



CONCORDIA
LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF OMAHA
FOUNDATION

**GIVE
GRACEFULLY
& GRATEFULLY**



FORWARD WITH FAITH
*Concordia's Campaign
to Sustain, Thrive & Grow*

November 9, 2020 Report Date
Campaign goal \$3,000,000

All gifts made to the Forward with Faith capital campaign will be allocated directly to the reduction of Concordia's historic debt. The public phase of Forward With Faith campaign was launched on October 2.

TO DATE

Received \$1,949,430
Total Pledges 130
Debt Paid \$450,000
Annual Savings \$31,500

*\$7,000 savings for every \$100,000
paid toward the debt*

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD! WE WERE REMINDED OF LUTHER'S WORDS ON REFORMATION SUNDAY AND THEY STILL RING TRUE DURING THIS PANDEMIC. BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT OUR LORD CAN DO MIGHTY THINGS, WE GLADLY VOLUNTEERED TO BE GENERAL CHAIRS OF CONCORDIA'S CURRENT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN, FORWARD WITH FAITH.

We know firsthand the value of a Lutheran education. Both our boys, Peter (19) and Zachary (15) attended Concordia since kindergarten. Concordia clearly meets its mission of building faith secure, world ready, kingdom leaders.

God has blessed Concordia with the wonderful land our school sits on and the beautiful facilities where students learn, worship and play every day. Our campuses were built by prayers, generous donors like you, tuition paid by our families, and yes... debt. Approximately \$6 million remains in accumulated debt used to develop our facilities. This debt now requires over \$400,000 of debt service payments annually, and it is the primary obstacle that prevents us from continuing to take further strides. Can you imagine putting those dollars to use for tuition assistance, competitive compensation for our faculty, enhancements for our school and expanded curriculum offerings?

Forward with Faith is a three-year campaign, seeking to cut our debt in half. Certainly \$6 million sounds like a large sum of debt for our school, but to remain competitive, some loans needed to be taken to develop our facilities. And, with two new schools going up in our neighborhood - Elkhorn North High School at a cost of \$78.5 million and a new Omaha Public high school at \$92 million - our \$6 million seems like a reasonable investment.

In March, as we were launching the silent phase of the campaign and the pandemic was rising, we considered delaying this for a better time. But we quickly realized that God had given us guidance through our campaign theme, and we have moved Forward with Faith that He will provide even in the midst of challenges. And, I am happy to report that as of this writing, we have surpassed \$2 million of our \$3 million goal!

Will you join us in making a pledge to pay off this debt so we can continue the growth of this ministry? 100% of your contribution will go directly to debt reduction. Please prayerfully consider what you might do, and if you are so inclined to answer the call, use the enclosed envelope to give a donation. A three year pledge can be made by contacting Steve Gedwillo the Director of Advancement for Concordia at 402-445-4000. Every gift, no matter the size, is meaningful.

*God's blessings to you all,
Lee and Jennifer Handke*

Why We Choose Concordia *again!*



It all started with a radio ad, proof that God can use anything to HIS glory! In 2014 **HEIDI AND CHAD BAUTCH** were looking for options for their then 7th grade son Carter. A friend, Jennifer Marion, called Heidi and asked if they had considered Concordia. Jennifer, who had two children at Concordia, also shared that she had just heard a radio advertisement on KGBI for reduced tuition offered at Concordia if you called the station. As a result, the Bautchs received the promotional offer and also secured a ride to and from school for Carter, with the Marion's son. At the same time this was all taking place, Chad Bautch was dealing with very serious health concerns and they had a set of 4-year-old twins at home to also care for, Landon and Millie.

Carter's transition to Concordia was a bit bumpy at times but was aided by his participation over the summer with the Concordia drum line. Here he made strong friendships and found a love for music. At that time Chad and Heidi were not able to get involved with school activities themselves due to Chad's compromised health and eventual transplant operation. They were very thankful for the encouragement they received from school staff when Chad's health impacted Carter's day to day schedule. On one particularly rough day, when Carter went to school knowing his Dad may be admitted to the hospital, his teacher (Mrs. Reynolds) asked the students in the class to pray over Carter. The Bautch family counts this as an example of love and care from both staff and teachers. "Concordia offers something beyond academics", shares Heidi.

Carter has now graduated from Concordia and is studying at UNL, but Concordia is now blessed to have Landon and Millie attending the Academy as of August 2020. The plan was to wait and send the twins for Jr. High but once again God provided the support the Bautch needed to start the twins at Concordia this year. Chad believes that the Concordia community that surrounded them during challenging times, and the fact that the twins saw Carter's involvement in many extra-curriculars, made the decision to send the twins easy when it came time to pay tuition.

