



CONCORDIA

Connection

NOVEMBER 2019



TURKEY BLESSING • CALL PROCESS UPDATE • SENIOR YOUTH MISSION TRIP

PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR MEGGERS • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG



If you were with us for the Faith Statements of our 2019 Confirmands, you were blessed with these individual, organic statements of faith. These were not necessarily statements that will stand for all time, but assessments, statements, confessions of where our confirmands are in this season of life and faith development.

As we move through this autumn season, the Church Year presents us opportunities to examine our own *identity* as God's children, our *purpose* as those saved children and the *actions* that flow from that relationship. We have already asked our faith family to examine their giving to our church and its ministries. I would ask you to use this season as a time to reflect and refresh/reset your own faith walk. You have help.

November presents to us the last Sundays of the Church Year. The readings for each weekend have an onward thrust. They offer us a chance to think ahead to what we call "the end times." It is a chance to really embrace what it means to sing, "I'm but a stranger here; Heaven is my home." These readings give us a chance to renew ourselves in our Purpose during the precious days of life God gives to us on earth.

Thanksgiving is a unique holiday. It is not a gift-giving holiday. It is really not part of the historic church year. I like to call it a precious pause. For Christians, this special pause is an opportunity to gather in thankfulness and praise to God for His great gifts, especially regarding how he provides richly and daily for this life.

The more I write, the more I think about this upcoming time we will have together, the more grateful I am to be a part of this Christian family we call Concordia. I thank God for you, for us!

PASTOR SCHULTZ • JSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG



Our church serves the Lord in many different ways. We sing, learn, babysit, decorate, cook, paint, and teach, to just name a few. One particular act of service that I would like to highlight this month is our Confirmation program.

Confirmation at Concordia is three and a quarter years long. Beginning in sixth grade, the Confirmation students meet for games, dinner, large group instruction by a pastor, and small group reflection time with a trusted adult. This program includes our All Youth Retreat in the fall, which is a significant part of our overarching ministry. To conclude Confirmation, students read a statement of their faith to the congregation and are publicly celebrated in a worship service.

To make a typical Wednesday night of Confirmation work, we need approximately 40 volunteers each week. Some of these helpers commit to every week and others volunteer periodically throughout the year. By the end of the year, we have thousands of hours donated from our congregation for the betterment of our youth. The gifts of time, talents, and treasures that these families give are noticed and appreciated!

This year, we are celebrating that 37 students have completed our Confirmation program. We rejoice with them and give thanks to God as we look forward to their unique lives of faith. While our Wednesday night helpers are sad to see them go, we are grateful for the time we had with them and look forward to seeing how God will use them in other parts of the church's life.

Our church serves faithfully the Confirmation program and in return the students faithfully serve others. Please continue to pray with me that God would continue to bless this ministry and all the ministries at Concordia. God is certainly good.

TURKEY BLESSING

WWW.CKHOME.ORG/TURKEYBLESSING



Concordia Men's Ministry is coming together for the 5th Annual Turkey Blessing to demonstrate Christ's love to those in need in our community. We will distribute 1,000 Thanksgiving dinners on **Sunday, November 24**. The packaged (not cooked) dinner will include a frozen turkey, stuffing, green beans, gravy and potatoes. Each dinner will be sufficient to feed a family of five (1,000 dinners x 5 = 5,000!).

During the distribution of the dinners, faith-filled materials will be placed within each box for adults and children. Our prayer is that these interactions and materials will plant a seed, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in the hearts and minds of those we feed. Most importantly, Concordia's teams will interact with the recipients and pray with them regarding their needs and Christ's love. We are thankful for the opportunity to address hunger in our community; however, it is not really about the turkeys.



This massive undertaking will require a significant number of volunteers. While sharing the story of Christ's blessings in our lives, this project unites the Men's Ministry at Concordia. We estimate we need 200 male volunteers for many different tasks:

- On **Saturday morning, November 23**, from 9:00am-12:00pm, there will be a mandatory meeting and worship. In that service, we will unite as brothers in Christ and receive instructions on performing this project and how to effectively reach out. After the service, there will be a volunteer opportunity to stage the food for distribution.
- On **Sunday, November 24**, distribution begins at 12:00pm and lasts until 5:00pm or until supplies are gone. Some volunteers will be scheduled to arrive at 11:00am to help with staging and preparation.
- This will be a powerful, faith-building experience and opportunity to transform your faith through meaningful action. There will be several volunteer opportunities for this project. The specific volunteer positions are more fully described on the volunteer sign-up webpage.

