



ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP • CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE • NIGHT TO SHINE

PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR MEGGERS • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG



On the heels of our three week Sermon Series “What’s in a Name” comes December, and with December comes Advent and Christmas. There is so much about this season that makes it what it is.

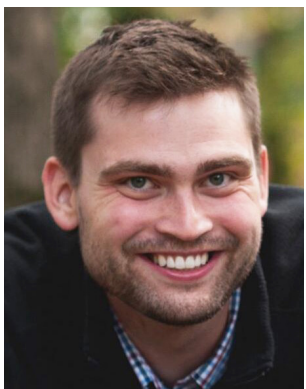
- The early onset of darkness
- The dropping temperatures that invite us to seek warmth
- The lights strung inside and out to contrast and counteract the dark
- The opportunities for Advent Wednesday Worship focused on Hope, Peace and Joy. They lead us to the Love that comes down at Christmas
- The music and hymnody of Advent and Christmas
- Anticipation

Above all there is Jesus (the name that means “He Saves”). There is Immanuel (the name that means “God with Us”). There is the JOY of God’s gift to us in His Son, The Word who Became Flesh.

Christmas is the true intergenerational JOY-bringing time of the church year. Our children look forward to it. Our families cherish it. Our older adults celebrate it. In fact, they enjoy a special annual Christmas Celebration. This year it will be on Tuesday, December 10 and will be the first time we get to hold this JOYous event in our new Community Room.

Advent Wednesdays, Advent Sundays, Christmas Eve Services, Christmas Day; Jesus is coming! Let’s prepare and celebrate together.

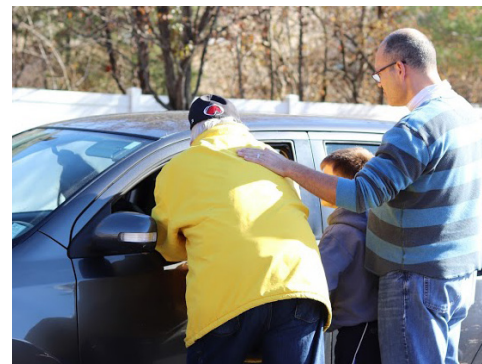
PASTOR SCHULTZ • JSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG



During December, Christians set aside a special time to celebrate Advent. This word means “the arriving of Jesus”, and for our church, it is a time when we focus on the story leading up to Christmas. To help celebrate this season, we will have Wednesday morning and evening worship services on **December 4, 11, and 18**.

This year, in addition to our morning **11:00am** Advent services, we are bolstering our evening Advent services by including both Kids Night and Confirmation students in attendance. Both Kids Night and Confirmation will begin and end at their regular times.

Evening Advent services will take place from **6:45-7:15pm**. Everyone is invited to attend the services and Advent Dinner (RSVP at CKhome.org/advent). Dinner is from **6:00-6:35pm**. The food will be served in the Community Room (the old preschool rooms). We encourage you to attend worship with us as we look ahead to the birth of our Savior!

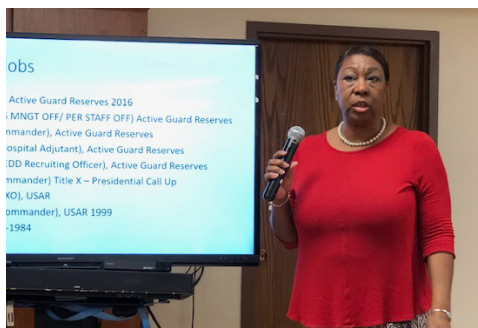


ADULTS

PASTOR MEGGERS • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

The annual Christmas gathering will be held at Concordia on **Tuesday, December 10 at 11:30am**. Our theme is Christ as our "Prince of Peace". We will have warm fellowship, music and entertainment. A delicious meal will be catered by Hawthorne Inn at the cost of \$15 per person. Pork tenderloin with blackberry sauce, cavitappi and cheese, asparagus, salad and bread will be served. Please bring a dozen cookies to share. Please RSVP by **Monday, December 2** to Patty Wilson at **314.822.7772x121** or **pwilson@ckhome.org** or sign up at the registration table at Concordia in the Center Commons. Join us!



