

Concordia CONNECTION

September 2018



BIBLE STUDIES | NEW SERMON SERIES | YOUTH GATHERING | KIDS NIGHT | CONFIRMATION

PASTOR'S NOTE



While the end of this Summer was not what I anticipated in terms of ministry and staffing, I am thrilled by the energy I see developing around our congregation. As I write this brief note for the September edition of the *Concordia Connection*, ministry staff and I are hip-high in the details of retreats, Confirmation nights, Bible studies, and gatherings of all sorts.

And, that's just inside the building!

Outside the rubble is increasing as the ground is moving, and the new Center for Christian Education is fully under construction. So Good! Praise God!

Please take time to read the emails from us that come your way. There is A LOT of information to digest, I know. As we get new systems of leadership and communication in place, this will all become a bit easier.

It's going to be a great Fall season of ministry at Concordia!

Warmly,
Pastor Seidler
Senior Pastor
sseidler@CKhome.org

It's an exciting time at Concordia Lutheran Church-Kirkwood. Campus is busy. Kids have returned to school, ground is being broken for the future building, Bible studies and mid-week events are restarting, and the rhythm of life keeps pressing on.

Here at Concordia, this rhythm of life means many things to me and it may mean even more to you. But, as we land in this Fall season, I would like to extend a personal invitation for you to dig deeper into your own Christian walk. Consider this season an opportunity to delve into the mysteries of God. Maybe it is through a new Bible study, more frequent church attendance or greater personal devotions; but, perhaps, it is something else. Maybe God is putting on your heart to speak a kind word to the lonely stranger, write a thank-you note to an overworked employee or babysit for a couple in desperate need of a date night. There are many ways to grow this season!



If you are in your 20s, 30s or 40s, we invite you to grow with us on **Wednesday nights** for a weekly Bible study. **Each week of Concordia Kids Night**, our Bible study will gather for food, fellowship, and study of God's Word. Pastor Seidler and I will be the primary teachers for the year; childcare will be provided. We hope to see you there!

The Risen Lord, Jesus Christ, has instilled faith in you—He who came not to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. This Jesus is the reason Concordia is so exciting. It's the Lord and His Spirit in which we live and move and have our being. Wherever we may be in our rhythm of life, may we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus this Fall season and for all seasons to come.

Rev. Jacob Schultz
Pastoral Assistant
jschultz@CKhome.org

ADULTS



Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the distinct JOYs of serving Concordia as a pastor is my almost-monthly New Member Orientation (NMO), which serves as the entree into Concordia for everyone who wishes to become a part of our faith family. From that class, participants move on to “Lutheran Introduction” if they are coming to us from other faith traditions or

if they are coming to Concordia as people new to the faith. Some are coming from other Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) churches; for them, we try to find connections to life here at Concordia. If needed, we schedule baptisms and, in some cases, become part of a couple’s journey towards marriage.

Part of the JOY for me as the instructor, however, is the instruction I receive from the participants in return. I learn how their own homes and families played a part in their faith development ... or not. Together, with Marcy Scholl and Sharon Karleskint, we get to resource these new friends and help make connections to the various ministries and groups of Concordia.

At our last NMO, we had couples connected because of Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS), couples connecting because they were looking for a place to worship as one. We also had singles, one even accompanied by her grandma’s cousin (an older adult willing to befriend) whom she had not met until that very night. Plus, a newly baptized young lady and the young man who was instrumental in guiding her to baptism also attended.

The JOY of a story: We also had among us a single mom who, up until this Summer, had pretty much given up on “religion.” But ... that all changed because this congregation, volunteers of all ages, held a Vacation Bible School (VBS). Her kids came (even though she was very wary). Her kids liked VBS. Her kids wanted more. She attended the New Member Orientation. SHE HADN’T EVEN WORSHIPPED WITH US YET. And, she will be joining Marcy Scholl’s Tuesday-night women’s community group as her next step in worshipping with us.

Did you see what you did there? Do you see what you are doing here? With one another, working together, we are reaching others so that they might know Jesus. That is JOY!

JOYfully yours,
Pastor Meggers

Associate Pastor
dmeggers@CKhome.org

LUNCH AND LEARN

Join us **Thursday, September 20**, at **11:30am** for a presentation by Bob Wagner, former National Football League referee! We will enjoy a potluck lunch with tailgate theme; please bring food to share. Mark your calendar for **October 18** – It’s time for Oktoberfest at Concordia! Sign up on the Welcome Tab, at the Registration Center, or by contacting **Patty Wilson**, pwilson@CKhome.org or 314-822-7772 x 128.

