



CONCORDIA

Connection

SEPTEMBER 2019



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MINISTRIES • TRUNK-OR-TREAT • NIGHT TO SHINE

PASTOR MEGGERS

PASTOR MEGGERS • ASSOCIATE PASTOR • DMEGGERS@CKHOME.ORG



Call it a JOY high. A cup overflowing. Not unaware of the challenges of ministry that lie before us, but not willing to overlook the blessings that God is bestowing upon us, I need to “let the river flow”. The following are little snapshots that are contributing to this JOY high. I hope they heighten your JOY as a part of this Concordia Family.

1. Feeling a bit awkward about the possibility of remaining in the “Sr. Pastor’s office” alone, Pastor Schultz was contemplating where to move his office. I said, “Why don’t I just move in with you?” This meant moving my iPad, phone and notebook! So I did. It is now “The pastors’ office”. A place of study and collaboration and collegiality. (A tip of the hat to former Sr. Pastor Seidler for the inspiration.) My office is now the “respite room” serving as a quiet space, or a counseling space, or even a mini-meeting space.
2. I walked through our Center for Christian Education (CCE) on a recent school day. What a JOY to see the vision become reality. When Kristin Anderson first shared the vision of the open spaces and the specialty rooms and the kind of learning that would be taking place in our future, I was hopeful. To see it come to fruition was JOYful. In this coming month, that JOY will only increase as the CCE hosts Wednesday night activities and Sunday morning ministries as well.
3. Onward and with JOY. You are served by and I serve with an incredible staff. On two occasions in a certain week, I was gathered with our leaders of worship and our leaders in new member care. After long deliberations, calendaring, and conversations, each one of us walked out of those meetings with a JOYful outlook on our future. On more than one occasion it was said, “I just love being in ministry with you guys.”

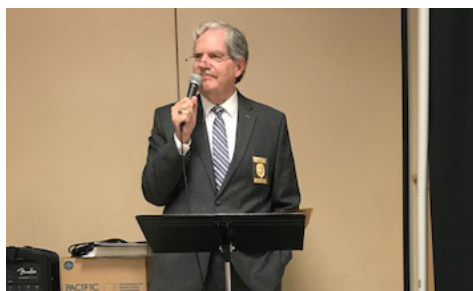
We love being in ministry with you, Concordia. We love entrusting the road ahead to our good and gracious God. We hope to see you often so you can share in this JOY.

LUNCH AND LEARN

CKHOME.ORG/OLDERADULTS

“What’s Next?” - **Thursday, September 19** at 11:30am

Pastor Meggers, Pastor Schultz, and Kristin Anderson will be our speakers. They will speak about the current building program and other things happening at Concordia. Please join us for this informative presentation. We will have a catered hot lunch for a suggested donation of \$7.50. RSVP by signing up in the Concordia Commons or to Patty Wilson at pwilson@ckhome.org or **314-822-7772 x121**.



PASTOR SCHULTZ

ASSOCIATE PASTOR • JSCHULTZ@CKHOME.ORG



Concordia, thank you for who you are and all that you do. Thank you for your tireless effort this past summer as we worked together in the Lord's kingdom. Thank you for all the hard work that we will do together this next year in the name of Jesus. This church works well together and truly embodies the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you!

As we look forward to our fall programming at Concordia, I am personally excited for another season of Junior Youth Ministry where we will work together by way of confirmation and IMPACT/EPIC nights. Our fall programming begins with the All Youth Retreat, where we will gather all the youth from Concordia from 6-12th grade. We will hear a dynamic speaker, grow in our relationships, and learn about our particular seasons of life. This year, we are making an intentional effort to honor each season of life. The life of middle schooler is very different than the life of a senior in high school.

Junior Youth Ministry will continue with Wednesday night confirmation, where we will continue to read the scriptures and learn what it means to follow Jesus. This year, we are welcoming Rev. David Meggers and Rev. Matthew Hoehner as regular teachers for our confirmation program. These two pastors will help to round out the teaching experience and make the curriculum accessible, educational, and welcoming.

