



CONCORDIA  
Lutheran Church

# Newcomers

## ORIENTATION

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# Welcome to Concordia!

I am delighted that you are connecting more deeply with Jesus through what you've been experiencing at Concordia. For almost 150 years, since 1874, people in and around Kirkwood have found Concordia to be a welcoming, warm, Gospel-oriented church that cares about our community in the name of Jesus.

Concordia has much to offer you. Worship – both traditional and contemporary, Bible study, friendship, as well as partnership with you in many life transitions: baptism, first communion, confirmation, marriage, childbirth, visitation, funerals.

You, also, have much to offer. Being a member of Concordia is not just receiving what the church has to offer, but it's also you discovering how God is calling you to use your God-given gifts to serve others.

Over the next two years, as we emerge from pandemic, we are trusting God to **renew** our church and our lives, to help us **grow** in faith and service, and to **go** into our daily lives as followers of Jesus who invite others to join the journey.

I think you'll find that this booklet, and the time spent with others new to Concordia, will help you begin to feel at home. You'll find out about how our church is organized, who the staff members are, what our purpose is, and how you can find meaningful participation.

*Thank you for trusting Concordia to guide you on your faith journey!*

**Rev. Stephen Bongard**  
Senior Pastor  
sbongard@CKhome.org





## From Our Council President

We are thrilled you have joined us on the journey of following Jesus. We are not perfect, but we know Jesus is! We call St. Louis home, but we strive to reach out to our local neighbors and to the world to proclaim the Name of Christ. Concordia has a rich history that speaks of a community knitted together in one body, the Church, a community of faith striving to exercise its faith. Our hope at Concordia is that each of you finds a place here that helps you pursue an intimate relationship with God because of His great love for us.

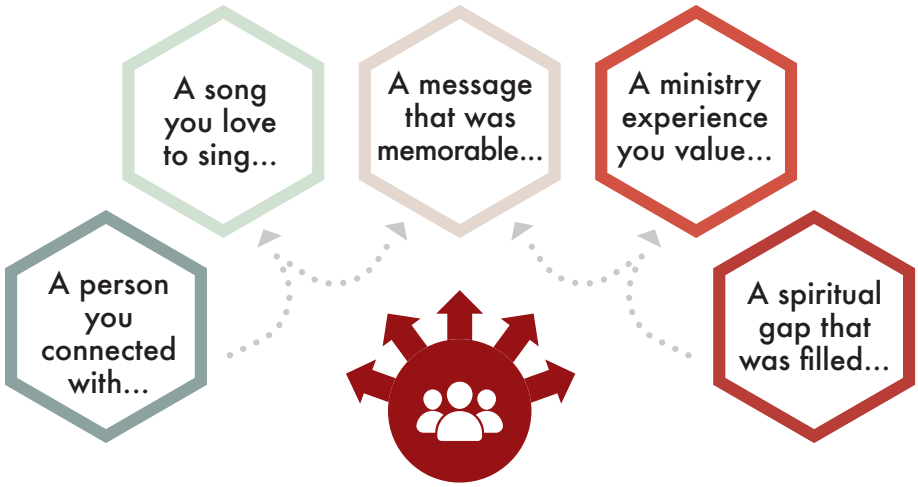
It is a wonderful privilege to have you among us. We pray that you experience a rich spiritual life here at Concordia and that you immerse yourself in this community. We hope to be a place that helps you grow as a Christian and a place that develops you as a Christian leader. Regardless of where your unique faith leads you here at Concordia, we trust that God will provide you with a comfortable and exciting place for years to come, where you can be renewed, grow in faith and go forth armored with the love of Christ.

**Keith Fatzinger**  
President, Church Council



# A CONVERSATION ON HOPE

Why you came? Why you stayed?



**What are you or your family's hopes as you search for a church home?**

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**Concordia's hope for you...  
to Emerge With One Heart**



**Wherever you  
are, you are the  
CHURCH.**



**HOME is the  
primary place  
for Christian faith  
formation.**

**How did your home form your Christian faith?**

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## Baptism

Colossians 3:10

We are thankful that God, through the waters of baptism, continues to create faith and deliver eternity to people of all ages. Throughout history, the church has practiced Baptism as the sign of God's gifts of acceptance, forgiveness, adoption, and love. Along with the historic church, Lutherans understand baptism as a sacrament; a special act commanded by Jesus, given with the physical element (water) combined with God's promise of grace. As God's totally free gift to us, baptism - whether as a child or an adult - marks the beginning of a Christian's journey of faith.



*“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”*

*- Romans 6:3-4*

# Worship

Worship at Concordia values the heritage of Christian Worship received through the centuries without sacrificing the joy of our particular 21st century time and place in worship form and song. Come and be energized by warm, Christ-centered worship.

