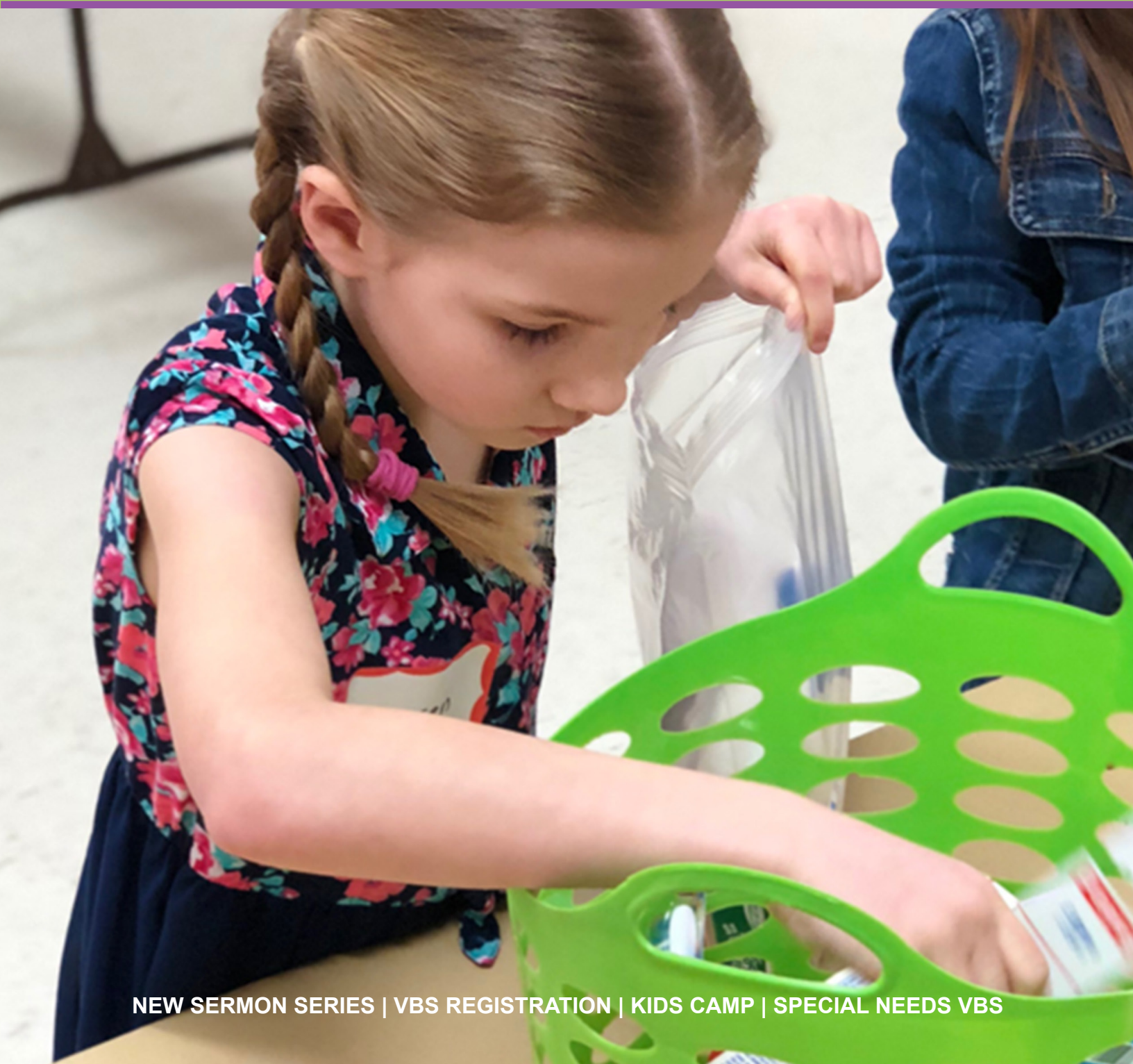


Concordia CONNECTION

April 2018



NEW SERMON SERIES | VBS REGISTRATION | KIDS CAMP | SPECIAL NEEDS VBS

PASTOR'S NOTE



Jesus is alive. And Concordia-Kirkwood, is about living His life. “*Because I live, you too shall live.*” These words from Jesus met the disciples in a very uncertain moment of time ... a time when doubt was growing in them about their future and the future of Christ’s ministry.