Finally, Concordia will be hosting IMPACT and EPIC nights every month. These events are monthly gatherings where our 4-8 graders gather together for a Friday night of food, fun, and fellowship. These nights have both community building and faith development elements.

Thank you for your support in these programs. Thank you for your partnership in the faith development of our congregation. These ministry programs are only possible with your help. Thank you for your support as the body of Christ.

TRUNK-OR-TREAT

FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Sunday October 20 from 2:00-4:00pm

It's that time again! The Special Needs Ministry will again be hosting an inclusive and accessible, sensory-sensitive Trunk-or-Treat event for children and young adults with special needs and their families!

For many kids with special needs, trick-or-treating may not be an option due to sensory difficulties, anxieties, dietary restrictions or even the physical restrictions of their own neighborhoods.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you would like to decorate your trunk and hand out goodies or assist with the games or wish to donate to this event, please visit CKhome.org/TrunkOrTreat!

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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



Well, Concordia, we did it! The Center for Christian Education (CCE) is now open! We still have some kinks to work out, but the overall feedback has been very positive. It is great to see all the faces of the kids and parents when they first walk through the halls! Thank You for your support

Concordia is blessed with so many generous people giving not only their financial resources but also their time. We would like to extend a special thanks to the following people:

- The **448** homes who financially supported the CCE
- The **340** homes who pledged financial resources
- The **24** individuals on the Next Step Steering Committee – Matt & Kippin Schelp, Ron & Sharon Burkhardt, Ron & Barb Laudel, Rev. Steve & Gail Carter,

Rob & Beth Gordon, Royce & Krista Hartmann, Jacob Mohnke, Nancy O’Neal, Dean & Erica Eggerding, Pastor Dave Meggers, Pastor Scott Seidler, Karen Allman, Glendon Smith (Klote & Associates), and Kristin Anderson

- The **39** Next Step Home visitors who met with more than **400** Concordia homes
- The Building committee and experts – Dan Harper, Pete Joyce and John Collonder
- The Design team – Dan Harper, Kristin Anderson, Jon Butterfield, Arch Images and Korte Construction
- The Construction Team – Korte Construction, Arch Images, Kirk Lowry, Kristin Anderson and the **40+** contracting companies
- The Ground Breaking and Open House Team – Erica Eggerding, Jen Pawlitz, Katie Mulchek, Jenna Dehn, Rev. Matt Hoehner, and Kristin Anderson
- The CCLS team of Rev. Dr. Matt Hoehner, Angela Shirley, Royce Hartmann and Will Vann, who worked tirelessly over the summer to help get the building ready for the church and school year
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) and Casey Carlson, who partnered with us on the loan
- The **89** volunteers, Barry Hirth, and Kirk Lowry, who helped move and clean the facility for the opening

Honoring a Legacy

When the Next Step Project kicked off, we spoke about honoring Pastors Schoedel and Gundermann in the Center for Christian Education. As we are now unveiling the CCE, we add Pastor Seidler to that list. For **48** years, Concordia was led by one of these men. Through almost **2500** sermons, Confession and Absolutions, and Lord Suppers, we learned what it means to be a child of God and serve Jesus Christ. For many, Concordia is the home of multiple generations of baptisms, Christian education, worship, Bible studies, marriages and finally funerals. We dedicate the CCE in honor of these men and their legacy: the leader, the shepherd and the visionary.

The Leader

Pastor Schoedel officially served Concordia from 1971-1991. Unofficially, he continues to mentor and encourage Concordia staff and called staff even today. Pastor Schoedel was known for being a great leader within Concordia and the LCMS at large. Under Pastor Schoedel, we expanded three times, revised our Governance structure and developed a strong staff. Pastor Schoedel originally brokered the relationship with the five congregations that created Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS). That leadership resulted in our school today, CCLS, being one of the strongest in the Lutheran system with **651** children. After a conversation with Pastor Schoedel, you most certainly leave it feeling blessed and encouraged to serve.

