

Concordia CONNECTION

November 2018



LUNCH AND LEARN | WORSHIP ARTS OPPORTUNITIES | YOUTH CALL UPDATE | NIGHT TO SHINE

PASTOR'S NOTE



October winds down, but the ministry at Concordia only gets more wound up. A veritable hive of activity, both relational and spiritual and missional ... from Bunco and turkeys to Uganda and Feed My People, from Confirmation and Lunch & Learn to worship and visiting our homebound or convalescing members. Add to these Jacob and Rebecca, Night to Shine, a Center for Christian Education, and a youth minister on the horizon ... all, with the holiday season of worship just around the corner. To God be all glory! Keep going, Concordia!

Warmly,
Pastor Seidler
Senior Pastor
sseidler@CKhome.org

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP

SANCTUARY

Join us with thankful hearts this Thanksgiving for worship on Wednesday, November 21, at 7:00pm and Thursday, November 22, at 10:00am.

ADVENT

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

Look for them at the Spotlight Table and the wall by the Lobby desk the weekend after Thanksgiving.

COOKIES FOR THE OLDER ADULTS

A service opportunity to bake cookies for those who are homebound or live in community senior centers. Bake two dozen cookies and bring them to the church office in a disposable container or cookie tin by **Sunday, December 9**. Interested in delivering cookies? Contact **Sharon Ema** at sema@CKhome.org or 314-822-7772 x108.

KIDSMIN SUNDAY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Join us on **Sunday, December 9, 9:20-10:20am** for a Christmas party and service project during our regular KidsMin Sunday hour. Details to come! *Please also note we will not meet on December 16 and December 23.*

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Wednesday, December 19, 7:00pm

"Early" Christmas Eve (Sanctuary); this service is designed specifically for those who may be out-of-town on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve Services (Monday, December 24)

All services are identical candlelight worship and will be held in the Concordia Center. Service times are 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 (sign-language interpreted) and 10:00pm. Childcare available at 3:00, 5:00 and 7:00pm.

Tuesday, December 25, 10:00am

Christmas Day worship in the Sanctuary

ADULTS



Dear Friends in Christ,

While Christmas may be coming, with goose that's getting fat, Thanksgiving can get overlooked; we just won't stand for that! Let no bird be overcooked. Our blessings not be overlooked!

- With thankful hearts ... we listened to the faith testimonies of our 2018 confirmands on Witness Weekend.
- With thankful hearts ... we prepare to impact our community with 1,000 Turkey Blessing meals and to help All Nations Church, University City supply their community with 200 dinners.
- With thankful hearts ... our next Lunch and Learn will celebrate Veterans Day through the eyes of women who serve and women who have husbands who serve.
- With thankful hearts ... our Festival Choir will soon begin rehearsals for the Getty Concert.
- With thankful, and perhaps somewhat anxious, hearts ... our Seminary fieldworkers prepare to preach at our upcoming Advent midweek services.
- With thankful hearts ... our Ageless Generation Ministry Action Team is prepping for the always-JOYous Christmas Lunch and Learn on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11**.

With thankful hearts, we will soon enter Advent and make our advance toward Christmas ... but, first, we will celebrate with Thanksgiving. Then again, if we are—as we heard our confirmands testify—“Children of God,” one day of Thanksgiving is hardly enough when every day gives us reason for thankful hearts!

With a JOYful and thankful heart,

Pastor Meggers

Associate Pastor

dmeggers@CKhome.org

LUNCH AND LEARNS

Oktoberfest was a fabulous time for all—with delicious brats and fixins, remembrances of Germany shared by our Concordia travelers and, of course, beer and wine! Our outreach donation of socks (“SOCKtoberfest”) will help the homeless in our area.

This November, Lunch and Learn will again have a veterans theme as we welcome Kitty Bickford and Maj. (R) Paula Wilson to share about their personal experiences as women in the military. We will be collecting for the St. Louis Fisher House, established to provide “a home away from home” for families and caregivers of our military men and women during their time of need. A donation list can be found at the Registration Center in the Concordia Center Commons or at CKhome.org/OlderAdults. Please join us in the Atrium on **Thursday, November 15**, at **11:30am**. Our lunch menu includes soup, bread and dessert. Watch for a sign-up sheet of needed food items!

