



# THE BLEAT

The Lumen Christi Student Newsletter



## Chess Club Wins 5 Trophies — and State Champ Hugo Warner Is Going to the National Tournament!

First-grader Hugo Warner played a perfect chess season, winning the state championship of the first grade — and he will now compete in the national k-12 grade championships in December in Orlando, Florida. One of Lumen Christi's two third-grade teams was champion of the regular CYO season that ended in early November, and a total of five Lumen Christi teams won trophies.

"I'm excited," said Hugo, who won all 15 of his matches this year while competing on a third-grade-and-under team — and then traveled to Fort Wayne to win the state championship. "I was actually tied with another player, and I thought I was going to finish second. The computer makes the decision, and I'm glad it picked me!"

Hugo will be representing himself and Lumen Christi Catholic School at the national tournament. The Lumen Christi chess club is coached by Hugo's dad, Andrew Warner, and by Paul Grimm. The club held an end-of-the-year party on Nov. 16.

"We had very good results all around and were able to end the season with five team trophies," Coach Grimm said. "A haul of five trophies and a championship is commendable for our first year competing. We hope to do even better next year! Congratulations to all who competed!"

The trophies won included:

- The eighth-grade-and-under team finished fourth in the regular season out of 12 teams and qualified for the King Division in the end-of-the-year tournament,
- The sixth-grade-and-under team qualified for the Bishop Division from their play in the regular season and finished second in the end-of-the-year tournament.
- There were two third-grade-and-under teams this year. Lumen Christi's second team finished the regular season in fourth place out of 16 teams and qualified for the King Division in the tournament. Our first team was champion of the entire third grade and placed second in the King Division.



## Mrs. Barnes Says LCCS Will Help Her Get to Heaven

By Evie Brown

Mrs. Kristina Barnes is our new fifth-grade teacher at Lumen Christi, but she is not new! She has been the bookkeeper and has been teaching the pre-algebra class for 15 years!

“Every year I think about leaving Lumen Christi; my children have graduated, and I wonder about going back to accounting where I could make a lot more money,” Mrs. Barnes says. “But then I remember a gift I received during my first year teaching here ...”

Mrs. Barnes went to five grade schools growing up, as her dad got transferred to many cities for his work. She graduated from Western High School in Kokomo in 1976. She graduated with a BS in accounting from Miami University in Ohio in 1980. She then worked as an accountant until she quit to raise her family.

Mrs. Barnes and her husband, Tom, have been blessed with six children. For a dozen years she homeschooled, including a few years of co-oping with the founder of Lumen Christi, Edie Fitzgerald.

When Mrs. Barnes felt called to bring her three youngest children to Lumen Christi in 2007, she asked Mrs.



Photo by Adriana Elisea

Fitzgerald if she wanted her money or her help — and the rest is history. She started as a second-grade teacher and slowly took on bookkeeping duties for Lumen Christi. She still does that in addition to teaching fifth grade this year.

Mrs. Barnes explained the gift she received during her first year at LCCS: “Daily Mass, learning my faith (I am a convert), a community that has called me to accountability, and generally keeping me so busy I have little time to wander off the path! God showed me that Lumen Christ would play a big role in getting me to heaven!”

## Some Thanksgiving Plans and What We Are Thankful For

By Philip Gallagher and Sara Teipen

Here is what some Lumen Christi students are planning for the Thanksgiving holiday:

**Alice Haywood**, sixth grade: “I’m going to my grandparents’ house in Brown County. I’m thankful for all of my classmates.”

**Maria Bach**, seventh grade: “I am going to the LeMarks’ house and bringing an Indy 500 race car driver! I am thankful for a good school to go to.”

**Madison Settles**, third grade: “I’m going to my grandparents’ house in Chicago for Thanksgiving. I’m thankful for my family.”

**Lia Meyer**, third grade: “I am going to Virginia for

Thanksgiving. I am thankful for everything.”

**Fulton Wenzel**, second grade: “My cousins are coming over and we are going to visit their hotel. “I am thankful for the school.”

**Sofia Cazares**, second grade: “I am going to go to Michigan and see my friends. I am thankful for my family.”

**Allison Loiselle**, eighth grade: “I am going to Kentucky to see my grandparents. I’m thankful for ham.”

**Clare LeMark**, eighth grade: “My cousins from Tennessee are coming over. I am grateful for my house.”

**Gus Haywood**, fourth grade: “We go to our Grandma’s, cook turkey, and play with our cousins.”



## Grandparents Day a Big Hit!

By Ellie Richert

Lumen Christi celebrated Grandparents Day on November 1 and had a wonderful turnout. Seventy-four grandparents came, which was more than usual.

“I have never seen that many people in Priori Hall!” said Headmaster Bob Collins.

Students took their grandparents to Priori Hall and they all ate their lunch together. Students also gave their grandparents a tour around the school and showed them their classrooms. They then attended the Saints Program! They seemed to have a great time!



