

The Concordian

SEASON AFTER
PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 2007



Pastor Dave, Intentional Interim Pastor

To begin with I want to reiterate and expand my previous greeting. Most days I still enjoy

being your interim pastor but then there are those days. I pray too that most days you are still blessed by my being your interim pastor but then there are those days. I'm thankful that we both know that, otherwise we would know less about the grace of God at work among us.

We have accomplished some important work together in this part of the Kingdom in the last six months including getting to know each other (you can still help by saying your name), worshiping together, studying together, completing two phases of the Intentional Interim Process, meeting together (Trustees and Deacons) and being God's people around the category of Pastoral Care (illness, counseling, grief, conflict, home-bound). I have been blessed by you and I'm thankful.

The fall brings a new opportunity in Education to our relationship, The Learning Forum, available in the sanctuary every Sunday I am with you, at least, until the end of the year. I know of no other area in faith life that is so neglected, taken for granted and wasted than education.

For years I have marveled at how every professional person I know must meet a standard of education in

their accreditation but in the church we settle for a plateau that seldom grows or challenges us to become the children of God we are called to be, if we participate at all.

Excuses for lack of participation run the gamut from I'm too busy to I'm not interested to it doesn't challenge me. That is if we aren't running around during that hour after we drop off the kids, if we drop them off.

And ask a member of the church what they want to study in Bible Class and you get this glassy stare, "like it should matter to me?" Perhaps we pastors have taken that option away from members by our deciding what they needed. Without asking, the people have given up their voice of choice.

Anyway, I want to challenge you to maintain your accreditation as a card carrying Christian this fall by attending one of the Bible Classes. You will be challenged and engaged, I'm willing to gamble that you will grow in your understanding of Christian grief, Christian stewardship and what the church needs to understand about our changing world and church and how to bring the "good news" of Jesus Christ to it.

And let's agree that most days we still enjoy serving God together and pray that continues by God's grace. See you in the sanctuary on Sunday morning at the other "sacred hour," the hour of education beginning at 9:15a.m.

Peace, PD

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Building Committee	Pg. 2
Orphan Grain Train	Pg. 3
VBS	Pg. 4
Ministry Coordinator	Pg. 5
Youth Gathering Report	Pg. 6-10



Congregational President

Dear Friends,

If you're like me, you're excited that summer is over and Rally Day signaled the "Kick-Off" for a full schedule of church activities.

Our schedule of Bible Studies—both on Sunday morning and Monday afternoon and Wednesday evening should offer some opportunities to study for each of us.

Fellowship activities continue to be offered throughout the year.

The service opportunities at Emmanuel Dining Room, Lutheran Community Services, Orphan Grain Train, Habitat for Humanity and more are in need of your help.

And we are back to two worship services on Sunday mornings at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

As you will read further, Concordia is a "happening place" because He and we make it happen!

God's Blessings,
George Butler



Thank you for supporting our prison ministry! Please continue to bring in shampoos, conditioners, soaps, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and

lotions for the women at Baylor Women's Prison. These are delivered to the prison chaplain who distributes them to the women as a way to show the hope, joy, and love of Christ from Christians who care.

This Christmas we will again participate in Angel Tree, a Christmas ministry to children who have a mom or dad in prison. As soon as the names of the children are received, information will be placed in the narthex to sign up to purchase a gift for a child for Christmas. In addition to the gifts purchased by Concordia members, an age appropriate Bible or Christian book is given to each child. The gifts are delivered to the child's home. Through our participation, we are reaching out to these children with God's love.

Please remember prisoners in your prayers. Pray for their safety and that they know the joy and love of Jesus Christ. If you have any questions or would like to become more involved in our prison ministry, please contact Dona Lerew McNulty.



Dear Members,

"Summer Sadness" has left the building and the halls of Concordia are alive and busy again! The classrooms are ablaze with color, noise and lots

of learning. Laughter, singing (and the occasional cry of a 2 year old) can be heard daily again. We are all glad to be back!!

Hopefully, you have had a chance to visit the "new classroom" downstairs. It is a terrific place for the 5 day 4 year olds to learn, and the 3rd and 4th graders to have Sunday School. Although it is not a permanent, traditional room, it is a great example of "creative shared space". We are proud of what we can accomplish together when we have common goals and mission. The Preschool is honoring one of its teachers this year. Star Fletcher is celebrating her 20th year teaching at Concordia Preschool!! She has taught every age group in her many years of service here. She is such a special person, and I am proud to call her my mentor and friend.

Star is a terrific example of someone who is spreading the mission of this church and school to every family she meets. She was presented with flowers at the church service last Sunday, and we have some other special plans for her through out this year as well!

Enjoy this fall season, and feel free to stop by and visit the preschool. I think you will be happy to see how wonderfully this outreach program touches the lives of God's children on a daily basis.

Yours in crayons and markers,
Helen Ann Spillan

Building Committee



SLOWLY, SLOWLY, EVER SO SLOWLY our Exploratory Sketch Plan and Record Plan application is wending it's way through the New Castle County Review procedures. Our application, including drawings, consultant reports and other requirements was submitted in late July and produced a prompt response from the County's review team. Our plan was deemed "Unacceptable" and listed 8 Planning, 12 Standard and 3 Engineering citations. This is not an unusual response from the county. Fortunately, all can be relieved by adding comments to the plan itself, deleting others, redirecting county officials to their own code and our first submission to understand items they missed. There are no "show stopping" issues.

