

CHANGING PATHS

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SPECIAL CELEBRATION EDITION

協同

The Chinese word that essentially means 'harmony' or 'concord.' Universities and seminaries, as well as many schools and other organizations that are affiliated with the LCMS, bear the name 'Concordia' in recognition of the Book of Concord, compiled in 1580, which is the collection of confessional documents of our church body. Concordia Middle School, founded in 1967 by LCMS missionaries, bears the same name. Particularly interesting is the first symbol (協) made up of three separate parts. The one part on the left resembles a cross. The three parts grouped together on the right are the same and can be translated as 'strength.' This makes for a handy tool in sharing about the Triune God with students who are being exposed to the Christian faith for the first time (e.g. see Ephesians 3:14-21; Romans 16:25-27).

To pronounce this word, say *she-ay* (as in 'she is my mother' and the *ay* in the word 'hay') plus *toe-ng* (as in 'your small toe') plus *ng*.



Bob Zimmer arrived on Taiwan in 1957. He and his family were sent as LCMS missionaries with the task of founding an educational ministry in central Taiwan that would "provide opportunities for young people to learn of all the things God gave them." At the assembly celebrating the school's 50th anniversary, he also recalled the desire to "have a place to share the Good News of Jesus Christ openly and freely." As he looked out into the audience of students, faculty, alumni, retired staff, television crews, and guests, he expressed, "I believe that dream has been realized."



The over 2,000 students of Concordia Middle School (which, confusingly in English, is actually a middle as well as high school) gather at a special anniversary celebration chapel that also incorporated the annual Easter-themed service.



Under Principal Paul Yu, Concordia has enhanced its intentional involvement in programs that serve locally (e.g. hot meals delivered to incapacitated individuals through a Lutheran church) and internationally (e.g. service teams that have traveled to Myanmar, Kenya, and southern China). One current project is raising funds to ship a container full of shoes and supplies to Kenya, depositing the container in order for its conversion into a classroom or improvised medical center. Seen in the picture on the left is Principal Yu giving finishing touches to the container. The picture on the right shows another view that was painted by school staff and students.

Matt poses with two very special individuals, Merle and Dorothy Golnick. Also sent to Taiwan as educational missionaries, the Golnicks arrived the year the school was founded (1967) and faithfully dedicated 26 years towards developing and then strengthening the English curriculum. To this day, Concordia is known region-wide as a Christian school whose alumni actually learn to speak and use the English language.

As the English program draws students to the school, they are also presented with the Gospel through our mission team of foreign teachers who lead English and Bible classes. Additional on-campus activities (chapels, Bible studies, special holiday events, etc.) as well as personal relationships with Christian teachers are other ways through which the promises of Jesus are shared.



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