



THRIVE DEEPER ROOTS WIDER REACH

SO THEN, JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS LORD, CONTINUE TO LIVE YOUR LIVES IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM, STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, AND OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS. -COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

Our newfound identity in Christ is meant to have deep roots and produce good fruit within us. Our response, in all we say and do, is to joyfully share the Gospel with others. To thrive is to be whole, to live in a world that has been forever changed by the resurrection of Jesus, who is now making all things new. Paul compels us to be convinced that to truly flourish is to be rooted in Christ. To be rooted in Christ is to share God's love to those around us.

This is what it means for Concordia to thrive as we enter into a new capital campaign. We are thankful for the generosity many individuals expressed during the Forward With Faith debt reduction campaign. The success of that campaign allows us to move forward and flourish in ministry. We celebrate savings of \$2,550,000 in future interest payments

and 13.3 years eliminated from remaining debt service.

At the heart of Thrive is the actualization of bringing grades K-5 to our Fort Street Campus. Campaign highlights will include additional classrooms, an administrative office complex, dedicated entrances, and the Thrive Center for worship, arts, and student activity.

In the days, weeks, and months to come, you will be hearing more about the vision and the accompanying details of the Thrive campaign. This campaign is deeply rooted with a commitment to biblical generosity, intergenerational participation, and 'faith-sized' goals. We are believing that God is already working on the hearts of our families, friends, partners, and foundations, who will come alongside us to make Thrive possible.

As we embark upon the Thrive campaign, we are asking you to pray for and with us. We believe this campaign will allow Concordia to continue to nurture students who are more deeply rooted in God's love and ensure that our school has an even wider reach into our community.

Mario Alejandro
Advancement Officer

Why *We* Send Our Kids to Concordia



SHERI AND FLAVIO SANCHEZ made the decision to send their children to Lutheran schools in 2002. For Sheri, that commitment has meant twenty years of driving her three sons (Tyler, Ryan and Aaron) to school and home again. She first learned about Concordia when the high school band came to their home church and performed during the worship service. She made the decision that she wanted more for her boys and she worked very hard to make it happen. In the early years, it would take her 45 minutes each morning to drive her children to school and then drive to her job. Since Flavio was a long haul trucker, Sheri was often managing all of this on her own. Through all of the challenges and long days, she believes that it was all worth the time and energy. The family was able to qualify for scholarship dollars in addition to their church home, Zion, helping with tuition. The boys' great grandma paid the cost of lunches when they were in elementary school and their grandparents also helped cover the cost of tuition.

Sheri and Flavio have greatly appreciated being able to have a strong "village" to raise their boys from K-12. Ryan is currently living in Phoenix and works for State Farm Insurance, Tyler is working at Hy-Vee in Omaha and Aaron ('22) will attend University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the fall. In addition, they have experienced teachers who have the student's best interest at the heart of all they do with a Christian perspective. Sheri shared, "You don't have to be the best athlete or have the best grades to fit in at Concordia." Over the years, Sheri has also built strong relationships with other parents through volunteering on the Booster Club for 19 years, helping with game admissions, doing team dinners, and helping teachers grade work at the elementary level.

For those considering Concordia, she would say, "Don't be scared by the price of Christian education." She is proof that God will provide the means and the opportunities for a family to attend Concordia.



Why We Support Concordia

PASTOR STEPHEN AND PEG BARTELT have been faithful donors and supporters of Concordia since 2008. Pastor Bartelt grew up attending Lutheran schools in his

hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin where his father was a Pastor at the same church for over 40 years. 16 years ago, they moved to Omaha to be closer to family when they officially retired from ministry. The Bartelts are grandparents to Bobby (12th) and Emily (9th) Lindau, and parents to Sarah Lindau (married to Rob).