I won't bore you with a complete listing of the citations and our response thereto because I have insisted that the correcting comments be recorded on the official documents themselves as General Data or General Notes. Once these are in satisfactory shape for resubmission to New Castle County I will post a copy in a prominent place in the Narthex and walk through it with any interested party. You will be pleased, I am sure, to learn now that we will be allowed to proceed only if we include a bicycle rack on our site with a minimum capacity of 16 bikes.

Currently, we are working to understand and secure compliance with the LDIA requirement (Land Development Improvement Agreement). This boils down to Concordia's promise (secured by a bond of some sort) that we will include certain landscape improvements on our site as a part of any construction. More details on this issue as they become clear. There has been only one response to the public notice sign posted on the yard, and that came from an interested contractor.

Your Building Committee is still smiling and pushing the ball down the field as best we can. Please call me with any questions you may have but remember this. "You can't make this stuff up".

In His Service and yours with great and abundant joy,
Dick Hartman, Building Committee Chair

With the end of summer, OGT volunteers are picking up the pace. After emptying and thoroughly cleaning our warehouse following two shipments in June, we are back to work. On alternating Fridays and Saturdays we need sorters and packers in order to ship again by the end of the year. Please check the bulletin board for dates and sign-up sheets and help as often as you can.

Concordia follows Christ Memorial Lutheran Church with our 2007 fundraiser on Saturday, November 3. You have heard about it already but here's more . . . We're putting on a Dinner Murder Mystery in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. Care will be provided for our youngsters, so you



all come! While dinner is being served in courses you will mingle with the suspects and characters, and vice versa, to "finger" the murderer of Jerry Oilman. Jerry, who is not a nice person, has invited every important person he knows to a big party. When the guests arrive, they find Jerry murdered!

Tickets are \$20, of which \$15 is tax deductible. No better entertainment around, dinner included for the price. Even if you are unable to attend, please

consider buying a ticket. In order to receive \$1,000 from Thrivent, we must raise \$3,000. Christ Memorial, Malvern, PA is holding their annual auction (silent and live) on Sunday, October 7 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. at the Desmond Hotel, Great Valley, PA. Concordia actively supports CMLC's fundraiser. Many packages and items in the auction are from the Wilmington area, secured and donated by our own members. These tickets are also \$20. Please contact Pat Dorler or Caro-

line Goetz for tickets and/or transportation.

Keep those fantastic clothing donations coming. Thanks bunches for the quarters and just EVERYTHING you all do to support the OGT mission "I will not leave you as orphans I will come to you." John 14:18

Since we are allowing time to support CMLC's Auction October 7, our Dinner Murder Mystery tickets will be available at the end of September. Checks should be made out to Concordia Lutheran Church with line item OGT.

May God's peace be with you all.

Caroline Goetz



Memorial Garden

A generous memorial gift has been given to Concordia posthumously by Charlie and Gwendolyn Tee. This gift from their estate is large enough to complete the next phases of the garden: the installation of walkways to and from the Chapel, and landscaping to create a buffer between the Chapel and the neighboring parking area. A request for proposal is being created, and three bids will be solicited for the completion of the Memorial and Meditation Garden.

It is never too late for you to order a memorial paver and have it engraved. Visit the outdoor Chapel, the centerpiece of the Garden, to view the existing dedicated pavers. Remember the pavers allow for three lines of fifteen characters per line including spaces. A portion of the cost of each paver goes toward the perpetual care of the Garden. When the Garden is complete there will be a significant landscape area to be maintained; weeds pulled, plants trimmed, etc.

If you are interested in ordering an engraved paver, or helping maintain the grounds of the Memorial and Meditation Garden or any of the landscape areas around our grounds, please see John Hetrick.

Thank You!

Dear Concordia,
Thank you for the beautiful flowers and for recognizing my 20th year here at Concordia Preschool.

The wonderful friends I have made have kept me coming back.

Thanks again,
Star Fletcher
2 and 3 year old teacher



CAMPBELL LABELS

FOR BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES

Please save your Campbell Soup and Baked Bean labels and put them in the Campbell Soup Label box that is on the hall shelf between Pastor's and John Hetrick's offices.

I collect the labels and send them to Bethesda Lutheran Homes where they are exchanged for computers and school equipment. Bethesda Lutheran Homes are dedicated to bringing Christianity, dignity, and, where possible, independence to mentally and physically handicapped individuals. At Concordia, we've been helping this ministry by collecting labels for many years. Please join us by bringing in your labels. And many, many thanks to those who have been donating. ~Sandy Michel



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We thank God for the 70 truth seekers from 25 families, from our congregation, preschool, and community, for embarking with us on our Quest for Truth over the summer, August 6 through 10. Over one-third of the children who joined us on our quest were non-members, and we rejoiced in this opportunity to share the truth about Jesus with them.

During the week, Truth Troops Alpha and Omega journeyed from the side of a manger in Bethlehem, into the cleansing waters of the Jordan River, along the road between Samaria and Galilee, outside the empty tomb in Jerusalem, and into the Spirit-filled Jerusalem temple.

