

WARRIOR NEWS

JANUARY 2018



TRUST

TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND LEAN NOT ON YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING; IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AND HE WILL MAKE YOUR PATHS STRAIGHT.

PROVERBS 3:5-6



OUR MISSION

Equip young people to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ by providing an excellent, Christ-centered education.

FROM THE DESK OF SCOTT ERNSTMEYER

“TRUST”

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.” -Proverbs 3:5-6

I was a senior in college when this verse became very real in my life. One of my spiritual mentors and basketball coaches, Micah Parker, lost his wife just days before their 5th anniversary to a virus which attacked her heart without warning. It was my first time to deal with the loss of someone so young. The journey that followed, as I walked alongside my friend while he struggled with such heart-wrenching adversity, was not easy.



Ultimately, I believe God used this adversity to not only strengthen the faith of onlookers like myself, but it was the launching point for Dr. Micah Parker to begin a speaking ministry which has impacted tens of thousands of lives in the last 20 years. We are blessed to host Micah this month during our National Lutheran Schools Week celebration. He will share his story and what it means to really “trust” through adversity.

So - why Lincoln Lutheran? Why Lutheran Schools? One very real and tangible outcome for our students is that during their time on our campus they would develop some deep roots of faith which would allow them to trust fully in God - especially when life throws the toughest curve balls! There will be seasons in life where our faith is tested and to be able to fully trust and let God be in charge is never easy - but it is the best way to get through.

Thank you for the blessing you are to our students. Your prayers...your support...your encouragement...they are all such a wonderful blessing!

May we finish the year strong - fully “trusting” in the One who has already earned the Victory!

Because of Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Ernstmeyer". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Scott Ernstmeyer, EdS
Executive Director LLSA & LEF
LLJHS - Class of 1989



With respect to 529 plans, a recent change in federal tax laws expanded the definition of qualified higher education expenses to include tuition at an elementary or secondary (K-12) public, private or religious school, up to a limit of \$10,000 per year on a per student basis, effective for distributions made after December 31, 2017.

While *Nebraska tax law does not yet conform to the new federal law*, it is anticipated that Nebraska legislature will bring state statutes in line with the new federal provisions.

If Nebraska legislature makes the change, 529 plans will be an effective method for parents and grandparents to plan for their children to receive a Christian education and receive a deduction on state taxes.

Stay tuned for more tax updates as they become available!

FIRST SEMESTER IN REVIEW

AUGUST 2017



The beginning of the school year is always filled with new excitement. The year began with 323 students in grades 6-12, 33 were new sixth grade students.

Two new teachers joined the Warrior family and were installed at the first chapel of the school year.

The annual Booster Bash took place August 18th, with our volleyball team scrimmaging and other fall sports teams were introduced. The marching band, cheerleaders and Blue Angels also performed.

SEPTEMBER 2017

On September 7th we celebrated Grandparents Day by inviting grandparents of our students to attend an afternoon event with us. We welcomed over 225 grandparents. They enjoyed fellowship with other grandparents and then ended their time worshipping with their grandchild at Chapel.

OCTOBER 2017

During the week of October 2nd, we celebrated Homecoming. This year's royalty were Rebecca Ziems and Cole Schaedel. Despite the rain, many people joined us for the Homecoming game at Nebraska Wesleyan University on October 6th. During the football game we honored our Distinguished Alumni, Linda Ahrens.



The season of Fall is about change, from warm summer into cool fall and the beautiful fall colors. During the month of October, we were in full swing with activities that included athletic events as well as fall music concerts. On October 11th, over 70 area

students visited Lincoln Lutheran to participate in our 5th grade visit day. This special day provided an opportunity for each student to meet our middle school teachers and see first-hand what it is like to be a Warrior.



NOVEMBER 2017

The month of November was filled with many things to be thankful for. During the weekend of November 10-12, our high school drama department performed "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown". The students spent numerous hours preparing for the event that showcased their God-given talents.

