



# THE PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN

VOL 91, NO 7, September 2021

PALM News	1-3
Campus Ministry	4
Mission News	5-6
Church Focus Series	7-12
School News	13
Congregation News	14-19
Special Events	20
Concordia News	21-25

## PALM DEVOTION

by The Reverend Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, President, Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries

### “The Time to Confess”

Jesus says, “Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground



apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.”(Matthew 10:27-33)

As September returns, the time for summer vacations ends and most people return to regular work and school. The campuses fill with students, the offices with workers, and the factories with laborers. Harvest time looms on the farms while all manner of extra-curricular activities begin a new program year. This used to be a time of expectation for the new beginnings of school and work. Unfortunately, in our present milieu of disease, economic distress, and political upheaval, September has become a time of apprehension. Christian people of a thoughtful conscience are being singled out for not going along with the party line. Christian institutions are under assault to conform to the ways of the world. The specific issues are too numerous to indulge in this writing and the specific issues are unimportant. Any pressure to deny Biblical truth and the Way of Jesus Christ is an affront not only to our religion, but our very life and salvation.

It is time to confess. Of course, it is always time to confess the saving work of Jesus Christ, to proclaim His name from the housetops. But Jesus specifically calls us to confess His name when it is not popular to do so. In fact, he calls us to do so in the most dangerous and life-threatening situations. Remember, dear Christian, that when persecution comes in any form, be it the soft persecution of economic discrimination (being barred from employment or public activities because of your beliefs), or the hard persecution of jail and execution, such persecution comes not simply from society or government, it comes from the powers of darkness that would rob us of our hope and salvation. It is precisely during these times that clear confession of the Faith is needed, both for our hearers and ourselves.

(Palm Devotion Continued)

Jesus attaches His promise to our public confession. He promises to confess us before His Father and reminds us that through Faith we have eternal life. Jesus calls us not to worry over the things of this world that can deprive us of possessions, family, or even our mortal life. He promises that the Father grants to us eternal life and all that we need to sustain us even in the midst of suffering. Jesus leads us to the gibbet of the cross, promising that we, with Him, will come forth from the tomb. Now, more than we have experienced in a long time, our neighbors need to hear the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. They do not know Him, they do not confess Him, they lack hope, and they have no salvation. We live in truly dire times.

Confess Christ with your words, confess Christ with your good works, confess Christ with your refusal to comply with the wicked ways of the world. Cling to and confess Christ the Savior. In so doing you both save your neighbor and yourself.



**SAVE THE DATE! Stewardship Conference 2022**

Pastors and Lay Leaders: Does your parish struggle to meet the budget? Does the thought of hearing (or preaching) a sermon on financially supporting the church make you cringe? How do we encourage generous living without becoming legalists?

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, the Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference, meeting at First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church, will host the Philippians Workshop with LCMS Coordinator for Stewardship, Rev. Heath R. Curtis. Bring your Bible, your questions, and your love for your church. Pastors arrive at 3:00 p.m.; Lay Leaders arrive at 5:30 p.m. for dinner; out the door no later than 8:30 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September

12. Hospitals of Lawrenceville” Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

12. The 56 East Band free concert Haven II Patio Cabot Campus, 148 Marwood Rd., 4:00 p.m.

25 76<sup>th</sup> P.A.L.g.S. Golf Outing, Victory Hills Golf Course, Elizabeth, PA, 9:00 a.m.

October

2. Concordia Lutheran Ministries annual Oktoberfest, Haven 1, Cabot, Pa, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

23-24 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Christian Art Show, Calvary Lutheran, Murrysville

23. Concordia Fashion Luncheon details TBA

**CALENDAR NOTE: DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT ANY OF THE SCHEDULED EVENTS MAY BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH FOR UPDATES.WE PRAY THAT ALL OF YOU ARE SAFE AND HEALTHY.**



**The Pittsburgh Lutheran**

**Published by**  
Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM)

**Editors**  
Nancy Koester, Mary Lou Rilee, Megan Migyanko

The Pittsburgh Lutheran is published 10 times per year.

All inquiries, comments or suggestions should be addressed to the Editors at:  
[pittsburgh.lutheran.editor@gmail.com](mailto:pittsburgh.lutheran.editor@gmail.com).

**Please mail PALM donations to:**  
Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries  
Attn: Treasurer  
535 N. Neville Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**PALM Officers**  
Rev. Douglas Spittel, President  
Justin Spittel, Treasurer  
Rev. Brian Westgate, Secretary

**PALM Website**  
<http://www.palmpa.org>

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

### SRU CAMPUS MINISTRY

*by Augusta R. Mennell, Campus Ministry Director*

#### **Is campus ministry worth the effort?**

I remember when I was a college student in 1958. I attended a school in central Michigan, which was four or five hours away from my family home. Going to college was a huge adventure for me. I worked for my room and board by living with a family and helping out with the housework. Sixty-three years later I can still recall my excitement and my fear.

A Lutheran Church was not far from campus. I decided to attend a welcome party and church worship. At that time in my life I had a lot of questions about my Christian faith. I had even more questions after my sociology professor ridiculed the notion that a teenager could be the mother of God. He said the whole idea was “bourgeois.” I wanted to talk about my questions and doubts with the pastor, but he was too tired to answer. He simply told me to believe because he believed. I don’t blame him. He was too overwhelmed to have the energy to talk to a college student.

Two years later I transferred to the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa. I wanted to see if I could survive in a big school. Again I decided to attend worship. I went to St. Paul’s Lutheran Chapel, a campus ministry church close to campus. At first I tried choir, but since I don’t have a good singing voice, I tried the Sunday morning college Bible class led by Rev. John Constable. You cannot imagine my joy when Pastor Constable patiently answered all my questions. I’ll never forget what it meant to find a campus ministry where someone had enough time to share God’s Word so caringly. It made a major difference in my life! Not only did I find answers, I also met my husband, Jim, in Bible class. His best friend, who attended St. Paul’s, introduced us. Sixty years later we both remember this meeting at the chapel.