GIVING SPOTLIGHT

"Season of Sharing" Lutheran Family and Children's Services (LFCS) of Missouri

We are helping to collect gift cards for LFCS clients across Missouri. Purchase a gift card worth \$10-\$50 from your favorite retailer (Target, Walmart, Amazon), or choose an ornament tag with a specific gift card request from a child. Bring these gift cards to Concordia's Giving Center by **Thursday, December 5**.

"Cookies for the Homebound"

We will be bringing cookies again this year to older adults of Concordia and our neighboring communities. Please bring two dozen cookies in a container to the Giving Center by **Sunday, December 8**. Help us share the joy of Christ this Christmas with them!

"Angel Tree"

Mission Gate Prison Ministry will have a Christmas party for children whose parents are inmates. There are requests for gifts written on the angel tags on the tree. Please share the love of Christ with them. Take a tag from the tree, purchase the gift, and return the wrapped gift with the tag by **Wednesday, December 11** to Concordia.

Please return the gift cards, cookies, and/or wrapped gifts with tags to the Concordia Center Giving Center by their due date. Your generosity and kindness are "touching people with Jesus Christ for healing and service."

"...We should love one another." 1 John 3:11

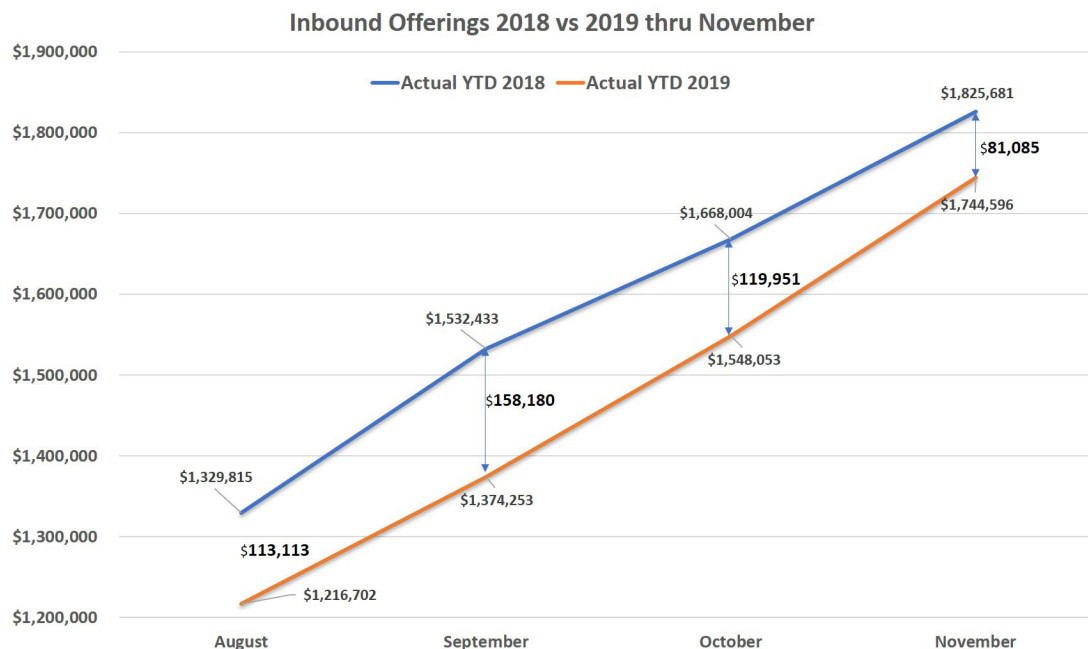
FINANCE MATTERS

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



INBOUND OFFERINGS UPDATE

November offerings were ahead of expectations, helping us to narrow the offering gap between 2018 and 2019. We are still **down 4%** over 2018 but that is much improved from the 10% we were down a couple month ago. Thank you, Concordia!