LIVING BIBLICALLY

This world can be challenging. Understanding how best to navigate it and live according to God’s Will is not always easy. Join the fellowship, conversation and study on the **second Sunday of each month** from **6:00-7:30pm**, beginning **September 9** (childcare for all ages available). Join us in the Dining Hall for wine, cheese and other refreshments. Our focus of this gathering will be equipping parents to raise children, whether they are in school or living on their own, in the faith. Sign up at CKhome.org/adults.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our women will begin *Altogether Beautiful: A Study of the Song of Songs* by Heidi Goehmann. Study guides, with extra resources for digging deeper if you desire, are available for purchase. Bring a friend!

- **Thursdays, beginning September 13, 6:30-8:30pm**; facilitated by Lynn Finer.
- **Fridays, beginning September 14, 9:00-11:00am**; facilitated by Nancy Knost.

Also, on **Tuesdays**, join a group of women of all ages from **6:00-7:30pm**. Build and nurture relationships with a focus on Bible stories. Facilitated by Marcy Scholl.

LIFELIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Join us beginning **Tuesday evening, September 4**, at **7:15pm**, or on **Wednesday morning, September 5**, at **9:00am**. During the first nine weeks, the groups will study a Biblical Foundations course on Prophecy. Come enjoy this weekly in-depth study designed to teach us how to apply Biblical truths to our daily lives.

WORSHIP ARTS



This past week, I had the opportunity to visit with a number of people involved in our worship community here at Concordia. Around 60 people attended a gathering graciously hosted at Omar and April Maldonado's home, and I was able to spend an evening with some of our singers who lead Concordia Center worship on Sundays. The time spent in conversation, song, encouragement, and prayer was a real blessing to me! Whether someone is involved in large or small roles, we all serve for the common purpose of sharing the story of God's redeeming work. That's what energizes us to live out the words BE STILL, BE ONE, and BE FAITHFUL. If you've ever considered serving in worship through music, sound and video tech or through the behind-the-scenes work of the Altar Guild, take that next step towards getting involved and let me know how you would like to serve. Together, our individual efforts help to proclaim the Gospel each week!

Brendan Knorp

Director for Worship Arts
bknorp@CKhome.org

"I AM" SERMON SERIES

The most used word in the English language is "I." To that word is often attached "am." At the end of the sentence come the most powerful words a person can say, "I am _____." Think about all the directions that statement can go ... "I am <<insert nationality>>." I am a graduate of <<insert school>>. I am <<insert a job>>. I am <<insert gender>>. I am <<insert sexual orientation>>." During this Fall's worship series, our pastors and ministry leaders will take us on a journey to re-craft those words toward "I am God's child." It is the "I am" statement that matters most to a healthy human soul! And, we need this reset more than ever.

COMING SOON

Our **Kids Song Choir** begins rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 12, at 5:00pm** in the Atrium.

Are you a brass player interested in performing with a group in worship? Brendan is working on a plan for rehearsals and play dates, so please let him know if you would like to be included!

THROUGH THE CHURCH THE SONG GOES ON

Faith sings. So raising our voices is something Christians do. It is hard to imagine a Christian church that doesn't sing. Frankly, I'm not sure it is even possible. The Lord has given us a "*song to sing*" (Psalm 40:3), and we sing it for one another and for the world. For each other, we "*teach and admonish one another in all wisdom*" as the Word "*dwells in us richly*" through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. (Colossians 3:16) This becomes a witness to our children as, through our singing, we "*tell the generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord.*" (Psalm 78:4) Moreover, it is a witness to the world—an increasingly radical witness as we live among people who sing less and less. Those who don't really know Jesus have little reason to sing, but we who know the joy of the Gospel cannot keep from singing. This is beautifully confessed in the third stanza of the hymn, ***Holy God, We Praise Thy Name:***

*Lo, the Apostles' holy train join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun through the Church the song goes on.*

In the Divine Service, our song is joined with our fellow Christians throughout the world and throughout history. A fine voice is not required—just a heart for worship! No matter what service you normally attend, we invite you to grow in discipleship through the art of singing by joining our Sanctuary Choir. You will be blessed, and be a blessing to others. Come join us on **Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.**

Phillip Magness

Director for Sanctuary Worship
pmagness@CKhome.org



WEDNESDAY CONCORDIA KIDS NIGHT—REDESIGNED!

