



CONCORDIA

Connection

MAY 2019



YOUTH DIRECTOR UPDATE • VBS • CAMP TRINITY • LUNCH AND LEARN

PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR SEIDLER • SENIOR PASTOR • SSEIDLER@CKHOME.ORG



First things first: Thank you! To the many members of this congregation who stepped up through the season of Lent and Easter weekend to make ministry go, go, go! From the first Communion Seder meal through worship arts singing and playing and tech-ing, this ministry doesn't happen without this ministry! And the lives beyond our church building that are changed are simply staggering to count. So, thank you to everyone who pitched in and made much of our great Savior Jesus Christ this season.

We are now ready to turn with joy to the Easter season and our lead-up to summer. I cannot stress enough how important it is for parents to get kids signed up for our youth ministry opportunities. This summer represents yet another advance on our youth ministry reset...and the numbers of kids possible, in the 500 range, is daunting. Thankfully, two of Concordia's own will be serving as summer DCE-type staff. Nathan Dehn and Trevor Fiala will add Christ-centered, joy-filled, competent leadership to the June through early August summer youth ministry season.

As we make our way along, we have our sights set on consecrating our Center for Christian Education as we kick off the 2019-2020 school year for both CCLS and our youth ministry. Watch for news about that as the building winds up.

Finally, I had the pleasure of traveling up to Bloomington, IL, for the installation of our former associate pastor, Rev. Billy Newell, as the new senior pastor for this large, and growing, congregation at Trinity Lutheran Church. Pray for him, Kristin and their kids as they undertake this great new adventure!

PASTOR SCHULTZ

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Concordia, I would like to celebrate with you. There are many things to celebrate. Indeed, the Scriptures declare, "The mercies of God are new every morning" and "You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing." When we look at our lives, it is so easy to celebrate. We can and should celebrate the gifts of food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, land, animals, money, goods, a faithful husband and wife, faithful children, faithful workers, faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like. There is so much to celebrate from God.

But in this article, I would like to linger for a moment and celebrate with you the first Communion of our confirmands. Over 40 confirmation students took communion for the first time on Maundy Thursday. Communion is a significant moment in every Christian's life. For when we eat and drink Communion, we receive the forgiveness of God embodied in Jesus. And for the first time, many in our community experienced this mystery of the Christian faith. While we can and should celebrate every gift from God, chiefly, we should celebrate the gift of forgiveness found in Jesus.

In your life there is so much to celebrate. Take a moment this day and give thanks for our confirmation students. Take a moment and celebrate the gift of Communion. Take moment and celebrate the forgiveness we have in Jesus. The mercies of God are new every morning.

ADULTS

PASTOR MEGGERS • ASSOCIATE PASTOR • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG



He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia.

The palms and the music. Forty young people communing for the first time. Casting fears into fire and then the glorious worship on the Day of Resurrection. Lazarus comes out of the tomb. Jesus rises from His tomb. We are raised from our tombs to new life through Baptism. We will be called forth one day from our tombs to behold Jesus face to face.

Our 102-year-old sister in Christ, Mattie Maschmeier, was called home, finally, to heaven. She departed this world almost eagerly in her desire to end her pain and suffering and aging and enter into eternal rest. And we celebrated her going home even as we mourned the necessity of this ugly thing called death. We remembered, too, that

Jesus found death ugly enough to weep at the tomb of his friend, Lazarus.

In the wake of Easter, we will continue to celebrate new life every time we gather to worship. We leave behind Lent and our well-attended Lenten "Soup's On" lunches. Jesus calls us out and into this world to continue to be His hands and feet. This summer offers an opportunity to serve kids through VBS. Shepherd's Center has opportunities for you to serve older adults in many different ways. Talk to me or Sharon Ema and we will share numerous ways that you can "Be Faithful" in these days ahead.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Our May Lunch and Learn will be an out-of-town trip to Altenburg and Frohna, where we will have the opportunity to learn about the origins of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. We will board the bus at Concordia on **Thursday, May 16 at 7:45am** and depart at **8:00am**. In Altenburg, we will visit the Lutheran Heritage Museum, Trinity Lutheran Church and the log cabin that was the original Concordia Seminary. A catered lunch at Say Grace Restaurant will be followed by an afternoon visit to the Saxon Lutheran Memorial in Frohna. Arrival back at Concordia is estimated to be around **5:00pm**. This promises to be a day filled with fun and learning!

Our June gathering will be an indoor picnic in the Atrium at Concordia. Hamburgers and hot dogs plus other fixin's will be on the menu for a suggested donation of \$7.50. Please plan to join us on **Thursday, June 20 at 11:30am** for some good old-fashioned food and fellowship!