Truths revealed along our journey:

Jesus is our promised Savior.

Jesus is God's Son.

Jesus shows mercy.

Jesus died and rose to save sinners.

Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit.

We thank God for our dedicated VBS staff who gave hours of their time in the planning and execution of our quest. Anna Gottschaldt and Candy Weck created artwork for our Base Camp, and mural paintings for each of our destinations, that literally took us there! Kristin Baronio (Alpha), Valerie Hutchinson (Omega), and John Hetrick (Adult) were our Truth Troop Leaders. Kristin and John also led our opening and closing devotions and songs, accompanied by David Kelley. Karin Kreicker and Amanda Warwick led the troops in crafts. Additional support, including child care and activities, was offered by Gabi and Chris Farmer, Pam Saltar (and her friend Julia), Allyson and Meredith Weck, and Robert Young.



We thank God for the additional support, including meal preparation (under the guidance of Anna Gottschaldt), set up, clean up, and other general assistance received from Doreen and Ray Clarke, Sharon Cornell, Linda Blancett, Kathee Butler, Nancy Ebert, Susan Fuesler, Caroline Goetz, Bob and Ardis Guy, Deb Hetrick, Chris Kreicker, Til Lorenz, Gen Nied, Sandy Michel, and Andrea Warwick.

We thank God for the opportunity to learn, know, and share the Truth. During worship on Sunday August 12 our VBS kids, and their families, shared their gifts with



the congregation, offering a Children's Proclamation and leading the singing of our Hymn of the Day, "One Way to Heaven." We also proclaimed the truth about Jesus by sharing our blessings with those in need. During the week we collected clean underwear and socks for the Orphan Grain Train ministry. The week was truly a blessing to all and gave glory to God, who "*desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" (1 Timothy 2:4)

Message from the Ministry Coordinator

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)

As we continue on our journey together through this interim season of transition, I hope you can rejoice with me; over what has happened and what is planned at Concordia, advancing our mission of **Serving Community by Sharing Christian Hope**.

Rejoice! Over the summer, we shared the truth about Jesus during a week of fellowship, praise, and Bible study during our week of Vacation Bible School. This joy-filled week engaged God's children of all ages from our congregation, preschool, and community. Please see pictures and details (p. 4) in this newsletter.

Rejoice! The summer is over (okay, this may not be a cause for joy, especially for our kids), and our educational programs have begun anew. Rally Day, September 9, marked the return to our weekly schedule of two worship services at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. with study for all ages between services beginning at 9:15 a.m. Our Sunday morning study hour offers something for everyone: Sunday School for Pre-K through High School; a Young Adult Study, and an Adult Learning Forum.

Rejoice! Bible study and other educational opportunities are offered throughout the week. Bible Studies are offered on Mondays at 1:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Confirmation classes for 7th and 8th grade students will meet every other Tuesday. Rejoice with me that over 20 people have expressed interest in joining Concordia and have been invited to attend our "Membership Inquiry Class" this fall. This class, which consists of a review of Christian teaching from a Lutheran perspective, and discussion around the mission and ministry of Concordia in particular, is open to anyone with interest.

Rejoice! The Preschool gathers for Chapel every other Wednesday morning at 9:15 a.m. I rejoice in this opportunity to engage these little ones, and we open every Chapel time with the song, 'This is the Day.' *This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!* (Psalm 118:24) I tell the kids, "Rejoice is a 'smile word;' you can't say it without smiling." Try it!

Joyfully serving Him while serving you,
John Hetrick

From the Deacons . . .

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42) This passage of Scripture describes the devotion of the early Christian church, sometimes referred to as "The Fellowship of Believers." Concordia is similarly devoted.

Our Deacons are devoted to the spiritual care of our congregation and our pastor. We assist in leading worship (fellowship) every Sunday; reading Scripture (the apostles' teaching), distributing Holy Communion (the breaking of bread), and offering prayers. We encourage your participation in our weekly worship. Remember, worship is a verb; it is something we do, not an event we simply attend. Every month, the Deacons review our worship attendance and follow up with members we haven't seen for several weeks. We would also encourage you to reach out to each other.

This fall, the Deacons would like our members to create our own Advent Devotional. In the past we have purchased the devotions for us to use during this season of anticipation, leading up to Christmas. This year we would like to create our own, with families or individuals sharing Scripture or stories with each other. Watch for a sign up for you and your family to offer a daily devotion or participate in our mid-week worship services, during the season of Advent.

The description of the Fellowship of Believers continues, stating that *"they gave to anyone as had need."* (Acts 2:45b) Concordia is devoted to service; feeding those who are hungry through Emmanuel Dining

Room, clothing those who need clothes through Orphan Grain Train, providing Bible study and prayer for residents at Sojourners' Place, creating housing for those who need a home through Habitat for Humanity and through our financial giving to our Beyond Budget Benevolence program, . . . We encourage your continued devotion to these ministries.

The early church met daily *"in the temple courts"* and *"in their homes."* (Acts 2:46a) Unfortunately, not all of our members can make it to church on Sunday. Members in the hospital and shut-ins are visited, cared for, prayed with, and Pastor Betzner brings them Holy Communion. The Deacons are also studying the creation of a Eucharistic Ministry so the Deacons can offer and distribute pre-consecrated Communion when a need arises.

