

DECEMBER 2020 | ISSUE 1

# CONCORDIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The newsletter of the Community Foundation at  
Concordia Life Plan Community.



## Articles in this issue:

Letter from our President – 2  
Life and Legacy – 3-4  
Letter to LCMS OK District – 5  
In The News - 6-7

## Welcome to Concordia Community Foundation

Welcome to the first edition of the Concordia Community Foundation Newsletter! We invite you to join us on this exciting new journey and can't wait to see what God has in store for us.

This quarterly newsletter will serve as an update on our progress of the foundation's initiatives and the Kamman Chapel expansion project. This will also provide opportunities to hear from our leaders on future plans and upcoming events. Between quarterly issues, we encourage you to visit [www.concordiaseniorliving.com/StrongerTogetherCampaign](http://www.concordiaseniorliving.com/StrongerTogetherCampaign) for the latest news!

We know that when we join hands and hearts and come together to build God's Kingdom, we will be blessed for our faithful support. We know we are Stronger Together and are so thankful you are joining us on this incredible journey!

# Letter from our President

Foundation President, David Seaman

Dear Friends, Family, and Supporters of Concordia Life Plan Community,

My name is David Seaman and I am both honored and humbled to serve as the President of Concordia Community Foundation (CCF) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Concordia Community Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization, sometimes referred to as CCF or as the Foundation, is the philanthropic arm supporting the residents, staff and families at Concordia Life Plan Community.

The Foundation's primary goal is to raise sufficient funds for the Good Samaritan Fund, a benevolent care ministry of Concordia Life Plan Community. The Foundation's focus on growing the Good Samaritan Fund in the immediate future will provide benevolent care to supplement a portion of a resident's monthly rent, should a resident, through no fault of their own, be blessed with more years of life than money. We believe to accomplish this goal an endowment of almost \$10 million would allow the Foundation to offer this benefit to our residents, should the need arise.

The Foundation's secondary goal is to raise \$3.5 million during a 3-4 year campaign to build an addition onto our current structure and expand the size of the chapel at Concordia. This past year the Stronger Together capital campaign was launched for the sole purpose of expanding the Kamman Chapel, to double seating capacity from 40 to 100 people, and expand the resources and ministries of our senior living community.

The holidays are a time for us to reflect and think about the many blessings God has provided to us this past year. Yes, 2020 has been filled with Covid-19 concerns for all of us and I hope this letter finds you and your family virus free or at least recovery from the virus has been swift.

I am asking for your financial commitment and support of these two goals of the Foundation. This new quarterly newsletter publication is intended to share Foundation events, campaign progress and milestones, mission and impact stories, and

opportunities for you to join the campaign through volunteerism and financial contributions, so be on the lookout for those messages.

We want to make it easy for you to donate to our worthy causes. You may make your gift with cash, check, or credit card. You may donate land and/or stocks. We accept year-end RMD payments from your Traditional IRA. Visit [concordiaseniorliving.com/StrongerTogetherCampaign](http://concordiaseniorliving.com/StrongerTogetherCampaign) for more information or to donate by credit card, or make your check payable to Concordia Community Foundation and mail to: 7707 W. Britton Rd, OKC, OK 73132.

We also appreciate it very much if you wish to include Concordia Community Foundation in your church's budget commitments over a period.

I pledge to you that the members of the Board of Directors of the Foundation do not collect any salary or fees for our work on the board. The only costs we incur at this time are the cost of these communications soliciting your support.

From the Foundation Board to all of you we ask for your support, your prayers, and also your ideas for the future.

We wish you all of God's Blessings!



# Life and Legacy

## of Rev. Harold W. and Thelma Kamman

Written by their daughter,  
Lois (Kamman) Buesser

Rev. Harold W. Kamman (rhymes with salmon) was a distinguished LCMS pastor in Oklahoma for 60 years. His wife Thelma, known by her own virtues and accomplishments, partnered with him beautifully. As their daughter, I'll give you a peek into who they were.

