



THE BLEAT

The Lumen Christi Student Newsletter



Happy Mother's Day to all Lumen Christi moms!



LCCS Lights Up the City!

By Cooper Olecki, Blake Brush, and Isaac Haywood

Lumen Christi's annual Light in the City fundraising dinner May 1 raised more than \$160,000 — matching the all-time high — as a record crowd of 220 enjoyed dinner, dancing, a dessert dash, a silent auction, the presentation of the Edie Fitzgerald Legacy Award, and more at the Crane Bay Event Center.

“Overall, we raise \$300,000 per year, and 40%-50% of that is from the dinner,” said Headmaster Mr. Bob Collins. “This matches the best ever for the dinner.”

The evening's highlight was a standing ovation for Dave and Jill Olecki, extraordinary volunteers who received the award named after the school's founder. Dave gave an acceptance speech in person in addition to a video acceptance from him and Jill, who is home after several months in the hospital. There were few dry eyes as Jill — who has served as president of the Parent Faculty Association, been a key volunteer at

previous dinners, and chaperoned countless field trips — commented that the Oleckis should be giving the school an award for all it has done for their family. Dave, who has served as president of the school board and coached basketball for years, garnered a big laugh when he said that his main contribution was to have picked his wife wisely.

“They exemplify the light of Christ through the school community,” Principal Mrs. Stacey Dowell said of the Oleckis.

The Edie Fitzgerald Legacy Award was created in 2017 to honor those following in the footsteps of the mom who founded Lumen Christi 20 years ago.

The other key highlight of the evening was a speech by graduating senior Bella Brown. *See Page 2 for more on her speech and the rest of the event.*



Highlights of LITC Dinner

Graduating senior Bella Brown gave an inspirational speech about what Lumen Christi has meant to her. She was home-schooled until she started LCCS in 10th grade. She talked about the academic excellence of the school, the faith infused throughout the curriculum, and the camaraderie — how welcoming the students and teachers are. She mentioned that teachers have taken the students out to lunch, for instance. She



also talked about Father Ryan McCarthy dropping in unannounced and giving the students a "diversion" from schoolwork with a game called Prayer, Penance or Prize.

The silent auction included experiences and items, raising thousands of dollars. Experiences are private and fun activities hosted by the faculty and staff, such as a dinner for 10 with Fr. McCarthy on his rooftop, a painting party for 10 with Mrs. Caris Roller, and ice cream with Mrs. Stacy Dowell at Dairy Queen. Items that were bid on included four box seats at an Indianapolis Indians game, two 60-minute jump passes at Skyzone, a membership to the Indianapolis Zoo, a one-week stay in St. Augustine, Florida, and a statue of Mary of Medjugorie.

The raffle, which sold hundreds of tickets and raised thousands of dollars, was won by Michael Archual, the grandfather of Stella, Ophelia, and Desmond Archual. He won \$2,000 and donated it back to the school!

The dessert dash was a competition in which tables bid to choose their dessert first, second, etc. The winning table paid more than \$5,000 for dessert! It must have been really tasty!

The dance featured Dave and Rae, a duo with superb harmonies who sang country, rock, and show tunes. First on the dance floor for the umpteenth year was school secretary Mrs. Marie Mascari, who sure can cut a rug! Eventually about 20 event-goers were happily line dancing, led by Mrs. Roller and her new hip!

Fund-a-Need, which was next to the silent auction, featured requested items for donors to purchase for the school, such as new microscopes for the middle school, a new school projector, donations to help the middle school sports teams, new laptops, and new math books and calculators for the high school.

The Crane Bay Event Center was decked out in hip shades of blue and gray, with ceilings that seemed sky high — and those who looked up could see the actual cranes that used to move huge containers onto and off railroad cars.





High School Expansion Begins This Month

By Sara Teipen and Isaac Haywood

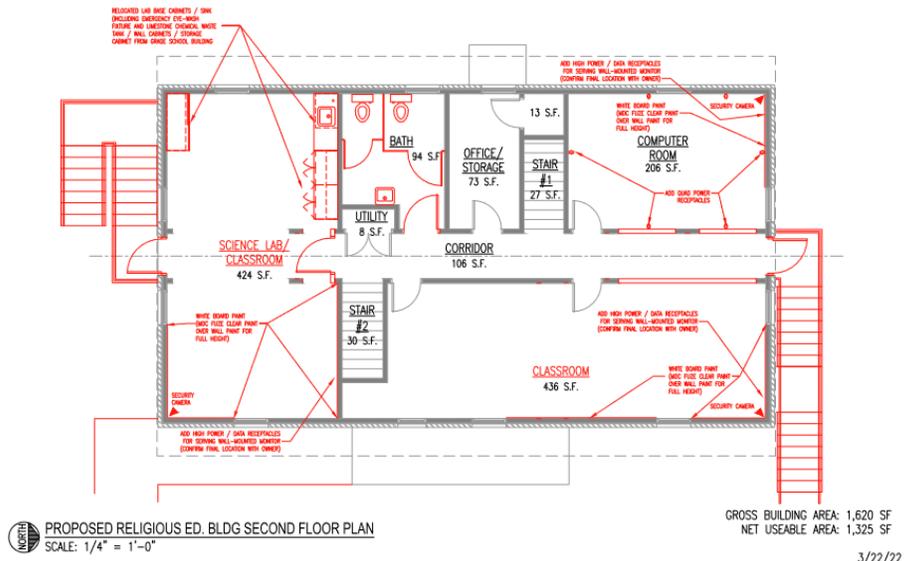
Expansion and remodeling of the high school begins this month, with four classrooms to be added as Lumen Christi takes over the building that has been used by Catholic home-school students and religious classes. Both that building and the existing high school building will be remodeled, funded by \$550,000 in grants from two anonymous donors.