YEAR END GIVING

December is always a big month for offerings. Typically, we receive **17-19%** of our annual offerings in December. Every year, our ability to meet our annual expenses requires a strong December. Over the month we will communicate frequently what our estimate offerings need is in December to break even. In addition, you will receive contribution statements via email so you can better plan your year-end giving. Please watch for more information in the coming weeks!

BEST TAX-SAVING WAYS TO GIVE

Donate Stock

The stock market is at an all-time high! Did you know that if you donate appreciated stock, you will have no capital gains tax to pay? In addition, your tax deductible contribution equals the market value of the stock on the date of the gift. This is a great way to maximize your gifts to Concordia and save you money at the same time. Concordia has an easy process to donate stock.

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 avoid paying income taxes on the amount you donate.

If interested in either of these donation methods, contact Kristin Anderson at kanderson@ckhome.org.

CALL PROCESS

CALLPROCESS@CKHOME.ORG • CKHOME.ORG/CALLPROCESS



Thanks to all who completed the congregational assessment and shared insightful feedback about the current state of Concordia – what is working well, what can be improved or enhanced as well as highlighting the desired characteristics, responsibilities and leadership styles of a new Sr. Pastor.

The results of this survey will help in three critical areas: (1) enabling the call committee to craft the pastoral job description to publish and begin the nomination process early next year, (2) allowing current pastors and staff to use the information to shape the ministry strategy of Concordia in 2020 and beyond and (3) helping potential candidates learn about Concordia along with the aspirational characteristics of the next Sr. Pastor.

Below is a summary of the important themes that surfaced from the collective responses of the congregation.

1. WHAT IS WORKING WELL AT CONCORDIA

- Variety of worship services and times offered
- High quality of the worship music experience
- Congregation is warm and welcoming
- Preaching by current pastors is engaging, practical and tied to Scripture
- Abundance of opportunities to serve
- Strong presence in the community through events like Turkey Blessings and Night to Shine along with the association with CCLS
- Lay leadership, specifically as it relates to the kid's ministry and youth program

2. AREAS TO STRENGTHEN CONCORDIA MOVING INTO THE NEXT STAGE OF MINISTRY

- A more robust Sunday adult Bible study offering and communication of dates/times/leaders
- Additional Bible study offerings outside of core Monday–Friday working hours
- More consistent women's and men's ministry outside of large, cornerstone events
- Stronger engagement opportunities within the following demographics: post-college singles, younger couples w/o children, empty-nesters

3. DESIRED CHARACTERISTICS, RESPONSIBILITIES & LEADERSHIP STYLES OF OUR NEW SR. PASTOR

- Top desired focus task areas: driving future vision and leadership, spiritual formation and discipleship, administration and staff management
- Top desired personality characteristics: outgoing/friendly, confident, transparent, dedicated, optimistic
- A leadership style that is influencing, inspiring, people-oriented and persuasive
- An equipper and developer as opposed to leading from the top down (authoritative)
- A preaching style that is personal, engaging and incorporates personal narratives and real-life scenarios that relate back to Scripture

SENIOR YOUTH

NATHAN DEHN • YOUTH DIRECTOR • NDEHN@CKHOME.ORG



Holiday season is in full swing and life is getting a little hectic, but life can be chaotic and crazy no matter what holiday is approaching. As parents, it's easy to put church, youth group and family devotions on the back burner when faced with a busy schedule. I'd like to share four reasons why it's important for your child to consistently stay engaged with youth group no matter what holiday is coming up.

TEENAGERS NEED MENTORS AND ROLE MODELS

As parents, you're called to be the primary spiritual mentor, of your son or daughter. However, that does not mean they should not have other adults in their lives who influence and nurture their faith.

TEENAGERS NEED COMMUNITY

High school's a hard and difficult four years. Bullying, slander, gossiping, and judging is all too common in the hallways and classrooms, even in Christian schools. During adolescence, teens look for identity and purpose for their lives. Youth group provides a place for your son or daughter to find their identity in Christ, instead of the way others perceive them. It is equally essential for your teen to have a safe and inviting place where they can escape the pressures and pain that come with life.

