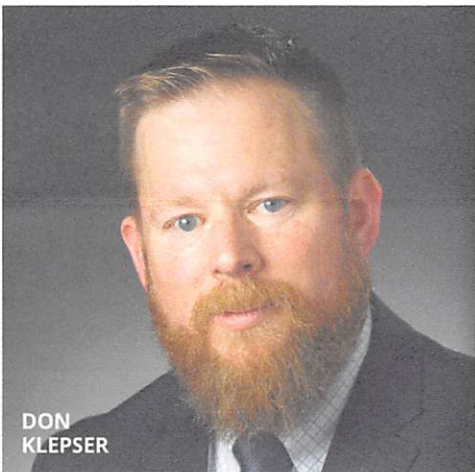


CONCORDIA
LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA
FOUNDATION

MINISTRY
— THAT —
LIVES ON



DON
KLEPSER

AS I WRITE THIS, YESTERDAY WAS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020. FOR CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA, THAT MARKED THE FIRST DAY OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR. EVERY AUGUST FOR THE PAST 17 YEARS, MY WIFE, KELLY HAS TAKEN A PICTURE OF THE KIDS ON THE FRONT STEPS OF OUR HOME BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AT CONCORDIA. OUR YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, ELEANOR, IS A SENIOR THIS YEAR, SO THIS WILL BE OUR LAST FIRST DAY AT CONCORDIA, THE FIRST OF MANY "LASTS" WE WILL FACE THIS YEAR.

To say that Concordia has been our community in Omaha is probably an understatement. From the day we toured Bread of Life Lutheran School and met the new principal, Dean Raabe, we knew we had found a school home and partner in raising our children. We have never regretted our decision. To watch this school grow from what it was in 2004 to what it is today is to watch a miracle take place in front of your eyes. God has been with this school since the beginning.

That is not to say that there have not been financial challenges. I joined the Board of Directors the same year that the decision was made to consolidate the two elementary schools. I was on the Board in years where we did not know how we would get through the year. Yet, every year, God has answered our prayers by moving people's hearts to support and grow this ministry. It is because of the generous gifts of donors like you that Concordia has been a home to my family for the past 17 years. Thank you!

That is why this will not be the last year we support this ministry. We can never repay the value of the Christian education that our children received at Concordia. What we can do is support these schools with our prayers and finances so that others may receive the blessings we received.

God's Blessings to you all,



Don Klepser, *President*
Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha Board of Directors

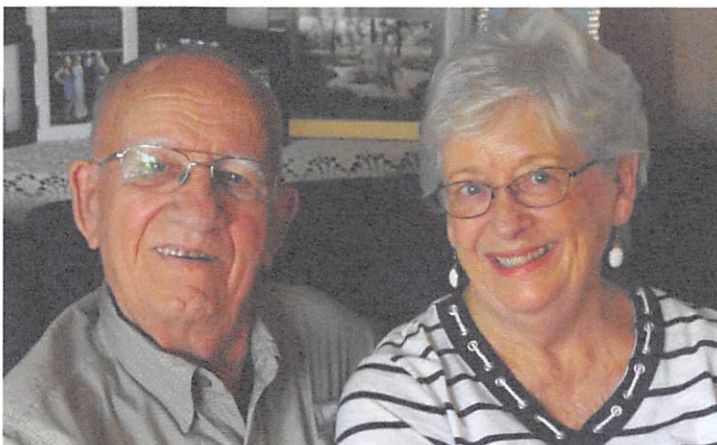
Why I Give

ROGER AND NITA HOLMES have been involved with Concordia since the very beginning. They even attended the dedication of the land that the Jr.-Sr. High School sits on today.

The Holmes have raised four sons, and two of those sons made the commitment many years ago to send their children to Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha. In total, they have had six grandchildren graduate from Concordia. The first grandchild (Neal) graduated in 2007 and the last granddaughter graduated in 2015 (Sarah). Roger and Nita have many fond memories of attending football and basketball games on the Concordia campus. Nita says, "I always feel welcome when I go to the school." One of Roger's favorite memories is attending the girls' basketball game when the team qualified for State!

The Holmes have actually been regular supporters of Concordia also with their finances. They are proud of the fact that each of their grandchildren are prepared to tell the world about Jesus, and they acknowledge that Concordia played a big part in that. Nita treasures the memory of one graduation service when the guest speaker encouraged the graduates to remember that as they left Concordia, the real opportunity to do mission work was starting.

In conclusion, Roger and Nita have always felt that the school blessed their family and so they have wanted to bless the school in response. Nita's advice to other grandparents is, "When you are not able to physically be involved in the school and volunteer, you can always help financially."



What I Love About Concordia - Alumni Madi Galaska

The word "family" could easily be used to sum up Madi Galaska's ('15) past, present and future. Madi came to Concordia for her sophomore through senior years of High School and shares that it taught her the importance of family. "Concordia was like a family in many ways. Many of the friendships I had during high school, I still hold on to, and it has been wonderful to see my younger siblings go through the same journey."

Madi has fond memories of her classes, especially with Mr. Phil Meggers and Pastor Aaron Staub. Madi remembers teachers were passionate about what they taught and truly wanted all of the students to succeed.