The Shepherd

Pastor Vern Gundermann served from 1991–2005. Most cannot speak about Pastor Gunderman without mentioning what a wonderful shepherd he was to all in his presence. He brought us our Mission statement to “Touch People with Jesus Christ for Healing and for Service” and he led by example all whom he served. Even when he was ill with ALS and could no longer speak or write, he continued to send us devotions always focused on the greatness and blessings of God.

The Visionary

Pastor Seidler served Concordia from 2006–2019. He came to Concordia with the charge of taking us to the next level. In a time where most Christian churches are shrinking, Pastor Seidler moved us forward. With his gift for preaching and worship vision, our worship services became more diverse in style and improved excellence. The Center for Christian Education was originally the vision of Pastor Seidler, and certainly if not for his promoting that vision to Concordia, we would not be celebrating its opening today.

INBOUND FINANCIALS AS OF 7/31/2019

Church Offerings in the second quarter and July were lower than expectations by \$88,000, or 7%. Although expenses were \$54,000 (4%) under expectation, overall we are still behind our budget expectations by \$37,500, or 2.5%.

Donations & Receipts	Budget	Actual	Difference
Offerings	\$ 1,195,000	\$ 1,107,000	\$ (88,000)
Receipts	\$ 145,000	\$ 144,500	\$ (3,500)
Total Expenses	\$ 1,343,000	\$ 1,251,500	\$ (91,500)
Expenses			
Personnell	\$ 763,000	\$ 734,000	\$ (29,000)
Program	\$ 118,000	\$ 114,500	\$ (3,500)
Property	\$ 174,000	\$ 165,000	\$ (9,000)
Education	\$ 387,000	\$ 387,000	\$ -
Debt Service	\$ 12,500	\$ -	\$ (12,500)
	\$ 1,454,500	\$ 1,400,500	\$ (54,000)
Total Net Income (Expense)	\$ (111,500)	\$ (149,000)	\$ (37,500)

NEXT STEP FINANCIALS AS OF 8/20/2019

PLEDGES & DONATIONS

Total Pledged and Non Pledged Gifts	\$ 6,400,000 (\$6M pledged, \$400K non pledged)
Total Pledges	\$ 7,600,000
Pledge Balance	\$ 1,500,000

PROJECT EXPENSES

Total Project Budget	\$ 9,000,000
Estimate Actual Expenses	\$ 8,000,000
Project Savings	\$ 1,000,000

YOUTH

NATHAN DEHN • YOUTH DIRECTOR • NDEHN@CKHOME.ORG



Summer flew by this year! We had a number of successful events at Concordia. It was a pleasure to be the camp director at Camp Trinity, where over 80 kids and youth gathered to learn more about Jesus. It was moving to see over 20,000 youth and adults celebrating God's presence in our lives at the LCMS Youth Gathering, and it was heartwarming to see our youth joyfully serve throughout the summer at Feed My People during IMPACT Weeks.

It was a good summer! But school has started, and we are getting back into our busy routines, feeling tired from waking up early, long days at school, sports, clubs, jobs, and other commitments that pull for our attention and energy. It's easy to neglect the most vital part of our bodies, our spiritual needs.

God wonderfully and intentionally created us, shaping us to long for something more than a routine and business on earth. He created us to have a relationship with Him, and if we neglect that aspect of our lives, life can become dark and difficult.

Concordia is a place to focus on your spiritual needs. We understand that life gets crazy and things call for our attention. But we need to make time to grow closer to God.

Our Senior Youth fall ministry is extremely flexible, with numerous options to grow in faith. Life gets hectic and busy; that's why we structured our programs to be as flexible and individualized as possible. Here are some of the things coming up this fall:

SENIOR YOUTH DONUTS

Come to the CCE (Center for Christian Education) Small Commons (to the right of the Concordia Center) for donuts and fellowship between church services.

