



Jumping for joy! We are excited about the latest chapter in the story of LMS. The school building, behind the church and bordering Ardmore Avenue, was originally built for St. Mark's school. The three-story building has eight classrooms.

Home Sweet Home!

Luther Memorial is excited to be putting down roots in Old Brooklyn.

The school will purchase the St. Mark Lutheran church and school property on the corner of Pearl Road and Ardmore Avenue at the end of June.

After 13 years of leasing part of this space for our Main Campus, owning the entire property allows LMS to use areas of the building that have not been previously available because they were dedicated church space.

Taking full advantage of the additional space enables us to reunite our Main and West campuses and be one family, under one roof, beginning in the Fall of 2021.

Executive Director Mrs. Nicole Levy says she is hopeful that all of the current West Campus families will choose to send their children to Old Brooklyn with busing available

to all. Families will be asked to enroll by April 1 to save their spot for the Fall.

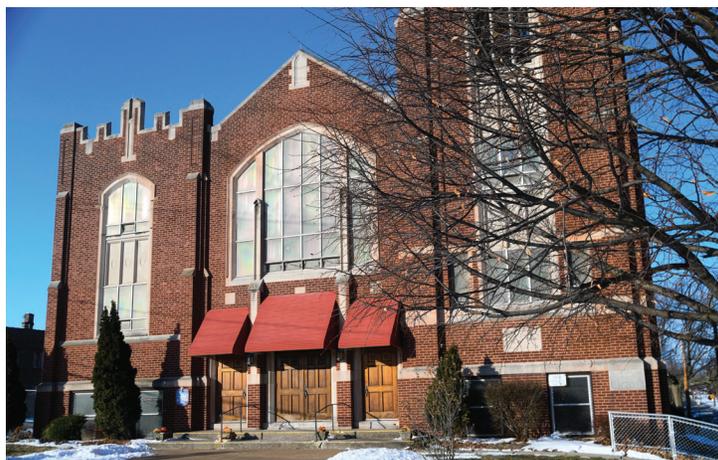
Renovation work in Old Brooklyn will begin at the end of May once students have left for the summer. The bulk of the work will involve reconfiguring the current church offices to make one large classroom.

Additionally, part of the current

cafeteria will be partitioned off to create a dedicated Art room, something the school has never had before.

The cafeteria will be expanded—taking over a large storage area—and will be more accessible to the kitchen than it currently is.

(continued on p. 2)



The LMS school board voted unanimously to purchase the St. Mark property. Following are comments from a few members:

"The purchase of the St. Mark church property is one of the most exciting opportunities in the history of Luther Memorial School. In the short-term, it will allow us to reunite all of our school community under one roof—providing for more opportunities for each student to grow. It also provides incredible flexibility as we dream about what God has in store for LMS in the years to come. We can now begin to envision new ways to do ministry in and around the Old Brooklyn area."

—Mr. Chris Steinmann, LMS board member and Superintendent of the Cleveland Lutheran High School Association

"Like many alumni, I remember when LMS classes were divided between three locations. Just when you got used to one building, you graduated to the next one. I like the idea of permanence in Old Brooklyn and look forward to the opportunity to sink our roots firmly into the community and neighborhood."

—Mr. Walter Fischer, LMS board president and LMS Alumnus '74



Luther Memorial has been housed in many different Lutheran school buildings around Cleveland -- Trinity Lutheran on West 30th; Christ Lutheran on West 43rd; St. Luke on West 85th; Mt. Calvary on Lorain Avenue and St. Mark. All of these churches had schools of their own at one time and the first three in the list consolidated to form Luther Memorial in 1948. This photo was taken in 1950.

Home Sweet Home (cont.)

“We are grateful to St. Mark for their willingness to sell us the property,” says Mrs. Levy. “Having our own space opens up many exciting ministry opportunities that we are pursuing.”

Additionally, reuniting the two campuses makes it possible for LMS to increase student programming, provide more support staff, foster a more unified faculty and continue building improvement projects, which will allow for single graded classrooms PreK through Grade 8.

LMS opened its West Campus at Mt Calvary Lutheran on Lorain Avenue

in 2016 due to full classrooms and a waiting list at Main Campus. “The West Campus served our students well for five years,” says Mrs. Levy. “We are grateful to Mt. Calvary for allowing us to make it our second home.”

A 6-square mile area of almost 35,000 residents, Old Brooklyn is thriving, with more than a dozen new businesses opening in the last few years. Young families are starting to move into the neighborhood more and more. This bodes well for LMS for continued strong enrollment.

“For all of us at Luther Memorial School , we feel like we have reached the promised land! After “wandering” from leased space to leased space, we finally have a home of our own, offering stability to our staff, faculty and students. Here we can invest and grow as we bring the loving news of our Savior to not only those inside our building, but also to our neighborhood. And the agreement allows the congregation of St. Mark to have a home to worship in without the expense of maintaining the property.”