TEENAGERS NEED THEOLOGY

In a connected and global world, your son or daughter is exposed to countless ways of thinking, world-views, and cultures, each one vying for influence on how your teenager talks, acts, behaves, and believes. Youth group is a place for your teen to hear God's purpose for them. It's vital for teens to develop a Christian world-view, so they can go out and share God's love with others.

TEENAGERS NEED A SAFE PLACE TO CONFIDE

We all make mistakes and bad choices. Adolescents who are still learning about life and have a developing frontal cortex make no shortage of mistakes. Your son or daughter needs a place to know they are loved by God and forgiven for ANYTHING they think, say or do. Youth group is a time for them to reflect on their decisions, repent and ask for forgiveness, and gain absolution and assurance that their sins are forgiven.

The holiday season is here and families are busy. The busyness of life does not change when the calendar says January 1, 2020. But it is important for your teenager to come to Super Sunday's, small group gatherings, and servant events. If you want your son or daughter to get involved, please email me at ndehn@CKhome.org or go to our website at CKhome.org/hsyouth to learn more.



KIDSMIN

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



We focus this month on the humble means by which our Savior, Jesus, came into the world. The people had waited for the Savior; we, too, wait ... for the same Lord Jesus, who came into the world as a baby, to come again in great glory on the Last Day.

KIDSMIN SUNDAY

We will begin December wrapping up what we have been learning from the Old Testament. On **Sunday, December 22** we hear the story of Jesus' Birth. There will be no KidsMin on **Sunday, December 29**, but join us again as we begin the new year hearing about the Wise Men worshipping Jesus.

WEDNESDAY'S IN ADVENT

All are invited to join us in Advent worship on **Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 from 6:45-7:15!** On **Wednesday, December 11**, we invite kids in preschool and kindergarten to come forward at the beginning of the service to sing "This Little Gospel Light of Mine" as we have learned it on Sunday morning during KidsMin.

KIDS NIGHT

Grades 1-5, join us on Wednesdays beginning **January 8, from 5:30-7:15pm**, for Concordia Kids Night. This experience for children is designed to strengthen their relationship with God and with each other. Register for the Spring semester at CKhome.org/KidsNight.

EPIC!

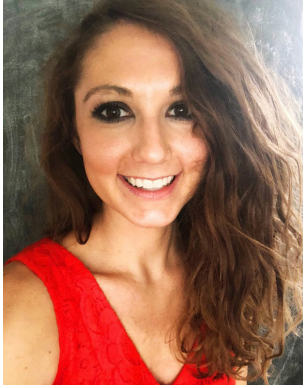
The next EPIC night for 4th and 5th graders will be on **Friday, January 31 from 6:00-8:00pm!** Register at CKhome.org/epic.



SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD
JCRAWFORD@CKHOME.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



The excitement is building as our Special Needs Ministry Sensory Room dream is quickly becoming a reality here at Concordia!

For the past couple of months, the space once used as the nursery has been transitioning to a space better suited to meeting the needs of children and youth with sensory sensitivities. Half the room will, in fact, be a Multi-Sensory Environment.

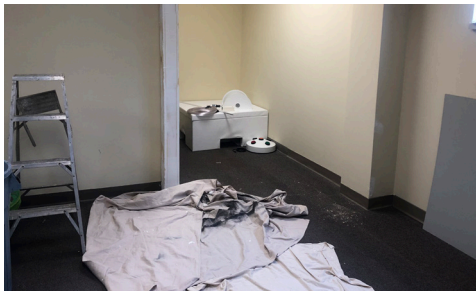
A variety of places, from airports to football stadiums, have been installing their own Multi-Sensory Environments. This may cause you to wonder why we would even need a Multi-Sensory Environment, also known as our Sensory Room, at Concordia.

