

# LANISING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



**ANNUALREPORT**  
**2021-2022**

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Melissa Keeley - Layout, Photography, & Copy  
Melissa Kranzo - Copy

Dear LCS Community,

As an alumna of Lansing Christian School and as a parent of three LCS graduates, I am profoundly grateful for Lansing Christian's 70 year history and legacy of Christ-centered education in our community. When I was a student back in the 70's and 80's, I remember seeing and hearing the words from Psalm 78:7, "That they might set their hope in God," our school's founding verse.

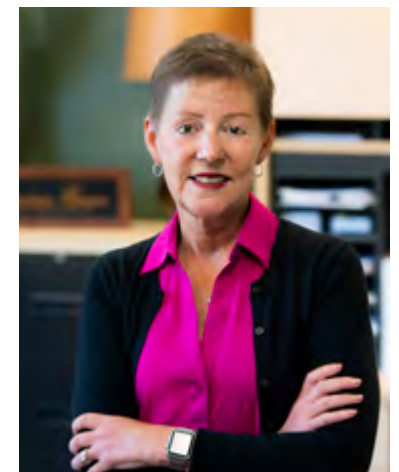
In my current role as the Head of School, I now appreciate more fully the eternal significance of Psalm 78:7. I am grateful for Lansing Christian's unwavering commitment to its mission, vision, and foundational beliefs as we raise up this next generation of young people to set their hope in God and follow Jesus. I am grateful for our excellent Christian teachers who lead with their faith, build meaningful connections with students and teach with passion and expertise.

Each year, we rely on generous donors from our community to support the people and programs that cultivate excellence and a thriving Christian community in our school. With the last three school years impacted by the global pandemic, I am humbled by the 13% increase in donors we have seen this past fiscal year. Gifts to the Annual Fund allow us to deliver a high-quality Christian education to nearly 600 PreK-12 students. This growing support for Christian education is remarkable, and it is providing a strong foundation for the future.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board, we express sincere gratitude to our donors and the many other people who help make LCS a school where God's kingdom is advanced through the transformative work of Christian education.

With hope in God,

Wendy Hofman  
Head of School







## OUTDOOR LEARNING

Students enjoy time outside playing in the natural playground. This fall, we completed construction on phase one of the Outdoor Learning Initiative. In addition to two miles of trails and outdoor learning spaces, LCS now has an Outdoor Amphitheater and Learning Pavilion.





**“THAT THEY MIGHT  
SET THEIR HOPE IN  
GOD, AND NOT  
FORGET THE WORKS  
OF GOD, BUT KEEP HIS  
COMMANDMENTS”**

**Psalms 78:7 - LCS School Verse**

## **“THAT THEY MIGHT SET THEIR HOPE IN GOD ...”**

Established in 1951, Lansing Christian School has a rich legacy of providing Christ-centered education to students in the Greater Lansing area. With a vision to equip young men and women to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ, the education students receive at LCS uniquely prepares them to live out God’s purpose for their lives. At the foundation of Christian education is *faith and learning*, where both are intrinsically linked to provide a robust academic environment while fostering the faith formation of students.

Teaching students in an environment where faith and learning go hand in hand provides relevance for everything they study in the context of God’s Word. Making connections across subjects, building on a Biblical

understanding of God’s world, discovering their God-given purpose, finding ways to use gifts and abilities to serve others, and growing faith are important foundations for the Christian education at LCS. Christian education teaches students they can only really know *who* they are when they understand *whose* they are.

We often refer to the education at LCS as transformational because the Christ-centered learning students experience changes their motivation and shapes their desire to live out their role in God’s story. As we enter our 71st year, Lansing Christian School remains steadfast in our commitment to partner with parents to provide a quality Christian education that helps students love and serve the Lord with their hearts and minds.



## HABITS OF LIVING & LEARNING

At Lansing Christian School, students are challenged and supported as they pursue academic excellence and develop their unique God-given gifts and abilities. The education they receive includes foundational knowledge of content in all subject areas, as well as the training to *apply* and *connect* ideas across subjects to make sense of complex concepts and problems from *multiple perspectives*. Teachers achieve this through student-centered learning; students do not only receive information but actively engage with subject content to gain a deeper understanding and the ability to apply knowledge.

