



# LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

### THIRD QUARTER 2020



We all have a beginning and an end, but it is the journey that lies in between those two touchstone moments that define us as we travel life's path to the Lord's presence. Great literature, I always tell my students, mirrors life – David Copperfield's famous line, "I record that I was born" – that is true of us all. And then later we read "I am Ishmael" as Melville's Moby Dick opens. We are named – we can put our own names into Ishmael's declaration. So here we are - we are born and we are named. Add that we are known, first by God and then by our parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends in an ever-widening circle of others as we live our life journeys.



I have to say that in reading the opening lines of Moby Dick I smile a bit at the irony embedded in Ishmael's reasoning for going to sea . . . .

"Some years ago—never mind how long precisely—having little or no money in my purse, and nothing particular to interest me on shore, I thought I would sail about a little and see the watery part of the world. It is a way I have of driving off the spleen and regulating the circulation. Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; . . . and especially whenever my hypos get such an upper hand of me, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me from deliberately stepping into the street, and methodically knocking people's hats off—then, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can. . . . I quietly take to the ship. There is nothing surprising in this. If they but knew it, almost all men in their degree, some time or other, cherish very nearly the same feelings towards the ocean with me."

Many of us can identify with Ishmael today – we find ourselves with a need to drive "off the spleen and regulate our circulation" because we are so very weary of Covid-19 and masks and rioting and being tense with our neighbors and watching wonderful businesses disappear under draconian executive orders. We want to knock off a hat or two, in spirit! We are supposed to keep ourselves safe from Covid-19, but governing authorities expect our school athletes to compete in high energy sports with masks covering their mouths and noses? Well, the kids might not

get Covid-19, but collapsing from oxygen-deprivation is not a winning recipe either. Is the world going nuts? Does not a sea cruise sound good right about now? Oh, whoops! That is not a good option for us either. There is no taking to the sea! But we can identify with Ishmael, who frankly, did not get the relaxing "sail about" that he planned for. He did not see Moby Dick on the horizon or a Captain Ahab, who's obsession would lead to death and destruction. Nevertheless, this becomes reality for Ishmael, whose name means "God listens" And while Biblical Ishmael is miraculously saved from thirst in the desert, Melville's Ishmael is miraculously saved from drowning by grabbing onto a floating coffin – an interesting symbol of life and death.

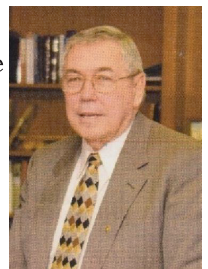
Ultimately, our Libertas Christian School family is a bit like Moby Dick's Ishmael . . . we had no idea of what 2020 would bring or may continue to bring. Instead, we sail, like Ishmael, into the days our Lord has ordained for us. Yes, ordained. That is a deep word, an old-fashioned word. It denotes appointment, establishment, a setting apart, and investment in a ministerial function (Webster's 1828). My soul is settled on Webster's definitions with a deep, abiding peace. Furthermore, John 15:16 reads, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you, and appointed

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### *A Tribute to Thomas Meyers*

**1932-2020**

Tom Meyers was a friend and supporter of Libertas Christian School. He went home to be with the Lord on September 3, 2020. He will be dearly missed, but praise God, he is now worshipping in the presence of his Savior.



His grandson was one of the family members who spoke at the funeral. At the end of his comments he said something like, "If you are here today attending this celebration of my grandpa's life and don't know Jesus as your Savior, you can speak to any member of our family. It would be our privilege to share with you about Jesus."

What a testimony to the truth that children are a living message we send to a time we will never see. Tom Meyers left a legacy to the future in his own family as well as the Libertas family. Praise God for the life of our friend Tom and may we all be inspired by his example!



# Welcome!

Each year we have staff changes, and this year is no different. We would like to give best wishes and God's blessings to Mrs. Anna English (Upper School Latin and English), Miss Anna Kinde (4th Grade), and Mrs. Emily Steenwyk (Grammar School Principal and Business Manager).

We also get the privilege of welcoming new people to the Libertas family. This year we add 5 delightful people to Libertas staff and faculty.



## Elizabeth Hager

**Family:** Married to Dan with two kids named Chase and Faith

**What will you be teaching at Libertas?** General music pre-K through sixth grade.

**Why are you excited to be a part of the Libertas Community?** I love Jesus, I love kids and I love music, so I'm hoping this will be a good fit.

