



CONCORDIA

Connection

FEBRUARY 2020



LIFE GROUPS • 2019 BUDGET RESULTS • CALL PROCESS UPDATE

PASTOR'S NOTE

PASTOR MEGGERS • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG • PASTOR SCHULTZ • JSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG



Recently I had the opportunity to share a message with you about being Generous in Purpose. Based on Isaiah 49:1-7, the big idea was the JOYful revelation of our purpose to be a light to those around us. I shared a few lines of an older song:

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord

Open the eyes of my heart, I want to see you

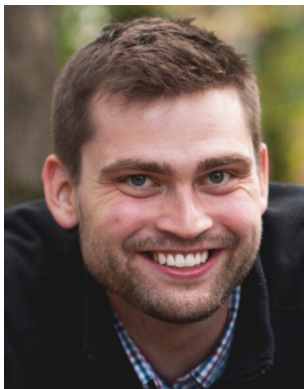
I realized that because of our God's generosity and the partnership we have with Christ in the Gospel (1 Corinthians 1:9), there was room for another generosity-promoting verse:

Open the eyes of our hearts, Lord

Open the eyes of our hearts, that THEY might see you.

This Generous theme is not just a five-week series. Generosity is our watch word for our whole year of ministry, and beyond. Generosity is poured out in deeds, in words, in faith, in mercy and comfort...in various and generous ways. This month, we will meet generous mercy and comfort in Noah the Comfort Dog. He and his handlers, Dr. Glenn Nielsen and his wife Sue, will be our guests at February's Lunch and Learn. Noah is the official comfort dog of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in St. Louis. He even has his own FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/NoahComfortDog. Look him up and be inspired by the way that the generous mercy of our God, extended by our hands to others, is further shared through the paws of our four-footed friend.

Join us for lunch. More importantly, join Jesus in His generosity.



In our current sermon series, we are considering the word "generous". God desires his people to be generous, and this word is comprehensive. It is the recognition that everything a Christian has comes from God. Therefore, God desires us to be generous in purpose, faith, mercy, heart and deed.

This month, I would like you to reflect and consider how God is calling you to be generous. God calls and places people in different places and spaces for his purposes. God is intentional about what He does, and I believe He has created you uniquely to be generous wherever you are and whatever you are doing.

Perhaps it is in purpose. What interests and abilities has God given to you?

Perhaps it is in faith. Who has God placed in your life to comfort and teach the mysteries of salvation?

Perhaps it is in mercy. Who needs your compassion?

Perhaps it is heart. Who are those who feel unloved and how can you show them love?

Perhaps it is in deed. Who can you serve?

Our God is generous. 1 John 4:19 says, "We love because he first loved us." We love because of God's sacrificial love for us. And we are generous because of God's generosity, a generosity that gave up his own Son for us. Our God is good.

Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for passion. Keep up the good work and reflect on this word and our good God.

GENEROUS



HEALTH & RESOURCE FAIR

SHARON EMA • SEMA@CKHOME.ORG

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Please consider donating blood at Concordia's blood drive on **Sunday, February 9 from 8:00am-1:00pm** in memory of Benjamin "Pounder" Schrieber. Right now there is a critical need for blood. You can schedule an appointment at **314-941-1324** or www.redcrossblood.org and enter the sponsor code: **Pounder**.

Never donated before? Wondering if you are eligible to donate? Go to the American Red Cross website for more information at www.redcrossblood.org.

HEALTH AND RESOURCE FAIR

Concordia's Health and Resource Fair will be in the Sanctuary Commons on **Sunday, February 9 from 9:00-11:00am**. Representatives from the congregation and community will provide physical, emotional and spiritual resources for healthy living, as well as opportunities to serve others at Concordia or in our community.

Some of the representatives include Grace Place, Shepherd's Center of Webster-Kirkwood, Christian Friends of New Americans, SSM Health-Physical Therapy, Lutheran Senior Services, Lutheran Family and Children's Services, and so many more! Don't forget to stop by for a healthy treat, including smoothies!

SENSORY ROOM OPEN HOUSE

Please join in the celebration of Concordia's Sensory Room Open House on **Sunday, February 9 from 9:00-11:00am**! Come and see how Concordia has moved to sensory-regulating for children and youth with special needs. This room would not have been possible without the financial grant and guidance of The Synapsory.

