

The Pilgrim Post

*Lansing Christian High School's Student Led Newspaper:
Connecting and Supporting Our Community*



CELEBRATING OUR SENIORS: Class of 2020

We applaud our seniors as they wrap up their final year of high school. The future looks bright for our 2020 graduates, and we want to express how proud we are of these students. I have been at LCS for less than a year, but in that short time, I have witnessed

the creativity, leadership, craziness, and brilliance in this group. This issue is all about honoring them. Inside you will find seniors describing their year, advice from featured writers, and a photo timeline throughout the paper

recapping the year. The year ended far too soon and many traditions were cancelled. Class of 2020, no matter the circumstances, you deserve this recognition. I hope this issue makes the unusual sendoff a little bit better. -Grace Glenn

VERSE OF THE MONTH

• • • • • • • • • • • • •

Senior's Class Verse:

**"I have chosen you and have not rejected you.
So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."**

Isaiah 41:9-10

Interpretation & Explanation by Mr. Anderson

Three thoughts from this Scripture (paraphrased from Pastor David Guzik: Calvary Chapel Santa Barbara, California)

"Fear not, for I am with you": This is both a command and a promise. Israel is commanded to fear not. Fear, worry, and anxiety are often sin. This is the God who rules over the nations and is the creator of the universe. When that God tells us fear not, we must take it seriously! But there is also a promise. We fear not, because the LORD has told us, I am with you. What more do we need? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31) And because our God has given us this command and promise we can know that every fear we face God has a provision of courage for us to access.

"Be not dismayed, for I am your God": It is as if God is saying, "Remember Me? The God of all power and glory? I'm that one. I am your God." In these words, God shows how when we his people forget the greatness of our God, we easily become dismayed and discouraged. But God says, be not dismayed, for I am your God. We must know that in order to find our courage we must start by remembering who we belong to.

"I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand": God's strength and glory make Him able to help us. But it is His love that makes Him say, "I will help you." The God, our God, we need to remember is one who is willing to both strengthen

us & help us. We belong to a God who strengthens us, which often goes unnoticed or unannounced because he does this with incredible humility. We also belong to a God, our God, who helps us when we see our weakness and cry out to him. He loves showing up as a Father with help at the ready.

So, we can know that every fear we face God has a provision of courage for us to access. In order to find that courage we must start by remembering who we belong to. We belong to a God, our God, who will strengthen us even when we don't notice and help us when we feel most weak. "So, do not fear." We are his chosen.

PHOTO TIMELINE

By Maliya Wayner



Seniors Duncan Bieber and Lydia Moody enjoy IHOP, per tradition, before the first day of school.



Seniors welcome underclassmen to school on the first day.

PHOTO TIMELINE

By Maliya Wayner



A group of friends watch the sunset on the sand dunes on Senior Survival.



Senior Survival!

ADVICE FROM ALUMNI

by Grace Glenn

Seniors! I know you are most likely receiving an overwhelming amount of guidance from parents and teachers alike regarding your

transition from high school to your next step in life. I wanted to deliver a different perspective on this turning point for you. The perspective of students who have

recently gone through it. Here is what a couple of Lansing Christian School's fairly recent graduates have to say to you.

"When you step into the next chapter of life beyond high school, challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone. Be willing to experience new things and new people. If you're comfortable and happy the first few weeks, you're likely to get bored in the next couple of years. Push yourself to take risks."

-Reagan Wortz (Class of 2017, now attends New York University)

"Stay in touch with the people you graduate with and underclassmen who are still in high school. Specifically if you were on sports teams, find ways to continue to support them from afar like checking in to see how games went, or even going to games when you're home. They look up to you more than you know and is a fun way to continue friendships."

-Kealeigh Usiak (Class of 2019, now attends Hope College)

ADVICE FROM ALUMNI

• • • • • • • • • • •

“Moving from LCS to a large public university, was a huge change for me in many ways. The biggest piece of advice I would give to a graduating senior is to stay true to who you are, while not being afraid to put yourself out there. By doing this I was able to make genuine friendships and discover the path that I wanted to take for my future. Being open to change allows you to grow in ways you’d never expect. I wish you all the best wherever your future takes you!”