Join us as we begin another exciting year of our **REDESIGNED** Concordia Kids Night! We will be digging into the Life of Jesus. Kids won't learn only about the historical Jesus, but will get to know Him on a personal level as well. They will discover that Jesus is a real person—a real friend—who makes a difference in their lives today!

Beginning with **Kids Song**, Brendan and Stacy Knorp, foster the love of singing for Jesus while—at the same time—preparing kids to present special songs in worship.

A delicious dinner is created by our amazing chef, Mary Vann, and our Krazy Kitchen Krew. Kids share the meal together as they grow in relationship with each other and caring adults of Concordia.



Next, kids separate into their grade levels with teachers who help them delve deeper into the life of Jesus and God's Word—learning how they can live out their faith each and every day!

The night ends with recreation time that will consist of large group games, activities, and crafts that engage and relate to the Bible story for the evening.

The cost per semester is \$50.00 per child. We ask all parents to help out three (3) times per semester with either kitchen preparation/clean-up, recreation, or by serving as a substitute teacher. Those who choose recreation will be emailed in advance with the activities they will be leading.

Designed to support the home, the primary environment for faith formation, Concordia Kids Night is for all children (1st-5th grade) of our congregation and invited friends. We have taken into account the survey results from the end of our season last year and have shortened the evening in order to help accommodate families' desire to get home at a more reasonable hour. Please join us each **Wednesday**, beginning **September 12**, as the kids of Concordia grow and share their faith! **Register at CKhome.org/kidsnight.**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

5:00pm	Kids Song (optional)
5:40pm	Dinner
6:10pm	Bible Study
6:50pm	Recreation
7:15pm	Parent Pickup

KIDSMIN SUNDAY!

Mark your calendars for our kick-off on **Sunday, September 9**, from **9:20-10:20am** for all kids three years old-5th grade. We will praise God and learn Bible stories in fun and memorable ways! Whether your family worships at 8:15am, 9:30am or 10:45am, KidsMin Sunday will work for you!

It's simple: Kids praise God. Kids learn the Bible point. And, kids pray. Every week!

Rebecca Schultz

Children's Ministry Assistant
rschultz@CKhome.org

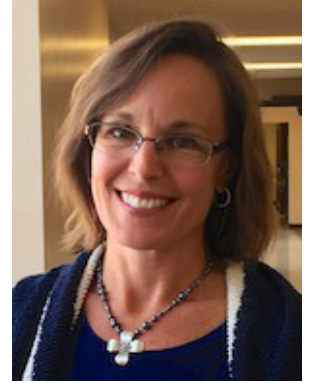
EXECUTIVE REPORT

OUR NEXT STEP UPDATE

We have a hole! We are very excited that digging has begun! Even though excavation started a little later than we had hoped, due to MSD approval, we believe we are still on track. I will keep you updated as things progress.

PARKING

Thank you for your patience with the parking situation. Also note a new sewer will be put in just outside Concordia's main lobby doors, so soon we will begin to access the building from the door just left of the Lobby. It will be clearly marked. This inconvenience should only last a few months; once the sewer is in place and the new parking lot is completed, access will become easier. The target for that is November.



OUR NEXT STEP FINANCING

The collection of pledges is going well. Right now, I am comfortable that the loan the congregation approved will be more than adequate to cover our building expenses. We have a good contingency in place AND pledges are coming in as expected. We recently sent out statements to those families with outstanding pledges, so they know where they stand. **As a reminder, we ask that all Our Next Step pledges be fulfilled by 12/31/2019.** That being said, the faster pledges are fulfilled, the fewer short-term loans we need (see the \$85,000 estimate for loan interest below). Currently, we still have \$2.3 million in the bank for Our Next Step, but as we ramp up construction, these funds will get spent quickly.

PROJECT TOTAL BUDGET

Campaign Costs	\$345,671	(paid, approved Dec. 2015)
Design/Preconstruction/Soil Testing	\$423,100	(paid, approved Jun. 2017)
Construction Costs	\$6,620,131	
Technology, Furniture Fixtures & Equipment	\$490,000	
Loan Interest (during construction)	\$85,000	
Insurance/Legal/Signage/Reimbursables/Utility	\$185,000	(\$9,600 paid, Jul. 2018)
Contingency	\$851,098	(10.4%)
Total Project Budget	\$9,000,000	

Our Next Step Offerings Summary (though 8/15/18)

Pledges	\$7,592,658
Pledges Received	\$(4,423,533)
Outstanding Balance	\$3,169,125

Other Our Next Step Gifts	\$311,000
---------------------------	-----------

Executive Report continued on page 7 ...

