

Why I Value & Support Concordia

GAYE LYNN SCHAFFART



PROVERBS 22:6 (NIV) – START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO, AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT.

This Bible verse really captures the lasting value of a Lutheran education. I was fortunate enough to experience that value for myself. I went to Zion Lutheran School located in South Omaha from Kindergarten through the 8th Grade. Not only did I receive an extraordinary education to strengthen my academic knowledge, but also received daily Biblical education to strengthen my spiritual knowledge. I witnessed educators who were committed to sharing the Gospel and modeled both servant and spiritual leadership daily. That education helped shape who I am today.

That's why I believe it is so important to support Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha. This school is a wonderful blessing to Omaha, giving children an opportunity to strengthen their faith in Christ and proclaim the Gospel throughout the community. Concordia has been blessed by a wonderful group of teachers and administrators who clearly embrace the mission of Concordia to build faith secure, world ready, kingdom leaders.

Because of the many blessings received from my Lutheran education, I believe that God has put on my heart a passion to support Concordia with my time, talents, and treasures. I am active on both the Concordia Board of Directors and Foundation Board and support the ministry financially as well.

It is my hope that you will continue to support Concordia with your financial gifts. It is also my hope that you will prayerfully ask God to continue to bless Concordia and its teachers, staff, and students. God has given us the gift of a Lutheran school in the Omaha area, and I believe it is our calling to support that gift willingly and generously.

*Blessings and peace to you all,
Gaye Lynn Schaffart*



We have good news with an update on the Forward With Faith capital campaign. As we persevere through this difficult year, we are moving forward - forward With faith - eliminating debt and setting our sights on writing Concordia's next chapter.

We have raised \$2.2 million in pledges toward our \$3 million goal! Even more exciting news is the impact this effort has had on our debt:

- **\$940,000 in debt payments from cash received!**
- **\$2 million in interest saved!**
- **9 years eliminated from remaining debt service!**

Thank you for making this progress possible! Stay tuned for more information on Forward With Faith and how you can help Concordia thrive and grow.

Why We Support Concordia

HAROLD AND CAROLINE RICE

As a retired Lutheran pastor and a public school teacher respectfully, Harold and Caroline Rice have supported Christian education for many years. When their family was young, and Harold was in the military as a Chaplain, their two boys attended Christian schools in Hawaii and Florida. The family made many moves before Harold and Caroline eventually settled in Omaha 40 years ago. Caroline was excited to learn in the Omaha World Herald years later about the plans for a Lutheran school system that would include high school, however, by that time their children were grown. Currently, the Rices have three grandchildren attending Concordia: David (9th), Margaret (6th) and Alexander (3rd) Rice.



Although Caroline taught in public schools for thirty years, she always believed that if one could include elements of the Christian faith in one's teaching, the students would be stronger, and consequently, our country would. She recognizes that in today's school climate, including Christian elements in the classroom may lead to a teacher being disciplined. This is why they have become faithful supporters of Concordia. "Concordia takes the opportunity to offer many children a strong academic foundation and an understanding of the Lord and the love Jesus has for them," says Caroline. The Rices are also supporters of Camp Carol Joy Holling because they know that the camp experiences can also be a great way for young people to hear about Jesus.

Harold and Caroline are often on the Concordia campuses for special events like Christmas concerts, sporting events and the annual Gala. They always enjoy watching their grandchildren participate in their activities but they also appreciate the many other students they see, as well. They are pleased to support Concordia financially so that as many children as possible can attend and receive the seeds of faith that Concordia plants!



Endowing The Future of our Children

BY CRAIG STIRZ

Where is our future? It is in the lives of our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Those that will educate and provide needed services for our loved ones will someday be those who are currently attending or will attend Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha.

One need that will always be a priority is funding. Our teachers, staff, facilities, and equipment require funding. Our current and future students rely on tuition assistance.

Your gift to endow Concordia Lutheran Schools will make the future that much brighter! Have you included Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha Foundation with a gift from your Will or Trust, life insurance policy, IRA or other retirement asset? Your gift, big or small, will have a tremendous impact on Christian education!

