

the 809



Inspire ♦ Involve ♦ Inform

(The number 809 represents the approximate total of Concordia's membership age 50 and older)

A WORD FROM PASTOR MEGGERS....

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are just coming off a 3-week sermon series entitled "What's in a Name?" We had the opportunity to grow as children of God who have been given His great Name. Now we get to look forward with Advent anticipation to celebrating the season that heralds "IMMANUEL!" God With us. It is a season of heightened anticipation reflected in worship and song. It is a season of rejoicing and gathering together. As you gather to celebrate IMMANUEL, think about this as an Advent Challenge. Look for opportunities to talk about Immanuel. What did it mean to you as a child that Jesus was with you? How has God been with you throughout your life? Be ready for opportunities to share. Enjoy the Immanuel stories of others.

God bless your Advent and Christmas! Pastor M



LUNCH AND LEARN HAPPENINGS

Our seventh annual Oktoberfest was once again a time of great fellowship, festive music and delicious food. We had fun making it through our first attempt at the Schnitzelbank song and are certain that our second effort next year will show improvement!! Thanks to all who made this celebration possible. Thank you for the Socktober collection of socks for "Moms on a Mission" who distribute them to area homeless. Concordia's Sandy Kline is part of this outreach. She is overwhelmingly grateful for the out-pouring of love and support to these men in our community.



Our November Lunch and Learn gathering featured a program on women in the military as we welcomed veterans Major Paula Wilson, US Army (Ret) and Dr. Kitty Bickford who served 10 years on active duty in the Air Force and was also married to a career military person. Collection cans for the St. Louis Fisher House, "a home away from home" for the families and caregivers of our military men and women, were available for those who wished to make a donation.



Please note the date for our annual December Christmas gathering. This year's event will focus on the theme "Prince of Peace" and will be held on **Tuesday, December 10, 11:30am**. The meal will be catered by The Hawthorne Inn at a cost of \$15 per person. Pork tenderloin with blackberry sauce, cavitappi and cheese, asparagus, salad and bread will be served. Please bring a dozen cookies to share. As always, there will be special entertainment, devotional time and fun fellowship. Since the meal is catered, an accurate "head count" is needed. Please **RSVP by December 2** by contacting Patty Wilson, 314.822.7772 x128 or pwilson@CKhome.org, sign the welcome tab on the Sunday bulletin or sign the list in the Concordia Commons. We hope you will join us for this special celebration. All are welcome!

UPCOMING...

Our January 16 and February 20 programs are still in the planning stages. Put the dates on your calendar and be on the lookout for additional details!

Soup's On

Our annual Soup's On luncheons will begin following the 11:00am service on **Ash Wednesday, February 26**, and will continue throughout the Lenten season. Start gathering those delicious soup recipes!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent Midweek Worship

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

This year, we will feature two unique Advent worship opportunities. Our 11:00am services will be held in the Sanctuary and feature a traditional Matins liturgy. Our evening services will be in the Concordia Center from 6:45-7:15pm. The evening service will be rolled into our Wednesday evening Kids Ministry and small group Bible studies. Through music, video, teaching, and participation activities, we hope to create an intergenerational worship opportunity. Everyone who is a part of Wednesday evening activities is invited to attend.

LHSS Music

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

Saturday, December 14, 7:00pm

Concert featuring the Wind Symphony, Concert Band and Jazz Band

Sunday, December 15, 7:00pm

Concert featuring the LHSS Choirs.

December 15 Worship Schedule

The LHSS Wind Symphony will play at the 9:30am Concordia Center service. In order to ease movement between services, the 10:45am service will meet in the Sanctuary instead of the Concordia.

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services

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

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

SPIRITLIFTERS

Although the upcoming holidays are certainly times of joy and rejoicing, they can also be filled with sadness for those who are alone, who are dealing with personal difficulties or who are grieving the loss of loved ones. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 reminds us: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 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."

Please consider being a SpiritLifter this holiday. SpiritLifting is not a program; it doesn't take expertise or training. It simply asks us to think of someone who may need a word of comfort, love and encouragement. Take a few minutes of your time and give them a call, send them a note, pay them a visit, let them know you are praying for them. God's miraculous promise is that you will be richly blessed as you reach out with His SpiritLifting love to others.

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

The call committee will be reviewing the surveys which were submitted by congregational members as we continue the process of seeking the one God is preparing to be our next senior pastor. If you were not able to fill out the survey and have comments or suggestions to make to the call committee, please use the email CallProcess@CKhome.org. Please keep the committee and our congregation in your prayers.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

...Cookies for our homebound members are needed again this year. Last year's response was overwhelming and allowed us to also bring trays of cookies to area facilities such as Kirkwood House, Rose Hill, Mary Culver Home, Concordia House, Bethesda, etc. The residents and staffs of those facilities were very appreciative of the Christmas joy we shared with them! Please bring 2 dozen cookies (in some type of non-returnable container) to the Giving Center by **December 8**. If you are interested in helping to deliver cookies, please contact Sharon Ema, sema@CKhome.org or 314.822.7772 x108.

