LMS Continues Upward Trek
Enrollment reaches 260 in 70th Anniversary Year

Over its 70-year history, Luther Memorial has called many buildings home—Trinity on West 27th Street, Christ Lutheran on Robert Avenue, St. Luke on 85th Street, St. Mark on Pearl Road and Mt. Calvary on Lorain Avenue.

In those 70 years, neighborhoods have changed, student demographics have changed and math curriculums have changed too many times to count.

“What hasn’t changed is our name and mission,” says Executive Director Nicole Levy. “I’m proud that our name honors a man whose legacy is still relevant. We speak grace and faith and Scripture to our students every day. Our commitment to faith development has never wavered.”

Since its move to St. Mark in Old Brooklyn 12 years ago, Luther Memorial has grown from less than 60 students to 260 students on two campuses.

Much of that growth has been from refugees. Over the years, LMS has become a destination school for refugee families that have heard from other families ways we have helped their children learn English and experience success in school.

“Increased enrollment gives us the ability to make needed renovations to our buildings and provide additional support staff for our students,” says Mrs. Levy. “As we celebrate our 70th school year, we are well-positioned to build on our strengths and embrace the opportunities ahead of us.”

LMS benefits from good support from both St. Mark and Mt. Calvary. “We have signed long-term leases with both congregations and are blessed to have them as partners,” says Mrs. Levy. “These churches do what they can to make a difference for our campuses.”

St. Mark’s outreach group helps run some popular LMS events that have become a tradition—the Fall Fest in October, Gingerbread houses in December and an event around Easter time.

LMS hired Moti Gurung, an instructional aide, through the Cleveland Metropolitan School District last winter and he has already had a positive impact on the school.

Having experienced life as a refugee himself, he understands what Nepalese and Bhutanese families face as they navigate everyday life in the U.S.

This makes him an important asset at the West Campus, where about 70 percent of students’ families are from Nepal or Bhutan.

Mr. Gurung spent 18 years in a refugee camp in Nepal before resettling in the U.S. in 2010. He became a U.S. citizen two years ago. The key to success for refugees in this

Bhutanese Aide Bridges Gap Between School and Home

At Mt. Calvary, Pastor Robert Plain helps to lead Chapel services throughout the year and members are invited to be involved in monthly Family Nights to meet our students and parents.

Another strength LMS enjoys is its arts enrichment programming. It will continue to pursue this through outside vendors and will expand drama opportunities to all grade levels this school year. “Outsourcing our arts program is a cost-effective way for us to provide high-quality instruction,” says Mrs. Levy. “While arts education is the first thing to be cut in the public schools, we’re fortunate that our donors cover much of the cost of our arts programming.”
LMS ANNUAL GALA

Stillwater Place at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo was the backdrop for another successful Annual Spring Gala & Auction in April. The event raised more than $43,000 and provided a chance to thank our donors and reflect on the progress the school has made since the opening of the West Campus two years ago.

We are grateful to the many businesses and individuals who donated to our auctions and the sponsors who helped underwrite the event. Generous donors gave $15,000 towards sending our middle schoolers on a two-night camping trip to Hiram House in Chagrin Falls next spring.

Once again, long-time Board Member Wally Senney played auctioneer, generously auctioning off several of his own donations, including a week in a Key West condo and Hamilton tickets at Playhouse Square.

Onward and Upward!
8th graders head to high school

In May, Luther Memorial promoted one of its largest 8th grade classes in recent years. Families, friends and school staff took part in a service in May that recognized the stellar group of 16 students for their character and academic achievement. Antonio Horn and Jesus Ortiz were the class co- valedictorians and each made a speech. Since losing his sight in an accident in fall of 2016, Antonio has inspired many with his strength through adversity. We wish him well as he begins his high school career at Facing History New Tech in Cleveland.

His classmates will be at a variety of high schools around the city – Lutheran West (7); St. Edward (1); Cleveland Central Catholic (2); John Marshall (2); Facing History New Tech (2); and Cleveland High School for Digital Arts (1).

LMS Visits Shore Haven

In May, Music Director Genevieve Gilbert and Principal Marty Beckman paid a visit to Shore Haven Lutheran Church in Euclid to thank the congregation for its generous donation to Luther Memorial. Mr. Beckman shared information about the West Campus and the challenges facing its students.

The congregation was also treated to a violin duet by Ms. Gilbert and Aric Olsen, who graduated from LMS in May and who will attend St. Edward’s in Lakewood this fall.

Thank you Shore Haven for inviting us and for your continued support of our ministry.
HGTG could have filmed an episode at the Main Campus this summer. It was noisy and dusty as work crews renovated the gymnasium and a first floor classroom.

In the gymnasium, old floor tiles were replaced with a rubberized surface and the dated wood siding along one side of the room was removed.

“The new look of the gym better reflects who we are as a school. With the sports program added last year, it was important to get our gym looking and functioning well,” says Mrs. Levy, adding that the lower impact surface is better for our young athletes.

The 5th grade classroom was enlarged by removing a wall it shared with a storage room. With room to spread out, Teacher Missy Beckman has created space for Science experiments and a reading corner.

Summer Renovation Projects Add Function and Space

A DAY AT THE MUSEUM

The entire West Campus visited the Cleveland Art Museum in May. The younger grades explored the museum’s galleries in a general “Look and Discover” tour that encompassed artworks across various styles and cultures. The students got to know the artworks by putting themselves in the scene and describing what they saw.

“It was great for the kids to get out of the classroom for a day and experience something totally different,” says Principal Marty Beckman. “The kids really responded to what they saw.”

COSI on Wheels brought science to both campuses in May for programs on weather and energy. The day started with a high-energy assembly followed by interactive, hands-on activities at eight “stations” set up around the gymnasium.

“We know kids learn by doing, and COSI makes it easy for kids to explore science. They bring the tools, instruments and puzzles that make science fun and accessible,” says Principal Beckman. “I knew my middle school classes would be interested in creating a tornado in a tube. That’s more fun than listening to me lecture.”
Students from both campuses enjoyed a day spent at the Rocky River Reservation in May. A scavenger hunt, games and hiking along the river kept everyone busy. Many couldn’t resist a swim in the (very) cool river.

Several LMS students took part in the PAC Championship track and field meet at Firelands High School in May. LMS joined other Lutheran schools and Lutheran West to form an all-Lutheran team.

Easy Ways to Help LMS

Did you know that Amazon, Giant Eagle and Heinen’s will make a donation to Luther Memorial each time you make a purchase? It’s easy to sign up:

→ Go to smile.amazon.com and designate Luther Memorial as your preferred charity. Log onto smile.amazon.com to make purchases thereafter.

→ Go to GiantEagle.com/afts and enter your Giant Eagle Advantage Card number and Luther Memorial’s code: 2503.

→ Members of the Heinen’s Tasteful Rewards Program are required to re-select their school at the beginning of every school year. Register at heinensrewards.com and select Luther Memorial or stop at the Heinen’s Customer Service counter or call 1-855-475-2300 ext. 2337.

→ We’ll happily redeem your Box Tops for cash! Thank you for sending them to the school.

→ If you are an eligible Thrivent member, you may have Choice Dollars that you can designate to nonprofit organizations like Luther Memorial. Log onto thrivent.com/thriventchoice for more information.

CONTACT US AT 216.749.5300
Nicole Levy, principal, nlevy@lmslancers.org
Peggy Sexton, development director development@lmslancers.org