

# *Concordia* CONNECTION

August 2018



Groundbreaking Pictures | VBS Pictures | All Youth Retreat | Lunch and Learn Dates

# PASTOR'S NOTE



## TRUST

When congregations do big things--really any organization, I guess--the greatest asset it needs to succeed is "trust." Between building a new building, resetting/refining our vision for youth ministry, enhancing our adult ministries, and keeping our focus toward our community, we need a great deal of trust to succeed.

One of the ways we express trust is by including a wider shoulder of leaders than just a select few. "Elevating lay leadership" is a core part of our strategic kernel. Along with "finishing the building" and "increasing spiritual engagement of our members", this value of lay leadership actually leading is more important now than at any time in our recent past.

For starters, I want to say that I trust the work of God in the members of this congregation. I trust the leaders that God has assembled here at Concordia. While we know that as leaders we constantly confront gaps in our personal leadership, we trust that Jesus redeems. Jesus renews. Jesus resets and refines.

Looking back over the past several months, I am thankful for the shoulder of leadership exhibited in our Vacation Bible School, Sunday KidsMin and Wednesday Kids Night. I am thankful for the leadership in our older adult community. I am grateful for the shoulder of lay leaders that are involved in our All Youth Retreat and that will be developing for the National Youth Gathering. For the lay leadership on our Church Council, core leaders, Finance Committee, Concordia Foundation Board, CCLS TEAMS ministry, worship volunteers, Bible study leaders, Our Next Step steering committee <<take a breath, Scott>>, I GIVE THANKS TO GOD!

Great ministry requires great leaders working toward a great vision (building, lay leadership, engagement) for the sake of Jesus' love and mercy distributed vigorously through us.

Buckle up for a great season of ministry ahead.

Warmly,

**Pastor Seidler**

Senior Pastor

sseidler@CKhome.org

Jayme Nichols has resigned her call as our Minister to Sr. High Youth. We are grateful for Jayme's four plus years of service to this congregation and the many strong relationships she built over those years with youth in our ministry.

With joyful hearts, I encourage you to send Jayme a note of encouragement regarding her next season of ministry. There is a great deal of opportunity ahead for the Jayme and her family. And we praise God for that.

On **Thursday, August 16, at 7:00pm**, our leadership team will be hosting a Youth Ministry Town Hall in the Concordia Center. We will discuss our next steps in terms of our Youth Ministry program for the 2018-2019 school year, as well as the involvement of lay leadership. We know with more lay leader involvement, our Youth Ministry will grow. Thanks for your prayers, patience and enthusiasm in this season of ministry.





# ADULTS



Dear Friends in Christ,

We broke ground! We celebrated the past that has brought us to the present in order to take "Our Next Step" into the future. And, we did it WITH GREAT JOY!

Two days later, I got my knee replaced. Since then I have been on the sidelines, so to speak. I have not been able to help lead worship, teach Bible studies or call on members. But ... I have had some opportunities that, otherwise, may not have occurred:

- The opportunity to worship via FaceTime. Jeanette (*Please applaud the caregivers in your life as I give thanks for and applaud this gift of God in my life!*) set up her iPhone in the tech booth, so I was able to join you in worship just a few days after surgery.
- The opportunity to receive love and care from brothers and sisters in Christ.
- The opportunity to spend some time with my mom during her recent hospitalization.
- The opportunity to spend time with our son and daughter-in-law, Phil and Becky, and just enjoy life with them.

I also had the opportunity to be present in a Christian community that was struck by tragedy. During our time in Omaha, a well-known and respected Director of Christian Education in the area took his own life. Satan managed to leverage his wicked way into the life of this servant of the Church in the form of depression. Deception, discouragement, division and diversion were brought to bear such that death was the result. And, then came the questions: Why? How? What?

- But, then entered Christ through His body the Church.
- The church prayed and gathered.
- Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dogs were deployed.
- Hope was shared in the Name of Jesus.