I never expected to be able to give back what God gave me through Pastor Constable’s campus ministry, but God did. Jim and I started a Bible study for college students in 1984. A significant number of international students attended, and working with internationals (most of whom were not Christians) became our main emphasis. By 1992 the then English District President, the Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko, asked me to be parish administrator and campus ministry director at All Saints. At that time we could not afford a full-time pastor, but my brother, Rev. Allan E. Opper, served as our pastor as if we were his only congregation. He gave his whole heart to this grateful congregation. I gladly worked under his shepherding. This was a wonderful opportunity because All Saints was able to continue our outreach to both campus and community.

Although I’d been a substitute teacher in the public schools, with my husband’s full support, I accepted the Bishop’s invitation. As a result, I have had the best job in the world for the last thirty-five years. I get to share faith and friendship with students. I get to love them too, and, because they are far from home, to encourage them and guide them in their daily lives. Years later they still call me to talk about their lives because campus ministry has had the time and energy to answer their questions.

Today, more than ever, campus ministry needs to be on our campuses. The world has always assaulted faith and always will, but the assault is stronger than ever today. More “no religion” students are on campus, and more students who used to go to church with their families know nothing about Jesus today. Many actually believe that Easter is a kid’s holiday in which the main activity is receiving chocolate bunnies from parents.

Yes, the mission field is Africa, Southeast Asia, and Germany, but the mission field should also include our American college campuses. Kenzeburo from Japan came to know what Easter is really all about; so did Shannon from China.

This month our dear pastor, Rev. Larry Loree Jr., leaves campus ministry at ASLC. We thank God for this pastor who was on loan from God. We pray that God will send a new pastor who will also want to share the Gospel with college students just the way he did. He gave the students the answers they needed. Thank you, Reverend Loree! God bless you.



## MISSION NEWS

### PITTSBURGH LUTHERAN CENTER FOR THE BLIND (PLCB)

by Sherri Crum

#### Anticipating Our 2021-22 Season

It seems as though it has been forever since I last wrote a column for the Pittsburgh Lutheran. Well, not quite forever, perhaps a few years though. What's going on with the PLCB? We were mainly in touch via telephone during the Covid-19 shutdown.

Several weeks ago I had a meeting with the planning committee to discuss the upcoming season. We held our Ice Cream Social on August 1. Fourteen folks who are blind/visually impaired, and several from First Trinity, joined us that day for a light lunch. It was nice hearing the smiles as people greeted one another. So we're looking forward to meals resuming in September. What does that mean? We are once again recruiting cooks to prepare the meals, volunteers to assist at the meals with setting up, serving and cleaning up afterward, and shopping for the necessary supplies.

Just as a review: The meal is preceded by a Topical Bible Study which is conducted by an area pastor or deaconess, then we eat, sharing stories, friendship, resources, etc. around our tables of four or five. Once the food has been consumed, we attend a Vespers Service to round out the day.

Please keep the PLCB in your prayers as we embark on a new season.

#### 2021-22 Meal Dates:

September 25  
October 30  
December 4  
January 29, 2022  
February 26  
March 26  
April 30  
and May 21.

Our Annual Bake Sale Fundraiser is scheduled for February 26.

Our meals are planned well in advance, if you would like more information or to become involved, please contact me. [sssmiley77@gmail.com](mailto:sssmiley77@gmail.com)



## MISSION NEWS

### Mileposters News

Various attractions are located at different points along the trail. On July 30, two riders enjoyed some time on a spring seesaw at Cedar Creek County Park, Milepost 37 (pictured). Others will never pass up a set of swings.

Our youth captain candidate has ridden 40 miles on a tandem by herself in preparation for her first stoker, who rode 5 miles with her on August 6 (pictured). She showed near-flawless form but will need to ride another 15 miles with a stoker to qualify. As hoped, her first rider was experienced as a stoker, and the perfect weight to start.



The group leader made his longest ride of the season so far, on the triplet, unassisted--a 34-mile round trip between Connellsville and Ohiopyle, on August 9.

Mileposters riders have now completed 2,109 miles for this year's campaign to raise support for LCMS ministry in Puerto Rico. The island has been battered over and over again since the hurricane damage in 2017, still not close to being all repaired, suffering high unemployment, poverty, hunger, and a lack of medical personnel and facilities. Now, to add insult to injury, the often-crippled government-owned power grid has been sold to a private company, which allegedly proposes to replace 3,600 employees with only 900, and hurricane season is just getting underway.





**Our Houses of Worship**

*By Shirley Freyer*

**First Trinity Evangelical-Lutheran Church,  
Oakland**

535 N. Neville Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

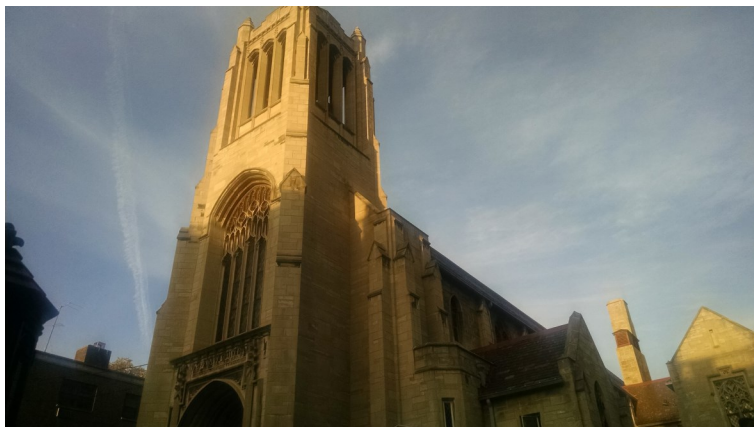
412-683-4121

[www.FirstTrinity.net](http://www.FirstTrinity.net)

[www.LSFPgh.com](http://www.LSFPgh.com)

Rev. Dr. Douglas H. Spittel, Parish Pastor

Rev. Eric R. Andrae, STM, Associate Pastor



(Pittsburgh Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) & International Student Ministry (ISM), a MISSION OF THE Pittsburgh Area Lutheran Ministries, located at First Trinity Lutheran Church. First in a series.)

It would appear that featuring Pittsburgh's LSF & ISM in this September issue would be kismet since in 2014, The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) designated campus ministry as a monthly emphasis for either August or September - a month in which congregations are invited each year to celebrate and learn more about our campus ministries across the United States.

