



CONCORDIA

Connection

JANUARY 2020



NIGHT TO SHINE • CALL PROCESS UPDATE • CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMER CAMP DATES

PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR SCHULTZ • JSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG



'Tis the season. As we begin this new year, I am sure you have your own unique resolutions, which might include workout regiments, spending habits, reading plans and the like. These are good things as we seek to improve ourselves and others around us.

If you haven't already, I would like to suggest another resolution. Consider this season an opportunity to deepen your Christianity through study of the Scriptures. Perhaps this is alone in meditation, with your family, at church, or with friends.

While there are many options to grow in the Word, I would like to highlight two new offerings we have through Concordia. First, on Sunday mornings, we are adding a Bible study at **9:30am** led by Pastor Matt Hoehner in the Community Room. Using the video series from "The Bible Project", the class will learn about a book of the Bible each week. Through small group discussion, the group will apply God's Word to the world around

them. Second, we will also be implementing Life Group Bible Studies early in the new year. These are small groups of Christians in similar life stages gathered together to discuss and apply God's Word. You will hear more information about Life Groups early in 2020.

No matter what your resolutions are, thank you for your continued commitment to the Christian Church as we all seek to further God's kingdom. Strive to be the best Christian you can. Our God is faithful, and you are loved by Him.

NEW! SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Beginning **Sunday, January 5**, Pastor Matt Hoehner will teach a Bible study at **9:30am** on Sunday mornings in the Community Room using the video series from "The Bible Project". **All are welcome!**

the **BIBLE**
PROJECT

NIGHT TO SHINE FUNDRAISER

WWW.NIGHTTOSHINEKIRKWOOD.COM

Concordia invites you to come out for an evening of great food and great music at 612 Kitchen & Cocktails on **Friday, January 17 from 7:00-11:00pm**. We'll be raising money for Night to Shine, our upcoming prom for individuals with special needs. Musical entertainment will be provided by Rob Boyle, Brendan Knorp, Katie Killian and Krista Hartmann. Bring your friends and family by and help us fill the donation jar so we can ensure events like this are well-funded.

Join us on Friday, January 17th from 7-11pm at 612 Kitchen and Cocktails in Kirkwood, Missouri for an evening of music featuring Katie Killian & Brendan Knorp along with Rob Boyle. Special guest, Krista Hartmann.

NIGHT to Shine
SPONSORED BY THE TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION

Katie Killian & Brendan Knorp

Please bring a cash donation for the tip jar...all proceeds will support Night to Shine hosted by Concordia Lutheran Church.

Rob Boyle

PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR MEGGERS • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG



Definition: "Face-palm" - Firmly applied slap of one's forehead using the open palm of one's own hand, either right or left. Generally applied in a moment of utter disbelief.

Examples: Best free-throw shooter on team air balls both attempts from the line (face-palm).

Child cracks screen of brand new iPhone (face-palm).

Can't find glasses. Realize they are on top of head (face-palm accompanied by falling and now broken glasses. Face-palm part deux).

Realization: Some years ago, I realized that any time was a good time to pray with another, even if it is on the phone (face-palm). This realization was more evident than ever in the days preceding Christmas: praying with members for "minor" surgeries, hallway impromptu prayer, prayer during a "random" (I don't really believe in random encounters) conversation while having a cup of coffee. I even got an invitation through digital media to sign up to be

part of a continuous chain of prayer for a particular need.

Invitation: Any time is a great time to pray! (Face-palm). We invited you to prayerfully consider generously contributing to Concordia in order to meet our mission and ministry obligations for 2019. As of this writing, I can't tell you how well we did.

But (face-palm) I can ask you to pray with me. Here's the idea. Christmas doesn't end on December 31. Five days of the Twelve Days of Christmas are the first five days of January (January 6 is called Epiphany). As we get ready for a January and February sermon series focused on Generosity, would you join me in a 5 day prayer commitment?

You can pray alone.

You can pray by phone.

You can pray by text.

Maybe email is next. (Love Dr. Seuss).

Petition: Thank God for the blessings He has given Concordia. Ask God to bless all of our ministries, especially our new Bible studies and the cultivation of Life-groups. Ask God to give us Holy Spirit-inspired generous hearts. Praise God for our identity as His children.

I am sure there will be many other examples I will think of once this letter goes to print (face-palm). But I am sure you will make up for those deficiencies with your own prayers, petitions and thanksgivings.