All the Fall Sports teams competed in State competitions.

The Lincoln Lutheran/Crete Cardinals co-op softball team took the State Championship for Class B.



DECEMBER 2017

The month of December is always busy with students involved in activities and music concerts. At Lincoln Lutheran, we made sure we paused and celebrated the miraculous birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. Annually in December, we take time to



serve our community through our Middle School Service Day and our Student Council sponsored

the "Giving Tree". We are blessed to have the opportunity to openly celebrate the birth of Jesus.

CURRENT STUDENTS



TAYLOR BARRETT - CLASS OF 2018

I love Lincoln Lutheran because they challenge me in all areas of academics to prepare me for my future in college, at work, and most importantly, in my faith.

I am constantly encouraged by the teachers and by my peers to be the best I can be in all areas of life. I also love the atmosphere with the students and my close friends. I enjoy knowing everyone I attend school with and creating deep friendships because of the closeness of classes and knowing they have the same beliefs and morals as I do, it really allows us to grow together.



ERIN WILLIAMS - CLASS OF 2019

One word I would use to describe what LL has given me would be: **Opportunity**

The **beginning**: It was a big decision to come to Lincoln Lutheran this year, but after shadowing I realized this big change was something worth trying. Coming from a big school to a smaller school wasn't the easiest change. It seemed like every one here already had a close friend group, despite that, I was welcomed with open arms and an open heart. Everything was different, especially with technology, but I was able to receive help from anyone I asked. Students and staff went out of their way to make sure I felt welcomed. Right away, I knew that I liked the family/close community feeling at a smaller school.

Academically: Block scheduling is something that I didn't think I would enjoy; but it really gives a bigger opportunity to learn much more. Every class at LL has been more of a challenge, preparing me for college and the real world. The teachers provide activities that involve more critical thinking, instead of just copying notes from the teachers book. Classes teach communication, teamwork, responsibility, etc, which helps you grow as a learner and a person. I look forward to classes and the many class activities.

Spiritually: My faith this year has grown tremendously. The theology class I am in is "Christ and the Church". I was really worried going into this class that I would be behind the other students. Now, it is one of my favorite classes that always keeps me interested. I love continuing to learn about Jesus and going to Chapel each week. Everyday here, I am reminded that I am second, God is the greatest and faith gets you through anything.

People/Relationships: In the short time here, I have made many friendships that I believe will stick around. The friendships I've made are special. A lot of people really care about you. I've made great relationships with teachers, it means a lot when your teachers really do care about you and help you be the best that you can be. The students and teachers here maintain a high level of respect for one another. It is so crazy to me that I can leave my backpack unattended and not have it stolen. We don't have to have locks on the lockers because people know that stealing is wrong. From day one I have been treated with respect. Many students reached out to me to introduce themselves and that helped me get to know more people and make new relationships.

Volleyball: I have again found joy in high school volleyball. I didn't enjoy it much at my previous school because not everyone always gave 100%. LL has an excellent volleyball coach and awesome coaches in other sports as well. Every day at practice and games, everyone tried their hardest. I looked forward to volleyball everyday because I was surrounded with awesome teammates and coaches that pushed me to be a better player. My first volleyball season here really helped me grow as a player and a person, I'm beyond excited to see what my senior season has in store.



ALUMNI

FAMILY TRADITION - THREE GENERATIONS

Denise (Maier) Hertzelt - Class of 1973: "I've always felt passionate about the positive experience I had at Lincoln Lutheran Junior High. As a seventh grader I may not have been so excited at the time, but the lasting friendships, memories, and Christian values have been life-long gifts I received from three short years at LLJHS. As parents, my husband and I knew we wanted our children to experience the community closeness of a small school and benefit from the Christ-centered education of Lincoln Lutheran. It was such a blessing as parents to be able to be involved and to know our daughter's teachers, administrators, and friends as "family" who genuinely supported and cared for each other. Our children were well prepared academically and spiritually for the next chapters in their lives as a result of their years at Lincoln Lutheran. And now, fast forward to the next generation, my heart