The idea of campus ministry, however, stems as far back as 1928 when an LCMS student organization was formed as a "Student District of the Walther League," the youth organization of the LCMS at that time. It was succeeded by Gamma Delta (the International Association of Lutheran Students) in 1934 to serve college and university students.

A new pan Lutheran organization was formed in 1969 - The Lutheran Student Movement (LSM). Because of doctrinal differences, in 1987, the Synod Convention created Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF). LSF gave way to LCMS U in 2013, serving as an umbrella organization for all campus ministry in the Synod and a network of campus ministries through a training institute, student leadership, and conferences.

Locally, at First Trinity, the Epsilon Delta chapter of Gamma Delta was founded in 1958. Forty years later, our LSF chapter was recognized as an official student organization at the University of Pittsburgh, with the same status granted at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) in 2003. Pastor Eric Andrae has also established ties with Chatham, Carlow, and Duquesne. Students from CCAC, LaRoche, Robert Morris, Point Park, and others are also served. Rev. Eric Andrae, having graduated with a B.A. in political science from Valparaiso University and two master's degrees from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, served a 2 1/2-year ministry at St. John's in Millvale prior to his call in 2001 as the first full-time LCMS Campus Pastor in Pittsburgh.

Currently, the most experienced full-time campus pastor in Pittsburgh and one of the veterans in the Synod, he believes that no domestic mission is more important.

"It's a ministry that is reaching the 18-30 demographic at a time in their lives when they are determining what they are going to be for the rest of their lives - what could be more exciting, rewarding, enriching or meaningful?" asked Pastor Andrae.

"These students are shaped and formed by influences of the public, forces that are usually hostile to the theology of the Cross and often at odds with Christianity," he continued, "forces that shape and mold them and if we don't have the church here, we will lose them," he emphasized.



He cited a young woman who identified as a militant atheist in high school. Josie Simmons grew up in Boston in an unchurched family. She came to CMU and was hospitalized after a depressive episode as she thought if there is no God then life is meaningless. Her boyfriend at that time, however, had an affinity for Christianity and persuaded her to read C.S. Lewis' Mere Christianity.

God had spared her life and therefore she wanted to worship him. At that point she decided she needed to go to church. Even though it was during the pandemic, she wanted to go in person. Last September she began her search for the closest church, found First Trinity/LSF and took catechesis with Pastor Andr e, but she wasn't convinced about Lutheran doctrine on baptism noted Pastor Andr e.

"I reread the New Testament, came back to Pittsburgh and will begin to teach at Redeemer Lutheran School this fall," Josie said.

"The first time I attended First Trinity, Pastor Andr e came to greet me after the service. The service and the community were entirely new to me, so I was very grateful that he came to talk to me! He invited me to lunch, and we talked about Scripture and my journey to faith. He clearly laid out distinctives of Lutheranism and he invited me to Bible study. Since then, he has been guiding and teaching me, she continued.

Josie was confirmed on August 15.

Student stories like this are the highlights of those two decades. Always significant is the number who have been baptized as adults.

"Our rate is one of the highest for synodical international student ministry," according to Pastor Andr e. "It's been a blessing, not only conversions, but those who have grown in the faith or stayed despite opposition, as growing secularism makes it just as challenging and essential to keep people in the faith."



Through the International Student Ministry and English as a Second Language (ESL) program, he has the opportunity to work with many coming from the well over 100 countries represented at Pitt and CMU, including from nations where Christians are in the extreme minority or where the culture is hostile, such as Saudi Arabia, Japan, and China.

"Kids go off to school and they need a home away from home," he said. "When I began in this ministry, I was 29, so I was like a big brother. Now I'm 50, so I have become more like a father figure away from parents. I tell them I am here for you. I love you and I will listen. I won't condemn you in your sin, but only proclaim law and gospel, and offer forgiveness and pastoral care," he explained.

Pastor and his wife Paola have two daughters, Michelina, age 13-, and 10-year-old Juliette. Both are Redeemer Lutheran School students where Mom serves on the school board of directors. His father is pastor emeritus at First Trinity.

## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

Which brings to mind another student “success story.”

Rachel McCloskey actually learned about LSF of Pittsburgh from a couple from First Trinity who were visiting Boston. They were in town for a doctor's appointment and attended a midweek Lenten service and dinner at First Lutheran church where she was serving with the Lutheran Young Adult Corps. They told her what God was doing through Pastor Andrae and the campus mission at First Trinity.

“I am originally from the greater Pittsburgh area and when I returned to attend community college in my hometown of Steubenville, Ohio, I quickly became involved in Bible Studies and fellowship dinners,” said Rachel, who would drive two hours round-trip from Steubenville to attend LSF events. Rachel says that Pastor André's “faithful service has made an eternal impact on my life and the lives of many others.”

As the daughter of an LCMS Pastor, she was raised in the church. Although originally from this area, her family has moved all over the country and currently live in Greensburg, KS.

Rachel graduated from Concordia University St. Paul's Pre-Deaconess program with a bachelor's in theology and a Spanish minor last May. Although living in MN for school, the pandemic allowed her to reconnect with the Lutheran Student Fellowship at First Trinity since Bible Study was moved online during lockdown. In the Fall she will enter Concordia Seminary St Louis to pursue a masters in Spiritual Care with a Deaconess Certification. LSF continues to provide that online option for both the LSF Bible Study and the ESL version, with students and alumni participating from all over the country (in addition to St. Paul/St. Louis, also Austin, Scranton, Indiana [Pa.], Chicago, Boston, Seattle, San Jose, etc.), and even from around the world (Japan, Turkey, Brazil, etc.)!

One of the ways he connects with students is based on a practice well-known German Lutheran pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer maintained.

According to Pastor Andrae, “I share numerous meals with many students, often. Why? It helps build and sustain friendship and community. It is an opportunity to share joy in one another. Food and drink strengthen the mind and lubricate the tongue for wonderful conversation and dialogue. It assists in creating and expressing gratitude. Students need to eat (and so do I!). We Christians are called to hospitality, including to the stranger and the foreigner, the curious and the unbeliever.”