There will be no scheduled Lunch and Learn event in July.



WORSHIP ARTS

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



Concordia was blessed by the talents of so many of our musicians this past Holy Week and Easter. Phillip and I would like to extend a sincere “thank you” to everyone who contributed to worship during Holy Week. None of this would’ve been possible without the efforts of our musicians, ushers, altar guild, greeters, tech team, and staff (especially those in charge of bulletins)! On Easter Sunday, we had 30 musicians in each of our worship spaces—wow!

The services have been posted to our church Vimeo account, and I would encourage you to check them out and share them with others. At some point down the road, I would love to be able to live-stream and have our services recorded every week. For many people looking for a new church home, watching worship and experiencing the sermons and music online is a common first step in learning about a church before even showing up on a Sunday morning. It’s a ministry opportunity that I hope Concordia can take advantage of someday.

Our Sanctuary choir will be singing through the weekend of June 16 before taking the summer off of regular rehearsals. If you are interested in signing for special services with choir and brass on Sunday, June 9 and/or 16, you are welcome to join in for rehearsals after Memorial Day weekend, beginning on Wednesday, May 29. Please contact our Director for Sanctuary Worship, Phillip Magness, for more information.

- View the Sanctuary Easter Service: <http://bit.ly/easterck>
- View the Concordia Center Easter Service: <http://bit.ly/easterckcc>



ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

KRISTIN ANDERSON • CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER • [KANDERSON@CKHOME.ORG](mailto:kanderson@ckhome.org)



Next Step Financial Update

The building is now going up fast! We currently have around \$1.4 million in cash on hand, but that will be spent over the next two months. We anticipate starting to use our

construction loan in June, depending how quickly pledges come in. If you have not fulfilled your pledge, this is a great time to do so.

Pledges	\$ 7,562,391
Total Pledges Received	\$ 5,655,440
Outstanding Pledges:	\$ 1,906,951 25%

Inbound Ministries Financial Update

Despite three bad-weather Sundays, Inbound offerings were close to budget in the first quarter of 2019. Expenses have been slightly under budget, resulting in a positive financial first quarter.

Inbound Ministries	1st QTR Actual	1st QTR Budget	Variance
Total Offerings & Receipts	\$ 498,500	\$ 501,000	\$ (2,500)
Total Expenses	\$ (585,000)	\$ (597,000)	\$ 11,500
Net Income (deficit)	\$ 87,000	\$ (96,000)	\$ 9,000

TAX-SAVING WAYS TO GIVE AND FULFILL YOUR PLEDGE

Donate Stock

Right now is a great time to donate stock, as the market is very high. When you donate stock, you avoid paying taxes on any capital gains and you also get the full tax deduction of the gift. Many members have taken advantage of this tax savings strategy. The process is simple and straightforward. Contact Kristin Anderson kanderson@ckhome.org for instructions.

Donate Your IRA distributions

If you are over 70 1/2 years old, you can reduce your yearly taxes by donating your required traditional or Roth IRA distributions to Concordia. When you donate this money, it will NOT be included in your income for tax purposes. Many current retired Concordia members are now doing this. Please contact Kristin Anderson for more information.

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD
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DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Jubilant. Somber. Penitent. Pomp. All words that probably cross your mind in some form or another when you reflect on Holy Week. But what about the word accessible? Does that word make the list? It should!

The fact that worship at Concordia is quite physically accessible actually had to be pointed out to me on Maundy Thursday. Not only are we providing ASL-interpreted services and hearing assist devices for individuals who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing, but we also have space reserved for individuals who use wheelchairs in addition to an accessible family assist bathroom. For individuals who are blind or visually impaired, bulletins printed in braille are available upon request and large-print bulletins are available weekly.

But something else needs to be added to that list. The people. You, Concordia, help make worship accessible to families with special needs.

Sitting in the pew with my own family Easter Sunday, I did a double-take. Sitting just two rows in front of me was a family worshipping with us for the first time. A family whose journey with us began at Night to Shine, followed by Bible study and now worship. Thank you, Concordia, for making worship accessible to families with special needs. Thinking about it all brings another word to my mind: Joy!

VBS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

ZOOM IN! FOCUS ON JESUS! JULY 8-11, 2019!
10:00am to NOON!

We will again offer an alternate, shorter, four-day VBS for children with special needs. This year, though, we are going to expand our VBS and begin offering this immersive experience to teenagers and young adults as well!

We need your help! We need have the following needs on the Special Needs VBS Team: Buddy, Bible Study, Leader/Assistant, Recreation Leader/Assistant, Crafts Leader/Assistant.

Every participant in VBS for Children and Youth with Special Needs will require a one-on-one buddy. The more buddies who volunteer, the more children and youth we can accept to attend our VBS!

