



CONCORDIA

# Connection

MAY 2019



CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION • ALL YOUTH RETREAT • TRUNK-OR-TREAT

# PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR MEGGERS • ASSOCIATE PASTOR • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG



How do you get 23,000 attendees at the National Youth Gathering?

- A. You start planning three years before to get your group there
- B. You build up excitement and enthusiasm among the whole congregation
- C. You lay a foundation for Christian education throughout the generations
- D. All of the above

If you selected D, you selected correctly. And with the August 18 Dedication of our new Center for Christian Education, permit me to spend some time on the importance of C above. Why C? Because without C, A and B are much more difficult, perhaps even absent. We had nearly 100 participants journey to Minneapolis-St. Paul because we have had generations of congregants who gave of themselves to make sure a solid foundation was laid for future generations. And you are among them. You are giving the

gift of a faithful future to generations yet to come.

When we dedicate this new Center for Christian Education, I invite you to

- Commemorate in your hearts the saints of the past who had a part in bringing us to the present.
- Celebrate the achievement of the present with thanksgiving to our God
- Consecrate yourselves to a faithful future that continues the foundation-laying and forward-looking heritage of this family of faith.

Concordia has had exciting times in its service to the Lord. Concordia is in an exciting time of mission and ministry. Concordia has an exciting future in the hands of an awesome God.

# PASTOR SCHULTZ

ASSOCIATE PASTOR • JSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG



"And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b NLT). Jesus promises to be with us always. Through the good times and the bad, He is never going to leave or forsake us. Jesus is always present.

When we look ahead to our fall programming here at Concordia, we see the presence of Jesus on full display. We see weddings, funerals, confirmation programs, the All Youth Retreat, special needs ministry, high school ministry, young adult ministry, adult ministry, older adult ministry, and a new Center for Christian Education—Jesus is present in all of this. When we are promised that he will never leave us or forsake us, we know that he is working amongst us. He is working in these programs to stop sin, death, and the power of the devil.

I would like to highlight in this edition the presence of Jesus at the **All Youth Retreat**. This year, the youth from Concordia will go to camp and participate in weekend of fun, food, and fellowship. They will hear dynamic speakers, learn what God's Word means for their season of life, and worship God's holy name. This event is an integral part of our confirmation experience and an engaging experience for all the youth and parents involved. This year, our theme is taken from the biblical book of Ecclesiastics, Chapter 3, where we learn that there is a season for everything under heaven. And yet, no matter if we are in a season of good times or bad, we know that Jesus is working among us for our good.

I am excited to continue to serve our present Jesus with you in this season of ministry.



# ADULTS

PASTOR MEGGERS • ASSOCIATE PASTOR • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG

## LUNCH AND LEARN

On **Thursday, August 15th at 11:30am** in the dining hall, we are going to have a good, old-fashioned potluck! Get out your favorite recipe, perhaps one from your mother's or grandmother's church cook book. Nothing fancy, but just down-to-earth tasting food! Don't have a recipe? Still come! Our speaker will be Mel Spall, former Chief Investigator for the City Juvenile Court. He will share a brief program on his experiences during 42 years in the juvenile justice system.

## LIFELIGHT

Fall LifeLight Classes will begin on **Tuesday, September 3 from 7:15-8:30pm** for Men's, Women's, and Couples' Groups, and on **Wednesday, September 4 from 9:00-10:30am** for Men's and **9:15-11:00am** for Women's Groups. New members are always welcome!

This year's LifeLight will feature the book of Genesis in two parts. Come back to the beginnings of God's salvation plan for Israel and the NT Church through the Messiah, Jesus Christ. See your part in God's story so that you live for Jesus in today's world. Develop a biblical world-view so that you can better understand the challenges of a world distorted by sin.