Men of Concordia, please prayerfully consider joining this effort. Volunteer or give at CKhome.org/turkeyblessing.

Happy Hour

Join us in raising money for the 5th Annual Turkey Blessing! We will enjoy fellowship together with a happy hour at the 1903 Bar at Missouri Athletic Club West on **Wednesday, November 21, 4:30-7:30pm**. \$40 will buy a turkey dinner for five (any donation is appreciated)

This happy hour is not just for men. Everyone is welcome!

HAPPY HOUR
Thursday, November 21 | 4:30-7:30pm
1903 Bar at the Missouri Athletic Club

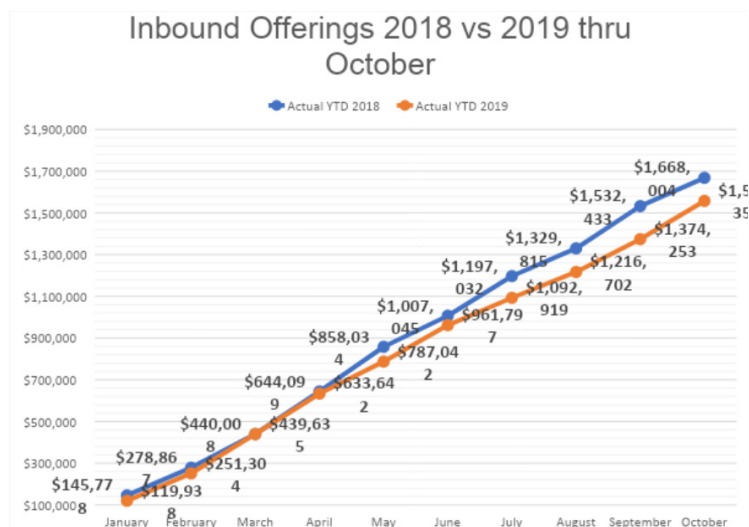
Turkey Blessing

CKhome.org/TurkeyBlessing

FINANCE MATTERS

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

INBOUND OFFERINGS UPDATE



Last month in the Connection and in our worship announcements, we communicated our offerings were down 10% from last year. In October, we began to see a rebound as our offerings exceeded October 2018 as well as our budgeted expectations. We began October with a shortfall of **\$161,000** over 2019 but ended October with a year to date shortfall of **\$111,000**. Thank you to the generous donors who have stepped up to make a difference. Next month, I will be able to get a target of what we will need to meet expenses for the year. Please know the staff is working hard to manage expenses. We still have a ways to go but are certainly making progress. Thank you!

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.

Donate from Your IRA: If you are 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.