"With glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number..." (Acts 2:46b-47a) We welcomed William Yeldell into God's family and our Fellowship this summer through the cleansing waters of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. William's parents, Will and Kerry (pictured below with Pastor Dave), are among a large class of people expressing interest in joining Concordia. Thank you for your devotion to welcoming our guests with glad and sincere hearts as we praise God together.

With devotion,
John Hetrick, VP - Deacons



+CHOSEN+

Greetings Concordia!

It is hard to believe that the summer flew by so quickly. Yet here we are again – staring at a new academic school year and a new set of busy schedules. As the pace quickens, let us also be refocused on a new opportunity for our youth to learn about what it means to be like Jesus, and to deepen their relationships with each other and Him. Indeed, these are exciting times, which began for Concordia's Jr. /Sr. High Youth as we attended the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Orlando, FL back in July.

The theme, "CHOSEN: In Christ, With Each Other, and To the World" provided an opportunity for seven young Concordians to deepen their faith through seminars and hands-on experiences related to 1 Peter's passage: "you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a people belonging to God." As you may know by now, participants included: Brian Miller, Jessica Shepps, Pam Saltar, Melanie Ricker, Rebecca Fry, Molly MacGray, and Brandon Miller. Adult leaders included me, and Stacy Shepps. If you attended Rally Day on 9/9, you heard firsthand from these individuals about what they learned, and how they were touched from our experience in Florida. If you were not at Rally Day, you will find their reflections in what follows. I'm sure you'll agree in reading their thoughts that your investment in time, prayer, and finances, provided much return in developing future leaders in God's kingdom, and in the LCMS community. From our hearts, we thank you for your support!

If you read closely above, you'll notice that I referenced exciting times which "began for Concordia's Jr. / Sr. High Youth..." in Florida. But the Gathering was only for Sr. High – how did things begin for the Jr. High as well? The answer is that while in Florida, a theme arose that "Being Chosen Changes Everything". We have extended this theme into our Sunday School year for grades 7-12. To some extent then, all of our Youth will benefit from the message of the Gathering (Being Chosen); not just those who actually attended. This year, being "chosen" in Christ, will give kids first a firm understanding of the message of 1 Peter. We will first focus on the

starting point of Christ choosing each of us, what that means, and then shift into what His "choice" requires of us in relationship to each other and the community in which we live. In the words of one seminar we attended – *If not you, then who?*

We will continue our efforts in projects like RAKE (Random Acts of Kindness Everywhere), serving at Emmanuel Dining Room, helping at Orphan Grain Train, and will seek new opportunities to serve our community as the face of Christ and Concordia. We will offer 2-3 Youth Sundays throughout the year to offer our gifts in worship and praise through drama, song, and reflection. You will see our faces at the doors at times welcoming you, offering a bulletin, at the altar reading scripture, or offering our musical gifts from time to time on non-Youth Sundays. We will lift you up every Sunday in prayer (Sunday school), and when you identify special challenges or celebrations in your life, we may even drop you a note in the mail to show we care.

We will be committed to our development of what it means to be like Christ at this stage in our lives. For in the words of Christian author and Pastor Max Lucado, we know that God loves us just the way we are, but He doesn't want to leave us that way...He wants us to be Just Like Jesus. We are Chosen in Christ, Chosen with Others, and Chosen to the World. Let us choose together Concordia. We'll see you along the journey this year. Blessings to you all...

Martin Sarkissian

Youth Director (and on behalf of Jr. / Sr. High)



Pictured standing left to right—Rebecca Fry, Pam Saltar, Melanie Ricker, Molly MacGray, Stacy Shepps, Marty Sarkissian, Jesse Shepps, Brian Miller.

Laying on the floor—Brandon Miller

From Molly MacGray

My experience at the LCMS youth gathering was so much fun, and not at all what I expected. I never expected to grow so close to God and so close to the other kids in my youth group in just 5 days. The part of the trip that I learned the most from was the sessions that took place everyday. Everyday there were three chances to pick a session and listen to a speaker. My favorites had to do with the topics of prayer, why bad things happen, and "questions you can't ask your mamma." The prayer session let us know how to pray in a way that was sincerely between you and God and how to not get distracted while praying. It also helped us conquer our fears of praying in front of others. The session of why bad things happen was also very deep. The speaker of that session shared her experience of how her mother died and how it impacted her life. She knew that it all fit into God's plan and she grew from the experience. Finally, the session called "Questions you can't ask your momma" was one that most of us went to. It was basically a lot of questions most teenagers have and how the Bible teaches us to deal with these questions. All of the speakers at the convention center were very sincere and knew a lot about the Bible. They showed me so much that I never knew before.

Going to Florida was a great chance to grow closer to the rest of the youth group too. We would have devotions everyday and we were able to learn so much about each other. Marty gave us Bible verses to read and discuss and everyone had input and personal experiences to share as well. We also learned that living together was not as easy as we expected. However, whenever we had difficulties we would talk about them as a group and work through it together. By the end of the week we all grew really close and it was very difficult to leave each other.

I had a great experience overall. I learned so much more about God and how he has chosen me as his child. I learned so much and I am so glad that I was able to take part in this trip.