In his May campus newsletter issue, Pastor Andrae noted that “Each opportunity to meet with someone in the campus community over a meal provides just the right atmosphere for lively discussions on sports, music, literature, culture, politics, and many other topics, all leading to the chance to share the gospel and challenge sometimes lapsed and often nonexistent faith. It is a chance for each to experience Bonhoeffer's observance: ‘At table they know their Lord as the one who breaks bread for them; the eyes of their faith are opened.’”

His fervent plea is prayer for each of these students and God's work through this campus ministry. Volunteerism is a special gift and giving options are varied and always available.



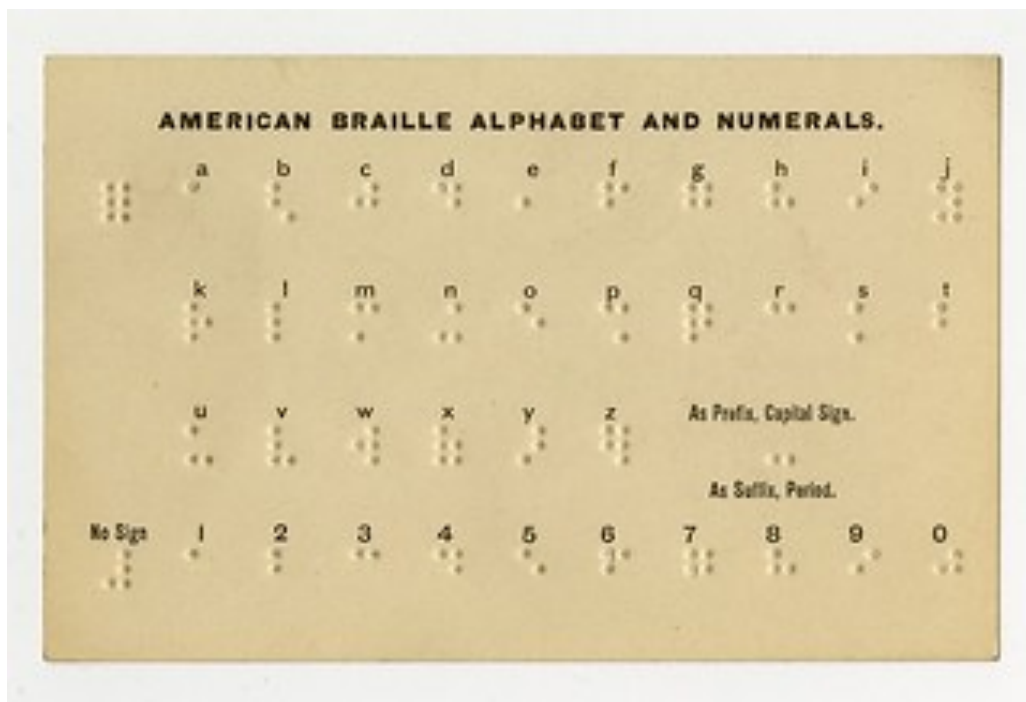
**Missions of Trinity Lutheran Church- (Part Two of Worship Series)**

**Mission: Center for the Blind**

The longest standing mission is the Pittsburgh Lutheran Center for the Blind, led by Executive Director Sherri Crum. A member for more than 20 years, she has a bachelor's degree in Business Communications and a master's degree in Professional Leadership Training and Development. After completing her master's degree, she was looking for a church. One day while riding the bus, former director Robert Mates struck up a conversation with her and invited her to come and see the Center. "I didn't act on that right away, but later decided to check out the library of Braille materials," she admitted. "Soon enough I was a regular visitor, attending meals, helped Mr. Mates collate the Braille newsletter - whatever help he needed on the day of the meal. Time passed. Bob needed to retire his dog guide and asked if I would oversee the Center during the three weeks he would be away in Michigan where he could partner with a new dog." She joined the church at that time and was named Associate Director. Bob moved in 2006 and she assumed directorship of the Center. "Way back then I asked the Lord to help me find a church, this is where He directed me," Sherri said. "Sound doctrine, good friends, right teaching ..."

The first Outreach Center started as a Christian reading room for the blind equipped with the Bible and other Christian material, and staffed by a knowledgeable person, who could answer any questions a person might have. Bob Mates had attended Leader Dogs for the Blind in August of 1990. It was there he met traditional Christians, an avowed atheist, a Jehovah's Witness, and a lady who worshipped the Greek Gods. It convinced him that the blind community in this country is one big harvest field for Jesus. The idea stayed with him for years until he was on a call committee and shared his idea with the newly called pastor, Rev. Spittel. Pastor Spittel called Rev. David Andrus, director of the synod's Lutheran Blind Mission. The idea of a reading room gave them a physical place to have what could be called an outreach center. He visited Pittsburgh, in 1998, and added a monthly meal, to be held the last Saturday of the month. The first meal was actually held on March 16, 1999, with ten people in attendance.

"The main thing to always remember is that no matter how well your center ever does, you can't take the credit. God does the work; you're just the guy on duty. All you do is let people know about it and love them to death when they get there. You let them see Jesus, through you," Bob advised. The blind mission serves up to 25 folks who are blind/visually impaired eight times a year at monthly meals plus a Summer Ice Cream Social in August.



### **Mission: Homeless Ministry**

The blind mission is what brought dr. Angela Hadbavny to First Trinity and led to her position as Executive Director of the Homeless Ministry. "Eugene Rossi from the American computer users group contacted me about the blind dinners, Bob Mates and his dog." Angela reminisced. That was in 2004. Living in Mt. Washington, the first time she came to First Trinity she took a bus and went into the wrong church. "A kind lady walked me up the street to the church where 'the dinners' were served and I attended the Bible study," she related. She liked the pastor and church and started to read about Martin Luther, studied deeply since she was a Roman Catholic. After the Lenten dinners she attended catechism and then vespers. "Leigh (Spittel) caught me and sat me right into Pastor's office," she said. "I lost some of my friends when I joined in May of 2008, but I love our church and Martin Luther. That September she and a young woman, Diana Pascoe Yeager, who graduated from CMU began a Hand-Out Luncheon Ministry on the street distributing bag lunches. (Diana enrolled in the deaconess raining program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne in 2011.) "I was a sandwich maker for 4½ years with Rich Lynch who is now homebound," said Angela.