Photos by Clare LeMark and Adriana Elisea



## Nine Families Visit During Lumen Christi Open House

By Vivian O'Connor and Catie Rosko

This year, nine families visited Lumen Christi Catholic School on November 4 for the annual Open House. Families go on tours so they can see what a regular school day is like at Lumen Christi.

“My role at the Open House is to greet families and lead them on tours of the school, answering their questions and giving them information,” said Mrs. Emily Rosko, the admissions director at Lumen Christi, and the mother of Catie and Sara Rosko. “I think the Open House benefits the school because it is a great way to showcase our school and its authentic Catholic mission.”

While visiting the school, families have the opportunity to visit Holy Rosary church and ask questions

students, and teachers in their classrooms.

“Parents ask about curriculum, Mass and prayers, teachers, class sizes, discipline, the school day, and activities,” Headmaster Bob Collins explained.

The Open House is mainly advertised when students and families tell their friends and families.

Others helping at the Open House besides Mrs. Rosko included Mrs. Tricia Crossey, Mrs. Stacey Dowell, and Mr. Bob Collins. They assist by guiding tours, answering questions, and providing parents with information they may need about Lumen Christi.

“I usually follow up with families that attend by email, telling them I was happy to meet them and asking if they have any further questions,” Mrs. Rosko said.



# Fall Fest: Costumes, Pumpkins, Chili ...

By Anah Bowling and Blake Brush

Contests for religious-themed costumes, pumpkin painting\carving, and chili highlighted the annual Fall Fest at the home of Mollie and Adam Smith on Oct. 30. The event also featured face-painting, pickup basketball, and an elaborate dessert table. Dozens of Lumen Christi families attended.

Winner of the costume contest was Agnes Verhiley dressed as Saint Lucy. She chose the Saint because she just really loves her. In second place was Dylan Settles dressed as Saint Michael. "I choose to be St. Michael because Michael is my middle name," he said.

Coming in third place was Fulton Wenzel dressed as Archbishop Fulton Sheen. "I choose him because I am named after him," Fulton said.

The winner of the pumpkin-carving contest was Peter LeMark, who used toothpicks to design his pumpkin as a crown.

"I didn't really have an idea at first," Peter said, "so I chose to put toothpicks in it."

Nolan Denney took second place with an eye design. Third-place winner Regan Wells said she got her inspiration from her mom and designed her pumpkin with "googly eyes" because "I wanted to make it look



funny so people would laugh."

Hungry attendees got to choose among 17 different kinds of chili, with many taking a small cup of each one and then voting with little colored chips. The first-place winner was Brandi Verhiley with her "pizza chili," featuring pepperoni. The second-place winner was Todd Denney with his "meaty chili." Tina Meyers took third place with her "superstar chili."

Mrs. Amy Jackson and Mrs. Tina Wishik painted dozens of faces, with designs including rainbows, fall leaves, spider webs, and even a penguin.

The Fall Fest tradition began six or seven years ago. Depending on the weather, it was either in Priori Hall or in the park across the street from the school. The Smiths, parents of sixth-grader Ella, began hosting at their beautiful home last year. Thank you for hosting!





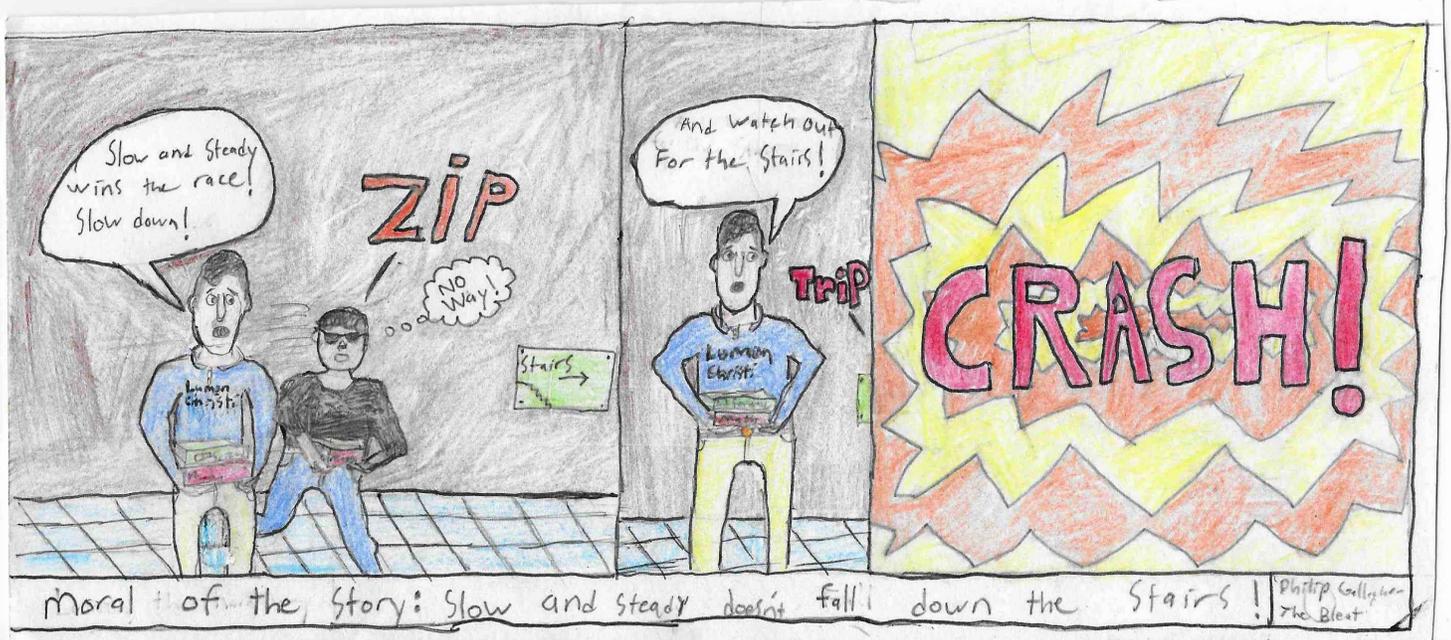
# ... and Fun for Lumen Christi Families



