



Concordia CONNECTION

May 2018



OUR NEXT STEP UPDATE | WORSHIP ARTS CHANGES | KIDSMIN SUMMER UPDATE | NEW MEMBERS

PASTOR'S NOTE



The month of May is a time to mark milestones in life while gratefully mentioning the people who helped get us to them. Graduations abound—from kindergarten to college. And, often, one of the most mentioned milestone managers is named “Mom.”

As we look to Mother’s Day, I certainly warm to the many ways my own mom helped me realize so many milestones of achievement. I thrill to see how the mom of my current home works hard to spur on the three souls entrusted to our care. Renee is a great example of milestone managing at the highest level.

Take time this month to remember the One who puts our moms in our lives in the first place. Our Father in Heaven is the author of that maternal care each of us so desperately needs. Reach out and say thanks to the special ladies in your life who have helped you toward that greatest of all milestones: the welcome we look forward to in Heaven!

Warmly,
Pastor Seidler
Senior Pastor
sseidler@CKhome.org

OUTBOUND MINISTRIES

UGANDA MISSION TEAM UPDATE

Once again, the Christ Community International visit to Kawete, Uganda, and Christ Community Lutheran School, was spectacular. The team consisted of 15 individuals (six youth and nine adults) representing four churches. Some of the activities included: working in the school clinic, teaching at the Lutheran Church of Uganda Theological College, gifting Bibles and goats to the Primary 7 graduates from 2017, eight baptisms and two worship services, Bible studies (for men, women and children), “Days for Girls” menstrual kit distribution and education session, as well as visiting with and photographing the 135 sponsored students! Thank you for your prayers and contributions! The people of Kawete are grateful to know they have brothers and sisters in Christ in the United States who care for them. As we move into the eighth year of serving this community, we will continue to encourage self-sufficiency. We will also begin discussions and planning for a Lutheran secondary school so the graduates of CCLS-U may continue their Christian education. Please see our website, christcommunityinternational.org to watch the video from this trip.

GIVING CENTER (IN THE CONCORDIA COMMONS)

During the month of May, we collect food and household items for **Feed My People**. Grab a yellow bag from the table, fill it up and return the following week. For a list of most needed items, see the Giving Center.



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

TWO-YEAR MINISTRY EXPENSE BUDGET

JANUARY 2018-DECEMBER 2019

\$13,300,000 GOAL

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

\$3,960,850 RECEIVED

**\$5,500,000
MISSION & MINISTRY
GOAL**

\$407,000 RECEIVED

ADULTS



Dear Friends in Christ,

Jack, Claire, and Ollie (our grandchildren) brought their parents to our house for dinner recently. On her dresser, Grandma Meggers keeps two containers—one is for Jack and one is for Claire. Ollie will have one, soon. We put our loose change in these containers and when they come to visit, Jack and Claire collect their money, take it home and put it in

their piggy banks. Claire is at the age where she just likes to get the money. Jack is at the age where he likes to get the money AND he has a purpose for it; he is going to do something with what he has and that something has to do with Legos!

I told a joke in a sermon recently. I told it because I wanted to illustrate “set-up” and “punch line.” The “set-up” is what you have ... the “punch line” is what you do with what you have. “Set-up and punch line” is a way of explaining how a joke works and also a good way to explain how life works, especially how the Gospel works!

What we have (“set-up”) is Jesus! He is the Truth. He is the Word of God who took on human flesh to dwell among us, to live, suffer and die for us. He rose from the dead to give us life and by His Holy Spirit, we have life forever in Him.

The question for us as Christians is, “*What are we going to do with what we have?*” In other words, I am asking you, “*What is your punch line?*” How and with whom are you sharing what God has given you?

As a dad or mom, what is my punchline?
As an employee or employer, what is my punchline?
As a citizen, what is my punchline?
As a leader, what is my punchline?
As a student, what is my punch line?

As people who have so recently celebrated Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus, as people who bear **Gospel DNA**, as people who will encounter a wide array of people and opportunities for punch line impact in these coming Summer months, I encourage you to be reminded of what you have and to work on your own punch lines!

In the Joy of Jesus,
Pastor Meggers
Associate Pastor
dmeggers@CKhome.org

P.S. For those of you who are wondering, here's the joke—**Set-up:** Three men ran into a bar. **Punch Line:** You would think the third one would have ducked!

UPCOMING LUNCH AND LEARNS

Thursday, May 17

We plan to visit the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center, at 12 Millstone Campus Drive. **We will meet at Concordia at 11:00am, followed by lunch at 11:30am;** the suggested donation for the meal is \$7.50. **After lunch**, we will carpool to the museum. 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. We will have a docent and a survivor to guide us through the exhibits.

