

# The 809



Inspire ♦ Involve ♦ Inform

(The number 809 represents the approximate total of Concordia's membership age 50 and older)

## A WORD FROM PASTOR MEGGERS....

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are living in what a friend of mine has dubbed, "Very Interesting Times." I call it VIT for short. He and I were in Uganda at the same time. We were present for the governmental closing of all schools, including the seminary. We both had to make changes in our flight plans, hoping that there would indeed be flights to get us home, airports that would permit travel and countries that would receive us, including our own.



Meanwhile, we watched and listened from afar, as you were living Very Interesting Times; school closures, cessation of public gatherings, sheltering in place and how about those toilet paper shortages??! VIT. It seems like the only constant these days has been that of constant change. That is what it seems like but that is not so. The one constant in all of this, the constant on which we relied in Uganda and the constant on which we rely daily is IMMANUEL. God with us. He is with us and He is for us.

**JOYfully** Pastor M.

### SPIRITLIFTER

Pastor Schultz's sermon this past weekend emphasized the importance of staying in touch during this time of national emergency. While we have been directed by local government to stay at home with exceptions for necessity, it becomes more important to demonstrate "Christian Love in Action" by remembering those around us. Many of those are lonely because of whatever circumstances they find themselves in.



What is a Spiritlifter? It is a "Best Practice" of Christ's church. It is our response to those around us. We recognize loneliness comes from many sources: living alone, being shut in, bereavement, depression, stay-home orders, etc. But in all cases, we have an opportunity to add a lifting of spirit. The Apostle Paul tell us in 2 Cor. 1:3-4 that God is the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that WE can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

Each of us then is a Spiritlifter. We fulfill that Spiritlifter role by self-identifying those with whom we are in any connected who may be lonely in spirit. At this time, all in our circle of friends, colleagues, neighbors, etc. are likely to need encouragement. We respond by seeking them out in a brief phone call or other contact to let them know we are thinking of them. We may have a brief devotion or prayer with them, and encourage them.

If anyone would like names of congregational members contact Sharon Karleskint at [skarleskint@CKhome.org](mailto:skarleskint@CKhome.org)

This is not complicated, this is not difficult, this is our role as a disciple of Our Lord. BE A SPIRITLIFTER.

## LUNCH AND LEARN HAPPENINGS



Our Soup's On lunches following the mid-day Lenten services got off to a wonderful start before we needed to cancel them. In addition to delicious food and fun fellowship, two of the lunches featured mini-presentations. At one of our lunches, Kelly Schumacher shared details of her beautiful religious artwork, and at another, representatives from former STL Cardinal Kyle McClellan's Brace for Impact 46 Foundation gave an inspirational glimpse into their work being done in North St. Louis and Haiti. We had to cancel Dr. Kitty Bickford's presentation on her Pasture Valley Children Missions and will look forward to learning more about that ministry in the future.

At this point, no specific plans have been made regarding upcoming Lunch and Learn gatherings. Details will be provided as soon as we know when our congregational activities can safely resume.

A fall day trip to the Churchill Museum on the Westminster College campus in Fulton is still under consideration. Details will be made available if this trip becomes possible.

## CONCORDIA HOME MINISTRY

Although we are not able to gather face-to-face for the time being, our Concordia staff is working diligently to keep us connected. They have developed a platform to bring church ministry to us for as long as necessary. It can all be accessed through our home page at CKhome.org. In addition to worship and devotions, opportunities for ways we can continue to serve the community and one another will be posted.

## GUNDERMANN AWARD

Don & Wanda Herweck and Jim & Judy Streufert are the newest recipients of the Gundermann Award, given to recognize exceptional service to the congregation and community. The award is given in remembrance of the ministry of Rev. Vernon Gundermann, pastor at Concordia from 1990 to 2005. Thanks for your faithful witness, Don, Wanda, Jim and Judy!



## SERVANT HEARTS AND HANDS

...Items that have already been donated for our Lenten Giving Tree will be held until they can be brought to our community partners who serve the less fortunate. If you took a cross from the tree and have items at home that you wish to donate, you can still bring them to church at a later date.

...Thanks to all who generously donated items for our Uganda mission team's recent trip. The team arrived home on Monday, March 23.

...Concordia Outbound Ministry, the mission outreach arm of our congregation, recently approved grants to Christian Friends of New Americans, Lutheran High School Association, and Feed My People.

## YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW...

**Devotional resource:** Missing your copy of Portals of Prayer? Daily devotions are on cph.org for you to read. Check it out!

...The Oberammergau's Passion Play 2020 has been cancelled for this year and is to be rescheduled for 2022. Don Wolfinger will be staying in contact with a local tour agency as plans for that rescheduling are developed. The Passion Play has been performed since 1634 by the inhabitants of the village of Oberammergau, Bavaria, Germany. It is typically performed every 10 years.

