



The cafeteria, the social center of the school, gets a summer makeover, expanding and renovating a much-used space.

Renovation Begins on the Next Chapter in LMS Story

Luther Memorial is thrilled to be in the midst of sawdust and construction noise as renovations to the St. Mark property are well underway this summer.

When school begins in late August, the school community will see new building enhancements that add efficiency, space and quality.

“This investment in the future is about how we can better serve our students and families,” says Walt Fischer, president of the LMS school board. “We’re excited about making our building a more comfortable and welcoming place during school hours and for expanded ministry events and community outreach after school hours.”

The renovations, managed by Carey Construction of Lakewood,

will turn the church offices into a classroom; section off a portion of the cafeteria to create a multi-use space; and expand the cafeteria by reconfiguring a large storage area into useable lunchroom space. A second phase within the next two years involves a major kitchen upgrade.

Executive Director Nicole Levy says she is especially excited about the multi-use space that will serve as a Music and Art room during the day and also be equipped with advanced technology to function as a virtual learning lab for professional development and classes for parents.

The expanded cafeteria will provide a better space for ministry partnerships like the school has with the Joshua and Caleb

Leadership Center that specializes in discipling unfathered and at-risk children through mentorship.

A modern, efficient kitchen with better access to the larger cafeteria opens up the possibility for cooking classes for families and room to host community events, like spaghetti dinner fundraisers for our sports teams.

“The St. Mark purchase really allows us to move forward with our plans of building a home where our students can best learn, mature and grow in a loving, safe environment,” says Mrs. Levy. “We’re hopeful that our community of givers will generously support these efforts.”

Family Ties Hold Firm

A Word from the Executive Director



What a school year it has been! It was certainly the most logistically challenging year of my career thus far, but also one filled with learning and joy. I am inspired by the perseverance and the flexibility shown by our staff, students, and parents. We always talk about being a school family and this year that commitment to each other made all the difference. Everyone pitched in as needed, taking on more work than ever, to make sure that all of our students were known, taught, and loved.

This year we went with the National Lutheran School theme, “Sent to Serve” and our chapel messages for the year focused on God’s encouragement and direction as we seek to serve him and each other. We talked about standing firm and giving ourselves fully to the work of the Lord, not becoming weary in doing good, holding unswervingly to the hope we profess, rejoicing and giving thanks, submitting to God, being merciful, and loving one another as Christ first loved us. The 2020-2021 school year was the perfect backdrop to put all that we are learning into practice and watch God be glorified.

—Nicole Levy

ARTS IN MOTION

LMS has long recognized the importance of the Arts in students’ lives as an outlet for creative expression.

If there was ever a year in need of a creative outlet, 2020-21 would top the list. Having our resident actors from Talespinner Children’s Theatre back in the building this winter was a huge blessing as the

children had the chance to work out emotions in a productive and fun way.

Art classes, led by working artists from Art House, a local non-profit art center in Brooklyn, was another important boost for our students’ day. Because of Covid safety protocols,

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Art met in each grade's classroom this year to meet social distancing protocols.



An actor from Talespinners puts students through a dramatic workout.

Arts in Motion (cont.)

classes this year were held in classrooms rather than in the cafeteria.

But that didn't bother students as they happily set aside their math in favor of paints and scissors or whatever the project of the week involved.

Arts programming is funded entirely by donors. LMS is thankful that the Arts is a part of our school and that our children can discover and develop their God-given talents in our buildings because of YOUR support.

LOVE IN ACTION

While appreciation for teachers is typically celebrated on a single day, the '20-'21 school year demanded something extra.

Luther Memorial decided to celebrate teachers for the entire month of May, with small tokens each day and something special on Mondays and Fridays – breakfast and lunch to replace the usual brown bag.

Parents helped supply the daily gifts, like candy and apples, and many wrote notes of thanks. One mom filled mason jars with ingredients for s'mores for each teacher.

Teachers valued the sentiment attached to the gifts. A heartfelt thank you goes a long way.

One Monday morning, teachers were greeted with the smell of pancakes and sausage prepared by Mrs. Levy and Mr. Gaglione.

"Our teachers have done an amazing job this year supporting both the overall well-being and academic progress of their students, while personally juggling the challenges of the pandemic," says Mrs. Levy. "I'm so fortunate to work with such a dedicated group of people."