Dr. Stephen Carter will lead these classes along with capable discussion leaders. The spring curriculum will study Ephesians and 1 & 2 Thessalonians. Grow in faith, knowledge, and prayer with our LifeLight Community. The first class is an Orientation to the LifeLight model with a chance to get acquainted again. Session 1 of Genesis starts on **September 10 and 11.**



# ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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



## The Center for Christian Education Opens!

It is with great joy that we celebrate the opening of the Center for Christian Education (CCE)! Please join us **Sunday, April 11 from 4:00-6:00pm** in the Center for an open house. We will offer tours to explain the design and how both the church and school will use the Center. In the Dining Commons, enjoy refreshments (both for children and adults) and live music. What a great day to celebrate! Then, on **Sunday, August 17-18**, we will dedicate the Center in all worship services. We hope you can join us for both joyous occasions.

## How will we use the Center?

The Center for Christian Education will house ALL Youth and Children's ministry beginning August 18th. All current ministries will move to the new building and we have plans for several future ones as well.





# CURRENT MINISTRIES STARTING AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

## **Christ Community Lutheran School – Middle School Grades – 5-8**

The building was designed to adapt to the new ways kids learn today with flexible spaces and seating for large group, small group and individual study based on best-practice research.

## **Christ Community Lutheran School Early Childhood – Infant through Pre-Kindergarten**

The Center for Christian Education) CCE provides an expanded Early Childhood program to include two infant rooms, an additional 1 year old room, and new indoor and outdoor play areas.

## **Wednesday Night Confirmation – Grades 6-8**

The large Commons in the upper level of the CCE more than doubles the current youth room size, better accommodating our Wednesday night program with 60-80 kids each week. In addition, the Center provides better rooms for Wednesday dinners and small group settings.

## **Wednesday KidsNight – Grades 1-5th**

The new Dining Commons, kitchen and classrooms are nicer and better located together than the current facility with much closer proximity to the gym for recreation.

## **Sunday Nursery**

With the expanded Early Childhood classrooms, we have many options for the new Nursery. The existing Nursery will become a Special Needs classroom (more on that later from Jessica Crawford). Although the new Nursery will be a little further away from the worship centers, we believe it is a better, safer solution for our children and babies. According to fire code, children that cannot yet walk should never be cared for in a group setting not on ground level. Now that one is available, the fire department will insist on us relocating. In case of an emergency, if you need to evacuate several children at once, it is imperative they have easy access to exits.

## **Sunday Morning KidsMin – Ages 3 – 5th grade**

The large Commons provides a warmer, better space for the large group portion on Sunday. The close proximity of the classrooms will better accommodate the grade-level teaching, and, the CCE is closer to the Concordia Center for kids who return for Communion or parent pickup.

## **NEW Sunday Morning Senior Youth Fellowship**

Beginning August 18th, the Small Commons, just outside the Concordia center, will be a new Senior Youth fellowship area where they can eat donuts and hang out (without parents).

## **Evening Bible Studies**

Any and all adult evening Bible studies are welcome and encouraged to use the CCE.

## **All other Senior or Junior Youth and Children's ministry**

As new programs and schedules are announced they will be planned in the CCE so stay tuned! As we move in and get settled no doubt we will find many other ways to use the CCE. We are so excited for you to see the space. See you on the 11th and 18th!



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Open House**  
August 11, 2019  
4:00-6:00pm

**Dedication**  
Every worship  
service the  
weekend of  
August 17, 2019



# YOUTH

NATHAN DEHN • YOUTH DIRECTOR • [NDEHN@CKHOME.ORG](mailto:NDEHN@CKHOME.ORG)



Earlier in July, I had the honor and privilege of getting to know over 90 youth and adults from Concordia during the LCMS Youth Gathering. While there were countless memories created throughout the trip, the most impactful for me was seeing the youth build deep connections with one another and with their adult leaders. It was heartwarming to hear the deep conversations and openness from the youth throughout the trip.