Concordia's annual Christmas Party, based on the theme *Emmanuel—God with Us*, will be held in the Dining Hall on **TUESDAY, December 11 at 11:30am**; please note the change in day of week for this December gathering. A delicious meal will be catered by the Hawthorne Inn and, as always, there will be special entertainment and fun fellowship.

RSVP for Lunch and Learn events on the Welcome Tab, on the list at the Registration Center, or by contacting **Patty Wilson** at pwilson@CKhome.org or 314.822.7772 x121.



WORSHIP ARTS



KEITH AND KRISTYN GETTY IN CONCERT - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20; 7:30PM

Join Ireland's own Keith & Kristyn Getty, known for carols and modern hymns such as "In Christ Alone," for their eighth annual tour of *Sing! An Irish Christmas*. The Gettys are joined by their band of virtuosic instrumentalists fusing Celtic, Bluegrass, Americana, Modern and Classical music along with cultural dance and the choral sounds of the holiday. Come sing along with Keith & Kristyn and special guests for an evening that unites tradition and innovation in a vibrant celebration of the season! Concordia's Festival Choir and Kids Song Choir will participate in the concert as well.

Tickets for the concert will go on sale this weekend. Look for purchase information in next week's FrontPage email.

FESTIVAL CHOIR

It's not too late to join the Festival Choir! Our first rehearsal is **Wednesday, November 7**, so if you are interested, please join us at **7:00pm** that evening. In lieu of a Christmas Cantata this year, we will be preparing to participate in the *Sing! An Irish Christmas* Concert with the Gettys on Thursday, December 20.

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP – SANCTUARY

This year's Advent midweek services will be on the following dates:

Wednesday, December 5; 11:00am and 6:45pm

Wednesday, December 12; 11:00am and 6:45pm

Wednesday, December 19; 11:00am only

The month of December brings with it several special worship services befitting of the Christmas season. In order that our congregation can more fully experience these services, the regular Sunday morning schedule will be slightly modified. Please be sure to make note of these changes:

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL SOUTH (LHSS) WIND SYMPHONY – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

We will follow our regular 8:15am, 9:30am, and 10:45am worship schedule this weekend; however, the LHSS Wind Symphony will play at the 9:30am Concordia Center service only. Our regular 10:45am service will meet in the Sanctuary (instead of the Concordia Center) to better facilitate the flow of people entering and leaving worship.

EARLY CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP – WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Designed for our members who will be out-of-town over the Christmas holiday, this service will be held at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Monday, December 24 – Christmas Eve services at 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, and 10:00pm in the Concordia Center.

Tuesday, December 25 – Christmas worship at 10:00am in the Sanctuary.

Our normal worship schedule will resume the weekend of December 29-30. Note there will not be a New Year's Eve service on **Monday, December 31**, this year.

To God be the Glory!

Brendan Knorp

Director for the Worship Arts

bknorp@CKhome.org

KIDSMIN

CELEBRATING ADVENT AS A FAMILY!

December is one of the busiest times of the year! Between shopping and decorating, Christmas parties and cleaning the house for holiday guests, it is easy to forget why we are celebrating in the first place!

Here is an idea for you and your family to keep Jesus at the center of this crazy season:

Buy or make an Advent wreath together—all you need is five candles:

- 1st Candle (Purple) – Candle of Hope (1st Sunday in December) ~ Romans 15:12-13
- 2nd Candle (Purple) – Candle of Preparation (2nd Sunday in December) ~ Luke 3:4-6
- 3rd Candle (Pink) – Candle of Joy (3rd Sunday in December) ~ Luke 2:7-15
- 4th Candle (Purple) – Candle of Love (4th Sunday in December) ~ John 3:16-17
- 5th Candle (White) – Christ Candle (Christmas Eve or Christmas Day) ~ John 1:29



Set aside time each week to gather as a family, light the candle(s) and spend time together with God by:

- Singing favorite Christmas hymns (*Away in a Manger; The First Noel; Joy to the World; O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, for starters)
- Sharing Advent devotions (check out some online)
- Reading the Christmas story from the Bible (Luke 2 or Matthew 1-2)
- Praying (ask what your family wants to focus on, thank God for sending His only Son into the world to save you)
- Enjoying a cup of hot chocolate and a favorite Christmas dessert

Children remember—and love—family traditions; keep Jesus at the center of yours!