Agnes Verhiley as Saint Lucy was first in the costume competition, while Fulton Wenzel as Fulton Sheen finished third. Peter LeMark won the pumpkin-carving contest, using toothpicks to depict a crown.



Photos by Clare LeMark and Adriana Elisea



### Sisters Talk, Students Dress Up for Vocations Awareness Week



Students heard a talk by the Little Sisters for the Poor and dressed up as their favorite vocations during Awareness Week Nov. 8-12. Photos by Adriana Elisea and Tricia Crossey.





## Basketball: Middle AND High School This Year!

By David Lopez

The high school has a basketball team for the first time in forever!

Lumen Christi decided to finally start a team because there was a lot of interest and enough players.

“We would like to have as many extracurricular activities as possible,” said Coach Joe Brake. “It can also help you practice virtues such as humility,

charity, and hope.” There are seven players on the team: Brogan Crossey, Joseph Mullins, Leo Brown, Ben Shewmaker, Victor Gallagher, Tommy Mullins, and Noah Smith. The coaches are Mr. Brake and Mr. Sean Gallagher. Practices started November 2 and the season extends into January. The school is very excited. *GO SAINTS!*



By Maria Bach and O’Ryan Ingram

Lumen Christi’s middle school basketball team will start playing games in December.

The team will play seven games for the season, competing against other Catholic schools. The coach is Mr. Dave Olecki.

David Lopez, a seventh-grader on the team, said, “I like basketball because it’s fun!”

Players include Cooper Olecki, Isaac Haywood, Peter Vanderhulst, Jude Vanderhulst, Gus Caito, David Lopez, and O’Ryan Ingram.

The team meets twice a week for practice, which includes drills and scrimmages. The team sometimes scrimmages against the new high school team.

Let us all wish them the best of luck. *GO SAINTS!*

Above, middle school coach Dave Olecki discusses strategy with his team. Top right, high school coach Joe Brake makes a point to his team. Top left, high school players go one on one. Photos by Adriana Elisea and Mrs. Tricia Crossey.



## 14 Saints Appear for All Saints Day

Photos by Clare  
LeMark and  
Adriana Elisea

*By Lucy Motyka and Isaac Haywood*

Fourteen Lumen Christi students participated in the annual All Saints Day program on November 1.

Mrs. Beth Richert helped the fourth-grade students, plus a couple of fifth-graders who didn't get to do it last year, do research and practice for the program. They dressed up as different saints and recited speeches about their chosen saints. Then, based on those speeches, everyone attending the program tried to guess the saints' identities. Grandparents, teachers, and students participated in this guessing game.

"Excited; a little nervous," said Cyprian Lehner about how he felt before the program.

After the program, Andrew Denney said, "I felt a little nervous during my speech, but it was pretty fun." He also said it was good to learn about his saint.

The students participating included Clement Brown as St. Peter, Ainsley Brush as St. Therese the Little Flower, Andrew Denney as St. Erasmus, Will Foerster as St. Patrick, Madilyn Fussner as St. Edith Stein, Veronica Gudan as St. Judith, Sofia Gurdian as St. Gianna, Gus Haywood as St. Anthony of Padua, Franny Jackson as St. Cecilia, Cyprian Lehner as St. John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>, Peter LeMark as St. Isaac Jogues, Lydia

Loiselle as St. Philomena, Matty Shewmaker as St. John the Baptist, and Olivia Wells as St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

Two of the students' saints were not guessed correctly;

they were Andrew Denney, who was guessed to be St. Patrick and St. John Paul 2<sup>nd</sup>; and Madilyn Fussner, who was guessed to be St. Rose of Lima and St. Therese of Lisieux. The rest of the students were guessed correctly!

After the presentations, Mr. Collins led a litany to the saints. A special thanks to the parents and guardians of the children for helping them make their awesome costumes this year!