After getting a biology BS at Duquesne University, Angela pursued masters then doctoral studies in basic medical sciences physiology/biochemistry at Loyola University Chicago and Strich School of Medicine. She returned to the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy and earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. "I worked as both a hospital and clinical pharmacist at Children's Hospital and the former St. Francis Medical Center where I was engaged in clinical research until the hospital closed in 2002," she said. She was also an adjunct faculty member for the Duquesne University School of Pharmacy. "God intervened by changing my perspective on my career when I became legally blind in 2002," Angela noted. In March of 2010, the First Trinity Homeless Ministry (FTHM) added toiletry and clothing/personal items - the Monthly Mercy distribution - and transitioned the distribution from the outside lawn to the auditorium. Only 15 people came that first Saturday. But the word spread, and clients and donations increased and as many as 500 came for help on one occasion.

One of her greatest challenges is volunteer recruitment. Some who came as clients began helping. One even joined the church. The pandemic closed the ministry from January to April and clothing distribution occurs quarterly rather than once a month.

The December 2019 issue of Engage magazine, an LCMS bi-annual publication included a feature about this ministry.

"We have decided to change the name to First Trinity Missions of Mercy as it more accurately reflects the people we serve. We welcome all people who have either physical needs or spiritual ones to our ministry. Not only do we provide food and clothing, but we do provide spiritual encouragement and have welcomed several people into our congregation," the Executive Director explained "Although originally, we started ministering to needy people on the streets of Pittsburgh with lunch distribution, we quickly expanded to showing God's mercy to all people welcoming them even if they weren't necessarily 'Homeless'," she said. Some had various income limitations due to disabilities, family problems, financial difficulties and spiritual hunger. Angela is also of the church choir. Music at First Trinity is an experience one longs to share. The music begins pre-service, selected by Kantor Jonathan Hoyt and ranges from a piano and trumpet duet to a flute or organ solo.

## HOUSES OF WORSHIP SERIES

The Pittsburgh Flute Academy directed by Wendy Kumer moved its location from Duquesne University to First Trinity. A music studio on the second floor was dedicated in March of 2001 in honor of the faithful service of the late Kantor Harold Schnaible who served First Trinity for 25 years but logged more than 60 years of musical service to the church throughout his lifetime. He moved to Concordia Haven I and continued to serve the Lord and his fellow residents with his wonderful gift.





## SCHOOL NEWS

### REDEEMER LUTHERAN SCHOOL

*Oakmont/ Penn Hills*

### REDEEMER'S OUTREACH BOOTH A HUGE SUCCESS!

On Saturday, July 31, Redeemer Lutheran Church and School once again participated in the Annual Oakmont Sidewalk Sale with a booth as we have done for many years. Information about the school and church were readily available. A beautiful picture board displaying school activities, free material to take and read, and free cold bottles of water were "under the tent" at our assigned space in front of the post office.

It was a beautiful sunny day, and many people came to peruse or take reading material and water. Children and parents stopped to do a children's craft: decorating a cloth back-pack style bag using stencils and markers. Volunteers did different jobs: planning, hauling, setting up and tearing down the booth and spending time at the booth, helping children sort through the stencils and enjoying conversation with their parents and other people who stopped to take a look. Please keep in your prayers all who showed interest in the message of Christ.

Many thanks to all who helped!



**ASCENSION LUTHERAN**  
*McCandless*

**Ascension Lutheran Church's Annual Pumpkin Fest & Flea Market**



Ascension's Annual Pumpkin Fest & Flea Market is back and will be held on Saturday, October 9, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Ascension (8225 Peebles Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15237).

Come spend a crisp fall morning with us. For the seventh year, our "almost famous" HOMEMADE APPLE and PUMPKIN PIES will be on sale, as well as hot dogs, beverages, and various other goodies. Of course, there will be PUMPKINS for you to buy.

Many other vendors with crafts or treasures participate in the FLEA MARKET both inside (even if it rains) and outside the church, weather permitting. To reserve a space for \$20, contact Vicki at [vickig@zoominternet.net](mailto:vickig@zoominternet.net) or 724-816-0413. For more information, please contact Trish at [pyoung1234@comcast.net](mailto:pyoung1234@comcast.net).



**CALVARY LUTHERAN**  
*Murrysville*

All Christian artists of all ages working in any media are invited to share their God-given talent in the visual arts by entering their original artwork in the 45th Annual Christian Art Show at Calvary Lutheran on Saturday and Sunday, October 23 and 24, 2021. (The show was canceled in 2020 due to Covid.)

Preregistration deadline is Monday, October 11. Forms are available at the church office: 4725 Old Wm Penn Hwy, Murrysville, calling 724-327-2898, on Calvary's website: [CalvaryLCMS.org](http://CalvaryLCMS.org), call Sue Kemper, Art Show Director, 724-327-4230 or e-mail her: [suznbobk@aol.com](mailto:suznbobk@aol.com). We look forward to seeing your artwork.

More details of the event (times, etc.) will appear in October issue of The Pittsburgh Lutheran.





## CHRIST LUTHERAN

### *Forest Hills*

With everything that has gone on in the last year it is time we get together. SOCIAL DISTENCING OF COURSE.

So, the **76th** P.A.L.g.S. golf outing is on. We had a Great turnout for the 75th. Many of you have participated in the past. We have appreciated your support and look forward to seeing you again. We are also excited about seeing any new golfers that wish to join us. We hope to have 75 plus golfers. So, we need **YOU**.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 25, 2021**. It will be held at Victory Hills Golf Course in Elizabeth, PA with a 9:00 a.m. SHOT GUN start, a hot dog at the turn, and a buffet dinner afterwards with prizes.

The cost is \$80.00 per person. Please call to sign up 412-271-7173. We would like to have as many golfers as possible and have fun and fellowship all at the same time. If you are not a golfer or cannot attend the outing but would like to show your support by sponsoring a hole you may send a donation in any amount to Christ Lutheran Church, 400 Barclay Ave., Pittsburgh, PA. 15221 Memo: Golf Outing.