SUPER SUNDAYS

If you don't know what Super Sundays are, they are a time for you to eat a snack, meet new friends, learn more about God, develop your faith, and play fun games. They will be every other Sunday from **6:00-8:00pm**, starting on **Sunday, September 15**, and will be held on the following dates:

- September 15 (Small Group Reveal)
- September 29
- October 13
- October 27
- November 10
- November 17

SMALL GROUPS

We have over **45** senior youth signed up to join a small group where they will meet with other Christian teens, learn about God's love, and do fun activities they choose.

KIDSMIN

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



WEDNESDAY KIDS NIGHT!

Join us as we begin another exciting year of Concordia Kids Night! We will be digging into the life of Jesus. Kids will not only learn about the historical Jesus, but will get to know Him on a personal level. They will discover that Jesus is a real person—a real friend—who makes a difference in their lives today!

A delicious dinner is created by our amazing chef, Mary Vann, and our Krazy Kitchen Krew. Kids share the meal together as they grow in relationship with each other and caring adults of Concordia.

Next, kids separate into their grade levels with teachers who help them delve deeper into the life of Jesus and God's Word, learning how they can live out their faith each and every day! The night ends with recreation time that will consist of large group games, activities, and enjoying spending time together as friends.

The cost per semester is \$50.00 per child. We ask all parents to help out three times per semester with either kitchen preparation/clean-up, or recreation. This is a great opportunity for parents to get connected with other families! Designed to support the home, the primary environment for faith formation, Concordia Kids Night is for all children (1st–5th grade) of our congregation and invited friends. Please join us each **Wednesday, beginning September 11**, as the kids of Concordia grow and share their faith! Register at CKhome.org/kidsnight.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

5:30pm - Dinner
6:10pm - Bible Study/Recreation
7:15pm - Parent Pickup

EPIC!

We will be splashing into our first EPIC night for 4th and 5th graders on **Friday, September 20 from 6:00-8:00pm!** Bring a towel and a change of dry clothes! Register at CKhome.org/epic.

SUNDAY KIDSMIN!

Mark your calendars for our kick-off on **Sunday, September 8, from 9:20-10:20am** for all kids three years old-5th grade. We will now be meeting in the second floor large commons of the CCE!

We will praise God and learn Bible stories in fun and memorable ways! Whether your family worships at 8:15am, 9:30am or 10:45am, KidsMin Sunday will work for you!

It's simple: Kids praise God. Kids learn the Bible point and how to live it out. Every week!



WORSHIP ARTS

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



This past July, I had the opportunity to attend a three-day conference hosted by the Worship Arts Leadership Initiative, which they call “WALi” for short. It was an uplifting experience that gave me some fresh ideas and renewed energy for the ministry work ahead of us at Concordia. I’m looking forward to all of the activity that starts up with the end of summer.

NEW SERMON SERIES

Beginning the weekend of **September 14 and 15**, we will begin a new sermon series centered around Concordia’s mission statement “Touching People with Jesus Christ for Healing and for Service”, and the process by which we accomplish that: **Be Still, Be One, and Be Faithful**. Join us for worship as we dig deeper into what those phrases mean and how they shape our ministry at Concordia.

SANCTUARY CHOIR

Our sanctuary choir sings primarily for **8:15am** services in our beautiful, historic sanctuary. They contribute to these services about twice a month and occasionally sing for special services in our Concordia Center. Under the direction of Phillip Magness, they sing a wide variety of classical sacred music, hymn arrangements, and modern choral works. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at **7:00pm** in our music room, which is located near our sanctuary balcony. Our first rehearsal is **Wednesday, September 4**.

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

For the past few years, my wife Stacy and I have been leading the Kids Song choir with rehearsals prior to Kids Night activities on Wednesdays. It has been a joy to work with these awesome kids and to hear them sing in worship. We’ve found that having a practice from 5:00-5:35pm has a challenge for families to get to Concordia on time, which has given us a very short time to work with the children before they meet for dinner. Stacy and I will be sending out a survey to all of our Concordia families with children in 2nd-5th grade to find out what other options may be more effective and practical. This certainly won’t be the end of Kids Song, but rather a calibration to be sure we have a meeting time that helps us better accomplish the goal of preparing our kids to use their voices to lead in worship.