ADULTS

It's time to start pulling out your favorite soup recipes for our January "Lunch and Serve". You are invited to bring soups, breads, desserts and/or Bingo prizes for the Rose Hill House "Lunch and Serve" on **Tuesday, January 14**. Please bring your items to Rose Hill by **11:30am**. We will join with the residents over lunch at noon and continue the fellowship playing Bingo too! A sign-up sheet is available in the Center Commons, or contact Patty at **822.7772 x121** or **pwilson@ckhome.org**.

Also, mark you calendars for the annual Health and Resource Fair on **Sunday, February 9th from 9:00-11:00am** here at Concordia. It is sponsored by Concordia's Health Ministry Action Team. Representatives from the congregation and the community will provide information on health resources and ways for you to serve others. There will also be a blood drive in memory of Benjamin "Pounder" Schrieber on this day.

FINANCE MATTERS

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



CONCORDIA OUTBOUND MINISTRIES

Concordia Outbound Ministries (COM), funded entirely through designated offerings from you (the second line on your envelope), supported many projects, missions and agencies during 2019. Thank you for all the support we were able to provide to the following initiatives:

2019 OUTBOUND BLESSINGS

Agency Partners – Supporting those Lutheran Agencies who provide spiritual, emotional, or physical care to those within our community.

Christ Community International (Uganda)	\$10,000	Shepherd Center of Webster/Kirkwood	\$ 3,000
Christian Friends of New Americans	\$12,500	Family Shield	\$ 2,250
Feed My People	\$ 5,420	Lutheran Senior Services	\$ 1,500
Lutheran Assoc of Special Education	\$ 5,000	Gideons	\$ 1,000
Grace Place	\$ 5,000	Sub Total	\$45,670

Hunger Support (Turkey Blessings) – Another successful Turkey Blessing as the men of this congregation gave away 1000 turkey dinners and offered up 1000 prayers. **Total funded: \$25,500**

Short-Term Missions & Missionary Support – This year, the bulk of this support paid for our 13 leaders at the National Youth Gathering as well as members on individual mission trips. **Total Funded: \$19,055**

Christian Education – Supporting Lutheran education for elementary, high school and seminary students. In 2019, this aid supported ethnic immigrants at CFNA attending an area Lutheran School, and Chris Hill and Vincent Kam at Concordia Seminary. **Total Funded: \$15,000**

LCMS at Large – Supporting our denomination at large primarily through the Missouri District. **Total Funded: \$2,542**

Human Care Individual Assistance – Supporting those both inside and outside our congregation who need some immediate financial support for basic needs. **Total Funded: \$560**



DETERMINING FUNDING

To receive funding from COM, organizations or individuals apply each year. The requests are studied and funding is determined by the Concordia Outbound Ministries Committee, who meets 2-3 times per year. The COM Committee several years ago developed Guiding Principles for how we approve requests. Those include:

- We primarily only support organizations/individuals who carry out their mission in the name of Jesus Christ.
- We primarily support organizations where we also serve as a congregation – hands and feet follow our dollars.
- We prefer to support organizations rather than individuals, with some exceptions (crisis care and short-term missions).
- Commitments are made between one and three years. They are renewable but never considered to be unending.
- We should not be the critical/primary funding source for any organization/individual.
- We prefer to support fewer organizations with large dollar amounts where the impact can be more meaningful and the story more impactful.
- A mutually accountable relationship should exist between support organizations/individuals and Concordia (e.g., how support impacted lives, hands and feet, need to be able to tell the story, etc.).
- We understand the organization to be sound financially with a future.

Thank you to all who supported Concordia Outbound Ministries in 2019. We look forward to another blessed year in 2020.

WORSHIP ARTS

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



What a wonderful few weeks of worship we experienced at Concordia this past month! The messages our pastors shared along with the musical leadership of so many servant-hearted people added to the joy of the season. It was also wonderful to see so many people of all ages gathered together for our Midweek Advent Services in December. We're looking to do something similar in a couple of months when we enter the season of Lent.

A special "thank you" to...

- Matt Janssen and the LHSS Wind Symphony for blessing us in worship once again this year
- The many singers and instrumentalists who contributed their time and talents to our special Christmas services
- Our Tech Team, Ushers, Greeters, Altar Guild, and facilities team for all their efforts in making worship a hospitable and meaningful experience

The new year is a great time to start up something new. We are always looking to connect new people to our worship and technology teams. If you are interested in signing in a choir, playing an instrument, or helping with audio and video for worship, please let me know and I'd be happy to give you more information.