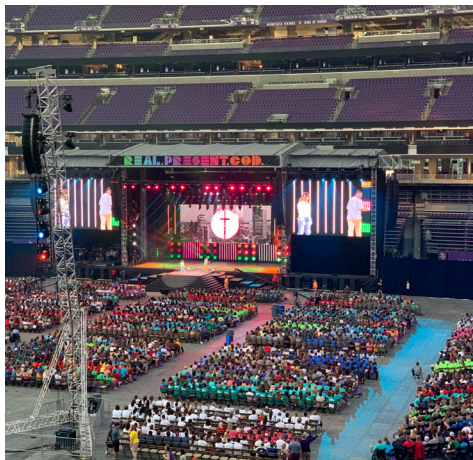
This closeness and impact the small groups had on the youth's faith development inspired me to create a plan for the youth ministry going forward. I am so excited to share that this fall, we will be introducing a small group program. At Concordia, we love paintball, pie-eating contests, and lock-ins, and although we will continue to do those events, the youth need a more meaningful experience. High schoolers have real

and present questions about their faith and lives, questions that can only be asked and answered in a close, inviting, and supportive small group setting. It is my hope that these small groups become like family and foster an environment where youth can be themselves and not hesitate to ask questions about faith and life in general.

Here's how the program will work. Small groups will be led by an exceptional adult leader who has a passion for helping youth grow closer to God. Youth will get the opportunity to choose their top preferences for the adult leader that they feel most comfortable with or would like to build a deeper relationship with. We will then create groups based on that and announce them when the program officially begins on Wednesday, September 11 (more details to come). Small groups will meet once a month to grow close, deepen their faith, and of course have fun.

On **Sunday, August 4**, from 10:45am-1:00pm, we will have a kick-off event to introduce the small group program to the youth. The youth can hang out, meet others, and spend time with the adults who have volunteered to be leaders in this program. Lunch will be provided and we will have fun activities for all of the youth to participate in.

If you are interested in being an adult leader for one of the small groups, I would love to speak with you! You can call or text me at **314-607-6252** or email me at [ndehn@ckhome.org](mailto:ndehn@ckhome.org). If you are a youth and have any questions or ideas about this program, please reach out! In the meantime, I look forward to Super Sundays each week and the start of this exciting new program!





# KIDSMIN

REBECCA SCHULTZ • CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT • [RSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG](mailto:RSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG)



In mid-July, we welcomed over 270 kids into Concordia for **IN THE WILD! VBS!** The kids sang and danced to songs reminding them of what Jesus did for them through His life, death, and resurrection. Each day we encountered Jesus through stories from the Bible including, Jesus at the temple, John the Baptist baptizing Jesus, Jesus walking on water, Jesus' resurrection, and Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Bible leaders taught the stories and they were emphasized during crafts and music.

It was a joy to see children excited about hearing about their Savior and seeing junior and high school youth taking responsibility for the younger members of God's family. Certainly, VBS would not have been possible without the 160+ dedicated and generous volunteers! Volunteers spent hours during the weeks prior to VBS decorating, preparing materials, and getting familiar with the curriculum. Crew leaders tirelessly cared for their small groups of children throughout the morning and helped foster relationships. Our VBS committee spent days and hours since February making sure we were well prepared for the big week! **THANK YOU** to all who made it possible!

We anticipate the start of KidsNight right around the corner for children entering 1st-5th grade on **Wednesday evenings**. It is a night of Bible lessons, dinner, and rec time! This year we will continue discovering more about the life of Jesus through a variety of Bible stories. Look for more information in August!

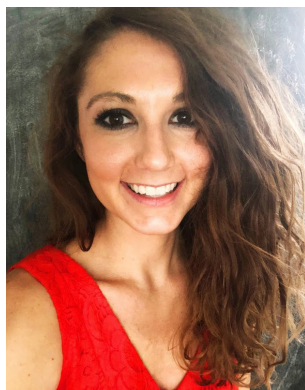
Sunday KidsMin will resume on **Sunday, August 4**. We will jump right back into our lessons about the Old Testament heroes from the Bible. Join us **every Sunday at 9:20am**.



# SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD  
JCRAWFORD@CKHOME.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



We had another fabulous **VBS for Children and Youth with Special Needs** this year! A huge thank you to all the new and returning volunteers. This wouldn't have been possible without YOU!

## BUDDY MINISTRY

As we look forward to this new ministry year, we have children and youth with special needs who will be unable to attend programming without the assistance of new volunteers in the "Buddy Ministry."