In the Name of Jesus, please know that hope! It was just a few weeks ago that I shared with you a little of my own history with anxiety. I can't say I was surprised at the response. It seems that whenever I have shone a light on this issue, people respond with sharing and gratitude. It is good to share and bear one another's burdens, be it anxiety, depression or any of a myriad afflictions that seem to thrive in darkness and isolation!

It was good to witness the Church in ministry in the wake of a tragic death. It is good to be a part of the Church wherein we are called to love and care for one another as brothers and sisters. It will be good to, once again, be among you in service to our Great Physician!

JOYfully yours,  
**Pastor Meggers**

Associate Pastor  
dmeggers@CKhome.org



## VBS HEALTH TEAM

With the help of a Thrivent Action Grant and generous donations, Concordia's Health Ministry Action Team shared a health focus each day at VBS that coincided with the daily theme. Prizes were awarded for answering questions correctly. We had more than 700 entries from the 330 children who attended! Thank you to Debby Anzalone, Max and Greg Filley, Wanda Herweck, Julie Knost, Laverne Nolting, Patricia Reichwein, Cindy Roma, Judy Struefert, Alice Trebus, and so many more who made this such a success!



# WORSHIP ARTS



**T**en years ago, on this very same weekend, my wife and I loaded up our two cars with suitcases and our two girls (then ages 9 and 9 months) and made the 585-mile journey from Mt. Clemens, Michigan, to Kirkwood, Missouri. It is hard, now, to believe that I had never heard of Ted Drewes, Provel cheese, Personal Property Tax or 13-year cicadas way back then! We have been blessed to be a part of this church family and are grateful to call this place “home.” This was the first year that I was more directly involved with Vacation Bible School (VBS), and I was so impressed by the dedication and service of so many volunteers and staff. It is awesome to see how God is working at Concordia.

Over the next month, our staff will be making plans for Fall ministry opportunities. My wife, Stacy, and I are excited to get back together with the Kids Song choir, and our new Sanctuary director, Phillip Magness, will be meeting with choir members and making plans for when groups will rehearse, sing, and play. Watch for more Worship Arts opportunities in our weekly FrontPage emails and upcoming issues of the *Concordia Connection*.

## **Brendan Knorp**

Director for the Worship Arts  
bknorp@CKhome.org

## **WORSHIP ARTS OPEN HOUSE**

On **Sunday, August 26**, for everyone involved with music and technology teams in worship at Concordia. An Evite has gone out to a large list of people, but it's possible some addresses aren't current. If you have participated in worship music/tech and didn't get the Evite, please email me at [bknorp@CKhome.org](mailto:bknorp@CKhome.org) and I'll send you details. We would love to have a full house!

## **SING THE STORY OF GOD'S LOVE**

One of the greatest things we get to do as a congregation is sing hymns and songs together which tell the story of God's love for us in Christ Jesus. As we observe the many seasons of the Church Year, we celebrate salvation history from beginning to end—just as the psalmist proclaims, “*I will sing the story of Your love, O Lord, and proclaim Your faithfulness forever.*” (Psalm 89:1) Our faith loves to sing, and so Christians have gathered to devote special time for singing the Lord's song “skillfully” (Psalm 33:3) since the earliest days of the Church. As Lutherans, we have inherited an especially rich legacy of choral music; as Americans living in the 21st century, we have opportunity to sing an exciting variety of music from the church-at-large, as well. Our Sanctuary Choir sings great music from all times and all places to provide an enriching witness for the congregation—and, in the process, blesses each member who participates. A stellar voice is not required, just a heart for Jesus! **Come join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm, starting August 29.**



## **Phillip Magness**

Director for Sanctuary Worship  
pmagness@CKhome.org



# EXECUTIVE REPORT

## FINANCIALS

Offerings for the first half of 2018 met expectations. Expenses are doing better than expected, except for facility expenses. The amount of heating/AC, elevator and fire alarm issues this year is unprecedented. We are \$50,000 over where we would expect to be by June 30. Plus, we have another \$25,000 worth of bills still to come in for payment. Many large units are failing, including those in the Sanctuary and Recreation Center/Gym. Our savings in other areas, especially in the Personnel budget, are helping to offset the overrun.