Our Sanctuary Choir will start up again on **Wednesday, January 8 at 7:00pm**. All are welcome!

CALL PROCESS

KEITH FATZINGER • CALL COMMITTEE CHAIR • CALLPROCESS@CKHOME.ORG



The Call Committee spent the month of December analyzing the results of the congregational assessment in order to create the Pastor Profile that will be used to (a) solicit nominations for potential candidates and (b) help potential candidates learn about Concordia along with the aspirational characteristics of the next Sr. Pastor. As the nomination process will be opening up in the very near future, we would ask that you read through this profile to understand what Concordia is seeking in a new leader and pray for discernment and wisdom as names are submitted as potential candidates to shepherd our congregation. Look for further communications in January regarding the timing and logistics of the nomination process.

SENIOR PASTOR JOB DESCRIPTION CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Purpose

To serve the congregation by providing primary leadership to the ministry of approximately 2,500 Concordia members. This pastor serves as a spiritual leader, visionary and administrator while also empowering, training and equipping other staff and lay leaders toward faith development and service to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

Touching People with Jesus Christ for Healing and for Service.

Values

We live out our mission through these values:

- *Be Still*: Life is hectic; church is to be a place to find peace
- *Be One*: Life is fragmented; Concordia is a place to get reconnected—to God and to others
- *Be Faithful*: Life is scattered; church is a place to get equipped for putting your faith into action wherever you find yourself

Desired Characteristics

- **Visionary Leader**: Working within the guidelines of Policy Governance, provide spiritual and visionary leadership that allows Concordia to achieve its mission and core values: Be Still, Be One, Be Faithful.
- **Ministry Strategist**: Provide strategic leadership to the church values and ministry initiatives, especially as they relate to developing spiritual leaders and disciples.
- **Ministry Overseer**: Ensure all aspects of worship, education, business administration and pastoral care are implemented effectively by staff and lay leaders throughout the church, and help address challenges that may impede objectives.

- **Stewardship Advocate:** Promote, teach and encourage intentional, sacrificial and joyful stewardship practices to members within the church.
- **Primary Preacher:** Be personal, relational and engaging in Scripture based Law and Gospel-focused sermons while also communicating practical Biblical principles with clear applications to life.
- **Staff Leader:** Maintain a strong, unified, healthy, aligned, strategic and results-oriented staff team to lead the ministries of Concordia. Be intentional and encouraging about self-care and mutual care of staff and their families.
- **Core Value Promoter:** Promote and exemplify the Staff Core Values and ensure they are permeated throughout the congregation.
- **Leader Developer:** Actively participate in the development of current and future leaders of Concordia in line with Ephesians 4:11-12 and ensure there is an intentional strategy for leadership at all levels.
- **Equipper:** Develop, empower and equip staff and lay volunteers with needed resources to accomplish their ministries, whether financial, strategic or leadership.
- **Mission Advocate:** Demonstrate a passion for those outside Concordia by encouraging active involvement outside our walls and influencing others with Christ's love.
- **Christian Education Partner:** Maintain and promote Concordia's commitment to Christian education, including the partnerships with Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) and the Lutheran High School Association.
- **Personal Developer:** Be intentional about pursuing a personal development plan as it relates to you, your family and the staff you lead. This includes seeking pastoral mentorship beyond the congregation.
- **LCMS Partnership:** Maintain partnering relationship with the leadership and membership of the LCMS.

Desired Qualifications

- A member in good standing on the clergy roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- Graduate of one of the Synod's seminaries with a Master of Divinity or higher degree.
- Parish ministry experience preferably including a large church with multiple staff.
- Demonstrates a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Committed to personal growth, servant leadership, healthy relationships, and a healthy culture within the staff and Church Council.
- Team player with excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Outgoing and friendly, confident and transparent/down-to-earth.
- Demonstrates a passion for evangelism, discipleship and mission.
- Progressive and result-oriented, a pioneer and achiever who is comfortable leading.
- Great influencer; inspiring, enthusiastic, sociable, people-oriented, trusting, poised, influential, convincing and persuasive.
- Experience and appreciation for multiple styles of worship.

