

Spring 2026

Concordia

UNIVERSITY TEXAS MAGAZINE



**FROM CAMPUS
TO COMMUNITY**

*The Shared Mission
to Spread the Gospel*



CALLED FORWARD

1926. 100 years. A century of God’s faithfulness in providing Christian education in Central Texas through Concordia University Texas.

As a historian, I think a lot about the past and the sequences of events – the cultural, political, and societal causes and effects – that have led us to where we are now. In 1926, the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) was launched as the first major American broadcasting network. The first talking picture premiered. Construction began on Route 66. *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The Sun Also Rises* were published. The pop-up toaster was patented. America was roaring through the Jazz Age.

And in the midst of that, some forward-thinking Lutherans were about the business of starting a grand endeavor of a Lutheran school in Austin. Founding president Rev. Henry Studtmann based his opening remarks to the first students on Psalm 108:13: “With God, we shall do valiantly.” Rev. Studtmann couldn’t have envisioned some of the challenges that would come to his beloved Concordia – the oncoming of the Great Depression just three years later, the rapid changes to higher education that came after World War II, the courage it would take to evolve from a high school to a four-year institution to a doctoral-level university.

But Rev. Studtmann was bold in his declaration that *with God*, we could do powerful things, and we stand firm in that confidence today at Concordia

Texas. With God, we boldly continue to go about the work that he has called us to do – empowering students of all backgrounds to lead lives of critical thought, compassionate action, and courageous leadership.

That call to be courageous also ties into the spiritual theme Concordia has adopted for the 2025-26 academic year: **Fear Less**

Drawn from Joshua 1:9 – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, because the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” – this theme is guiding our chapel worship, conversations, and campus life for the year.

The Bible encourages us to “fear not” more than 100 times, but as humans living in a human world full of uncertainty, being “fearless” can be a challenge. Faith in Jesus Christ reframes that reality. When we accept the hope of Jesus, we can fear a little less each day, trusting that God’s plan for us is greater than our anxieties.

Small, Christian liberal arts universities face many challenges, from limited funding to preserving our mission in the face of cultural change. But for more than 100 years, God has shown us that He has a plan for Concordia Texas. It’s remarkable to be standing here today, looking back at 100 years of God’s provision. That’s where the *real* valiance and fearlessness come in – not by our own strength or might, but by the power of God throughout the decades.

Over the past century, faithful leaders, faculty, students, and alumni have carried Christ from our campus into their vocations, communities, and relationships. In the next century of Concordia Texas’ history, *we* are called to be those men and women.

Reflecting on the past reminds me that when we walk faithfully, God is already at work through us, often in ways we could never have imagined.

Dr. Kristi Kirk
PRESIDENT AND CEO
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS, '95

Concordia

UNIVERSITY TEXAS MAGAZINE

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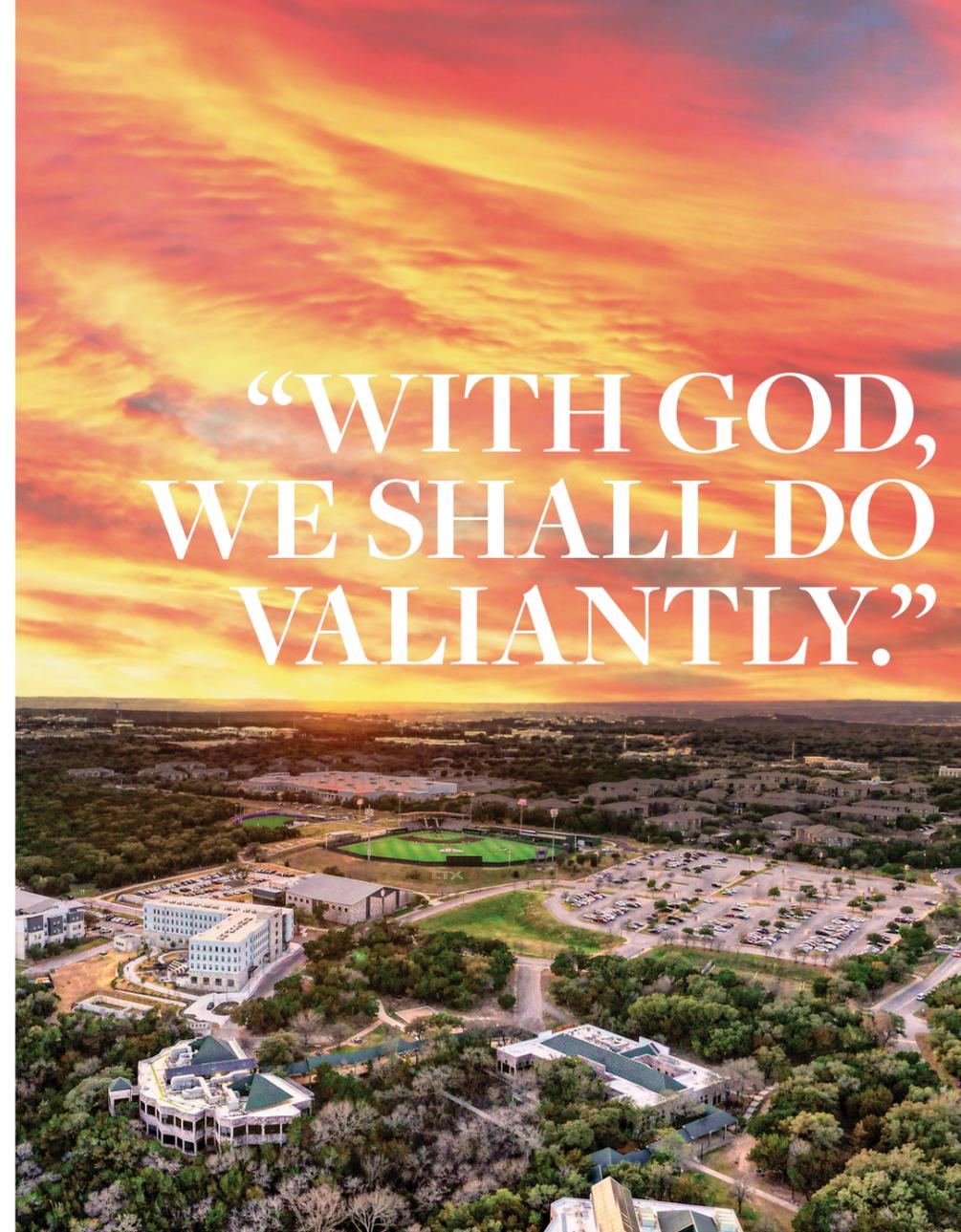
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ABOUT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS

Concordia University Texas is a private, coeducational, Christ-centered institution of liberal arts and sciences, offering undergraduate and graduate degrees. Concordia Texas also provides adult and online degree programs for part-time and returning adult students. CTX is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is aligned with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

ABOUT THE MAGAZINE

The magazine is published by the Office of University Communications. It is provided free of charge. Please send comments, letters, or story ideas to communications@concordia.edu.



ON OCTOBER 26, 1926, THE LUTHERAN CONCORDIA COLLEGE OF TEXAS OPENED ITS DOORS, WELCOMING 26 STUDENTS COMMITTED TO TRAINING FOR WORK IN THE CHURCH.



Rev. Henry Studtmann, the school’s first president, quoted Psalm 108:13 in his welcoming remarks, assuring those students, “With God, we shall do valiantly.”

With each year that passes, our community continues to claim Psalm 108:13 as a declaration of faith. Concordia Texas University is stepping boldly into our next century, guided by our Lutheran tradition, assured of God’s faithfulness, and prepared to continue doing His work valiantly.