-Juliana Figueiredo (Class of 2017, now attends Michigan State University)

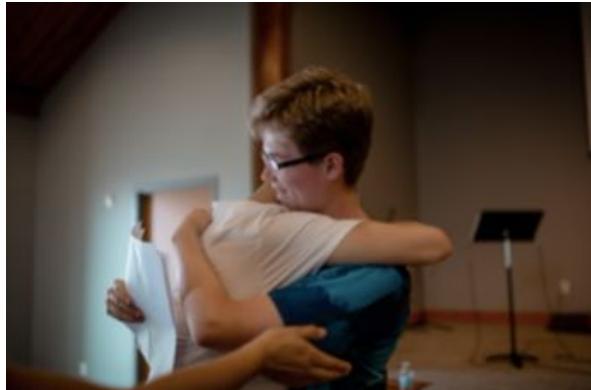
“Congratulations, Class of 2020! I am truly sorry for the hand that you have been dealt this spring. You have run the race well, only to cross the line with nobody cheering you on. Since I’m a runner, I appreciate a good running analogy. There’s plenty of parallels between distance running and life. I think it was Kevin DeYoung who said that *“life isn’t a sprint or a marathon, it’s an interval workout.”* Life is full of intense periods followed by periods of rest. College is full of them. Sometimes the intense parts hurt, but sometimes they are the most rewarding parts. The key is to appreciate each period for the challenge or rest it provides, always remembering that it too shall pass. This epidemic is just another rep to press through. And if you press through it, you will have the satisfaction of finishing well, the resilience to face it again, and the preparation to make it through college or a career. You may as well press--you have to run it anyway! God bless all of you and I wish you the best in your next chapter of life.”

-Davis Tebben (Class of 2018, now attends Dordt University)

• • • • • • • • • • •

PHOTO TIMELINE

By Maliya Wayner



At retreat, seniors share their faith stories with the rest of the student body.



Seniors sing "You Stormed the Walls" one last time on retreat.



The champs of the annual Sydney Kleyn Volleyball Tournament.

SENIOR YEAR REFLECTION: Q&A

by Jaimee Figueiredo

The Pilgrim Post wanted to find a special way to honor the senior class, despite the hardship of their last school year ending early. We decided

the best way to celebrate the memories they've experienced was to ask them a series of questions about moments that stood out to them throughout

their time at Lansing Christian. We received responses from several students and wanted to share them here with all of you.

★ What was the best part of your senior year?

- “Senior Survival because roughing it with my best friends was a blast. Also because South Manitou is so gorgeous, and I loved bonding with everyone!”
-Emily Leach
- “Retreat right after I shared my faith story.” -Nathan Sturdevant
- “Senior Survival was amazing. Getting to have an experience like that is so special and it really brings people together in a way that school can’t.” -Maliya Wayner
- “The best part of senior year was my schedule. It started off in the morning with fun, laid back classes. Team sports by far was the best, and a close second would have to be teachers aid where I jammed the copier on average twice a day (shout out to Mrs. Henderson for always being willing to unjam it for me!)” -Bella Cottom

★ When was a moment you felt most proud of your school?

- “Christmas chapel where all the teachers sang to us. They seriously love us and I am so proud and blessed to be a part of a community like that of LCS.” -Maliya Wayner
- “I was most proud of my school during Spirit Week. I feel like all the classes were able to compete but also have fun and respect one another at the same time. I was also most proud of LCS and especially my senior class when I saw who were nominated for representatives. We picked extraordinary people to represent our school for a special night.” -Trevor Cekander
- “Before my testimony I prayed that my story could spread light on a situation of one of the students. Shortly after I shared, a girl came up to me and shared a bit of her story. This was the small seed for the relationship that grew from it. My vulnerability to share my story resulted in a beautiful relationship I formed with an underclassman who I have been blessed to mentor throughout the year.”
-Bella Cottom

★ What was your favorite senior event? Why?

- “My favorite senior event was welcoming everyone to school on the first day. We did the classic 5 AM breakfast at iHOP, and we were all incredibly hyper (okay, some were still half asleep). After pancakes, a few of us went to Meijer to grab chalk, candy, and bubbles (we managed to only annoy a few workers during our outing). Then we lined up by the sign, cheered, and threw candy as cars passed us. By the time school started we were all dead, but hey, it was a good way to start the year.” -Emma Granger
- “Senior Survival, I never had more fun and adventure with my classmates than those days on that island.” -Nathan Sturdevant
- “My favorite senior event was Battle of the Bands as we all ran around in celebration when we found out we won first place.” -Ananida Bugayong

★ What will you miss most about LCS?

