

Concordia
CONNECTION

March 2018



LENT/HOLY WEEK | KIDS CAMP SERVE OPPORTUNITIES | SPECIAL NEEDS VBS

PASTOR'S NOTE



Happy Spring, Concordia Friends!!!!

70 degrees. Soooooo ... GOOOOOD! We are in the homestretch of Lent now. Holy Week is coming. Easter Sunday will suffer no April Fools! Kids Ministry is rockin'! Soup luncheons are spectacular! Hearing so many stories about how our Concordia family is out in our community, serving, sharing, working and showing Jesus to people. So many GOOOOD things to say, "Thank you, God!"

My encouragement continues to be: find a community, a small-group, tight-knit circle of Christians with whom you can share life outside of worship. Once a week, a couple times each month, on Sunday mornings or a weeknight/morning of your design. Discipleship happens in groups, and we have a LOAD of GOOOOOD groups flourishing at Concordia. Or, form your own!

Take some time to check out the insides of this *Concordia Connection* newsletter—building updates, staff news, ministry program notes. All dedicated to our spiritual growth and the mission of the Gospel that grows like fruit on those strengthened spiritual branches of ours!

Warmly,
Pastor Seidler
Senior Pastor
sseidler@CKhome.org

KAREN ALLMAN DEPARTURE

We wish Karen well as she takes a new position at the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis as Grants Administrator. Karen has served us for six years as an administrative staff member. Thank you, Karen!



LENT AND EASTER WORSHIP



Lenten Midweek Services
"The Gospel in Seven Words"
March 7, 14, 21
11:00am, 7:00pm; Sanctuary



Maundy Thursday—March 29
11:00am; Sanctuary
7:00pm; Concordia Center
(sign language interpreted;
childcare available)

Weekends in Lent

Saturdays: 5:00pm; Sanctuary
Sundays: 8:15am; Sanctuary
9:30/10:45am; Concordia Center



Good Friday—March 30
11:00am; Sanctuary
7:00pm; Concordia Center
(sign language interpreted;
childcare available)



Palm Sunday—March 24/25
Saturday: 5:00pm; Sanctuary
Sunday: 8:15am; Sanctuary
9:30/10:45am; Concordia Center



Easter Worship—March 31/April 1
Saturday: 5:00pm; Sanctuary
Sunday: 6:30am; Sunrise worship
at Oak Hill Cemetery
8:00/9:30am; Sanctuary
9:30/11:00am; Concordia Center
(9:30am sign language interpreted)

ADULTS

Dear Friends in Christ,

BE STILL: *The Gospel in Seven Words*. Have you worked on yours yet? I find myself doing lots of word counts now and finding lots of seven-word strings that are very Gospel-centered.

BE ONE: We have three more “**Soup’s On**” Lenten lunches and one Maundy Thursday opportunity for you to gather with others for food and fellowship after you have had a chance to worship at our 11:00am midweek services.

BE FAITHFUL: Our “Soup’s On” free-will table offerings will support **two great outreach efforts:** The Concordia Men’s Ministry Turkey Blessing and All Nations Lutheran Church (Pastor Chris Paavola) in University City.



I will close with one of my Gospel-in-seven-words sentences: “We are the JOY set before Jesus!”

Blessed Lent and JOY in the Gospel.

Pastor Meggers

Associate Pastor

dmeggers@CKhome.org

GIVING TREE

Make Concordia’s “Giving Tree”—located at the Giving Center in the Concordia Commons—part of your Lenten offering. Choose a tag from the tree, purchase and return the item(s) by **Good Friday, March 30**. Your contributions will be shared with a number of organizations in our community that serve the less fortunate.



APRIL LUNCH AND LEARN

Please join us on **Thursday, April 19**, at **11:30am**. Our guest, Pastor Schoedel, will offer the following presentation: “*Stories (Funny—Not Always!) During My Pilgrimage*.” There is a suggested donation of \$5 for sandwiches; bring a salad or dessert to share. RSVP to **Patty Wilson**, 314.822.7772 ext. 128, or by signing the list in the Concordia Commons.