**Where did you grow up?** I am "Can-Am". I was born in Canada and have citizenship to both countries.

**Favorite Bible verse and why?** Psalm 145:18 "The Lord is near to all who call on Him." I would be nothing without Him. That is why I call, sing, and pray to Him often.

**Hobbies** Running, triathlon, hiking. I am on My Team Triumph which enables those with special needs and abilities to compete in races.



*Students serving at  
Beaverdam CRC Community Days*

*Look for Christ and you will find  
Him, and with Him everything  
else. - C.S. Lewis*



*First day of school Chapel*



## Samuel Musser

**Family:** From Cincinnati, OH. The youngest of four siblings; two siblings married, and an uncle to 10! Some call me...Uncle Sam!

**Education:** Classically educated from kindergarten through high school by my wonderful parents, and attended Hillsdale College for my Bachelor of Arts in Religion, with a Minor in Music studies. My honors thesis was on the meaning of the Apostle Paul's use of the phrase, Pistis Christou, in his epistles.

**What will you be teaching?** 11th and 12th grade Latin, 11th and 12th grade English Literature/Senior Thesis, and 11th/12th Rhetoric.

**Why are you excited to be a part of the Libertas Community?** I am eager to inspire my students, and, more importantly, be inspired by them. I am also excited to volunteer for our athletic teams in various supportive roles. Most importantly, I am excited to grow in my own relationship with Jesus Christ as I serve in the supportive, engaging, and tight-knit Libertas community this year.

**Favorite Bible Verse:** Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us." It always puts our lives in this world into perspective, while giving us true Hope. The promises of God are future-focused, so we must be too.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy spending time with my family and close friends. I also playing chess and various board games, as well as exploring the outdoors and playing sports like tennis, golf, and soccer. I especially enjoy tracing the narrative trajectory of various prominent athletes (such as Tom Brady and LeBron James) as they seek to gain kleos for themselves in their respective sports. I find this to be a great conversation segway into the most important Conversation—about the One who seeks ultimate kleos for Himself and for his blood-bought bride.





### **Carianne Robbins**

**Family:** Married to Ty 20 years; Andrew (2019 LCS grad); Calista (senior); Annabelle (7th grade); Faith (5th grade)

**Education:** BS in Education; MAT in Early Childhood Education; Ed.S. in Administration/Principalship

**What will you be teaching at Libertas?** 4th grade

**Why are you excited to be a part of the Libertas Community?** I love the Lord, love teaching about the Lord, and am passionate about classical Christian education. Libertas is unique in allowing me to pursue that which I value: truth, goodness, and beauty to the glory of God. I am honored He chose me to lead the 4th-grade flock this year.

**Where did you grow up?** Bay City, MI

**Favorite Bible verse and why:** Not a fair question...there are just too many! ONE of my favorites is Psalm 57:11 "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!" This verse is close to my heart because I love the way it combines adoration and supplication while reminding me of the ultimate outcome.

**Other:** Members at Grace Fellowship OPC, Zeeland; Moved from the Midland/Bay City area in order that our children could attend Libertas.

*The willingness to show up changes us. It makes us a little braver each time. - Brene Brown*



### **Erin Swinger**

**Family** - Youngest of 5 kids, Auntie x17

**Education** - Bachelor's in Business Management from Cornerstone University

**What will you be teaching at Libertas?** - Elementary PE

**Why are you excited to be a part of the Libertas Community?** - I love coaching and working with kids and I am so grateful to be a part of a Christ-Centered, tight knit community like Libertas whose primary mission is the heart and soul of a student and their potential impact for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ!

**Where did you grow up?** - Comstock Park, MI

**Favorite Bible verse and why** - Ephesians 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." If we let go of trying to control everything in our lives and submit to the Lord's control, the outcome will be better than even the best plan we could have imagined ourselves!

**Hobbies** - travel, reading, hiking, and anything outdoors!

*Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another. G.K. Chesterton*



### **Randy Wright**

**Family:** Grew up in a family of 5. I am the middle with a sister 3 years older and a brother 13 years younger.

**Education:** Graduated HS from Muncie Central, in Muncie Indiana (interesting fact, Muncie Central was the big city school that lost to the small country school in the movie Hoosiers - it is a true story - it was Muncie Central against Milan and the gentleman that hit the winning shot was Bobby Plump) BS - Ball State University (Finance & Management - 1976), Dallas Theological Seminary ThM - 1990.