Do you know a family whose child with special needs has not been able to attend VBS before? Invite them! For more information or to sign up, please visit www.CKhome.org/specialneedsvbs.



KIDSMIN

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



Join us every Sunday (9:30-10:30am) in June and August as our wonderful volunteers engage and share Bible stories and the love of Jesus with children 3 years old- 5th grade!

As the school year winds down, get ready, because Concordia offers wonderful opportunities for children to get connected with the church and learn more about their Savior, Jesus, and nurture their relationship with him. Please contact me if you would like to hear more about what we offer for children!

If you would like to serve as a youth or adult in the children's ministry, please contact me and I would love to help you find a place that is just right for you to help the kids of Concordia!

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ZOOM IN! FOCUS ON JESUS! VBS JULY 15-19, 2019! Gas up the all-terrain vehicle and get ready to head out on a wilderness adventure like no other! This summer, kids will focus on some amazing, real-life encounters with Jesus.

Our theme for this year is based on John 20:31: "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

Volunteer registration for VBS is open! There are many ways to help out! Sign up today!

We will set the number of children we can serve based on the number of volunteers we recruit. This will ensure we provide a safe, positive, and rewarding experience for both children and volunteers. We are committed to a well-organized, structured program for volunteers!

Children's registration for VBS opens on Sunday, May 5!

We hope to see you there!

Visit www.CKhome.org/VBS for more information, and to register a child and to volunteer!



YOUTH

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



On Thursday, April 18, our daughter took her first Communion. It started with a great Seder meal, followed by Maundy Thursday service, Communion and then family prayer in the back of the church. We were so blessed to have grandparents, godparents, aunts, uncles and cousins to share it with. However, probably the most unexpected meaningful part came after the service. Our daughter's Confirmation small group leader, Carrie Wetzel, not only came to worship that night but also celebrated with them.

This year we began a more intentional and consistent Confirmation program. Fourteen lay leaders committed to be small group leaders EVERY week throughout the school year. It is our intention that kids not only have their leader for one year, but for multiple years. These lay leaders are not just teaching but mentoring, coaching and developing trusting long-term relationships with our youth.

In the LCMS when we think of a youth director or when we look back at our own experiences growing up we tend to think that if we just got the right person here who all the kids loved and put on really vibrant, faith-filled events all would be good. The problem is we are a large church. One person can't be loved by all 360 youth at Concordia. There are not enough hours in the day for the Youth Director to have a personal relationship with all of them. Furthermore, youth ministry designed around the personality of an awesome Youth Director collapses when the Youth Director ultimately leaves. This has been our experience for decades. Several recent studies report the average tenure of a youth director at a church is between 18 months and 3 years! Spend time googling it—you will be shocked. While our experience at Concordia is much better, **most likely every one of our youth will have multiple youth leaders during their 7 years in the youth program.** Excellent youth ministry is a strong value of our church, one we are known for nationally, and we cannot continue the cycle of searching for the next best Youth Director while our kids wait. We need a better structure - one that will last regardless of who leads.



All this has been in my head over the last several months, but watching Carrie with her group Maundy Thursday, I actually felt it in my heart. Carrie Wetzel, and all those like her, are the future of our youth ministry. As we walked out that night, I made a comment about how great it was that Mrs. Wetzel was there, and my daughter responded, "Mom, you know the best part about it is that she is going to stay with us all the way through."

BUILDING THE STRUCTURE

This fall, through Confirmation for Junior Youth and Youth Gathering preparation for Senior Youth, we have been working to both grow and stabilize our youth program. Although we want a permanent Youth Director, what we desire most is a consistent, robust structure that lives on regardless of whomever God calls to lead.

To that end, the Senior High Youth Director Search Committee, the Church Council and staff have endorsed hiring Nathan Dehn to a one-year contract to serve as an interim leader on our youth ministry. Nathan currently serves as a teacher at Word of Life Lutheran School in south St. Louis. He was born and raised at Concordia and very active in the youth program. He knows our culture and will be a good fit on staff. When the Search Committee met with Nathan, his character, tender heart, love of youth, and love of Concordia were all evident during the time we spent with him. In addition, Nathan expressed that one of his skill sets is building systems, which our youth ministry absolutely needs.

The Search Committee will suspend efforts to find a permanent Senior High Youth Director until late fall. In the meantime, Nathan along with staff and lay leaders will work to build a consistent program. This time we feel will help not only our kids, but also any future candidate understand the opportunity and vision. It is our hope that Nathan is a strong candidate in that search but feel for both the church and for Nathan that the search and validation is important. The final choice, whether it is Nathan or someone else, will step into an established structure rather than an environment they are building from scratch.

