



CONCORDIA

# Connection

OCTOBER 2019



OKTOBERFEST • CALL PROCESS UPDATE • TURKEY BLESSING • TRUNK-OR-TREAT



# PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR MEGGERS • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG



Once upon a time, hospitals and churches used to work together. Let's say you were going to be hospitalized. As part of the registration for your stay, hospitals would ask you for your church affiliation and contact information. Once they had that information, the hospital would call your church to let them know that you were admitted. This knowledge would enable your pastor to make a "hospital call". He would come and share Scripture, have prayer and perhaps even bring you the sacrament of Holy Communion.

That was "once upon a time." It doesn't happen anymore due to certain regulations the hospitals have to follow. Which leaves your pastoral care team at a disadvantage... UNLESS you call and let us know of a hospitalization. With that knowledge, our team will be able to serve you.

Our team is led by Sharon Ema, Director of the Healing Arts. Through many and various means like texts, emails, phone calls and often Sharon Karleskint, she is made aware of the healing needs of our members. Utilizing primarily myself, Pastor Schultz, and Pastor Eric Erkinen, she assigns us our caring visits to members in need. Sharon makes many of these visits as well. She also directs an awesome crew of communion visitors who regularly visit some of our members who are homebound.

We wanted you to know that you have a team that is ready to care for you. It's a *Be One* and a *Be Faithful* kind of thing.

PASTOR SCHULTZ • JSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG



Thank you for your continued dedication to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your tireless and sacrificial actions do not go unnoticed. Your hard work this season of ministry reminds me of what the writer of the book of Hebrews says: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." At Concordia, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses—thousands of members who have entrusted their spiritual care to this church and daily show what it means to be a Christian to everyone they meet. While everyone's race is a little bit different, we are all surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who confess the saving name of Jesus wherever they go. Thank you and keep up the good work.

One area I would like to highlight for this season of ministry is our confirmation program. On Wednesday nights, Concordia has the privilege and potential to educate over 100 students in the Christian faith. This is not something we take lightly or for granted. This confirmation discipleship program is bearing fruit because of the cloud of witnesses our students see in our congregation who embody the Christian faith. And in the years to come, these students will continue to be witnesses to younger generations who are not yet born.

Confirmation at Concordia is a three-and-a-quarter year journey, beginning in sixth grade and ending in ninth grade with the rite of confirmation in the Fall. This journey is marked by learning skills, attitudes, and knowledge about God using the Bible and the Small Catechism. Throughout this journey, the students will grow in who they are as they will in turn one day grow others.

Continue to pray for all the education opportunities at Concordia, but specifically for this confirmation program. Pray that God's will would be done as this tool is used to communicate the saving message of Jesus and His will for these student's lives. Pray that all these students would grow and lead happy and peaceful lives of service wherever they are lead. Thank you for your partnership in this program. Your support and prayers are appreciated. May God continue to bless this great cloud of witnesses.

# CALL PROCESS UPDATE

[CALLPROCESS@CKHOME.ORG](mailto:CALLPROCESS@CKHOME.ORG) • [WWW.CKHOME.ORG/CALLPROCESS](http://WWW.CKHOME.ORG/CALLPROCESS)



The Call Committee for Senior Pastor kicked off the last week of September. We invited our Missouri District President, Pastor Lee Hagan, and our Circuit Visitor, Pastor Bill Wilson, to attend. President Hagan spent two hours going through the entire call process from beginning to end, answering some great questions by the committee along the way. While they will provide great counsel on this journey, they made it very clear that Concordia, and Concordia alone, will make the decision of who our next Sr. Pastor will be. The last part of the meeting was spent discussing the operational structure and assigning roles.

Key next steps are to develop a comprehensive communication plan and a congregational assessment. This assessment will be key when the Call Committee drafts a position description for the next Senior Pastor.

We left with a great sense of vision for what it will take to make this a successful process; however, first and foremost comes the knowledge that the Lord already knows who is destined to serve at Concordia.

As you have suggestions or feedback, please continue to email us at [callprocess@CKhome.org](mailto:callprocess@CKhome.org). As a reminder, the following members are part of the Call Committee:

- Keith Fatzinger, Chairman
- Dr. John Eckrich
- Randy Hahn
- Rev. Ken Krueger
- Coleen Schick
- Kristin Anderson
- Brandy Boyle
- Krista Hartmann
- Joel Karsten
- Ellen Miller
- Jerry Schmidt

## INTRODUCING... THE COMMUNITY ROOM

After the completion of the Center for Christian Education, our facility managers began tearing down the wall between the two old preschool rooms. This now gives us a space, known as the Community Room, large enough to hold Ageless Generations Lunch & Learn, Adult Bible Studies, Confirmation dinners and so much more!