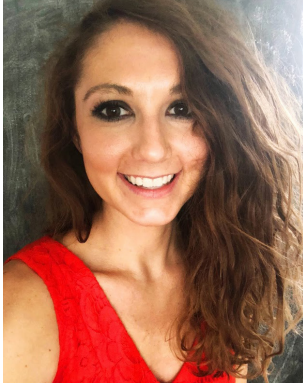
Accountability

- The Senior Pastor is accountable to the Congregational Assembly through the Church Council.
- Concordia follows a Policy-Based Governance Mode.

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD
JCRAWFORD@CKHOME.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



*Our church doesn't have enough volunteers for that.
Our church doesn't have enough space for that.
Our church doesn't have enough funding for that.
Our church just doesn't do that.*

What each of these phrases really means:
Your child with special needs is not welcome.
Your family with special needs is not welcome.

The above phrases are unfortunately not hypothetical but real examples that individuals and families have shared with me regarding their experiences at different churches in our area.

Nearly two thousand years ago, the Son of God walked on this earth as a man and gave us very clear instructions on inclusion through his perfect words and actions. Love everyone. Make disciples of all nations. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, yet all are equally deserving of God's grace and love and mercy.

It may seem nearly incomprehensible that churches today are still turning families away because they have children with special needs, but this is the reality that many families face in their own church homes. In fact, nearly 50% of special needs parents said they refrained from participating in a religious activity because their child was not included or welcome.

I am so very thankful that my own church home, Concordia, welcomes families with special needs with open arms and as equal members of the body of Christ. I am so very thankful.

SENSORY ROOM OPEN HOUSE

Please join us on **Sunday, February 9 from 9:00-11:00am** for an open house of our new Sensory Room! Come see firsthand how Concordia has moved beyond sensory-friendly, beyond sensory-inclusive and all the way to sensory-regulating. Now we can confidently welcome and serve new families who would not have been able to previously attend church due to the high sensory needs of their children or youth with special needs.

This would not have been possible without the financial grant and guidance from The Synapsory.



NIGHT TO SHINE

FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Concordia is proud to host Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, on **Friday, February 7**. Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs ages 14 and over.

It's almost time! We are just one month away from Night to Shine!

That means in one month we will have the honor of welcoming over **130** Guests and their families from the St. Louis-area and beyond. So exciting!

I am beyond thankful for the hundreds (yes, hundreds) of you who have already signed up to volunteer for our second Night to Shine!

BUDDIES

We still have **100** openings on our Buddy Team. Each Guest at Night to Shine is paired up with a Buddy to assist them throughout the evening. It is what makes Night to Shine a completely accessible event for people with special needs. Please consider volunteering for this high-impact team!

BRIEF VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

All volunteers must register online at www.nighttoshinekirkwood.com. We will not be able to accept walk-in volunteers at Night to Shine. We will be serving a very vulnerable population. If someone arrives at Volunteer Check-In the night of the event who has not officially registered and, as a result, has not gone through the background check process, we will have to turn them away.

Every volunteer must attend one training event. We will provide you with two training dates to choose from: **Saturday, February 1 at 10:00am OR Monday, February 3rd at 6:30pm.**

SPECIAL MESSAGE CARDS

Each Honored Guest that attends Night to Shine will receive a Special Message Card in their favor bag. The Special Message Card is just another way to show our Honored Guests how special and valuable they are to God and Concordia.

This Special Message can be a favorite Bible verse or just a sentence or two telling our Guests how thankful we are that they attended our Night to Shine.

If you would like to write a Special Message to our Honored Guests, please stop by the Spotlight Table and write an encouraging note or two!

GIVING CENTER

Stop by the Giving Center this month in the Concordia Center Commons if you are interested in donating items such as plates, napkins or balloons to our Night to Shine. Thank you!



KIDSMIN

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



Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." ~ Matthew 13-14

Remember when you were younger and you couldn't cross the street by yourself? When you came to a street to cross, you automatically reached up and held your parent's hand. You trusted your parent to keep you safe.

Just as children trust their parents to keep them safe, we can trust in Jesus. Jesus wants us to have that kind of faith in Him! He wants everyone—young children, big kids, teenagers, even adults—to have faith like a child. Jesus wants to be with children, and He wants older people to trust Him the way kids do!

KIDSMIN SUNDAY

For all kids three years old through 5th grade! Kids will KNOW their faith, GROW their faith, and SHARE their faith. Join us in the large commons every Sunday!

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 24 from 6:00-8:00pm!** Register at CKhome.org/epic.

