



CONCORDIA

# Connection

MARCH 2020



LENTEN WORSHIP • SOUP'S ON • VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

# PASTOR'S NOTE

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One of the most anticipated events of our Lenten season at Concordia is what we lovingly and longingly call "Soup's On." It is a splendid time of food, fellowship and fun, with the delightful aromas of homemade soups wafting through our building to invite our **11:00am** worshippers to indulge in the bounty. This year, we are introducing Lenten dinners to give our 6:45pm worshipers the same fellowship and fun as the 11:00am worshipers. These dinners will be served at 6:00pm every Wednesday (other than February 18). To sign up for these dinners, visit **CKhome.org/Lent**.

Lent offers that unique dynamic of gain through loss. Jesus lost His life to gain ours. In recognition of that gain through loss, some observe Lent as a time of denial or loss in order to gain or grow in their faith. A friend "loses" her morning coffee break during Lent and

replaces that 15 minutes with 15 minutes of Bible reading and prayer. I said to her, "Sounds like gain through loss." She responded, "Exactly."

What might you "lose" in order to gain? If you are finding that your "plate is too full", maybe that is an indication that something needs to go in order for you to grow. However, if your bowl is empty, then join us for Soup's On and be filled.

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Lent is a time when we focus on Jesus. It is a time to reflect on our desperate need for God's love and mercy. It is a time to consider God's plan of salvation, which culminates in the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. It is a time to consider how great God is and how great His compassion is for us.

During Lent, Christians sometimes give things up. They do this to help them think about all of the things that Jesus gave up for us. Giving something up--whether it's chocolate, soda, TV, Facebook, or something else one enjoys--helps the person focus on Jesus, who gave up everything to save them.

Alternatively, during Lent, Christians sometimes take something up. They do this to help them think about all the things that Jesus took up for us. Sometimes that thing is a more robust

prayer life for the Church and all people in need of God's mercy. Sometimes it is an extra worship opportunity either on Sundays or during the week. Sometimes it is one extra generous action for the betterment of others. The person who takes something up is thereby reminded of Jesus and His passion. See Nathan's article on page 6 for more ideas on taking something up during Lent!

This Lenten season, whatever you choose to do or not to do, do it all for the glory of God. This is the simple and beautiful reminder that we are free in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our whole lives conform to this truth. We are free and redeemed. Thanks be to God! I pray that our Heavenly Father always keeps us focused on this truth and His generous love for us in Jesus.

*Easter Worship*

**Saturday, April 11**  
**5:00pm**

**Sunday, April 12**  
**6:30am, 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am**

The banner features a background of warm, textured brushstrokes in shades of orange, yellow, and red. On the left side, there is a silhouette of a wooden cross standing on a dark, rocky base. The text is overlaid on the right side of the banner.

# ADULTS

SHARON EMA • [SEMA@CKHOME.ORG](mailto:SEMA@CKHOME.ORG)



## SOUP'S ON!

Join us for our fellowship lunches this Lenten season after the **11:00am** Lenten service in the Community Room. Concordia's Ageless Generation team will again organize, along with many volunteers serving together, to prepare soups, breads, and desserts for this incredible gathering! This year we will take a free-will offering for Dr. Kitty Bickford's non-profit ministry "Pasture Valley Children Mission" and "Brace for Impact," which is a non-profit foundation of former St. Louis Cardinal Kyle McClellan to positively impact children and families of Haiti and North St. Louis. All are encouraged to come together in worship and fellowship. Please sign up at the registration table or on the welcome tab in bulletin, or contact Patty at [pwilson@ckhome.org](mailto:pwilson@ckhome.org).

With Soup's On happening, there will be no Lunch and Learn events on the third Thursdays in March and April. Lunch and Learn will return in May.

## GIVING TREE

The annual Giving Tree will begin on Ash Wednesday. We will be gathering needed items for community care from then until Good Friday. Stop by the Giving Center, select a cross, and return the items to the same location. This year our partnerships include Lutheran Family and Children's Services' foster care and adoption services, Kirkwood's Mary Culver Home and Rose Hill House, and St. Trinity-Soulard's homeless care. Thank you for your generosity.

## PRAYER SQUARES AND PRAYER SHAWLS

We all need tangible reminders of Christ's love and presence in our lives. Life can be difficult and hard. You are not alone. Christ is with you. These knitted or crochet prayer squares or shawls are lovingly and prayerfully made to be a reminder of Christ in our lives.

Let me share a special moment. I went to visit a gentleman in the hospital. I had brought a prayer shawl for him. This day I brought some prayer squares, without knowing why. While I visited with him, I gave him the shawl and explained that while it was made, prayers were said for the person who would receive it. This person was him.