Additionally, since we now have multiple common spaces in the CCE for the youth to utilize, the previous youth room will now be called the Community Lounge.



# FINANCE MATTERS

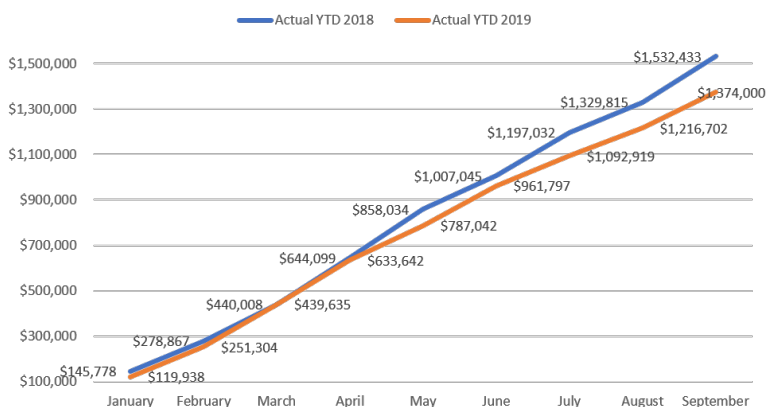
KRISTIN ANDERSON • CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER • KANDERSON@CKHOME.ORG

## INBOUND OFFERINGS DOWN SIGNIFICANTLY OVER 2018

After several months of missing our Inbound Offerings budget, we hoped the end of summer and strong fall ministry kick-offs would lead to a turn-around. In reality, September seemed to slip even more. Our general offerings are down significantly over 2018. Through the end of September, Inbound Offerings were \$158,000 lower (10%) than 2018. The chart to the right shows how after Easter, the disparity between 2018 and 2019 grew almost every month.

In the beginning of October, we will send out Contribution Statements for the first three quarters of 2019 (thru 9/30/19). Please prayerfully consider helping our ministry as you are able.

Inbound Offerings 2018 vs 2019 thru September



## MANY WAYS TO GIVE

Concordia offers many ways to donate to our ministry. Our members use cash, check, credit cards and bank account transfers to donate.

### Primary Ways to Give:

**Offering Envelope:** Give cash or check and put in offering basket during worship

**Online** at CKhome.org. Click on Giving in the upper right corner. You can select to give one time or make your gift recurring.

NOTE: Credit card companies charge us 3%. Bank accounts are very low cost for us, so we encourage you to set up online donations using your bank account versus credit card. (However, please use what is best for your family)

### Tax Saving Ways to Give

**Donate Stock:** Did you know if you donate appreciated stock, you will have no capital gains tax to pay. This is a great way to maximize your gifts to our ministry and save you money at the same time. Concordia has an easy process for donating stock. If interested, contact Kristin Anderson at [kanderson@CKhome.org](mailto:kanderson@CKhome.org).

**Donate from Your IRA:** If over 70 ½ years old, you may donate your Required Minimum Distribution from your IRA directly to Concordia. When you do this, you will avoid paying income taxes on the amount you donate.

### Forget your Sunday Offering? Additional Ways to Give

**Text to Give:** Text the amount you would like to give to **1-314-207-0163**. If you have not given before, you will be asked to enter your credit card information.

**iPad kiosk** in the Concordia Center Commons: Select "tap to donate" and follow instructions. Enter your email address to get a receipt.



SCAN TO GIVE



# WORSHIP ARTS

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



As we wrap up our Be Still, Be One, Be Faithful series of messages, we'll have a few weeks of special services in the month of October: Witness Weekend, Reformation and Confirmation, and All Saints Day.

The weekend of **October 19 and 20** is known as Witness Weekend. Throughout all of the services, our 9th-grade confirmands will share their personal faith statements with the whole congregation. It's an inspiring opportunity to hear these young people give testimony to their faith.

On the weekend of **October 26 and 27**, we celebrate Reformation and Confirmation. Reformation weekend recalls our Christian foundation, rooted in three principles: Faith Alone, Grace Alone, and Scripture Alone. The Confirmation service will be held in the Concordia Center at **11:00am**. Please note that this is 15 minutes later than our normal service time.

Looking ahead to early November, we celebrate All Saints Day on **November 2 and 3**. During our worship, we'll take a moment to reflect on and remember those in our congregation or other family and friends who have entered into eternal life this past year. While there is certainly solemnity to the remembrance, it's also a chance to remember and give thanks for the lives of these saints. Please look for an announcement about submitting any names of family or friends who were not members of Concordia. We will be happy to include them in our remembrance.

