

CONCORDIA

Connection

FEBRUARY 2019



PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR SEIDLER • SENIOR PASTOR • SSEIDLER@CKHOME.ORG



Happy February, Concordia. I hope your opening weekends of worship at church are bringing blessings as you “bear much fruit”.

Bearing fruit is an intentional, sometimes agonizing task. It takes grit alongside the limitless grace of our Heavenly Father. Early in January, I shared a message in which I reviewed four fruit-bearing categories for us to consider:

1. *Morality*: Following the 10 Commandments, FULLY.
2. *Vocation*: Living out our life responsibilities faithfully--parent, child, citizen, employee, neighbor, friend, etc.
3. *Therapy*: Getting whole emotionally from the scars life can leave on us—overcoming anger, addiction, self-harm, depression and mental illness
4. *Theology*: Growing in the knowledge of what God has done and is doing for us and our world through Jesus Christ.

At the end of February is the Transfiguration of our Lord. This day was the one where Jesus visibly changed in the presence of his followers. He showed himself to be the real deal, God’s true Son and, soon, our true Savior. With His change comes the confidence that we, too, can change. And all this comes from His grace and mercy for us.

Spring is on our doorstep. Soon the earth around us will start growing again. Let’s match this season by the industry and intention we bring to it. He is the vine. We, the branches. Abiding in Him, we bear much fruit. (John 15).

PASTOR SCHULTZ

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Greetings to Some of My Favorite People!

First and foremost, thank you to everyone who attended either my ordination or my installation event—even in the midst of snowapocalypse! With many pastors and many people, we gathered together for this weekend event in the cold of January. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as pastor, one I do not take lightly.

But this ministry is not about any one specific individual. The church is created for every single person whom the Father has created in His image and calls to repentance. Concordia is for you and me. And as we work together, we do so as his faithful people, working wherever God has placed us.

As we move ahead in ministry, I look forward to getting to know each of you better. It is my goal to have more personal conversations to better equip one another. If you have any insights, ideas, or intelligence on ministry opportunities, please let me know. You will never offend me by asking to chat or bounce around an idea. Also, if you know of someone who would benefit from a conversation either connected to our community or outside, I would be delighted to make contact. God has created us for one another, and I look forward to serving together!

ADULTS

PASTOR MEGGERS • ASSOCIATE PASTOR • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG



The tip of the iceberg: that's the part you see. The bulk of the iceberg: that's what you don't see. Over the last two months we have seen lots of tips of numerous icebergs: Getty Concert, Christmas, Ordination and Installation to name a few. Even what you see on Sunday mornings or in this publication could be considered the tip of the iceberg.

What you don't see, what we don't see, are the many ministries and volunteers that operate

behind the scenes. There you will find the unseen and unheralded faithful carrying out their faithfulness in service to church, community and beyond. Sharon Ema is that faithful staff member who drives a number of these kinds of unseen ministries. There is ministry to the sick. There is the health ministry action team. Christmas parties don't just happen; they are devised and carried out by Sharon and our Ageless Generation Ministry Action Team, who are also responsible for the monthly Lunch and Learns. Bonnie Matzat and Sharon put their heads together monthly in order to provide this publication for you. And don't even get me started on Sharon Karleskint and Patty Wilson and all they do "behind the scenes".

In future months I will be highlighting a few ministries at a time. This month's focus has to do with two aspects of spiritual care: **Communion Visitation** and **Hospital Visitation**.

- **Communion Visitation** is directed by Sharon Ema and carried out by various communion ministers. We take Holy Communion to those who are unable to worship with us. If you or a loved one are homebound for more than a week or two, let Sharon know and we will work together to make sure you receive this precious gift.
- **Hospital Visitation** is also directed by Sharon Ema. If you are hospitalized, let us know. Hospitals do not let churches know when a member is hospitalized. Your first contact will likely be Sharon Karleskint, who will make sure that your information is passed on. Sharon Ema will then provide the pastoral care staff with the necessary information so that we can come and share God's Word and pray with you. We may even bring communion in some cases.

These two ministries are near and dear to the hearts of your pastoral care team. We deeply desire to walk with you in your times of need.