## Sanctuary Worship

Traditional and modern hymns led by organ and piano

-5:00pm, Saturday

-8:00am, Sunday



## Concordia Center Worship

Modern worship music and hymns led by worship band

-9:30am, Sunday - "ASL" Interpreted

-11:00am, Sunday



**Our 9:30am Sunday services are live-streamed on Facebook, YouTube and at [CKhome.org/watch-worship](http://CKhome.org/watch-worship). They are also available at any time to watch throughout the week!**

While we are very pleased to have the ability to livestream our services and believe worship can happen anywhere, we place significant value in the experience of worshipping in person and hope that you can experience that with us.

In an effort to make worship accessible to all, Concordia provides bulletins printed in Braille and large print bulletins.

# Communion

The Lord's Supper (also referred to as the Eucharist and Holy Communion) is the special means by which God imparts to each of us this forgiveness we so desperately need but so completely cannot obtain by ourselves.



The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod believes Scripture teaches the Lord's Supper is a precious gift of God in which Christ gives us His true body and blood (in a miraculous way), together with the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.

Because the Bible teaches that this Sacrament may also be spiritually harmful if misused, and that participation in the Lord's Supper is an act of confession of faith, we ordinarily commune only those who have been instructed in the teachings of our church and who have confessed their faith.



## Bible Studies & Small Groups

If you are hoping to get connected with a Bible study/small group, visit the Connect tab on our website CKHome.org and view Our Bible Studies page! There you will see descriptions, times, and contact info for all of our groups.

Bible studies are held on many days and times throughout the week! If you would like to join a group, read the descriptions on the webpage and contact the leader listed. We would love for you to get involved. Don't see one that fits you or your schedule? We are here to support you in creating your own group.



# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY OFFERINGS

## - Nursery

Ages 0 - 3

## - Sunday KidsMin:

PreK 2 - 5th Grade, 9:30-10:30am. Arrive for check-in between 9:20/9:30 in the Large Commons on Sunday morning.

Check CKhome.org for exact dates

## - Wednesday Kids Night:

1st - 5th Grade

Check CKhome.org for exact dates

## - Jr. High Ministry

### **Wednesday Confirmation:**

6th - 8th Grade

Check CKhome.org for exact dates

### **Jr. High activity nights**

## - Sr. High Youth:

### **Bible Study**

### **Sr. High activity nights**

### **Retreats and servant events, including Youth Gathering**

For more information about our ministries, please visit [www.ckhome.org/ministries-home](http://www.ckhome.org/ministries-home)







## *Serving*

### **Serving Within Our Walls**

With so much going on at Concordia all the time, we could not function without the serving hearts of volunteers. Not only does it ensure we can provide everything we want to provide, but it helps our members meet others who they may not have met otherwise!

Ask Deaconess Kris how to volunteer at [kpaul@CKhome.org](mailto:kpaul@CKhome.org)

#### **Volunteers are needed for:**

- Worship Support Team (communion assistants, acolytes, ushers and technology)
- Welcome Team (greeters, hospitality, etc.)
- Kids Ministry (Sunday KidsMin, Wednesday KidsNight, Nursery, Vacation Bible School, etc.)

Volunteer training is provided!





## Serving Outside of Our Walls

**We value our community, both near and far! You can serve by:**

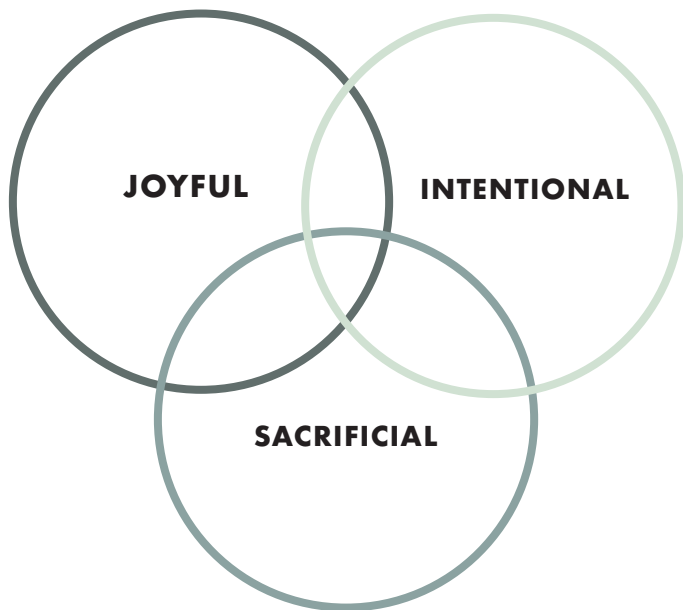
- Donating to local food pantries by dropping off items Monday-Friday at Concordia from 9:00am-4:00pm
- Delivering groceries to our home-bound. Contact Sharon Ema at [sema@ckhome.org](mailto:sema@ckhome.org)
- Participate in Uganda Mission Trips
- Volunteer to help Christian Friends of New Americans as they support incoming refugees at [www.cfna-stl.org](http://www.cfna-stl.org)



# *Giving*

Generosity is part of life at Concordia. It is how we can continue to grow, provide and support our members and God's Children outside our walls.