Lansing Christian School's curriculum is taught from a Biblical perspective in which all learning is given relevance and purpose in the context of God's world. This integration of faith and learning includes formational learning experiences where students have

hands-on opportunities to *do real work to meet the real needs of real people*. Formational learning helps students to deeply understand the experiences, perspectives, and needs of others so that they can reflect God's love in their communities, both now and in the places God calls them to after they graduate.

Active learning like this helps fulfill our school's vision, which states that we are equipping young men and women to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ. **What are the tools we are equipping students with? What does it look like to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ? At LCS we call this Habits of Learning and Living.** These are Biblically-rooted practices students develop at all grade levels to support academic growth while also nurturing their faith as they learn how to live out God's purpose for their lives.

## HABITS OF LEARNING

LCS students pursue academic excellence to develop their God-given gifts and abilities and grow in areas of improvement. Psalm 111:2 says, "Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them." LCS students develop Habits of Learning, which are based on educational best practices and promote working towards excellence for the glory of God.



### CURIOSITY

Learners ask questions and approach God's world with wonder.



### PROBLEM SOLVING

Learners find solutions through creative and critical thinking.



### INNOVATIVE DESIGN

Learners use what they learn to meet real needs in our community.



### PERSISTENCE

Learners meet challenges with a focus on resilience and growth.



### EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

Learners work together toward shared goals in and out of the classroom.



### GRACIOUS COMMUNICATION

Learners develop strong listening skills and the ability to communicate ideas orally and in writing.

**"GREAT ARE THE WORKS OF THE LORD, STUDIED BY  
ALL WHO DELIGHT IN THEM."  
PSALM 111:2**



# HABITS OF LIVING

The Habits of Living are a set of Biblically rooted discipleship practices that go beyond what a student needs to know academically and helps to shape students into whom God is calling them to be. By practicing the Habits of Living, students are being equipped to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ.



## GOD WORSHIPPING

Learners offer their words, actions, talents, and thoughts in awe and celebration of God in their daily tasks and in times of praise.

*Mark 12:30 – And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*



## BEAUTY CREATING

Learners create work that enriches the world and reflects God’s heart for creativity, complexity, and diversity.

*Exodus 35:10 – Let every skillful craftsman among you come and make all that the LORD has commanded.*



## CREATION ENJOYING

Learners delight in God’s qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - exhibited in what he created.

*Psalms 19:1 – The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*



## EARTH KEEPING

Learners steward, locally and globally, all God has created by pursuing and practicing new ways to tend and care for his creation.

*Psalms 24:1 – The earth is the LORD’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.*



## WISDOM SEEKING

Learners recognize stories that invite them to seek truth and participate with the truth by aligning learning with the knowledge and person of God.

*Proverbs 8:35 – For whoever finds wisdom finds life and obtains favor from the LORD.*

## LOVING NEIGHBOR

Learners show all people dignity and respect, recognizing that they are made in the image of God.

*Mark 12:31 – You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*



## COMMUNITY BUILDING

Learners build communities of grace and purpose, making space for the belonging of others.

*Romans 12:5-7 – May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.*



## SERVANT WORKING

Learners follow the example of Christ’s selfless love through exercising kindness, empathy, and compassion.

*2 Corinthians 9:11 – You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which will produce thanksgiving to God.*



## IMAGE REFLECTING

Learners mirror God’s goodness through who they are and what they do, and delight in the image of God inherent in all people.

*Ephesians 2:10 – For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*



## JUSTICE SEEKING

Learners pursue restorative transformation, seeking to bring wholeness where there is brokenness.

*Micah 6:8 – He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*



## ORDER DISCOVERING

Learners seek and find God’s fingerprints in the intricate, purposeful design of what he has created.

*Romans 1:19-20 – For what can be known about God is plain, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made.*





## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, TRANSFORMATIONAL LEARNING

Educating the whole student means promoting spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical growth in age-appropriate ways for each of our almost 600 Preschool through 12th-grade students. This can only be accomplished through the dedication of Christian teachers who simply put, *love God, love kids, and love what they do*. Each day, LCS teachers model what it means to live out one's purpose. Just as we encourage students to have a growth mindset, our teachers are always looking for ways to grow professionally as they approach their work with

expertise and experience. Beyond this, what sets LCS teachers apart is their ability to model a love for Christ and their desire to make meaningful connections with students.

All of our teachers are exceptional at supporting academic growth and creating unique educational experiences. In the following pages, you will read about how a few of our teachers are helping students develop their gifts and abilities while also growing their personal relationships with Christ.

