

### WHAT IS CONCORDIA?

Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha (Concordia) is Omaha's Lutheran school. Serving approximately 525 students in grades kindergarten through 12 over two campuses, our mission is to prepare young people as faith secure, world ready, Kingdom leaders. With students from both Lutheran and other backgrounds, our schools are owned and supported by an association of 15 congregations affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

### WHAT IS CONCORDIA'S TOTAL AMOUNT OF DEBT AND WHERE IS THIS DEBT HELD?

Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha carries \$6 million in debt, all of which is held by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

### WHY ARE WE TRYING TO PAY OFF THIS DEBT NOW?

Since the establishment of our Jr.-Sr. High School campus, Concordia has serviced its debt amidst continuing to expand its mission. The urgent needs Concordia has addressed over this time frame include moving our Academy campus to St. Mark Lutheran Church, adding a high school competition gymnasium and, most recently, completing our junior high expansion made possible exclusively by the generosity of Nancy Griffith and the Mundt Foundation. Fortunately, Concordia's debt level has not risen substantially amidst successfully meeting these varied needs along the way.

Moving forward, only the debt-free path will enable Concordia to successfully advance its mission.

The time is now to begin to put this debt behind us.

### 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. As a rapidly growing Lutheran school, additional debt was added for various projects including a major addition in 2013 and the purchase of school vehicles. And finally, there is some operational debt composed of a \$500,000 line of credit balance. 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.

### WOULD IT BE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR ENDOWMENT RATHER THAN TO ELIMINATING DEBT DIRECTLY?

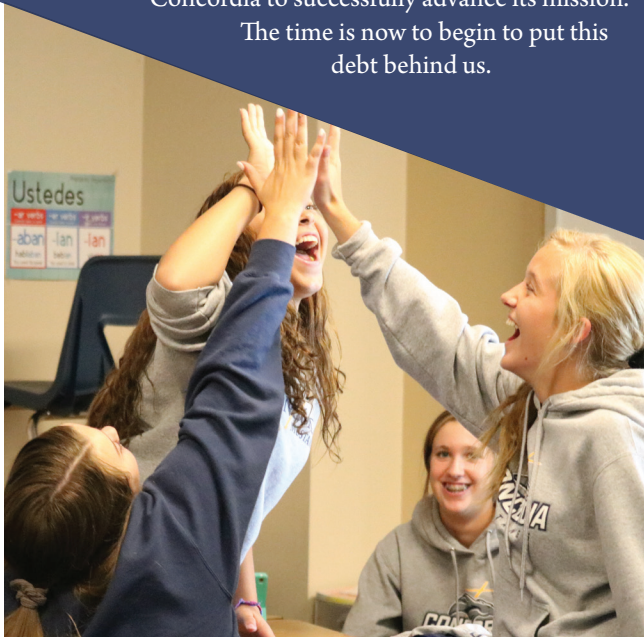
Since the Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha Foundation was founded in 2001, our endowment has been a critical vehicle for mission advancement and scholarship support. Over the past three years alone, it has contributed \$308,226 in scholarships for our students! Given the critical nature of reducing our debt, all campaign gifts will address this need directly.

### 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.



*Our campaign leaders are ready to help and answer your questions. For immediate questions, please contact Cristine Minneman at Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School at (402) 445-4000 or [forwardwithfaith@concordiaomaha.org](mailto:forwardwithfaith@concordiaomaha.org).*



## ONCE DEBT IS ELIMINATED, WHAT IS THE NEXT PRIORITY?

Our school is nothing without our people. Accordingly, once debt is eliminated, we are poised to direct our efforts to investing in this asset. This would include increasing tuition assistance for our students and enhancing our program offerings. Importantly, this would also include more competitive compensation for our teachers who give so much for their students. Currently, endowment assets (totaling \$2.4 million) can provide only a fraction of the total scholarship support our students require and cannot significantly fund programs. Growing the endowment is the most sound strategy to achieve these ends.