## FESTIVAL CHOIR

I know it's not even Halloween yet, but since Lowe's already has Christmas trees for sale, I think it's safe to talk about Christmas. Over my time at Concordia, we've had various opportunities for special Christmas choirs, ranging from Christmas Eve and Day choirs, to cantatas before Christmas, to last year's special concert with Keith and Kristyn Getty. This year, Phillip and I would like to have a special choir to sing for the 10:00pm service on Christmas Eve, **Tuesday, December 24th**. Our Christmas Eve service times will remain the same (3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm and 10:00pm) but rather than have them all in the Concordia Center, we'll have the 10:00pm be a Service of Lessons and Carols in our beautiful Sanctuary. More than just singing a choir anthem or two, this will be a robust choral experience that we'll spend several weeks preparing for. Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, November 13**. For more details, please visit [www.CKhome.org/FestivalChoir](http://www.CKhome.org/FestivalChoir).



# YOUTH

NATHAN DEHN • YOUTH DIRECTOR • NDEHN@CKHOME.ORG



When is it going to get cooler? I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to the fall weather and sitting around a bonfire with friends and family. Soon enough, I'll feel the warmth from the flames but even more from the conversations with those around the fire.

This past month, Concordia's youth have had a lot of opportunities to gather together and experience the warm love of Christ.

We had 176 youth and adults(our largest group ever!) travel to Lake Williamson at the beginning of September to learn about how God has a plan for us in our different seasons of life. This was my first time going, and I already can't wait for next year! I loved seeing 1176 Concordia members gather together, as if at a bonfire, to celebrate God's love for us. One of the coolest things I witnessed throughout the weekend was the level of community within Concordia. It did not matter what the youth's grade level, school, or previous involvement with Concordia was; they came together to play sports, laugh at the stories of our guest speaker Travis Hartjen, climb giant water slides, and learn about their seasons of life.

Another opportunity senior youth had to gather was during our small group reveal. These small groups will meet individually once a month, bring strength and encouragement to each other over the next year, and learn more about God through small group Bible Studies. If you or your child want to get involved, email me at [ndehn@CKhome.org](mailto:ndehn@CKhome.org). That Sunday, over 40 youth separated into their small groups and competed against each other in friendly competition. It was amazing seeing the excitement and joy on their faces as they gathered within their small groups.

As I look forward to the fall weather and spending evenings around a bonfire, I think I've already been blessed, along with our youth, to experience the warmth and conversations with friends this past month at Concordia.



## SENIOR YOUTH DONUTS

Come to the CCE (Center for Christian Education) Small Commons (to the right of the Concordia Center) for donuts and fellowship between church services.

## SUPER SUNDAYS

If you don't know what Super Sundays are, they are a time for you to eat a snack, meet new friends, learn more about God, develop your faith, and play fun games. They will be every other Sunday from **6:00-8:00pm**, starting on **Sunday, September 15**, and will be held on the following dates:

- October 13
- October 27
- November 10
- November 24





# KIDSMIN

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



Autumn is well on its way and families are getting established in their weekly routines. Where does your child's faith life fit in? Is it front and center, squeezed in occasionally, or left out completely?

Parents have the job of teaching faith to their children and encouraging the love of God's Word in their hearts. Pastors, teachers, and friends assist in the spiritual growth of children, but the primary nurturers of faith are parents.

It is a big job that makes an eternally difference! Find a time that fits your family. You could read a Bible story before bed. Or while driving in the car or during dinner, share one way you showed God's love to others or how someone else showed God's love to you, admit where you could use forgiveness, or pray together. Make talking about your faith a daily norm!

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

~ Deuteronomy 6:5-7

If you have a kindergartener or a 3rd, 4th, 5th, or 6th grader who did not receive a Bible during our Bible gifting, please contact me at [rschultz@CKhome.org](mailto:rschultz@CKhome.org) and we will make sure they get one!

Some tips for reading with your child/grandchild:

- Don't put it out of sight! If it is out of sight it is often out of mind!
- Let your child choose the story; don't worry about the order
- Take turns reading
- Read with excitement
- Make a chart and put stickers next to the stories you have read
- Reread their favorite stories
- Make it part of your daily routine
- Let your child see you reading your own Bible!



## EPIC!

The next EPIC night for 4th and 5th graders will be on **Friday, October 25 from 6:00-8:00pm!** Register at [CKhome.org/epic](http://CKhome.org/epic).