Today, we are thankful to have Chad coaching the Academy volleyball team and volunteering as a line judge for Varsity volleyball games at the high school. Heidi has assisted with the Hands & Feet program and is kept busy with lots of new play dates for the twins.



Why We Support Concordia

Bill and Tammy Anderson first learned about Concordia in 2011 when Jim Rasmussen, Executive Director at the time, preached on the value of Lutheran Education at the Anderson's home church, Beautiful Savior. Their daughter, Angela,

was a Kindergartner in the Papillion/La Vista school system at that time. After the service they felt drawn to learn more about Concordia. They scheduled a classroom visit a few weeks later and then began the process of enrolling Angela.

When the Andersons became part of the Concordia family in 2011 they also became faithful donors above and beyond the required tuition. They believe that like any school system there are day to day financial needs that must be met, but there also long term financial considerations for future success. They feel moved to support future generations, thus the additional gifts are a priority for them. To ensure that this priority is met the Andersons even go so far as to use Pay Pal to automatically give monthly. Another avenue that Tammy has utilized to make their family donations go even farther is the matching gift program at Union Pacific. She shares that UP actually matches gifts to educational institutions at a rate of 200%, "we are thrilled to share this benefit with Concordia!"

A Double Alumni Spotlight

The Haack Brothers



Caleb Haack ('12) is living out what he learned at Concordia! After high school graduation, Caleb attended Concordia University Nebraska where he earned his Christian Education Leadership and Director of Christian Education Certifications with a BA in Theology. After completing his internship as a Director of Christian Education at Hope Lutheran Church in Bradenton, FL, Caleb began his official career in Bellevue, NE with Thanksgiving Lutheran Church.

At Thanksgiving Lutheran, Caleb has been working as the Children's Ministry Director since 2018. This role includes programming VBS, Easter and Christmas programs. He also teaches each Sunday morning, to both children and families! Caleb enjoys building relationships with the families in his congregation and helping them to become even stronger in their faith. He credits Concordia Omaha for preparing him for his vocation and ministry through the strong discipleship and faith-based education. While at Concordia, he grew in his relationship with Christ.

Most recently Caleb has been blessed with a beautiful bride, April. They were married just over a year ago in October of 2019. The look forward to traveling, hiking and doing ministry together!



Christian Haack ('15) is also in ministry locally like his brother, but he took a different path before settling in as a Property Manager for Open Door Mission. While this job can be very hands on with managing the maintenance team and overseeing the facility, it also includes leading Bible studies with the residents.

After graduation Christian spent three months on a mission trip in the Middle East, specifically in Beirut, Lebanon. While he was there he worked and lived with Syrian and Kurdish refugees. The work included: street evangelism, teaching English and building relationships which included games of soccer with refugee kids. He shares that he also enjoyed, "the best food in the world" while he was there.

Christian believes Concordia was instrumental in helping him grow and stay rooted in his faith walk with Christ. He is thankful for the weekly chapel services and being able to go to almost any teacher with his prayer requests. In addition, Christian says that, "the smaller class sizes were beneficial for me because I felt like the teachers were personally invested in my academic success."

God has also gifted Christian with a wonderful spouse. He and Briana have been married since February 2019 and have just purchased a house. When he is not busy doing renovations on their new home he enjoys playing guitar.



GABE RADEMACHER SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

On Friday, October 2nd the class of 2010 gathered to celebrate 10 years since graduation as well as the life of their classmate, Gabe Rademacher. Several alumni parents, other alumni and staff attended the event which took place before the 2020 Homecoming football game. As a result, memories were shared and many friendships were rekindled. In addition, over \$4,000 was raised for the Gabe Rademacher Living Letters Scholarship. The scholarship is given each year to assist with the tuition of one student who displays an interest in the sciences much like Gabe did.

Endowing the Future of Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha



Craig Stirtz

Some things are too important to leave to chance. One of those is the future of Christian education for our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and all of God's children.

You have seen the value of a Christian education through Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha. Some of you have recognized the value and sent your loved ones to our schools. Others have supported our schools through your current gifts and fund-raising efforts. Thank you for helping us to educate and develop our future Christian leaders!