"We are the body of Christ", St. Paul tells us. And that body is better when the different parts work together. Just know that a lot of that body work is not always that visible, but our Lord knows it and receives it.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2019

February 3; 10:45am
Souper Sunday

February 3; 3:00pm
Christoph Graupner
Cantatas

February 8; 6:00pm
Night to Shine

February 10; 9:00am
Health and Resource Fair

February 10; 8:00am
"Pounder" Blood Drive

February 21; 12:00pm
Lunch and Learn

WORSHIP

Sanctuary worship with traditional hymns led by organ and piano

- **5:00pm, Saturday**
- **8:15am, Sunday**

Concordia Center with modern worship music and hymns, led by worship band

- **9:30am, Sunday**
- **10:45am, Sunday**

EXECUTIVE REPORT

KRISTIN ANDERSON • CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER • KANDERSON@CKHOME.ORG



VERY IMPORTANT - PLEASE REVIEW 2018 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Contribution statements were sent out on **Thursday, January 24** via email. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you review these for accuracy, especially to make sure we allocated your funds correctly between Inbound and our Next Step Capital Campaign. If we do not have your email address, your statement was mailed. Please contact **Kelly Ritter** at kritter@ckhome.org if you have any questions. Thanks!

OUR NEXT STEP UPDATE

Is it spring yet? I don't think I have ever been so addicted to the Weather Channel app as I have been the last few months. The masons are busy but can only lay brick when the weather is above freezing. They work even Saturdays if the weather cooperates. We are close but have a few more days to go. Then the steel will arrive along with a large crane. Steelwork will take about a month to complete. The good news is that it is all cut and ready to go, so once the masonry is complete, we should have no steel delays. So please say a little prayer for warmer weather!

I was really hoping to kick off VBS in the new building in mid-July, but that seems very unlikely at this point. The good news is that at this point Korte does feel that the building should be complete by the start of school and our church ministry year. Confirmation, KidsNight, Senior Youth Bible Study, and Sunday KidsMin should all kick off the **2019-2020** ministry year in the new building!

OUR NEXT STEP FINANCIALS (THRU 1/20/19)

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to giving. With our firm, fixed price contract, we expect the project to come in under budget, limiting our amount of indebtedness. Due to strong December and January Capital contributions (**\$658,000**), we should be able to pay using cash on hand at least through April before we would need any loan funds.

Pledges	\$7,562,391
Pledged Gifts	\$5,500,455
Non-Pledged Gifts	<u>\$ 376,013</u>
Total Capital Contributions	\$5,876,468
Outstanding Pledges:	\$2,061,936 27%

2018 RESULTS & 2019 BUDGET

We are pleased to report, thanks to your generous giving, that our receipts met our expenses in 2018. Our 2019 budget is helped by the fact that most of the year we will have no debt. Thank you all.

	Budget 2019	Actual	Increase	%
Revenues				
Contributions	\$ 2,261,310	\$ 2,261,310	\$ —	0%
Other income	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,420	\$ (420)	0%
Lutheran Foundation Grant	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ —	0%
Concordia Foundation Support	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000	0%
CCLS Facility Fees	\$ 157,000	\$ 156,443	\$ 557	0%
Total revenues	<u>\$ 2,573,310</u>	<u>\$ 2,568,173</u>	<u>\$ 5,137</u>	0%
Operating Expenses				
Personnel	\$ 1,330,176	\$ 1,224,113	\$ 106,063	9%
Property	\$ 297,200	\$ 351,432	\$ (54,232)	-15%
Program				
Ministry programs	\$ 135,000	\$ 131,228	\$ 3,772	3%
Administration	\$ 80,000	\$ 80,013	\$ (5,013)	-6%
	<u>\$ 215,000</u>	<u>\$ 216,241</u>	<u>\$ (1,241)</u>	-1%
Parochial education				
CCLS	\$ 629,049	\$ 616,715	\$ 12,334	2%
Lutheran High School	\$ 44,000	\$ 44,000	\$ —	0%
	<u>\$ 673,049</u>	<u>\$ 660,715</u>	<u>\$ 12,334</u>	2%
Total operating expenses	<u>\$ 2,515,425</u>	<u>\$ 2,452,501</u>	<u>\$ 62,924</u>	3%
Debt service		\$ 100,000	\$ (100,000)	-100%
Principal	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	<u>\$ 13,749</u>	<u>\$ 36,251</u>	264%
Interest	<u>\$ 50,000</u>	<u>\$ 113,749</u>	<u>\$ (63,749)</u>	-56%
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 2,565,425</u>	<u>\$ 2,566,250</u>	<u>\$ (825)</u>	0%
Surplus (deficit)	<u>\$ 7,885</u>	<u>\$ 1,923</u>	<u>\$ 5,962</u>	

Per Congregational By-Laws, the congregation approved our 2019 budget on **Monday, January 28**. Please contact **Kristin Anderson at kanderson@ckhome.org** with any questions.