**Why are you excited to be a part of the Libertas Community?** Pam and I were one of the founding families and served on the Libertas school board for the first couple of years. So, we have been involved with Libertas from day one and continue to be excited to be a part of the growing family.

**What will you be doing at Libertas?** Business manager and Biblical Greek 10 Teacher

**Favorite Bible Verse:** 2 Timothy 4:1-5 - this was the key verse for DTS and really grabbed my attention and ignited my passion for understanding Scripture.

**Hobbies:** I enjoy fishing, shooting, boating and spending time with Pam and family.



# STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

Join us for the Libertas annual business meeting to get an update on the financial and educational future of our school.

You will hear from Matt Williams - School Board President, Bob Davis - Headmaster, and more. This event will also be live-streamed. Watch for details.

RSVP to our website, email, or call the school office.

See you there!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 24 · State of the School Event 7 pm

October 12 - Moms and Muffins

October 26 · Grandparents Day

October 26 - Fall Band/Corale Concert

November 10-11 - Parent Teacher Conferences

November 25-27 - Thanksgiving Break

December 1 - Giving Tuesday

December 7 - Christmas Concert (Pre-k-7th)

December 10 - Christmas Concert (8th-12th)



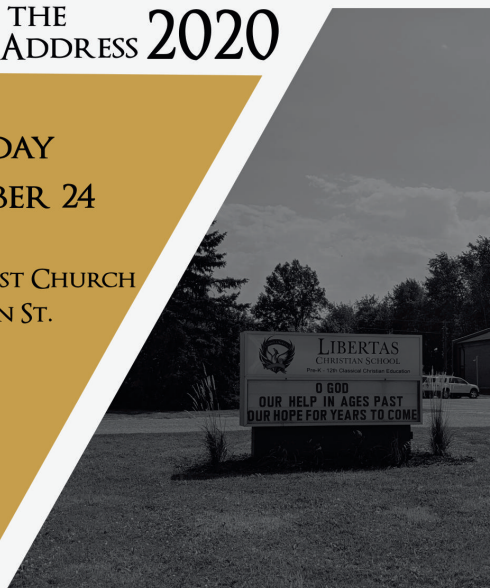
LIBERTAS  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

STATE OF THE  
SCHOOL ADDRESS 2020

THURSDAY  
SEPTEMBER 24

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
246 W. MAIN ST.  
ZEELAND

7:00 PM



RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 21

[LIBERTASCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG/EVENTS](http://LIBERTASCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG/EVENTS), 616-669-2270,  
[COMMUNITY@LIBERTASCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG](mailto:COMMUNITY@LIBERTASCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG)

LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL  
5181 64TH AVENUE  
HUDSONVILLE, MI 49426



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you that you would go and bear fruit and that your fruit would remain . . .” These days afford us a perfect opportunity to consider our Savior’s words, words that He spoke to His disciples, but that still apply to us in 2020. Jesus is our appointer, the captain and guardian of our souls. There are no surprises on His horizon. He knows what lies before us in His service!

A while back my husband remarked that he is sorry that our own kids and our Libertas ones, are experiencing these strange days. However, I told Randy and later the Upper School, during chapel, that I do not feel that way. I guess I am somewhat pragmatic. And at 65, I have seen lots of “curve balls” over the years, big and small. We can all make a list. However, I am bit of a realist. There will always be a curve ball that comes at us out of the blue. There will always be a new version of an old catastrophe that will show up without warning. Am I a fatalist? No! Instead, I hold in my heart, that it is exactly unusual and unexpected days that forge stout hearts and strong backbones for Christ! For Life! For the Gospel! His purposes and glory are revealed in such days if we turn to Him via prayer, via His Word regarding our circumstances.

Jesus leads us in days of both sunshine and shadow, as well. It was days of shadow that drove Ishmael to the sea, not days of sunshine, and normally he found refreshment on the great waters. The good news, at the end of Moby Dick, is that Ishmael lived – he was delivered. I often remind our Libertas kids that our precious Lord is no less present in days of shadow than in days of sunshine. In fact, it is often the seemingly dark days in which we detect His presence in new, refreshing ways that comfort, strengthen, purpose and direct us to live out John 15:16’s fruit bearing purposes. Fruit requires a variety of conditions, does it not? There is sunshine and shadow – the perfect mix of light and dark – for fruit to come forth. John 15:16 also states as fruit-bearers, Believers can ask the Father anything in Jesus’ name and that the Father will answer. I just cannot get past asking for the ability to bear more fruit to His glory! Everything else falls into place for me from there. How about you?