All Sensory Rooms are spaces designed to help individuals with sensory issues and sensitivities regulate their brain's negative reactions to external stimuli. Children and youth who require this additional sensory input from a Sensory Room are then calm and focused and ready to continue on with their intended activities. Here at Concordia, this means our children and youth with special needs are ready to learn about God!

Now, thanks to this dedicated space, families who once would have been unable to even attempt coming to worship because the trip alone would have been too much for their child with sensory needs can now confidently attend knowing their child will be able to decompress and regulate their senses once they are here.

We have been working with a non-profit organization called The Synapsory to make this dream a reality. Their mission is to help churches reach these families once deemed unreachable through the use of Sensory Rooms.

I encourage you to stop by and take a look as we make progress toward better meeting the physical and spiritual needs of everyone at Concordia!



NIGHT TO SHINE

FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

And just like that, our guest registration and wait-list is full and closed!

Concordia is so proud and excited to welcome over **130** honored guests and their families to Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, on **Friday, February 7, 2020**. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and over.

Every guest at our Night to Shine enters this complimentary event with a warm welcome from a friendly crowd. Once inside, guests receive the royal treatment, including limousine rides, a red carpet with paparazzi, professional photography, hair and makeup stations, corsages and boutonnieres, shoe shines, a catered dinner, a karaoke room, a respite room for parents and caretakers, and, of course, a dance floor ... all leading up to the moment when each guest is crowned a king or queen of the prom.

This February, Night to Shine will celebrate its sixth anniversary! This past year, on one night, **655** churches from around the world came together to host Night to Shine for approximately **100,000** honored guests through the support of **200,000** volunteers!

If you would like to partner with us and be part of this worldwide movement, go to www.nighttoshinekirkwood.com/volunteer to see the complete list of open volunteer positions and to sign up. We still have over **100** volunteer positions available!

If it isn't already, I just know it will become your favorite night of the year!



WORSHIP ARTS

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



Christmas music and decorations started over a month ago, so hopefully you aren't worn out by the time we actually celebrate Christ's birth at the end of this month. In the church, we celebrate the season of Advent that anticipates the coming of Christ and culminates in the Christmas celebration. That "anticipation" plays out in a couple of ways: We look at the scriptures that foretell the first coming of the Messiah, Jesus' birth, and we also consider the second coming of Christ, when all of creation will be made new. Songs like "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" are still relevant even today as we look with hope towards a day when this broken world will be restored.

This holiday season brings several special worship opportunities and schedule adjustments, so please refer to our website or weekly FrontPage emails to stay informed as you make plans.

ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP

This year's Advent midweek services are thematically based on the candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle represents a different word: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. If you've never done it before, swing by Hobby Lobby and pick up a wreath and candles for your dinner table. It's a cool way to mark the time leading up to Christmas and consider as a family what each candle symbolizes.

This year, we will feature two unique Advent worship opportunities. Our **11:00am** services will be held in the Sanctuary and feature a traditional Matins liturgy. Our evening services will be in the Concordia Center from **6:45-7:15pm**. We will have dinner at **6:00pm** for anyone who wants to come, just RSVP at CKhome.org/advent. The evening service will be rolled into our Wednesday evening Kids Ministry and small group Bible studies. Through music, video, teaching, and participation activities, we hope to create an intergenerational worship opportunity.

LHSS MUSIC

We are excited to host musical groups from Lutheran High School South this December! Be sure to attend the following events:

Saturday, December 14th at 7:00pm - Concert featuring the Wind Symphony, Concert Band and Jazz Band

Sunday, December 15th at 9:30am - The Wind Symphony will lead the music for worship

Sunday, December 15th at 7:00pm - Concert featuring the LHSS Choirs

DECEMBER 15 WORSHIP

Please note the following schedule for worship on this morning: Regular **8:15am, 9:30am** and **10:45am** worship times. The LHSS Wind Symphony will play at the **9:30am** Concordia Center service. In order to ease movement between services, the **10:45am** service will meet in the Sanctuary instead of the Concordia Center.

CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight services at **3:00pm, 5:00pm and 7:00pm**, in the Concordia Center. This year we will offer a Service of Lessons and Carols at **10:00pm** in the Sanctuary.