## OUR NEXT STEP

Our loan officially closed on **July 12**. Funds are now available, and we have the blessing of the Title Company to proceed. Concordia has around \$2.1 million currently in the bank and will not need to use the loan money for several months.

Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District (MSD) has finally given us the approval needed; Kirkwood may now issue permits. The moving of our new transformers is underway. We should see action soon—the trailer has arrived!

## PARKING DURING CONSTRUCTION

See the map to the right. In about three (3) weeks, parking will become sparse and direct pathways into the building will not be easily accessible. In November, the new lot will be finished (weather-permitting) and access into the building will get easier!

## GROUNDBREAKING PICTURES





# KIDSMIN

## CONCORDIA KIDS NIGHT

As kids start to get back into the swing of school, so does Concordia Kids Night! We will kick off the year on **Wednesday, September 12!** Each week, kids (1st-5th grade) have the opportunity to learn and sing songs during Kids Song, enjoy a delicious dinner—where they will discuss and share what is on their hearts—as well as experience Bible lessons, activities, and recreation time focused on the love of Christ Jesus! **Registration opens Monday, August 6!**

There are many ways adults can serve during this time, too! We are looking for adults to help in the following areas:

- **Table Leader**—During dinner, each table has an adult leader who facilitates conversation, engages kids in sharing their “junk, joys, and Jesus” from the week, helps introduce kids to the Bible story for the evening with questions and fun activities, and gets to enjoy a fun meal!
- **Bible Story Teacher**—Teachers, given a curriculum to be used throughout the year, meet with one grade level for Bible story and activities in a classroom, then help supervise students with other teachers and leaders during recreation time.
- **Dinner Preparation/Clean-Up**—This requires arrival prior to dinnertime to help prepare food and also includes kitchen clean-up when dinner is over.
- **Recreation Leader**—These leaders facilitate games in the gym during recreation time. There are two sessions: **1st and 2nd graders**, followed by **3rd – 5th graders**.

If you need more information or would like to participate in any (or all!) of these Concordia Kids Night servant opportunities on Wednesday evenings during the school year, please contact me at [rschultz@CKhome.org](mailto:rschultz@CKhome.org) or 920-980-6687.

### Rebecca Schultz

Children's Ministry Assistant  
[rschultz@CKhome.org](mailto:rschultz@CKhome.org)

## KIDS CAMP





# 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*



## Gear Up! Get Ready! Game On! Whew!

During Concordia's **Game On!** Vacation Bible School (VBS), my responsibility was to go around and provide Crew Leaders and Buddies with the resources, support and encouragement they needed so they, in turn, could provide support and encouragement to the kiddos with special needs who were fully included in VBS, along with hundreds of other kids. This gave me plenty of time to sing and dance during Worship Rally, much to the chagrin of my 2nd grader. It was the most fun I've had during a VBS and it's not just because we sang *Pharaoh, Pharaoh* this year!

But, as those hundreds of kids got picked up and the building grew quiet once again, our day was only halfway done. The fun was absolutely just beginning!

Four children joined us this year during our very first **Vacation Bible School for Kids with Special Needs**, along with a crew of new and returning buddies. For two hours each day, these kids sang songs, played games during recreation time, created craft projects and, most importantly, learned about how much Jesus loves them in a way that was accessible to each and every one of them!

One sweet momma shared the following:

*Maria came home signing the Bible message each day. She wants me to tell everyone about her experience. It really means the world to me that her first Bible School experience was so positive and brought her so much joy!*



For more information about Concordia's Special Needs Ministry and/or volunteering opportunities, please contact me.