For more information, contact Mr. Steve Gedwill at 402-445-4000. Or to meet with our Nebraska District Gift Planning Counselor (available to you at no cost) to discuss how you can accomplish your planning goals for your loved ones and for Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha, contact Craig Stirtz at 402-616-0312 or craig.stirtz@lfnd.org.

What Concordia Means to Me: *Julia Hansen*

Julia Hansen, a current Senior, has been enrolled at Concordia since Kindergarten. Her Dad stood in line starting at 5:00 a.m. that year to ensure she got a spot at Concordia Academy. Julia's parents had both come from small towns in Nebraska and wanted to have their children in a faith based school with a family feel.

Looking back at her school years, Julia shares that Concordia has been a second family to her. It's a place where she has been able to share her highs and lows with real honesty and she has truly felt cared for. Tragically, when Julia was in 3rd grade her Dad died unexpectedly. Her teacher that year, Mrs. Liz Slothower, showed great compassion for Julia and often prayed with her. Even after Mrs. Slothower retired, she continued to check in with Julia. Her entire class attended her Dad's funeral. To this day Julia's friend group remembers her Dad's birthday and encourages her on that difficult day. More recently, Julia has felt blessed by Mr. Winter, her English teacher. She relates, "He has asked me how he can be praying for me and

has consistently asked about my day. Mr. Winter helped me a lot when both of my Grandmas passed away within five days of each other."

Julia credits Concordia with giving her a strong faith and knowledge of the Bible. She loves the deep conversations that she has had with her religion teachers. She has even had older family members ask her theological questions because they know her classes at Concordia go beyond the surface of basic Bible stories.

Julia believes, "Concordia is a really special place to me and I know I will be back after graduation. I am so thankful my parents made my Christian education a priority all those years ago. You can't put a price on a person's faith." She also believes that when a student attends Concordia, it is not only the student who is loved and accepted, it's their family as well. Julia thanks all those who donate to Concordia, which makes a Christian education possible for more students and nurtures the next generation of believers.



Gala Recap; *Glorious Unfolding*

15th Annual Concordia Gala was held on Friday, March 5th at Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School. This year's theme, *Glorious Unfolding* was based on Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Approximately 185 guests joined in-person while another 70 individuals attended virtually. This year we offered the silent auction, musical entertainment by the Senior High Jazz Band, a full buffet dinner accompanied by a short program, and a live auction. For the virtual guests, they were invited to bid on both silent & live auction items and could pick up dinner to enjoy while watching the live stream program. The Live Auction brought in winning bids totaling \$18,900 including packages like vacation stays in the Black Hills & near the beach at Naples, FL; side of Nebraska grass-fed beef; destination golf (purchased by an alumni table); and a backyard BBQ including gourmet desserts. Total funds raised from the Gala equaled \$133,000 with net proceeds close to \$108,000 after covering expenses. We appreciated the sponsorships, donations and contributions that assisted in making this event a successful celebration and fundraiser.



Alumni Enjoy the Gala

For the first time ever the Concordia Gala included a table of alumni in attendance! The guests included (from left to right) Peter Handke ('19), Brandon Newhouse ('13), Devon Sterling ('13), Jared Sorenson ('14) and Micah Schwanke ('14). The alumni jumped right in and bid on several live auction items. In the end, several alumni won a golf package that they will enjoy together. Sorenson shares, "The Gala experience as an alumni was nothing short of phenomenal. Being able to connect with high school friends, teachers and people associated with Concordia reminded me of what a blessing it was to attend the high school. I look forward to attending again in years to come and plan to show my love and support for what God continues to do at Concordia, and I hope other alumni will join me!"

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Save the Date!

This year, due to Covid restrictions, the Concordia musical will be performed over the Memorial Day weekend,

May 27th-30th

Get your tickets online, now!
[concordiaomahafinearts.
eventbrite.com](https://concordiaomahafinearts.eventbrite.com)

2020 Block Leadership Society

The following donors gave \$1,500 or more in 2020 to assist with operating expenses or tuition assistance through gifts given as undesignated, tuition/scholarship assistance or gala purchases and proceeds. A total of 49 donors participated, with 4 wishing to remain anonymous.

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