EXECUTIVE REPORT CONTINUED

INBOUND FINANCIALS

Both Offerings and Expenses overall in 2018 are doing well. Offerings are slightly ahead of expectations and expenses are lower than budgeted, except in the area of facilities. Our HVAC costs skyrocketed this year due to multiple major system issues. Our expense savings have offset this, however, and I do not see this as a long-term issue.

2018 Inbound Financials through July

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Offerings	\$1,202,000	\$1,176,000	\$26,000
Receipts	\$145,000	\$141,000	\$4,000
Total Income	\$1,347,000	\$1,317,000	\$30,000
Expenses			
Personnel	\$704,000	\$764,000	\$(60,000)
Program	\$106,000	\$126,000	\$(20,000)
Property	\$211,000	\$173,000	\$38,000
Education	\$381,000	\$381,000	\$--
Debt	\$114,000	\$130,000	\$(16,000)
Total Expense	\$1,516,000	\$1,574,000	\$(58,000)
Net Income	\$(169,000)	\$(257,000)	\$88,000

I know financials are often not easy to understand. If at any time you would like a more in-depth explanation, please reach out to me to set up a meeting.

Kristin Anderson

Executive Director

kanderson@CKhome.org

PERSONNEL HAPPENINGS



TOM WANGLER RETIRES!

In August, we said goodbye to Tom Wangler as he moves from our facility staff into retirement. We thank him for all his hard work and dedication to Concordia's facility. Behind-the-scenes, he came in sometimes at midnight just to make sure the church was ready for you on Sunday morning, for an event or, perhaps, a meeting you may have attended. We will also miss his rapport and the humor he shared with staff, the kids, and Concordia members throughout the week. We look forward to seeing him around here in worship and, maybe even, as a volunteer!

WE WELCOME KIRK LOWRY

In August, we also welcomed Kirk Lowry to staff. After serving the City of Ellisville for 26 years, Kirk now comes to Concordia to help Barry run the facility. We are very excited to have his expertise on staff. Kirk and his family have been members for 10 years and are very active in our Children and Youth ministries. For those who do not know him, his warm personality, helpful nature, and love of Concordia will be evident the moment you meet him. Kirk is married to PJ and, together, they have two children, Ty and Chase—both attend CCLS. Camping and cheering on his kids in sports are some of his favorite hobbies.



CK YOUTH

CONFIRMATION

Concordia recognizes that Confirmation is a significant spiritual event, but that it is also a process. Through instruction and faith mentoring, we hope that youth learn about the Christian faith, continue to experience what it means to be a member of the body of Christ, and are encouraged to consider how they intend to live out their lives as Christians. The process culminates with the confirmand making a public confession of their faith through their Confirmation vows.

Our Confirmation process is the core activity of our Jr. High Youth Ministry. Through a three-year process, our youth and their families express a commitment to growing in their faith (6th grade, 7th grade and 8th grade, with the Rite of Confirmation in October of their 9th grade year). The goal is really twofold: head knowledge and heart application. It is expected that, during these three years of commitment, a student will trust in Christ as his/her Lord and Savior. Confirmation at Concordia is an interactive, hands-on and learning-based model.

Confirmation/Jr. High Ministry takes place on **Wednesday nights** through the school year, **beginning September 12**. We gather at **5:45pm** and conclude at 7:30pm. A yearly \$100 registration fee covers meals and material costs. For additional information, please contact **Pastor Scott Seidler**, sseidler@CKhome.org.

Register for Confirmation at CKhome.org/confirmation.

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.



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**

"CARNIVAL UNDER CONSTRUCTION"

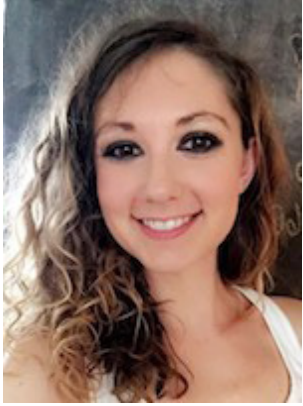
Due to the construction in our parking lot, the annual CCLS Carnival is moving to Lutheran South this year! The same rides, games, and food that we love will be available, and we get to be a part of Homecoming weekend with our partner high school, Lutheran South.