- “I will miss the community at LCS. From the teachers to the students, there is a vibrant and supportive community at LCS. Having teachers who genuinely care and are supportive is huge, as well as having a student body that knows each other fairly well. I’ll miss that sense of common friendship and connection.”
-Trevor Cekander
- “Teachers who are SO passionate about what they do. That’s rare, and LCS is honestly a goldmine.” -Maliya Wayner
- “The relationships with staff and students is what I am going to miss the most. Waking up in the morning and knowing that I am going to school with such wonderful teachers and friends is going to be the hardest thing to change. I’m going to miss making the memories that I have made and not getting more of LCS. I’m going to miss 7, 45 minute classes, 15 minutes of sharing stories and asking each other how we are holding up. I’m going to miss the LCS atmosphere most of all.” -Bella Cottom

PHOTO TIMELINE

By Maliya Wayner



AP Lit seniors in Stratford.



Senior night for the volleyball girls.



Seniors win Powderpuff!

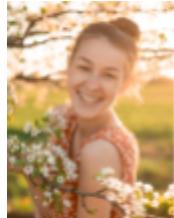


Senior night for the soccer team.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

“Recognition of achievement is important. We decided to honor that by highlighting some of our seniors and their accomplishments.” -Grace Glenn

Student Entrepreneurship & Artistic Achievements:



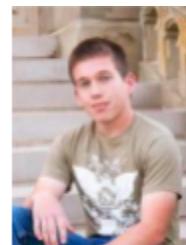
The Pilgrim Post's very own Maliya Wayner runs her own photography business called Maliya Wayner Photography. She also took second place in regionals and third place in states for photography when competing in SkillsUSA, and she won numerous other competitions at the Lansing Art Gallery, MSUFCU Art Exhibit, and others.

Elijah Motley started a lawn care business called Sustain Lawn Services. He runs this company and it continues to grow.



Gabe Nedds is finding success in releasing and producing his own music. He released two albums and a number of singles his senior year, as well as other music earlier in high school.

Nathan Sturdevant sells his wood burning pieces. He was also portfolio winner of the Lansing Art Gallery ASA contest freshman year.





Received the “Most Respectful Student” award in Singapore during her sophomore year.

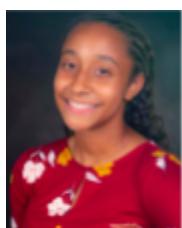
Academic Achievements:

Molly Yuxin attended a summer program called National Institute of American History and Democracy at the College of William and Mary in Virginia.



Colin Cassidy received the National Merit Finalist Award for the top 1% of all PSAT takers.

Participated in the Shakespeare Immersion Project in her junior year, and took third in the Martin Luther King writing scholarship when she was a freshman.



Cayla Ellis received first place in the Martin Luther King writing scholarship. She also played on the LCS girls soccer team that won states in her freshman and sophomore year.

Participated in the Shakespeare Immersion Project in her junior year.



Athletic Achievements:



Kaitlyn Howe has qualified and competed in the National High School Finals Rodeo against 1,500 contestants in 2018 and 2019 in Wyoming. She will be competing in this Rodeo again this year in Nebraska. She is the Vice President of the Michigan High School Rodeo Association and has received a number of scholarships through the Association as well. She is the reserve champion breakaway roper, top ten in barrel racing, and top three in pole bending.



Isaac Johnson was the quarter finalist in Tennis regionals his Sophomore year, was the regional champ of his flight, AND led his team to States his Junior year, for the first time in school history.



Justice Schafer is in the top 20 players in the state for division 4 soccer teams.

Madi Carter Placed 7th and 4th nationally in the United States Pony Club Three Day Eventing championships, and has reached level C2 in Pony Club.

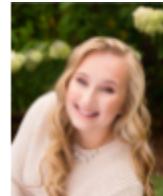


PHOTO TIMELINE

By Maliya Wayner



Wednesday morning prayer consistently attended by a group of seniors throughout the year.



During regular school days, AP Bio Seniors conduct an experiment, and other students work diligently in their classes.



One last Christmas Chapel.



Senior girls play their last season of high school basketball.