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100 YEARS

CONCORDIA TEXAS
CELEBRATES
ITS CENTENNIAL

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS

MORE THAN A CENTURY AGO, CONCORDIA'S FOUNDERS STAKED OUT A 20-ACRE PATCH OF LAND IN RURAL TEXAS AS THE SITE OF A NEW BOARDING SCHOOL THAT WOULD EQUIP YOUNG MEN CALLED TO THE MINISTRY.

“Great joy prevailed among the Lutherans of Texas on the memorable June 27, 1926,” reads a historic account from the day. At 3:00 p.m. on that clear day, the cornerstone was laid...The dream of Texas Lutheranism began to take definite form.

Four months later, the Lutheran Concordia College of Texas opened its doors 20 acres north of the state capitol, welcoming 26 high school students eager to begin training for work in the church. Rev. Henry Studtmann, the school's first president, quoted Psalm 108:13 in his welcoming remarks, assuring those first students, “With God, we shall do valiantly.”

Over the next century, the little school flourished. Lutheran Concordia College grew from a small high school to a Christian four-year university, eventually relocating to a serene, 437-acre campus and nature preserve with room to expand.

Today, 100 years since its humble beginnings, Concordia Texas continues to “do valiantly,” equipping future leaders,

...serving the greater Austin community, and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

While the university has grown and changed in response to students' needs, the Christian mission and the underlying spirit of Concordia Texas has remained steadfast.

An excerpt from the university's first yearbook, published in 1930, still rings true today.

“The first class will be graduated from Concordia [Texas] on June 7, 1930...Concordia in its four short years of existence has had its full measure of trials. Yet it was the Lord who has brought these various trying situations upon us for our good...His blessing rests upon the school. We, the students of Concordia, plead earnestly for your fervent prayers and for your hearty support of our beloved school, so that our alma mater may continue to be blessed from above, ever dedicated to the cause of the Gospel, a living monument of gratitude to Him who died for us.”

“WE ARE NOT YET WHAT WE SHALL BE, BUT WE ARE GOING TOWARD IT. THE PROCESS IS NOT YET FINISHED.”

Martin Luther

SAVE THE DATE



Concordia University Texas Centennial Celebration

October 24, 2026

MAKE PLANS NOW TO RETURN to campus for Concordia's Centennial Celebration, a fun-filled, inspiring day honoring Concordia Texas' 100th anniversary and a time to reconnect with old friends and beloved professors.

Details and a schedule of activities will be announced later this year.



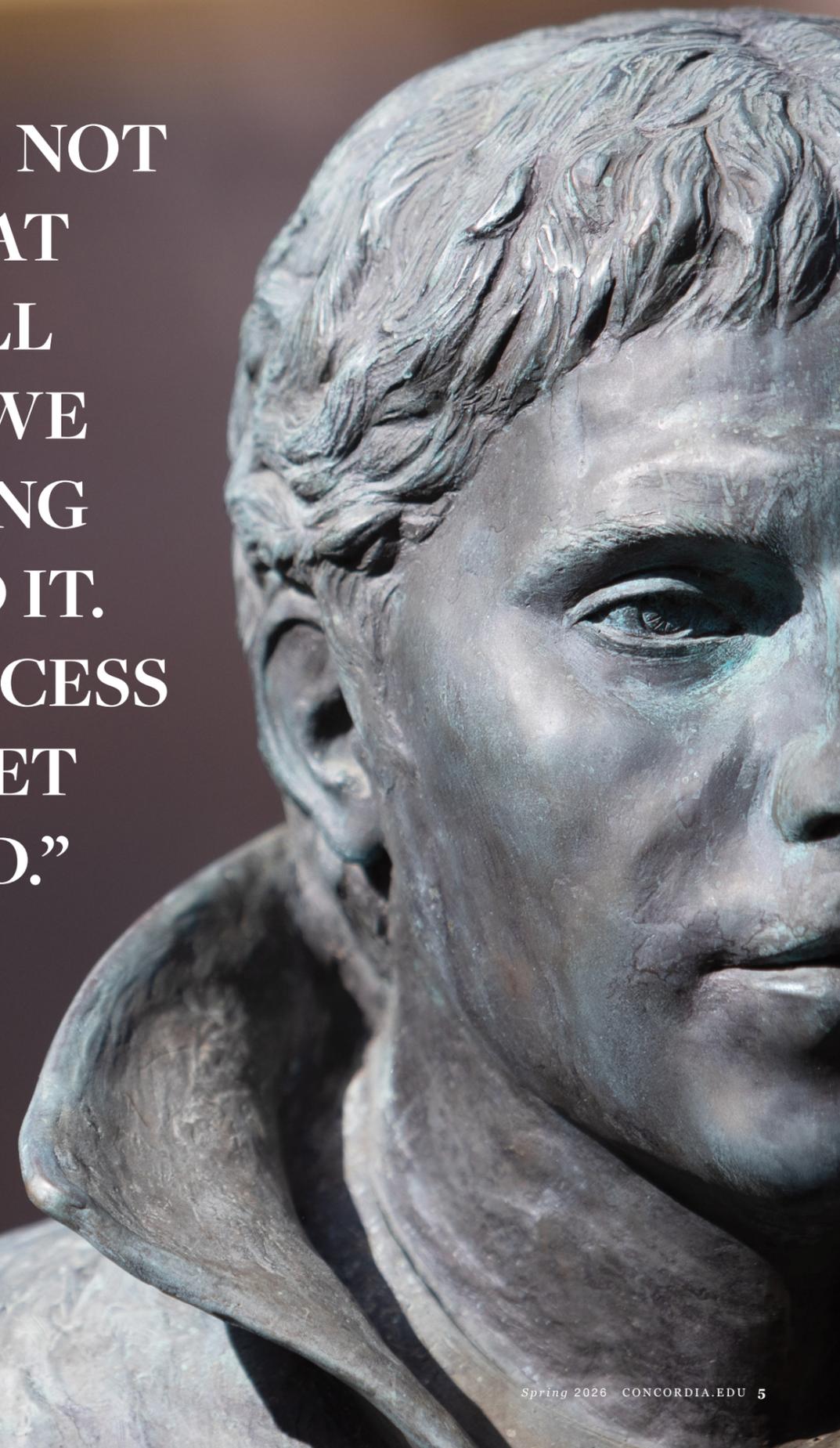
Launch your legacy at Concordia Texas — Scan or donate online at Concordia.edu/giving

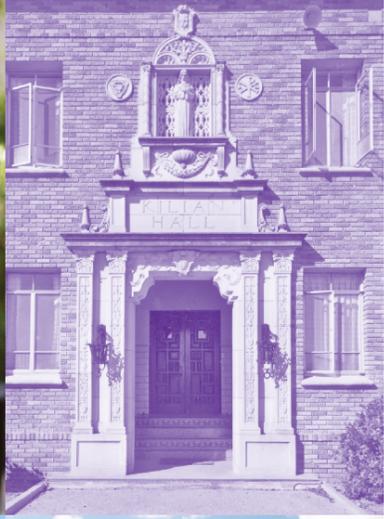
HELP SHAPE THE NEXT 100 YEARS

Concordia Texas' 100th anniversary is a great time to show your support for the university. You don't have to be wealthy to help shape the next 100 years. Your legacy as a Concordia Texas donor can begin today with your gift in any amount.