Wednesday, December 25, 10:00am: Christmas Day worship in the Sanctuary.

Our normal worship schedule will resume the weekend of **December 28-29**.

Tuesday, December 31: New Year's Eve worship at **7:00pm** in the Sanctuary.

NEW MEMBERS

MARCY SCHOLL • MSCHOLL@CKHOME.ORG



Andrew and Elizabeth Castiaux Ryan

Andrew and Elizabeth have been married for three and a half years and have a 16-month-old son named Ryan. Andrew works at CSI Leasing, INC as a software engineer. He likes spending time with his family and is an avid gamer. Elizabeth is a stay-at-home mom. She likes working outside in the gardens. She is also a gamer, avid reader, and amateur photographer. They are very excited to be a part of the Concordia Kirkwood community.

Brian Lunt

Brian is a self-employed serial entrepreneur and business consultant. He has three children. Jack is in the fourth grade and loves baseball. Henry is in the first grade and enjoys collecting stuff. Jack and Henry attend Robinson Elementary. Grace is almost two and is full of joy



Rick and Jenny Meers Aubrey, Charles

Rick and Jenny have two children. Aubrey is in the second grade and Charles is in kindergarten. Rick works in Des Peres as a salesman. Jenny teaches high school English at the Four Rivers Career Center. They enjoy sports, traveling, reading, theatre and exploring nature. They look forward to getting involved at Concordia by attending worship each week and serving the community.

Jimmy and Katie Terbrock Connor

Jimmy and Katie have one child. Connor is in the eighth grade at CCLS. Katie is an elementary school teacher and Jimmy is a commercial construction superintendent. The family loves music, sports, being outdoors and God. They are glad to be joining the welcoming community at Concordia.



Mike Weston and Allison Hederman Riley, Wyatt

Mike and Allison are a family of four or eight, if you include the animals. Mike has been a member of Concordia since 2015. He is a USMC veteran and now owns a fitness and nutrition company. Allison is new to the Concordia family. She is a project manager at Gateway Blend. Both Mike and Allison are competitive bodybuilders. Their daughter Riley is in first grade at CCLS. Their son Wyatt is three and will begin CCLS next fall. They enjoy vacationing, Cardinal baseball and donuts.

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 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.

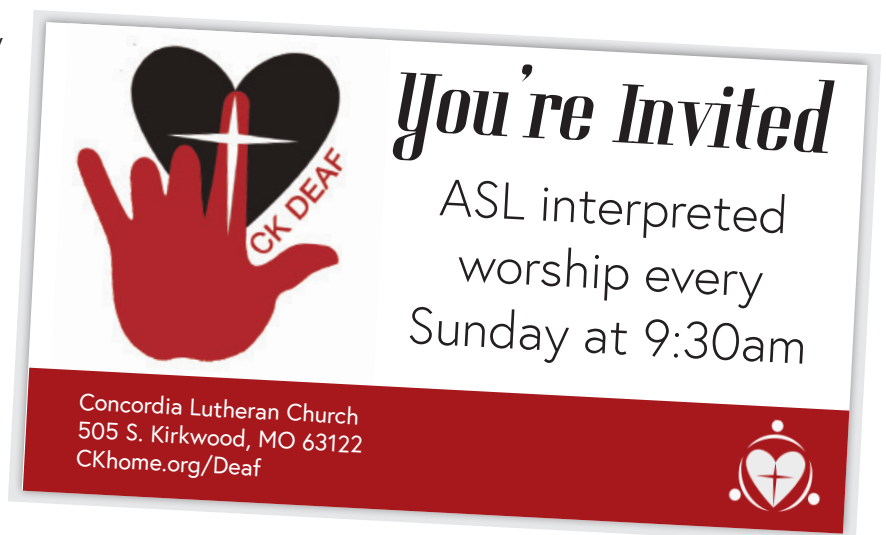
Email Debbie Davis at ddavis@CKhome.org to register for an upcoming seminar.

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!



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

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