From Melanie Ricker

I love my life. I love the people I get to call "my family;" the people I get to call "my friends." I love being able to say that I found someone special that I can talk to. I love being able to say that I am Melanie Ricker and I am **chosen**. Now I've never been chosen in gym for sports or chosen for the raffle drawings in my school, but God has chosen *me*. He's chosen me to tell people about his glory.

At this convention, I learned so many things. I could go on for hours. I've learned that, no matter what, God loves you, unconditionally. He loves everyone, so much that he gave his one and only son, for us! And I've learned that I'm not alone. When my mom died, I was angry at everyone for getting more time with her than me. I was so sure that I was the only one who had to deal with the fact that she's gone. But I'm not. Because my dad and my brother and my sister, they have to deal with it too. I realized this when a boy's parents had told us that at the last convention, their son



Pictured left to right—Molly MacGray, Rebecca Fry, Pam Saltar, Jesse Shepps and Melanie Ricker

had passed away. And to see the amount of people that it affected and to see how many people looked towards God for guidance, it was amazing. I was one of those people. For once in my life, I cried because I finally found God. He could take away everything, he could do whatever he wanted, but he doesn't. At the convention, they couldn't stop telling us how much God loves us, because you can't explain God's love, you can't show God's love. It's unconditional!

During those five days, I really got to know the youth. I cried with them, laughed with them, took some of the weirdest pictures with them. I consider them my family. And although we had our ups and downs, and our difficulties deciding what to have for lunch, I wouldn't give up that experience for anything in the world. That week has changed my life in so many ways. I'm thankful for every breath I take and the people in my life. I've come to realize that what I thought used to be horrible, is actually my incredible life, the life that God has given me. And for that, I am truly proud to say, that I am chosen.

From Brian Miller

The 2007 LCMS youth gathering titled "Chosen by GOD," strengthened my faith. There were a lot of events and experiences like concerts, seminars, our youth discussions, meeting people, and fun that encouraged me.

Brandon and I went to a few concerts where they played Christian rock that was really neat, it was fun to listen to, and you could dance to it. Whenever they paused between songs they would tell jokes and that was fun.

(continued on page 8)

(continued from page 7)

There were seminars. One that we went to was a fitness seminar where they talked about spiritual, as well as physical, fitness. I learned that, though working out and eating right to keep physically fit are important, going to church and worshiping with a happy heart to keep spiritually fit is important too, maybe more.

In the evenings, we hung out in the hotel room and talked about stuff. Our youth group would talk about the day, the events, the mass gathering and we would kind of give our thoughts and opinions. That sometimes brought out other things that someone needed or wanted to talk about. And that also helped us get to know each other better.

We met a lot of neat people, like these guys from Utah. As soon as I met these guys, I felt a sense of equality that doesn't happen much. And I met some really cute girls from Wisconsin.

We had fun there. At the mass events they would throw these giant beach balls around and we had to keep them up in the air. The first day, the girls and I tried to mingle with people, which didn't work out, but that was o.k. because we had fun together. Soon, after the next few days, people started talking to us and giving out free hugs.

My faith was strengthened by the gathering because I learned that we were Chosen by God, which was the theme of the gathering, and I am one of the few privileged to be chosen by God. And though a privilege is not something earned but given, it could also be lost. So, I choose to surround myself with good music and language, to keep myself spiritually as well as physically fit, to share with other Christians for fellowship, and go out and seek others to share the good news of Christ, and treat them with the same Christian friendship that I would hope they would do to me.



Pictured left to right—Brian Miller, Marty Sarkissian, Jesse Shepps, Melanie Ricker, Pam Saltar, Rebecca Fry, Molly MacGray.

Back row—Brandon Miller and Stacy Shepps (in shadow of tree).

From Jesse Shepps

Hi Concordia! I'm sorry I couldn't make it to hear everyone's reflections and to start off this Sunday school year, but I would still like to say a few words about our trip to Florida and the national youth gathering.

Well, first, I would like to thank the congregation for supporting us and helping us get the resources to go to Florida. I would also like to thank Mr. Marty and my mom for putting up with us for four LONG days. We couldn't have asked for better leadership and guidance.



Pictured left to right front row —Molly MacGray, Rebecca Fry, Jesse Shepps, Pam Saltar, Melanie Ricker
Back row left to right—Marty Sarkissian, and three new friends.

There is really no way to put this experience into words. It was not only a journey to another state, but also a journey within all of us. I can't ever know exactly how my peer's felt about this trip, but the amount of tears that we shared, both good and bad, are confirmation that it touched us all.

During the week at the convention center, we attended Bible studies, services, and seminars which were all based on the book of 1st Peter. Although it is a short book, it contains a huge amount of value.

My favorite parts of the gathering were called "hear it" sessions. During these hour long seminars, we were able to choose from a variety of topics and listen to speakers while they made a connection between the Bible and real life. The focus of these varied from trust to substance abuse, and even the sensitive subject of pornography. A few of the lectures really touched me emotionally, and now I have some new Bible verses to reference when I am struggling with something in my life.