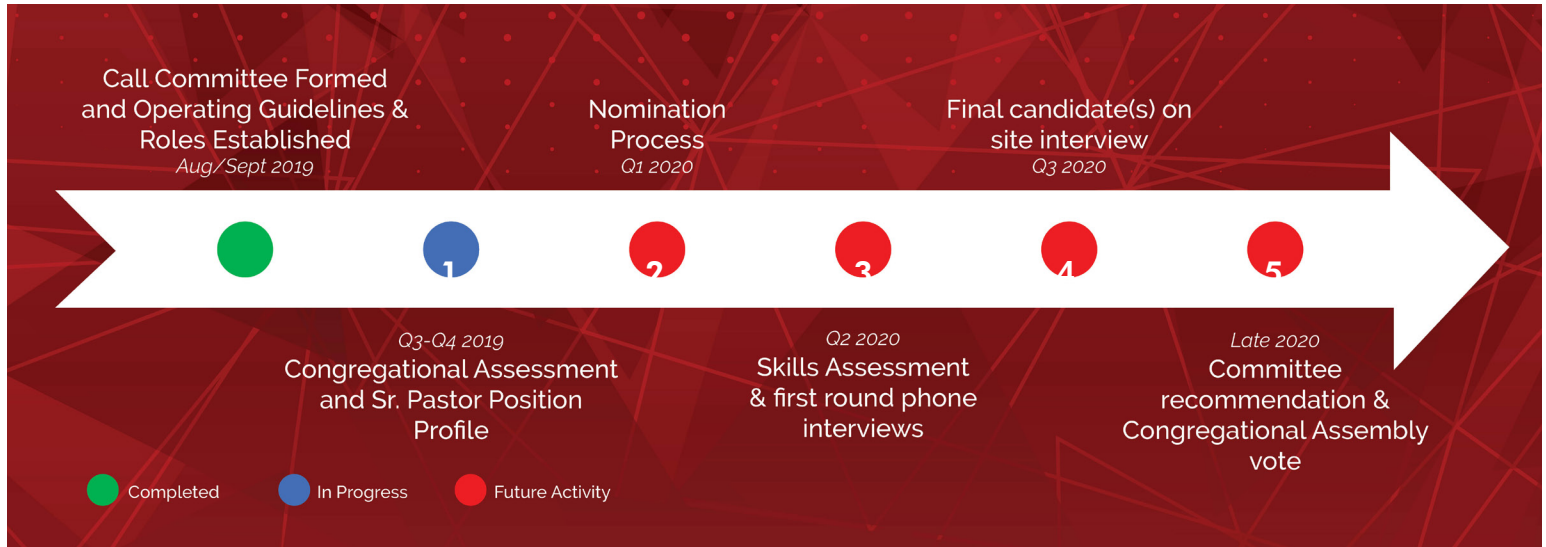
SCAN TO GIVE

CALL PROCESS

CALLPROCESS@CKHOME.ORG • CKHOME.ORG/CALLPROCESS

As has been previously communicated, the Sr. Pastoral Call Committee has been hard at work developing a comprehensive plan to ensure a thorough and transparent search process. Since most are probably not familiar with how a call process works, the information below should provide more clarity on what activities the congregation can expect to take place over the coming year.

The Divine Call Process typically takes 12-24 months. We ask that you keep the committee and congregation in your prayers as we together discern God's will and wait for Him to reveal the one He has already chosen as Concordia's next Sr. Pastor.



- 1. Congregational Assessment & Sr. Pastor Profile:** A survey (QR code to the right) will be sent out to all confirmed members of Concordia in November designed to get a sense of our congregation, help us understand areas of our mission and values, and seek thoughts about the direction of pastoral ministry here at Concordia. The results of this survey (both electronic and hard copies will be available) will lead to the development of the pastor profile, which will be shared with the entire congregation.
- 2. Nomination Process:** A formal nomination process will take place, which will consist of (a) input from members via a submitted nomination form and (b) assistance from the LCMS to identify candidates who are eligible to receive a call and who may be a good fit based upon the congregational assessment and pastor profile.
- 3. Skills Assessment and Due Diligence:** The call committee will review all nominations to identify those candidates that best align with the pastor profile and the values of Concordia. Additionally, the LCMS will work in parallel to surface individuals they believe would meet our needs as well as validate eligibility of nominations submitted by Concordia members. The output of this assessment and due diligence process will yield a focused list of candidates that the call committee will speak with.
- 4. Final Candidate(s) Identification:** After the initial screening process, our prayer is that the Lord will lead us to the individual(s) that will shepherd Concordia. Further deep-dive discussions will take place.
- 5. Committee Recommendation & Congregational Assembly Vote:** The call committee, with confirmation from the Church Council, will make a formal nomination(s) to issue a call. The candidate(s) shall be presented in a meeting of the Congregational Assembly and voted on by written ballot with a majority vote required to confirm the nomination.



SENIOR YOUTH

NATHAN DEHN • YOUTH DIRECTOR • NDEHN@CKHOME.ORG



Watching the Turkey Blessing video always gives me chills when I think about the immense impact we have on our surrounding community. And next summer, the senior youth will have an opportunity to have this same impact on the people on our Senior Youth Mission Trip. Below I have some information about this trip and I hope that you will be as excited to go as I am!