## SUNDAY KIDSMIN!

Whether your family worships at 8:15am, 9:30am or 10:45am, Sunday KidsMin will work for you! Meet in the Large Commons every **Sunday between 9:20-9:30am!**

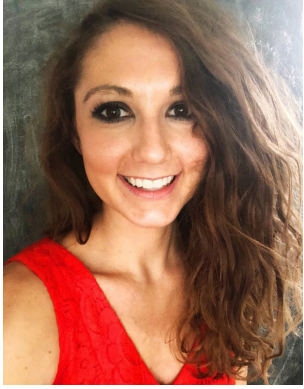
It's simple: Kids praise God. Kids learn the Bible point and discover how to live it out. Every week! Kids LOVE it! In September, we had our largest group ever with 70 kids on September 30!



# SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD  
JCRAWFORD@CKHOME.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Concordia's Special Needs Ministry would like to introduce you to a new program: Family Night!

Family Night begins **Sunday, October 6** and will meet the first Sunday of every month from **6:00-7:30pm**.

Family Night is a time for the special needs families at Concordia to come together in a way that doesn't just include the individual with special needs but parents and siblings as well. A time for parents to be with other parents. Siblings to be with other siblings. A time when everyone's needs are met and all the kids are having fun. Our hope is that this would be a time to build community and provide support for the family as a whole in a Christ-centered environment.

At Family Night, parents will come together for community building, conversation and prayer. Children and youth together will participate in fun hands-on activities, games, snack-making and of course Bible study. Siblings will also spend a small part of the evening participating in separate activities together based on the SibShop model.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jessica Crawford at [jcrawford@CKhome.org](mailto:jcrawford@CKhome.org).

# 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 or assist with the games or wish to donate to this event, please visit [CKhome.org/TrunkOrTreat!](http://CKhome.org/TrunkOrTreat)



# NIGHT TO SHINE

FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

We are only four months away from the night that will become your favorite night out of the whole year - **Friday, February 7, 2020!**

In case this is the first time you are hearing about this and you are wondering what I am talking about, Concordia has been selected again to host Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. This is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older.

This second year, the goal is to welcome 125 honored guests through Concordia's doors. Do you know what that means? That means 125 youth and adults with special needs along with their families, who may not know how much their Savior loves them will get the chance to know just that!

This is where you come in, Concordia! We will need nearly over 300 volunteers to make this night a success.

Would you like to volunteer but don't really know where you would fit? There are 24 different volunteer teams for you to join!



- Do want to be a part of the action? Consider being a buddy to one of our honored guests by joining the **Buddy Team!**
- Love cold weather? Join the **Parking Team!**
- Do you want to help love on the families that stay and enjoy our separate parent event? Join the **Respite Room Team!**
- Are you hesitant to be a buddy but love dancing and making sure everyone is having a good time? Consider the **Dance Floor Team!**
- Love popping balloons? Join the **Tear Down Team!**

There really is something for everyone! Every volunteer team is absolutely vital to ensuring that our honored guests are showered with love and leave knowing that they have a Savior named Jesus Christ who loves and cherishes them.

Teams are filling fast and preference will be given to volunteers who previously filled the same role.

To see a full list of the volunteer teams along with their descriptions or to register as a volunteer, go to **[nighttoshinekirkwood.com](http://nighttoshinekirkwood.com)**.

# NEW MEMBERS

MARCY SCHOLL • MSCHOLL@CKHOME.ORG



## Steve and Sara Edwards Caroline

The Edwards family recently moved back to the St. Louis area after spending the past seven years living in Collierville, TN. They are excited to be back in St. Louis and to be joining the Concordia family. Steve is a systems analyst with the Boeing Company. In his spare time, Steve enjoys spending time with family, reading, traveling, playing golf and watching Cardinals baseball. Sara is a stay-at-home mom. She likes to knit, read a good book, visit new places and spend time with friends and family. Caroline is a fifth grader at CCLS. Caroline likes to play with her friends, read, watch Disney movies and play volleyball. She loves animals, especially polar bears, and enjoys visiting the St. Louis Zoo. Also, she likes to draw and play on her Chromebook.

## Mike Egenriether

Mike Egenriether was raised in South St. Louis. He owns a painting and pressure washing company, Michael Anthony's Painting, LLC. Mike has a cat named Zuzu and enjoys time with his girlfriend, Caroleena Hoppe. He enjoys working, reading, lifting weights and self-improvement. Mike loves listening music and podcasts.