Whether by building new buildings, starting new discipleship groups, going on new (or old) missions or just having a conversation with our neighbors over the fence or in the hallway of our

apartment ... let’s continue to live for Jesus. I am grateful for the ways in which this latest edition of our *Concordia Connection* newsletter paints a picture of life for, and with, Jesus. With Jesus, life is good!

Warmly,
Pastor Seidler
Senior Pastor
sseidler@CKhome.org

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A few weeks back, our Chief Operating Officer/Executive Director, Kristin Anderson, and I shared a two-year financial framework for our ministry and life together as a congregation. This **\$13.3 million** expense projection is ambitious. \$5.5 million of that amount is for our ministry program. The remaining \$7.8 million funds the first phase of our building expansion—our Center for Christian Education, which will house our early childhood, youth and parochial school ministries.

After three months into our 24-month journey, your generosity has resulted in income of \$3.9 million for the building and \$356,000 for our ministry program. Thank you!

As a way to benchmark this huge financial vision, we have set two goals to achieve by the end of April:

\$4,185,000 for our youth ministry building expansion
\$740,000 for our ministry program

As we make our way through April, Kristin and I will update you on our progress. Join us in considering an extra gift during this month to help us successfully achieve these goals, and the larger ones they point to.

Front Cover - Palm Sunday KidsMin Serve Sunday



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

TWO YEAR MINISTRY EXPENSE BUDGET

JANUARY 2018-DECEMBER 2019

\$13,300,000 GOAL

\$7,800,000
OUR NEXT STEP
CAPITAL GOAL

\$4,185,000 APRIL 30 GOAL

\$3.9 MILLION RECEIVED

\$5,500,000
MISSION & MINISTRY
GOAL

\$740,000 APRIL 30 GOAL

\$356,000 RECEIVED

ADULTS

How does it feel to receive a gift from someone who loves you? How does it feel to give a gift to someone you love? Think of the reactions ... surprise, smiles, joy, laughter, tears!?!?!?

Let me share a treasure of mine with you ...

Her health has changed; she seems to recognize me, but no longer remembers my name. Last week, I went to see her. She was carefully going through her desk drawer to show me all the "treasures"—a felt flower, stuffed elephant, and some cards. She excitedly, but tenderly, pulled out several cards to share with me; I noticed these were the cards that I had sent her! Her smile is contagious, with the same joyful expression, as if she is seeing them for the very first time. Proudly she reads the Scriptures in them and tenderly returns them to her drawer. How precious are these treasures!



I invite you to love one another as Christ has loved us. You will never know when you will be a treasure to another ... or, they will be a treasure to you.

We are treasures to Christ who loves us. May we be His treasures to others!

Blessings,

Sharon Ema

Director for the Healing Arts

sema@CKhome.org

CARE MINISTRIES

Friend to Friend – Befriend a person in the community or congregation for fellowship and care by a call, card or visit.

Card Making – Join in fellowship while making cards for these special ministry contacts. No experience required. Supplies provided. Our next gathering is **Monday, April 9**, at **6:30pm** in the Library. Join us!

Sunday Prayer Ministers – Pray with those who have urgent and on-going needs; Sunday mornings between services.

Email me at sema@CKhome.org or call 314-822-7772 x132 for more information.

Alzheimer's Workshop

A workshop focusing on the *10 Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's* will be presented by the Alzheimer's Association at Laclede Groves, 723 S. Laclede Station Road; **Friday, May 11**, at **10:00am**. RSVP by calling 314-395-0988.

UPCOMING LUNCH AND LEARNS

Thursday, April 19

Pastor Walter Schoedel will share reflections from his life and ministry entitled *Stories (Funny – Not Always) During My Pilgrimage*. Sub sandwiches provided at a suggested donation of \$5.00; please bring a dessert or salad to share. All are welcome to join us in the Atrium at **11:30am**.