WORSHIP ARTS

BRENDAN KNORP • DIRECTOR FOR THE WORSHIP ARTS • BKNORP@CKHOME.ORG



GUEST WORSHIP LEADER

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to perform some musical entertainment at the CCLS Carnival. While there, I had the pleasure of listening to singer/songwriter Rachel Seiler, who was one of the other musicians performing that day. Rachel grew up here in STL and attended Immanuel Lutheran in Olivette, Lutheran High School North, and Webster University before pursuing a career as a songwriter and artist in Nashville. I'd recently found out she was performing a concert at the Sheldon on **Tuesday, February 5**, and asked her if she would join us in leading worship and sharing some of her songs on **Sunday, February 3** at the **9:30am** and **10:45am** services. We are looking forward to being blessed by her music!

CHRISTOPH GRAUPNER CANTATAS

The Collegium Vocale of St. Louis is pleased to present a concert of sacred cantatas by Christoph Graupner (1683-1760) on **Sunday, February 3, 2019 at 3:00pm**. Christoph Graupner was a celebrated contemporary of J.S. Bach and a significant Lutheran composer. The voices of the Collegium Vocale will be supported by historical string and wind instruments, including trumpet, oboe, flute, and bassoon. There will be pre-concert remarks by Bruce Carvell, Artistic Director, in the sanctuary at **2:30pm**. This will be a great concert to attend, and you'll even be home before the Super Bowl begins. :)

EASTER MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Usually, I use the February Connection to talk about Easter music and opportunities to sing or play an instrument in our orchestra. This year, we won't celebrate Easter until **Sunday, April 21**, so we'll use next month's issue to give out more details. If you're interested in participating, go ahead and put **April 10, 17, and 20** in your calendars as rehearsal times.



YOUTH MINISTRY

CKHOME.ORG/MINISTRIES/YOUTH

Group Glendale, Dooling, and Maldonado would like to invite you to join us for LCMS Youth Gathering Fun at Glendale Lutheran Church. This event will be held on **Sunday February 17 from 6:00-7:30pm** at Glendale Lutheran Church, 1365 North Sappington Road. We will have pizza, devotion, scavenger hunt, fun and games! Please be on the lookout for an email asking you to RSVP by **Saturday, February 16**.

KIDSMIN

REBECCA SCHULTZ • CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT • RSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG



KidsNight is an awesome night for kids to learn more about their Savior and what the Bible says. Children grow in the knowledge of Christ while building relationships with other children at Concordia. Our outstanding adult and high school volunteers truly care for each child and understand the value of teaching young children about Jesus.

Kids have been in school all day and come to **KidsNight** with a lot of energy! Our teachers use multisensory teaching that immerses kids in deep Bible learning, helping them to know Jesus personally and grow in relationship with him.

If your child has never been to **KidsNight** but would like to try it out, come any **Wednesday** and see what it is all about! We would love to help your child jump right in!

SUNDAY MORNING KID OPPORTUNITIES

Parents of 2's

Children and their parents will learn basic Bible stories and songs led by Karen and David Lanius. Parents will also have the opportunity to break away with Karen and learn how to share faith with a toddler. Parents must be present for a 2-year-old to attend.

KidsMin Sunday School

- For all kids three years old through 5th grade! Let's praise God! Let's learn the Bible in ways that are memorable and fun! Whether your family worships at **8:15**, **9:30**, or **10:45am**, Sunday KidsMin works.
- **9:20-9:30am** - All kids Check in outside the Dining Hall (before **9:30 worship** or after **8:15** concludes)
- **9:30-9:45am** - Let's Praise GOD! All ages are welcome and encouraged to praise God through fun worship songs and faith-filled activities.
- **9:45-10:15am** - Let's Learn the Bible Point! Group separates into age groups to reinforce the Bible Point through age-appropriate activities.
- **10:15am** - For those parents in **9:30 worship**, kids will be brought to Concordia Center to join their families at the altar for Communion. All other kids brought back to Dining Hall for prayer and closing.



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

EPIC NIGHTS

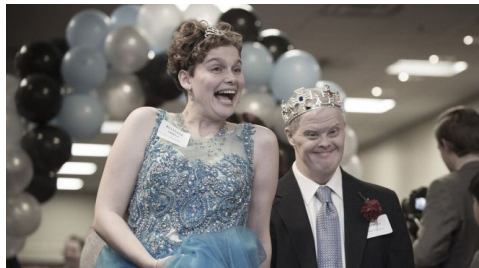
Join us once a month as 4th and 5th graders have an opportunity to gather to get to know one another better and connect with Christ! We eat, talk, and play crazy games that are sure to involve everyone! Feel free to bring a friend!

Upcoming EPIC Nights

February 22; 6:00-8:00pm

March 29; 6:00-8:00pm

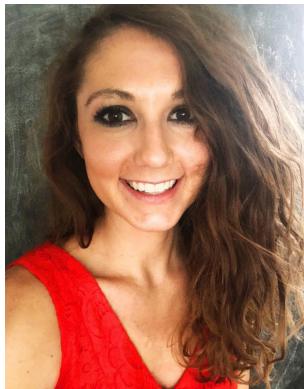
April 26; 6:00-8:00pm



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD
JCRAWFORD@CKHOME.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



It's finally time, Concordia! In just a handful of days, Night to Shine will be here!

