

# RECOGNIZED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

*Serving in the Name of Christ*

Volume 3, Issue 4 • October 2018



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod

Recognized Service Organizations

*To extend its mission outreach, education and social ministry, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod works with independent Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) that agree to ensure their programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the LCMS.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Nov. 8–10, 2018**

LCMS National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference — Kansas City, Mo.  
[calendar.lcms.org/event/2018-national-rural-small-town-mission-conference](http://calendar.lcms.org/event/2018-national-rural-small-town-mission-conference)

**Nov. 15, 2018**

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission Webinar — Introducing New Hymns in Small Congregations

[calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-introducing-new-hymns-small-congregations](http://calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-introducing-new-hymns-small-congregations)

**Nov. 30, 2018**

LCMS Stewardship Ministry “More than Giving” Stewardship Conference — St. Cloud, Minn.

[calendar.lcms.org/event/more-than-giving-stewardship-conference-st-cloud-minn](http://calendar.lcms.org/event/more-than-giving-stewardship-conference-st-cloud-minn)

**MORE EVENTS  
LISTED ON PAGE 5**



## CONCORDIA LUTHERAN MINISTRIES' OKTOBERFEST:

*Celebrating a Commitment to Faithful  
Care that Spans 137 Years*



For more than 130 years, Concordia Lutheran Ministries has been a place with a mission of caring. A place for healing. A place to feel comfortable. And a place where heartfelt Christian faith and a strong sense of service to others help us make a difference every day.

Founded in 1881, Concordia Lutheran Ministries is a faith-based, accredited Aging Services Network and one of the 25 largest nonprofit senior care providers in the country. We serve over 40,000 people every year with a lifetime continuum of care, including providing hospice care, home care, rehabilitation services and spiritual care. Concordia's strength truly shines in the relationships we build within our communities. Whether it's hosting our Annual Fishing Derby, Summer Festival, Community Days, Oktoberfest or Live Nativity, sponsoring local school sports and funds or granting funds to domestic and international nonprofits through our Angel Tear Ministries program, we are dedicated to giving back to those around us. Our Oktoberfest, held annually at our original campus in Cabot, PA (north of Pittsburgh), 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 perfect German cursive. This is

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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 needed.

Amidst all the hard work, Concordia occasionally hosted a local Kinderfest, or children's festival, in the orphanage woods organized 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 the organization's German heritage would later follow.

In the 1970s, Ethel Krafzig, a longtime member of Concordia's Board of Directors, proposed that Concordia hold a fall festival. The administrator at the time, the late Horst Schwalm, was delighted by the

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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.

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 Concordia's community in the beginning, there would be no Concordia today. We give back to show deep gratitude for our neighbors and their continued support in time, funds and prayers.

Concordia's vision statement remains, "Serving the Triune God by providing for the needs of His people." At Concordia we say, "We put our faith in Caring," and it shows in everything we do.

**For more information about  
Concordia Lutheran Ministries,  
please visit [concordialm.org](http://concordialm.org).**



## *Nursing Students from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., Complete Rotations at Cabot*



Concordia Lutheran Ministries frequently welcomes students from local technical schools and colleges to our communities to complete their rotations, but we recently hosted nursing students from a location that's a little farther away: Concordia, Ann Arbor (CUAA) in Michigan.

CUAA, a private liberal arts university, is a member of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Concordia University System. Its new, accredited School of Nursing will graduate about 40 students in December. Of this group, eight were chosen to come to Concordia at Cabot from March 9–17 based on their ethics, grades and integrity: Shalena Blocker, Tiera Emerson, Ann Kossey, Kennedy Long, Becca Maccani, Jared McDaniel, Rebekah Olson and Samantha Southwell.

The program, a first-ever for both Concordias, was developed by the two for about seven months ahead of the time the students were set to arrive. It was decided that while in Cabot, the CUAA students would complete clinical rotations in Concordia's inpatient hospice unit and skilled nursing floor as well as with Concordia Visiting Nurses.

"The students completed all of their clinical hours for the semester while they were here," said Kathleen Sheehan, CUAA's Skills Lab and Clinical Liaison, who accompanied the students from Michigan. "They did what normally takes about 14 weeks during a semester in just one week."

Kathleen has been working at CUAA since August 2017 and stayed with the eight students at Concordia at Cabot's model apartments and guest rooms for the week.

"We ended up calling the program a nursing immersion, since the students were here living, training and working on campus," said Karen McCreary, Concordia Visiting Nurses' Chief Operating Officer, who played an integral role in planning the program. "Most nursing schools are more focused on hospitals, so this was a unique opportunity for CUAA and Concordia."

Once the students arrived, they were assigned to a preceptor/nurse and had a complete orientation just like a new Concordia employee would. In addition to completing their clinical hours, they were also given educational presentations by Concordia staff.

"This has been a wonderful week," Kathleen said. "This experience was an exact fit for the courses the students have taken."

