



CONCORDIA

Connection

MARCH 2019

NIGHT TO SHINE RECAP • LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE • NEW MEMBERS

PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR SEIDLER • SENIOR PASTOR • SSEIDLER@CKHOME.ORG



Happy March!

Thank the Lord this winter is coming to an end. Unfortunately, while one season of winter ends, another winter begins in the church—the season of Lent. Lent is the time of the year we mourn over “death’s cold sullen stream”. That phrase from the hymn “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” gets at the truth that our sin yields death because of God’s judgment.

Lent is a time of year we recognize that “chief of sinners though I be...” That phrase from the hymn of the same name echoes Paul’s end of life recognition of the distance between him and God. Thankfully, “Jesus gave his life for me.” is the next line—which leads us to the Holy Week and Easter.

As March comes we have a lot going on at Concordia as we always do. We’ll have about 35 sixth graders preparing to receive their first communion with Pastor Schultz. We’ll continue to move toward a finished youth building as well as an amazing summer of youth ministry. On top of that our Bible studies for adults will wind down their great year of community and faith building while another team of missionaries heads to Uganda.

Through it all, our eyes are on the cross of Jesus that leads us through every winter to an eternal Spring.

SUNDAY 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**

PASTOR SCHULTZ

ASSOCIATE PASTOR • JSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG



Lent is around the corner. This season of the church year focuses our attention on sacrifice and repentance in the Christian life. Christians have typically captured this focus by fasting or giving up something that is meaningful to them. But this Lenten season, instead of giving something up, consider taking something up. Perhaps in your wider community you could volunteer at a soup kitchen, invite a friend who is lonely over for dinner, or write a thank you card to someone whose work goes unnoticed. Perhaps in your church community, you could take up a new younger adult Bible study every other Tuesday night. Or, if you have flexibility in your schedule, you could take up a study on Dietrich Bonhoeffer every other Friday at **10:00am** at Meramec Bluffs beginning on **Friday, March 1.**

There are many ways to focus our attention this Lenten season. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me for ideas or opportunities in the wider community or in church. Keep up the good work Concordia. You are loved by Jesus!

ADULTS

PASTOR MEGGERS • ASSOCIATE PASTOR • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG



Are you ready to move on from the bi-polar February weather, including the polar-vortex of late January? I am! But not before I convey my sincere thanks and appreciation to every adult and older adult who answered the call to serve, especially for Night to Shine! And a special word of thanks to the Health Fair volunteers and vendors who gave us a great second effort after getting iced out on the originally scheduled day. Way to go!

Several of us were interviewed by our Lutheran Church Missouri Synod publication, The Reporter. We had a chance to promote the ministry of, by, for and to adults and especially older adults. What follows are some excerpts from The Reporter. Thank-you to Sharon Ema and Jerry Witte for their valuable contributions to the article.

"What's driving older-adult ministry right now, Meggers notes, is that some 10,000 Americans are turning 65 every day, and they're healthier, more active and living longer than previous generations. As Christians, Meggers says, it's good to keep in mind that, "as God gives us years of health, we still have the call and opportunity to serve."

"Older adults can be served and serve," Ema notes. "We say at Concordia that older-adult ministry is "to, by, for and with older adults ... We are all called to love others as Christ has loved us."

"The Ageless Generations Ministry Action Team is charged with the responsibility of equipping, empowering, encouraging and engaging the older adults to be active Christians," Witte explains. The congregation benefits, too, he adds, as retirees also hold seats on the church council, help with the Thanksgiving turkey giveaway, join mission trips to foreign countries and serve during worship as ushers, greeters and Communion assistants."

I am looking forward to Lent and our Soup's On Lenten lunches (more details on page 4). It is such a great opportunity to further our relationships.

CONCORDIA'S HEALTH AND RESOURCE FAIR

After having to cancel the fair on **Sunday, February 10** due to inclement weather, we had a successful Health and Resource Fair on **Sunday, February 17**. A variety of organizations shared ways to serve. Health promotion and care opportunities were offered. Some of our own Concordia authors were there to sign their books.