We have a particular need for buddies who are **college-aged or adults** to serve alongside our older youth with special needs.

### Who is a buddy?

Buddies are anyone with a heart that desires to serve children, youth and adults with special needs and to help them learn about the love of Jesus.

### What does a buddy do?

Sometimes all that is needed of a buddy is to be in the same room when the friend with special needs requires a little bit of extra encouragement and guidance. Other times, a buddy will work closely with their friend, providing constant support so they can participate with their peers.

### How much time is required of a buddy?

We have needs for buddies once a week, once a month or even once a year.

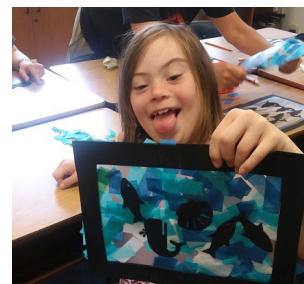
### Here's what some of our buddies have to say:

*"Being a buddy has been an amazing experience because I have been able to make the Word of God accessible for all kids."*

*"I think it's really awesome being a buddy. I really connected with Christ through this experience."*

*"Being a buddy has impacted me by helping someone special with their faith journey and seeing them grow in God."*

A buddy training event will take place shortly before programs begin in the fall for all new and returning buddies. If you would like to be a part of the buddy ministry or if you have any questions, please contact me at [jcrawford@ckhome.org](mailto:jcrawford@ckhome.org) or **314-374-0682**.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Trunk or Treat**  
October 20, 2019

**Night to Shine**  
February 7, 2020

**VBS for Children  
and Youth with  
Special Needs**  
July 6-10, 2020





# WORSHIP ARTS

BRENDAN KNORP • DIRECTOR FOR THE WORSHIP ARTS • [BKNORP@CKHOME.ORG](mailto:BKNORP@CKHOME.ORG)



These next few months will be ones of transition as Concordia adjusts to life without Pastor Seidler as our senior pastor. It has been friendship and ministry partnership that I have treasured my 11 years at Concordia. It's reminded me of the calling I felt when I left my congregation in Michigan to become a part of this church family. God's Spirit sometimes leads us to serve in places we wouldn't have expected, and through all of it He remains faithful and uses each of us to further His Kingdom. My family and I are blessed to call Concordia our church home, and although I will miss my dear friend Scott, I remain optimistic that our best days of ministry are still ahead. I'm excited to be a part of the work God is doing through this congregation.

Speaking of "calls", our part-time Director for Sanctuary Worship, Phillip Magness, has accepted a missionary call from the LCMS to serve in the teaching ministry as a music specialist in francophone Africa. He will be deployed three times a year for one-month deployments, teaching at our seminary in Togo and our novitiates in Guinea and Congo-Brazzaville, and, en route, conducting workshops on music and worship with musicians, elders, and worship leaders in Côte d'Ivoire, Benin, Burkina Faso, DRC, and Burundi. According to an agreement between the synod's Office of International Mission and Concordia, these trips will be made with regard to the Church Year so that Phillip is not away from his duties here at Concordia when he is most needed. We are blessed by Phillip's worship leadership in our Sanctuary services, and I'm grateful that his service here will continue even as he uses his gifts for the ministry of our synod's international missions. Please hold him in prayer as he travels abroad.

# ALL YOUTH RETREAT

[WWW.CKHOME.ORG/AYR](http://WWW.CKHOME.ORG/AYR)