Overall, this trip gave me an incredible amount of hope in myself and in the world. Seeing twenty five thousand teenage Christians in

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

I left Florida feeling refreshed and renewed to come back to Delaware and live as God would want me to. Although, I am still the same undeserving sinner as I was before, the message that “being chosen changes everything” has already impacted my life in several different situations. I am extremely thankful that I got the opportunity to attend the gathering. We got to meet new people, expand relationships with the other youth group members, and grow as Christians.



Pictured left to right—Molly MacGray, Melanie Ricker, Rebecca Fry, Jesse Shepps, Pam Saltar, Brian Miller & Brandon Miller

From Rebecca Fry

In Christ alone my hope is found;
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Brought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me

No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
'Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

“In Christ Alone” - This is a song that we sang at the mass worship service at the gathering. I haven't been able to get it out of my head for the past several weeks. With the start of a new school year and a new soccer season, this message of trust and hope gives me the strength I need. My walk of faith at the gathering began with a session on trust from speaker Dr. Micah Parker. He used real life experiences to illustrate putting our trust in God in both good times and bad. Every time he said the word “suffering”, everyone had to jump up and scream “Praise God!” This sounds crazy, but “in all things God works for the good of those who love him” (Romans 8:35). Dr. Parker also talked about good grief versus bad grief. He said that in bad grief we ask “Why, God? Why me? Why this?” I don't know about you, but I know I'm definitely guilty of this. Instead of questioning why God does what he does, we should ask “How?” How can God use this situation to help me grow in faith?



Pictured left to right (standing) —Pam Saltar, Molly MacGray, Jesse Shepps, Melanie Ricker, Brian Miller, Brandon Miller, Rebecca Fry (kneeling) Stacy Shepps & Marty Sarkissian

From Brandon Miller

July 24th through July 28th 2004, I attended the LCMS National Youth Gathering in Orlando entitled, “Beyond Imagination.” The gathering showed the POWER, TRUTH, and LOVE of Christ's Teachings while showing us the ways in which we can PRAISE him, and LIVE with him in our hearts. It was the first time I can remember being around more than 35,000 people under one roof. Melissa King from Alabama defined it perfectly when she said “The Mass Events got in your face. They told the TRUTH and didn't beat around the bush...”

There was a sense that you were a comrade, to the person standing with their arms up in the air next to you giving praise. Feeling like family to someone you've only met about 15 seconds ago (when a giant beach-ball was passed your way by the crowd), was almost absurd; but then again that's what the Gathering was all about.

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)



The Gathering I attended was a memory, which would last with me until this day, as one of the most exciting and energetic events in my life. And God blessed me with the opportunity to experience it again, with someone very close to me, my brother.

This Gathering, was Brian's Gathering. I had the experience of mine, so this time around was my responsibility to allow him to experience what I experienced not so long ago. I was there as his guide, but after about a day I noticed that he knew what needed to be done. I sometimes found him on his feet, before the band told everyone to stand and sing praise. He told me what lectures he wanted to attend, and I would take him there, then afterward, we discussed what we both got out of the discussion. I saw quite a development in his personality, and how outgoing he started to become.

Although it was his gathering, I found myself gaining spiritual enlightenment myself, best described through this short story. We had just finished a lecture and we called up our old D.C.E. Cheryl Knollman, who I had seen at the gathering in 2004, pregnant and with her husband Josh. She was attending this gathering with her students at the Lutheran school she teaches at. We met her at the west building where Bob Lenz was speaking. Bob Lenz was a guest speaker at the Mass Events in 2001 and 2004, so I was familiar with his upbeat comedic personality. He shared funny stories with a crowd of probably 3,000 or more on this day. He explained how as an elementary student at a Catholic School he was a bit of a troublemaker. Bob told about one year, he was suspended from school before Christmas break, his father told him that he was ashamed of him, and that he did not deserve a gift for Christmas. He explained to us how he felt ashamed of himself, and rather than blaming his dad or the Priest for suspending him, he blamed himself. To his surprise he found "a brand new Schwinn bicycle" waiting for him on Christmas morning. While perplexed on why his dad gave him something, his dad said "you didn't deserve it, but I gave it to you because I love you." He was then enlightened to how the love of God works.

I will never forget that. We as humans don't deserve anything that God has given us, but he gives us all these things, including most of all, the gift of eternal life. Because he loves us.

From Pam Saltar

My trip to the National LCMS Gathering was amazing. I believe that the impact to my life will be far reaching.

We had many different classes we could choose to attend. One of the classes I went to had a major impact on me. The name of the session was IMing God, which means Instant Messaging. Instant Messaging is where I can go on the computer and type messages to my friends and I can receive a message right back if my friends are online. Many times my friends are not online and I am not answered. I now realize that God is always online and will always listen and talk back. That is pretty amazing when you think about it.

In addition, another session that really got my attention was why bad things happen. Because of my past, I have not always believed that God was there for me. I now realize that even though bad things do happen to good people, God is always there and will never leave our side. Sometimes when things are happening, it's hard to remember how much God loves us. This session was very important to me.

I also learned that I AM chosen because Christ chose me!!

Another part of the trip that had an enormous impact on me was the Mass events at night where all 25,000 participants gathered to be one. It is difficult to tell you exactly what it was like at the Mass evening, but it helped me believe and trust in God more than before I went to Florida.