WHO can go?

Any senior youth currently in high school, or any adult may sign up for this mission trip. Register for the trip at CKhome.org/hsyouth.

On **Saturday, November 16**, the deposit for the Copperhill, Tennessee trip **increases from \$100 to \$175**. This increase *will not count* towards your total trip cost. **The deadline to register will be on Sunday, November 30.**

WHAT will we be doing?

On this trip, we will have the opportunity to reach out and minister in areas where closed businesses and industries have left people with little means to provide for their families, with a focus on home repair and renovation, However, it is the relationships formed with those served that will be remembered forever.

No construction background is needed to help rebuild the community with the love of Jesus Christ.

- Sunday: Travel to camp and participate in opening worship.
- Mon-Wed: Youth will spend the morning and early afternoon on their mission site helping the surrounding community. Afternoons will be spent on campgrounds playing sports or participating in other activities the camp provides. Evenings will be spent in worship and devotion.
- Thursday: Spend half the day at a mission site, then spend the afternoon and evening doing camp activities, such as horseback riding, paintball, white water rafting, and mountain biking.
- Friday: Spend the day around camp with the same adventure opportunities as Thursday.
- Saturday: Travel back to St. Louis!

WHERE is it?

We will be staying at Whitewater Camp in Copperhill, TN. Our mission sites will be close to the camp. We will spend our evenings and nights on the campgrounds. You can check out their website at WhiteWaterExpress.com.

WHEN is it?

We will leave on **Sunday, July 26** and arrive back in St. Louis on **Saturday, August 1**.

WHY are we going?

What we are doing is important. But *Why* we are going on this mission trip is FAR more important! On this trip, it is my prayer that you see the impact you have on others through your service, gain connections with other Christian believers, and grow in your faith.



Senior Youth Mission Trip

Copperhill, TN

July 26-August 1
CKhome.org/hsyouth



KIDS IN ADVENT

Why do we celebrate Advent?

The word Advent means "coming." During Advent, we prepare for the coming of the One who was born that first Christmas in a stable. We prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death and the power of the devil: our Lord Jesus Christ! What a wonderful and exciting time of preparation!

What is the Advent wreath?

The Advent wreath is the circle of candles that you see in church during the season of Advent. Some Advent wreaths hang from the ceiling of the sanctuary while others are placed on a floor stand like ours. Either way, the Advent wreath is one of the many

beautiful things you'll see at church during Advent.

How do we use the Advent wreath?

It used to be that the Advent wreath was used in the home to help count the four weeks of Advent. Now you can find them in homes as well as in church. Each Sunday in Advent, a new candle on the wreath is lit. For example, during the first week of Advent, only one candle is lit. During the second week in Advent, two candles are lit. We do this to remember and prepare for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!

What is the rest of the Advent story?

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God's Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He also comes to be with His Church through His Word and Sacraments. Finally, God's Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!

Not sure how to start an Advent tradition in your own home? Here are some ideas: buy or make an advent wreath, sing favorite Christmas hymns (Away in a Manger; The First Noel; Joy to the World; O Come, O Come Emmanuel; etc.), read an Advent devotion together, read the Christmas story from the Bible (Luke 2, Matthew 1-2), pray together, create your own manger scene with craft supplies, attend Advent worship at 6:45 on Wednesdays!

KIDS NIGHT

During Advent, kids get to join in worship together! On **December 4, December 11 and December 18**, after dinner, recreation, and a Bible lesson, everyone at KidsNight will attend Advent worship in the Concordia Center to prepare for the One who saved us from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

EPIC!

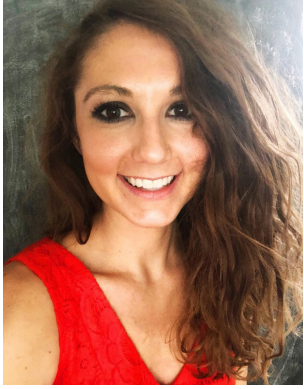
The next EPIC night for 4th and 5th graders will be on **Friday, November 22 from 6:00-8:00pm!** Register at CKhome.org/epic.