## Jessica Crawford

Director of Children and Families with Special Needs  
jcrawford@CKhome.org, 314-374-0682



# CK YOUTH

## ALL YOUTH RETREAT, SEPTEMBER 7-9, 2018

Join more than 150 of your closest friends as we gather together for a weekend of community, worship, and fun learning—**Register now at [CKhome.org/AYR](http://CKhome.org/AYR)**.

This is a unique two-day camp experience that happens annually for students in **6th-12th grade—and 6th grade parents!** The All Youth Retreat is a great way to kick off the school year! Each day is packed full with activities like community building, ropes courses, bonfires, lake swimming, basketball, ping pong, worship and interactive learning.



Our theme for 2018 is *"Tearing Down the Walls: The Lessons of Joshua and the Walls of Jericho."* Our kids will be learning the how and why of tearing down the walls that separate us from God, from others, and from the life God wants us to experience ourselves.



To help cement that vision in the hearts of our kids we have two incredible leaders joining our Concordia family for this weekend. Pastor Bill Yonker is a nationally-known youth ministry speaker who has delighted tens of thousands of kids and adults through his stories, Bible teaching and powerful application challenges. From the National Youth Gathering mainstage to Camp Arcadia teen weeks, Pastor Bill brings wit, wisdom and insight that our teens will never forget.



Pastor Chris Paavola is serving as our music leader for the weekend. Formerly the worship director at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ellisville, MO, Pastor Chris is now planting a congregation in University City, MO, and has been warmly adopted by Concordia's Older Adult Ministry for support and prayer in his mission.

Though each grade level will have specific learning subjects/activities set aside just for them, the entire group will travel, worship and eat meals together. The All Youth Retreat is an experience that BOTH youth, and the adults who lead, WILL NEVER FORGET; most want to keep coming back year-after-year! We desire for lives to be transformed through encountering Jesus and connecting with other believers, all while having a blast doing it in a safe and loving environment.

## 2019 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

The theme for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering—**Real. Present. God.**—comes from Psalm 46. Held once every three years, this Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)–sponsored event is a once-in-a-high-school-career experience that provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith, and their Lutheran identity. During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God's Word, worship, service and fun with others from LCMS churches around the world. Hope you can join us! For more information on the Gathering visit, [LCMSGathering.com](http://LCMSGathering.com).



Who can attend? **Youth in grades 9-12 for the 2018-2019 school year**

Gathering Dates: **July 10-17, 2019**

Where: **Minneapolis, Minnesota**

Registration: **\$100 deposit by Sunday, September 30, 2018;** visit [CKhome.org/NYG](http://CKhome.org/NYG)



# HOUSTON MISSION TRIP





# LUNCH AND LEARN

On June 21, we gathered for an indoor picnic featuring Barbara Kay, who did an interactive presentation of Betsy Ross; this was both humorous and informative. She concluded by leading us in our favorite patriotic musical selections. The potluck food shared was delicious!

Upcoming Lunch and Learns ... **Thursdays, 11:30am** at Concordia

**August 16** - Concordia member Matt Wilson will share about "LifeWaters"—a program designed to help improve the lives of disabled veterans "through amputee scuba diving, disabled veteran scuba diving, or other scuba diving programs according to their needs, desires, and skill level." Join us to be inspired! Lunch provided at a suggested donation of \$7.50.

**September 20** - Bob Wagner, former National Football League referee, will be with us and does he have some interesting stories! We will enjoy a potluck lunch with tailgate theme; please bring food to share.

**October 18** - Be sure to mark your calendars for our annual Oktoberfest in the Concordia Commons. This is a can't miss event! Our Germany travelers will have returned from their trip and will share pictures and remembrances.

**November 15** - Again this year, our November Lunch and Learn will have a military theme. Kitty Bickford will share a program on women in the military. We are looking forward to her visit.

**TUESDAY, December 11** - And, finally, plan now to attend our Christmas party based on the theme "Emmanuel – God with Us" in Concordia's Dining Hall. The annual Christmas gathering is always a very special event with a catered lunch, fun entertainment, and devotion.