Rebecca Schultz

Children's Ministry Assistant
rschultz@CKhome.org

CK YOUTH

SENIOR YOUTH CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

If you are a high school boy who loves basketball and would love a team to regularly play with, consider joining Church League Basketball this year. This competitive team practices on **Thursdays** from **7:30-9:00pm**, through mid-March. Games are Sunday afternoon at area churches. In addition, the team plays in 2-3 in-town and/or out-of-town tournaments. The cost is \$60 per person (permission sign-off required); please register at CKhome.org/HSYouth. Contact **Eric Binder** at 314-422-4152 with any questions.

EXECUTIVE REPORT



SENIOR YOUTH CALL UPDATE – LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES!

The Search Committee for a Director of Sr. High Youth Ministry finalized a job description and is currently requesting names of candidates; please review the job description below. If you know of a person qualified and well-suited for the role, please let us know! You can suggest candidates at CKhome.org/YouthCall or pick up a paper form at the front desk. We will be taking suggestions through **November 11**.

DIRECTOR FOR SR. HIGH YOUTH MINISTRY

Purpose

To serve the church by coordinating and administering a comprehensive ministry to the approximately 170 senior-high youth of Concordia. This full-time staff member serves as a spiritual leader and role model while also empowering, training and equipping lay leaders to propel our youth toward faith development and service to others in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Specific Duties & Responsibilities

- Collaborate, develop, and execute a plan to reach out and connect with all 170 senior youth within Concordia. Be able to give an account of all families and their connectedness to faith development communities.
- Collaborate and create weekly opportunities for Senior Youth to come together for devotion, Bible study and community building through small groups with lay leadership.
- Collaborate and create periodic catalytic/all-ministry activities throughout the year for the purpose of Christian relationship building and service.
- Provide ministry support and/or leadership to the large-scale children and youth events throughout the year. (e.g. VBS, All Youth Retreat, Concordia Kids Camp, Confirmation, LCMS Youth Gathering, etc.)
- Oversee, in conjunction with the Communications Director, the efficient and effective communication of Youth Ministry through social media, email, text message, etc.
- Ensure the pastoral care of high school youth through hospital visitation, grief support and other aspects of pastoral care in consultation with the Pastoral Care Team.
- Lead Children's Messages in worship at least once per month.
- Report quarterly participation levels, lay involvement, budget and other measurement standards for ministry to the Sr. Pastor.

Required Knowledge, Skill & Abilities

- A believer in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior who comfortably relates his or her personal spiritual habits which express that faith. This person must embrace Christian discipline and the LCMS doctrine and theology.
- An individual who capably and warmly engages conversation with both youth and adults.
- An individual who understands they cannot be a personal mentor to all 170 youth and, therefore, is gifted at encouraging and equipping other Christian mentors/lay leaders to mentor youth.
- An individual who works well in a team environment and can function well as a team leader or as a team member, depending on the event or circumstance.
- Must have vision to develop, coordinate, manage and implement a youth ministry within the parameters of a large congregation.
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication, conflict resolution, computer, and social media skills.

If you have any questions, please contact me or another Search Committee member:

Kristin Anderson
Jan Duesenberg
David Lanius
Sarah McCarthy

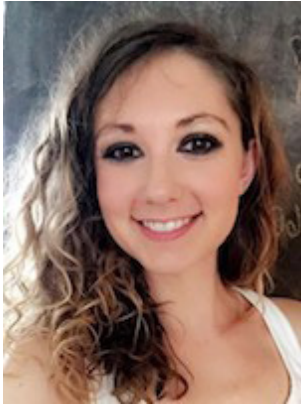
Jacob Mohnke
Paul Roettger
Emma Simpson

Kristin Anderson

Executive Director

kanderson@CKhome.org

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY



For You created my inmost being; You knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. – Psalm 139:13-14



On **Sunday, October 21**, Concordia's Special Needs Ministry once again held a Trunk-or-Treat for Kids with Special Needs. More than 50 families joined in the fun this year! Attendees played games, made crafts, took silly pictures and "trunk-or-treated" at over 20 festively decorated trunks!