**BETSY JACKSON** is a first-grade teacher and literacy expert who has been teaching for 29 years. She holds a BA in Elementary Education and a MA in Literacy Instruction.

As a first-grade teacher, Mrs. Jackson is constantly thinking about how to best engage her students in the curriculum. She begins each year with individual assessments in order to create lessons that allow students of varying abilities to grow and learn in each content area. "All of my students have different learning abilities," she explains. "In order for them to meet the objectives of each lesson, I must constantly be aware of how the learning is presented. Every day I work on getting to know my students. This helps me understand their interests and needs in order to create meaningful, highly engaging lessons." Conferencing with students individually after group lessons helps her to meet students exactly where they are. Providing opportunities for differentiated learning, such as journal writing and reading groups, are other ways she meets individual needs.

A key part of the first-grade curriculum is teaching literacy, which serves as the foundation for a student's learning process. Mrs. Jackson's teaching structure allows literacy skills to be

easily taught in other curriculum areas throughout the day. Lessons combine visual, oral, and tactile learning. Mrs. Jackson uses mediums that are engaging to first graders, such as poems, picture books, digital activities, songs, and hands-on practice games. When learning new concepts, the class first practices together. Once students understand the concept, they then enter into work individually.

Mrs. Jackson integrates the Habits of Living and Learning into all curricula, both through her teaching and by example. "I have the luxury of being able to review and connect the Habits of Living and Learning in teachable moments during other non-curricular times too, like lunch, walking in the hall, and recess," she explains. Each morning in her room, devotions are dedicated to one Christian trait described by one word. For example, last week her class focused on generosity. They first learned a Bible verse related to generosity, then each day read picture books around the concept and challenged themselves as a class to apply "being generous." Mrs. Jackson shared, "Students become so excited about what they see each other doing. It becomes contagious! It's an honor to be part of their Christian education."





**GLORIA FULLER** is a middle school math and Bible teacher, and also coaches the middle school girls cross country team. She holds a BS in Mathematics Education and a MA in Theology and Biblical Counseling. She has been teaching at LCS for 8 years. Mrs. Fuller is known for her ability to make math accessible to everyone and for going above and beyond to invest in students both academically and relationally.

Mrs. Fuller makes sure that every student is an active participant in the classroom. Her classroom story this year is “Confidence Grows;” she has found that student participation is key to growing confidence. “I love having all students come to the board to help in some way. I teach the students to encourage each other and that it is a win just to try a problem. One way I do this is by modeling and then giving encouragement when they come to the board to work out a problem. I want to build confidence in them and help them process through the work.”

The mindset some students have around math poses a unique challenge in teaching. By the time students reach middle school, many have decided that

they either like math or do not. When a student enters the classroom with the presumption that they will either do well or fail, it can be challenging for a teacher to help them realize that they do have capabilities and to try. Mrs. Fuller shares, “Once they have made the shift in their mind that they can do math, it is amazing how much their attitude changes, and as a result, how the class is more connected as a whole.”

Mrs. Fuller is intentional in integrating the Habits of Living and Learning into classroom learning. Students in her classroom reflect on how others have modeled some of the Habits of Living, and at the end of a unit they do “Class Snaps,” where students can voice thanks and encouragements to other students. For example, a student might say: “I saw someone really helping his group in this unit and it made me want to do the same.” After this comment, the whole class snaps their fingers in acknowledgment. This helps build community in the classroom. Mrs. Fuller also emphasizes to students that they need each other, and as a natural result, students want to help each other succeed.



## MRS. FULLER'S HOMEROOM

Middle school is a time where students are learning to connect in new ways socially. Mrs. Fuller supports relational development in her girls homeroom with structured and intentional relationship building activities. During one homeroom, Mrs. Fuller held a Speed Coffee & Conversation activity. Students were able to have “coffee” with everyone in their homeroom, including the teacher, and answer some fun questions.



Mrs. Fuller had numbered tables around the room. Students enjoyed special coffee drinks supplied by parents while answering conversational questions in pairs. After three minutes, one student rotated to the next numbered table. They then had another three minutes to discuss their questions with a new partner, and so on, for nine different rotations. During another recent homeroom, “Cider, Donuts, and Devos,” each student shared a favorite devotion from a book or online, or discussed their favorite verses with each other.

These homerooms provide special bonding time for students and sets the tone for trusting and caring relationships they carry throughout the year.