Thank you! Hope to see you there.

Christ Lutheran, Forest Hills, welcomed new officers and committee members in July for the 2021-22 year. Later in the summer we had an ice cream social with all of the toppings. Another ice cream social is planned for Rally Day in September. Plans are being made for adult Bible classes and Sunday School beginning in the fall.

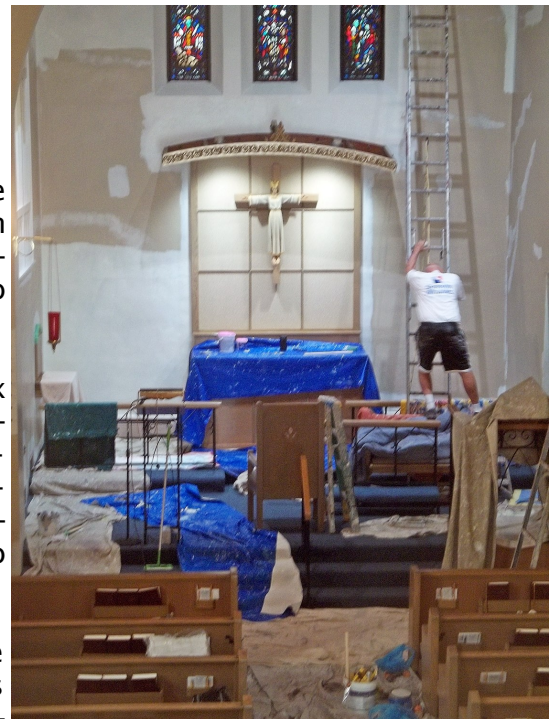
## CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

### *Brentwood*

Summer was a BUSY time at Concordia, especially as we had the sanctuary of the church painted for the first time in many decade. Our painters were able to complete everything between Monday, May 31, and Saturday, June 5, so we never missed a beat in worship!

The sacristy, chancellery, sanctuary, balcony, & narthex were all repainted, as well as the window casings, baseboards - even some sun-faded wooden doors to the education wing were re-stained! Along with re-plated brass appointments and new carpet over the past four years, Concordia is getting shined up for our 100th anniversary in two & a half years!

Along those lines, member Johnny Mainarich - whose Eagle Scout service project was to repaint the undercroft - was accorded his Eagle Scout rank on Sunday, August 1. Congratulations to him on this achievement, and his contribution to the beautification of our church!



Our Fifth Annual "John Toperzer Memorial Game at PNC Park" was observed on August 29th, as the Pirates hosted the Cardinals that day. Postponed in 2019 because of CoronaVirus, this was the first memorial outing without John, Sr.'s daughter Joy, who had been organizing these outings for Concordia since 2015. Joy passed away from pancreatic cancer in April of 2020, so we celebrated her and her dad's life together this time. Many thanks to John Toperzer, Jr., who took the day off from his job with the Pirates, to organize our outing THIS year, and share it with over 20 members and friends of Concordia.

**MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN**

*West View*

Members and friends of Mt. Calvary enjoyed the annual church picnic August 1. Held in the church hall, the fun started following the regular church service. The theme was "The Farmhouse," and attendees were encouraged to dress in their best casual "farmhouse" attire, including denim and straw hats.

Along with a catered luncheon of the best picnic fare – fried chicken, macaroni salad, potato salad, hot dogs, and fruit – the afternoon included door prizes and an auction. Pastor Kuntz and Nikkie were responsible for acquiring many of the prizes, such as a 5-lb. Sarris chocolate bar. Aside from a large assortment of gift cards for a variety of local establishments, auction items included a guitar, a gift card for Bob's Discount Furniture, theater tickets for a Sight and Sound production in Lancaster, and an autographed picture of Cam Heyward.

In addition to having fun and enjoying the food and activities, attendees were asked to bring supplies to fill backpacks for school students for the fall. Notebooks, pens, paper, markers, and every other type of item needed for the school year – including the backpacks to carry them in – were brought to the picnic. A fully loaded SUV then delivered the goods to North Hills Community Outreach on Monday.

Pictured Left: Liam Kuntz perfectly exemplified the theme of Mt. Calvary's "Farmhouse" picnic

Pictured Right: Attendees had dozens of wonderful prizes to choose from in Mt. Calvary's summer picnic auction.





### Tri-Parish News

#### PRAYER WARRIORS CONTINUES AT ZION WEEKLY

Every Tuesday at 3 p.m., Pastor Donn and Debbie Woolweber gather together to pray for any and all who request petitions to our Lord and Savior. On behalf of Zion, they invite you to experience what happens with prayer. For example, Pastor recently received this e-mail - "Sorry I missed the prayer service yesterday. My mum summoned me to Verona to fetch items from Giant Eagle. I hope to try for this coming Tuesday. Please let your congregation(s) know my sister Phyllis, for whom you prayed on Sunday, healed so much in the last 3 days that she no longer needs ANY



of her wounds dressed and bound. It is nearly miraculous how well the large donor area of skin is healing. Just Saturday morning the area looked very much like raw meat! The grafts themselves are nearly healed completely. Yet again evidence of the power of prayer. Thank you and all the good people who prayed for her. Looking forward to seeing you and your lovely wife soon and WELCOME to the NEIGHBORHOOD!" All are welcome to attend this hour-long appeal to the One who implores all to talk with Him incessantly.

#### ST JOHN'S HOSTS TRI-PARISH EVENING BIBLE STUDY



The Life Light study of "Ezra and Nehemiah" will be led by long-time member of St. John's and Bible study organizer Jack Jasneski. The class will be held on Wednesdays at 7PM at St. John's beginning Sept.15 through Nov. 17.

#### DEDICATION SCHEDULED AT TRI-PARISH PICNIC

Rev. Robert Marshall of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation will dedicate the children's Bible stories in the Lisu language which were sponsored by the Tri-Parish congregations - Bethel, Glenshaw; St, John's, Millvale and Zion, Lawrenceville at the Annual Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 2PM at O'Hara Township Community Park (formerly Squaw Run Park). Games, hot dogs and Kielbasa, water and paper products will be supplied.