While I was still there, the doctor came in and shared that there were no more treatments that could be done. The man's family gathered around him. After prayer, I gave each family member a prayer square. I was thankful to those who made the shawl and squares and prayed for this family. What a blessing for this family to have these gentle reminders of Christ's love and presence!

We need you for "touching people with Jesus Christ." This is just one way. Contact Sharon at [sema@ckhome.org](mailto:sema@ckhome.org).



Dr. Nielsen shared moments of comfort given by Noah Comfort Dog to others in distress during Lunch and Learn on February 20. Everyone had an opportunity to enjoy Noah's special presence and "smile"!

# WORSHIP ARTS

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



## GENEROSITY SERIES

We hope that you were blessed by our first series of messages this year, under the theme of Generosity. It's common for people to assume that, when a church talks about generosity, they are really just trying to get at financial giving. And while, yes, the church is a non-profit ministry that depends on financial support, I hope that over the course of that five week series, you were able to see that there is so much more to it than just money. As Christians, we are called to be generous with love, service, witness, and compassion. Perhaps my favorite part of the series was the interviews conducted by Grace Koehn with Concordians from all walks of life about what generosity means to them. It was encouraging to watch those videos each week and see people giving real

thought to matters of faith. I hope we can continue to share more stories and testimonies for our community that help to focus us on our mission of touching others with Jesus for healing and service.

## LENT SERIES

The season of Lent began on **Wednesday, February 26** with our Ash Wednesday services. For some people, Lent is a time to "give something up". It could be sweets (no chance for me!), screen time, a bad habit, or any number of other things. For others, Lent is just a church-y word that doesn't have any practical impact on day-to-day life. Wherever you are at, I hope that our worship during the next six weeks will help you more fully appreciate the depth of God's grace and mercy through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. To that end, we will have two new series of messages to share:

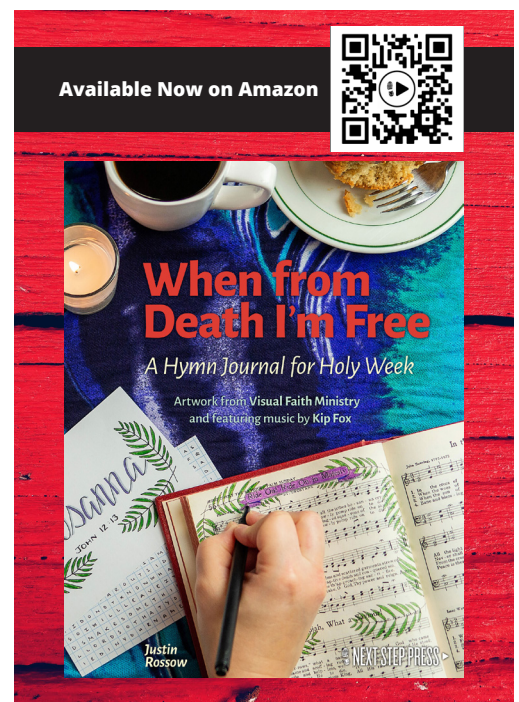
Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing on Sunday mornings, we'll have a series of messages called "When From Death I'm Free", based on themes found in songs and hymns. Each week, we'll use a song (some new, some familiar) to service as the starting point for the message. This series was inspired by a new devotional book for Holy Week. The book includes music, devotions, and beautiful art pages for coloring and drawing provided by Visual Faith Ministry. I'll include a link here (and QR code in the image) to purchase the book and would encourage you to check it out, especially if you are a person who appreciates artistic expression or wants to dig a little deeper into our weekly themes.

Our midweek Lent services will start on **Wednesday, March 4**, taking place at **11:00am** and **6:45pm** in the Concordia Center. We'll be starting a series of messages called "Things of God," using objects like a cup, a sponge, or a sign as the inspiration for our worship and messages.

Learn more about Visual Faith Ministry here: [www.visualfaithmin.org](http://www.visualfaithmin.org)

Learn more about the devotional book "When from Death I'm Free" here: <http://bit.ly/cklentbook>

*Please note: I volunteered to create music notation graphics for the book at the request of the author, Justin Rossow. In the interest of disclosure, I won't receive any financial gain by recommending the purchase of the book. My work was just a small act of generosity to support the creation of the book. Although Justin did say he might get me a free T-shirt someday for helping out :)*



# SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD  
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DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



We did it again! Night to Shine 2020 was a huge success!

Last year, we welcomed just under **100** guests to our Night to Shine prom, and after seeing the outpouring of love and support from our community of volunteers, I knew we could go even bigger this year giving even more guests with special needs and their families an incredible night centered on God's love.

