

Pilgrim Journey

Summer 2023

Equipping young men and women to
engage and **transform** the world for
Jesus Christ.

CONGRATULATIONS LCS GRADUATES!

SENIOR VERSE

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

1 John 4:16-18

As a preschool through high school community, we have the privilege of celebrating five annual ceremonies for

our graduates - preschool, kindergarten, elementary (5th grade), middle school (8th grade) and senior graduation. These annual ceremonies are times of celebrating significant milestones and focusing on God's guidance and provision along the way.

On Friday, June 2, our seniors celebrated the culmination of their learning at LCS. The evening was filled with remembering years past, recognizing students for their hard work and dedication, and thanking teachers, administrators, and parents for all they have invested in providing a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning. We pray that each student crossing the stage enters the world equipped to engage and transform the world for Christ.



Dear LCS Community,

As an LCS alumna, I have deep and lasting memories of playing lead roles in two high school musicals directed by Miss Somerville. I also remember the opportunity Mrs. Peterson gave me to sing a solo at my high school graduation. These memories are so deep that I can still sing the words to most of the songs from Oliver and Man of La Mancha, and I continue to be connected to some of my fellow cast members and musical director (see if you can find a picture of me in one of those performances in this publication).

LCS traditions like musical performances, class trips, and graduations shape our students and connect them to one another in special and extraordinary ways. These kinds of experiences can also create lasting memories for years to come.

As I reflect on my high school years at LCS, I am reminded that behind every memorable experience and extraordinary opportunity for students are teachers who are passionate and highly invested in students. I continue to be grateful for the teachers that poured into my life, and for all of the LCS teachers that continue to invest in the lives of students through leading and contributing to important and memorable school experiences.

Whether you are a current family, an LCS alumni or alumni parent, or a friend and supporter of Lansing Christian School, I hope you recall some of your own memories as you read about how our students today are being shaped by long-standing traditions at LCS.

Wendy Hofman
Head of School
Class of 1981



PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

Preschoolers sang songs and demonstrated their academic, social, and spiritual learning at a special outdoor graduation ceremony. Preschool students shared different aspects of God and Bible stories they had learned through the year, and a preschool student led the prayer.



KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION



Kindergartners proudly showcased all they have learned at our annual kindergarten graduation program, themed after the beloved children's book "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom."

5TH GRADE GRADUATION

Teachers Mrs. Rodriguez and Mr. Delano shared some gifts and talents of each student. Words of thanks and recognition were given to 5th grade teacher Mr. D, who is retiring after 35 years of teaching and coaching at LCS.



8TH GRADE GRADUATION



During the ceremony, 8th graders led their peers and parents in worship, and each student received an award that honored a personal character trait along with their middle school

diploma. Principal Batson encouraged students to pursue growth, generosity, gratitude, and a deeper understanding of God as they enter high school.

SENIOR CHALLENGE - CORINNE RITTER

Each year, the senior class selects a representative to deliver the Senior Challenge. This speech provides seniors with final words of challenge and encouragement and points them to Christ. Below is an abridged version of Valedictorian Corinne Ritter's speech; each point was shared alongside the cited Bible verse.

Running is a lot like life and is mentioned in the Bible a number of times. Here are five things I learned in cross country that I'd like to challenge you to apply to your life as well.

TRAIN WELL. Running can only be effective if you follow the training plan set before you. Our training is not always easy, but it is meant to prepare us to handle the tough race ahead of us. We have spent the last four years growing and preparing ourselves... now as we enter a new phase of our life it's time to take this training and put it to the test. James 1:2-3

YOU ARE PART OF A TEAM. Cross country is a team sport, and the team can only be successful when every runner is at their best. Who is your team? As Christians, we have the incredible ability to be part of God's economy (or **oikonomia**, as we learned in Bible 12). It is our calling to encourage and build each other up because each person plays a unique role in God's family. 1 Corinthians 12:26-27

HAVE THE PROPER EQUIPMENT. Like any sport, cross country requires specific gear that helps a runner to run their very best. As we approach our "race" let us carry the proper equipment to help us succeed. Remember that we have been given the tools we need to run our race well. Ephesians 6:13

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR COMPETITORS. When running a race, it can be tempting to go out too hard or too slow in order to match the pace of someone else. As we enter a new environment, it might be tempting to adjust or change ourselves to fit in with others, but it's important to remember that we were created this way for a reason. Surround yourself with people who push your pace but ultimately root yourself firmly in who God says you are. Romans 12:2

LISTEN TO YOUR COACH. A runner knows to listen for their coach's voice. Think of God as your coach. As we enter college it can be easy to just focus on what's right in front of us. When we tune out our coach's voice, it can become easy to slow down our pace or not pursue God's plan full force. Jeremiah 29:11

As we approach the starting line of our race, let us remain confident in the fact that our training has prepared us for this new phase of life. So "let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith." Hebrews 12:1-3



CREATIVE ARTS EDUCATION

At LCS, a flourishing Creative Arts Program is an important part of a Christ-centered education. Every school year is filled with a multitude of creative arts programs and performances that demonstrate how students are reflecting our Creator through music and the visual and performing arts. Students take part in annual choir and band concerts, Creative Arts Nights, art competitions, the school musical, and our newest tradition, a student Maker's Market at our annual Spring Fling. Each of these experiences provides a unique

opportunity for students to develop their God-given gifts and artistic abilities.

Art education provides exposure and opportunity in problem-solving, confidence-building, flexibility, and partnership with peers. By participating in the creative process, students gain not only a deeper understanding of how to be active participants in the creative process, but also how they themselves are uniquely created by God and emulate Him as they create.

LCS MUSICAL

LCS has performed a play or musical each year for the past 55 years. This year, the school held three sold-out performances of the musical Mary Poppins.