WORSHIP ARTS

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



The season of Lent begins next week **Wednesday, March 6** with Ash Wednesday services. Through out this portion of the church year, we have a variety of special worship opportunities to remember the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Consider making these part of your routine over the next 6 weeks. We also have several special music opportunities to participate. Our Director for Sanctuary Worship, Phillip Magness, and I have listed those below as well.

ASH WEDNESDAY

In the days of Jeremiah, a common way of mourning a death was to wear a very rough type of cloth robe called sackcloth. Mourners would cover their heads and faces with ashes and cry aloud in pain. Today we have other ways of showing sorrow, such as wearing black clothes. Ash Wednesday is a solemn day, the beginning of our Lenten journey with our Savior to His cross and empty tomb. Thus Lent also reminds us of our earthly journey, from natural birth and rebirth in Holy Baptism, through all the events of our lives, and finally to the inheritance prepared for us in heaven. May God graciously and abundantly give us His Holy Spirit, that we may grow this Lent in our yearning for home and our love for Jesus.

7:00am, Sanctuary – This service will follow a brief order of Confession and imposition of ashes designed for those who want to observe Ash Wednesday prior to heading to work or school. The service will finish by 7:30am.

11:00am, Sanctuary – A regular full-length service and imposition of ashes

7:00pm, Concordia Center – A regular full-length service and imposition of ashes (Childcare and Sign Interpreter provided)

LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Midweek services will be held in the Sanctuary at **11:00am** and **6:45pm** on **Wednesdays, March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, and April 10.**

Soup's On

Beginning **Ash Wednesday on March 6**, the Ageless Generation team will organize and serve soup lunches following the **11:00am** worship services. All are welcome to attend.

Many volunteers are needed to prepare and bring soups, desserts, and breads for these luncheons. Others will help with set-up and clean up. The Soup's On will continue through Lent including **Maundy Thursday on April 18**. Please sign up to serve if you can.

We will have a freewill offering collected for "Life Waters - Disabled Veteran Scuba Diving" and the Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood. Come and learn how they positively touch the lives of others.

Please note that Lunch and Learn activities will not be held in March and April. Join us in worship and at Soup's On.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Saturday, April 13 – 5:00pm

Sunday, April 14 – 8:15am, 9:30am, and 10:45am

Maundy Thursday, April 18 and Good Friday, April 19

The services are at the same time both days

11:00am – Sanctuary

7:00pm – Concordia Center (Childcare and Sign Interpreter provided)

Easter

Saturday, April 20:

5:00pm – Sanctuary

Sunday, April 21:

6:30am – Sunrise service at Oak Hill Cemetery

8:00am & 9:30am – Sanctuary

9:30am & 11:00am – Concordia Center

EASTER MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Kids Song Palm Sunday Choir

Youth in first through fifth grade can join in singing special music for the **9:30am** and **10:45am** services on **Sunday, April 14**. Rehearsals will begin on **Wednesday, March 13 at 5:00pm**. For more information, contact Brendan Knorp at bknorp@CKhome.org.

Easter Sunrise Brass

Our ensemble is open to high school through adult brass players. Rehearsal will be on **Wednesday, April 17** immediately after the Easter Orchestra practice. For more information, contact Brendan Knorp at bknorp@CKhome.org.

Easter Sanctuary Choir (8:00am and 9:30am)

Our choir is preparing some fabulous pieces for Holy Week and would love for you to sing with us. A fine voice is not required, just a heart for worship. Practices are on **Wednesdays right after the Lenten services**. If you'd like to participate, you should plan on coming to at least three practices, including the last rehearsal on **Wednesday, April 17**. Rehearsals focused on Holy Week music will start on **Wednesday, March 20**, right after the evening Lenten service. This gives you five weeks to make your three (or more) practices. For more information, contact Phillip Magness at pmagness@CKhome.org.