Thursday, May 17

We plan to visit the Holocaust Museum & Learning Center, 12 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis. The center is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Holocaust, educating about its causes and illustrating how what happened during this tragic period relates to our lives today. Admission is free. Meet at Concordia at **9:30am** to carpool; we will spend approximately two hours at the museum before returning to Concordia for lunch at a suggested donation of \$7.50.

Registration for Lunch and Learn events helps with planning. Please sign up on the Welcome Tab, on the list at the Registration Center or by calling **Patty Wilson**, 314-822-7772 x128.

SOUP'S ON THANK YOU!

Concordia's Ageless Generation Team organized and served lunches following our 11:00am midweek Lenten services. Many willing hands prepared an array of delicious soups, breads, and desserts which were enjoyed by all! Special thanks to all who helped with set-up and clean-up, as well as to those who brought food. The generous luncheon free-will offerings were divided between All Nations Lutheran Church in University City and Concordia's Turkey Blessing project.

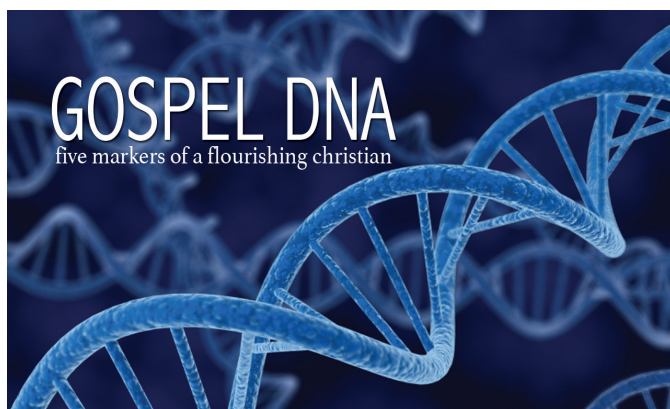
WORSHIP ARTS



Beginning the weekend of **April 7/8**, Concordia will embark on a five-week sermon series entitled ***Gospel DNA: Five Markers of a Flourishing Christian***. This series will seek to answer two questions. First, “What is the Gospel?” And, second, “What does it mean for me?” As we will learn, each of these questions arises out of an authentic life. This authenticity is found in the experience of sin, where—at times—nothing seems to “click.” And yet, even in brokenness, we see the mercies of God anew every morning. Only the Gospel reality ... only the Gospel DNA ... only the Gospel experience ... can offer satisfying answers to life’s authentic problems!

Each week, Concordia will focus on one of the various ways in which Jesus talks about the Gospel—through *people, multiplication, truth, adaptability, and self-sacrifice*. The Gospel is not an abstract idea. Rather, the Gospel is something to be lived.

But wait, there is more! In addition to this sermon series, we will be running a five-week Bible study during the **9:30am hour on Sundays**. This study, held weekly in the Sanctuary Chapel, also begins **April 8**. Each session will be characterized by prayer, Scripture, sharing, and application of God’s Word. Consider this Easter season a new opportunity to be refreshed in the study of Jesus.



Jacob Schultz

Pastoral Assistant

jschultz@CKhome.org

PALM SUNDAY KIDSMIN SERVE PROJECT

On Palm Sunday, our KidsMin Sunday had a huge number of kids to help with our servant event! They packed Bags of Cheer for the homeless in our community! We supplied the kids with basic items that we often take for granted, such as, toothpaste, first-aid kits, soap, etc. and included a snack and a soda for a special treat! It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm and the wonderful messages the kids wrote to share the news of Jesus with the people receiving the bags!



KIDSMIN

Summer is almost here ... a time of relaxation, warm weather, and sunshine! It can often be a time when we fall out of the habits we kept up during the school year. True rest comes when we lean on Jesus for all things. Find your rest in Jesus this Summer! Join us each weekend for church and KidsMin Sunday!

Summertime—a chance to see and appreciate the beautiful and amazing world God has placed around us. Take time to not only slow down and appreciate God's creation, but also slow down and notice what God is doing in your family's life. We ask our kids questions all the time: *What did you do today? Did you have fun with your friends? What did you learn at school?* While all of these are important issues to communicate, let's add more. Don't let Sunday be the only time you focus on what God is doing in your life and certainly don't keep it to yourself! Make talking about God and what He is doing for you a daily conversation. How about asking some of these instead:

- *What did God help you with today?*
- *What has God done for you today?*
- *Did you notice anything amazing in God's creation today?*
- *Did you show God's love to anyone today?*
- *What would you like me to keep in my prayers?*

Sure, it may feel awkward at first, but keep at it ... if it's not already, soon, it will become a normal part of conversation in your home!