Thursday, June 21

Celebrate the first day of Summer at **11:30am**, with an indoor picnic in Concordia's Dining Hall! There will be a presentation by “Betsy Ross” for your enjoyment! This will be a potluck gathering, so bring food to share.

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.

MOTHER'S DAY VOLUNTEER OP

On Mother's Day, **May 13**, Adult Ministries will have the Spotlight Table at church. We would like to send handwritten notes to our homebound Concordia sisters. We will have cards, stamps, and addresses, so women can take them home and write a short greeting.

In addition, **ladies are invited to wear HATS to church on May 13**. Show your style while we celebrate women as spirit-filled sisters in Christ, caregivers, nurturers, providers and really fun gals!

WORSHIP ARTS



One of the things I appreciate about serving at Concordia is serving alongside music leaders who also have servant-hearts and pursue excellence in their playing. Over the past couple years, I have been blessed to partner with Jim Marriott, who has demonstrated those abilities in his leadership of our Sanctuary worship through his planning, choral directing, and organ playing. As Summer approaches, Jim will be transitioning out of his position here in order to pursue studies at the Seminary to become a pastor while continuing to serve as a professor there. Jim has worked hard to make himself available to serve in several congregations over his time in St. Louis, and we have certainly been blessed to have him as part of our music ministry here at Concordia!

Jim and I have anticipated this transition for several months, which has allowed me the opportunity to meet with other musicians who might be a good fit for our congregation. I am very pleased to share that **Phillip Magness**, who is currently serving in the Tulsa area, will be joining our staff to lead Sanctuary worship beginning in July. He brings a wealth of



experience as a musician, composer, speaker and, most importantly, as someone who cares deeply about worship and community. I am confident that Phillip will be a blessing to our congregation and a great ministry partner. He is married to Cheryl, who works as the managing editor for *Reporter Online* with LCMS Communications. They have three children: Trevor (25), Caitlin (22) and Evan (14). Evan will be a freshman at Lutheran High School South in the Fall. Stay tuned for more about Phillip and his family when he arrives this Summer.



Please keep both the Marriott and Magness families in prayer as they make these transitions in the coming months.

A NOTE FROM JIM MARRIOTT

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus,

Sometime in the next few weeks and months, I will conclude my time of regular service at Concordia-Kirkwood. In the Fall, I will begin full-time coursework in the Residential Alternate Route program at Concordia Seminary, pursuing ordination as a pastor over the next two years. I am pleased and honored to pursue this additional education and experience, intended to strengthen my ability to serve the Seminary as a professor.

It has been my pleasure to serve at Concordia-Kirkwood! Brendan Knorp has been a true brother in Christ and a tremendous ministry partner—I look forward to our ongoing collaborations! Pastors Seidler and Meggers have also been enriching influences in my life, both from the pulpit and in ministry planning. And so many of you have been such an encouragement to me and to my family over the last few years, embracing us with the love of Christ and treating us like your family. We are very thankful for the opportunity we have had to serve regularly at Concordia-Kirkwood over the last few years. Since the Lutheran world is so small, especially in St. Louis, I am delighted to know our paths will continue to cross!

Grace and peace be yours in abundance!
Dr. Jim Marriott



Brendan Knorp
Director for the Worship Arts
bknorp@CKhome.org

OUR NEXT STEP

Does it seem like we are never going to break ground? Well, it does to me! Although we are waiting around, people are busy at work preparing. Our architect, Arch Images, completed the construction documents in mid-April; on **April 23**, the project was officially “out to bid!” By mid-May, we should have a final Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP). To give an idea of the complexity of a job like this, there are 36 vendor types, and the request for bids went out to 251 vendors! Please keep this process in prayer.