If it's your first year to donate to the Concordia Texas Annual Fund, please consider beginning with a \$100 gift. If you're already a Concordia Texas supporter, you could add \$100 to your planned Annual Fund pledge in honor of the centennial.

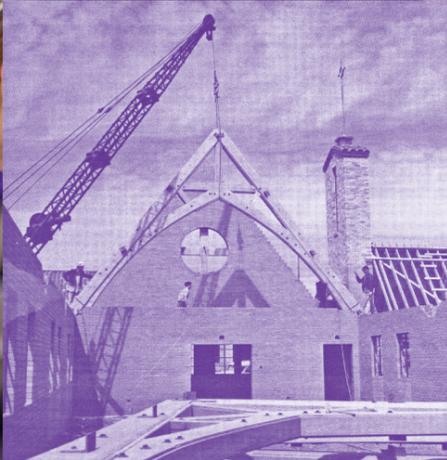
New grads and others on a limited budget may prefer to pledge a modest amount per month. Over time, adding just 100 new donors at just \$25 per month can make a lasting impact on Concordia Texas.





CONCORDIA TEXAS ON THE MOVE

BY DAVID ZERSEN, D.MIN., ED.D., FRHistS
PRESIDENT OF CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS 1994-2001



AS THE TITLE of my 2013 book suggests, *Concordia on the Move* has been an aphorism for a long time. Unlike many American universities founded by wealthy entrepreneurs, Concordia struggled era by era to become a high school, a junior college, a four-year institution, and a university with graduate schools. On this 100th anniversary of its founding, it's worth remembering some of the heroic people who brought the university to this celebration.

A variety of European ethnicities established settlements in mid-19th-century Texas, bringing with them a respect for learning. In 1921, Wends (known today as Sorbs in Europe), encouraged 13 primarily Wendish congregations to establish a college "for the preparation of pastors, and of both men and women to be teachers" with an added "business program." Financial support was requested from the LCMS, which rejected the involvement of women or a business major. It did, however, pledge \$50,000 in 1923 to support the \$30,000 already pledged by the LCMS's Texas District.

Concordia's first president, Rev. Henry Studtmann, led the school for 25 years, during which time it prepared pastors for seminary education. Five presidents followed (Dr. George Beto, Dr. Samuel Goltermann, Dr. Walter Rubke, Dr. Paul Elbrecht, and Dr. Ray Martens) in the junior college era, during which new majors were developed for both men and women. Under Dr. Martens' administration, Concordia became a four-year college.

I became Concordia Texas' seventh president in 1994, continuing the tradition of presidents with clergy status. During my tenure, in 1995, Concordia acquired university status. I was succeeded by Dr. Tom Cedel, Dr. Don Christian, and Dr. Kristi

Kirk. Under Dr. Cedel, Concordia Texas relocated to its current campus. An MBA program was developed under Dr. Christian, and a new path as an independent Lutheran university has emerged under Dr. Kirk. Demonstrating evidence of the new



ON THIS 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING, IT'S WORTH REMEMBERING SOME OF THE HEROIC PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT THE UNIVERSITY TO THIS CELEBRATION.

directions, none of these three were clergy, and Dr. Kirk is Concordia Texas' first female president.

Many successes during the past century deserve to be celebrated in 2026, and the Concordia community will rightfully seek opportunities for greater dedication and significant support. *Concordia on the Move* is still the title that best describes the university. 📖

GROWING UP AND GRADUATING TOGETHER

AT 17, NIKI KADERKA WAS A HIGH SCHOOL HONOR STUDENT AND ATHLETE, HOPING TO EARN A SOFTBALL SCHOLARSHIP TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS. THOSE PLANS CHANGED WHEN NIKI REALIZED SHE WAS PREGNANT.

“FAMILY MEMBERS told me I wouldn’t even graduate from high school,” Niki Kaderka says. “But when you tell me I’m not going to do something, I am going to do it.”

After her son, Jalen, was born, Niki earned her high school diploma by attending night school while working days at Jalen’s daycare center. She eventually went on to earn her associate’s degree from Temple College while also working full time.

Over the years, the young mother and son weathered challenging times together. Niki typically worked two jobs to support them, and even then, the electricity was sometimes turned off and the meal plan was often dependent on scraping together enough spare change to buy tacos.

“As a kid, I’d go to friends’ houses and they’d have fully stocked fridges, every game system possible, basketball goal in the driveway,” Jalen recalls. “I’d go home and we’d be eating ramen noodles with hot dogs. But honestly,

I never thought too much about it and it never made me feel ‘different.’ That was just us.”

Even during those times of struggle, Niki raised Jalen with the expectation that he would attend college.

“I wanted Jalen to grow up with a good lifestyle. If I had to work four jobs, he was going to college.”

What mother and son never planned on was that Niki would attend college with Jalen. When he earned a merit scholarship and an opportunity to play basketball at Concordia Texas, Niki and Jalen had a bold idea. *What if Niki enrolled, too?*

The mother and son, and self-described “best friends,” became classmates and study buddies.

“I was working full time, so I only planned to take a few classes at a time, nothing crazy,” Niki says. “But our academic planner said, ‘If you want to graduate with Jalen, you have to stay on his schedule.’ There were times I’d call Jalen and say, ‘I’m tired. I’m mentally, physically, and emotionally drained.’ I didn’t think I could do it, but we made it work.”

“I’m not going to toot my own horn,” Jalen says with a smile, “but if she needed some help with her homework, she knew who to call.”

The Kaderkas had a friendly competition to see who could graduate with the highest GPA. Both Kaderkas earned *cum laude* honors and in April of 2025, mother and son graduated together.

“I ugly cried,” Niki says. “We had it rough sometimes, growing up. To have us both accomplish this together – I’m very proud of both of us.”

Niki and Jalen both earned bachelor’s degrees in business

administration. Niki has since earned a promotion as a legal administrative specialist with the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Jalen is a financial service representative with First National Bank. Shortly after their graduation, the mother and son bought their first home together.

“Being able to do this with my mom, the relationship that we have, growing up with each other, graduating from college together – it’s the moment of a lifetime,” says Jalen.

“Don’t give up. That’s been my motto for the longest time,” Niki says. “Don’t let anybody tell you you can’t do it, because *you can*. I actually think I might want to go back for my master’s, although Jalen’s telling me I’ll be doing that by myself.”

Photos from their graduation include images of Niki’s mortarboard, emblazoned with a triumphant message that perfectly captures the Kaderkas’ moment of a lifetime: **WE DID IT!**

“BEING ABLE TO DO THIS WITH MY MOM, THE RELATIONSHIP THAT WE HAVE, GROWING UP WITH EACH OTHER, GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE TOGETHER – IT’S THE MOMENT OF A LIFETIME.”

JALEN KADERKA



— 22 —
**MORE REASONS
 TO CHOOSE
 CONCORDIA
 TEXAS**



“WE’RE NOT BUILDING PROGRAMS FOR A GENERIC MARKETPLACE. WE’RE LOOKING AT WHAT OUR AUSTIN COMMUNITY NEEDS AND WHAT’S HAPPENING AROUND US.” — DR. ALEX HERRON

IN 2025-26, CONCORDIA TEXAS LAUNCHED OR WILL LAUNCH 22 NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, OFFERING STUDENTS ADDITIONAL PATHS TO IN-DEMAND CAREERS. INNOVATIVE NEW MAJORS, MINORS, AND CONCENTRATIONS WILL PREPARE STUDENTS FOR VOCATIONS IN DIGITAL INFLUENCING, COMPUTER SCIENCE, WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, MUSIC PRODUCTION, AND MORE.

