

# Concordia CONNECTION

January 2018



## *In this Issue ...*

Pastor's Note-pg2

Adults-pg3

Worship Arts, Pre-Marriage Seminar-pg4

Children, Youth and Families-pg5

Special Needs Ministry-pg6

New Members-pg7

Lunch and Learn Pictures-pg8

Cover Photo: Lunch and Learn, Nov. 2017

# PASTOR'S NOTE



Happy New Year! BLESSED New Year!!

Being happy is a worthy goal. Who doesn't want to be happy? Being blessed is an even greater goal. To be blessed requires a "blessor," the One who blesses. With every new year we pray God would bless us (He always does, you know). And, we pray we recognize these blessings.

One way blessings get noticed is by having solid Christian friends around us. We have at Concordia many smaller, tight-knit communities outside of our worship services. This January, I am personally looking forward to launching a new community for our young families, 20s and 30-somethings. On **Wednesday nights, beginning January**

**10**, drop off your kids (if you have them) for Concordia Kids Night or childcare at **5:45pm**, zip on over to Jason's Deli for a communal dinner from **6:00-6:45pm**. We will then land back at Concordia around **7:00pm** for teaching time with Pastor Seidler and wrap up by **7:45pm** to pick up the kids (again, if you have them). You will be home soon after!

If this group doesn't fit your life stage, perhaps consider our LifeLight adult ministry, which is multi-generational, or one of our many men's/women's study groups that meet throughout the week.

Take your next step in Concordia's ministry.

Warmly,

**Pastor Seidler**

Senior Pastor

sseidler@CKhome.org

## NEW SERMON SERIES—FOR THE GREATER GLORY

With every New Year resolution is the hope for a greater, better life. Worship at Concordia, Kirkwood, draws on the insights of Paul's letter to a church of Christians who confused the glory that comes from God with the glory that goes with the world. Starting **January 6-7**, Pastor Scott Seidler will start 2018 by turning our attention to this "Greater Glory" in a worship series based on the New Testament book of Colossians.



# ADULTS

Dear Friends in Christ,

A very blessed New Year to you. I am excited about:

- My new planner.
- A forthcoming mission journey to Uganda and the opportunity to teach at their seminary in March.
- Our Reformation 501 tour later in the Fall.



I am even more excited to share what I have been learning about Concordia. My “instructors” are the new members I get to visit in their homes. Some visits are opportunities for me to teach a little deeper about our Lutheran faith. Some visits are opportunities to learn more about the family. ALL of the visits have been opportunities to see Concordia through the “eyes of the newcomer.”

Here is what I am learning:

- Our Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) partnership is a critically important element to many of these new families. CCLS does a great job connecting new families to churches!
- We are a remarkably welcoming place for first-time guests. *Translation: You all value guests and show that value by the ways in which you make visitors feel welcome when they come through our doors and into our worship spaces.*
- Guests value the choices Concordia offers:
  - Choice of worship space
  - Choice of worship times
  - Choice of worship styles
  - Choices of ministries
- Guests view Concordia as a place of integrity. *Again, a translation: They see us as who we say we are—a family of God that truly values BE STILL, BE ONE, and BE FAITHFUL.*

When I leave these new member homes, I am very affirmed by our ministry together here at Concordia. I share these gleanings with you because I value your ministry. I hope you are affirmed and encouraged for even greater ministry in this New Year!

Entering into 2018 with JOY,

**Pastor Meggers**

Associate Pastor

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

*Pictures from our Lunch and Learn Christmas Party on page 8.*

## LUNCH AND SERVE

Our upcoming gathering is a *Lunch and Serve* on **Thursday, January 18; noon**. Join us in bringing fellowship to the residents of nearby Rose Hill House. We will carpool from Concordia at 11:30am. Please consider making soups, breads, desserts or donating Bingo prizes. Contact **Patty Wilson** at [pwilson@CKhome.org](mailto:pwilson@CKhome.org) or by calling 314-822-7772 x128.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who made cookies for the homebound. You brought smiles to the recipients' faces and they are very grateful! You have shared the love of Christ to them.

## HEALTH RESOURCE FAIR

**Sunday morning, February 11, from 9:00-11:00am.** There will be a variety of vendors and resources for body, mind and spiritual health. The event is coordinated by Concordia's Health Ministry Action Team.

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE (LWML)

LWML Mmite boxes will be available for collection of mites on **January 13-14** and **February 10-11** at the Registration Center. Pick up small mite boxes, as well as peruse the folder of project listings for 2017-19. You will also find the “Stamps for Missions” box in the same location.

## GIVING SPOTLIGHT

Blankets needed for Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA). Recently arrived new American families are in need of new and gently used blankets. Please bring donations to the Giving Center during the month of January.



# WORSHIP ARTS



What a wonderful few weeks of worship we experienced at Concordia this past month! The messages our pastors shared, along with the musical leadership of so many servant-hearted people, added to the joy of the season.

Specifically, I'm thankful for these servants ...

- Our tech team, ushers, greeters, altar guild, and facilities team for all their efforts in making worship a hospitable and meaningful experience.
- Matt Jansen and the Lutheran High School South (LHSS) Wind Symphony for leading in worship.
- Our amazing musicians who put in so much effort for our Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve services.