MEN'S GOLF LEAGUE

The Concordia Men's 2018 Golf League is looking for players of all skill levels. **Tuesday evenings** from **April through August**. Tee times **4:45-5:15pm** at Paradise Valley Golf and Country Club (44/141). Greens fees: \$17 walking, \$21 with cart. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, contact **Ray Herweck** at ray.herweck@gmail.com, 314-680-9925.

“SOUP’S ON”



HEALTH FAIR



WORSHIP ARTS



As we approach Holy Week and Easter at the end of the month, I would like to make everyone aware of a few opportunities:

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSIONAL

In the spirit of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, we will begin our Palm Sunday services on **March 25** by inviting all of the children in worship to join in a special processional. We will do this at all **three worship services (8:15/9:30/10:45am)** that morning. KidsMin Sunday participants at 9:30am will also join in the fun before returning back downstairs for more activities following the processional.

MAUNDY THURSDAY (MARCH 29) AND GOOD FRIDAY (MARCH 30)

These are two additional midweek services (**each held at 11:00am in the Sanctuary; 7:00pm in the Concordia Center**) that follow Jesus' final days before Easter. Maundy Thursday comes from the Latin word *mandatum* which translates to "commandment" or "mandate." The name comes from the two commands that Jesus gave to His disciples at the Last Supper: Love one another and celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The narrative of Good Friday takes us through Jesus' betrayal, Crucifixion and, finally, the shutting of His tomb. Both of these opportunities are great ways to hear the full story once again. We encourage you to try them out if you have never attended in the past!

EASTER ORCHESTRA

Our Easter Orchestra is open to high school students (9th grade) through adults; this group is made up of woodwind, brass, strings, and percussion players. Each year, I work to put together musical arrangements that blend the best of our traditional Easter hymnody with the familiar sounds of modern worship songs. If you would like to participate, please contact me at bknorp@CKhome.org as soon as possible, so I know which parts to prepare. I will send out music prior to the first rehearsal to allow for individual practice time.

Wednesday, March 28 – Rehearsal from 7:00-8:30pm in the Concordia Center

Saturday, March 31 – Rehearsal from 9:00-10:30am in the Concordia Center

Sunday, April 1 – Performance during Concordia Center Worship at 9:30am and 11:00am

EASTER CHOIR

Our Easter Choir will sing during the Sanctuary services under the leadership of Dr. Jim Marriott. If you plan to participate, please contact Jim at jmarriott@CKhome.org, so he has an idea of how many to expect. The rehearsal and singing dates are:

Wednesday, March 28 – Rehearsal from 7:00-8:30pm in the Sanctuary balcony

Saturday, March 31 – Rehearsal from 9:00-10:30am in the Sanctuary balcony

Sunday, April 1 – Performance during Sanctuary Worship at 8:00am and 9:30am

Brendan Knorp

Director for the Worship Arts

bknorp@CKhome.org

EXECUTIVE REPORT

The 2018 Budget was approved at the Congregational Voters' Assembly Meeting on February 5.



| | Budget 2018 | Results 2017 | Increase | % |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Revenues | | | | |
| Contributions | \$2,359,000 | \$2,335,348 | \$23,652 | 1% |
| Other Income | \$101,800 | \$112,675 | \$(10,875) | -10% |
| Lutheran Foundation Grant | \$10,000 | \$15,000 | \$(5,000) | -33% |
| Concordia Foundation Support | \$30,000 | \$- | \$(30,000) | |
| CCLS Facility Fees | <u>\$157,000</u> | <u>\$153,753</u> | <u>\$3,247</u> | <u>2%</u> |
| Total Revenues | \$2,657,800 | \$2,616,776 | \$41,024 | 2% |
| Operating Expenses | | | | |
| Personnel | \$1,334,000 | \$1,293,243 | \$40,757 | 3% |
| Property | \$297,200 | \$270,476 | \$26,724 | 10% |
| Program | | | | |
| Ministry Programs | \$165,100 | \$172,711 | \$(7,611) | -4% |
| Administration | <u>\$77,500</u> | <u>\$75,059</u> | <u>\$2,441</u> | <u>3%</u> |
| | \$242,600 | \$247,770 | \$(5,170) | -2% |
| Parochial Education | | | | |
| CCLS | \$611,000 | \$601,780 | \$9,220 | 2% |
| Lutheran High School | <u>\$43,000</u> | <u>\$38,000</u> | <u>\$5,000</u> | <u>13%</u> |
| | \$654,000 | \$639,780 | \$14,220 | 2% |
| Total Operating Expenses | \$2,527,800 | \$2,451,269 | \$76,531 | 3% |
| Debt Service | | | | |
| Principal | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$- | 0% |
| Interest | \$30,000 | \$55,799 | \$25,799 | -46% |
| | <u>\$130,000</u> | <u>\$155,799</u> | <u>\$25,799</u> | <u>-17%</u> |
| Total Expenses | \$2,657,800 | \$2,607,068 | \$50,732 | 2% |
| Surplus (deficit) | \$- | \$9,708 | \$(9,708) | |