While talking and visiting with families during the event, there was a common theme. Over and over again I kept hearing the word "comfort." Many parents explained how comfortable, stress-free and encouraging the event was to their families. You might be wondering why a trunk-or-treat would need to be "comfortable." So, I thought I would have a parent of a child with special needs, Stacy Knorp, share about why this is so important:



When our daughter Evie was born with Down Syndrome, we knew that there would be many things down the road for us that would be different than they were for our older "typically developing" daughter Lydia. Evie participates in most everything her peers do, but sometimes we just need to do things in a different way so that the activity is comfortable and accessible to her. Before I had a child with special needs, I was not aware of all of the things I would need to be thinking about now when doing things with Evie. Some of the things I've had to consider when starting a new activity or going to an event are: Will people understand her, can she make her

needs known, is it too far for her to walk, will she go too slow, will it be sensory overload for her, too much noise, too many people, how will she interact with the other kids, do I need to bring food because of her allergies, will people understand when she does something differently, will they be welcoming?

I don't live every day sad about these things I have to think about, nor do they usually stop us from doing something we want to do, but it can be exhausting or discouraging at times. So, when you go to an event where you don't have to worry about some of these things, you feel at ease. You feel comfortable and can let your guard down a bit, and relax. When you feel like people are welcoming and loving and not judgmental and take the time to interact with your child at her comfort level, it is a wonderful feeling.

And that is exactly the kind of feedback we were receiving from families on Sunday. There were families who appreciated not only that things were accessible for their child, but also that the people at the event were loving and kind and cared most about making it a comfortable happy place for their kids. Jesus' love was shared in so many ways that day and it made me so happy to know that those 50+ families found "comfort" in our Concordia community. I am so thankful for the support of the Special Needs Ministry for my family, but also for the love and support that it is providing for those in our community. I can't wait to see how God works through this ministry in the future.

I want to extend a HUGE thank-you to all the volunteers who loved on all the families and made this event such a success! We could not have done it without YOU!

Jessica Crawford

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



TURKEY BLESSING

Concordia Men's Ministry is coming together for the 4th Annual Turkey Blessing to demonstrate Christ's love to those in need in our community. We will distribute 1,000 Thanksgiving dinners on **Sunday, November 18**. The packaged (not cooked) dinners will include a frozen turkey, stuffing, green beans, gravy and potatoes. The quantity will be sufficient to feed a family of five (1,000 dinners x 5 = 5,000!). Distribution of the meals will be in the **Meramec Community College** parking lot due to construction (enter off Rose Hill/Geyer).



During the distribution of the dinners, within each box, faith-filled materials will be placed for adults and children. Our prayer is that these interactions and materials will plant a seed, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of those we feed. Most importantly, Concordia's teams will interact with the recipients and pray with them regarding their needs and Christ's love. We are thankful for the opportunity to address hunger in our community; however, it is not really about the turkeys.



This massive undertaking will require a significant number of volunteers. While sharing the story of Christ's blessings in our lives, this project unites the Men's Ministry at Concordia. We estimate **we need 200 male volunteers** for many different tasks:

- On Saturday morning, **November 17**, from **9:00am-noon**, there will be a mandatory meeting and worship. In that service, we will unite as brothers in Christ and receive instructions to perform this project and how to effectively reach out. After the service, there will be a volunteer opportunity to stage the food for distribution.
- On **Sunday, November 18**, starting at **11:00am** and lasting until approximately 5:00pm, shift volunteers will distribute food. Distribution begins at **1:00pm** at Meramec Community College (lots at Rose Hill and Geyer).
- This will be a powerful, faith-building experience and opportunity to transform your faith through meaningful action. There will be several volunteer opportunities for this project. The specific volunteer positions are more fully described on the volunteer sign-up webpage.



To the men of Concordia, please prayerfully consider joining in this effort. Volunteer at CKhome.org/turkeyblessing.

MEN'S MINISTRY HAPPY HOUR

Join us in raising money for the 4th Annual Turkey Blessing! We will enjoy fellowship together with a happy hour at the 1903 Bar at Missouri Athletic Club West on **Wednesday, November 7, 4:00-7:00pm**. \$40 will buy a turkey dinner for five (any donation is appreciated). Give at CKhome.org/turkeyblessing.