In the 1970s, a NW OKC area was designated for senior living. Daddy and other Lutheran Senior Citizens members hung onto their land and an unrelenting vision. Turns out, he helped name and plan Concordia and was one of its first residents in 2007. Sadly, Mother passed away on a 2004 Australian tour with Dave & Barb Anderson, and didn't get to live there. As Daddy said, "Our Lord had other--far grander--plans for Thelma."

His presence was felt throughout the community--led worship, visited residents, presented speakers and sang in the choir. As he held weekly devotions in Memory Care, my dad led hymns with his beautiful tenor voice. People had always appreciated his lilting liturgical chanting.

Some of my childhood memories are "making calls" with Daddy to people at home, in a hospital or nursing home. I loved hearing his calm, comforting voice as he shared God's love. Daddy conversed with anyone, often asking whether they attended church. He had a gift of showing sincere care to everyone. He also knew every Oklahoma LCMS pastor. I recall crazy, happy get-togethers with other pastors' families. And they kept up the frivolity, forming the RPMs in later years... Retired Pastors and Mates!

Pastor Kamman served LCMS churches in Abilene KS, Texhoma, El Reno and Duncan. He was vacancy pastor in Guymon, Boise City, Mustang, Yukon, Hinton, Kingfisher, Watonga, Weatherford, Chickasha, Elk City and Moore. 1992-2018 he served Edmond St. Mark, OKC New Hope, OKC Faith, Wellston,



**Harold and Thelma's Wedding Day**

Guthrie, Blackwell and Zion--now next door, and with the altar furniture from downtown. And he stayed busy with: The Lutheran Witness - Oklahoma District Editor 39 years Lutheran Church Extension Fund: Oklahoma District Promotion pastor Director 30 years Lutheran



**Harold and his daughter Lois at his 90th birthday celebration**

Laymen's League: Oklahoma District Promotion Director Thrivent (formerly AAL and LB): invested in and promoted all his life.

What about my mom? Thelma was a farm girl from Independence, KS who valued discipline, decorum and FUN. She and my dad met at a Walther League convention. Since she was Zion's secretary (1952-57), Earl Schmiesing married them there on Easter afternoon 1957.

Church life fit Mother like a glove! She led adult and children's choirs, Ladies' Bible Studies and Couples' Club (created Trinity's own Newlywed Game). She was instrumental in Sunday & Mid-Week School and VBS. At Trinity El Reno, Mother helped start a Kindergarten--and taught me! A talented seamstress, she was ever ready with needle and thread for gown mending at weddings--as well as guiding the timed Walking Down the Aisle.

LWML...her dearest love. Wow, the giving, growth and good times! Mother was District President 1992-96, and edited The Voice of Service newsletter for years. She organized bus rides to national conventions, full of games and songs. In 2003, she helped plan (and sew the decorative vests for) the national convention in OKC.

Thelma was an exemplary pastor's wife. She insisted that church services and the sanctuary be

(continued on page 4)



proper...altar cloths clean, smooth and straight. Harold's robe and stole had better be the same; if not, we would hear about it at Sunday dinner!

My sister Ruth, a CPA, was active in Gethsemane Lutheran, Columbus OH. I'm an OCU grad, and a pianist/music director in New Jersey. I enjoyed presenting a concert at Messiah Lutheran in 2019 to officially kick off the fundraising efforts for the Kamman Chapel, which was named so by the Concordia board of directors in loving memory of my Daddy. The Kammans have five grandchildren who imitate their generous spirits and compassionate efforts to improve the world.

Pastor Kamman and Thelma weren't arrogant or pretentious. Rather, they gave God all the glory. They would desire that God be praised for guiding people to build a pleasant place to worship, learn and celebrate. I can't wait to see the new and expanded Kamman Chapel at Concordia Life Plan Community!

## Thrivent Choice

*Lutheran Senior Citizens, Inc. (dba Concordia Life Plan Community) is proud to be a Thrivent Choice®-enrolled organization.*

Through Thrivent's programs, we are eligible to receive grant dollars, fee-free donations, and support from Thrivent Action Team service projects. We have seen firsthand how much of an impact Thrivent's clients can make on our organization.