“BUSINESSES AND NONPROFIT organizations in the Austin community have been our essential partners, helping us identify the skills employers truly need rather than what we think they need,” says Dr. Alex Herron, associate professor of education, and associate vice president and dean of curriculum and learning design.

The path from market need to new program begins with regular meetings of program advisory committees representing each CTX academic department. Committee members include area employers, community leaders, alumni, and other professionals who share the workforce needs they see firsthand.



DR. ALEX HERRON
 Associate Professor of Education,
 Associate Vice President and Dean
 of Curriculum and Learning Design

DR. KC POSPISIL
 Vice President of
 Academics and Chief
 Academic Officer

DR. CORINNE WEISGERBER
 Professor of Communication



“We’re not building programs for a generic marketplace,” Herron says. “We’re looking at what our Austin community needs and what’s happening around us.”

When a need is identified, CTX conducts extensive labor market research and studies competing universities’ offerings to ensure the demand warrants the development of new programming. Once the decision to proceed is made, a new academic concentration within an existing major may be launched in as little as six months. Adding a new, accredited major, including hiring faculty and developing a robust curriculum, typically requires a year to 18 months.

“Concordia Texas has intentionally chosen agility over inertia,” say KC Pospisil, vice president of academics and chief academic officer. “While many institutions take years to launch a single program, we’re structured to respond quickly. We’ve built systems that allow us to move at the speed our community needs us to move.”

Concordia Texas keeps its community partners in the loop, providing updates to businesses on when new programs will launch and when they can expect the first graduates.

Above all, Concordia Texas is student-centered. The university delivers new academic programs not only quickly enough to prepare students for the current market, but also in online, hybrid, or face-to-face modalities to meet students where they are.

“All of these programs align with Concordia Texas’ work to help students discern their callings and their purpose,” Herron says. “At the end of the day, helping our students fulfill their passions and find their vocations is what fills my heart.”

NEW PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Major in Digital Marketing and Influence

As more and more brands rely on social media as a primary marketing tactic, digital influencing has become a popular – and legitimate – career path. Concordia Texas’ program prepares students for proficiency in digital storytelling, data analytics, and strategic campaign management – the practical tools needed to compete professionally. What sets the CTX program apart is integration with deeper competencies, including consumer psychology, persuasion theory, and the responsibility that comes with influence.

“The integration of faith and learning at Concordia Texas means we’re comfortable addressing the moral and spiritual dimensions of digital work in ways that secular programs might sidestep,” says Dr. Corinne Weisgerber, professor of communication. “The Christian foundation of our program is central to the entire approach. Digital careers are notoriously demanding and can be isolating or ethically murky. Concordia Texas’ program is built on the idea that digital influence carries moral weight and ethical responsibility, that how we communicate and influence others matters, and that digital influence should be used for good.”

“WE’VE BUILT SYSTEMS THAT ALLOW US TO MOVE AT THE SPEED OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS US TO MOVE.”

DR. KC POSPISIL

“THE CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION OF OUR PROGRAM IS CENTRAL TO THE ENTIRE APPROACH.”

DR. CORINNE WEISGERBER

CLASSES IN SESSION

New Programs Launched in 2025-26

UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS

- BA in Digital Marketing and Influence
- BS in Biomechanical, Chemical, Civil, Electrical, or Mechanical Engineering
- BS in Environmental Science
- BA in Environmental Studies
- BS in Kinesiology (*Online*)
- Math (*Redesign of Major for BA and BS*)
- BA in Ministry
- BS in Wildlife Conservation

GRADUATE DEGREES

- Master of Computer Science
(Concentrations in Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, and Data Science)

MINORS/CONCENTRATIONS

- Child Life Specialist
- Cybersecurity
- Data Analytics
- Digital Influence & Brand Marketing
- Music Production/Engineering
- Master of Education/Emerging Technology and Innovation
- MBA Artificial Intelligence and Strategy Leadership
- MBA Data Science and Analytics Leadership
- MBA Learning Technology and Innovation Leadership

OTHER AREAS

- MBA Delivery Restructure
- MBA Leadership Austin Credit Pathway
(Completion of Leadership Austin program earns credits toward an MBA)
- Principal Leadership Preparation Cohort/
Pflugerville ISD

“BECAUSE CONCORDIA TEXAS IS ALREADY CONSERVING WILDLIFE ON OUR CAMPUS, WE CAN OFFER A UNIQUE, HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE FOR CONSERVATION STUDENTS THAT ABSOLUTELY SETS US APART.”

DR. SAM WHITEHEAD

“AS A CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, CONCORDIA TEXAS EMPHASIZES NOT ONLY TECHNICAL MASTERY BUT ALSO THE MORAL AND ETHICAL DIMENSIONS OF INNOVATION.”

DR. BINDU GEORGE



AUSTIN'S VIBRANT MUSIC INDUSTRY INSPIRED CTX TO CREATE A CONCENTRATION IN MUSIC PRODUCTION/ENGINEERING.

Master of Computer Science



Concordia Texas' master of computer science is designed for students with or without a technical background, allowing career changers to move into this rapidly growing, well-paying field without the requirement of a bachelor's degree in computer science. Partnerships with local businesses provide meaningful internships, and coursework is available online or as a hybrid to accommodate working students. The master's program offers concentrations in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data science – three key areas driving today's technology sector.

“As a Christian university, Concordia Texas emphasizes not only technical mastery but also the moral and ethical dimensions of innovation,” says Dr. Bindu George, assistant professor and program chair of undergraduate and graduate computer science programs. “In a time shaped by artificial intelligence, for example, our program will help students approach technology with integrity, responsibility, and a commitment to serving others – a perspective that will set CTX graduates apart in the industry.”

31,566

JOB POSTINGS IN TEXAS ALIGNED WITH COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATE TRAINING IN 2025

40%

PROJECTED GROWTH IN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE IN THE AUSTIN AREA OVER THE NEXT DECADE

Market study by EAB Global

Concentration in Music Production/Engineering

Austin's vibrant music industry inspired the creation of this concentration, which prepares students for careers in sound design, audio production, recorded and live sound, and digital artistry. Students will collaborate with human musicians and learn to work with generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), as well as have opportunities for internships with local music studios and churches.

“With more than 250 venues and major music festivals like South by Southwest, Austin is known as the live music capital of the world,” says Dr. Whitney Crowley, assistant professor and program chair of music, and director of the school of fine arts. “Recorded and live sound is found in so many jobs and



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MORE REASONS
TO CHOOSE
CONCORDIA
TEXAS



Dr. Bindu George, Assistant Professor and Program Chair of Undergraduate and Graduate Computer Science Programs; Dr. Whitney Crowley, Assistant Professor and Program Chair of Music, Director of the School of Fine Arts; Dr. Sam Whitehead, Professor and Program Coordinator for the Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, and Wildlife Conservation Programs

careers these days – internet, movies, podcasting, churches, influencing, live events, and more. This concentration provides a Christ-centered education that combines the art and technical understanding of sound and music with business savvy to equip students for purposeful work.”

Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Conservation

This new major takes full advantage of Concordia Texas' campus, which includes the 250-acre, federally protected Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. Students prepare for careers in wildlife and habitat management with a Christian focus on stewarding God's creation.

Many of the field studies take place in the preserve, which is home to two endangered species: the golden-cheeked warbler and the Jollyville Plateau salamander.

Graduates will meet requirements for associate wildlife biologist certification with The Wildlife Society, a credential that qualifies them for wildlife biologist positions with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and other agencies.