Easter Concordia Center Choir (9:30 and 11:00am)

Join our worship team to sing praise and lead others in worship. We will have rehearsal on Wednesday, April 17 at **7:00pm** and **Saturday, April 20** from **9:00-11:00am**. For more information, contact Brendan Knorp at bknorp@CKhome.org.

Easter Orchestra

Our Easter Orchestra is open to Junior High students (6th grade) through adults. This group is made up of woodwind, brass, string, and percussion players. The orchestra will play musical arrangements that blend the best of our traditional Easter hymnody with the familiar sounds of modern worship songs. The instrumental parts are tailored to each player's level of skill. Rehearsals will be on **Wednesday, April 10** and **Wednesday, April 17** at **7:00pm**, and **Saturday, April 20** from **9:00-11:00am**. To participate, please contact Brendan Knorp at bknorp@CKhome.org to receive your music early for practice.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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



SENIOR YOUTH DIRECTOR SEARCH PROCESS

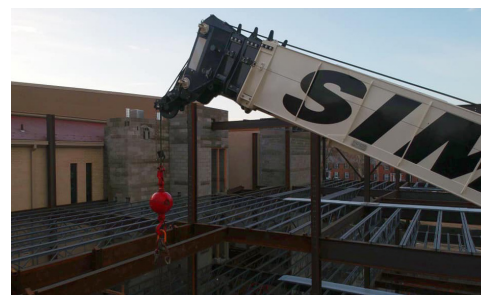
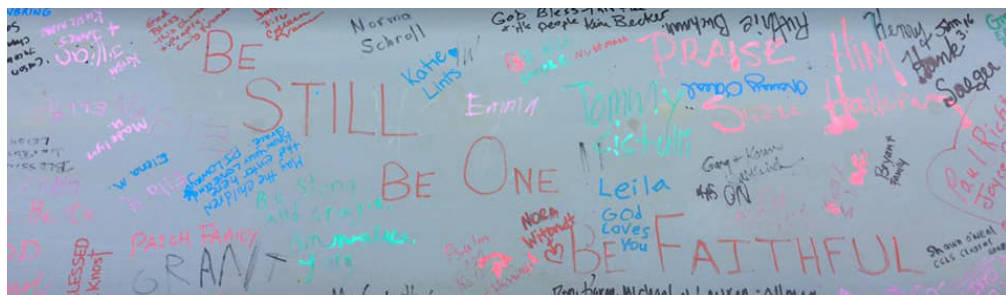
Over the last month, the Search Committee brought in two qualified candidates to potentially serve as our Director for Senior Youth. While both candidates, Maddie Koenig and Josh Gerken, were strong and qualified for various reasons, the Search Committee believes we should continue looking for the person God is Calling to serve here at Concordia. If you have a candidate in mind or would like more information on the process, please contact Kristin Anderson at kanderson@ckhome.org.

However, while we wait...

Please know that, although we are not immediately calling a Director for Senior High Youth, we do take very seriously the Senior High School youth ministry at Concordia. In addition to the Youth Gathering planning, the 1st & 3rd Sunday Bible Study, monthly events, and fundraisers, plans are underway for a summer servant event with Pastor Seidler. We also recognize we need more opportunities for senior high youth to connect, so we'll be planning weekly opportunities beginning in the fall. We will build a structure from within, similar to how we redesigned Sunday Children's Ministry and Confirmation over the last 18 months. While we wait for the right person, together we will move ministry forward. More information will be forthcoming.

OUR NEXT STEP UPDATE

Big changes happening over the last several weeks! Steel will continue to be put in place over the next couple of weeks followed by the stairwells. Continue to pray for good weather. Thank you to all who signed the beam. It was great reading the names, Bible verses, and blessings. We truly are blessed here at Concordia!



KIDSMIN

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



Lent is the perfect time for families to join together and talk about what this season leading up to Easter is all about. This is a time where we as Christians are quiet, thoughtful, and prepare ourselves for Easter. We can take this opportunity to change our daily lives and become closer to God.