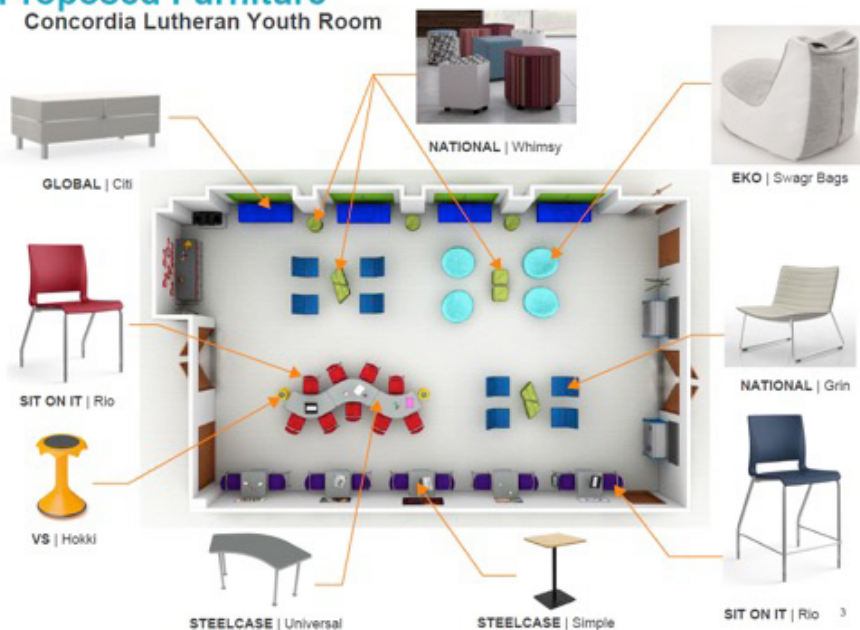


OUR NEXT STEP FINANCING

As we move forward into construction this Summer, we are working on securing financing; we will receive proposals from three banks. Expect to vote in June on a financing package for a construction and long-term loan for Our Next Step, as well as our plan to pay it off.

Proposed Furniture

Concordia Lutheran Youth Room



YOUTH ROOM REMODEL!

One key feature in the new building will be the commons area, which will be utilized by our Children and Youth Ministries. The selection of flooring and furniture is crucial, not only to ensure it accommodates ministry, but also to guarantee it is durable for the long-term. Because our current Youth Room is extremely dated and in need of new flooring and furniture, we plan to remodel it in June. Due to the leadership of some members and donors, we will install flooring and furniture to match what we plan to use in the new building. All furniture is easily moved to accommodate small and large groups (seating for 50+). That way, we can utilize the space for a year while simultaneously ensuring that everything will also work in the new space. Carpet samples can be seen at the Our Next Step display. Examples of the furniture we are considering are shown to the left (colors/fabrics not yet chosen).

UNUSUALLY LARGE FACILITY EXPENSES

Although we are just four months into 2018, our facility expenses are much larger than normal. If you worship in the Sanctuary, you probably remember times when it got uncomfortably warm last Summer. Although we tried to repair our units, they ended up needing replacement. The new units were installed at the end of April for a cost of close to \$40,000. Additionally, we had close to \$7,000 worth of work on other units and large elevator expenses of more than \$3,000. Although we try to anticipate what we can each year, the expenses are considerably higher than usual. I realize these types of costs are not seen and appreciated, but they are certainly necessary to ensure our worship is accessible and comfortable. Concordia would certainly appreciate any special facility gift if you feel compelled to help out. Thanks!

THANK YOU!

In early May, we will install a washer and dryer in the little kitchen off the Commons. Thank you to Greg Geisler and my Facilities Committee (Ron Horstmann, Jim Streufert, Dave Shepley, Bob Gill, and Dave Hemmann). Because we have never had such facilities on-site, our staff and some members frequently wash church hospitality items at home. In addition, we pay more than \$1,000 per year for a towel service ... so our facility and kitchen staff have towels to clean, as well. The new washer and dryer will eliminate that need!

Kristin Anderson, Executive Director
kanderson@CKhome.org

The power of prayer! God wants to hear from His people. No matter how young or old we are, God wants to have a relationship with us. Some people can pray with eloquent language and thoughtfulness, often like what we hear in church. But this isn't the only way to pray! God wants to hear from us in our own way! God isn't looking for who can say the fanciest prayer. He simply wants to hear from us.

Praying is not something that comes naturally for many people; it may need to be taught or, even, demonstrated. Pray each day with your children—whether it is before a meal, at bedtime, spur of the moment or whatever time suits your family. Ask your children what they want to include in the prayer. Maybe it is something they are worried about, excited about or thankful for (You may learn a lot about your child!) on a particular day. And, don't forget to include your own requests, as well. It may be uncomfortable at first, but let's teach our children that God wants to hear what is on our hearts ... anytime and anywhere—whether we are pleading, thanking, confessing or just plain talking!



As the school year winds down, Children's Ministry gears up. We have LOTS going on for kids this Summer at Concordia:



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

Ready ... Set ... Head to VBS! Students 3 years old through 4th grade (completed), grab your megaphones, lace up your cleats, and tune up your instruments to join **Game On!** VBS, **July 16-20**, from **9:00am-noon!** God 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 115 volunteers signed up to serve for VBS—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. VBS is **July 16-20**, from **9:00am-noon** each day. Training provided. **Volunteer at CKhome.org/VBS.**

CONCORDIA KIDS CAMP – JUNE 19-22 (3RD-7TH GRADE)

GLOW! Let Your Light Shine! is designed for our 3rd-7th graders (2017-2018) at Camp Trinity. **Register at CKhome.org/KidsCamp.**



EPIC MISSION WEEK – JUNE 25-29 (4TH-5TH GRADE) 8:00AM-4:00PM

In partnership with *Feed My People*, our kids will be spending three hours each morning helping with food and thrift shop tasks at the High Ridge location. After lunch, the kids will head out for an afternoon of peer group building and fun at local waterparks, state parks or something along those lines. **Register at CKhome.org/MissionWeek.**

WE WANT YOUR INPUT!