And you came through again, Concordia! This year we had over **400** volunteers who joined us in this worldwide movement, a movement that reminds people with disabilities that they are loved, they have value and they have a God who has a plan and a purpose for their lives.

I want to take this moment to thank not just the hundreds of you who volunteered, but also those of you who donated goods, services and most importantly prayer.

Because of you, well over **130** guests with special needs were cheered for on the red carpet, danced the night away under twinkling stars and were crowned kings and queens of the prom.

Because of you, over **200** parents and caregivers got to see that they are not the only ones who know that their son or daughter with special needs was perfectly, intentionally and wonderfully made by their Father in heaven.

Are you already excited about next year? Registration for Night to Shine 2021 begins September 1 for volunteers and October 1 for our Honored Guests.

I can't wait to see you all again at Night to Shine on **February 12, 2021!**



# 5 HABITS FOR LENT

NATHAN DEHN • YOUTH DIRECTOR • NDEHN@CKHOME.ORG



What do you do for Lent? Many of us follow the tradition of giving up something in our lives to remind us of the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross for us.

Have you considered adding something to your daily routine during the Lenten season instead of taking something away? It can be hard, since forming habits is difficult and requires a lot of willpower! Personally, when I try to form good habits, I often just forget after a few days of attempting the habit I am trying to form. I need to create reminders or triggers to keep me on track to build healthy habits.

Here are five quick daily habits to grow in your faith that you can sustain not just for 40 days, but for the rest of your life:

1. Pray every time you use shampoo in the shower. Write “Pray” with a Sharpie on your shampoo bottle to remind you to pray. While relaxing in the warm water and massaging your head, pray to God for help with a stressor in your life or in thanksgiving for the blessings he’s given you.
2. Set a “Light of the World” reminder on your phone for when you leave your house. Did you know that, on a smartphone, you can set reminders based on when you arrive at or leave a location? Set a reminder to go off when you leave your home to remind you to share God’s light with others. You can even put Matthew 5:14-16 as a comment or description for the reminder.
3. Pray at dinner. My wife Jenna and I tried to pray together before going to bed; however, after long days we’d just get too tired and forget to pray together. Now, before dinner, we thank God for the blessings he gives us and pray for strength and guidance.
4. “Generous in Deed” challenge. Jerry Seinfeld is a great comedian in part because of his great jokes. He has a habit of writing just one joke every day and marking a big X on a calendar each day he writes a joke. Instead of writing a joke, why not do one kind deed for someone else each day? Keep a calendar by your bed and mark it with a big X at bedtime if you did a good deed for someone else that day. In the morning, look at the calendar and think of a good deed you could do that day. It’s fun to keep the streak going!
5. Create a thanksgiving box. Get a box, a pen, and some notecards. Depending on if you’re a morning person or night owl, take one minute in the morning or in the evening to write down one blessing God has given you. The more specific and descriptive, the better! Put the paper in your box, and whenever you’re struggling, go back to the box to remind yourself of all the blessings God has given you.

## SPIRITLIFTERS 2X2

In the last Connection, you were introduced to a new initiative to recognize that loneliness comes from many sources: living alone, being shut in, bereavement, depression, etc. But in all cases of loneliness, we have an opportunity to lift people’s spirits. In addition to SpiritLifters, we are developing another, more deliberate program to visit those identified by our Pastoral Care Team as needing a face-to-face connection. We are developing a resource of volunteers that could be assigned to specific visitation tasks. This is not intended to replace our well-implemented Pastoral Visitation activity, but to supplement it. This would be SpiritLifters 2x2.

# KIDSMIN

REBECCA SCHULTZ • CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT • [RSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG](mailto:RSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG)



Lent is the perfect time for families to join together and talk about what this season leading up to Easter is all about. This is a time when we as Christians are quiet and thoughtful as we prepare ourselves for Easter. We can take this opportunity to change our daily lives and grow closer to God.

Here are some easy ways to observe this special season with our children:

1. Share the story of Jesus. Use these 40 days of Lent to read Bible stories, whether from the Bible or from a children's book of Bible stories, that tell of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
2. Take advantage of the MANY worship opportunities here at Concordia: weekly Wednesday morning or evening services, Maunday Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Creating extra opportunities to worship with our families shows children that this is a special time set aside to reflect on what God has done for us.
3. Pick up a Lenten Kids Prayer Packet from the Spotlight table outside of the Concordia Center. Included is a Lenten Calendar, information, and a make-your-own Lenten Prayer Chain with 40 different topics to pray for.