SPIRITLIFTERS

Spiritlifters is an initiative to recognize that loneliness comes from many sources: living alone, being shut in, bereavement, depression, etc. But in all cases, we have an opportunity to lift people's spirits. The "Spiritlifters" practice originated with the Ageless Generation Ministry Action Team of Concordia in May of 2019. At its annual retreat, the team identified loneliness among our senior members as a significant mission focus opportunity. The Apostle Paul tell us in 2 Corinthians 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.

Make this your personal mission by taking a few minutes to care for another. Who have you not seen lately? Give them a call and then look for the joy!

Come by the Health and Resource Fair table on **Sunday, February 9** or look for more information in upcoming Concordia publications about Spiritlifters!

FINANCE MATTERS

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



2019 RESULTS AND 2020 BUDGET

Thank you for all the ways you supported Concordia in 2019. A Congregational Assembly meeting will be held **Sunday, February 2** at noon in the Atrium to review and approve the 2020 Budget. The budget assumes a **2.5% increase** in offerings for 2020.

Revenues		Budget 2020	Results 2019	Increase	%
	Contributions	\$ 2,316,000	\$ 2,257,000	\$ 59,000	2.6%
	Other income	\$ 103,500	\$ 104,000	\$ (500)	0%
	Lutheran Foundation grant	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ (20,000)	-100%
	Concordia Foundation	\$ 20,000		\$ 20,000	
	CCLS Facility Fees	\$ 160,500	\$ 159,000	\$ 1,500	1%
Operating Expenses	Total Revenues	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,540,000	\$ 60,000	2%
	Personnell	\$ 1,241,000	\$ 1,207,038	\$ 34,000	3%
	Property	\$ 309,000	\$ 294,000	\$ 15,000	5%
	Program				
	Ministry Programs	\$ 138,500	\$ 138,000	\$ 500	0%
	Administration	\$ 90,000	\$ 96,000	\$ (6,000)	-6%
		\$ 228,500	\$ 234,000	\$ (5,500)	-2%
	Parochial education				
	CCLS	\$ 625,000	\$ 621,000	\$ 4,000	1%
	Lutheran High School	\$ 46,500	\$ 39,000	\$ 7,500	19%
		\$ 671,500	\$ 660,000	\$ 11,500	2%
	Total Operating Expenses	\$ 2,450,000	\$ 2,395,000	\$ 55,000	2%
Debt Service	Principal and Interest	\$ 150,000	\$ 41,000	\$ 109,000	266%
	Total Expenses	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,436,000	\$ 164,000	7%
Surplus (deficit)		\$ -	\$ 104,000		

FINAL NEXT STEP PROJECT COSTS

The Center for Christian Education is complete. All expenses have been paid, except for a **\$30,000** allowance for signage. We are pleased to report we finished **\$1,173,000** (or 13%) UNDER budget. This will reduce our final loan amount respectively.

Final Project Expenses	Budget	Project Costs	Over/(Under) Budget
Campaign Costs	\$ 345,671	\$ 345,671	\$ -
Design/Preconstruction/Soil	\$ 383,620	\$ 383,620	\$ -
Construction Costs	\$ 6,616,380	\$ 6,616,380	\$ -
Technology, FF&E	\$ 490,000	\$ 317,122	\$ (172,878)
Loan Interest	\$ 85,000	\$ 6,848	\$ (78,152)
Utility / Insurance/ Legal / Signage / Reimbursables	\$ 185,000	\$ 68,568	\$ (116,432)
Contingency	\$ 894,329	\$ 88,436	\$ (805,893)
Total Project Budget	\$9,000,000	\$7,826,643	\$(1,173,357) -13%

NEXT STEP CONTRIBUTIONS (THRU 12/31/2019)

The Next Step officially wrapped up on 12/31/19, although members are still fulfilling pledges. On 12/31/19, there were **\$1,211,655** pledges outstanding. If we receive the outstanding pledges, we will be able to avoid incurring debt from the Next Step project. However, we still do have **\$1,677,000** of debt from our 2002 and 2007 Capital Projects. We will soon consolidate all our debt into one mortgage with LCEF and will be able to give you a final debt picture at that time.