“Texas is investing a lot of money in wildlife conservation. The 2024 \$1 billion Centennial Parks Fund was the biggest investment in wildlife in the history of the state. The City of Austin and Travis County manage thousands of acres of preserved land for endangered species,” says Dr. Sam Whitehead, professor and program coordinator for the environmental science, environmental studies, and wildlife conservation programs. “Because Concordia is already conserving wildlife on our campus, we can offer a unique, hands-on experience for conservation students that absolutely sets us apart.”



FROM CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY



Concordia Texas is on a mission to spread the Gospel to the greater Austin community.



The Shared Mission to Spread the Gospel

NOVEMBER 13, 2025, wasn't a Sunday, and the setting wasn't a church. But for the 65 people gathered in the Black Box Theater on the Concordia Texas University campus, it was definitely a sacred moment.

Pastors, businesspeople, and nonprofit leaders from around Austin joined university faculty and staff for breakfast and fellowship before offering prayers, not only for the university, but also for the city of Austin. The second of two prayer breakfasts hosted in 2025 by Concordia Texas, the event was part of a growing program of outreach connecting the university with Austin's greater Christian community.

"Concordia Texas is grounded in the Lutheran heritage that has defined our university for a century," says Concordia Texas President and CEO Dr. Kristi Kirk '95. "Now more than ever, we're committed to our theology while also looking for ways to be one with the larger Christian church."



“WE SIT IN AN INTERESTING TIME IN HISTORY, WHEN CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION HAS TO BE MORE CONFIDENT THAN EVER BEFORE IN OUR MISSION AND IDENTITY. RATHER THAN RETREATING INWARD, CONCORDIA TEXAS IS REACHING OUT.”

Dr. Kristi Kirk '95

“THERE IS SOMETHING DEEPLY MOVING ABOUT SEEING THE UNIVERSITY I GRADUATED FROM REMAIN SO STEADFASTLY FOCUSED ON PRAYER AND THE STRENGTH OF THE COMMUNITY. IT’S CLEAR THAT THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH THAT SHAPED MY JOURNEY IS STILL THE HEARTBEAT OF CONCORDIA TEXAS TODAY.”

BEN GONZALES '99, AREA, B MISSION STRATEGIST, TEXAS DISTRICT LCMS

This page: scenes from the November prayer breakfast

More than a Campus Calling

The prayer breakfasts began with a suggestion from a CTX faculty member, who was “always telling my pastor how cool Concordia Texas is,” not just as a workplace, but also as a Christian community. The initial idea of a “bring your pastor to work day” event evolved into an invitation to the wider Christian community to gather on campus.

CTX has a history of reaching across perceived boundaries to share the love of Christ. Originally founded to educate Lutheran church workers – a mission still carried on today – the university has long served students of all faiths, and its definition of “church work” has expanded to include vocations beyond the physical walls of churches and sanctuaries. Concordia Texas is a place where students from all backgrounds encounter the Gospel and learn to live out their Christian faith in every aspect of their personal and professional lives.

In 2025, Concordia Texas began an intentional effort to build partnerships with other Christian organizations in Austin.

“I believe it’s essential for Concordia to connect with the good work already happening in the city’s nonprofit, business, and church worlds. Each of us brings our own gifts and resources, and we’re stronger when we come together at the table,” says Dr. Kirk. “We sit in an interesting time in history,

when Christian higher education has to be more confident than ever before in our mission and identity. Rather than retreating inward, Concordia Texas is reaching out.”

To advance that common mission, Concordia Texas is partnering with key organizations working to spread the Gospel in Austin. The university has formed relationships with:

- The Austin Center for Faith and Work, an organization that encourages Christian professionals to live out their faith in the workplace and helps them see how their careers matter to God;
- Austin Bridge Builders Alliance (ABBA), which equips Christian business, nonprofit, and government leaders to better lead, serve, and effectively address needs in the city;
- The Good Works Community, an organization that helps Christian nonprofits increase their impact;
- The Go Network, a collaborative effort that supports and equips congregations and everyday missionaries as they bring the gift of salvation to their communities; and
- Other networks that bring Christian leaders together to impact Austin for Christ.



FAITH AT WORK — CONCORDIA TEXAS has ties with the Austin Center for Faith and Work, an organization that supports Christian professionals in living out their faith in the workplace. Dr. Kristi Kirk is active in the Center’s Austin City Gates program, which brings together seasoned believers who share a commitment to stewarding their influence to seek Austin’s flourishing. “These trusted leaders have become my prayer partners and accountability partners,” Dr. Kirk says. “It’s a group of people working together to meet people’s needs and proclaim Jesus in the city of Austin.”



This page:
Scenes from the fall Ladies Lunch

Top right:
Penny Cedel
Alice Werchan

Bottom left:
Jane Martens
Dr. Kristi Kirk

Bottom right:
Cynthia Goodwin
Sally Frahm
Dr. Edna Rehbein



“IT WAS DEEPLY TOUCHING TO ME KNOWING HOW MUCH THESE WOMEN SACRIFICED TO MAKE OUR UNIVERSITY AS STRONG AND HEALTHY AS IT IS TODAY. THESE LADIES DIDN’T HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAD THAT I’VE HAD, BUT THEY QUIETLY SUSTAINED CONCORDIA TEXAS AND SHAPED THE UNIVERSITY IN PROFOUND WAYS, AND THEIR INFLUENCE IS STILL REFLECTED HERE TODAY.” — DR. KRISTI KIRK ’95



“WE’RE JOINING WITH OTHERS TO INTRODUCE JESUS TO MORE PEOPLE. THAT’S NOT A STRATEGY. IT’S A CALLING. IT’S A PRIVILEGE. AND IT’S A JOY.”

Dr. Kristi Kirk ’95



Relationships are evolving as CTX explores new ways to connect campus life with the community and what future, more formal partnerships might look like.

“We’re spending a lot of time listening, learning, and determining how Concordia Texas can best be a part of this work,” Dr. Kirk says. “We’re asking what our Christian

community needs and how we can fill that gap.”

“One of the greatest highlights [of the prayer breakfast] was witnessing the vibrant connection between the local community and the university,” says Ben Gonzales ’99, Area B Mission Strategist of the Texas District, who led the prayer breakfast. “It was a true blessing to connect with so many fellow leaders who share a common vision – to reach and raise up young leaders. These partnerships are essential, ensuring that students aren’t just earning a degree, but are being woven into a larger network of support and purpose.”

Concordia Texas is positioning itself as a university centered first and foremost around the Gospel and open to collaboration in spreading that Gospel to the world.

“We’re joining with others to introduce Jesus to more people,” Dr. Kirk says. “That’s not a strategy. It’s a calling. It’s a privilege. And it’s a joy.”

SHARING THE STORY PEOPLE ARE SEEKING

THE PUSH TO ENGAGE with Austin’s Christian community is shaped by a paradox. Christianity is less accepted as the norm than it once was, and yet, data suggests that people – particularly younger people – are attracted to Christianity, even when they don’t know much about the faith.

Contemporary college students reflect a decline in Biblical literacy. Years ago, many people who were not practicing Christians were at least nominally familiar with the Bible. Today, Concordia Texas faculty frequently encounter students unfamiliar with even the most well-known figures and stories of the Bible, or even with the once-universal terms “Old and New Testaments.” Half of the students in a recent Bible class had never before heard the parable of The Good Samaritan.

At the same time, young people have a deep hunger for spiritual identity and purpose. For non-Christian students, CTX offers both the practical benefit of an outstanding education and a sustained example of a welcoming Christian community rooted in faith and love. For some of these students, Concordia Texas may offer their only opportunity to meet Jesus.