**KATIE EMERY** teaches High School Studio Art classes, Yearbook, and Creative Entrepreneurship. She holds a BA in Art Education with a minor in Art History & Studio Art and a MA in Teaching and Curriculum.

Mrs. Emery's Creative Entrepreneurship class offers a unique opportunity for students to participate in applied learning that informs them how their interests can turn into a vocation or avocation after graduation. This class partners with creative professionals - a videographer, photographer, graphic designer, and creative writer - to engage students in creating a project that is related to a creative profession. The class partners with each professional for a quarter of the year; during each 9-week segment students are able to see examples of real work, learn the software or tools used by professionals, create their own work, get feedback from an

## MAKER'S MARKET

An exciting new addition at Lansing Christian School this year was the LCS Maker's Market. Held during the annual Spring Fling event, the Maker's Market gives middle and high school students and staff the opportunity to sell their own created works. Goods include artwork, handmade jewelry, baked goods, t-shirts, pins, candles, woodworking, and more. The Maker's Market is a beautiful picture of how all of us are made in the image of a creative God, with many of our students gifted to create in artistic ways.

The Maker's Market will be offered at LCS's Spring Fling again this year. We welcome you to stop in to pick up a unique Mother's Day gift, birthday present, or treat yourself, and support LCS students and staff in their creative endeavors.



expert, and meet a valuable contact should they be interested in pursuing a career in this field. "We have quite a few students who have their own small businesses or who are interested in starting one, and the skills learned in this class really help to get their ideas off the ground," Mrs. Emery says.

As students plan for their future, Mrs. Emery empowers her students to pursue their passions right now, right where they are. This past year, she initiated a Maker's Market as a platform for students to sell their own artwork and goods during the annual Spring Fling.

Mrs. Emery explains, "The goal is for students to realize that art and design are everywhere and that God, the master artist, has created each of them in His image. Because of this, they are each made to create."

**JOEL TJARKS** teaches high school US & World History, AP United States History, Government, and Current Events. He holds a BA in World and American History with a Minor in Political Science and has been teaching for 23 years. His assignments go beyond simply taking in and memorizing content; they equip students to assess information they come into contact with and will interact with on a daily basis for the rest of their lives.

A favorite activity among high school students is part of the Current Events class. Mr. Tjarks provides examples of different news articles around the same event to help students discern facts and interpret different viewpoints. He uses various news sources to understand the same topic from multiple perspectives, sharing the slant or viewpoint of the publication or tv network with students as they read articles or view videos. This is followed by roundtable discussions on how students see a particular



news story presented and the relative merits of the viewpoints they examined.

The goal of Current Events is not just to teach students what is happening, but to equip them to be able to make sense of competing perspectives and the overwhelming amount of information that is available on public issues. Students who come out of Mr. Tjark's classes appreciate the opportunity to develop a well-rounded, nuanced view in interpreting the news and better understand their own positions. Discussions in his class also help students develop good listening skills and confidence in sharing their questions and viewpoints.

Mr. Tjarks shares, "I sincerely hope that students will continue to try to stay aware, involved, and faithful. I want them to have the tools to make sense of the news, so that they can be informed in order to be active participants in our democracy."



## ALUMNI PROFILE - BLOCK FAMILY

At Lansing Christian School, our vision is to equip young men and women to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ. It is a joy to see our alumni living out this vision in their families, careers, and community well after graduation. It is extremely special when alumni become involved at Lansing Christian as parents and are a part of equipping the next generation.

Josh Block ('00) attended Lansing Christian from 9-12 the grade. It was a significant time in his life - his family had just relocated from the east side of the state and while in transition, his home burned down. He remembers, "Though I didn't begin to understand it at the time, LCS was an incredible place to be seen, known, encouraged, and developed through such a crucial part of my life." For Josh, through chapels, retreats, and relationships with teachers and coaches, LCS was the environment he needed to begin the transition from walking in his parents' path to learning to walk with Jesus into adulthood.

After graduating from Taylor University, he and his wife Lacey pursued community development. They began a labor business to help create community and provide employment in the urban core of Muncie, Indiana. In 2007, Josh joined the family business

(Block Imaging) in sales, and after relocating to Lansing in 2011, became President. Over the last 11 years, he has had the privilege of leading Block Imaging side-by-side with Jason Crawford, a fellow LCS grad.