is overjoyed that our grandchildren now walk the halls at LL and are receiving the same foundation that will support them in life, both academically and more importantly, as Christians. It is an amazing feeling to attend events at LL today and still have that sense of belonging to the "family". Many families have been blessed over the years due to the foresight of the Founding Fathers, and I pray many more will be blessed in the future. I'm proud that my dad was part of the original founding group. One of my favorite passages: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Steph (Hertzelt) Trutna - Class of 1993: "When my parents decided to enroll me at LL in seventh grade, it changed my life. At the time, it was a scary change, but it didn't take long to realize that it was a wonderful change. It ended up paving the way for the rest of my life. Some of my best friends and favorite teachers were from my junior high days (and a few of the greats are still around today!) My husband and I knew when we had our own children that LL would be the only school for them. Today, our daughter is a sophomore and our son is a sixth grader, and they absolutely love being Warriors. Lincoln Lutheran is not only a Christian school, it is a strong, supportive, Christian family. We are surrounded by teachers, families and friends who believe in the same morals and family values that we do. We are all raising our children to be loving and respectful of others. Lincoln Lutheran is helping to shape my kids into kind, intelligent, giving people - just as it did for me. I'm so very thankful that my parents followed the footsteps of my grandparents who were largely involved in the building of this school. We are all proud to be Warriors!"



Paige Trutna - Class of 2020: "I love Lincoln Lutheran. There are so many opportunities. First and foremost, I'm able to learn about my Lord and Savior, Jesus, and not be judged for my faith. I know that I have the ability to talk about my faith without being questioned. I also have many activities to choose from and I am not limited to just a few things. I have many good friends that I've made here - most will be friends for a long time, some I'll stay friends with forever. I like going to a smaller school because I know everyone and everyone knows me. It allows me to feel a special bond with everyone, even friends in other grades. I'm so happy my parents decided to send me to LL. It's amazing how this school is a big tradition in my family. I am very thankful to be part of this friendly Christian community."

Quinn Trutna - Class of 2024: "Lincoln Lutheran is a great school for me because it is where I can learn about Jesus and I have a lot of great friends. What I love about sixth grade at LL is all the details that I learn about the Bible. I learn the little details that I would never have learned without my great teachers and friends. I'm so glad my parents chose LL as my school."



FROM THE DESK OF LLOYD WAGNITZ
DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY ADVANCEMENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The year of 2017 was an exciting and busy year in the Advancement Office. In addition to the annual golf tournament and Gala, visits began for our comprehensive campaign, *Now Through Eternity*.



The campaign visits have resulted in strengthened relationships and financial resources for the Lincoln Lutheran ministry to build the multi-use building, debt reduction and an increase in scholarship endowments. In addition, future donations have been designated through planned giving.

If you would like to visit about how to impact Lutheran education through current and/or future gifts to make a difference in the lives of young men and women, give me a call and let's talk!

May God bless you and your family in 2018 and beyond!



Lloyd W. Wagnitz
402-467-5404
lwagnitz@lincolnlutheran.org

Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program continues to bless Lincoln Lutheran. Since September 2010, Thrivent Choice has totaled over \$100,000 of financial support for the Lincoln Lutheran ministry!



Eligible members must designate their available funds by logging in to their account at www.thrivent.com or calling Thrivent Financial at 800-847-4836.

**Funds for 2017 must be designated
by March 31, 2018.**

Thank you for considering Lincoln Lutheran when designating Thrivent Choice funds.

GALA - MARCH 23, 2018

Our annual Gala will be here soon! We are again anticipating a large attendance. Purchase your tickets online at <https://handbid.app.link/lef2018> or contact Kristin Bennett at 402-467-5404 to reserve your tickets. **Deadline is March 8, 2017 to reserve or purchase your tickets!**

GIVE TO LINCOLN DAY - MAY 31, 2018

The 7th annual Give to Lincoln Day is May 31, 2018 and the Lutheran Education Foundation will participate again. On this day of online giving, every donation designated to the Lutheran Education Foundation will count toward claiming a share of a matching pool of funds! Watch for more details.

LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society is an honorary group of donors designating a gift to the Lutheran Education Foundation through estate planning. Planned gifts provide a future for Lutheran education and encourage others to discover their legacy of generosity.

The Legacy Society has grown to 51 members, with \$1,100,000 received through planned gifts and future gift expectancies of over \$2,150,000.

Planned gifts may be made through a variety of plans, most commonly a will or naming LEF as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or retirement account.

LIFETIME PLAN FOR GIVING

According to a recent survey, only 4 in 10 American adults have a will or living trust and many of them need to be updated.

The Lifetime Plan for Giving is a process from the LCMS Foundation we use to assist in documentation of how you desire to transfer your earthly blessings to family and charities of your choice. Upon completion of the process, you will be able to give the information to your attorney for final legal work needed.

For more information call the Advancement Office at 402-467-5404.

MULTI-USE BUILDING



Phase 1 of the Multi-Use Building has been completed!

The funds for the construction of the building were made possible by 303 donors to the *Now Through Eternity* campaign.

The wrestlers began practicing in the new building the week before Christmas. After the wrestling season wraps up, the building will be closed to complete the inside by building walls, and restrooms.

Impact of additional space:

- Activities Program
 - o Wrestling
 - o Soccer Skills
 - o Baseball Hitting / Pitching
 - o Summer Training–Speed/Strength/Agility Drills
 - o Dance/Cheer
 - o Golf
 - o Marching Band
- Storage Space
 - o Outdoor activities equipment storage
 - o Field maintenance equipment storage
- Booster Club
 - o Concession stand for all outdoor events
- Facility Rental
 - o Rental to youth soccer/baseball/softball teams
 - o Fitness Groups



2017 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD - LINDA AHRENS

Linda Ahrens (Sayer) is a 1983 graduate of Lincoln Lutheran Junior High. She went on to attend both Lincoln Northeast High School and Concordia University, NE where she received a degree in Elementary Education. Linda served at Zion Lutheran, Hastings from 1992-2004. She was then called to Good Shepherd Lutheran in Lincoln, serving one year as a preschool teacher and the next 12 years as Principal/Teacher of the day school. Linda recently relocated to NW Missouri and currently serves as a 1st Grade Teacher in Trenton, MO.

Linda's favorite memories from Lincoln Lutheran, "I enjoyed my time participating on the basketball and volleyball teams. I remember the connection many of the coaches made with their players, as they encouraged us to play our best and use the talents God had given us."





1100 North 56th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68504
402-467-5404 · lincolnlutheran.org

Non Profit Org
US Postage
Paid
Lincoln, NE
Permit No.1657

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2018

3/23 - Gala

May 2017

5/20 Graduation

5/31 Give to Lincoln Day

DID YOU KNOW?

Early registration for 2018-2019 school year until March 15, 2018

Lincoln Lutheran now co-ops with Crete for girls softball

All 2017 Fall Sports teams participated in State competition

Volleyball finished 3rd in the state

Football competed in semi-finals of state playoffs

Softball team - Class B State Champions

Girls golf team competed at state tournament

Boys Cross Country team competed at state tournament

Girls Cross Country had one runner compete at state tournament

98% of Lincoln Lutheran students go on to attend a two or four year institution

Warrior News is published for Lincoln Lutheran alumni and friends. For additional copies, or to notify us of address changes or personal updates contact us at, 402-467-5404 or development@lincolnlutheran.org

LINCOLN LUTHERAN MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Scott Ernstmeyer, Executive Director

Lloyd Wagnitz, Director of Ministry Advancement

Matt Heibel, Principal

Joel Brase, Assistant Principal & Activities Director

Julie Frederick, Guidance Director