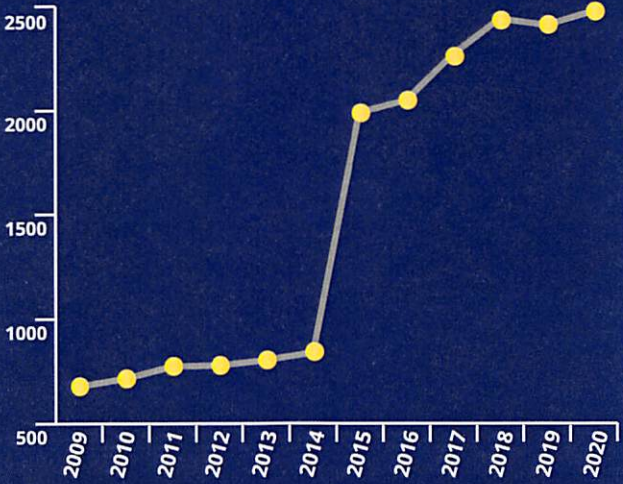
One of the primary challenges to the future of a Christian education is funding. The ability to hire quality, Christian educators is imperative. Having state-of-the-art equipment and facilities is important to students and their parents. Enabling some families to send their children, through tuition assistance, is often the difference maker. All of this takes financial resources.

One way to ensure the future of Christian education is to endow Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha. Your gift, to our Foundation, will have a lasting impact! Have you considered including Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha Foundation with a gift from your Will or Trust? Or would you consider leaving a portion of a life insurance policy, IRA or other retirement asset to our Foundation? Your gift, of any size, will have a tremendous impact on Christian education!

If you would like more information, contact Steve Gedwillo at 402-445-4000. Or if you wish to meet with our Nebraska District Gift Planning Counselor to discuss ways you can accomplish your estate planning goals for your loved ones and for your favorite ministries, including Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha, this service is available to you at no cost. Contact Craig Stirtz at 402-616-0312 or craig.stirtz@lfnd.org.

In 2020, distributions from the foundation have funded student scholarships in the amount of
\$147,385.

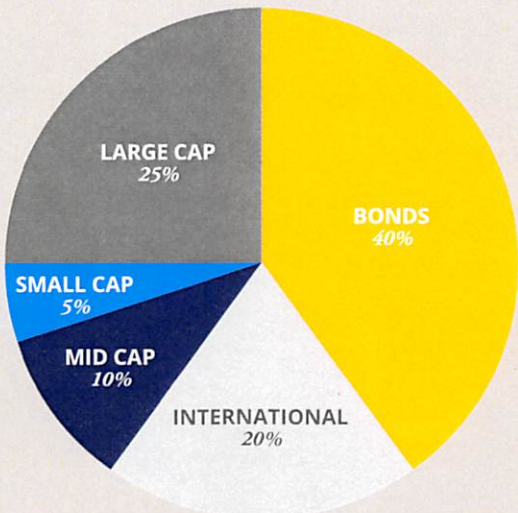
Ten Year Value of Foundation Portfolio



Portfolio Value (\$ Thousands) / Fiscal Year End

Total Market Value as of June 2020: **\$2.4M**

The endowment is invested with the goal of minimizing the level of risk needed to generate returns that will support the ongoing needs of the school. Assets are invested across all major publicly traded securities to diversify the endowment's sources of risk and return.



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

Foundation Board

Mr. A. William "Bill" Kernen-Chair

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Mr. Lloyd Probasco

Mrs. Gaye Lynn Schaffart

Mr. Dan Vehle

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Mr. Rob Cooksey

Mr. Steve Gedwillo

Mr. Aaron Sailer

**Concordia
Foundation
Welcomes
Mr. Dan Vehle!**



Mr. Dan Vehle is not new to Concordia, but he is new to the Foundation Board. Dan and his wife Lisa first became involved with Concordia when they registered their first child, Sarah, for Kindergarten in 2000. At that time, parents stood in line starting the night before, to get a spot in the Kindergarten program! Dan and Lisa, originally from South Dakota and Kansas, were new members at King of Kings Church and were encouraged by friends to enroll Sarah. The couple later enrolled their second daughter, Dana. Today, both girls are Concordia alumni and working as professionals in Omaha.

Although neither Dan nor Lisa came from a Christian education background, they were passionate about having that experience for their children and want the same for others as well. They made lifelong friends at Concordia and have many fond memories of loudly cheering on the football team, during the early years, to show the kids they supported them and were proud of their efforts.

Dan served for several terms on the Concordia School Board of Directors (2002-2009) including two years as President of the board. He has been blessed to see a lot of growth in the facilities and programs. He credits Jim Rasmussen, a former Executive Director, as making headway for Concordia and building its positive reputation in the community. Dan believes Concordia is on the cusp of another big step forward with the leadership of Rob Cooksey. He anticipates working once again with Bill Kernen, the current chair of the Foundation Board, and learning more from him. Dan's goals for the Foundation are to see more Alumni and young parents get involved by donating their time and talents so that God's kingdom will continue to grow. He would like to see the Foundation help the school grow physically and be even more well known in the community as a school that offers strong academics with a sense of family. "We need to keep our prayers tightly knit with God's will", concludes Vehle.