The expansion is necessary because of growing enrollment at the high school, which is expected to have 29 students next year.

“We are very excited about the expansion,” said High School Principal Mr. Joseph Brake. “We see it as a way to better serve the students and families of Lumen Christi.”

Mr. Brake said that the work will start this month but that most of it will be done during the summer.

In the remodeling, every window in both buildings will be replaced, and new furnaces and interior and exterior doors will be installed. There will be a brand new covered walkway between the buildings.



The second floor of the new building will be classrooms.

The main high school building will be remodeled to turn three small classrooms into one big classroom. That main classroom will get a surrounding wall.

In the new building, two rooms on the south end are going to be made into one room that will be the lunch room. Two rooms above the lunch room will be made into a science lab. One classroom will be renovated into a new computer lab, and another room will be made into a locker room. Exit stair ways will also be installed.

High School Students Visit Shrines in 3 States on Annual Pilgrimage

By Vivian O'Connor

Students from the high school return today after a week-long pilgrimage that took them to three states to visit shrines and churches.

The students left Monday, May 2. They visited the shrine of Saint Martin de Porres in Memphis, Tennessee; the shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama; and the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis and the Shrine of St. Joseph, both in St. Louis, Missouri.

The pilgrimage was led by High School Principal Mr. Joseph Brake, with several volunteer parents helping to drive and chaperone.

“We’re looking forward to the pilgrimage,” said Mr. Brake before they left on the trip. “We pray that it will be spiritually rewarding and fun.”

Upcoming Events

By Sara Teipen

May 6: May Crowning

May 10: Pizza Day

May 13: Spirit Wear Day

May 18: Hot Dog Day

May 19: High School Graduation

May 26: End-of-School Program/8th-Grade Graduation

May 27: Last Day of School/Noon Dismissal



What Is Your Favorite Season and Why?

By Vincent Williams

Olivia Wells (4): “I like spring because I like to see all the flowers and my birthday is in spring — and I also like Easter.”

Cooper Olecki (8): “I like summer because no school and more time to play sports and more free time.”

Lia Meyer (3): “Winter, because my birthday is in winter, and our Lord is born, and friends and family come over to my house.”

David Lopez (7): “Fall because I like Halloween.”

Anna Kesterson (3): “Winter because I like hot chocolate, sledding, and ice skating.”

Isaac Haywood (8): “Summer because no school, nice weather, fun to go swimming, like to be outside a lot, and a better opportunity of playing outdoor sports.”



Photo by Evie Brown

Year Will End with Kickball and More

By Lucy Motyka

The end of school is almost here! The last day at Lumen Christi is Friday, May 27.

Lumen Christi students will be going outside to the park at 9:30 in the morning to play kickball and sand volleyball. The school will eat lunch outside, and there will be the annual water balloon fight.

At the end, there will be a surprise treat for everyone, with dismissal at noon. The last day will be epic; we hope you all can come!

Graduations May 19 and 26

Three seniors will graduate from Lumen Christi High School May 19, while eight eighth-graders will graduate from the elementary school May 26.

The three graduating seniors include: Jill Shewmaker who is planning on attending Ball State University; Bella Brown, who plans on going to the University of Dallas; and Annalise O’Daniel, who is planning on going to Trine University. The event begins with mass at 5:45 p.m. and then moves to Priori Hall for the graduation, dinner, and celebration. The seniors and the high school faculty will be in caps and gowns.

The eighth-graders who are graduating include: Anah Bowling, Evie Brown, Cooper Olecki, and Isaac Haywood, who are all going to Lumen Christi High School; Allison Loiselle and Clare LeMark, who are going to Bishop Chatard High School; and Ellie Richert and Catie Rosko who are both going to Roncalli High School.

The graduation begins with Mass at 5:45. The ceremony will take place in Priori Hall, where students will receive certificates and other awards. Students in grades kindergarten to eighth grade will perform musical numbers in the end-of-the-year program. After the ceremony, desserts will be served.

By Adriana Elisea, Clare LeMark, Ellie Richert, and Nolan Denney