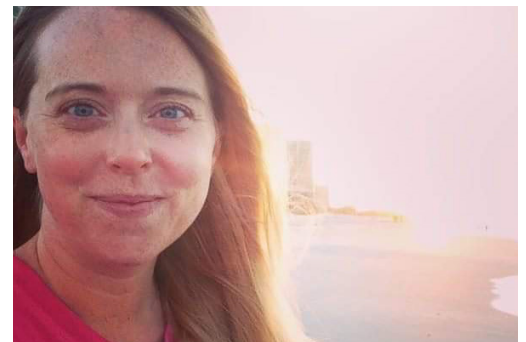


## Matt and Christy Hoehner Joel, Elise, Rachel

Matt and Christy Hoehner are thankful for the warm welcome from the Concordia community. They are excited to join along with their three children: Joel, a freshman at Lutheran South, Elise, sixth grader at CCLS and Rachel, kindergarten at CCLS. Matt serves as the executive director at CCLS and Christy is the manager of Research and Analysis at BJC Center for Clinical Excellence. The Hoehners are transferring from Messiah Lutheran Church in St. Louis where Matt served as Pastor for 11 years. Matt and Joel enjoy fishing and basketball, while Christy enjoys playing piano and tennis. Elise enjoys sports and a good book. Rachel enjoys music, playing with friends and caring for her baby dolls.

## Dee Leible

Dee Leible was installed at CCLS as the fifth-grade teacher. She recently moved to Kirkwood. Dee was raised in Brazeau, MO, a town in East Perry County. She loves hanging out with family, especially her two nephews. Dee enjoys getting together with friends and traveling to Australia, Germany and Guatemala. She is devoted to serving her Lord and diving into God's Word.





# NEW MEMBERS

MARCY SCHOLL • MSCHOLL@CKHOME.ORG



## Nate Renner and Rachel Ziegler

Nate and Rachel are so excited to have found the Concordia family. They met at the University of Illinois while studying engineering and are thankful to have both found challenging jobs in their field. Last October, they got engaged in Door County, WI, and are looking forward to being married on Leap Year, 2020. Their free time is spent enjoying time their family, cheering on the Illini, Cardinals and Blues teams, exploring new restaurants around St. Louis, and being outdoors.

## Sarah Wilde

Sarah Wilde is an attorney at Page Law in Crestwood. She practices primarily family law but has also represented Foster Children as their Guardian and Litem. Sarah has two children. Brayden is in the fifth grade at CCLS and Ella is in PreK at CCLS. Brayden loves to draw, and Ella is currently taking gymnastic and dance classes. They have two dogs, a Gold Retriever, Atticus and a Chocolate Lab, Cane. They enjoy traveling to the beach and spending time with grandparents.



# 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.

Email Debbie Davis at [ddavis@CKhome.org](mailto:ddavis@CKhome.org) to register for an upcoming seminar.

# TURKEY BLESSING

CKHOME.ORG/TURKEYBLESSING

**Save the Date:** On **Sunday, November 24**, Concordia Men's Ministries will hold the 5th Annual Turkey Blessing!

As you celebrate fall with your pumpkin spice whatever, think about how you can help make our **5th annual Turkey Blessing** a success. For those who may be new, it is our huge men's ministry outreach providing turkey dinners sufficient for a family of five. We Blessed some **1,200** families last year (our goal is always at least a Feeding of 5,000).

Concordia has been blessed with the timely completion of our new school building, and distribution will return this year to Concordia in our new parking lot. As part of our ministry to one another and to prepare for the giveaway, we will have a worship service, training and boxing of over **1,000** meals on **Saturday morning, November 23**. Many of you have given so much to this event in the past, generously volunteering your time and resources. Without you, this event would have never taken off or been successful. God has truly blessed this endeavor. I am hopeful you will once again volunteer this year.

- We do it because we can.
- We do it to serve our community.
- We do it for the JOY of serving together and building relationships as Christian men...of all ages.

And in the final analysis, it is not just about men. It is about Being One in Christ who became One of Us For All of Us. It is about Faithfully serving as we have been blessed.

Thank you, Concordia, for supporting your husbands and boys in this Be Faithful/Be One ministry. Thank you for opening your hearts to our community.

# OKTOBERFEST

LUNCH AND LEARN

On **Thursday, October 17 at 11:30am**, come join us at Concordia for brats, baked beans, potato salad, and more. We will have drinks including beer and wine. This is a time of community and fun! Bring a friend! The suggested donation is \$7.50 per person. Please RSVP by signing up at the table in the Center Commons or calling Patty Wilson at 314-822-7772 x121 by **October 14**.

We will be collecting new socks for homeless men in our area through Moms on a Mission.



CONCORDIA  
Lutheran Church

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