From learning new technology and finding ways to adapt their teaching methods for online learning to nurturing relationships despite changes in the classroom, the 2020-21 school year threw a lot at teachers. Social distancing, masks and other safety protocols made for many exhausting days.



Second grade teacher Mrs. Sarah Bakata and her jar of S'mores.

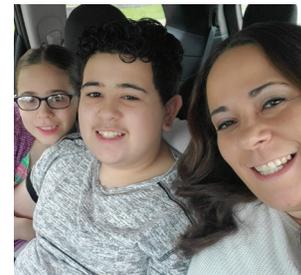


Mrs. Levy makes breakfast for the staff.

Parents Praise LMS's Efforts in Pandemic Year

Many parents developed a greater understanding and appreciation for teachers as they saw teachers in action online in the spring of 2020 and as they helped their children with distance learning packets during that time. Here, several parents share their thoughts about Luther Memorial's strengths, the momentous 2020-21 school year and teacher appreciation:

"I can't stress enough what it means to me to be able to trust other adults with my children. My number one consideration for choosing to send my kids to LMS was safety. You know the world is changing. My kids have always been safe here. My younger daughter had issues focusing. Her teacher and Mrs. Levy were so patient with me and helped me find assistance." —Melissa Massa, mother of three current students



Parent Carissa Torres with children Jaydian and Sophia

"The teachers are so good about communicating with me, either through email or phone calls, when issues come up. I especially appreciate that through the lock down they clearly let parents know how they were going to work through it and communicated the expectations for what work needed to get done." —Carissa Torres, mother of two current students and a recent graduate, now a student at Lutheran West

"I knew my son needed special help and thought the public school would be better for that, but I just knew in my heart to send him to Luther Memorial after the experience his sister had. Turns out I was right. In just six months of kindergarten, his speech blossomed. They really worked hard with him. I was so thankful for in-person learning. I'm a full-time working mom and recently became a single parent. Remote learning wouldn't have been possible for me." —Christa Elliott, mother of two current students

Students Walk For Those Less Fortunate

How do you end a school year marred by pandemic? LMS middle schoolers found a positive answer in serving others.

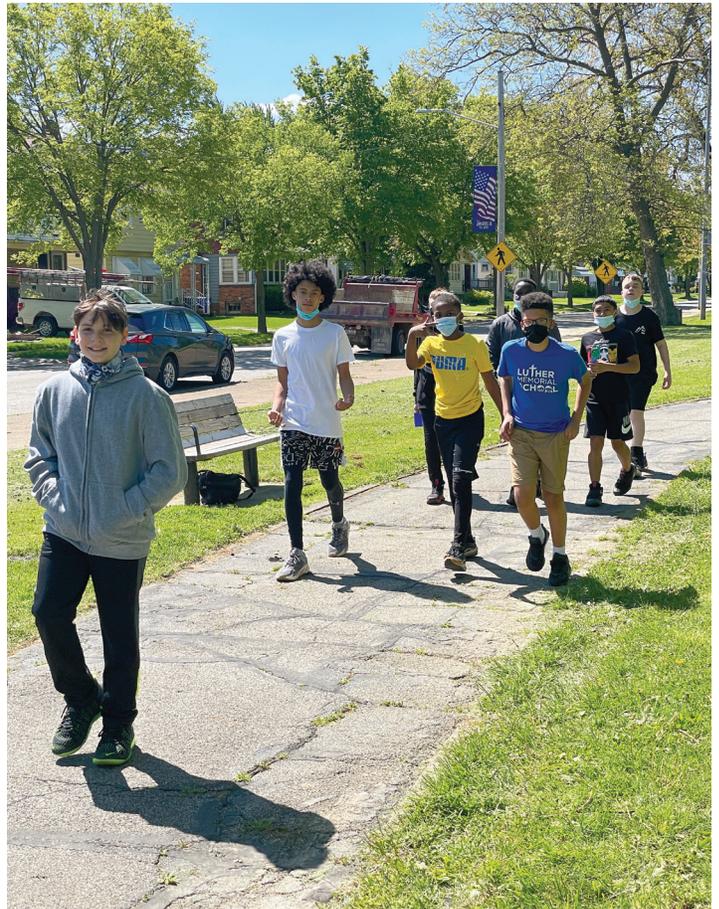
After learning about the rarity of fresh drinking water in some parts of the world, students of Mrs. Missy Beckman and Principal Marty Beckman raised over \$4,000 for Water Mission International.