As we begin our Fall season, the Ageless Generation Team invites everyone to join us for our Lunch and Learn gatherings. We are a fun group and a vital part of Concordia's ministry. Sign up on the Welcome Tab, at the Registration Center, or by contacting Patty Wilson, [pwilson@CKhome.org](mailto:pwilson@CKhome.org) or 314.822.7772 x 128.

Please note: The Perry County trip which had been considered for this Fall will be held off until a later date.



# LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join us for LifeLight Bible Study beginning **Tuesday evening, September 4, at 7:15pm**, or on **Wednesday morning, September 5, at 9:00am**. In the first nine weeks, the groups will study a Biblical Foundations course on Prophecy. Then, after the holidays the study will be the book of Acts, parts one and two.

All are welcome to study God's Word together, featuring individual study in advance, group discussion and a lecture by Rev. Dr. Stephen Carter in his 15th year as LifeLight leader. Come and enjoy this weekly in-depth study designed to teach us how to apply Biblical truths to our daily lives.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## The Prange Family

Matt and Nana have two children: Owen and Olivia. Owen is 10 years old and will be transitioning from Old Bonhomme Elementary (where his dad was his PE teacher and quarterback at recess) to the Ladue Fifth Grade Center in the Fall. He loves watching and playing all sports, enjoys math, and chooses to spend his free time reading book after book. Olivia is 4 years old and will remain at Immanuel Lutheran School in Olivette, where she will be in the pre-kindergarten class. She loves swimming, singing, playing house, and watching her brother play his sports. Matt just completed his 19th year of teaching Physical Education in the Ladue School District; the first 12 years at Ladue Middle School and the past seven years at Old Bonhomme Elementary. Matt enjoys sports and working in the yard. Nana just completed her 18th year at Parkway Central High School. During her time there, she spent the first seven years as a Business & Marketing teacher, the next six years as a comprehensive counselor, and she just finished her fifth year as the school's college counselor. The couple loves that their chosen occupations give them the entire Summer to spend together with their two children. The whole family enjoys spending time at the Lake of the Ozarks, where Nana's parents live, and cheering for the Missouri Tigers.



## Ashley Roedemeier—Lucy and Sally Lee

Ashley and her two nieces, Lucy (5) and Sally (2), recently moved into a new home in Rock Hill and are excited to join Concordia. They have been members of Concordia Lutheran in Cuba, MO, but have been attending Concordia-Kirkwood for a couple years now. Ashley works at Cushman & Wakefield as their Business Manager overseeing operations, while Lucy and Sally attend preschool at Elaine Rosi Academy. Lucy is eager to start kindergarten in the Fall at Hudson School. Rounding out this group of girls is their dog, Sadie Mae, who is the most excited for the house and her new back yard. Ashley and the girls enjoy going to parks, swimming, and spending weekends with their family.



## Josh and Natalie Roedemeier

The couple met while working for the same company in commercial real estate. Josh currently works in retail brokerage with CBRE, and Natalie is a design and construction manager for Cushman & Wakefield. They have a Rottweiler-lab named Bailey. Married earlier this year on February 17 in Little Rock, AR (Natalie's hometown), Josh and Natalie now enjoy making home improvements to their new house and spending time with family in Cuba, MO (Josh's hometown). They are thrilled to announce that they are expecting their first child in December! Both are very excited to be joining such a wonderful community!



## The Theiss Family

Phil and Mary, married for 12 years, have three children: Rachel, age 6, will be in first grade next year at CCLS; she loves art and playing soccer. Caleb, age 4, will be in PreK next year at CCLS; he likes to play at school and puzzles. Hannah, age 2, stays home with her mom and enjoys dress up and singing. Phil works in IT at Panera Bread's headquarters. Mary is an RN who worked previously in ICU and GI. She now stays home with Rachel, Caleb and Hannah. This fun-loving family enjoys going on "adventures," taking advantage of the many opportunities St. Louis has to offer.



Our next orientation is **Monday, August 20, 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).



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