I would like to thank everyone at Concordia so much for supporting us and helping us to be able to have such a life-changing event. I would also like to thank Marty Sarkissian and Stacey Shepps for giving up their time from work and their family so that we could go on this trip and have this experience.



LC-MS National Youth Gathering 2007 Orlando, Florida

Concordia Youth:

*Rebecca Fry
Molly MacGray
Brandon Miller
Brian Miller*

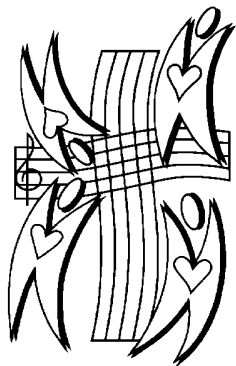
*Melanie Ricker
Pam Saltar
Jesse Shepps*

Concordia Adult Leaders:

Marty Sarkissian

Stacy Shepps

Report on the RSCM King's College Summer Training Course



This summer I was privileged to attend a week-long summer training course for choristers and choirmasters, given by the Royal School of Church Music in America. The course was housed at King's College, in Wilkes-Barre, and services were held in spectacular St. Stephen's Church. Every day included fellowship, worship, and much rehearsing!

I found several aspects of the course to be surprising. First, most of the hundred-plus participants were young people, ranging in age from ten years

up to college-age; there were only about forty adults present. The rehearsals were informative, but the worship services were the most meaningful parts of the program. The combination of music-making and worshipping forged startlingly strong bonds among the participants. Even though going into the program I was intellectually aware that these things were to be expected, I was not prepared for the emotional impact that the course would have on me.

Singing in the Compline Choir was my favorite part of the course. The group was comprised of a select few adult singers; we rehearsed for about two hours a day and then sang the Compline service at 9:00 p.m. each night in the darkened church. It was exhilarating to be in a group that so quickly learned music and came together as a polished ensemble. More importantly, the beauty and serenity of the Order of Compline moved all who participated.

I can't fully express how wonderful the week was for me, both professionally and personally. I *can* say thanks to Concordia for sponsoring my attendance, and I hope to go again next year!

David Kelley, Director of Music



Dear Concordia Family,

Thank you for giving me the chance to go to the King's College Course of the Royal School of Church Music.

I really enjoyed learning Greek and Latin, and even though it was hard work, it was really fun.

It is really cool how so many people can get together for so short a time and make such beautiful music. I learned a lot that I hope to bring to the Choristers this year.

Thank you again,
Musically in Jesus,
(Buddy) Ralph Stormer, III

Reflections from the Chairman of the Intentional Interim Process (IIP) Steering Committee



IIP STEERING COMMITTEE

First, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to the members of the Steering Committee for their efforts (including long hours in training and assisting in the sessions), teamwork, and commitment. John Hetrick and George Butler have been most helpful in sharing their experiences, knowledge and advice with the rest of the team and Pastor Betzner. The other six of us (Karen Blach, Wayne Blancett, Sharon Cornell, Susan Fuesler, Denise Gray and Jason Stoehr) are members who responded positively to the request to serve Concordia in this role, and have performed faithfully.

For the entire Committee, I wish to express our appreciation to Pastor Betzner for his strong leadership, wisdom, effort and commitment to ministry at Concordia and the Intentional Interim Process.

We have completed two of the three phases of the Intentional Interim Process (IIP), and the third and final phase is scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 30, with the last session on Monday, October 8. Approximately 100 people participated in the Phase 1 sessions (History), and 70 people participated in the Phase 2 sessions (Establish a New Identity). The Steering Committee and Pastor Betzner are hopeful for a higher representation of the congregation in the final phase – Commitment to New Leadership and Direction.

During the sessions of Phase 2, we heard many participants speak of the need of greater personal commitment to the ministry of Concordia, and also that the congregation makes plans but often does not follow through. Hopefully we will complete the last phase on a high note and demonstrate our preparedness and readiness to continue on our journey of faith to call a new pastor to guide us in achieving our mission of Serving Community by Sharing Christian Hope.

Sincerely in Christ,
Wayne Blancett





Adult Education

Adult Sunday School/Bible Study is held every Sunday morning (Sept.—May) at 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Weekday Bible Studies offered Mondays at 1:00 p.m. & Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the church library.

Young Adult Study is held every Sunday morning (Sept.-May) at 9:15 a.m. in the Library.

Music Programs (Sept—May)

Adult Choir meets on Thursday evenings, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., in the Music Room.

Children's Choir meets on Sunday mornings, 12:00—12:45 p.m. in the Music Room.

Hand Bell Choir meets on Thursday evenings, 6:15 – 7:30 p.m. in the church library.

Concordia's choirs are comprised solely of volunteers, from both the church and the community. All groups welcome new members at any time. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in any of the music programs, please contact David Kelley, Director of Music. Concordia is an affiliate of the Royal School of Church Music.

Fellowship

Senior Lunch Bunch: Wonderful lunch gatherings are held throughout the year with various speakers.

Picnics, dinners of 8, progressive dinners, and other fun-filled events are planned throughout the year.

Outreach Programs

Concordia Preschool is a non-profit preschool that is part of the outreach program of Concordia Lutheran Church. The preschool has a wonderful reputation in the community offering programs in a Christian environment for children ages 2 – 5. Call 478-3876 for more information.