Here are some easy ways to share this special season with our children:

1. Share the story of Jesus. Use these 40 days of Lent to read bible stories from the bible or a story-bible that tell of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
2. Attend the MANY worship opportunities: Ash Wednesday, weekly Wednesday afternoon or evening services, Maunday Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Creating extra opportunities to worship with our families shows children that this is a special time set aside to reflect on what God has done for us.
3. Pick up a Lenten Kids Prayer Packet from the Spotlight table outside of the Concordia Center. Included is a Lenten Calendar, information, and a make-your own Lenten Prayer Chain with 40 different topics to pray for.

ONGOING KIDSMIN FAITH-BUILDING PROGRAMS

SUNDAY KIDSMIN is a chance EVERY WEEK to learn about Jesus and grow in faith. Our committed teachers look for ways to engage children in the Bible story and encourage them to live out their faith each day. Please join us!

9:20-10:20AM in the Dining Hall (3 year olds-5th grade)

At **CONCORDIA KIDSNIGHT**, we are digging into the life of Jesus and walking in His footsteps, from birth to Resurrection and Ascension. Each week, we discover that Jesus is a real person—a real friend—who makes a difference in our lives each day.

Wednesdays; 5:30-7:15PM (1st-5th grade) Kids can join at anytime!

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 games that are sure to involve everyone! Feel free to bring a friend!

Upcoming **EPIC NIGHTS**:

March 29, 6:00-8:00PM and **April 26, 6:00-8:00PM**

Contact me for more information or visit our website at CKhome.org/children.





SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD
JCRAWFORD@CKHOME.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



I told you that was going to be your favorite night of the year, Concordia!

A recurring theme in the feedback I have been given thus far is that of warmth. I have been told warmth radiated out of every single volunteer at our Night to Shine. This is coming both from families who attended Night to Shine for the first time and from those who have attended somewhere else in previous years. Do you know what the difference was? *You*. You made the difference. You loved on the Guests and families who attended Night to Shine within our Concordia walls and showed them what it means to be a member of our extended Concordia family. Through your actions, our Guests with special needs know that there is a God in heaven who loves them and that He has a plan and purpose for their life.

I can't even begin to thank each of you (there are about 350 of you) so in an attempt to do so, I want to share with you the message one mama wrote me a couple days after attending our Night to Shine with her daughter.

"Oh my goodness! What a night my daughter and her friends had Friday evening! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your congregation's generosity in opening your church to host Night to Shine! The entire event was nothing short of spectacular!!!"

As a parent of a special needs child (now adult age) these special moments remind me of all my daughter has to offer and learn from these events! Special needs parents run from appointment to IEP meetings to school/work addressing the needs of our child(ren) many times ignoring what we as parents need for our other children and spouses. To have someone pamper us with delicious food, massages, awesome music and manicures is like manna from heaven for those couple of hours! Those tending to our children and us during this event will never understand how much their acts of kindness meant to all of us! Again, all I can say is thank you from the bottom of my heart! Everyone left the evening with huge smiles and a heart full of precious, precious memories!!! Please extend my thanks to your church leaders and parishioners who so unselfishly gave of themselves to make this such a wonderful evening!"

Only eleven months to go until the next Night to Shine!

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

ZOOM IN! FOCUS ON JESUS! 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 2019 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 Recruitment runs **March-April**. Children registration will open around **Wednesday, May 1**. Similar to last year, 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! Keep an eye out for volunteer information coming soon!

NEW MEMBERS

MARCY SCHOLL • MSCHOLL@CKHOME.ORG



Dave and Sue Domian

Dave and Sue have been married for 41 years. They have four adult children and eight grandchildren. Dave is a self-employed financial advisor and Sue is a homemaker. Their hobbies include bar-be-queuing, cooking, fishing, hunting, hanging out at their country property and traveling.