And let us not forget that stout hearts and strong backbones equate to courage that is beyond ourselves, through the Lord’s equipping. I recently asked our Libertas kids what they thought was more exciting. Walking around Jericho believing God was going to bring the walls down and being on the front row when

He did or sitting in the back of the crowd wondering if He would? This is a good question for us to ponder as we consider our personal galleries of the faith. I think of Jim Elliot and the other men who died on that Amazon sandbank for Christ and for the Auca Indians. Jim Elliot was told, by one of the missionary wives, the night before the men’s fly-in, that they could all die. He replied that he was ready to die, but the Auca Indians were not. Think about it! Jim was only in his 20’s when he made that statement. Deep was his heart and spirit in Christ! Next, I consider Daniel in the lion’s den, and young Esther elevated to queen and deliverer of Israel “for such a time as this”. I ponder young Mary, counted blessed by God to bear our Savior in the potential face of scandal. I think of young David up against Goliath; odds were certainly not in his favor and yet - - - Yes, front lines can be dangerous – they are also exciting, and in our Savior’s care, the most secure places to be.

Furthermore, the idea of safety, of “Christian safety”, is an interesting phenomenon. Now, I am not against being aware and informed. I am not against washing our hands and being wise. I am respectful of those who wear masks and of those who do not. However, when we believe that we ultimately “control” our safety, then this is a point for contemplative pause. Just how safe do we think we can keep ourselves? Psalm 139:16 tells me that “All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.” What a comfort! What encouragement and solace is found in that verse! Instead, when we are about our Lord’s purposes we can rest in that truth – “all the days ordained for me” the Lord has written in His book – Wow! Yes, we use the common sense the Lord has given us to be relatively safe. But note the word “relatively”. It is a point to ponder. In prayer and the Word, we can chart these strange seas in His care to find direction, rest and comfort.

Meanwhile, who has time for fear? I absolutely do not, for I know that I need to “be about my Father’s business!” Like Nehemiah, I do not consider that the Lord has shown us that we are to come down off the wall that is Libertas! It is an enlivening, exciting, exhilarating place to be! Are there clouds on the horizon? Yes. Are there days of sunshine on that same horizon – definitely. But He is on His throne in Heaven, Lord of all our horizons. My heart is settled in Him, on Him! May yours be as well! Amen!

*written by Pam Wright, Libertas School Principal*

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***The real things haven’t changed. It is still best to be honest and truthful: to make the most of what we have; to be happy with the simple pleasures; and have courage when things go wrong.***

***- Laura Ingalls Wilder***



## HONORING THE LEGACY

Gifts were given in honor of the following

Anna Kinde  
Anne Brown  
Barb Boersen  
Becky Pusztai  
Bettie Davis  
Carianne Robbins  
Cheryl Gordillo  
Chris Feenstra

Emily Steenwyk  
Faith Hinken  
Jessica MacMaster  
Katrina Schumaker  
Lori Bouslog  
Marissa Berghorst  
Mark Congrove

Pam Wright  
Patty Baribeau  
Playground Maintenance  
Rachel Smith  
Rebekah Goldberg  
Robert Davis  
Ruth Kaercher

Ruthie Brand  
Samuel Musser  
Soccer  
Sunday Wehrman  
Tom Holt  
Valerie Dewey  
Willson Nemec

In Memory of Thomas Meyers



*Replace the word spend with invest in your vocabulary and notice how it impacts your everyday decisions.*

*-Randy Thio*



## LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

### DONATION FORM

☐ YES! I would like to make this a RECURRING donation and support Libertas Christian School with my gift of:

☐ \$25/month

☐ \$50/month

☐ \$100/month

☐ \$\_\_\_\_/monthly

☐ \$\_\_\_\_/annually

☐ YES! I would like to make a ONE TIME Gift to support Libertas Christian School with my gift of :

☐ \$250

☐ \$500

☐ \$1000

☐ \$2000

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

First Name	Last Name	Company Name	
Address	City	State	Zip
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Please mail this form along with gift to: Libertas Christian School 5181 64th Ave. Hudsonville, MI 49426

To make a donation via Credit Card or ACH please visit our website @ [LibertasChristianSchool.org/give](http://LibertasChristianSchool.org/give) or call Marissa, at 616-566-5791