FINANCING NEWS

On **March 1**, we will have paid off our \$1.5 million bond balance! We will be debt free (at least for a few months). As we move into the construction phase of the Our Next Step project, we will pursue debt financing which includes refinancing of the \$1.5 million bond and a loan for the new building. There are three banks Concordia will consider: Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), Jefferson and First Bank. The Finance Committee will review the proposals and make a recommendation to Church Council. Once a bank has been selected, we will not move forward with any new debt without a vote from the congregational assembly; look for that to take place in either **April or May 2018**.

Kristin Anderson

Executive Director

kanderson@CKhome.org

OUR NEXT STEP

We have approval from the City of Kirkwood! Our next steps will be to finalize a construction contract, refine our design to fit our budget, get approval from the Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD), and obtain permits to begin work.

We are looking at a church "ceremonial" groundbreaking on **Sunday, April 8**, and hope to officially break ground in **May 2018**. Stay tuned!



CK YOUTH

YOUTH SERVE OPPORTUNITIES AT CONCORDIA KIDS CAMP

Concordia Kids Camp, designed for our 3rd-7th graders (2017-2018), is **June 19-22** at Camp Trinity near New Haven, MO. If you have any questions, please contact me.



COUNSELOR

Each year, we invite our high school youth to be Counselors, and to work alongside our God Squad and adult leaders. You can find a job description of the position below. If you are interested in applying to be a Counselor this year, please complete the form online at CKhome.org/counselor. The number of youth we can take is limited, so please fill out by **March 28**, if you wish to be considered. We look forward to receiving your application.

Requirements

- Passion for working with kids
- Deep love for Jesus
- Desire to share your faith and grow deeper in your faith
- Ability to live and work in close proximity with others
- Willingness to be a Christian role model 24/7
- Desire to lead others to a deeper relationship with Jesus
- Willingness to put the needs of others before your own
- Commitment to work as part of a team and support other team members
- The camp counselor position is one of the most demanding positions on the camp staff. You are responsible for implementing the camp program under the direction of the adult leaders, and caring for and nurturing children the entire time you are at camp.

Specific Responsibilities

- Attend ALL staff training meetings
- Help with packing and registration of campers
- Travel with the campers
- Be responsible for a small group of campers as a family group leader
- Be responsible for a group of campers as a cabin leader along with a member of the God Squad
- Implement all parts of the program with your family group under the direction of the adult leaders
- Help supervise free-time activities

GOD SQUAD

Each year we invite our 8th grade youth (completed) to be part of the leadership team who helps make camp happen, providing opportunities for the kid's lives to be transformed. **God Squad is at camp June 18-22.**

We expect members of the God Squad to be committed Christians with strong character and integrity. You must be teachable and receptive to consistent challenge and evaluation. You should also be skilled at building relationships, willing to take initiative, and unafraid of responsibility. To ensure that we have high-quality staff members our application process includes the following: Application, Signed Conduct Agreement and two Personal Recommendations (ask two people you trust to write a letter to me, explaining why they think you would be a good fit for God Squad at Concordia Kids Camp). Fill out the application at CKhome.org/godsquad.