This all began exactly one year ago when a brand new staff member (at the time) named Rev. Jacob Schultz, came bounding into my office to ask me if I had ever heard of Night to Shine. I had already had a few nudges in this direction, but it wasn't until that moment that I finally stopped and said, "Okay, God. I hear you loud and clear."

This year has been a journey, to say the least, and God's steadfast guiding presence has been felt every step of the way.

Five months ago, the task of recruiting nearly **250 volunteers** for an event that no one had even heard of before seemed insurmountable. Well, God's got this and we have over **300 volunteers** joining us the night of the event or working to help us prepare for it. That's over **300 people** who will have the privilege to play a part in the work that is being done across the globe to bring the deep and wide love of Christ to people with special needs. Isn't that amazing?!

So, Concordia, I have one more request for you. *I ask that you pray for Night to Shine.*

Please pray for our Honored Guests, that they may grasp just how great Christ's love is for them and that any fear or insecurities they may have about attending may be replaced with rejoicing and celebrating the fact that they have been designed perfectly by God.

Please pray for the parents and caregivers in attendance at Night to Shine, that they would feel at home not just at Concordia but in the church body as a whole and that they would feel the inclusive love of God's people.

Please pray for the volunteers, that they would stay focused on serving God by creating an atmosphere of joy and excitement for our Honored Guests and for wisdom and creativity to meet the specific needs of each of our Guests in attendance.

And lastly, please pray for extra energy for all the coordinators and team leaders of Night to Shine and that every detail would fall into place perfectly. Pray that God's glory be on display in everything we do!

It's going to be great!

PRE-MARRIAGE SEMINAR

LED BY CHARLIE AND DEBBIE DAVIS



Many couples today are spending a great deal of time and money planning for their wedding day, but spending little 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 15 years.

The seminar dates for 2019 are **Saturday, March 2, June 1 and September 7 from 10:00am-4:00pm**. Email Debbie Davis at ddavis@CKhome.org to register.

CCLS

DINNER AUCTION

The 2019 Hearts on Fire CCLS Dinner Auction will be held **Saturday, February 16** at Orlando's banquet center in South St. Louis County. Please 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. Guest registration may be completed by **Friday, February 1**. Volunteers are also needed to help during the event; if you would like to volunteer, rather than attend as a guest, please contact auction@ccls-stlouis.org. For more information or to register please visit "Upcoming Events" at www.ccls-stlouis.org.



SAVE THE DATE

UPCOMING EVENTS



Concordia's Health and Resource Fair

Concordia's Health Ministry Action Team will hold a Health Resource Fair on **Sunday, February 10 from 9:00-11:00am**. Service opportunities as well as information on spiritual, physical and emotional health for all ages will be available.



Benjamin "Pounder" Schrieber Blood Drive

Benjamin "Pounder" Schrieber was born with Fanconi Anemia, a bone marrow depleting blood disease. After Pounder's bone marrow transplant, complications arose that required him to receive almost daily blood and platelet transfusions. He was never without due to the outpouring of people that heard of his need and donated. Unfortunately, he lost his battle at the age of **1 1/2 years old**. We ask that you celebrate with us what would have been his 11th birthday by donating blood and helping us pay forward the grace that was shown to his family on **Sunday, February 10 from 8:00am-1:00pm**.

For an appointment, please call **314-941-1324** or go to **redcrossblood.org** and enter the sponsor code: **Pounder**



Lunch and Learn

Our Lunch and Learn on **February 21 at 11:30am** will feature a program on "Genealogy: Family Relationships" by Roger Burgdorf and Sharon Ema. We will have lunch from Psghetti's for a suggested donation of \$7.50. Please join us in the Atrium and learn more about our families' stories and how to search our family tree connections.



We will take a brief break from our Lunch and Learn gatherings. Our Ageless Generations will coordinate with volunteers for Soups On starting **Ash Wednesday on March 6** through **Maundy Thursday on April 18**. Following the **10:45am** worship services, we will have soup, breads and desserts in the Commons. Please sign up to let us know what you will bring. It takes many wonderful volunteers to create this time of worship, food and fellowship. A free-will donation will be collected to help area missions. All ages are invited.



Mardi Gras Trivia Night

Come out on **Friday, March 2** for a night of trivia to assist the youth attending the LCMS Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, Minnesota this summer. Doors open at **6:00pm** and trivia starts at **6:30pm**. Cost per table is \$160, each table holds 8 people. Please visit **www.CKhome.org/nyg** to register.