PRISON MINISTRY

FAITH SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LOVED ONES IN JAIL

Through his role as Chaplain for the St. Louis County Jail, Pastor Vince Stanley has recognized the emotional stress placed on individuals when a loved one is in jail. Pastor Stanley has formed a faith-based and confidential support group for individuals who have loved ones currently or formerly incarcerated. The group meets monthly at Concordia on the **third Thursday; 7:00pm**. If you are dealing with this stressful situation or have experiences to share, please join this group.

COUNCIL UPDATE

On October 15, 2018, Concordia's Church Council met and conducted its monthly meeting. After opening in a word of prayer, the Church Council tackled a variety of exciting, substantive issues. First, it voted to recommend to the congregation the placement of Rev. Jacob Schultz to serve as an Associate Pastor with a focus on Family and Youth Ministry. The Council also recommended that Mrs. Rebecca Schultz continue to serve in her role with the Children's Ministry.



As to the building project, the Council voted to direct Kristin Anderson to engage the architectural firm Archimages to provide a cost opinion for the completion of all facility renovations and construction. This review will encompass the demolition of the original school building, the renovation of facilities outside the 1954 sanctuary, the code compliance requirements, cost opinions related to the acquisition and development of the green house, and any other incidental concerns that may arise. The Council mandated that the review's cost not exceed \$20,000 and authorized that amount to be charged against the upcoming 2019 capital funding effort.

The Council also approved Vice President Keith Fatzinger to work with the Nominating Committee and its chairperson, Karen Allman, in support of the Committee's work to elevate candidates for upcoming openings on the Nominating Committee, for a Church Council At-Large position, and for the next Concordia CCLS (Christ Community Lutheran School) Board Representative to replace Brent Beumer.

Please contact me if you would like to suggest an issue to be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

Matt Schelp

Council President

matthew.schelp@gmail.com



CCLS

CCLS DINNER AUCTION

The 2019 Hearts on Fire CCLS Dinner Auction will be held Saturday, February 16, 2019 at Orlando Gardens Banquet Center in south St. Louis county. Please mark your calendar and make plans to attend or support this special fundraising event for the CCLS community.

Tickets are \$75 per person or \$700 for a table of 10. Sponsorship, advertising, and donation opportunities are available. For more information, please visit ccls-stlouis.org. Contact Joel and Kerrie Karsten, Dinner Auction Co-Chairs, at auction@ccls-stlouis.org with any questions.



NIGHT TO SHINE

NIGHT TO SHINE IS FEBRUARY 8!

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



We are just three short months away from *Night to Shine*! Can you believe it? And, preparations are rolling along. Volunteer teams are being assembled and some are even filling up. We still have **180 open positions**, though, so “click” on over to NightToShineKirkwood.com/volunteer to sign up! Our greatest need is for volunteers to join the **Buddy Team**. Each honored guest will be paired up with a buddy for the evening. This buddy assists their honored guest throughout the evening by providing assistance and companionship. It is also the volunteer team that offers you the greatest chance of riding in a limo or “dancing the night away” with a new friend! Please consider joining our Buddy Team!

Night to Shine is a complimentary event for our honored guests, along with their parents and caregivers. It truly is their night to shine! Although we have received an initial grant from the Tim Tebow Foundation to assist with start-up costs of hosting this incredible event, it is still not enough to cover all of the mandatory elements. With that in mind, we are offering businesses the chance to sponsor different portions of our *Night to Shine* prom.

Full and partial sponsorships are available for the following:

Dance Floor	Parent/Caregiver Respite Room Meals
Red Carpet	Volunteer Meals
DJ	Guest Favors
Limo Rides	Big Impact Decorations
Honored Guest Meals	And, more ...

Not a business, but still want to donate? We will also need:

Plates (black, blue, silver)	Bottles of Water
Cups (black, blue, silver)	Balloon Weights (black, blue, silver)
Napkins (black, blue, silver)	Balloons (black, blue, silver)
Glitter Spray	Gluten-Free Desserts
Soda (cans)	... and, more!

Please visit NightToShineKirkwood.com/donate for more information!



BE STILL, BE ONE, BE FAITHFUL

505 S. Kirkwood Road
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CKhome.org