Requirements

- Love Jesus
- Love people
- Willing to learn
- Can attend all mandatory dates for training and camp

Jayme Nichols, DCE

Minister to Youth
jnichols@CKhome.org

LUTHERAN DAY AT THE BALLPARK

Join us **Sunday, April 22**, for Lutheran Schools Day at the Ballpark! You are invited to join with other Lutheran families at Busch Stadium at **1:15pm** as the Cardinals take on the Cincinnati Reds. Discounted tickets are just \$20 each (face value \$58). Sign up to sit with friends by indicating Lutheran High School South on the ticket order form.

Order your tickets online at lhssstl.org by **April 15**. Tickets will be available for pick up from Lutheran South on April 18.

KIDSMIN

Many children look forward to the festivities of Easter Sunday—fancy clothing, joyous songs during church, delicious food enjoyed by family and friends, Easter egg hunts, chocolate, fuzzy bunnies, warmer weather, and the celebration that Jesus has risen from the dead for each of us! It is easy, however, to jump right to Easter without remembering all that Jesus did for our sake leading up to His Resurrection. Here are some ideas to help remember this special season in your own home:



Blessings Jar

It is easy to forget the simple blessings God gives us every day. To help remember them, take a jar or container of some kind (your kids can have fun decorating it) and place it somewhere accessible in your home. Cut up bits of paper and put them, along with pens or pencils, by the jar. When something good happens or someone has been kind, write it down on a slip of paper and drop it in the jar. Once a week, when everyone is together, read the slips then say “thank-you” to God for His many blessings!

Pray for People across the World

Print off a world map. Each day during Lent, choose one country. After you have prayed, place a sticker or draw a smiley face on that particular country. Before long, you will have prayed for many cultures around the globe ... and have a very colorful map!

Remember God Is Always Near Us

Sometimes it is easy to feel alone and forget that God is always with us because we can't actually see His Presence. Take a safety pin (add a ribbon/bow/beads) and wear it on your shirt or pin it to a backpack, purse, duffle bag as a reminder that no matter what you face during the day, God is with you!

Take Something On

Many people “give up” something during Lent. Maybe a bad habit or something they really enjoy, such as, soda or sweets. This tradition is intended to help us turn away from whatever has distracted us and to turn back toward God. Instead of “giving up” something this Lenten season, try **adding** something instead. It could be a short daily or weekly devotion, going for a walk or taking time to pray together. Do whatever works for your family!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS), JULY 16-20, 2018

Are you ready to get your **Game On**? That is our theme for 2018 VBS! Based on 2 Peter 1:3, it teaches that: *“His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and goodness.”*



Vacation Bible School Volunteer Recruitment

We will do volunteer recruiting a little different this year. For 350 kids, we need 135 people willing to serve! Ensuring we have enough helpers to make sure the kids' experience is positive, safe and rewarding is critical. To that end, we are recruiting now and will open registration in early April for the specific number of kids we can effectively and safely handle. We desire quality over quantity. VBS is **July 16-20**, from **9:00am-noon each day**. We will offer training options for all who serve. Volunteer at CKhome.org/VBS. **Student registration begins Sunday, April 1.**

ONGOING KIDSMIN FAITH-BUILDING PROGRAMS

If your family has not yet participated in Concordia Kids Night or KidsMin Sunday, we invite you to join us! Contact me for more information or visit our website at CKhome.org/children.

Concordia Kids Night – Wednesdays, 5:00-7:45pm (1st-5th Grade)

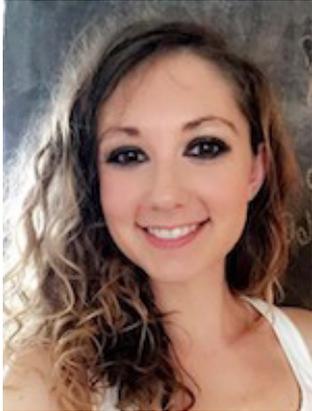
KidsMin – Sundays, 9:20-10:20am (3 years old-5th Grade)

Rebecca Schultz

Children's Ministry Assistant

rschultz@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



Vacation Bible School (VBS) is going to be a little more awesome this year, and I'm not just talking about the date. **(Whoa! Monday-Friday, July 16-20, 2018)**

Kids with special needs have always been welcome to attend VBS here at Concordia. Last year, we "took it up a notch" and had buddies available for those who needed one-on-one assistance in order to participate. As a result, we had six children and youth with special needs join us!