To date we have received \$22,623.00 from Thrivent members to provide benevolent care to Concordia residents who have exhausted personal resources through no fault of their own and need assistance to remain in their home. As one benevolent care recipient shared, "Knowing that there is financial assistance available to help me when I need it most is not only a relief to me but to my daughter, as well. Thank you to the kind people who contribute to Concordia's Good Samaritan Fund for benevolent care so that I may have peace of mind knowing that I will be well cared for now and in the future." We appreciate how you have supported Lutheran Senior Citizens, Inc. and Concordia Life Plan Community with your Thrivent benefits and hope you consider us in the future.

Don't forget! If you're an eligible Thrivent client and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please keep Lutheran Senior Citizens, Inc. in mind. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice." Or at [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice).

**thrivent**®

## Charitable Deductions for 2020

**This year brings a special opportunity with the new Universal Charitable Deduction, which allows everyone, even people who don't itemize on their taxes, to deduct up to the first \$300 that they donate to nonprofits this year. We understand our loyal supporters contribute to support Concordia's Christian mission and ministry to the aging population, and this charitable giving incentive encourages generosity among donors to support organizations, like Concordia, which has experienced increased operating expenses and significant loss of revenue due to COVID-19. Whether you designate your gift to the General Fund for area of greatest need, the Kamman Chapel Expansion, or Good Samaritan Fund for benevolent care, your gift makes a positive impact for those we serve. Thank you in advance for considering Concordia Community Foundation in your philanthropic interests.**

# Kamman Chapel Expansion Campaign

Letter from Rev. Barrie Henke

## **Fellow Saints in Christ of the Oklahoma District:**

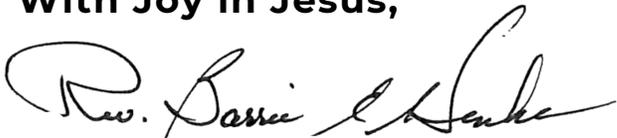
We have been living through some trying times with the COVID-19 pandemic. As difficult as these past months have been on us all, they have been especially difficult for residents of various care facilities, who have felt isolated through efforts to protect them from the virus. Concordia Life Plan Community in Oklahoma City has worked fervently to reduce the feeling of isolation by helping their residents feel part of "community." Ironically, in January of this year before the pandemic restrictions went into effect, the Concordia Community Foundation was formed with the sole purpose of funding programs, services and ministries to build community among the residents of Concordia, and to touch lives beyond its doors.

As the Foundation identified ministry needs, expansion of the chapel came into clear focus. The residents view the chapel as the spiritual center of Concordia, the heart of their community, where everything happens: Sunday worship services, weekly chapel services, Bible studies, board meetings, birthday and anniversary celebrations, special events, marketing events, choir practice, many fellowship activities and games. The present chapel is too small to accommodate the desired spirit for community building. Therefore the Foundation has established a 3-4 year campaign to raise \$3.5 million to expand the chapel area: seating from 40 to 100 people, and extra meeting space for community building events. It was also decided to name the new chapel after a much-loved Oklahoma pastor who was also a resident of Concordia, Reverend Harold Kamman. He spent much of his 65 years of ministry serving Oklahoma congregations, editing the Lutheran Witness, serving with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and Lutheran Layman's League, promoting the Lutheran Church Extension Fund, and compiling the history of the Oklahoma District. He and his wife Thelma were much loved within our district.

I am now asking for your help in funding the Kamman Chapel Expansion. Reflecting on our care ministry to the aging, I would like to encourage you to consider ways in which your congregation can help the Concordia Community Foundation raise the needed \$3.5 million for the expansion project. I encourage you to add this ministry to your church budget, to have special offerings from time to time, and to direct special financial gifts and memorial monies towards the Kamman Chapel Expansion. God has richly blessed each congregation of the Oklahoma District, and this would be a special way to demonstrate that we have been blessed to be a blessing!