...Mission Gate Prison Ministry will be sponsoring a Christmas party for children of inmates again this year. You can share the love of Christ with these children by taking an "angel" tag from the tree at the Giving Center and bringing a gift, appropriately marked for boy or girl and the approximate age. Please return the wrapped gift with the tag by **December 11** to Concordia.

...Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri's "Season of Sharing" will be making Christmas wishes come true for LFCS clients across Missouri. We are helping to collect gift cards for kids. Purchase a gift card (\$10-\$50) from your favorite retailer (Target, Walmart, Amazon) or choose an "ornament" on the tree with a specific gift card request from a child. Return "ornament" with gift card or other gift cards to the Giving Center by **December 5**.

...Kirk Care and Feed My People need food items to share with the less fortunate during this holiday season. Please consider bringing canned goods and other non-perishable items to Concordia's Market Basket in the lobby.

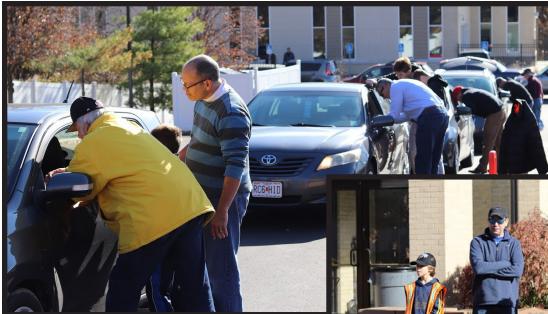
...Concordia relies heavily on a seasonal increase in giving during the Christmas season to support its ministry now and throughout the year. Please plan your year-end gifts to our general fund and Concordia Outbound Ministry, knowing that they must be received or postmarked by December 31 to be considered a 2019 tax contribution.



SERVANT HEARTS AND HANDS

...Our congregation recently received Feed My People's 2019 Carol and John DeGuire Humanitarian Award which honors individuals or churches who make positive changes in the lives of Feed My People's clients and our community. In addition, Joan Ferguson received the inaugural "Standing Ovation Award" for her outstanding service.

...Concordia's men's ministry completed a very successful fifth annual Turkey Blessing community outreach to needy families and to area ministries on November 23 and 24. One thousand uncooked turkey dinners were distributed, each of which contained a frozen turkey, stuffing, green beans and potatoes. In addition to the food, recipients received devotional materials and were given an opportunity to share prayer requests. Some very touching stories were shared by our volunteers. Appreciation is expressed to all those who served as well as to those who donated towards the cost of this mission project. Christ's promise is that when we serve "the least of these," we serve Him!



...The Wednesday morning Lifelight class has adopted seven families this Christmas season, including Seminary students and a homeless North St. Louis family that has recently found a place to live. Twin mattresses and some basic furniture pieces are being donated to this family.

...Christian Friends of New Americans wishes to thank those Concordia members who helped with their recent annual fundraisers – the Golf Benefit and Trivia Night. CFNA's Gospel-centered ministry assists refugees and immigrants in the greater St. Louis area.

...We also give thanks for Mildred Agnew's many years of service to Concordia's Altar Guild and for Tom Benedum's 50 years of pastoral ministry, including military ministry.



YOU MAY WANT TO KNOW THAT...

...A very special 50+ wedding anniversary celebration was recently held at Concordia. The twenty-seven couples who attended (a total of 1,331 years of marriage) enjoyed fellowship, a worship service, and a delicious lunch as they were celebrated for their years of faithful living. A special thank you to the 50+ Anniversary Ministry Action Team and all the volunteers for their efforts in planning such a wonderful gathering and to all who helped the day of the event!

...Thirty-seven of Concordia's youth affirmed their baptismal vows during their confirmation service on Reformation Sunday. Please continue to hold these young people in your prayers.

...Concordia's Special Needs Ministry has begun a new opportunity for special needs families. Family night meets on the first Sunday of every month from 6:00-7:30pm and is planned not just for the individual with special needs but for the entire family as well. Our hope is that this would be a time to build community and provide support for the family in a Christ-centered environment. For more information or to volunteer, contact Jessica Crawford at jcrawford@CKhome.org.

...Advent devotional materials are available at Concordia.

...Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary St. Louis, has announced his retirement as of June 30, 2020. Dr. Meyer has served in his current capacity since 2005 and is the 10th president of the Seminary since its founding in 1839.

LOOKING AHEAD...

...Concordia has again been selected to be a host church for Night to Shine, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, an unforgettable prom-night experience centered on God's love for people with special needs ages 14 and older. The event is **Friday, February 7, 6:00-9:00pm**. An estimated 700 churches around the world will be hosting similar events the same evening! Many willing hands will be needed to help with this wonderful event at Concordia. Please visit NightToShineKirkwood.com/volunteer for more information or contact Jessica Crawford, Director of Special Needs Ministry, 314.822.7772, to see how you can help. Those who assisted last year know the special blessing that the evening brought to those who attended and to those who served.

...Concordia's Health Ministry Action Team will hold the annual Health and Resource Fair on **Sunday, February 9**. Vendors, service opportunities, as well as resources on spiritual, physical and emotional health for all ages will be available.

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

REMEMBERING...

Please keep the families of these departed saints in your prayers....

Lee Weber
Larry Rambo