## WHAT IS CONCORDIA'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE?

Concordia's vision has always been and will always be ministry-centered and *Forward With Faith* is aimed at enhancing our ability to witness to more families. Eliminating our debt is but the first step on our journey toward this. Doing so will allow us to achieve a level of financial stability that Concordia Lutheran Schools of Omaha has *never* known. With this bedrock, our immediate vision is focused on enhancing our ministry by investing in our greatest asset: our people. By growing our endowment, we would be able to enhance support for our students, our teachers, and our programs.

Beyond the above priorities is a dream of the Concordia of tomorrow, which could include:

- Expanding our campus at 156th and Fort St. to include our Academy (K-5).
- Building an early childhood education center, housing all of Concordia on one, unified campus in northwest Omaha.
- Building a fine arts center.
- Enhancing our athletic facilities.



## WHY IS THIS VISION SO URGENT?

It was the unanticipated gift of land specifically for a middle and high school campus that led us to 156th and Fort St. in 2001, helping us address a (then) urgent need. With Omaha Public Schools and Elkhorn Public Schools completing new high schools in our vicinity, it is imperative that we grow our ministry as a school so that we may continue to attract students and form them to truly be faith secure, world ready, Kingdom leaders. *Forward With Faith* is critical to helping us meet this urgent need we face.

## HOW CAN I HELP BUILD THIS VISION?

Concordia needs you! From our pioneer families and our first students to those who have since joined the Concordia community, we are always stronger together.

- Pray for our school and our school families!
- Get involved with activities as a volunteer!
- Joyfully share your experience of Concordia with your friends and family! We must share the good news of our community with others!



Our campaign leaders are ready to help and answer your questions. For immediate questions, please contact Cristine Minneman at Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School at (402) 445-4000 or [forwardwithfaith@concordiaomaha.org](mailto:forwardwithfaith@concordiaomaha.org).





### HOW IS EACH HOUSEHOLD BEING ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE TO FORWARD WITH FAITH?

Members from across our school community and the broader Omaha community will be sent an invitation from Concordia to make a pledge toward the campaign, which includes their appeal letter and the campaign case statement. This letter includes a *suggested* request amount that each household is being asked to consider as a three-year pledge.

### WHY IS EACH HOUSEHOLD BEING ASKED FOR A SPECIFIC AMOUNT?

Your suggested request amount provides a place to start your family's discernment. The right amount to give can only be determined through your prayerful discernment. It is important that your contribution to this campaign is over and above what you already give to Concordia or pay in tuition, which contribute directly to the school's daily educational ministry. It is only through the generosity of each household that we will achieve our campaign goal.

### HOW IS MY SUGGESTED REQUEST AMOUNT DETERMINED?

Individual factors – including recent and historical giving to Concordia, as well as the amount you may have suggested if you participated in the campaign planning study – informed suggested request amounts. You know your financial responsibilities and obligations best. Let the request included in your letter serve as a guide to begin your discernment.

### HOW AM I TO DISCERN A GIFT TO THIS CAMPAIGN AMIDST ALL OF MY EXISTING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS?

- Pray! Our school – just as our congregations and every one of us – needs your prayers.
- Learn about the needs of this campaign. Read the case statement that will be mailed to you and visit us at [concordiaomaha.org](http://concordiaomaha.org) to learn more. Our campaign volunteers can answer your questions. Your final decision may be different from the amount suggested in your letter, and it is your thoughtful discernment that is most appreciated and most important to your final decision.



EVERY GIFT COUNTS!



### HOW DO I MAKE MY GIFT?

Each household will indicate its decision on the pledge card included in their campaign appeal mailing. Multiple payment method options are available and are outlined in the case statement.



### WHOM SHOULD I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?



Our campaign leaders are ready to help and answer your questions. For immediate questions, please contact Cristine Minneman at Concordia Jr.-Sr. High School at (402) 445-4000 or [forwardwithfaith@concordiaomaha.org](mailto:forwardwithfaith@concordiaomaha.org).