



CONCORDIA ACADEMY
NEWSLETTER
January 2023



2023 Open Enrollment

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we are already planning for the 2023-2024 school year. Join our Headmaster, Dan Snyder, Board members and staff at our Enrollment Open House on Saturday, February 4, 10am to noon. Stay for a light lunch and a viewing of the film "The Miseducation of America" at noon. To RSVP for the lunch please email the office at:
CAW_info@concordiaacademywichita.org

News and Notes

The *Concordia Cordis Urbis* Project -

Concordia Academy is a recent recipient of the Kansas District 2023 Mission Grant. Entitled, The *Concordia Cordis Urbis* Project (Harmony in the Heart of the City), this grant will enable us to launch efforts in enhancing the quality of life for the South Central neighborhood of Wichita.

Having taught 7th-12th grade students how to draw, paint, and sculpt for the past seven years, I've realized that the best model for art education is for the student to be an apprentice working under a master. That's easy to say, but difficult to implement. The difficulty lies in the fact that the master must have a place for the works to be installed or displayed, and a means to produce them. If student apprentices are around a teacher that produces art for a place, they will be inspired. Seeing the purpose of honing artistic skills is just as important as the inspiration to make works of art.

We have received from the Kansas LCMS district a grant to begin what I envision as a Lutheran Church Art Guild. If this grows into what I imagine it being, it will have two functions. It will both be a place for people to learn and hone artistic skills, but also a place for the purpose of honing those skills to be realized. There is no greater purpose for an artist than to make art for the church. We can thank artistic expression being unmoored from the church for much of the modern silliness in art.

In the coming months, classes will be opened up to anyone who would like to attend. We will offer education in the three classical skills of drawing, painting, and sculpture. Those classical skills are the gate and key to the forms that are more specific to the church--stained glass, mosaics, murals--that we hope to incorporate soon.



- Mr. Ian Snyder, Art Instructor at CAW and designer of the CAW Phoenix mascot

Upcoming Events

- Jan 16 – No School
- Jan 24 – All School Field Trip, March for Life in Topeka, KS
- Feb 3 – All School Field Trip, Sedgwick County Historical Museum
- Feb 4 – Enrollment Open House
- Feb 12 – Board Meeting
- Feb 17 – Evening of Shakespeare

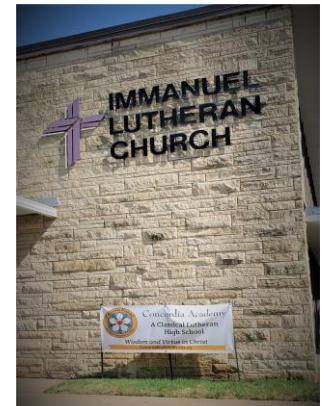
Join Us Daily for:

8am Matins

3:15pm Vespers

11am Wednesday Divine Service

909 S. Market St
Wichita, KS 67211



Our mission statement:

Concordia Academy seeks to form students in faith, hope, and love, by heeding wisdom and practicing virtue, restoring souls in the pursuit of truth, goodness, and beauty, according to the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions.

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF BEING



“Incurvatus in se” is a Latin phrase that describes, according to Doctor Luther, the precondition of the soul that leads to idolatry and sins against God and our fellow man. In this state, the gaze and concern of the will is focused in upon itself, looking deeply within for truths of being. Some have laughingly called this ‘navel gazing’, and among artists and celebrities we note this as ‘self-absorption’, a state of mind that results in awkward pronouncements of a private nature performed in public spaces causing those who witness it a twinge of what in German is called *Fremdschäme*, or embarrassment on behalf of someone else, perhaps someone who is so self-involved that they are not self-aware. We expect this sort of thing in the adolescent, who have many dawning realities to deal with as they are thrust upon the path of maturity, and until the last couple of centuries, we also would help them reconnect with the world and others to overcome this painful introversion. Not so in our popular educational philosophies today, the ones that are prevalent in public schools in the West.

Since the time of the enlightenment, we have been very concerned with the dignity and rights of man, the validity of all points of view simply because they come from human beings, the natural purity of childhood and deep wisdom of this innocence. You may have noticed that children on television comedies are always clearer about truth than their parents, and the befuddled dad is a standard comic figure these days. In the time of Mozart, that figure would have commonly been a member of the nobility, who in plays of the time were portrayed as bumbling moral failures. We have been on a path of tearing down the authorities for fun and profit for quite some time, which is well recognized, but what is not as well understood is that we have replaced moral and reasonable authority not with ‘science’, as many suppose, but with inner wisdom. While it may be that we bludgeon each other with cries of ‘believe the science’, it is by our cherished inner wisdoms that we actually live. This is because for quite a while, this is the way we have been educated.

The result of this absence of paradigms and examples of virtue and wisdom is the state of life common now, described by Milan Kundera in his 1982 novel *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. Describing the life of a Czech intellectual during the Soviet invasion of Prague in 1968, he and the other characters in the book experience a vacuum in the center of their existence that is more obvious the more they pursue the enlightened life of self-direction. At one point, the hero confesses an urge to ‘join the parade’, referring to political movements that cover for the lack of weight he experiences in his actual life. Much of what is wrong with us can be explained by this habitual turning toward our own wisdom, our reflex of ‘getting in touch with ourselves’ in all matters, and it is set in motion by the Godless approach to education popularized in our secular modern schools. That the resultant inner lightness rather than the expected inner light expands among us to reveal outer waywardness and frivolity should point us to Wisdom which cries from the rooftops, rather than the counterfeit wisdom that lurks in the darkened streets below, the picture that we see in Proverbs chapters 7 through 9. Classical education relies on outward examples and mentors, just as the Gospel presents the righteous Adam that we pattern ourselves upon. Our lightness is unbearable because it is actually darkness. We must be illumined from without.

DAN SNYDER, HEADMASTER CONCORDIA ACADEMY - WICHITA