For more information, please visit ([www.concordiaseniorliving.com/StrongerTogetherCampaign](http://www.concordiaseniorliving.com/StrongerTogetherCampaign)) and watch the new capital campaign video. I also invite you to address specific questions about the Foundation or the Kamman Chapel Expansion to Paige Mills-Haag, Development Director at (405) 219-2927, [orphaag@concordiaseniorliving.com](mailto:orphaag@concordiaseniorliving.com). I pray that you will respond to this request with an ongoing financial gift as you share Christ's love in this special way!

**With Joy in Jesus,**



Rev. Barrie E. Henke, President

The Oklahoma District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

# Trivia Challenge

Lutheran Senior Citizens, Inc. (dba Concordia Life Plan Community) is the governing board of Concordia and is comprised of members from local Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations in Oklahoma City and surrounding cities. LSCI was formed many years ago with the sole purpose of building a Lutheran owned and operated retirement community in NW Oklahoma City for the aging. TRIVIA: What year was Lutheran Senior Citizens, Inc. formed? To find the answer, visit <https://www.concordiaseniorliving.com/explore-concordia/mission/> and email the correct answer to [phaag@concordiaseniorliving.com](mailto:phaag@concordiaseniorliving.com) no later than Jan. 15th to be entered into a gift card drawing! One lucky winner will be notified by email on Jan. 16th.

## In The News

### Foundation launches capital campaign

The Concordia Community Foundation launched a \$3.5 million capital campaign fundraising effort to expand Concordia's Kamman Chapel, named in memory of the Rev. Harold W. Kamman.

The fundraising effort will convert the existing chapel to an independent living activities space and build a larger and improved chapel with more than double the current seating capacity. Additional space for activities, offices, a conference room and storage will be developed underneath the chapel.

For more information and to donate, go to [concordiaseniorliving.com/strongertogethercampaign](https://www.concordiaseniorliving.com/strongertogethercampaign).

(Published in The Oklahoman on October 15, 2020)

## Support Concordia Community Foundation

To support Concordia Community Foundation and watch the NEW Kamman Chapel expansion video please visit

<https://www.concordiaseniorliving.com/StrongerTogetherCampaign>. Donations accepted via our secure website or make your check payable to "Concordia Community Foundation" and mail to: Concordia Community Foundation, 7707 W. Britton Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73132. Thank you in advance for supporting ministry to the aging and advancing the kingdom of our Lord and Savior!

# "Concordia starts \$3.5 million capital campaign for expansion"

By: Journal Record Staff October 7, 2020

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Concordia Community Foundation has started a \$3.5 million capital campaign fundraising effort to expand Concordia's Kamman Chapel. The fundraising effort is for a project to convert the existing Kamman Chapel to an independent living activities space, building a larger and improved chapel with more than double the current seating capacity.

The Kamman Chapel is a gathering place – the heart of the community – and it's just a little bit undersized for what we've grown into," said David Seaman, president of Concordia Community Foundation and vice president of Lutheran Senior Citizens Inc. "Concordia's building is great, the people are welcoming, the programs are exceptional and all the care from independent living to skilled nursing is fantastic. Now, this is where we take care of the spiritual needs of our residents."

The new Kamman Chapel will expand seating from 40 to 100 people and add acoustics for the hearing impaired. Additional space for activities, offices, a conference room and storage will be developed underneath the chapel.

"At Concordia, we emphasize the importance of physical and spiritual wellness," said Danny Eischen, CEO at Concordia. "Not only will this campaign provide additional chapel space and expand our ministry offerings to benefit residents, family, staff and community groups, but the space underneath the chapel will also be developed and we will use that space to expand our activity offerings."

The campaign goal is to raise \$3.5 million with an anticipated completion date of 2023-2024. When the goal is reached, any additional contributions will benefit Concordia's Good Samaritan Fund, which gives life care residents comfort and peace of mind by providing for their care when personal funds are depleted.

Concordia Community Foundation was formed this year and functions as the philanthropic arm of Concordia Life Plan Community, 7707 W. Britton Rd. in Oklahoma City.





Concordia Community Foundation  
7707 W Britton Road  
OKC, OK 73132