We are committed to constant improvement in our Children's Ministry at Concordia. To that end, we seek input from both our volunteers who serve and our families who participate. If you have a child at Concordia or regularly volunteer in Children's Ministry, **please visit surveymonkey.com/r/kidsmin18 to complete our survey.**

Rebecca Schultz

Children's Ministry Assistant
rschultz@CKhome.org



We welcome Gloria Lynne Schultz to our Concordia family! Rebecca gave birth **Saturday, April 21**, to a beautiful baby girl! Though on maternity leave for several weeks, Rebecca will be showing off little Gloria very soon!

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**

This year, it is our goal at Concordia that EVERY child who wants to participate in Vacation Bible School (VBS) and grow closer to God is able to do so!

This VBS is designed JUST for kids with special needs. Lessons and materials are designed to meet individual learning and sensory needs. Enrollment capacity will be kept very low. Additionally, the afternoon *VBS for Kids with Special Needs* meets for two hours and only runs for four days.

Still have questions? Here are the answers to a few 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 (9:00-noon)?

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 (see page 6 for details).

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!

Please contact me for more information about VBS and buddy volunteering. If you wish to register, you can also visit CKhome.org/specialneedsVBS or CKhome.org/VBS.

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 9 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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



The Gates Family

Greg and Jessica live in Eureka with their two boys, Will and Auggie, and their dog, Cooper. Greg is employed with Servco Equipment Company and Jessica is a stay-at-home mom. Will loves the outdoors, playing soccer, Legos and reading books; he is excited to start kindergarten at Geggie Elementary. Auggie loves hide-and-seek, going to the park and playing cars; he is

excited to return to Apple Hill in Wildwood for preschool. The family looks forward to making Concordia their church home and meeting wonderful new friends.

Jessie and Samantha Gilliam & Ian Royer and Henry

Jessie and Samantha were married in Venice, Florida, in 2014. They ventured into business together opening University Roofing and Construction. Their oldest son, Ian, is in the 7th grade at CCLS and enjoys basketball. Henry attends preschool at the St. Michael School of Clayton and dreams of being either a construction worker or basketball player. As a family, they enjoy vacationing in southern Florida, bike riding and going on new adventures. They are overjoyed to find Concordia as their new church home and look forward to meeting other families and serving their new community.



Paul and Susan Lipske

Married for 49 years and owners of a Miniature Schnauzer, named Ozzie, the couple recently moved to a small cottage with huge gardens in Shrewsbury. Prior to this, they mostly lived in Chicago. Before repurposing, Paul used his degree in education and knowledge of wine and spirits as a trainer. His next new adventure is in real estate. Susan is a data analyst, advising strategic

planning for products. She also commented that Concordia's Core Values (BE STILL * BE ONE * BE FAITHFUL) are simple, modern, real and powerful!

The Lorenz Family

Jesse and Dana live in Fenton and have one daughter, Ruby, who attends daycare at First Academy; they are expecting another baby in July. Jesse works at Gateway Metals, Inc., and Dana works at Missouri Baptist University. Jesse enjoys reading, watching sports and movies, while Dana stays active listening to music or spending time with friends and family. Ruby loves watching Disney shows.



Vicky Abolahrari

Vicky has a B.S. in Elementary Education. Before retiring, she and her husband, Cass, owned an electronic manufacturing company. They have one son, Siroos, and he is married to Jadea; together they have two daughters who attend CCLS. Vicky, who has felt very comfortable and welcomed at Concordia, is interested in volunteering at the church. She also enjoys crafts.



Kelly Howdeshell & Luke McKenna

Luke and Kelly are recently engaged and excited to be getting married at Concordia in September 2018! Kelly, a CPA at Schmersahl Treloar & Co., loves her job as an auditor. Luke is the fleet manager at Hertz Rent a Car at St. Louis Lambert International Airport. Both love country music, baseball and lots of Netflix.



The Wangler Family

Tom is joining the rest of his family at Concordia, where he also works in maintenance. He remarked that he has met the most loving people and wants to be a part of the Concordia family. Tom and Nancy have two sons, Zach and Daniel. Nancy works for US Bank in the compliance department. Zach attends graduate school at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, and Daniel is at UMSL. They enjoy movies and going out to eat together.



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

BE STILL, BE ONE, BE FAITHFUL

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