We are very excited about the future and have a very busy summer of youth ministry for all ages. Thank you all for entrusting the spiritual care of your kids to Concordia. Together, we will build a lasting youth ministry.

A big “thank you” to all the Confirmation Small Group leaders who give their time every Wednesday to nurture the faith of our Junior Youth. Most of these leaders have families and full-time jobs. Every Wednesday, after a long work day, they come to spend time and nurture your youth. We could not succeed without them. **As you have opportunity, please thank them for their commitment.**

- Ashley Beumer
- Kate Buesching
- Ken Daves/Christian Pieper
- Kurt Hellwig
- Chris Lints
- Kirk Lowry
- David Meggers/Jaron Melin
- Julie Rauh/Madeline Rauh
- Renee Seidler
- Emma Simpson
- Molly Taylor
- Andy Wagner
- Carrie Wetzel
- Nora Witbrodt



CHILDREN & YOUTH EVENT CALENDAR

2019 CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Register your children for camps and activities today!!

All grades represent your child's grade as of 2019-2020.

MAY

4 **Car Wash** benefiting the Youth attending the LCMS Youth Gathering

JUNE

3-7 **IMPACT Mission Week** at Feed My People (FMP) for 6th graders*

10-14 **IMPACT Mission Week** at FMP for 7th graders*

18-21 **Camp Trinity** for 3rd-8th-grade (Overnight in New Haven, MO)

24-28 **IMPACT Mission Week** at FMP for 8th-graders*

JULY

8-12 **EPIC Mission Week** at FMP for 4th-5th graders*

8-11 **VBS for Kids with special needs**

15-19 **Vacation Bible School** for pre-K-4th grade

15-19 **Vacation Bible School Crew Leader** volunteering for 5th-12th grade

10-17 **LCMS Youth Gathering** in Minneapolis

20-27 **Senior High Mission Trip** to Linnville, NC

29-2 **High School Mission Week** at FMP*

SEPTEMBER

6-8 **All Youth Retreat** at Lake Williamson for 6th-12th graders

OCTOBER

19-20 **Witness Weekend** for our Confirmands

26 **Confirmation Brunch and Rehearsal** for our Confirmands

27 **Confirmation**

For more information for CHILDREN'S EVENTS, visit: www.CKhome.org/children

For a full list of YOUTH REGISTRATION links, visit: www.conta.cc/2JJ39Em

All Mission Weeks at Feed My People (FMP) are **Monday through Thursday, 8:00am-3:00pm. These are peer-group-building opportunities to serve under-resourced members of our STL community. Each day begins and ends at church. We have a short devotion, drive down to FMP, work until noon, eat lunch at a faster food establishment, and then enjoy some afternoon leisure activity such as Epic6, the Lodge of Des Peres, an escape room, etc.*

CAMP TRINITY

WWW.CKHOME.ORG/KIDSCAMP

STAY SALTY! Shine Bright!

Camp Trinity is designed for our 4th-8th graders (as of 2019-2020).

June 18-21
at Camp Trinity near
New Haven, MO.

"I am the Light of the World. If you follow Me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12

Kids Camp/Camp Trinity is a Tuesday through Friday overnight camping experience for 4th-6th graders (in air-conditioned cabins) and 7th and 8th graders (in tents). Our days are filled with organized activities including supervised swimming, boating, archery and camp games along with teaching time around the theme of faith and light. Campfires, great food, and meeting new friends in a place of tremendous natural beauty away from the city has become a hallmark highlight of our youth ministry. Visit www.CKhome.org/kidscamp for more information!



NEW MEMBERS

MARCY SCHOLL • MSCHOLL@CKHOME.ORG



Jordan and Paige Hagen

Jordan and Paige are newlyweds and have been married a little over a year. Jordan is a parks and recreation supervisor for the City of Fairview Heights. Paige is a clinical pharmacist with SSM Health. They have a one-year old Brittainy Spaniel name Wrangler who keeps them on their toes every day with his boundless amount of energy. Together, they enjoy spending time at the lake with family, going hiking, being outside with their dog, and spending time with friends. Since their wedding, they have been searching for a church and community spiritual home and are looking forward to building relationships.

Doug and Ashley Pike Aubrey, Charlie

Doug and Ashley have two children. Aubrey is in the 6th grade and Charlie is a 3rd-grader, both attending CCLS. They keep their parents busy with their sports. Doug works as a carpenter and Ashley is a nurse practitioner at Missouri Baptist Hospital. They are Notre Dame Football Fans. They love the beach and the lake, swimming and BBQing.



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 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 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, June 1 and September 7 from 9:30am-3:30pm**. Email Debbie Davis at ddavis@CKhome.org to register.



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

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