## **Generosity at Concordia is:**



We ask all new members, as God leads and you are able, to consider a yearly contribution equal to 6-10% of your yearly income.



## **What is The One Fund?**

All giving for ongoing ministry, capital improvement, and outbound ministry will be combined into a single fund from which all accounts will be paid. The One Fund approach allows us to celebrate the total giving of our congregation toward a clear, focused vision.

**Our Total  
Giving  
Goal for  
the next  
TWO  
YEARS:**

**\$10.6  
Million**

**\$5.6 Million  
Ongoing  
Ministry**

**\$5 Million  
Emerging  
Ministry**





Christ Community Lutheran School  
[www.ccls-stlouis.org](http://www.ccls-stlouis.org)

## Our Partnership with Christ Community Lutheran School

Our Emerge initiative aligns with our partnership with CCLS on all levels. Concordia and CCLS leadership work hard to keep our relationship and partnership mutually beneficial. That works only when you, as a CCLS family, join us in that effort. Studies show the spiritual development of children and parents develops best when schools, churches, and the home work as a team for the good of the whole family. We ask that as our partner in equipping children to be servant-leaders, each family commits to the following:



## *Renew:*

### **Regular Worship Attendance**

It is so important that children are a part of worship and see their parents worshipping, whether in person or online at least two times per month. We would love for you to join us in any way you can as we sing together, pray together, and learn about God's love for His children. Visit [CKhome.org/watch-worship](http://CKhome.org/watch-worship) to discover more.

## *Grow:*

### **Faith Development**

While there is no specific requirement for Bible study or KidsMin participation, it remains one of Concordia's hopes that you will seek out opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus through community study of the Word. There are a number of options for adults, men, and women that meet at various times through the week. Concordia is very committed to our children and youth faith development. Through KidsNight, Sunday KidsMin, Confirmation, youth retreats, Vacation Bible School, Summer Mission Opportunities, etc., we have many opportunities to get our kids connected. And, we love it even more when they bring friends! Find out everything we have to offer at [CKhome.org](http://CKhome.org).

*Go:*

### **Regular Offerings**

Our entire church budget is based on offerings. With 26% of our offerings supporting CCLS, only through the generosity of those passionate about CCLS education can we continue to support strong Christian education values. In partnering with Concordia for your child's education, it is expected that you will share your financial resources with CK's ministry on a regular basis.

### **Volunteering**

Jesus calls each of us to use our gifts for the good of our community and the world. Concordia has a number of opportunities to get involved so check out [CKhome.org](http://CKhome.org) or contact Deaconess Kris at [kpaul@CKhome.org](mailto:kpaul@CKhome.org) for more information!





# About Christ Community Lutheran School

147/148

Years of School Ministry  
at Concordia

4

Owner Congregations

720

Enrollment

25%/70%

Non-Lutheran K-8/Preschool

~150

Staff Members

\$6M

Yearly Budget

\$4,980/  
\$8,240

Member/Non-Member  
Tuition Costs

# *So What's Next?*

You have entrusted the care of your souls to our congregation and the God we serve with joy and hope. We are delighted that you are considering being a part of our Concordia family. We value the relationship we share in Christ Jesus and with each other as we together participate in ministry.

## How do I go from Newcomer to New Member?



# A.

## **Newcomers Gathering**

Connection is at the heart of our ability to grow as disciples. Maintaining relationships at Concordia will not only strengthen your faith, but it will help strengthen the faith of those you connect with. To do this, we will host an annual gathering for newcomers to ignite these connections.

At Concordia, we want to:

- Establish a relationship with your home
- Develop connections with other newcomers
- Share interests
- Offer an opportunity for questions
- Assist you, and your home, as you grow in relationship with Christ

# B1.

## LCMS Transfer

If you are currently a member of a Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregation, please contact that congregation and request a Letter of Transfer be sent directly to Concordia. It is respectful and courteous to notify them that you are leaving and becoming a member at Concordia.

# or B2.

## Lutheran Introduction

IF...You currently do not have a Lutheran background.

IF...You are new to the Church in general.