“Since students come to Concordia Texas for a variety of reasons, many of them are unfamiliar with the Bible,” says Dr. Grant Carey, professor of ministry and School of Ministry director. “We require all of our students to take Old and New Testament. It’s both fun and rewarding to see them engage, wrestle, ask questions, and ultimately have a better grasp on the Gospel and the overall narrative of the Scripture by the end of the semester. Our hope is they take that Biblical, Gospel worldview into their vocations throughout the world.”



LADIES WHO LUNCH – AND LEAD – CTX’S OUTREACH EFFORTS IN 2025 included a fall Ladies Lunch that brought some 40 women to campus. The guest list included retired faculty, faculty spouses, and longtime friends of the university. Many of the women were behind-the-scenes leaders who spent decades supporting students, opening their homes for university events, and providing living examples of the Lutheran faith in action.
Left: Bettie Bendewald, Suzanne Mueller, Dr. Kristi Kirk



CALLED TO LEAD

IN APRIL OF 2025, CONCORDIA TEXAS LAUNCHED CALLED TO LEAD, A NEW SCHOLARSHIP THAT SUPPORTS STUDENTS CALLED TO MINISTRY IN CHURCHES AND BEYOND.

This unique financial aid package widens the definition of “ministry” to include not only traditional church work, but also vocations in other fields. Applicants may pursue any field of study, so long as they declare their intention to serve the larger church through their work and have the formal support of a Christian congregation walking alongside them. Called to Lead covers up to half of CTX tuition, removing financial barriers and allowing students to focus on becoming the spiritual leaders God has called them to be.

“Called to Lead is part of Concordia Texas’ commitment to create workplaces where God’s love, purpose, and people thrive,” says Concordia Texas President and CEO Dr. Kristi Kirk. “We have applicants who want to become church workers, but we also have candidates who are called to go into other vocations, with the goal of doing that work in a way that lives out their call from God.”

“We’re taking a broader view of what ‘church work’ really means in terms of furthering the Kingdom,” Dr. Kirk continues. “Whether you’re here to learn how to lead a congregation, to provide healthcare, to create a business, or to pursue any number of callings, Concordia Texas is here to equip you with the spiritual foundation and financial support you need to step into God’s purpose for your life.”

Freshman Channing Schkade was an inaugural recipient of the Called to Lead scholarship. Schkade is pursuing a degree in ministry with the ultimate goal of ministering to teenagers.

“Without Called to Lead, the decision to come to Concordia Texas would have been much more difficult,” Schkade says. “I’m so grateful to the CTX staff who recommended that I apply and to the donors who believe that financially supporting future church workers is important. Feeling their support is so meaningful, especially during this time of intense education and spiritual growth. Their gifts are a profession of love.”

Freshman Channing Schkade was an inaugural recipient of the Called to Lead scholarship.

“People who don’t know me personally are helping me grow in my faith, which is so incredible. I cannot wait to continue my journey here at Concordia Texas – a journey that may not have happened without the support of such generous donors.”

CHANNING SCHKADE
Called to Lead Scholarship Recipient

Recipients pay no more than half of standard tuition and receive a 25% discount on on-campus housing.

THE SUPPORT NEEDED TO LEAD

To support scholarships at CTX, visit Concordia.edu/giving or scan



From CALLING to CAREER

Concordia Texas was founded in 1926 to train young people for work in the ministry. While the university's mission has expanded over the past century, equipping students for careers in the Lutheran church is still a CTX focus. These are just a few of the many young alumni who are now serving in Lutheran churches in Texas and beyond.



John Davis



Chad Kelly



Christina Hodge Nelson



Ben Swafford

MATCHES MADE IN HEAVEN (AND ON CAMPUS)

Husband and wife pairs John and Sarah Davis, Chad and Karaleen Kelly, Christina and Michael Nelson, and Ben and Hannah Swafford all met at Concordia Texas. Chad and Karaleen were married by former Campus Pastor Jake Boessling.

JOHN DAVIS '17

*Fellowship Worship Ministry Leader
High School Ministry Leader
St. Paul Lutheran Church & School, Ft. Worth, Texas*

John Davis serves St. Paul Lutheran Church and School as fellowship worship ministry leader and as assistant high school ministry leader.

"I honestly cannot think of one thing I learned during my training at Concordia Texas that I have not used in the field. The way we were taught team ministry has been vital to working both in small and larger staff situations. I use what I learned in adult ministry classes to connect with parents and worship volunteers. I put lessons learned from classes like witness and evangelism to work communicating the Gospel in different ways every single day. A big reason I feel confident serving God in the positions to which He's called me is because of the things I learned from the amazing faculty at CTX."

CHAD KELLY '25

*Intern
King of Kings Church, Omaha, Nebraska*

A native of Indiana, Chad Kelly spent his first year of college at Purdue University pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering. When he felt the call to ministry, Kelly transferred to Concordia Texas, where he immediately "plugged into campus ministry." Kelly is currently completing a year-long internship at King of Kings Church in Omaha, Nebraska, as part of earning his Director of Christian Education (DCE). When he completes his DCE in July, Kelly plans to stay on at King of Kings as director of student ministry.

"People think of preparing for church work as learning the Bible and growing your head knowledge. What Concordia Texas taught me was that it's much more about discovering who Jesus is to you. The head knowledge can only take you so far; your relationship with Jesus comes first. Then that love that *you* received from Jesus flows out to others so that they may better know Jesus, too."

Kelly has never regretted his decision to move from mechanical engineering to ministry, joking that, "The only math you need to know as a youth minister is how many pizzas to order. That's a whole lot different than calculus."

CHRISTINA HODGE NELSON '21

*Youth Ministry Director
Royal Redeemer Lutheran Church, Royalton, Ohio*

"I chose Concordia Texas because I'd wanted to be a DCE ever since I was in high school," said Christina Hodge Nelson. "You get to hang out with kids and talk about Jesus. What's a better job than that? Being in Austin made it even cooler. At Concordia Texas, I got to be in a big, exciting city, while also having my small campus. Honestly, walking on the campus for the first time, it felt like home. Concordia Texas checked all my boxes and then some."

As a CTX student, Nelson served with the Austin Boys and Girls Club and also worked with several Austin area churches, including Lutheran and non-Lutheran congregations.

"We had the opportunity to see how a lot of people 'do church' and how a lot of people teach. Seeing those different teaching styles helped me realize everyone has different ways of teaching, learning, and connecting, and helped me find what works for me and what I'm good at. The opportunity to connect with local churches and to teach as a student really helped me to come into my own as a DCE."

BEN SWAFFORD '16

*Director of Christian Education/Youth Minister
Concordia Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas*

Ben Swafford recently joined Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio after serving for nine years as DCE at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Colorado. Swafford chose Concordia Texas specifically for its outstanding DCE program.

"CTX and its professors and partnering congregations helped me become bolder in my faith and more confident in my teaching ability, and helped shape me into the Christian leader I am today. I wasn't always the best student, and many times they put in more effort than they should have for me to learn and succeed. The professors at CTX are truly one of a kind, placed there by God. I still keep in touch with a number of professors who truly care about me, and now, about my family. They want to see me continue to grow in my life and in my faith."

"CTX is another home to me. It's been years since the last time I stepped on campus, but the love, life, and lessons from Concordia Texas continue to flow through my heart and mind to this day."

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS

GOING TO THE CHAPEL

RENOVATIONS TO THE CONCORDIA TEXAS CHAPEL ARE UNDERWAY, WITH A TENTATIVE COMPLETION DATE IN LATE MARCH.

