grandson Caden. They also have a son and granddaughter in Spokane, WA; a daughter and three grandsons in Massachusetts; and a son and two granddaughters in Illinois. They are busy traveling the country!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION - Our next orientation is **Monday, November 13, 6:30-8:30pm**. Childcare provided. Register at CKhome.org/membership or contact **Marcy Scholl** at mscholl@CKhome.org.

CONCORDIA OUTBOUND MINISTRIES (COM)

TURKEY BLESSING

The leaves are changing, and the temperature is dropping, which means Thanksgiving is just around the corner. With Thanksgiving comes turkey and, in the case of Concordia's Men's Ministry, the **3rd Annual Turkey Blessing** turkey dinner giveaway. For the past two years, Concordia has been blessed with the opportunity to provide spiritual and physical nourishment to our community. The Turkey Blessing is an amazing opportunity for fellowship and outreach that touches the lives of those in need.

The turkey dinner giveaway will be held the weekend of **Saturday, November 18 and Sunday, November 19**, with a worship service and preparations on Saturday, followed by the handing out of meals on Sunday in Concordia's parking lot.



There are three ways in which you can support the Turkey Blessing:

Volunteer to Participate: We would love to have **ALL** Concordia men participate in the event. Volunteer sign-ups are available at CKhome.org/TurkeyBlessing and at the Spotlight Table in the Commons. Throughout the day, we need individuals to take prayer requests and pray with those who come, place turkey dinners in vehicles, as well as coordinate the traffic for a smooth day.

Consider Making a Donation: One meal is \$40 and includes enough food to feed a family of five. You can make a donation online at CKhome.org/TurkeyBlessing, through the offering plate with "Turkey Blessing" in the memo or at the Giving Center in the Commons.

Pray for Blessing and Safety: It is a busy day! Please keep the volunteers and those who come to our church that day in your prayers for safety and health.

MEN'S MINISTRY HAPPY HOUR

Join us in raising money for the 3rd Annual Turkey Blessing! Concordia's men will enjoy fellowship together with a happy hour at the 1903 Bar at Missouri Athletic Club West on **Thursday, November 9**, from **4:00-7:00pm**. \$40 will buy a turkey dinner for five (any donation is appreciated).

In addition to the above ways to support the Turkey Blessing, if you are Thrivent Member, you can direct your **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Concordia. All Choice Dollars directed through November will go to the Turkey Blessing. If you have a question on how to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars, please reach out to your Thrivent representative.

We thank God for His guidance over the past years, and look forward to another great event!

Drew Kreienkamp
Turkey Blessing Chair



INTERESTED IN SPENDING SPRING BREAK IN BELIZE?

Join us for a mission trip **March 15-21, 2018**. We will lead worship, visit preschools and nursing homes, work with special needs children, and do some light construction. Kids and adults are welcome on this trip. Email **Kippin Schelp** at kimberlysanchez@hotmail.com for more information.



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

BE STILL, BE ONE, BE FAITHFUL

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