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD
JCRAWFORD@CKHOME.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



On **Sunday October 20th**, Concordia's Special Needs Ministry held its 3rd annual Trunk-or-Treat for Kids with Special Needs. Over 75 families attended this year! They played games, made crafts, took silly pictures and trunk-or-treated at over 25 trunks!

I want to extend a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers who loved on all the families and made this event such a success! It is so heart warming to see not only adults but youth as well return year after year as volunteers. We could not have done it without YOU!



DEAF MINISTRY

WWW.CKHOME.ORG/CKDEAF

Have you ever invited someone you didn't know very well to attend worship? I will admit, even if you do know them well, it can be intimidating. Now, did you know that Concordia is one of just five Lutheran churches that offer American Sign Language interpreted worship services in the greater St. Louis area? If you have the opportunity to invite someone who is deaf to attend worship at Concordia, it can be as easy and accessible as handing them a card.

To pick up our CK Deaf invitation cards, just stop by the front desk!



You're Invited

ASL interpreted
worship every
Sunday at 9:30am

Concordia Lutheran Church
505 S. Kirkwood, MO 63122
CKhome.org/Deaf



NIGHT TO SHINE

FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Concordia is proud to be an official host church for the Night to Shine on **Friday, February 7th, 2020**, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. The event will be hosted by an estimated 700 churches around the world simultaneously. We are so excited to be a part of this!

We are just three short months away from Night to Shine! Can you believe it? We can't!



Night to Shine preparations are rolling along. Volunteer teams are being assembled and some are even filling up. We still have nearly **200** open positions, though, so head on over to nighttoshinekirkwood.com/volunteer to sign up!

Our greatest need is for volunteers to join our Buddy Team. Each honored guest will be paired up with a buddy for the evening. The buddy assists their honored guest throughout the evening by providing assistance and companionship. The Buddy Team is also the volunteer team that provides you with the greatest chance of riding in a limo and dancing the night away with a new friend! Please consider joining this team!

Night to Shine is a complementary event for our honored guests and their parents or caregivers. It truly is their night to shine. Although we have again received a grant from the Tim Tebow Foundation to assist with the costs of hosting this incredible event, it is still not enough to cover all mandatory elements.

We are offering businesses the chance to sponsor different portions of our Night to Shine prom.

Full and partial sponsorships are available for:

- Red Carpet
- DJ
- Limo Rides
- Honored Guest Meals
- Parent/Caregiver Respite Room Meals
- Volunteer Meals
- Guest Favors
- Big Impact Decorations
- Karaoke Rooms
- And more....

Not a business but still want to donate? We will also need:

- Plates (black, blue, silver)
- Cups (black, blue, silver)
- Napkins (black, blue, silver)
- Cutlery (black, blue, silver)
- Bottles of water
- Balloons (black, blue, silver)
- Gluten-free desserts
- Wet wipes
- And more....

Please visit nighttoshinekirkwood.com/donate for more information!

WORSHIP ARTS

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



As we move toward the end-of-year holiday season, we'd like to highlight a few upcoming special worship opportunities.

ALL SAINT'S REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On **Sunday, November 3** at 11:45am, a special service of remembrance will be held in the Sanctuary following the late worship service. Pastor Meggers will lead the service of reflection and hope. An opportunity will be given, if you desire, to share a brief remembrance of your loved one.

THANKSGIVING

We'll celebrate Thanksgiving with worship services on **Wednesday, November 27** at 7:00pm and **Thursday, November 28** at 10:00am. Both services will be in the Sanctuary.

ADVENT WORSHIP

The season of Advent and the addition of midweek services doesn't begin until December, but we'd like to share some details in advance. Our midweek services will be on **Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18**. Our 11:00am services will continue in the Sanctuary as they have in the past, but our evening services will have a new format.

Evening Advent worship will take place from **6:45-7:15pm** in the Concordia Center this year. Our goal is to have worship be an intergenerational experience available to all of our regular Wednesday night ministries that involve our children, youth and adults. To that end, the services will not overlap other Wednesday activities but will instead be integrated into them. As we get closer, we'll share more details.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

We are assembling a special Festival Choir for the Christmas Eve 10pm Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary this year. If you are interested in participating, please let me know so we can get an accurate count of voices. This is a great opportunity for those of you who enjoy singing and would like to be part of a short-term choir. No audition is needed. For more information, please visit CKhome.org/FestivalChoir.