## LOOKING AHEAD ...

Our **Sanctuary Choir** will start up again soon. Rehearsals are designed to work for those with busy schedules, so even if you can only make it for an occasional Sunday, you can still participate. If you would like to be on our email list to receive updates, please don't hesitate to let me know. The first performance will have rehearsal on **Wednesday, January 10, 7:45-8:30pm**, followed by singing on **Sunday, January 14**, for the **8:15am service**. The full 2018 schedule is available at [CKhome.org/Sanctuary-Choir](http://CKhome.org/Sanctuary-Choir).

Finally, if you play a brass instrument and would be interested in showcasing your talent in worship from time to time, please email me at the address shown below or by calling the church office. If you've played at Concordia before, I already have you on my list, so I'm really looking to connect with any of our new members or high school students who have not yet participated in the past.

### Brendan Knorp

Director for the Worship Arts

[bknorp@CKhome.org](mailto:bknorp@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 2018** are Saturdays, March 3, June 2, September 1 and December 1, from **10:00am-4:00pm**. Register at [CKhome.org/weddings](http://CKhome.org/weddings).

# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES



## CONCORDIA KIDS NIGHT RESUMES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10—REGISTRATION OPEN!

Each Wednesday evening during the school year, children are invited to Concordia Kids Night. This faith- and fun-filled program is open to all kids 1st grade through 5th grade. We especially love it when you bring friends! Registration is open for the 2nd semester at [CKhome.org/kidsnight](http://CKhome.org/kidsnight).

Concordia Kids Night is designed to support the home, the primary environment for faith formation. It is for all children of our congregation and invited friends. Contact Kristin Anderson for more information.

## KIDSMIN SUNDAY RESUMES JANUARY 7

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 8:15am, 9:30am, or 10:45am KidsMin Sunday will work for you.

**9:20-9:40am** - All kids Check in outside the Dining Hall (before 9:30am worship or after 8:15am worship concludes)

**9:30-9:50am** - Let's praise GOD! Children are welcomed and encouraged to praise God 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.

**10:20am** - 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 brought to the Dining Hall for prayer and closing.

## PARENTS OF 2'S

Children and their parents will learn basic Bible stories and songs led by Karen and David Lanius. Parents will also have the opportunity to break away with Karen and learn how to share faith with a toddler. Parents must be present for a 2-year-old to attend.

### Kristin Anderson

Executive Director and Interim Minister to Children  
[kanderson@CKhome.org](mailto:kanderson@CKhome.org)

## JR. YOUTH NIGHT RESUMES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Every Wednesday, from **6:00-8:00pm**, in the Youth Room, Those in junior high (grades 6-8) come together for pizza, friend connection and large group/small group time together—a perfect time to draw closer to Christ and to each other!

## CONFIRMATION OF FAITH

Our Confirmation is a three-year commitment to growing in one's faith to the point of dependence on God. It is expected that, during these three years, a student will trust fully in Christ as his/her Lord and Savior. Confirmation at Concordia is an interactive, hands-on and learning-based model on **Wednesdays** from **7:00-8:00pm**; 6th graders-1st Wednesday of the month, 7th graders-2nd Wednesday of the month, 8th graders-3rd Wednesday of the month.



## HIGH SCHOOL SMALL GROUPS RESUME SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

A small group is the best place to get connected in our high school ministry and dive deeper into your relationship with Jesus! On the **1st and 3rd Sundays of the month**, we come together from **6:00-8:00pm** in the Youth Room to study the Bible, talk about life, eat some food and have tons of fun together. A caring adult leader or two will guide you through the year.

### Jayme Nichols, DCE

Minister to Youth  
[jnichols@CKhome.org](mailto:jnichols@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



## CONCORDIA'S SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY IS GROWING AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Typically, in order for a child or youth with special needs to participate in a program at Concordia, the assistance of a buddy is required to do so. Right now, we have children with special needs who cannot attend programming because they are waiting for buddy assignments.

### Who is a buddy?

Buddies are those with hearts that desire to serve children and youth with disabilities to help them learn about the love of Jesus. Buddies generally have been middle school to college-aged youth, but adults are encouraged to volunteer as well.

### What does a buddy do?

Sometimes all that is needed from a buddy is to be in the same room where the child or youth requires a little bit of extra encouragement or guidance. Other times, a buddy will work closely with their friend with special needs, providing constant support so they can participate with their peers.

### Sound intimidating?

It shouldn't! Each volunteer is trained by me before being placed with a child or youth with special needs. No buddy is ever left to "fly solo" until I know they are ready to serve.

### How much time is required of a buddy?

Buddies volunteer during children and youth programming on Wednesday nights and/or Sunday mornings. Only want to volunteer during the Summer? We have needs for buddies then, too! A weekly commitment is appreciated, but not required to join the buddy ministry.