The session gives an understanding about Lutheran doctrine through a six-week, one-hour class. Sessions are held in September-October and January-February.

We will answer questions such as:

- What is Confession?
- What is Absolution?
- What is Baptism?
- What is the Lord's Supper?
- What is \_\_\_\_\_insert your question here\_\_\_\_\_?

The session is taught by Pastoral Assistant, Rev. Ron Roma.

You will be contacted to register!

Lutheran Introduction is not so much an entryway, but an understanding and foundation. The classes offer insight into what we believe, teach, and takes you into a deeper dive into the Christian faith. The session is designed to answer questions in an open, interactive, supportive, non-intimidating atmosphere. We recommend that your spouse/partner also attend. After completion of Lutheran Introduction, you are a member of the Concordia family. Being a member at Concordia is a vital part of the body of Christ.



## Getting Connected

Our website is a valuable resource for everyone! By visiting **CKhome.org** you can discover more about:

- Who our staff is and what they can do for you
- The history of Concordia
- How to register your attendance at worship
- Our childrens, junior youth, senior youth, special needs, adult, and older adult ministries and how to get involved
- Our list of Bible studies with descriptions and contact information
- How to get our newsletters via email (Tip! Check your spam folder after signing up and add CKhome.org to your favorites!)
- and more!



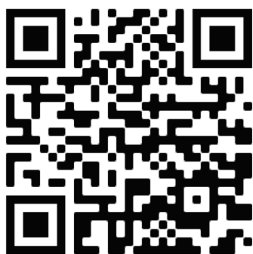


## **Download Our App!**

Featuring event registration, home worship videos, give online, see our directory and submit a prayer request.

Follow these three simple steps to download the app and get started:

1. Download Church by MinistryOne in the App Store or Google Play.
2. Search for Concordia Lutheran Church.
3. Select Concordia & begin exploring! Turn on notifications to receive important updates from Concordia!



**Scan the QR code with your phone to download the app!**

# *Resources for You*

## **Baptisms**

- Contact Marcy Scholl at [mscholl@CKhome.org](mailto:mscholl@CKhome.org) to schedule the time - Baptisms can be scheduled at 4:00pm on Saturdays, any worship service, or noon on Sundays.
- Guest Lutheran pastors are welcome

## **Weddings**

- Contact Sharon Karleskint at [skarleskint@CKhome.org](mailto:skarleskint@CKhome.org) to schedule your date
- Guest Lutheran pastors are welcome
- One of the Concordia pastors will contact you for an overview meeting
- Charlie and Debbie Davis will contact you for pre-marriage counseling at [ddavis@CKhome.org](mailto:ddavis@CKhome.org)

## **Pastoral Care and Support**

- Contact Sharon Ema at [sema@CKhome.org](mailto:sema@CKhome.org) or
- Pastor David Meggers at [dmeggers@CKhome.org](mailto:dmeggers@CKhome.org)

## **Funerals**

- Please let Sharon Ema know when illness is serious or death is imminent
- For arrangements contact Sharon at [sema@CKhome.org](mailto:sema@CKhome.org)

# Staff Directory

At Concordia, we are blessed with dedicated staff who use their gifts from God to help further the mission of the church and to support its members through life's ups and downs. **Email any member or staff or call the church at 314-822-7772 and we will do our best to direct, support and assist you!**

You can learn more about our staff at  
[CKhome.org/staff](http://CKhome.org/staff)





**Rev. Stephen Bongard**  
Senior Pastor  
sbongard@CKhome.org



**Larry Watson**  
Church Business Administrator  
lwatson@CKhome.org



**Sharon Karleskint**  
Administrative Assistant  
skarleskint@CKhome.org



**Patty Wilson**  
Logistics and Publishing  
pwilson@CKhome.org



**Rev. David Meggers**  
Associate Pastor  
dmeggers@CKhome.org



**Sharon Ema, RN**  
Pastoral Care/Healing Arts  
sema@CKhome.org



**Rev. Dr. Richard LaBore**  
Pastoral Assistant



**Rev. Ken Krueger**  
Pastoral Assistant - Baptisms  
kkrueger@CKhome.org



**Debbie (+Charlie) Davis**  
Pre-Marriage Support  
ddavis@CKhome.org



**Deaconess Kristina Paul**  
Connections Coordinator  
kpaul@CKhome.org



**Jodi Carlson**  
Youth Ministry  
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**Marcy Scholl**  
Newcomers Coordinator  
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**Rev. Ron Roma**  
Pastoral Assistant - Newcomers  
ronroma01@gmail.com



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**Stacy Knorp**  
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# RENEW







GROW



GO



**CONCORDIA**  
Lutheran Church

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