**ZION LUTHERAN**

*Bridgeville*

Highlighting the academic awards, scholarships, and extra-curricular achievements of Zion's students in Kindergarten through College.

Our student helpers are a key part of the success of Zion's Vacation Bible School program each year. During this year's Rocky Railway VBS held in June, student helpers aged 12 to 20 served as Crew Helpers, Storytellers, Check-in Greeters, Nursery Helpers, and Games Helpers. A big thank you goes out to our student volunteers!

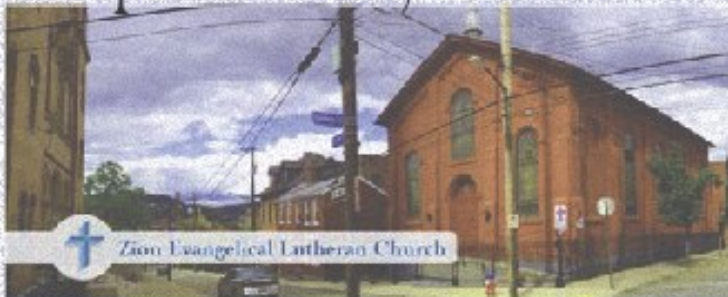




ZION LUTHERAN

Lawrenceville

# 4th Annual History Event “Hospitals of Lawrenceville” September 12, 2021- 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Zion Ev. Lutheran Church  
237 37th Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15201

**1:30 p.m.** - Joann Cantrell, a human interest writer from Lawrenceville, will speak about St. Francis Hospital, founded by Dr. Philip Weisenberger and two sisters of Third Order of St. Francis in 1865.

**2:30 p.m.** - Frank Kurtick is a docent and event co-ordinator at the Heinz Memorial Chapel on the University of Pittsburgh's Oakland Campus. He will discuss St. Margaret Memorial Hospital, founded in 1898 by one of the Shoenbergers, an iron and steel magnate who lived in Lawrenceville.

**3:30 p.m.** - Jim Wudarczyk, a local historian, author and researcher for the Lawrenceville Historical Society and the Greater Pittsburgh Civil War Round Table. He will discuss how the Marine Hospital came to Lawrenceville, its institutional life and its eventual transfer to Allegheny County. The Marine Hospital opened in 1910.

**Free to the public: Reservations required. Face Masks recommended, follow CDC guidelines. Please call: 412-621-2720 to make your reservation, please leave name and phone number.**



## Concordia Lutheran Ministries

As part of the Concordia Haven Apartments Summer Concert Series, the 56 East Band will perform a free concert at the Haven II Patio on the Cabot Campus, 148 Marwood Rd. Sunday, September 12 at 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. The 56 East Band, comprised of musicians from the Pittsburgh and AlleKiski Valley, has a unique sound and features a live horn section, killer rhythm section and incredible lead singer. Tours will be available before and after the performance. And you will meet our residents and have the chance to talk with them about the worry-free lifestyle at the Concordia Haven Apartments. The concert will be held rain or shine (moved to the Haven I dining room if inclement weather occurs.) Food trucks will be on-site, weather permitting. Walk-ins are welcome - but registration is preferred. To reserve your seat, call our Admissions Director Peggy Trettel at 724-352-5378 or email at [PTrettel@concordialm.org](mailto:PTrettel@concordialm.org). This concert series is a part of Concordia Lutheran Ministries' 140th Anniversary Celebration.



# Oktoberfest 2021

Saturday, October 2, 4 - 8 p.m.  
Haven I



**For your Enjoyment:** German Band

**For your Appetite:** German-Themed Menu

**For your Kids:** Face Painting, Bouncy Castle, Balloon Artist, Games, Pumpkin Painting, Free Food and much more

**For your Curiosity:** Haven I Open House

**Fireworks at 7:45 p.m.**

Rummage & Baked Goods Sales (4-7 p.m.)

For more information call 724-352-1571, ext. 8268

**[www.ConcordiaLM.org](http://www.ConcordiaLM.org)** • Haven I - 112 Marwood Rd., Cabot, PA 16023

## Concordia's 140th Anniversary Summer Festival Attracts a Big Crowd

Between 700-800 residents, families, friends and community members came Sunday, July 25 to Concordia's Cabot location to enjoy an afternoon of fun, food and festivities. In addition to the mini-fishing derby for kids, crafts, games, a caricature artist, bounce slide and live music entertainment from the Pittsburgh Doo Wop Big Band - we went "full throttle" and hosted a car show featuring over 50 cars from Ford Model Ts to Corvettes.

The traditional worship service was led by Pastor Jack Hartman, Director of Chaplaincy Services, who delivered a stirring sermon and included a 35-member choir of Concordia residents, staff, pastors and member church congregants who sang a hymn and the benediction. Ruth Molkenthin Miller, organist at Zion, Lawrenceville (one of Concordia's founding churches) directed the choir.

Rita Snyder, Haven 2 resident and member of St. Luke's with her family at the Fishing Derby for kids.

Keith Frndak, president and CEO with Jim and Karen Limbaugh, members of St. Luke's. Jim is chairman of the Concordia Board of Director.



The newly formed choir during the Festival Worship Service.





## Deaconess Intern Welcomed at Special Service in Her Honor

Concordia Lutheran Ministries Chaplaincy Department welcomed Deaconess Intern Abigail Meyer during the weekly Vespers Service on Wednesday, July 28 in the Haven II Chapel in Cabot.

She began her studies at Concordia on July 6 to support the efforts of Concordia's Chaplaincy Services staff. Originally from Akron, Ohio, Abbey will graduate from Concordia University Chicago with a B.A. in Theology once she completes her one-year internship at Concordia. She and her family are members of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cuyahoga Falls.

"I am very grateful for this assignment and ask that you keep me in your prayers," Abbey said.

"We are particularly blessed to welcome this servant of our Lord," said Rev. Jack Hartman, Director of Chaplaincy who led the worship and the commencement of Deaconess Internship.

A reception was held following the service.

**Pictured:** Concordia Deaconess Intern Abbey Meyer with Concordia Deaconesses Heather Wathall, PALM Deaconess Intern Zoë Huelsman, and Concordia Deaconess Sara Scungio.