The Homecoming Carnival will be held **Friday, September 28**, from **5:00-10:00pm** and **Saturday, September 29**, from **11:00am-9:00pm** at 9515 Tesson Ferry Road. Enjoy the football game Friday night and live music Saturday while your kids are entertained riding the Scrambler or racing the pigs. Bring the entire family for a weekend of fun!

Wristbands for unlimited rides are available for Saturday only from 11:00am-6:00pm. These can be purchased at lhsstl.org/carnival. Regular ride tickets, as well as tickets for food and games, can be purchased at the event. Questions? Contact **Kippin Schelp** at kschelp@lhsastl.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



TRUNK-OR-TREAT FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Sunday, October 21; 2:00-4:00pm

It's that time again! The Special Needs Ministry will again be hosting an inclusive and accessible, sensory-sensitive Trunk-or-Treat event for children and young adults with special needs and their families! For many kids with special needs, trick-or-treating may not

be an option due to sensory difficulties, anxieties, dietary restrictions or even the physical restrictions of their own neighborhoods.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you would like to decorate your trunk and hand out goodies, assist with the games or wish to donate to this event, please contact me at the email address shown or by calling/texting 314-374-0682.

BIBLE FELLOWSHIP FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

For the last seven months, **Tuesday nights** have been my favorite night of the week. That's because around **6:00pm**, every week, some of my favorite people attend our Bible Fellowship for Adults with Special Needs. I have known some of these adults for nearly 25 years!



The Bible Fellowship for Adults with Special Needs began at Concordia almost too easily. This is all due to the tireless efforts of Jerry Witte. For more than a decade, each and every week, Jerry traveled between three Bethesda group homes in South County teaching the Word of God to the adults with special needs who lived there. I leapt at the chance to move this group into our building!

Our class begins with refreshments and conversation as everyone catches up. This is then followed by Biblical instruction delivered in a way that is accessible to these adults with special learning needs. We conclude each week with a craft, recipe or service project related to the lesson. We have a lot of fun!

Our class is growing, slowing but surely. Group homes from St. Charles now join us, in addition to some new friends we have met along the way, sometimes at the invitation of our adult learners themselves!



Adults with special needs are an underserved and often overlooked population. If you know someone who would like to learn about our awesome God in a welcoming atmosphere, in an interactive and accessible way, please invite them!

Jessica Crawford

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

NIGHT TO SHINE

HAVE YOU HEARD THE FABULOUS NEWS?

Concordia is proud to be an official host church for the **2019 Night to Shine**, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. *Night to Shine* is an unforgettable prom-night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. The event will be hosted by an estimated 700 churches around the world simultaneously on **Friday, February 8, 2019; 6:00-9:00pm**. We are so excited to be a part of this!



So, you may be thinking at this point, "But what exactly is *Night to Shine*?" Let me walk you through the night. Honored guests will come through our doors ready and wearing their prom-night best. Suits and sequins everywhere you look! If a guest would like to add a little more glitz to their evening, our "glam squad" can assist with hair, makeup and nail services. After checking in at registration, each guest will be assigned an equally glamorously dressed buddy for the evening. From there, the honored guest and buddy head to the red carpet, where the paparazzi will be waiting, ready to clap, cheer and take photographs. Parents and caregivers of the honored guests in attendance then head to their own party in our building, while honored guests along with

their buddies make their way to the dance floor. If dancing the night away and eating dinner and dessert just aren't enough, honored guests and buddies can head back upstairs for karaoke and limo rides. Before the clock strikes midnight, or in this case 9:00pm, each honored guest is crowned a king or queen by their buddy, followed by a balloon drop.

Our plan this first year (Oh, yes. This is only the beginning!) is to welcome 100 honored guests and their families to Concordia on February 8. To make this happen, **we will need around 250 volunteers of all ages**. From greeters to buddies to shoe shiners, we need your help! If you would like to join us on this wonderful night, I encourage you to read through our extensive volunteer team list. There is something for everyone!



For more information, to donate or to volunteer, please visit nighttoshinekirkwood.com or contact **Jessica Crawford**, jcrawford@CKhome.org / 314-374-0682.

To learn more and see all the churches that are part of this worldwide movement, visit timtebowfoundation.org.