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

Students 3 years old through 4th grade, grab your megaphones, lace up your cleats, and tune up your instruments to join **Game On!** VBS, **July 16-20**, from **9:00am-noon!** As you fill up the offensive line, sideline, and drumline as players, cheerleaders, and band members realize God has given you His ultimate playbook. He wants you to join His team, train hard, celebrate salvation, and encourage one another. Get in the spirit today with **Game On!** VBS. All abilities welcome--support available. \$30 per child--includes backpack of gear and CD. **Register at CKhome.org/VBS!**



VBS Volunteer Recruitment

We currently have just over 60 volunteers signed up to serve for VBS--**for 350 kids, we need 135 volunteers!** Ensuring we have enough helpers to make sure the kids' experience is positive, safe and rewarding is critical. VBS is **July 16-20**, from **9:00am-noon** each day. Training provided. **Volunteer at CKhome.org/VBS.**

ONGOING KIDSMIN FAITH-BUILDING PROGRAMS

KidsMin Sunday is a wonderful opportunity each week to learn about Jesus and grow in faith. Our committed teachers look for ways to engage children in the Bible story and encourage them to live out their faith each day. Join us **every Sunday** throughout the Summer months!

Concordia Kids Night has four more weeks left before Summer break. Even if you have not attended all year, we invite you to come learn about Paul and how he shared the Good News of Jesus. Plus, everyone loves a good celebration ... don't miss out on our **April 25** end-of-the-year party! If your family has not yet participated in Concordia Kids Night or KidsMin Sunday, we invite you to try it out anytime! Contact me for more information or visit our website at CKhome.org/children.

Concordia Kids Night – **Wednesdays, 5:00-7:45pm** (1st-5th Grade), through April 25

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

Rebecca Schultz

Children's Ministry Assistant

rschultz@CKhome.org

CK YOUTH



GLOW! LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE! — 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. Experience the Light of Jesus through a variety of camp experiences. *"I am the Light of the World. If you follow Me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."* John 8:12

Students who have finished either 6th or 7th grade enjoy a unique opportunity to experience Jesus, build friendships, and have a ton of fun this Summer at Concordia Kids Camp. Sleep in tents, gather around a campfire, swim in the pool, canoe, play games like "Capture the Flag" and "Barbarian" ... all while growing in relationship with Jesus and each other. Friends are always welcome, so ask one or two ... or more ... to join you! **Register at ckhome.org/kidscamp**

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH KIDS CAMP COUNSELOR

Each year, we invite our high school youth to be Counselors, and to work alongside our God Squad and adult leaders. 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, if you wish to be considered. We look forward to receiving your application.

CREW LEADERS NEEDED FOR VBS!

This year's VBS theme--**Game On!**, **July 16-20, 8:30am-12:15pm**--is exciting, faith-filled and, of course, has music the kids will love! All Youth (5th-12th grade) are invited to serve as Crew Leaders!

What Is a Crew Leader?

Overall Responsibilities:

Help lead a group of up to six elementary students through VBS.

Specific Responsibilities:

Plan & Prepare

- Attend a training session. Check in each morning in the Concordia Center by **8:30am** for team devotion, instructions/logistics.

Assist Each Day

- Supervise up to six children throughout the day. You will travel with them through all the rotations. (NOTE: Our 5th graders will be paired with an older Crew Leader.)
- Get to know each child in your group. Help each child feel valued and happy.
- Relax and enjoy your kids.
- Make sure each of your crew is checked out and picked up by an appropriate parent/guardian.

Sign up today at CKhome.org/VBS.