NEW MEMBERS

MARCY SCHOLL • MSCHOLL@CKHOME.ORG



Nick and Cara Barthelmass Lyla

Nick and Cara were born and raised in the Fenton area. They are high school sweethearts who met at Rockwood Summit High School and have been married for almost six years. Lyla joined their family last January, and adores her fur sister, Penny. They love to travel, especially to Table Rock Lake and Seacrest Beach, Florida. They also like to hike and spend time with family. Nick and his family own a small business, General Grant Car Wash and Detail Center in Webster Groves. Cara is a part time teacher at Kirkwood Early Childhood Center. They have fallen in love with Concordia because of the welcoming congregation and the various worship offerings available.

Chris and Sara Stephens Skyler, Alexander, Selby, John Austin

Chris and Sara live in Kirkwood and have four boys. Chris works at Victory Steel and Sara is a stay-at-home mom. Skyler is in the third grade; twins-Alexander and Selby are in the first grade. They all attend Robinson Elementary. Austin John goes to Eliot Chapel. They play a lot of soccer and are always on the go.



Bill and Cathy Thompson

Bill and Cathy have lived in St. Louis for 22 years and reside in the Mehlville/Oakville community. They own the UPS store on Telegraph Road. Their daughter, Melanie, is a recent graduate of Missouri State University and is working for Holiday Inn in Springfield. When not working at the store, Cathy enjoys scrapbooking, reading and working out with her friends. Bill enjoys music, golf and runs marathons.

Natalie Weinhold

Natalie was born and raised in St. Charles, MO. She graduated from Concordia University Chicago in 2017 and played women's soccer all four years. Sports have always been a huge part of her life, and she now coaches volleyball, basketball, and soccer. Natalie is currently teaching second grade at Christ Community and is loving every second of it, saying "everyone is so supportive and caring in the CCLS community". In her free time, she enjoys going on adventures with her boyfriend Bradley, spending time with her family, and spending time with all of her dogs.



CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL

CKHOME.ORG/TURKEYBLESSING

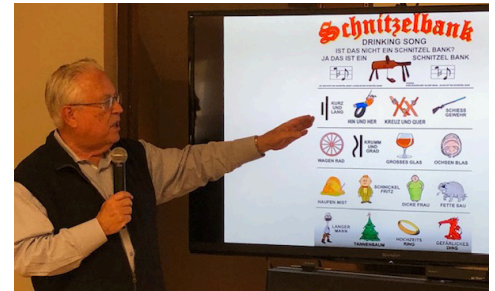
The Concordia Fighting Camels Church League basketball team is for any high school boy who likes playing basketball or wants to learn how to play. All skill levels and grades are welcome! The first practice is on **Thursday, November 7 from 7:30-9:00pm**. The season ends in February, just in time for school spring sports! Hope to see you there! Contact Nathan Dehn at ndehn@ckhome.org for more information!

- Practice: Every Thursday from 7:30-9:00pm
- Games: take place after church on Sundays
- Cost: \$70

LUNCH AND LEARN

CKHOME.ORG/OLDERADULTS

The next Lunch and Learn will be on **Thursday, November 21 at 11:30am**. This will be a veteran themed event, as we welcome our presenters Major Paula Wilson US Army (Ret), and Kitty Bickford, who served 10 years married to a career military person. We will have a sign-up for soup, chili, bread or dessert to bring and share. All are welcome! Please RSVP by signing up at the table in the Center Commons or calling Patty Wilson at 314-822-7772 x121.



On October 3, we celebrated couples who have been married for 50+ years. It was such a special day!

On October 17, we had so much fun at our Oktoberfest Lunch and Learn complete with sausages and sauerkraut, beer and Schnitzelbank!



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
505 S. KIRKWOOD ROAD
KIRKWOOD, MO 63122
WWW.CKHOME.ORG