Oliver, 1980



Little Abner, 1974



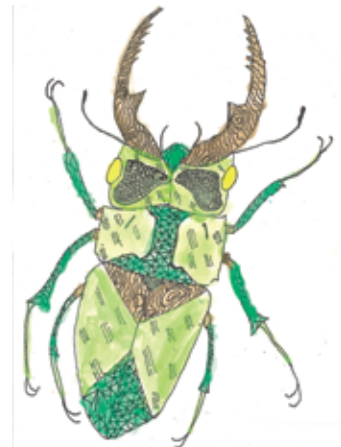
Fiddler on the Roof, 2001



Anne of Green Gables, 1992

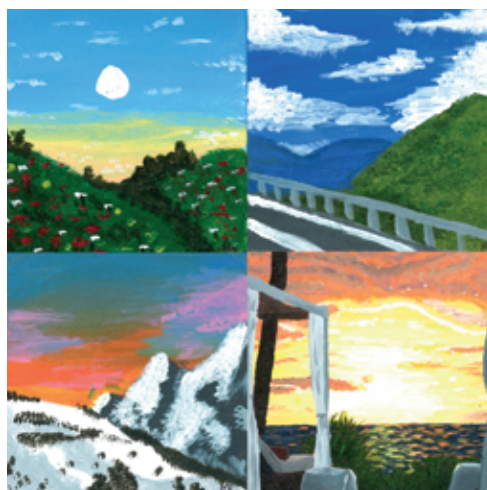


Mary Poppins, 2023

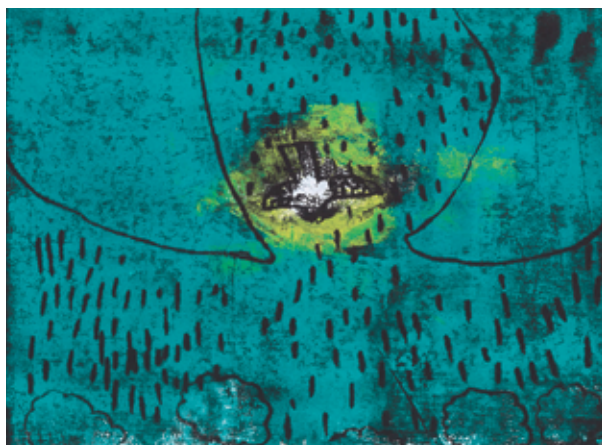


**LET EVERY
SKILLFUL
CRAFTSMAN
AMONG YOU
COME AND
MAKE ALL THAT
THE LORD HAS
COMMANDED.**

Exodus 35:10



2022/23 art by
PreK-12 LCS Students



STUDENT TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

The strategic plan for LCS includes the goal of seeking to increase our capacity to be a community where students, created in the image of God, experience a sense of belonging. The work of the LCS Multicultural Club (MCC) aims to do just this. The club, facilitated by Dr. LeCorn and a committee of student leaders, has the deep hope of “acknowledging that everyone has a culture and recognizing each other as complex and deserving of inclusion and respect.”

Five years ago, Lansing Christian School’s Multicultural Club began dreaming of traveling internationally to create a platform of cultural exchange. After years of dreaming and planning, this past November MCC students authored and submitted a funding proposal and received \$25,000 to help fund their South Africa Cultural Exchange & Collaboration Trip. This student-led initiative allowed them to travel to South Africa for a week, where they were able to begin building a relationship between the Stellenbosch Waldorf School (SWC) located in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

For this trip, students had goals to actively engage in cross-cultural exchange and collaboration and to establish an ongoing relationship with SWC. With these aims, MCC students attended classes with their respective grades at SWC, toured South African cities and memorials,



visited Kruger National Park, stayed in South African homes, engaged in cross-cultural discussions and culinary traditions, participated in sports with Waldorf students, attended surf school (and successfully surfed!), hiked challenging terrain, and established new avenues of communication to continue the relationship with the Waldorf school community after returning to the states.

This trip provided a powerful way for students to engage in the culture and lives of others while celebrating the beautiful diversity of God’s kingdom.

CLASS TRIPS

Each year, students travel with their class to the Ark Encounter in Kentucky (8th grade), Gettysburg, PA (11th grade), and Washington, DC (12th grade). These trips are a Lansing Christian School tradition that have spanned decades.



ATHLETICS



CONGRATULATIONS DAVID ZAHN

Senior David Zahn had never competed on an athletic team until his junior year at LCS. During his junior year, he decided to run track, and in his two years running at LCS, David became one of the school's most successful sprinters. As a result, David was presented the Joshua 1:9 Award for showing "strength & courage" on and off of the track. LCS Track & Field Coach Mark List commented on David's contributions to the team: "David immediately established himself as a leader; he continually tried to go above and beyond for his teammates!" After graduation, David returned home to China for the summer and will attend Ohio State University in the fall to pursue a degree in Biochemistry.



ATHLETIC ACHIEVEMENT

LCS continues its tradition of an athletic program serving our elementary through high school students. It has been a spring of great accomplishment! For the second time in three years, our Boys Varsity Baseball team won a District Championship and senior Baylor Brogan qualified for the State Finals Golf Championship. Senior Audra Usiak and sophomore Ava Mustapha received All-State Honors in Varsity Soccer. Go Pilgrims!



BLACK & GOLD CELEBRATION

Lansing Christian School's annual fundraiser, hosted on April 15, 2023, was a wonderful celebration of the school and a joy-filled community event. Thanks to the generosity of our community, this year's Black and Gold Celebration raised \$182,000 to support the work of LCS and to address a number of capital needs around our building. Thank you to everyone that supported this event!



LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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