Total Project Cost	\$ 7,826,644
Given to Date	<u>\$(6,809,976)</u>
Current Debt from Next Step	\$1,016,667
Outstanding Pledges from Next Step	\$1, 211,655

As we look to 2020, we have much for which to be thankful! This congregation is blessed with generous givers. We pray we can continue to inspire you with the good news of Christ's saving love to you and your families.

STAFFING UPDATE

Rebecca Schultz joined Concordia in 2017, running the Children's Ministry. The Children's Ministry has grown under her leadership in terms of both participation and volunteers. Rebecca is under contract with us, but is also eligible for a Call under LCMS guidelines. To that end, at the assembly meeting on **Sunday, February 2**, the congregation will vote to extend her a Call to serve as our Director for Children's Ministries and affirm the great work she is doing!



CALL PROCESS

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



NEXT STEPS

Formal nominations for our next Senior Pastor are being accepted now through **Sunday, February 2** at CKhome.org/CallProcess. Nominations received will be submitted to the Missouri District of the LCMS office for further vetting. The district office will then deliver to the Call Committee a list of eligible candidates, along with detailed profiles for each candidate. The Call Committee will review each of these candidates in depth to determine those that best fit Concordia's pastoral profile. We ask for your continued prayers as we discern who God is directing us toward calling as the future leader of our congregation.

WHAT IS THIS "CALL PROCESS" ANYWAY?

As we enter this critical stage, it is important to explain to and remind members how the call process works. In the LCMS, pastors are normally "called" by a congregation to serve. It's a process that differs from a job offer in that we believe pastors are called by God to serve as pastors and called by congregations to serve as their pastor.

The call process takes time, on average between 12-24 months, and consists of prayerful consideration of congregational needs, candidate names, interviews and visits with pastors and their families. The theology and practice surrounding the call has developed over centuries of Christian experience. In some denominations a bishop determines where a pastor serves. In the LCMS, it is normally congregations that call pastors. The CTCR (Commission on Theology and Church Relations) worked in 2003 to give clarity to issues surrounding the call. Their document says in part:

"Since God places men into the pastoral office through the church, the call possesses both a divine and human dimension. The call is divine in that God has taken the initiative to establish the office. It is God who calls an individual to serve the ministry of the Word within the office. And it is God who promises to bless such work.

But the call also has a human dimension in that God entrusts the task of calling to human beings. They are to see to it that the office is filled in a decent and orderly manner.

These two dimensions – the divine and the human – correspond to the two dimensions of the church itself. On the one hand, the church is, properly speaking, the assembly of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit around Christ proclaimed in the Word and Christ present in the sacraments. These are constitutive of the church. On the other hand, the church possesses an organizational character as its members arrange for the regular distribution of the means of grace. Although the divine character of the call is primary, the human activity by which the divine call is issued is not without importance.

As the church carries out its responsibility of serving as God's instrument for calling individuals into the office of the pastoral ministry, it must distinguish between these two dimensions when establishing a call process. The church must always administer the call in ways that respect and uphold its divine character, while at the same time affirming the contingent character of the human procedures developed within a given context. Humanly devised procedures should not be treated as if they are divine mandates. Nor should they be carried out in such a way as to lose sight of the fact that the Lord of the church is the one who ultimately calls men into the office of the public ministry."

Quoted from "Theology and Practice of the Divine Call", A Report of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod", February 2003, pages 26-27.

KIDSMIN

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



"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" (Psalm 19:1).

All around us we see evidence of God the creator! Right outside our door, we have an opportunity to nurture an awe of God in our kids!

If you're looking for some intentional ideas for how to help your kids see God through his magnificent creation, here are some ideas:

- Go for a hike in a park or through your backyard.
- Lay in the grass and look at the clouds. Talk about how God created the clouds but also how one day Jesus will return in the clouds!
- Set up an easel outside and have the kids paint while enjoying fresh air. Additionally, have them paint the nature they hear, see, or feel.
- Sing songs that praise God for His work in creation.
- Explore new books about a topic that interests your child (sharks, oceans, bugs, space, etc.).
- Gather a collection of nature objects.
- Plant seeds and watch them grow! The Bible talks a lot about soil, growth and fruit. As you grow your own plants, talk about what the Bible says about the soil in our hearts and the fruit of our lives.

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!