BASIC ASL—THE FIRST 100 SIGNS

Wednesdays * September 19-December 5 * 7:00-8:00pm

Did you know that American Sign Language (ASL) isn't just used by individuals who are Deaf? ASL is one expressive communication option for hearing children and adults who are unable to communicate verbally.

In addition, there is much more to learning American Sign Language than just memorizing signs. ASL has its own grammar, culture, history, terminology and other important aspects. In this 10-week class, learners will get the chance to engage with the vocabulary in a conversational format and will quickly be able to put it to use on Sunday mornings and out in the community!

GUNDERMANN AWARD

This award is given to a Concordia member(s) in honor of the ministry of Rev. Vernon Gundermann, Pastor at Concordia from 1990-2005. The award recipient demonstrates BE FAITHFUL involvement in human care outreach to the congregation and/or community as they touch people with Jesus Christ. Nominate someone before **September 16** at CKhome.org/gundermannaward.

OUTBOUND MINISTRIES

Thank you to all who support Concordia Outbound Ministries (COM) in their offerings. When the COM board votes to support a ministry, we do so after the organization submits a grant request. Part of the grant request application relates to how Concordia can truly partner, not just with our dollars, but also with our hands and feet. This Summer, we really committed to that philosophy in multiple ways:

EPIC AND IMPACT MISSION WEEKS

Pastor Seidler and Nathan Dehn, along with several parent volunteers, led 4th-8th graders in two great weeks of mission, serving local community partners Feed My People and Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA). These EPIC (4th-5th grade) and IMPACT (6th-8th grade) Mission Initiatives took our kids outside their “comfort/familiarity” zones—packing backpacks for under-resourced kids, sorting donated clothing, labeling food to be shared with the needy, and cleaning/sprucing up the play area at the Peace Center. This significant learning experience taught our Youth Ministry how accessible and receptive these partners are for short bursts of involvement to help other volunteers in their work!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

Because we offered VBS later in the Summer this year, refugees from CFNA were able to join us! The email we received from Carol Buckman, says it all:

THANK YOU, Concordia! Thirty-one happy, smiling CFNA kids had an awesome time at VBS. They were surrounded with love and with fun. Bible stories, games, snacks, songs, gifts, prizes, crafts, and sports jam-packed every moment. I asked several kids what they liked best, and the response was often a glazed and bewildered look. This speaks volumes and is the answer to prayers!

One of the crew leaders that helped make this adventure easier was a CFNA scholarship student that graduated from LHSS with honors. She is now a student at SLU and an eager volunteer in CFNA programs. She first came to Concordia as a 6-year-old to attend The Jerusalem Market Place with her family. This family from Nepal was newly arrived, wide-eyed, and full of smiles as they walked around our gym. Little did they know what God had planned for them and the good things that God had planned for Concordia to continue to do with the CFNA family.



As we move into Fall, we will continue to look for ways to bring our hands and feet to our ministry partners. Thank you for your support!

COM CONTINUED

GIVING CENTER SPOTLIGHT

Thanks, too, to those who donated school supplies at the Giving Center in August! The collections helped CFNA refugees. Throughout September, the Giving Center will, once again, collect needed supplies for the people of Kawete, Uganda; we will be sending a mission team in October. Supplies needed include: eye glasses, readers and school supplies. For a specific list, please visit the Giving Center in the Concordia Commons.

HANDS ON KIRKWOOD

Hands on Kirkwood is a one-day mission blitz of our local community. On **Saturday, October 6**, every member of the community is encouraged and empowered to go and to serve. It is a simple way to give back to our community--as a group or individual. Just sign up to serve others in need! Visit HandsOnKirkwood.org for more details.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Your help is needed on **Saturday, October 20; 8:00am-2:00pm**. Lutheran World Relief will park a tractor trailer here at Concordia, and volunteers are needed to move boxed ingathering items from pickup trucks, cars and trailers and stack them in the larger box trailer. With your help, Lutheran World Relief will make a difference in the lives of our neighbors around the world by distributing the quilts, kits and soap that will be collected. Volunteer a couple hours or the entire day; your help is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions, please contact **Cindy Redecker** at 573-579-7128 or cmredecker@yahoo.com.

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 last seminar date for 2018 is **Saturday, December 1**, from **10:00am-4:00pm**. Register at CKhome.org/weddings.



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

BE STILL, BE ONE, BE FAITHFUL

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