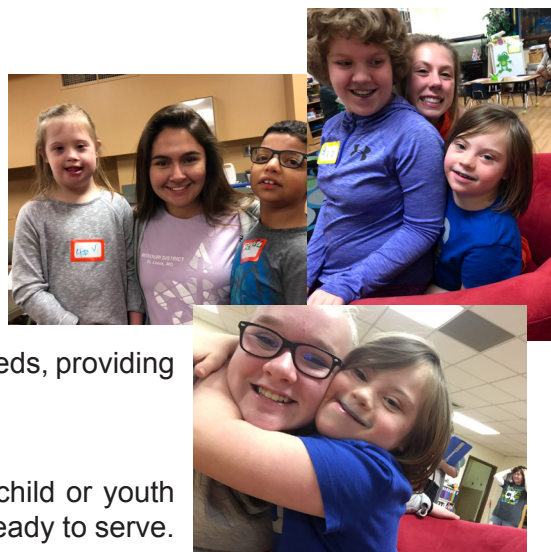
### Here's what some of our buddies have to say:

- *"Being a buddy has been an amazing experience because I have been able to make the Word of God accessible for all kids."*
- *"It's a lot of fun being able to connect with the kids, and it's a really good experience."*
- *"I think it's really awesome being a buddy. I really connected with Christ through this experience."*
- *"Being a buddy has impacted me by helping someone special with their faith journey and seeing them grow in God."*

If you would like to be a buddy or have any questions, please email me or call/text 314-374-0682.

### Jessica Crawford

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



### CKDEAF MINISTRY

Looking for a Bible study? Interested in learning American Sign Language (ASL) while, at the same time, digging deeper into God's Word? This will be unlike anything that has been offered before!

The **ASL Bible Study** class will meet to learn how to sign songs from worship and to also discuss how those songs are part of our faith through related Bible study. The CK Sign Choir will perform a song learned in the ASL Bible Study class four times per year during worship (performing with the CK Sign Choir is not a requirement). Everyone is invited to join the ASL Bible Study. This class is open to all ages and abilities! Email me for more information at [jcrawford@CKhome.org](mailto:jcrawford@CKhome.org) or call/text 314-374-0682.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



## Ashley Bonine & Nick Hennis

A graduate student at Missouri Baptist University working on her Master of Arts in teaching, Ashley currently is a substitute teacher for the Kirkwood and Webster Groves school districts; she also works part time at Creve Coeur Racquet Club and is an avid player who is very active in the tennis community. Ashley graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia and is a huge Mizzou sports fan. Go Tigers! She will be marrying Nick in June of 2018 at Concordia.

Nick graduated from Mizzou and currently helps operate the family residential roofing company, Atlas Roofing, with his brothers. He enjoys playing volleyball and spending time with his fiancée Ashley.

## Bryan and Sarah Ehlen (Hannah, Matthew, Jackson, Evie)

This family came together in 2014 and call themselves the TALEN6 (a joining together of their two family names—Taylor and Ehlen). Bryan, an engineer at Honeywell, has two children: Jackson and Evie. Sarah, an engineering manager at Boeing, also has two children: Hannah and Matthew. Hannah is a sophomore at Kirkwood High School; she plays violin, field hockey, and is a hockey cheerleader. Matthew is a 7th grader at Nipher Middle School; he plays the trumpet and loves sports of all kinds. Jackson is in the 7th grade at Hixon Middle School; he enjoys photography and baseball. Evie is in the 3rd grade at Bristol Elementary; she enjoys gymnastics and basketball. Before joining Concordia, Bryan and Sarah hoped to find a home church that could help develop a strong Christian foundation for their family.



## The Fairless Family

David and Casey have two children: Kathleen (Kat) is in kindergarten at Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) and Joshua is 1 year old. Casey is a St. Louis native and was a school teacher until she decided to take on being a stay-at-home mom. David was raised on a small farm in Vienna, IL, and is now working as a government contractor in the IT field. They both enjoy reading, traveling and hiking in the outdoors.

## Tom Rensch (Sammi)

Tom is a single father with two daughters: Ashley Bonine (also joining and getting married at Concordia in June of 2018) and Sammi, who is in the 8th grade at Crestview Middle School. Tom is an insurance broker for Cornerstone Insurance Group, specializing in commercial and health insurance for small and mid-sized companies. The whole family plays tennis; Tom also plays golf and supports a respectable handicap. Their dog is named Truman after the Tiger mascot at Mizzou. They are happy to have joined the Concordia family.



## Judy Simokaitis

Judy was looking for a church to call “home.” She has eight children and 14 grandchildren and is now joining her son and his family here at Concordia. Before retirement, Judy

worked for 35 years in development at Cardinal Glennon. She loves to read and attends several Bible studies.

## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

At Concordia, we invite those interested in becoming members to participate in a class which overviews the Christian faith and the Christian life shared by Concordia's family. Our next orientation is **Monday, January 22, from 6:30-8:30pm**. Childcare is available. Register at [CKhome.org/membership](http://CKhome.org/membership) or contact Marcy Scholl at [mscholl@CKhome.org](mailto:mscholl@CKhome.org).



# LUNCH AND LEARN PICTURES



**CONCORDIA**  
Lutheran Church

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

505 S. Kirkwood Road  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
CKhome.org