PARENTS AND 2'S

Children and their parents will learn basic Bible stories and songs led by Karen and David Lanius. Parents will also have the opportunity to break away with Karen and learn how to share faith with a toddler. A parent must be present for a 2-year-old to attend.

KIDS NIGHT

Grades 1-5, join us on Wednesdays 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. We are digging into the life of Jesus in the Bible and discovering what it means for our life today!

Register for the Spring semester at CKhome.org/KidsNight.

EPIC!

The next EPIC night for 4th and 5th graders will be on **Friday, February 21 from 6:00-8:00pm!** Register at CKhome.org/epic.

SENIOR YOUTH

NATHAN DEHN • YOUTH DIRECTOR • NDEHN@CKHOME.ORG



It's hard to believe that it is already February! If you made a New Year's resolution, how is it going? The majority of resolutions involve being healthier, like eating better or exercising more. People naturally want to feel better mentally and physically. But it's hard to keep these resolutions throughout the year. I've tried many times to start working out more consistently, only to fail a few weeks later and end up back on my couch binge-watching Netflix. My wife Jenna and I started working out a few months ago, and I assumed I'd fail like I did in my previous attempts to become stronger. We are still going strong and I attribute our success not to my motivation or willpower, but simply to having someone else who encourages me and holds me accountable. Plus, it's much more fun to work out with your best friend.

It's great to work on strengthening your physical and mental health, but what about your spiritual health? That one can be trickier. I challenge you to grow stronger this year, stronger in your faith in God.

One way you can intentionally focus on your effort to strengthen your faith is through joining a Life Group at Concordia. A Life Group is a group of believers that meet regularly to study God's word, have fellowship, and use the gifts God has given them in service to others. We are forming many Life Groups for all life stages and would love to get you connected to a group. Ask a staff member or email lifegroups@CKhome.org if there is a Life Group already formed or forming that fits your life stage. If one doesn't exist that fits your life stage, please consider being a Life Group leader by applying at CKhome.org/lifegroup.

If being part of a small group isn't your thing, but you want to still get connected with other members of Concordia and deepen your faith in God, check out all of the ministries and groups we have at Concordia at CKhome.org/adults.



LUNCH & LEARN



On **Thursday, February 20 at 11:30am**, we will have some special guests. Dr. Glenn Nielsen and Noah the Comfort Dog will be our presenter and guest. Lutheran Comfort Dog Ministry, run by Lutheran Church Charities of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, has a mission to bring mercy, compassion and presence to those of all ages in a variety of settings. Find out how this ministry brings a special kind of care to others. Lunch will be provided at a suggested donation of \$7.50.

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 2020-2021 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. Students going into 10th-12th grade can be counselors
- 29-July 2 **IMPACT Mission Week** for 6th–8th grade
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 Children & Youth with special needs** (6th graders through adults can be one-on-one buddies)
- 13-17 **Vacation Bible School** for pre-K–5th grade
During VBS, kids will discover that Jesus' love provides a foundation that will last. When the storms of life come, they'll need the One who will be with them to the end of the age. When anxiety sets in, they'll need the assurance that true worth comes from being a child of God, not from what other people think about them. They'll learn to be wise builders who continue in what they've learned and firmly believe. And they will discover that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion. We're all a work in progress. Life is a hard hat zone. But just wait 'til you see what God will do!
- 13-17 **Vacation Bible School Crew Leader** (volunteering for 6th–12th grade)

AUGUST

All Youth Retreat at Lake Williamson for 6th–12th grade - Date is TBD!

WORSHIP ARTS

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



ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

In Biblical times, 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 that marks 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 grow this Lent in our yearning for home and our love for Jesus.

The worship times for Ash Wednesday, **Wednesday, February 26** are as follows:

7:00am Sanctuary - A brief service of confession and imposition of ashes.

Note: This service is 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 be finished by 7:30am.

11:00am Sanctuary

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

EASTER MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

This year, we will celebrate Easter on **Sunday, April 12**. We have several musical opportunities that you can be a part of, and more detailed information will be coming in the March issue. If you're interested in participating in one of our choirs or instrumental groups, go ahead and mark **April 1, 8, and 11** in your calendars as rehearsal dates.