Senior boys play their last season of high school basketball.



Players, goldmen, and fans love basketball season.

Teacher Appreciation

by Ella Hollsworth

We know the dedication to teaching and community by the LCS staff and teachers have made these times a little brighter, so we asked the senior class to write and share their gratitude for our teachers and leaders. Here's what they had to say.



“Thank you for seeing me for more than a student in the grade books. Thank you for taking the time to get to know us and truly caring about our hearts!”
-Katelyn Bontrager

“To Mr. Kleyn- thank you for knowing your students. It is clear that your involvement in the lives of the student body motivates you to do what is best for us. Your leadership, wisdom, and care is so apparent. Thank you.

To Mr. Stoel- thank you for the hours you have poured in to becoming an expert at what you teach, and for the passion with which you share your discoveries with us.

To Mr. Tjarks- thank you for knowing the facts, for researching, and for never failing to give all the information. Your love for learning and mastering education is apparent and inspiring.” -Maliya Wayner

“Mrs. Chadwick, thank you for being such an amazing teacher and friend to our AP Lit class! You love Jesus and you love us so much and I appreciate you greatly!!!! We couldn't have been blessed with a better teacher this year! I treasure all of the memories I have made in your class and I am thankful for all I have learned from you! You're the best! I miss you!!!! Thank you, also, for all of your extra hard work in this time of online learning! I know it can't be easy but I am so very thankful!” -Brianna Sweet

“I just want to thank my teachers to continue to instill a love for learning despite our distance. Although I still find it hard at times to find motivation throughout the day, your commitment and passion to teaching and helping us improve in what we do really helps me keep going with my school work. I miss seeing you all in person but the zoom calls and screencasts definitely help. I hope I can see all before I go to college because you all have shaped my high school experience in a major way. Thank you!” -Madi Carter

Teacher Appreciation

by Ella Hollandsworth

“I would like to thank Mrs. Hileman for both answering my million Remind messages and caring for me as an individual. Her love for her students is evident. I miss our many Stats conversations, but have appreciated the many quarantine memes she’s sent through Remind!” -Emma Granger

Mrs. Emery, I want to thank you for always being encouraging through all of my art projects even though I worked slower than most of the other students in your class, and for being such a fun teacher.

Mrs. Lohman, I would like to thank you for being such a fun/great teacher. Especially in Psychology, you always kept things interesting in class.

Mr. Kleyn, I want to thank you for being such a fun teacher for communication/culture even though it was only half a semester. Never a dull moment with you in the classroom, and I want to thank you again of reminding me of how meaningful my senior faith story was to you and everyone in the high school. Again, thank you all!” -Nathaniel Sturdevant

Mr. Lamberts, thank you so much for brightening my day even on the worst ones. Never stop being who you are and thank you for being my best friend!

Mr. Bjarki, Thank you for leading the senior guys bible study, and showing us even the most ridiculous, but valid, rebuttals to our own worldviews.” -Gabe Nedds

“I want to say a big thank you to all the teachers from first grade to twelfth grade that have had such an impact on not only my education, but my character. Each one of you have made learning something that I have come to love by teaching me new ways to approach learning. Thank you for cultivating such a welcoming and nurturing environment in every classroom.

I couldn't be where I am today without each of you and the lessons you have taught me. Thank you for being a teacher at Lansing Christian. You are all such an incredible blessing to our community at LCS.”-Kaitlyn Howe

Teacher Appreciation

by Ella Hollandsworth

“Mrs. Smith, thank you for getting me through math class this year and for your willingness to help me with everything I need! I am so so grateful for you!!!

Mrs. Lohman, thank you for all of the amazing memories in English 9 and American Lit! You helped me appreciate every text we read, and I grew to love books I never imagined I would like because of your amazing teaching! Thank you so so much!

Mr. Tjarks, thank you for being the best history teacher ever!!! I am so thankful for all I have learned in your classes... especially APUSH!!!

Some of my best memories of high school are in your classroom, and I will greatly miss your PowerPoints and teaching when I am in college! No history class I take in the future will ever compare to yours! Thank you!!!

Mr. Anderson, thank you for being such an amazing Bible teacher! You have helped me grow so much in my relationship with Jesus and my understanding of His character through scripture. You are a wonderful role model to all of us of what it looks like to truly love and seek after Jesus, living life for Him!!!”