Jayme Nichols, DCE

Minister to Youth

jnichols@CKhome.org



HOUSTON MISSION TRIP - HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

July 7-15, 2018 ~ Houston, Texas

Transportation: Driving

Lodging: Trinity Klein Lutheran Church in Klein, Texas

Meals: Provided at camp, except for travel days

Work: Each day from 8:00am-3:00pm; assigned upon arrival

Fun Day: Schlitterbahn Water Park in Galveston, Texas

Cost and Fundraising

Registration: \$464

Transportation: \$170

Travel Lodging: \$55

Fun Day: \$51

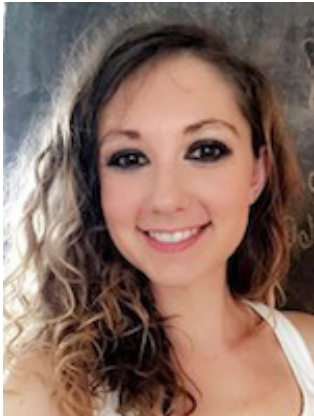
Estimated Total (Per Person): \$740

Fundraising Opportunities:

1. Community Car Wash - May 12
2. Send Support Letter to family and friends

Find out more and sign up at CKhome.org/youthserving.

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



VBS FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

When: **July 16-19; 1:30-3:30pm**

In case you missed it—this year, Concordia will offer a Vacation Bible School (VBS) that is JUST for kids with special needs! Here are answers to some of the questions you may have:

Why does there need to be a separate VBS?

Not every child with special needs is able to attend a larger VBS experience with their typical peers. 350 kids is a LOT, and three hours can be a very long time. Also, some kids with special needs attend extended school year during Summer mornings; those children would not have the opportunity, otherwise, to participate in Concordia's VBS programming.

Is a child with special needs still welcome to attend Concordia's morning VBS?

Yes! Each child with special needs will be paired up, one-on-one, with a trained buddy during the week of VBS. That buddy is there to make sure the child with special needs is able to participate and has their needs met in whatever VBS setting they choose to attend.

Will the VBS for Kids with Special Needs be different?

Yes! Concordia's afternoon VBS is made just for kids with special needs. Lessons and materials will be designed to meet individual learning and sensory needs. Enrollment capacity will be kept very low. Additionally, the afternoon VBS only lasts two hours (instead of the usual three).

What is the age range?

Generally, 5-12 years old, but I encourage parents of younger or older children to contact me, as well, if they are interested in VBS for Kids with Special Needs for their child.

BE A BUDDY!

We are looking for buddies ages 12 and up! Does this mean an adult can also volunteer as a buddy? You bet!

Each buddy will be paired, one-on-one, with a child with special needs. This means that attendance opportunities are based on—**and dependent upon**—the number of volunteers who sign up. With your help, a child with special needs will be able to attend VBS and learn about the awesome love of Jesus!

For more information about VBS and buddy volunteering, visit CKhome.org/specialneedsVBS, or contact me.

Jessica Crawford

Director of Children and Families with Special Needs

jcrawford@CKhome.org

314-374-0682

LIVING WITH ASPERGER'S SYNDROME

Join us **Wednesday, May 2 at 6:30pm**, for a presentation by Aaron Likens, National Autism Ambassador and author of *Finding Kansas: Decoding the enigma of Asperger's Syndrome*.

Aaron has spoken to nearly 80,000 people at over 850 presentations and has given to the world a revelation of how the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) mind works. His willingness to expose his inner most thoughts and feelings has unveiled the mystery of the Asperger's mind. Join him on his journey from hopelessness to hope.

Autism Spectrum Disorder Facts:

In 1980, the birth rate of ASD was 1 in 1,500

In 1997, the birth rate of ASD was 1 in 500

Today, it is 1 in 68

Open to the public. Registration required. Please visit CKhome.org/specialneedsministry to register.

OUTBOUND MINISTRIES

FEED MY PEOPLE TRIVIA NIGHT

Join us for trivia, 50/50, prizes, silent auction and fun on **Saturday, April 7**, at Immaculate Conception Church (2300 Church Rd., Arnold, MO). Doors open at **6:00pm**, Trivia starts at **7:00pm**. For details and to reserve your table of 8, visit Feed-My-People.org/events/ or contact **Sara** at 314-631-4900 x313 or Sara.Becker@Feed-My-People.net.

UGANDA PICTURES



BELIZE PICTURES



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

BE STILL, BE ONE, BE FAITHFUL

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