Craig and Melodie Donatelli Taylor, Jonic, Lawson

Craig and Melodie both work in healthcare. Craig as a sales executive and Melodie in administration. Being together is definitely their favorite place to be. They enjoy trips to Arizona, the lake and spending time with family every Sunday for dinner. Taylor is 15 and a freshman at Marquette High School. She enjoys spending time with friends, playing volleyball, Lacrosse and is starting to learn to drive. Jonic is a fourth grader at CCLS. He enjoys spending time with cousins, time with friends, playing hockey, baseball, soccer and flag football. Lawson is in the second grade at CCLS. She enjoys playing with cousins, friends and playing volleyball, basketball, soccer or doing gymnastics.

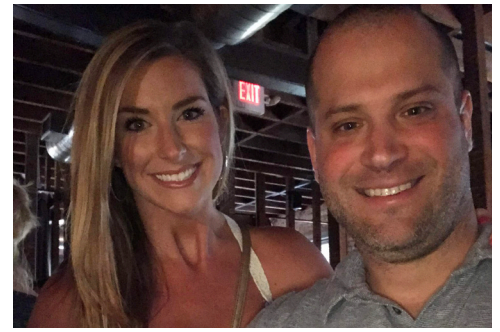


Josh and Theresa Gage Reece

Their family consists of three. Josh works in IT at Curium. Theresa works for Southeast Toyota Finance handling legal accounts. They met at the American Legion in Fenton where they both volunteer. Josh spent 17 years in the Army. For hobbies, they like to bowl, play board games, card games and spend time outside. Theresa enjoys running and photography and Josh likes to fly his drone and tinker with electronics and computers. Reece enjoys playing with his toys that make music.

Brad Gerlach and Melissa White

Brad and Melissa are the future Gerlach's. They are looking forward to their wedding in 2020. Brad currently works for Washington University Physicians out of Barnes Jewish Hospital where he also does anesthesia. Melissa is currently a registered nurse in the cardiac intensive care unit at Mercy Hospital. She will be starting school full time in May to become a registered nurse anesthesia. They enjoy traveling, spending time with their two pups Brody and Charlie, and spending time with family and friends. Brad enjoys golfing, spending time at the gym and playing baseball. Melissa spends her time cooking, working out, and with her many friends in the area. They were happy to find a church home in Concordia.



Kerryann Kohut

Kerryann recently relocated back to her hometown of St. Louis from Corpus Christi, Texas. Growing up she attended Lutheran South High School and then Mizzou. She taught English at John F. Kennedy High School for three years, culminating in the senior class choosing her to speak at their commencement-a very big traditional honor there. She was a 7th grade English teacher in Texas for 18 years. Kerryann earned her Masters and presents at symposiums and conferences, she is a chapter member of the National Writing Project. The eye-wall of 2017's Hurricane Harvey destroyed her school and much of the community where she taught, but the bonds she formed with many of those kids and her colleagues were only strengthened. Kerryann made the decision two years ago to come home and spend more quality time with her family. She came to realize that a church community helps to set a firm foundation for her life.

Josh and Rachel Smith Aubrey, Norah, Penelope

Josh and Rachel have three daughters, Aubrey is five, Norah is three and Penelope is one. They currently attend CCLS. Both Josh and Rachel went to CCLS and were confirmed at Concordia as youth. Josh is a control systems analyst at Maverick Technologies and Rachel is a business analyst at Nestle Purina. They are excited to watch their children's faith grow and have the faithful teaching be reinforced from home.



Leo and Casey Stoff Addison Drumm and Molly

Leo is owner and lead personal trainer at Beyond the Gym, LLC. Casey is a speech language pathologist at High Ridge Elementary school. Addison is in the fifth grade at Twin Oaks Christian School in Ballwin and Molly is in preschool at Eureka United Methodist Church. They enjoy spending time watching Addison play basketball, soccer and softball. They love to watch Molly dance. As a family they enjoy any outside activities and watching movies. They love finding ways to serve together.