The facelift will include new flooring and chairs, a more expansive stage, upgraded audio visual capabilities, and enhanced ADA accommodations. The remodeled chapel will be even more welcoming and inspiring, an inviting space where students, faculty, staff, and visitors will gather to worship together for years to come.

Worship has not slowed down during the construction phase, with students and faculty meeting with Jesus in the Black Box Theater, Center for Belonging and Faith, and outdoor locations on campus. As Martin Luther said, "The worship of God is the praise of God. This should be free at the table, in private rooms, downstairs, upstairs, abroad, in all places, by all people, at all times."

Rendering courtesy of GFFdesign

PLANTING A FLAG FOR WOMEN'S SPORTS

CTX WAS THE FIRST UNIVERSITY
IN TEXAS TO FIELD A WOMEN'S
FLAG FOOTBALL TEAM.

CONCORDIA TEXAS put the state's first collegiate women's flag football team on the field in 2025-26, signaling the university's commitment to expanding opportunities for female athletes. ■ The Tornados played their first club flag football game in February 2026. In 2027, women's flag football will officially become a CTX varsity sport, with full participation in conference play.

"TEXAS LOVES FOOTBALL! I GREW UP ON FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS, Longhorn football, and the Dallas Cowboys, but as a little girl in Central Texas, my options to *play* football were limited," says CTX quarterback Alexa Solis. "It means a lot to me as a Tornado and to future generations of young women to see CTX establish this empowering program. Opportunities for young women are growing."



*Ella-Mata Perez
Wide Receiver/
Defensive Back*



Coach
Kaden
Hughes

**PLANTING A FLAG FOR
WOMEN'S SPORTS**

The CTX program launched under the direction of Head Coach Keenan Hughes and Assistant Coach Kaden Hughes. The father-son coaching duo brings extensive experience as the coaches of the Texas Fury Flag Football program, a select organization for girls ages 10-18 that competes nationally. Keenan Hughes has guided Texas Fury teams to six national championships and two world championships.

“CTX had the foresight to become the first university in Texas to offer a fast-growing women’s sport that’s more traditionally viewed as a sport for men,” Keenan says. “Other universities in Texas have been reaching out to ask us all kinds of questions, from how our program is structured to what kind of footballs we use.”

In 2025, the Hugheses recruited six new athletes specifically drawn to CTX by the opportunity to play flag football. The coaches are currently reaching out to more than 60 athletes interested in competing in the 2027 season. The pool includes players from all over the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico, Panama, and Turkey.

The Hughes have coached both boys’ and girls’ flag football. Both coaches agree that women’s attention to detail gives them an edge in the sport.

“The women are more disciplined,” Kaden says. “When it gets down to specifics – for example, you need to run five yards instead of six yards – they get it right, down to the last detail. The women we’re coaching at Concordia Texas are incredibly athletic, but that athleticism is paired with a great deal of discipline, listening, and focus.”

“This has been an amazing opportunity for me,” Solis says. “My family – including my four football-playing brothers – has loved watching me live out my dream of playing quarterback for a college football team. The growth of flag football proves to the world girls can ball, too, and gives young women the same chance to live out their dreams.”

FATHER VS. SON

In addition to coaching duties at CTX, Keenan Hughes and Kaden Hughes still coach select flag football for the Texas Fury. In 2026, they found themselves on opposite sides of the field for the first time when Keenan’s Fury Red high school team kicked off against Kaden’s Fury Black. Keenan’s team won by a single point.

“That was not fun for me,” Keenan says. “I normally go into a game with a killer instinct and no feelings towards the other team or coach. This was everything the opposite of that. I want to see Kaden succeed. I want him to be better than I am in every way possible, in coaching and in life. To take that one person I want to be better than me and have to go against them, was an odd feeling for me.”

Kaden’s take on the father vs. son matchup?

“I wanted to beat him. One hundred percent killer instinct the whole way. I can feel bad later.”



ONE OF THE FASTEST GROWING SPORTS IN AMERICA, flag football became an official collegiate varsity sport in 2020 in partnership with the NFL. Flag football will make its Olympic debut at the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

“I GREW UP PLAYING ON CO-ED FLAG FOOTBALL TEAMS WITH GIRLS, AND THEY WOULD JUST DOMINATE. I’M MUCH BETTER AT COACHING THAN I AM PLAYING.” — **KADEN HUGHES**, Assistant Women’s Flag Football Coach



“IT’S AN AMAZING FEELING TO KNOW THAT MY SCHOOL IS PAVING THE WAY as the first university in Texas to begin a flag football program. With the Olympics coming up in the next couple years, knowing that Concordia Texas has given women a platform to represent themselves, their school, and possibly even their country in a new and exciting sport is exciting and inspiring.” — **JACEY QUINN**, CTX Linebacker



A FLAG BEARER FOR INDIAN WOMEN

One of the star recruits on CTX's inaugural flag football team is freshman Sonya Chalil. A former high school standout player for the Texas Fury, Chalil was one of five finalists for the 2026 NFL Female Flag Football Player of the Year Award.

A natural athlete who has also competed in basketball, volleyball, track, shot put, swimming, and even kung fu, Chalil uses her platform to advocate for Indian women in sports.

"Sports have given me so much confidence, but so many times I've been the only Indian girl on the team or in the room. A lot of Indian girls don't see representation, so in their minds, they don't believe they can play sports. Their parents aren't seeing any representation either, so they think, 'If there aren't any other Indian people playing, why would I put my daughter into that sport?' They don't see a community for them in athletics.

"I tell a lot of Indian girls that I talk to through my social media platforms, 'The sport itself is amazing, but not only that, I love the community the sport brings. Through flag football, I've gained speed, strength, and athleticism, but I've also gained confidence and a community of girls who've lifted me up.'"

TORNADOS FLAG FOOTBALL STAR SONYA CHALIL WAS ONE OF FIVE FINALISTS FOR THE 2026 NFL FEMALE FLAG PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

"A lot of young women limit themselves. We put boundaries and restraints on ourselves that restrict us from growing. We miss out on opportunities we never realized we had. So, don't limit yourself. Pursue that opportunity. It doesn't have to be flag football. It could be anything you set your mind and your heart to. You have all the skills you need." — SONYA CHALIL

PLANTING A FLAG FOR WOMEN'S SPORTS



A LIFT FOR CTX ATHLETICS AND CTX AWARENESS

A new, CTX-branded van is moving sports teams and turning heads.

Purchased with funds donated by a generous sports supporter, the 15-passenger van makes travel easier, safer, and more efficient for Tornado athletes. The vehicle is a game-changer for several teams – including the soccer, tennis, track, cross country, and flag football teams – that don't have on-campus facilities for practices or games.

Wherever those athletes go, school spirit goes with them. Wrapped in vivid purple Tornado branding, the van doubles as a moving CTX billboard.

BUCKLE UP. THE CONCORDIA TEXAS TORNADOS ARE ON A ROLL.

JOINING THE TORNADO LINEUP



Matt Wallis, Director of Athletics

When Matt Wallis says CTX athletics make his heart beat faster, he's not exaggerating.

"Last May, our baseball team was in the NCAA Regional Tournament and in back-to-back days, they hit walk-off home runs. Both times, my watch was

flashing my heart rate at more than 110 beats per minute – my resting 'normal' range is typically 50 to 60."

His passion for CTX sports and his commitment to coaches and players makes Wallis the perfect fit for his new role as director of athletics. Wallis assumed leadership of the Tornado sports program in October 2025, following his tenure as the winningest head coach in the history of the CTX women's basketball program. He also brings administrative experience as CTX's associate athletics director.