Sojourner's Place: Bible study offered with residents on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

Orphan Grain Train: Collecting, packing and shipping of necessities to missions and ministries. Check bulletin board for packing date.

Emmanuel Dining Room: The 27th of every month is Concordia's day to serve lunch to the homeless at Emmanuel Dining Room, in downtown Wilmington. Each month, Concordia provides casseroles and brownies, along with volunteer servers.

Habitat for Humanity: Check the church sign-up bulletin board for Saturdays to wield a hammer or serve a meal.

Sisters in Service

Sisters in Service (SIS) is Concordia's women's ministry program offering a wide variety of opportunities for fellowship and Christian growth. Watch for upcoming events.

Youth Ministries

Sunday school for ages 3-18 is held at 9:15 – 10:15 every Sunday morning September – May.

Children's Church takes place during the 10:30 Sunday service.



7th and 8th Grade Confirmation Classes take place on a regular basis. See John Hetrick for details.

Youth Group: various events for fun and fellowship are scheduled throughout the year.

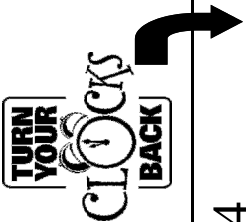




Men of Concordia

Men's Breakfast: All men are encouraged to attend and enjoy a hearty breakfast, warm fellowship, and stimulating programs at the Men's Breakfasts.

October 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm IIP Mtg. 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	2	3 7:30 pm Bible Study	4 6:15 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	5	6
7 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 12:00 pm IIP Meeting	8 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts 7:00 pm IIP Meeting	9	10 9:15 am Preschool Chapel 7:30 pm Bible Study	11 6:15 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	12	13
14 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	15 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	16	17 7:30 pm Bible Study	18 6:15 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	19	20
21 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	22 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:00 pm Deacons 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	23	24 9:15 am Preschool Chapel 7:30 pm Bible Study	25 6:15 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	26	27
28 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	29 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	30	31 7:30 pm Bible Study			

November 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3  Mystery Dinner
4 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	5 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	6	7 9:15 am Preschool Chapel 7:30 pm Bible Study	8 6:15 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	9	10
11 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	12 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	13	14 7:30 pm Bible Study	15 6:15 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	16	17
18 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Youth Sunday 5:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship Ser-	19 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	20	21 9:15 am Thanksgiving Chapel No Bible Study	22  OFFICE CLOSED No Bells No Choir	23  OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 8:00 am Worship 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	26 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	27	28 7:30 pm Bible Study	29 6:15 pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir	30	

Concordia Lutheran Church and Preschool

Church Staff:

Pastor David Betzner, Interim Pastor
 John Hetrick, Ministry Coordinator
 David Kelley, Director of Music
 Judy Buth, Church Administrator
 Marty Sarkissian, Youth Director
 Fred Mathis, Sexton

Phone:

478-3004
 478-3004
 478-3004
 478-3004

E-mail:

concordia.interim@verizon.net
 concordia.coordinator@verizon.net
 david_kelley@comcast.net
 concordia.administrator@verizon.net
 martinandrew1@comcast.net

Preschool Staff:

Helen Spillan Director
 478-3876 concordia.preschool@verizon.net

Allison Bacher 3 year old teacher
 Liz Brady 2 year old aide
 Tina Conner 4 year old teacher
 Jennifer DeLuca 4 year old aide
 Jane Doran 3 year old teacher
 Susan Dramis Readiness teacher
 Michele Ellis Readiness aide
 Andrea Green Physical Education teacher

Star Fletcher 2 & 3 year old teacher
 Christine Imburgia 2 year old teacher
 Sandi Kovach 4 year old teacher
 Victor Melega Computer teacher
 Julie Moore Bookkeeper/Music
 Valarie O'Brien 2 & 4 year old aide
 Joanne Rooney 3 year old teacher
 Chrissy Sobieski 2 & 3 year old teacher
 Beth Ann Troy 3 year old aide
 Amy Villec 3 year old aide

Trustees

George Butler, President
 Jim McNulty, VP, Administrators
 Robert Fry, VP, Business Admin
 John Hetrick, VP, Deacons
 Ray Clarke, Treasurer
 Veronica Gorsuch, Financial Secretary
 Mark Wahlberg, Recording Secretary

Deacons

Tom Crawford
 Lilly Derrickson
 Mel Gray
 Bob Guy
 John Hetrick
 Dona Lerew McNulty
 Sandy Michel
 Gen Nied
 Pat Tomlan

Administrators

Fred Abel, Stewardship
 Kathee Butler, Fellowship
 Valerie Hutchinson, Education
 Mark Loch, Property

*For a complete church directory including phone numbers and e-mail addresses,
 contact the church office at 478-3004*

Concordia Lutheran Church

3003 Silverside Road
Wilmington, DE 19810
Wilmington, Delaware 19810

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www.luther95.org/CELC-WDE



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Concordia Mission Statement

*Serving Community by
Sharing Christian Hope*

Join Us in Fellowship & Worship

Sunday Worship Services
8:00 a.m. and *10:30 a.m.

Sunday School for All Ages
9:15 a.m.—10:15 am

*Children's Church during 10:30 service