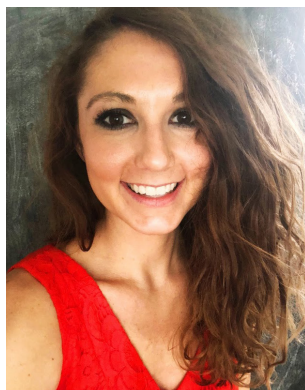


Bible Gifting - Sunday, August 25

SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY

JESSICA CRAWFORD
JCRAWFORD@CKHOME.ORG

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



You may or may not know this about me, but I am a child of Concordia. I remember attending Vacation Bible School every summer but especially the year the “ice cube” melted and we didn’t have any air conditioning. I can also remember going to Confirmation classes each Friday with Pastor Gundermann and Jeremy Becker. All this before there was a new Center for Christian Education. Before there was even a Concordia Center. Walls have come up and walls have come down. And now in the exact same place where my VBS class was taught and I gathered each week with my fellow CCLS 8th graders, I get the privilege of setting up a space dedicated specifically to serve our kiddos in the Special Needs Ministry. How great is that? How great is God!

In the next couple of months, our space will be transitioning from a space conducive to teaching young children 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. Also known as a Sensory Room, this safe place is a space designed to help an individual with sensory issues and sensitivities regulate their brain’s negative reactions to external stimuli. Children and youth who require this additional sensory input are then calm and focused and ready to learn. Here at Concordia, that means our children and youth with special needs are ready to learn about God!

Now, as a result of 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 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 become a reality. Their mission is to help churches reach these families once deemed unreachable through the use of Sensory Rooms. On the side are some examples of the items that will be located inside our very own Special Needs Ministry Sensory Room—located in the old nursery in the Sanctuary Commons.

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!

ASL

New class beginning **Wednesday, September 11!**

Come learn American Sign Language with Michelle Hayek every Wednesday from **7:15-8:00pm** in the Library. No experience necessary!



DATES TO REMEMBER

Trunk or Treat
October 20, 2019

Night to Shine
February 7, 2020

**VBS for Children
and Youth with
Special Needs**
July 6-10, 2020



NIGHT TO SHINE

FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Have you heard the fabulous news? We were selected to host Night to Shine again!

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



If you missed this incredible experience last year, you may be thinking, "But what exactly is Night to Shine?" Let me walk you through the night. Honored guests will come through our doors ready and wearing their prom night best. Suits and sequins everywhere you look! If a guest would like to add a little more glitz to their evening, our glam squad can assist with hair and makeup and glitter. After checking in at registration, each guest will be assigned an equally glamorously dressed buddy for the evening. From here, the honored guest and the buddy head to the red carpet where the paparazzi will be waiting, ready to clap and cheer. Parents and caregivers of the honored guests in attendance then head to their own party in our building while the honored guest along with their buddy make their way to the dance floor. If dancing the night away and eating dinner and dessert just aren't enough, honored guests and buddies can head back upstairs for karaoke and limo rides. Before the clock strikes midnight on our evening, or in this case 9:00pm, each honored guest is crowned a king or queen by their buddy followed by a celebratory balloon drop.



Our plan this second year is to welcome **125 honored guests** and their families to Concordia on **Friday, February 7**. To make this happen, we will need over **300 volunteers** of all ages. From red carpet clappers to buddies to shoe shiners, we need your help! If you would like to join us on this wonderful night, I encourage you to read through our extensive volunteer team list. There is something for everyone!

For more information, to donate or to volunteer please visit www.nighttoshinekirkwood.com or contact Jessica Crawford at jcrawford@ckhome.org. To learn more about this worldwide movement, check out www.timtebowfoundation.org.



CONCORDIA
Lutheran Church

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