"It's an incredible honor and a blessing for me to be in this role. I admire what our coaches and student athletes do to represent our university, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to support them. Serving as director of athletics gives me the opportunity to have a positive impact on 350+ athletes and coaches. My goal every day is to find the best way to support our coaches, staff, and athletes and make their jobs better and easier."

CTX athletics is in good hands with Matt Wallis, who leads with experience and with heart.



Steve Vittorini, Athletics Chaplain

Last spring, Steve Vittorini stepped into the newly created position of athletics chaplain, a role that enhances the spiritual opportunities provided to CTX coaches and athletes.

"Sports ministry delves into essential, formative subjects like identity and purpose, relational development, teamwork, and conflict resolution. When you share what God has to say about these topics through His Word, you find a highly receptive audience."

An ordained minister, Vittorini brings more than 30 years of faith-based athletic experience, including 22 years with the Central Texas/Greater Austin Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

"Student athletes compete in an environment fueled by our culture's fascination with sports. With that comes heightened pressure to perform. One of the most Gospel-centered moments happens when an athlete who loves Jesus faces adversity and responds in a "fruit of the spirit" manner – when they praise Jesus in the wins and the losses or mistakes or failures. When teammates or spectators see this evidence of something much greater than one person causing a truly selfless response, it draws them in. We're laying the foundation for a ministry to coaches and athletes that will create Jesus-loving teams that are strong CTX ambassadors out in the world." 🙏

JOIN THE PURPLE AND GOLD LEGACY CLUB

In 2025, CTX launched the Purple and Gold Legacy Club, a booster club for CTX athletics that provides additional financial support for training facilities, team travel, and programming.

CLUB LEVELS AND BENEFITS

Fan Level \$100+

Exclusive lapel pin and recognition on the CTX athletics website

Spirit Level \$250+

Fan level benefits, plus a car decal and recognition in Concordia Texas magazine

Champion Level \$500+

Spirit level benefits, plus an exclusive Concordia Texas athletics tumbler and recognition on digital signage at athletic events

Legacy Level \$1,000+

Champion level benefits, plus a personalized thank-you note from a student athlete and a social media shout-out

INAUGURAL LEGACY CLUB MEMBERS*

Spirit Level
Deb and Don Christian

Robert Jones
Kristi Kirk

Cody Nevilles
Cathy and Kevin Pearce

Champion Level

Alec Carter
Dan Darden
Sara Hill
Lauren Janssen

Legacy Level

Kayla Carlove
Betty Crofford
Sheri Land
Scott Linebrink
Megan Murray

Wade Pistole
Brent Schaeckel
Kristen Seals
Lance Thompson
Scott Weinschenk

* As of February 2026

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE PURPLE AND GOLD LEGACY CLUB HELPS STUDENT ATHLETES THRIVE.

Your support builds leaders, fosters resilience, and creates opportunities for athletes to grow academically, spiritually, and personally, surrounded by a Christ-centered community that nurtures success in all areas of life.



Scan to make your donation and become a part of Concordia Texas athletics legacy.

ON BOARD WITH CTX

MEET REV. STEVE HENZE, CONCORDIA TEXAS BOARD OF REGENTS



STEVE HENZE '75 was just 12 years old when he helped his older sister, Patsy, move into her dorm room on the historic Concordia Texas campus. Six years later, he returned to campus as a freshman pursuing his call to become a Lutheran minister.

"I remember thinking the place was huge and larger than life," Henze recalls with a smile. "Of course, it wasn't a large campus at all, but it was a wonderful place for me to grow spiritually, mentally, and relationally, and it holds great memories.

"Concordia was where God opened new doors of understanding about myself, God's grace, and a passion for Jesus and serving Him in ministry," Henze continues. "Concordia is my university because God used it to profoundly impact my life in a positive way."

Rev. Henze went on to serve as a pastor for more than 40 years, retiring from full-time ministry in 2022 as the senior pastor of St. Timothy Lutheran Church Houston. He's now excited to return to Concordia Texas as a member of the board of regents.

"I'm still committed to Concordia Texas because it's still doing great work. Many things have changed, but the character, the mission, the leadership, the quality of education, and the commitment to helping students grow academically and as followers of Christ is absolutely on *fire* there. At 70 years old, I'm thankful to be a part of seeing it from a different perspective.

"CONCORDIA WAS WHERE GOD OPENED NEW DOORS OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT MYSELF, GOD'S GRACE, AND A PASSION FOR JESUS AND SERVING HIM IN MINISTRY. CONCORDIA IS MY UNIVERSITY BECAUSE GOD USED IT TO PROFOUNDLY IMPACT MY LIFE IN A POSITIVE WAY."

"I believe Concordia has been strategically positioned by God in Austin, in the middle of the state of Texas, a location that's rapidly growing," Rev. Henze continues. "Our university continues to reach LCMS congregations and their children, but we should also celebrate the fact that God is bringing us people from many different backgrounds. We're not the same church we were 100 years ago, nor should we be. We want to equip these next generations with clear Lutheran teaching from God's Word.

"My prayer is for Concordia Texas to continue to reach *all* of the people that God is bringing to Austin and to Texas – people of different races, tribes, and backgrounds. That's going to look a lot more like Heaven."

FALLING FOR EACH OTHER

Steve Henze's most memorable moment at Concordia Texas was meeting his future wife, Rosalyn Friedrichs '75, at the opening worship service on their first day of school. That service was followed by an outing at a park, during which Rosalyn tripped and fell. "For the next 20 years," Pastor Henze says, "Rosalyn told people that I pushed her." Thankfully, Rosalyn forgave Steve for that alleged push. The Henzes have been married for 48 years and have two children, CTX alumnus Nathan Henze '05 and Dr. Kristin Henze.



Shine a Light

FOR SOMEONE'S FUTURE



FOR NEARLY A CENTURY, CONCORDIA TEXAS HAS BEEN A PLACE WHERE STUDENTS DISCOVER WHO GOD HAS CREATED THEM TO BE.

That doesn't happen by accident. It happens because people like you choose to shine a light – with generosity, with prayer, and with a heart for the next generation.

WHEN YOU GIVE TO THE CONCORDIA TEXAS ANNUAL FUND, you are doing far more than supporting a university. You are stepping into the stories of students who need someone to believe in them.

YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR:

FIRST-GENERATION students to take their first steps toward a degree.

FUTURE NURSES, teachers, or engineers to answer their callings.

YOUNG LEADERS to find belonging, purpose, and courage.

STUDENTS to experience Christ-centered care at the moments they need it most.



GIVE TODAY. LIGHT A PATH TOMORROW.



Lead fearlessly. Grow purposefully. Transform your career.

AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS, GRADUATE STUDENTS DON'T JUST TAKE THE NEXT STEP — THEY SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THEIR INDUSTRIES AND COMMUNITIES.

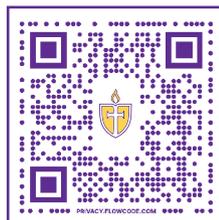
Whether you're preparing to lead a school, elevate patient care, accelerate your career in tech, or step into executive leadership, a Concordia Texas graduate degree equips you with the skills and confidence to make a lasting impact.



GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Master of Education (MEd)
- Master of Computer Science (MCS)
- Doctor of Education (EdD)

Talk to a counselor to learn how you can customize your graduate program.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

Earn a degree that elevates your purpose and your career.

Scan to learn more.