But, what about the kiddos who need to be taught in an alternate, self-contained environment with modified curriculum and materials to better aid their comprehension of the Bible lesson?

Or ... what about the kiddos who are not able to attend a typical high-energy VBS with 350 other children because of their significant needs?

This year, it is our goal that EVERY child who wants to participate in VBS and grow closer to God is able to do so! Here are the various ways a child with special needs might participate in VBS at Concordia in 2018:

- Full inclusion in all VBS rotations; no assistance required
- Full inclusion in all VBS rotations, with the assistance of a buddy
- Self-contained setting for Bible study rotation only (NEW!)
- Alternate Special Needs-only VBS* from **1:30pm-3:30pm; Monday-Thursday, July 16-19 (NEW!)**

***Wait, What Was That? A Different VBS? YEP!**

Concordia will offer an alternate, shorter, four-day VBS in the afternoon—just for kiddos with special needs! In this VBS setting, those with significant needs (whose parents have decided that they would not be able to attend a typical VBS) will be able to receive the care and attention that they require along with lessons and materials designed just for them.

It is through prayerful and thoughtful consideration that the parents and Concordia's Special Needs Ministry, as a team, decide which environment or combination of environments would be best suited for each child. Do you know a family whose child with special needs has not been able to attend VBS in the past? Please invite them!

CKDEAF MINISTRY



ASL Bible Study

A time for both the hearing and deaf members of Concordia to come together and study God's Word. Class meets the **2nd and 4th Sundays** of the month from **10:45-11:45am** in the Library.

ASL Class

CK Deaf invites our Concordia family to learn American Sign Language (ASL)! Class meets the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays** of each month from **7:00-8:00pm** in the Library. All ages and abilities welcome.

TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN, WE NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS!

We have the following opportunities on the Special Needs VBS Team in the morning (9:00am-noon) and/or afternoon (1:30-3:30pm):

- One-on-One Buddies
- Bible Study Leader/Assistant
- Recreation Leader/Assistant
- Music Leader/Assistant
- Crafts Leader/Assistant

Volunteer at CKhome.org/VBS.

Jessica Crawford

Director of Children and Families with Special Needs

jcrawford@CKhome.org

314-374-0682

OUTBOUND MINISTRIES

Concordia Outbound Ministries has begun evaluation of funding requests for 2018. At our January meeting, we awarded the following organizations grants:

| | |
|---|----------|
| Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA)—Education Scholarship Support | \$10,000 |
| CFNA—General Support | \$10,000 |
| Lutheran Association of Special Education (LASE) | \$ 5,000 |
| Feed My People | \$ 5,000 |

The applications presented by these organizations were excellent. In addition, Concordia has several members who support these agencies, spreading Christ's love and serving the community!

HONG KONG MISSION

Fellow member, Denise Marquardt, returned to Hong Kong January 24-February 4, 2018

"The team was able to build old friendships, strengthen existing friendships, and make new friendships. We spent the week making apple crisp with students, explaining apple idioms, and explaining what it means to be the 'apple of God's eye.' Thank you for all the prayers!" —Denise



UGANDA MISSION TRIP

March 15-26, the team will be traveling to and serving in Kawete, Uganda (a small village in the southern part of Uganda not far from Kampala, the capital), conducting a health clinic, offering Bible studies for all ages, building relationships, painting, repairing barb-wire fences, gifting goats to the recent Primary 7 graduates and supporting long-term workers. Keep them in your prayers with a daily prayer calendar and follow their trip at CCIspring2018@blogspot.com.

BELIZE MISSION TRIP

The Belize mission trip will take place in **March**. Please pray for them to arrive/return safely. May the mission trip bear much fruit in the caring of others, building of lasting relationships, and sharing of the Gospel!