## EPIC!

The next EPIC night for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be on **Friday, March 27 from 6:00-8:00pm!** Register at [CKhome.org/epic](http://CKhome.org/epic).

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**Mark your calendars for VBS 2020: July 13-17**

This summer, kids will grab their hard hats and head out to the construction site to discover that skyscrapers aren't the only things that need a rock-solid foundation. Kids will learn that when the storms of life come, anxiety sets in, and they feel unworthy, Jesus' love provides a foundation that will last!

Our theme for this summer is **Concrete and Cranes: Building on the Love of Jesus** based on Philippians 1:6: "I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Volunteer Recruitment runs March-April. Registration for children will open at the beginning of May. We are looking for volunteers for Bible study leaders, Bible study assistants, snack team, craft team, recreation leaders, registration, decorations, music team, technology team, and more! We will set the number of children we can serve based on the number of volunteers we recruit. This will ensure that we can provide a safe, positive, and rewarding experience for both children and volunteers. We are committed to a well-organized, structured program for volunteers! VBS is **July 13-17**, from **9:00am-noon** each day. We will provide training for all who serve.

Sign up to volunteer at [CKhome.org/VBS](http://CKhome.org/VBS).

# NEW MEMBERS

MARCY SCHOLL • MSCHOLL@CKHOME.ORG



## Carol Hrach and Ann Glosso

Carol is a St. Louis native, and graduated from ISU with a Bachelor's in Medical Technology and received an MBA from Amber University in Dallas, Texas. Currently, she is part of a team of about 30 at SSM Microbiology at St. Joseph's Health Center in St. Charles. Her daughter, Ann, is a free spirit who enjoys going to the Jewish Community Center, dancing to music, reading books and visiting with friends. She recently turned 21 and graduated from the Vocational Skills Program offered by SSD, where she worked at Maritz. She hopes one day to work at a sheltered workshop and live independently in a group home.

## Richard and Jill Hogan Jackson and Kyle

Richard and Jill were married by Pastor Gundermann and feel at home at Concordia. They have two sons, Jackson and Kyle. Richard is the audiologist owner of Ear Care and Hearing of St. Louis. Jill is a project manager at Cigna / Express Scripts. Jackson is a sophomore at De Smet Jesuit High School. He plays baseball and enjoys ping-pong and creating YouTube content for Xbox games. Kyle is in the sixth grade at The St. Austin School. He plays baseball and soccer, is a Rubik's cube expert and creates Fortnite content on YouTube.



## Greg and Krystal Lottes Chase, Anna, Raegan

Greg and Krystal moved to Glendale in 2013 and began attending Concordia Lutheran Church. They have three children, Chase and Anna are fourth and third graders respectively, and Raegan is in preschool. Greg is employed with Lakenan Insurance Agency with offices in St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve and Perryville, MO. Krystal began her career as a pediatric nurse at Mercy Children's Hospital until she decided to stay home with their babies. She is currently enrolled in online courses at Moody Bible Institute of Chicago. As a family, they love both the mountains and the beach, but their favorite has become skiing!



## Brad and Amber Miller Braden, Paxton, Maverick

Brad is a district manager for Ford Accessories. Amber is an RN at Sonobello Body Contours Center in Creve Coeur, MO. Braden is in fourth grade and Paxton is in Pre-K, both at CCLS. Maverick was born on February 6. Their family hobbies include Legos, Uno, board games and movies.



## Bradie Oslager & Shannon O'Connor

Bradie and Shannon will be married at Concordia on April 25. Bradie was born and raised in Southern IL. He joined the US Air Force, and his recent new position is as an IMA reservist. He has a passion for racing cars, hunting and all things water, especially boating. Shannon was born and raised in St. Louis in a large Irish-German family that loves sports, outdoors and family time. She has worked at St. Louis Area Foodbank since graduating from Webster University.

## Marietta Smith

Marietta is a special education teacher with Special School District. She teaches alternative ELA classes for middle schoolers. She was born and raised in St. Louis and just finished up her second master's in Technology in Education with Missouri Baptist University. Her hobbies include Crossfit, trying new restaurants with friends, traveling, relaxing, shopping, music, and spending time with family and friends.



## Mark and Evangeline Utlaut Adalynn and Sylvie Mae

Mark and Evangeline have two daughters. Adalynn is in second grade and Sylvie Mae is in Pre-K school at City Garden Montessori. Mark works as a Bond Analyst at NISA Investment Advisors. Evangeline is the owner of Come Play, STL, a pediatric therapy clinic. As a family, they enjoy traveling to visit extended family, doing art projects, trying out new restaurants, and going on long walks with their dog, Yaeger.