SENIOR YOUTH

NATHAN DEHN • YOUTH DIRECTOR • NDEHN@CKHOME.ORG



"What did you get for Christmas?" or "What did you do for Christmas" are things you've probably been hearing a lot lately.

So... what did you get for Christmas? I pray you answer that question with a confident and excited "I was given my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who has taken away all of my sins and blemishes."

So... what did you do to celebrate this gift? I pray you answer that question with a resounding "I shared the hope and love of Christ others."

It's easy for us to get distracted from our true calling and purpose here on Earth, which is to share God's glory with the world. We got salvation through Jesus, and we are called to share Jesus' message with everyone.

So... how do we share that message? One way is to give back to your community and those around you. This summer we have many opportunities for senior youth to do just that. I pray you consider being a part of one or all of these fun weeks. Check out the dates on the next page and put them in your calendar. Be on the look out for more information about the camps and activities!

CHILDREN & YOUTH SUMMER CALENDAR

WWW.CKHOME.ORG/SUMMER

It's never too early to think about next summer, and we have a fun one planned! Listed below, you will find dates for the summer activities we will be offering for those going into 1st-12th grade.

Join us in our summer ministry programs by putting these events on your calendar. Keep an eye out for more details, registration and volunteer information for these events coming Spring of 2020. *All grades represent your child's 2019-2020 school grade.*

JUNE

- 16-19 **Camp Trinity** for 3rd–8th-grade (Overnight in New Haven, MO)
Join us for a week of sharing God's love with elementary and middle school kids from Concordia by being a camp counselor. 8th graders going into 9th grade can be a part of God Squad.
- 29-July 2 **IMPACT Mission Week** for 6th–8th graders
IMPACT Week is getting revamped this year! Junior and senior youth will be serving at a different location in our community each morning, such as food pantries or nursing homes. In the afternoons, the youth will enjoy relationship building with other Concordia youth at fun attractions around St. Louis.

JULY

- 6-10 **VBS for Kids with special needs** (6th graders through adults can be one-on-one buddies)
- 13-17 **Vacation Bible School** for pre-K–4th grade
- 13-17 **Vacation Bible School Crew Leader** (volunteering for 5th–12th grade)
- 26- Aug.1 **High School Mission Trip**
Join us for a week in mission as we rebuild communities one nail and paint stroke at a time. Senior youth will spend workdays repairing and beautifying homes. Evenings will be spent in worship and reflection. When our work is done, youth will have the option to spend time white-water rafting, paint balling, or horseback riding!
- REGISTRATION OPEN NOW! VISIT CKHOME.ORG/HSYOUTH TO SIGN UP!

AUGUST

- 28-30 **All Youth Retreat** at Lake Williamson for 6th–12th graders

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.

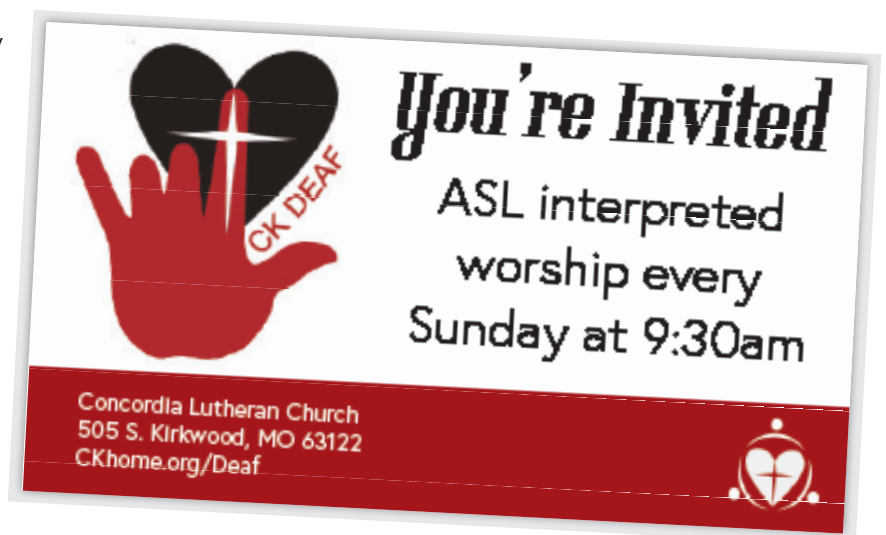
Email Debbie Davis at ddavis@CKhome.org to register for an upcoming seminar.

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

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