**September 6-8, 2019**

**Visit [CKHome.org/AYR](http://CKHome.org/AYR)  
to register!**

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



# SEASONS OF LIFE

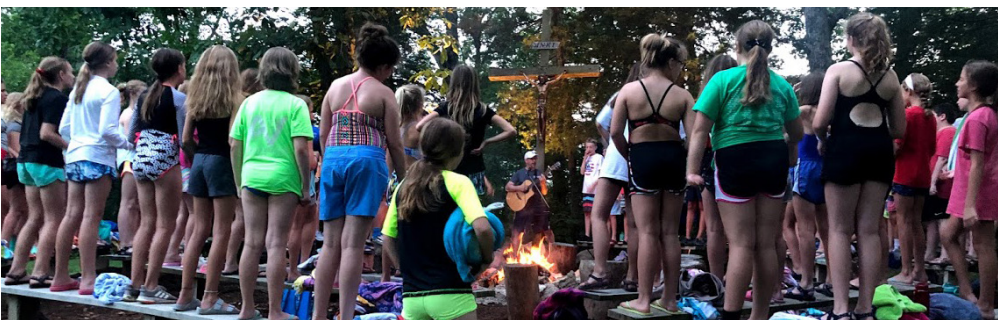
Our theme for 2019 is "Seasons of Life." This year's theme is based on Ecclesiastics Chapter 3, where we learn that there is a time for everything. God's people are always changing and growing, and no one's journey looks the same. This year, we will learn how our unique season of life is important to God and how we can honor God wherever we are.



On Sunday, July 28, we wished Pastor Seidler and his family a farewell.



Our kids had a blast at Camp Trinity in June!





# NEW MEMBERS

MARCY SCHOLL • MSCHOLL@CKHOME.ORG



## **Ryan and Jennifer Becker** **Ava, Aaden, Aaron**

The Beckers are so excited to join Concordia! They have a daughter, Ava, and twin boys, Aaden and Aaron. Ryan is a dental technician and owner of Becker Dental Lab. Jennifer is a teacher and has taught 3rd grade and Pre-K. Currently, she is enjoying life as a full-time mom. Ava is going into 8th grade at Westminster Christian Academy and Aaron and Aaden will be in 4th grade at CCLS. They are an outdoor family. They love going to the beach and lake. Some of their favorite things to do together are swimming, boating and hiking. Their cats, Toby and Ty, complete their family.

## **Andre and Lissa Guignon** **Larissa, Brittany**

Andre and Lissa Guignon have two daughters, Larissa and Brittany. Lissa works at Sunset Transportation and Andre works at Mungenast Honda. Larissa is in the 9th grade at Webster Groves High School and takes ballet. Brittany is in the 8th grade at Hixson Middle School and plays volleyball. Their family includes two cats, Patches and Benny.



## **Ron and Beth Kremmel**

Ron and Beth are both retired. Ron was a salesman at Bull Moose Tube Company in the Sprinkler Pipe Division. Beth taught 1st and 2nd grade at St. Paul's Lutheran School-Des Peres. They have two adult children and three grandchildren. Currently, Ron works part time as a deck ambassador for the British Swim School. Beth works part time as a substitute teacher at St. Paul's and volunteers there during the school year reading individually with the Kindergarten students and editing stories with the 2nd graders. They are both avid readers. They enjoy traveling, especially visiting their grandchildren! Since retiring, they have visited Arizona including the Grand Canyon, Florida, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Alaska.

## **Jordan McKinley and Tyler Omlid**

Jordan and Tyler are so excited to join the Concordia Lutheran family. The first time they attended, they immediately felt at home. Jordan and Tyler attended Maryville University. Now, six years later, they are engaged and soon to be married this October. Jordan is an account manager at Staples Promotional Products and Tyler is a talent acquisition manager at Maritz. In their free time they enjoy spending time with Fallon, their year-old Dachshund/Chihuahua mix, being outdoors and attending sporting events.



## **Bryan Seefeld**

Bryan works at World Wide Technology as a Sr. Cloud Consultant. Bryan is originally from Milwaukee. He attended SLU and played soccer. He enjoys time with his girlfriend, Mary Grace Schuler. He has a dog named Wilson (named after the volleyball). Bryan's hobbies include distance running/fitness, soccer and golf.

# TRUNK-OR-TREAT

FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

**Sunday October 20  
from 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 Jessica Crawford at [jcrawford@CKhome.org](mailto:jcrawford@CKhome.org) or by calling/texting **314-374-0682**.

# 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](mailto:ddavis@CKhome.org) to register.



**CONCORDIA**  
Lutheran Church

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