-Brianna Sweet

“Thank you to Mrs. Chadwick for making class fun and always being there for your students. You are always such a light and your energy makes everyone’s day better.

Thank you!” -Lydia Moody

“Thank you teachers for always being an ear to listen and a voice to guide us students through the craziness of high school. It was always comforting to know that you were there for us any time we needed guidance.” -Isabella Cottom

“Thank you guys for continuing to be your honest, genuine selves in and out of the classroom. Thank you for the relationships you are willing to form with your students beyond just being our teachers. You guys are our role models, mentors, confidants, and even friends. As Mr. Kleyn would say, “that’s weird.” Because it would be to anyone outside of the LCS community. But because you guys are willing to be those things for us, we are able to learn so much more from you. So thank you.” -Olivia Mosher

“LCS teachers, you are very clearly beloved and admired. Now that a few seniors have thanked you for their time at LCS, we thank you on behalf of the entire high school student body.” -Grace Glenn

PHOTO TIMELINE

By Maliya Wayner



The Seniors cheer for their class in Spirit Week competitions.

On Friday morning, seniors look forward to the final Spirit Week competition.



Seniors celebrate their Spirit Week win!



Seniors join the rest of the student body in cheering for the basketball teams on homecoming weekend.



Emma and Gabe are recognized as the school reps.



(From left to right) Madi Carter, May Liu, Molly Mao, and Aslynne Luter at the homecoming dance.

Senior Salutes

by Kjersten Heinlein

For this issue honoring the seniors, we wanted them to provide their best advice to the underclassmen reading. This is to give them inspiration, and most of all, encouragement to carry with them through their next few years.

“Don't be scared to risk everything. Well, I guess you can be scared, but in the midst of your fear, act in courage, and risk it anyway. Do things that are uncomfortable and challenging. You will learn because of it. Be kind to everyone, because there is another side to every story. Practice grace and forgiveness. In the end, you could have some unexpected relationships that result in great joy. Seek after the Lord in everything you do. Practice giving up everything for the sake of the gospel (it's hard, but worth the reward through and through). 'In all things, conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I am with you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that we stand in the same Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel' (Philippians 1:27).” -Maliya Wayner

“School doesn't get any easier, so don't listen to people who say it does. Build relationships with your teachers, because LCS is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be as close to friends as you can be with a teacher. Make sure you go to at least a couple of events throughout high school, like soccer games, basketball games, and dances. Take school seriously, but not too seriously. And finally, take APUSH. You (probably) won't regret it.” -Madi Carter

“High school goes by faster than you think. Make the most of it. Make mistakes, have fun and find the couple of friends that will last a lifetime. Four years sounds like a long time, but come senior year it will be too short. You will look back and see all the good times you had. Don't let the fun and good memories go by. Savor every moment and don't take any of it for granted.” -Elijah Motley

PHOTO TIMELINE

By Maliya Wayner



(From left to right) Cayla Ellis, Justice Schafer, Seniors clean out their lockers, expecting to Riley Donahue, Isaac Johnson, and Lydia Moody



Seniors clean out their lockers, expecting to celebrate a great year for the Multicultural Club. return a month later, not knowing it was the last day of high school.



A group of senior girls dress up and attend their senior prom together through zoom.

(Photo courtesy of Bella Cottom)

Not Photographed:

The boys basketball team who did not get to compete in district finals. The girls tennis and soccer teams who never had the chance to compete. The NHS students who did not get to finish service hours in the way they had hoped. Talent night musicians, comedians, entertainers, and choirs that did not get to perform. Top ten students who were not recognized for their academic success and hard work over the last four years. Among the missed events is the Mother-Daughter Tea, Junior-Senior Banquet, senior prank, last day of school, senior chapel, senior trip to DC, and graduation. This timeline is in honor of the events missed, but it is also a reminder of the cherished moments that did happen.

LANSING CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S SENIOR CLASS



STAFF:

Grace Glenn (11th grade):

Founder & Editor-In-Chief

Maliya Wayner (12th grade):

Writer, reporter, & photographer

Elijah Johnson (12th grade):

Writer & reporter

Jaimee Figueiredo (11th grade):

Writer & reporter

Ella Hollandsworth (10th grade):

Writer & reporter

Kjersten Heinlein (10th grade):

Writer & reporter