The students organized a walk-a-thon at a local park last month and sought sponsorship from friends and family. They also held a bake sale and went classroom to classroom selling their treats.

The idea to support a water charity came after the classes read the book “A Long Walk to Water” by Linda Sue Park. It tells the story of a young girl whose entire daily routine consists of walking to the nearest muddy water source to gather and carry water back to her family.

“Our school theme for this year has been ‘Sent to Serve,’ and I feel that this is a fabulous way to end our school year – serving others by using their time, talents and treasure,” says Mrs. Beckman.

Water Mission International (watermission.org) is a nonprofit Christian engineering ministry providing safe water, sanitation and hygiene solutions in developing nations and disaster areas. This is an organization LMS has supported in the past, including at our 2017 Annual Gala.



GALA '21: Time for a Long-Overdue Party!

It is time to gather again for our Annual Gala! It's been too long since we've seen our community of supporters, and we miss you!

Please mark Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m., on your calendar and plan to attend our event at Music Box Supper Club on the West Bank of the Flats. The weather should still be warm enough to enjoy the outdoor balcony overlooking the busy Cuyahoga and the downtown skyline.

We are planning on our usual Silent and Live Auctions and new this year – a Wine and Beer Pull!

The Cleveland United Gospel Choir will make a repeat appearance during the sit-down dinner.

Expect your invitation in early August. Tickets are \$75/person. Purchase by returning the invitation's reply card or online anytime with a credit card at lmslancers.org. Click “Give Now.”

Please consider donating an auction item (i.e., jewelry, restaurant gift cards, sporting event tickets, vacation homes, theater tickets, etc.). We are grateful for all donations, which allow more of the evening's proceeds to benefit our students directly.

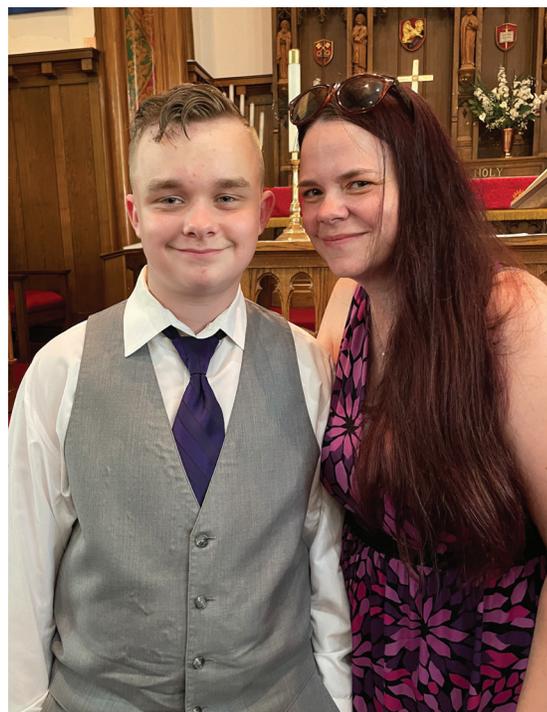
Sponsorships are also available. Contact Peggy Sexton, Development Director, at 330-256-2242 or development@lmslancers.org, if you or your company is interested in sponsorship.



LMS Says Goodbye to 18 Grads



Best friends Selena, Heytie and Aryana are all smiles after the LMS Promotion service at the end of May. Aryana hopes to play volleyball for Lutheran West in the fall. Selena and Heytie plan to attend Holy Name in Parma next year.



Proud mom Shannon celebrates her son David Sutt's graduation and his fall enrollment at Lutheran West. There were 18 students in this year's class. Most will attend a parochial high school, including seven at Lutheran West.

LMS Mourns Death of Aide

Luther Memorial mourned the death of lunch and recess aide Darlene "Dolly" Hall in March. Dolly had multiple health issues that worsened when she contracted COVID-19 this past winter. Students and staff remembered her at a Memorial service in April, celebrating the new life in Christ she received when she and her granddaughter were baptized several years ago during a school chapel service. Dolly is remembered lovingly for her sweet smile, devotion to her granddaughter and caring ways with our students.



Dolly Hall (far right) was a loving aide at Luther Memorial for the past eleven years.