Josh and Lacey have two children, Anneliese (10th) and Benjamin (7th) who both attend Lansing Christian School. Josh and Lacey began sending their children to LCS in preschool, and over time found that Lansing Christian was the best place to foster their children's development from a faith and community perspective. Having his own children at LCS has reconnected Josh with coaches, teachers, and other alumni. "We love the "family" aspect within the student body that LCS has fostered," Josh shares. "It's wild to have my kids become friends with the kids of my classmates from back in the day."

Regarding his own children's experience at LCS, he notes the deep care that the leadership and teachers have for his kids. "Our vantage point is limited throughout the course of the day, but just dropping in and seeing teachers connecting with students in the commons or gym is both uncommon and significant," he says. "I'm thankful for the thoughtful leadership and a staff that's

passionate about investing in the next generation."

Josh and Lacey also highly value the opportunities their children have in athletics at Lansing Christian School. "LCS provides an incredible opportunity for athletes of varying skill levels to participate, be part of a team, and grow their skills and character." Athletics is an area that he and his wife are highly involved in. Lacey has coached volleyball at LCS since 2018 and is currently coaching the JV Volleyball team. Josh is in his 4th year coaching the now 7th grade basketball team. They have both loved having these opportunities over the years.

"We are the Body of Christ" is this year's theme at LCS. Josh shares how he sees this playing out in the school community. "Jesus invites us to be ONE and in doing so, the LCS community moves from being a bunch of I's to a WE. In "Being the Body of Christ," we're both set apart and we're no longer our own," he says. "We've been bought with a price and our deep hope is that LCS really would be different. In the way parents support the staff, the way students befriend one another, to the way our fans welcome guests and cheer at sporting events, we are called higher in the way we relate to and love one another and the world around us."



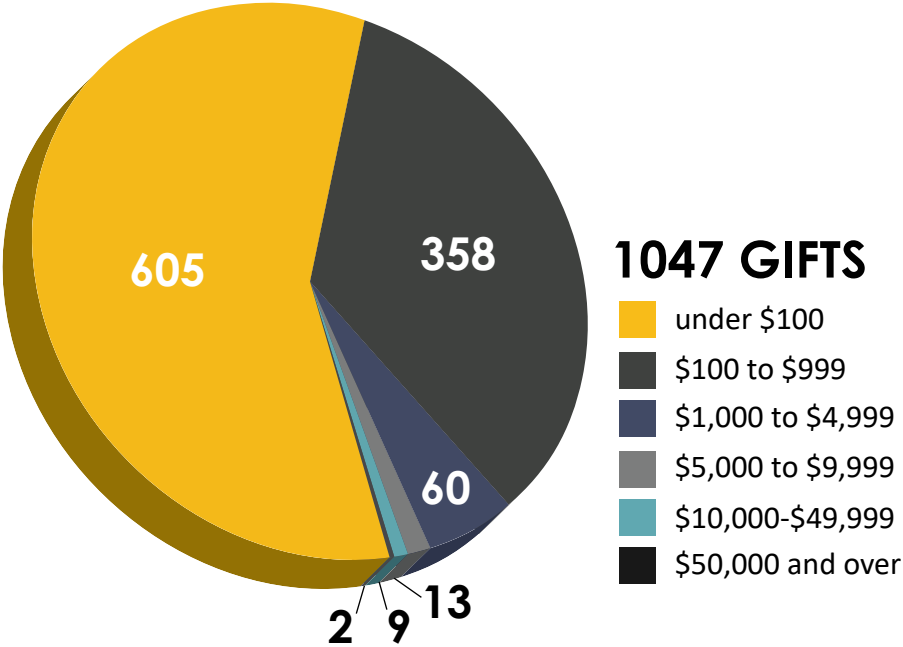
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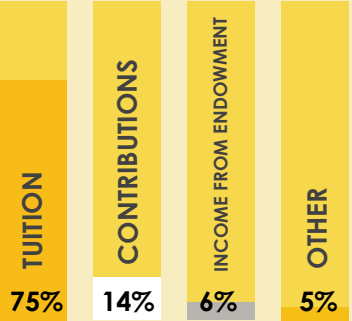
GIVING AT LCS

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Number of Donors	485	424
Annual Fund Donations	\$368,000	\$446,000
Black & Gold Celebration	\$176,000	\$198,000*
Fund Run/Fall Fest	\$33,000	\$25,000
ANNUAL FUND TOTAL	\$577,000	\$669,000
Restricted Gifts	\$27,000	\$60,000
Third Party Tuition Assistance	\$119,000	\$105,000
Gifts to Endowment	\$3,000	\$2,000
Capital Gift	\$2,000,000	
TOTAL GIVING	\$2,726,000	\$836,000
INCOME FROM ENDOWMENT	\$363,000	\$295,000