Pastor Bartelt served on the Concordia board of directors for one term and they have attended numerous school events in support of their grandchildren. Their church, Zion, is a strong supporter of Concordia with

school parents who consistently keep the congregation up to date on what is happening at the school. All of these factors have moved the Bartelts to be regular financial supporters of the school. They enjoy giving the fruits that God has blessed them with and they feel that Concordia is doing a great job of witnessing to a wide spectrum of students.

For those who are considering a financial gift to the school, Pastor Bartelt would encourage them to recognize that Concordia is a mission field that needs the support of believers. He is thankful for the strong Theology department and the spiritual focus of the school. Mrs. Bartelt especially loves attending the "top notch" performances by the music department. They both agreed that they love to hear how teachers have a personal interest in the students and care about their faith. Mrs. Bartelt said, "Even the track coaches encourage the athletes to do their best and give God the glory!"

Alumni Spotlight: *the Carlsons*

Chelsea (Jacobsen) '09 and Jacob '10 Carlson are busy young professionals and parents! Chelsea works as a Quality Control Scientist at Pharmgate in Omaha. Chelsea graduated from UNO with a Bachelors degree in Biology in 2015. Jacob graduated in 2015 from Wayne State with a double major in Construction Management and Drafting/Design. He started his own business in 2018, Carlson Design & Build. The couple has been married for 7 years and have one child, Charlie, who will celebrate his second birthday in March.

Chelsea came to Concordia as a Senior after attending a large public school. Even today, she and Jacob are still friends with many of their classmates. "Concordia really helped Jacob and I to figure out who we were within a safe environment," she says.

Participating in sports was a huge part of Jacob's high school experience. When he was a freshman, the football program at Concordia began. While there were some rough games when the program was in its early stages, he learned a lot about hard work and discipline. Jacob also credits Coach Mike Ellis for teaching him some valuable life lessons; including the mantras, always get back up and give it your all!

"I think incorporating faith into school is very important, especially in the world we live in today. The example that Concordia staff show students on what being a Christian means is invaluable," says Chelsea. The combination of being raised in a strong faith-filled family and attending a Christian school helped the couple, especially when they both wandered away from their faith in college. Today, they attend Corem Deo church and when they have free time they enjoy taking Charlie to the park, watching movies and cooking together.

FUNDRAISING FOR GARUNA!

Students continue to raise funds to furnish the new school in Cambodia that is being built by Garuna Ministries in partnership with several Omaha Lutheran churches. The goal is \$10,000 and approximately \$9,500 has been raised so far. Academy students held a "Pie in the Face Challenge" fundraiser and several Jr.-Sr. High Life Groups held a huge garage sale to raise funds.



GRADUATION 2022

On Sunday, May 15th Concordia recognized and celebrated 52 graduates. Please join us in praying for these young men and women as they move on to university, the work force and the military. As their chosen class theme of "Faith Over Fear" suggests, we wish them success and an unwavering faith as they step into the next chapter of their lives.



WELL DONE GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Concordia will be wishing Mr. Tom Hiegel farewell at the end of this school year after 17 years of service. Mr. Hiegel has taught computer classes, managed the IT needs of the school and much more over his time. He has served a total of 44 years in Lutheran education in numerous locations. We thank God for Mr. Hiegel and all of his faithful work that has blessed Concordia and helped the school grow with the ever changing technology needs of the students and staff. Mr. Hiegel and his wife Linda will be moving to Ft. Wayne, IN to be closer to family.



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A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF CONCORDIA
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The 16th Annual Concordia Gala was held on Friday, March 4th with 400 in attendance, including over 20 alumni! The event was held in the main gym and included a greeting from Concordia University, Nebraska by President Dr. Bernard Bull, a live and silent auction, dessert dash and entertainment by the Worship Arts team and Aaron Bressman & Friends. The total net proceeds were close to \$160,000, of that amount \$44,000 was donated specifically for the scholarship fund with the "Raise the Paddle" challenge. A sincere "Thank You" to everyone who donated items, volunteered, contributed to the scholarship fund and purchased items. Together we make Christ centered education possible in the Omaha community!



**Annual
Gala
Brings in
\$160,000**