–Mr. Wally Senney, LMS board treasurer



Holiday Concert Goes Online for LMS Families

Since large gatherings were not possible this past Christmas, West Campus students and teachers were resourceful in putting together a virtual program of individual students’ reading and singing. Pictured here, 3rd/4th grade teacher Mr. Mike McDermott accompanies Noah singing on the front porch of his house. This and other individual recordings were then spliced together and posted to the LMS Facebook page for family and friends to view.

Busy Hands are Happy Hands



We are so thankful for the kindness of employees at Broadview Heating and Cooling who put together 150 candy bags for our school families to take home and use to decorate their gingerbread houses. This is traditionally done as a family event every December but had to be reimagined this year due to restrictions on group events. Like the vegetable plants given to families in the spring, the gingerbread kits provided an opportunity for moms and dads to spend time with their children. Some families posted their creations on the school's Facebook page, including second grader Maliyah, pictured here.



During a snow-less week in January, Mrs. Heather Smith's West Campus kindergarten class decided to make some beautiful snowflake crystals of their own using Borax, a drop of food coloring—and a heaping tablespoon of patience! Sikkum shows off his efforts.



One Friday, students went home with a couple unusual items in their backpack—a bag of apples and a pie crust. LMS sent these two key ingredients for making an apple pie in the hopes that families would bake and enjoy the classic dessert together. Many posted photos of their blue ribbon creations on Facebook, including third grader Avery, who looks like she is ready for her own Food Network show.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Two compelling stories played out on the high school football field last fall involving Luther Memorial graduates.

One story involved a successful ending and the other, a hopeful beginning.

For Lutheran West linebacker Grady Walker (LMS '17), a successful senior year lead to an offer to play football at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, Ill., this coming fall.

That he made it back to the football field his senior year is a tribute to his character.

Amid a Pandemic, Athletes Achieve Success

In a JV game in October 2017, Grady broke both bones in his leg, a serious injury requiring three surgeries and a lengthy rehab after each. He spent nearly eight months on crutches. He was able to play his sophomore year, but after the second surgery, he did not play a single game his junior year.

Covid-19 restrictions shut down physical therapy practices so that after his third surgery last February—this time to implant a rod—he had to rehab his leg himself.

"There were a lot of ups and downs," says

Grady about his injury that defined his high school years. "I tried to stay positive because it's easier to cope with a positive outlook than a negative one."

Grady ended up playing the entire 2020 season. He played with the same heart and determination that his coach had seen early in his playing days but didn't think he would see on the field again because of the seriousness of Grady's injury.

"Honestly, I did not think he would make it through (continued on p. 4)

Alumni Spotlight

(cont.)

the season,” says Mr. Frank Petroff, former LW head football coach. “I’ve been around the sport a long time, and I didn’t think there was much that could surprise me. But Grady worked so hard getting back into shape, he surprised us all. He really did a great job for us.”

Mr. Dave Gaglione, LMS athletic director and middle school teacher, remembers Grady as a short, skinny and “pretty disorganized” fifth grader. “I look at him now and see a strong, determined young man. He was always academically bright, but sports did not come as easily to him. I couldn’t be prouder to see how he has developed.”

Grady looked at several schools before praying about and deciding on Olivet Nazarene, affiliated with the Church of the Nazarene. He plans to study either criminal justice or athletic training.

“It’s a tribute to him and to his family that he was able to overcome these enormous challenges,” says Mr. Petroff. “I wish him all the best in his college years.”

As a student athlete, Greg Fuentes (LMS '20) started his freshman year at LW in the summer months, working up to daily double practices in preparation for his inaugural high school football season. With Covid-19 safety protocols in place, it was impossible to tell exactly what the season schedule would look like, or if it would happen at all.

“I kept telling my coaching staff there was no way Ohio was going to let fall sports happen,” says Coach Petroff. “Turns out I was wrong, and we ended up playing nine games.”

It was a lucky break for Greg, who was picked for quarterback over older players, in part, to give him the maximum amount of time to gain experience and develop as a player.

“Greg is fast and has football common sense,” says Mr. Petroff. “It’s obvious he’s had good football and

basketball coaches in the past. Over time, if he works hard and continues to develop his skills, he will be a very good player.”

Greg lead a young line with only two or three starters from the previous season. The team finished with a 4-5 record.

LMS was blessed to have Greg’s leadership in track and basketball as the school expanded its sports programming over the last few years.

“Watching Greg run track and jump hurdles always left me a little in awe, because he picked up the subtle nuances of the sport so quickly,” says Mr. Gaglione. “He is a natural athlete who really helped establish our young sports program.”

Both Greg and Grady have younger siblings at Luther Memorial. When asked to consider what wisdom they would pass on, they both talked about “staying true to yourself.”

“My advice would be to push yourself to become a leader and don’t follow someone else and just do what they do,” says Greg. “Make your own path.”



Pictured in the middle, Greg Fuentes helped lead Luther Memorial’s first basketball team (since the school was rebuilt in 2001) in 2019. The team made it to the All Ohio Lutheran tournament and compiled a 19-4 record in their rookie season.



Greg Fuentes (LMS '20)



The LW Longhorns football in action last fall. The majority of our graduates choose to attend Christian high schools, like Lutheran West, where Biblical truth is taught and lived.



Grady Walker (LMS '17)