## Villa St Joseph Grand Opening



Concordia Lutheran Ministries held a Grand Opening for Concordia at Villa St. Joseph's personal care and memory care expansion on Aug. 7, and we enjoyed a beautiful summer day with residents, families, and the local community to celebrate the milestone! This new blessing adds to the faithful legacy of caring, comfort and healing on the campus in Baden, PA.

The event began with remarks from President & CEO Keith Frndak, COO Brian Hortert, Chairman of the Board Jim Limbaugh, Concordia at Villa St. Joseph Administrator of Skilled Nursing Rachelle Arnold and Sister Sharon Costello, Congregational Moderator of the Sisters of St. Joseph. The Rite of Dedication was then performed by Concordia Chaplain Rev. Roger Nuerge, followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours of the new building. Entertainment was provided by Concordia at Villa St. Joseph Music Therapist Jessica Patterson and her ensemble.

The state-of-the-art expansion adds 78 personal care beds and 33 memory care beds to the campus, which was designed to offer individualized care at an incredible value. In personal care, residents receive assistance with activities of daily living, such as mobility assistance, personal hygiene, housekeeping, laundry and more, and are encouraged to thrive in a homelike atmosphere.

The community also features several floor plans to fit a variety of budgets, high-quality nursing care and 24-hour nursing support – a presence that is especially felt in the memory care unit, which focuses on caring for those with memory impairments. With comprehensive training for staff and additional security measures, memory care offers an everyday experience that is tailored to each resident's unique needs.

The expansion also has the added benefit of being right next door to the rest of Concordia at Villa St. Joseph's continuum of care, which already offers short-term rehab, long-term nursing care and outpatient physical therapy – as well as nearby Concordia Visiting Nurses if additional support is needed.

The expansion also has the added benefit of being right next door to the rest of Concordia at Villa St. Joseph's continuum of care, which already offers short-term rehab, long-term nursing care and outpatient physical therapy – as well as nearby Concordia Visiting Nurses if additional support is needed.



### **Concordia Lutheran Ministries' Oktoberfest:**

Celebrating a Commitment to Faithful Care that Spans 140 Years

Founded in 1881, Concordia Lutheran Ministries serves over 50,000 people every year with a lifetime continuum of care. Concordia's strength truly shines in the relationships we build within our communities. Our Oktoberfest, held annually at our original campus in Cabot is a fun way to celebrate our heritage and commitment to service with our community.

The origins of Concordia's Oktoberfest lie in our archives where, if you go back far enough, you will find records written in nothing but perfect German cursive. This is because our founding in 1881 was the work of a group of dedicated German Lutheran pastors and congregations from Pittsburgh. They saw a need to provide for orphans in the area, and so the Evangelical Lutheran Concordia Orphans and Old Peoples Home (which after a few name changes would become Concordia Lutheran Ministries) was born.

Those German records give us a taste of what Concordia was like around the turn of the century. Autumn was often one of the busiest times of the year, even though the tradition of holding an Oktoberfest had not yet been established. The journals show that harvesting took up much of the staff members' and orphans' time, whether they were threshing wheat, picking apples to later peel and make into gallons and gallons of apple butter, planting fruit trees for future harvests or doing other jobs on the farm. Many of the children also got haircuts and received their warm socks and shoes for the winter. The churches in the community often donated much of what the orphans had.

Amidst all the hard work, Concordia occasionally hosted a local Kinderfest, or children's festival, in the orphanage woods that was put on by St. Luke Lutheran Church in Cabot. Concordia ended farm and orphanage operations in the 1950s to focus solely on caring for seniors, but a celebration of autumn and organization's German heritage would later follow.

Ethel Krafzig, a longtime member of Concordia's Board of Directors, proposed in the 1970s that Concordia hold a fall festival. The administrator at the time, the late Horst Schwalm, was delighted by the idea. Schwalm, who had been born in Germany, had a fondness for German traditions - and one of his favorites was the fall celebration of Oktoberfest.

On Oct. 15, 1977, Concordia held its first Oktoberfest. The celebration featured an abundance of traditional German fare, such as pork and sauerkraut, potatoes and apple strudel. In addition to the delicious food, there was also an auction, flea market and accordionist who played German songs.

One year later, the whole campus was excited for the continuing tradition. The Concordia Home Journal, a Concordia newsletter that was compiled by Eleanor Schwalm (Horst's wife), shows in the Oct. 12, 1978 issue just how much anticipation surrounded the event:

*Can you visualize yourself wearing a Tyrolean hat, sitting at a table at Thoma Center, a plate of sauerkraut and Kielbasa before you, glass in hand, lustily singing "Ach du lieber Augustine" or "Schnitzelbank"? Or browsing among the Flea Market tables; or participating in the auction upstairs?*

*Wherever you picture yourself, picture yourself SMILING, LAUGHING and having FUN. In Prov. 17:22, we read that "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine." Being with Christian friends and having a merry time is indeed wonderful therapy for each of us, and God encourages us to do just that.*



Five years later, the Concordia Home Journal from Oct. 7, 1983, explained the meaning behind Concordia's Oktoberfest:

*At the Oktoberfest, we rejoice in the love and good fellowship of our friends, who support Concordia and work to help spread the word about the Christian love and care which prevail here among us. Our Oktober-feasting is not a time to overindulge in food and drink, but a time to indulge in serving Concordia and its folks by doing a work of love through Flea Market donations and some good, solid word-of-mouth praise. Sometimes a good case of indigestion goes along with the sauerkraut and Kielbasa, but it's all part of the joy of the day.*

While a few of the activities have changed over the years (the flea market and auction have been swapped for a rummage sale held by Haven activities staff and residents, free activities for kids and fireworks), the purpose of Concordia's Oktoberfest is still the same: celebrate our German heritage and all that God has given with good friends, food and fellowship. If it had not been for steadfast help from the Concordia's community in the beginning, there would be no Concordia today, so we give back to show deep gratitude for our neighbors their continued support in time, funds and prayers.

For more information about Concordia's community events visit the Events & News page on our website at <http://www.concordialm.org/events-news>.