LENTEN "SOUP'S ON"

Beginning on **Ash Wednesday, February 26** after the **11:00am** mid-week worship service, "Soup's On" will be served. All are welcome to join us for worship, food and fellowship. Soup's On is coordinated by Concordia's Ageless Generation team. We need many willing hands to provide food as well as assistance with the clean-up. Other dates include **Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1, and April 9** on Maundy Thursday. A sign-up sheet for soups, breads, and desserts will be available at the Concordia Center Commons table. A freewill offering will be received for designated charities.

LENTEN GIVING TREE

Concordia offers a Lenten opportunity to serve organizations in our community by supplying tangible items for those they serve. We will be collecting for Trinity Lutheran-Soulard's homeless outreach, the Mary Culver Home for visually impaired women in Kirkwood, Rose Hill House residents, and Lutheran Family and Children's Services' adoption and foster care programs. Come to the Giving Center upstairs beginning on Ash Wednesday and select a cross with a noted item needed. Please bring your purchased items back by Good Friday. Thank you for your generosity to those who need your care and support!

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD
JCRAWFORD@CKHOME.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



It's finally time, Concordia! In just a handful of days, Night to Shine will be here!

This year has been another incredible journey, to say the least, and God's steadfast guiding presence has been felt every step of the way.

It has been two years since we first started entertaining the idea of hosting Night to Shine here at Concordia. The task of recruiting nearly **250** volunteers for an event that no one had even heard of before seemed insurmountable. But God was always in control, and over **300** volunteers joined us last year on the night of the event or worked to help us prepare for it.

That was over **300** people here at Concordia who joined with thousands of other Christians around the globe to bring the deep and wide love of Christ to people with

special needs!

But could we do it again? The answer was a resounding yes! You came through again, Concordia. This year we have nearly **400** volunteers who have signed up to join this worldwide movement, a movement that reminds people with disabilities that they are loved, they have value and they have a God in heaven who has a plan and purpose for their lives.

So, Concordia, I have one more request for you. I ask that you pray for Night to Shine.

Please pray for our Honored Guests, that they may grasp just how great Christ's love is for them, and that any fear or insecurities they may have about attending may be replaced with rejoicing and celebrating the fact that they have been designed perfectly by God.

Please pray for the parents and caregivers in attendance at Night to Shine, that they would feel at home not just at Concordia, but in the church as a whole, and that they would feel the inclusive love of God's people.

Please pray for the volunteers, that they would stay focused on serving God by creating an atmosphere of joy and excitement for our Honored Guests and for wisdom and creativity to meet the specific needs of each of our Guests in attendance.

And lastly, please pray for extra energy for all the coordinators and team leaders of Night to Shine, and that every detail would fall into place perfectly. Pray that God's glory would be on display in everything we do!

I can't wait to see you all on **February 7**. It's going to be so great!



Summer PROGRAM

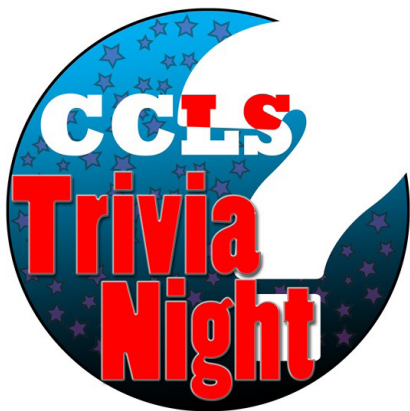
CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL



A vision for our new Center for Christian Education was to offer camps during the summer for our members and community. CCLS will be leading that effort, offering awesome camps for kids entering 1st–8th grade. The instructors include CCLS staff, coaches, and other specialized educators who love to share their passion for learning. They will offer camps like Basketball, Creative Coding, Arcade Mania, Babysitting, Stop Motion Animation, and much, much more; there is a camp for everyone! Visit bit.ly/cclsummerprogram to learn more and register!

CCLS TRIVIA NIGHT

WWW.CCLS-STLOUIS.ORG



Join us Friday, **February 28, 6:00-10:00pm**, for an “unquestionably” good time at the CCLS Kirkwood Campus! Come for the competition or just for the food, drinks, and fun. Sign up as a table of 8 (\$160) or as an individual/couple. You won’t want to miss our “CCLS Experience” silent auction items and sign-up parties. Free soda and snacks will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own food and adult beverages. Proceeds support the 8th Grade Class Trip and CCLS Tuition Assistance Funds. For more information and to register, visit bit.ly/cclstrivia.



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

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