After graduating from the University of Nebraska Omaha,

Madi joined the family business - Galaska Painting & Flooring. She works in the areas of interior design and estimating so she has decided to fine tune her skills through an online course with the New York Institute of Art and Design. Madi appreciates the time with her family and believes it has drawn them all closer. She also enjoys spending time with the family animals, which now even includes goats! Madi's passion for writing inspired her blog, "The Dark Roast" as well as a poetry book which she is working to publish.

Looking towards the future Madi is busy making wedding plans with her fiancé, Jarred, who she met at UNO. Madi anticipates teaching her family many of the Christian values that Concordia instilled in her.

Having four children at Concordia is a serious commitment of both time and finances. After much prayer and discussion, Matt and Laura Troutman took the advice of friends and made the commitment with the belief that if they desire a Christian education for their children, God will make it happen! Over the years, God has made it possible for this hardworking, dedicated family to enroll all of their children.

When their first born, Luke, was ready for Kindergarten the Troutman's received a reduced tuition rate when they won a competition that KGBI radio station was running. They have also received tuition support as members of a local Lutheran church, Beautiful Savior. With all of these blessings they have still had to work hard to cover tuition. They've met that responsibility with evening jobs for Laura when the kids were little and taking advantage of opportunities where they "volunteered" in concession stands to receive funds towards tuition. Even with all of this they do still receive scholarships from the school to help make it all happen.

Why do they do this?? Matt shares that they have chosen to send their children to Concordia because they wanted a school that shares and teaches their children the same beliefs that they do at home. They also appreciate the small class sizes and the many opportunities their children have at Concordia. Their children are involved in the strings program as well as sports. Another blessing is that they have made many wonderful friends through the school. Matt and Laura enjoy attending the Gala, Oktoberfest and Trivia Night.

The Troutman's acknowledge it is a sacrifice but they feel it is worth it, and even make it a priority to financially donate to the school beyond tuition payments. Today, Laura is on staff at Concordia Academy as the PE teacher, Director of the "Before and After School" child care program, assists in the Ignite classroom, and is even driving the new shuttle bus! She also enjoys coaching both JV and Varsity girls soccer teams. It is obvious that God has provided Matt and Laura with what they needed to give their children that Christian education they desired.

We're back!

ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12TH, the doors of Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha were wide open to receive students for the new school year. Concordia is running both in-person classes and online lessons simultaneously. Please keep students, staff and leadership in your prayers as they begin a school year like no other!

Gabe Rademacher Scholarship

Gabe Rademacher was a 2010 graduate of Concordia who tragically passed away just a few days after graduation. In Gabe's memory his friends created the "Gabe Rademacher Living Letters Scholarship". This scholarship goes to one student each year who has a strong interest in the Sciences like Gabe did. His classmates are planning a 10 year memorial for him on October 2nd, before the Homecoming football game. If you would like to donate to this very special scholarship fund, please contact Mr. Steve Gedwillo in the Advancement office at steve.gedwillo@concordiaomaha.org or call 402-445-4000.

Foundation Board

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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF CONCORDIA
LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA
FOUNDATION **SUMMER 2020**


FORWARD WITH FAITH


Concordia's Campaign
to Sustain, Thrive & Grow

 **FALL 2019** . Capital Campaign Planning Study conducted

 **LATE FALL 2019** . Concordia School Board votes to move forward with Capital Campaign "Forward With Faith"

 **MARCH 2020** . COVID-19

 **MAY 2020** . Silent Phase begins with communication to major donors

 **FALL 2020** . Public Phase of campaign begins

Even with the life changing impact of Covid-19, Concordia has made the decision to move forward with this campaign. This is not done without sensitivity but because this is an important step in the future of Concordia and its mission.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE FORWARD WITH FAITH CAMPAIGN?

The goal of this campaign is to raise \$3 million which will pay off half of the total debt Concordia currently owes.

WHEN AND FOR WHAT WAS THIS DEBT ACCRUED?

In 2000, when the West Omaha Lutheran School Association (now Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha) was gifted the land and horse stables at 156th and Fort St., taking out a loan was the only way to establish a campus for programming to middle and high school grades. Accordingly, the vast majority (\$5.49 million) of the current debt was incurred as the result of a young, rapidly growing Lutheran school. The remainder of Concordia's debt is composed of a \$500,000 line of credit and a \$118,000 loan for school vehicles. Together, these sources total \$6 million.

HOW MUCH DOES CONCORDIA DISBURSE IN DEBT PAYMENTS CURRENTLY?

Each month, Concordia's debt service payment is \$33,608, or just over \$400,000 per year. Approximately \$20,000 of each monthly payment addresses the debt principal while the balance goes toward interest. Since 2003, Concordia has paid nearly \$6 million in debt service to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. It is only by working to eliminate the principal that our school community can move on from simply sustaining the good work that we do to building our capacity for even better ministry to our students and community.

HOW WILL ELIMINATING \$3 MILLION IN DEBT IMPACT CONCORDIA'S BUDGET?

For every \$500,000 applied toward the debt principal, Concordia will save \$36,000 annually. **Thus, eliminating \$3 million of the debt would result in \$216,000 in savings per year.** This would not only put Concordia firmly on the path to being debt-free. It would provide immediate and significant stability for Concordia's financial footing and, in the future, provide funding for scholarship support and program enhancements.