They specifically learned about transitions of care, such as patients moving from retirement living to personal care or from palliative care to hospice care, as well as getting a feel for nursing outside of a hospital setting. Ultimately, they will need to decide what branch of nursing to enter, and experiences like this can help them expand their knowledge base.

"It was really beneficial for us to come here to learn and see nursing in a different state," said Jared McDaniel, one of the CUAA nursing students.

*"I have had such a good experience at Concordia this week, and I cannot wait to be a nurse"*

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“Everyone here was really friendly and welcoming, and I was really impressed.”

The students were all appreciative for their opportunity to train at Concordia.

“Thank you for allowing us to complete our clinical experience at your beautiful facility,” said Tiere Emerson, who looks forward to pursuing a master’s degree in nursing and becoming a nurse practitioner after she graduates. “This was a memorable opportunity for all of us.”

Rebekah Olson, who works as a nurse aide at the University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor when not in class, was also thankful.

“I have had such a good experience at Concordia this week, and I cannot wait to be a nurse,” Rebekah said. “Thank you!”

In addition to helping the students, the program is also a benefit for the Concordia family.

“The nursing immersion program was a great way for Concordia to give back to the nursing community and expand our horizons as well,” Karen McCreary said. “Our staff enjoyed working with the CUAA students immensely and found it very exciting to see young people learning and wanting to get into nursing careers. I’m not sure that either Concordia or CUAA knew what to expect

from this program, but it has just been amazing. We hope to have more opportunities like this in the future.”

As a growing organization that is always serving more people, there are often job openings at all of our locations and home care service areas. To learn more about the opportunities available at Concordia Lutheran Ministries, visit the Careers section of our website, [concordialm.org](http://concordialm.org).



For more information about Concordia Lutheran Ministries, please visit [concordialm.org](http://concordialm.org).

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Romans 10:17 ESV

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## RESOURCE FEATURE:

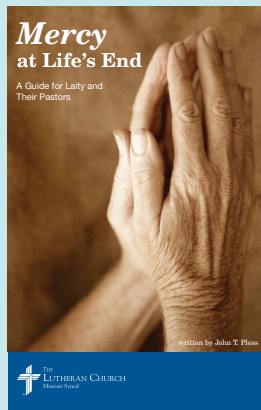
### *Mercy at Life's End – A Guide for Laity and Their Pastors*

By JOHN T. PLESS

“Christians are increasingly confronted with situations where they must make decisions concerning appropriate medical care when life appears to be ending. A variety of factors might complicate the decision-making process. In some cases, pastors may find themselves dealing with families where poor decisions have been made under the emotional stress of the moment. In other cases, family members are in disagreement and conflict over what is deemed an appropriate course of action. This booklet is offered with the hope that it will be of assistance to both pastors and Christian laity in thinking biblically about how to demonstrate the mercy of the Triune God to those to whom death draws near within the boundaries that our Creator has established and hallowed by His Word.” – FROM THE PREFACE

To download a pdf copy of *Mercy at Life's End – A Guide for Laity and Their Pastors*, please visit the LCMS Life Ministry page at [lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/life-ministry](http://lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/life-ministry).

If you would like to purchase a printed booklet of this resource, or order multiple copies of the booklet, please visit [cph.org/p-23101-mercy-at-lifes-end-booklet-24-pg.aspx](http://cph.org/p-23101-mercy-at-lifes-end-booklet-24-pg.aspx)



“Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 PETER 4:8–11).



## WANT MORE RSO NEWS OR LOOKING FOR AN RSO?

Check out our searchable directory and find more RSO news at [lcms.org/rso](http://lcms.org/rso).

### Dec. 6, 2018

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission Webinar — Summer Outreach Strategies for Rural and Small-Town Congregations  
[calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-summer-outreach-strategies-for-rural-small-town-congregations](http://calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-summer-outreach-strategies-for-rural-small-town-congregations)

### Jan. 2, 2019

2019 National LCMS Campus Ministry Conference “Witness” — Fort Wayne, Ind.  
[calendar.lcms.org/event/2019-national-lcms-campus-ministry-conference-witness](http://calendar.lcms.org/event/2019-national-lcms-campus-ministry-conference-witness)

### Jan. 17–19, 2019

LCMS Life Conference — Washington, D.C.  
[calendar.lcms.org/event/2019-lcms-life-conference](http://calendar.lcms.org/event/2019-lcms-life-conference)

### Jan. 27–30, 2019

Lutheran Services in America CEO Academy — Atlantic Beach, Fla.  
[lutheranservices.org/CEOAcademy2019](http://lutheranservices.org/CEOAcademy2019)

### Jan. 29–31, 2019

LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Training — Austin, Texas  
[lcmsfoundation.org/gift-planning/training/](http://lcmsfoundation.org/gift-planning/training/)

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For more information about the LCMS RSO ministry, visit [lcms.org/rso](http://lcms.org/rso).

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, contact Deaconess Cara Patton at 314-996-1635 or [cara.patton@lcms.org](mailto:cara.patton@lcms.org).

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