Res Run 2018

Lace up your shoes for the 12th Annual Resurrection Run on **Easter Sunday, April 1!** The event will begin at **6:30am** with a sunrise service at Oak Hill Cemetery. The 5k run/walk will follow as runners make their way to the finish line at the Magic House. **Register by March 23** to be guaranteed a T-shirt. Early registration is \$25. Late registration is \$30. Shuttle service will be provided at 6:00am Sunday, April 1, from Magic House to the cemetery. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Belize mission trip. Register at CKhome.org/resrun.



Volunteer to Help!

We need 32 volunteers early **Easter morning, April 1**, to shuttle runners, keep them on path and cheer them along the way. To make this event a success, you can offer to drive runners from the Magic House to Oak Hill Cemetery, or you can volunteer to be a course director guiding runners on the route. All runners should be in by 8:30am, so you can still make it to Sunday services!

Belize Fundraiser at Amigo's

Olé! Olé! Mark your calendars to eat at Amigo's Cantina on **Monday, March 12**. The restaurant, located at 120 W. Jefferson Ave. in Kirkwood, will donate a percentage of its sales all day--lunch and dinner--to Concordia's Belize mission trip. Enjoy Amigo's famous steak fajitas or shrimp tacos while supporting a good cause! No flyer needed.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Dwight and Tina Erdbruegger

Dwight works at Commerce Bank as chairman of CBI Equipment Finance. Tina is an accounting technician at 1st Community Credit Union. They have two grown sons: Scott and Brad. Both enjoy the water; boating; going to movies; snow skiing; games; and walking their dogs, Molly and Baxter.

The Gossrau Family

Jason is employed at Turnkey Technologies and JJ is employed at the Department of Mental Health. Their two sons—Will, a kindergartener, and Luke, in preschool—attend the Webster Groves School District. Visiting the family farm in Marion, IL, is a favorite activity, as well as playing sports and finding things to do in the community.



Marlene Krenzke

Marlene was married to Dick and is now rejoining Concordia. Her daughter, Liz Trost, invited her to live with her. Music and art have been important throughout her life. Influenced by Dr. Paul Manz, Marlene concentrated on organ, choral and liturgies. She also enjoys offering “Brown Bag” noontime recitals and pop ragtime performances.

Her gifts of art and décor were significant in designing service folders, banners and paintings. Marlene looks forward to serving our Savior at Concordia.

Edward and daughter, Tabitha, Thurman and Robin Singer

Edward and his daughter were recently welcomed and cared for at Concordia. In August, he will marry fiancée Robin Singer in Concordia’s Sanctuary. Edward is also running for state senate in Jefferson County, advocating for special needs, seniors and teens. He loves ballroom dancing, cooking and helping people. Robin, a nurse at Des Peres Hospital, has two grown sons (Michael and Jake) and will soon be mother to beautiful daughter, Tabitha Thurman, who has participated in the Butterfly Dreams Pageants and Special Olympics. Together, they own a Newfoundland puppy named Bella.



Elaine Simon

Before retiring, Elaine was a registered nurse for 20 years at Missouri Baptist Hospital and nine years at Bethesda Dilworth Nursing Home.

She enjoys playing Scrabble, Bingo and reading, and also helps to decorate poster boards for all the changing seasons. Elaine currently lives at Kirkwood House.

Judy Turner

Married for 36 years before her husband’s death, Judy and Keith were blessed with two children (Amy and Dan) and six grandchildren who live in Farmington and Imperial, MO. Judy enjoys traveling and has belonged to various Corvette clubs, and was even the winner of a 2001 White Convertible Corvette! She looks forward to meeting people and making new friends.



JoAnn Walsh

A legal secretary for 20 years in St. Charles, JoAnn and her husband, Kevin, have lived in Maplewood for six years.

Her daughter and family are members at Concordia; her granddaughter is also in preschool at CCLS. JoAnn enjoys outdoor activities, hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing AND, most especially, spending time with her four grandchildren!

Our next orientation is **Sunday, March 11, 11:45am-1:45pm (with lunch)**. Childcare is available. Register at CKhome.org/membership or contact **Marcy Scholl** at mscholl@CKhome.org.



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

BE STILL, BE ONE, BE FAITHFUL
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