\* INCLUDES GIFTS DESIGNATED FOR OUTDOOR LEARNING



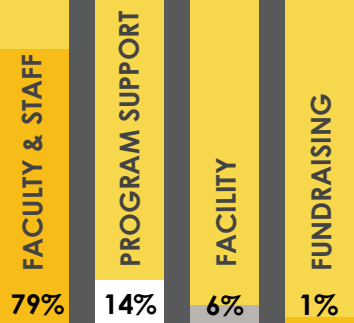
INCOME: \$5,964,000



\* DOES NOT INCLUDE \$2M CAPITAL GIFT



EXPENSES: \$5,530,000



\* DOES NOT INCLUDE DEPRECIATION

ENDOWMENT FUND

2018	\$8,525,000
2019	\$8,843,000
2020	\$9,112,000
2021	\$11,572,000
2022	\$9,400,000



LARGE CAPITAL GIFT

This past year, Lansing Christian School was blessed by a generous \$2,000,000 donation to support the school’s ongoing capital needs. This gift was given with the intention of furthering the Kingdom of God through His work at Lansing Christian School. As our building approaches 25 years, it is necessary to make a substantial investment to maintain and update our facility. We are so grateful for this significant contribution and the help it will provide in defraying the cost of a new HVAC system, replacing the blacktop in our parking lots, and replacing the school’s roof over the next five years.



485  
DONORS





## WANT TO IMPACT A STUDENT'S LIFE? SO DO WE!

Providing an authentic and integral Christian education is about helping each student understand that they are a part of God's story, and equipping them with the knowledge and tools they need to live out their purpose. Your contribution to Lansing Christian School supports an education where students develop a passion for learning through rich and diverse experiences that give them the opportunity to understand how their own gifts and abilities can be used to engage and transform the world for Jesus Christ.

### ANNUAL FUND

Contributions to the Annual Fund directly support the transformational education at Lansing Christian school and help make a Christ-centered education accessible to more families in the Greater Lansing area. No one at LCS pays the full cost of educating a student. Each year we rely on generous gifts to the Annual Fund from members of our community and income generated from the LCS Endowment to

offset the cost of tuition for every student. This year, we need to raise approximately \$570,000 to support the ongoing work of the school.

Your financial support of the Annual Fund is an expression of faith and support in God's work at the school. Your gift, big or small, makes a difference and is an investment in our students.

### LCS ENDOWMENT FUND

Since 1951 Lansing Christian School has been a bedrock for Christ-centered education in the Greater Lansing area. A gift to the LCS Endowment helps to ensure Lansing Christian School can continue their tradition of quality Christian education and remain accessible for generations of students to come.

Currently at just over \$9,000,000, gifts made to the LCS Endowment are held in a restricted fund that is overseen by the Foundation Board, allowing future

growth to be used as dependable income for the school. Contributions to the LCS Endowment provide the school with long-term financial sustainability, ensuring a lasting legacy of quality Christian education in the Lansing area.

### PLANNED GIVING

Making a planned gift to Lansing Christian School during your lifetime, or naming LCS in your will or trust, is an investment in the mission of the school and our students. Gifts received from an individuals' estate, unless otherwise designated, will be placed in the LCS Endowment. Receiving a planned gift is a huge blessing to LCS and will provide long-term financial sustainability for the school.

In addition to naming LCS in your will or trust, you can designate Lansing Christian School as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy, or you can create a charitable gift annuity which

provides immediate support to the school during your lifetime.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS

Providing a gift to Lansing Christian School in memory of a friend or relative is a wonderful way to honor their life and commitment to LCS while supporting an exceptional and accessible Christ-centered education. When an honoree or family has requested that gifts be given to Lansing Christian School in lieu of flowers, the donations are made to the Annual Fund unless otherwise specified. In recognition of the individual in whose name a memorial gift was made, a brick will be placed outside the main entrance to commemorate their legacy at Lansing Christian School.

***Please contact Director of Development Melissa Keeley ([mkeeley@lansingchristianschool.org](mailto:mkeeley@lansingchristianschool.org)) with any questions about how to make a charitable contribution to the school.***





# LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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