



LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

COMMUNITY UPDATE

SECOND QUARTER 2020



To say that we live in an interesting time would certainly be an understatement. Definitely, it is a historical one that our Libertas students will carry with them into adulthood with their own children, even as my parents – part of the WW II “Greatest Generation” – did with me and my brothers. War all around the globe then, Covid-19 all around the globe now.



Interestingly, while fear seems to be running rampant today, I do not remember my own parents talking of being fearful as they lived young adult lives with war surrounding them – with thousands of young Americans dying for freedom far from home and loved ones. In fact, Mom and Dads’ childhoods had first been tested with the Great Depression. In these events their generation took a one-two punch. My father’s parents once lived in a beautiful home on the boulevard that was lost to them in the Great Depression. Home then became a family farm of humble means. In those depression-years, my grandparents let a homeless man live in their barn down the road, and in thanks he wove thick willow branches into the most uncomfortable porch furniture I EVER sat on! Having eventually heard the story of that furniture – oh, how I wish I had all of it in my care today!

In looking back though, I do remember my folks speaking of those dark days in terms of the American can-do spirit and of folks pitching in to contribute to the efforts, as America recovered from depression and then worked to defeat evil in Europe and in the Pacific. Americans accomplished this whether stateside or whether serving overseas on battle grounds – battle grounds that today are memorials and cemeteries to young Americans who never returned. My father served in Guam as a radio airman and his twin brother flew bombing raids over Europe with no guarantees of life beyond their service. Thankfully, both came back to America to marry, raise children and live productive lives. My parents, aunts and uncles, all members of that WWII generation, modeled stoutheartedness and backbone to me, and they loved me well. How very grateful I am for them! Did they have moments of fear and trepidation? I imagine so – after all, they were only human, as we all are. However, when I think of these loved ones, fear does not define my memories of them and how they handled such world changing events in their youth and adulthoods.

Now I must admit, when Covid-19 became a possibility for us here at Libertas and in West Michigan, I felt a wash of sheer terror in the middle of one night back in February. There I was sound asleep one minute and the next, awake and terrified! Oh! Why is fear so potent in the wee hours of the morning? As Elizabeth Elliot said, nighttime makes the tiniest hill into a mountain in those dark hours. How comforting that even she knew this reality! Yet her courage and wisdom still comfort me greatly, five years after her passing through those “Gates of Splendor” she wrote so beautifully about.

So, in my “wee hours of the night fear-fest”, over Covid-19, I immediately ran the words, “perfect love casts out fear” through my mind several times – repetition, repetition is a good thing! And God’s Word began to calm me. Ahhhh – progress! And then something very interesting took place! My spunky, West Virginia, mountaineering spirit and backbone rose up! Here I was prone, my dear husband had no idea what a momentous moment was happening as he slumbered away beside me(!), as the next words that ran through my mind were, “I DO NOT HAVE TIME FOR THIS! WE HAVE 250+ CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS RELYING ON US TO BE COURAGEOUS IN THE FACE OF THIS THING!” Now I was in “fighting form” with my head still on my fluffy pillow! The Lord further and most graciously reminded me that He had not given me “a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”! Hallelujah!

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Libertas Christian School presents the CLASS OF 2020



"Every civil government is based upon some religion or philosophy of life. Education in a nation will propagate the religion of that nation. In America, the foundational religion was Christianity. And it was sown in the hearts of Americans through the home and private and public schools for centuries. Our liberty, growth, and prosperity was the result of a Biblical philosophy of life. Our continued freedom and success is dependent on our educating the youth of America in the principles of Christianity." - Noah Webster

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



Wesley Scott DeWind

Wesley is the son of Jeffrey and Kimberly DeWind and has four siblings. While attending Libertas, Wesley participated in soccer and drama productions. His best memory of high school is building houses in Guatemala on the Junior/Senior mission trip for "the most grateful and selfless group of people" he has ever known.

Wesley's favorite bible verse is Jeremiah 31:3, "The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying: "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness."



Nathaniel John Kaercher

Nathaniel (Nate) is the son of Brandon and Ruth Kaercher and has four siblings. Nate plans to attend Cornerstone University to study engineering and play soccer.

While attending Libertas, Nate participated in soccer, track and basketball. His favorite memory is when the soccer team won their first district

game. He will miss the friendships created at Libertas the most after graduation.

Nathaniel's favorite bible verse is Philippians 1:6, "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." It reassures him that God will complete what He began in him.

"Let us tenderly and kindly cherish, therefore, the means of knowledge. Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write."

- John Adams



Ruth Patrice Baribeau

Ruth is the daughter of Todd and Patty Baribeau and has nine siblings. Lord willing, Ruthie will be attending Bob Jones University to study nursing. Ruthie served as Captain to House Kallos and was involved in theater, track, and cross country while attending Libertas. Ephesians 5:1-2 "Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."



Mary Ellen Brand

Mary Ellen (Ellie) is the daughter of Garry and Ruthie Brand. Ellie has three brothers and plans to attend college in the fall.

Ellie served as Captain of House Alethia and has participated in Libertas Theater productions. She will miss theater most. Her favorite verse is Psalm 86:11 "Teach

me your way, O Lord, that I might walk in your truth. Unite my heart to fear your name."



Elizabeth Joy Frain

Elizabeth is the daughter of Matt and Amy Frain and has four siblings. She will be attending Wiemar College pursuing Occupational Therapy.

Elizabeth participated in Libertas basketball. Her favorite memory is winning the first basketball game of the season this year.

Romans 8:28, which says, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose," is Elizabeth's favorite verse because it is a promise that shows that if we follow God, He will bless us and we have a purpose through Him.

"I believe in Chistianity as I believe that the sun has risen not only because I see it but because by it I see everything else - C.S. Lewis

"Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil." - C.S. Lewis



William Shane Meekhof

William (Will) is the son of James and Teri Meekhoff and has five siblings. He will be attending Grand Valley State University in the fall.

Will participated in Libertas Drama productions, with *A Midsummer's Night Dream* being his favorite. Socratic discussions will be his most missed

Libertas activity after graduation.

Will's favorite verse is Lamentations 3:22, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not."



Jonathan Wesley Myers

Jon is the son of Rob and Michelle Myers and has three brothers. He will be attending College of the Ozarks in the fall.

Jon served as Captain of House Virtus and participated in Libertas soccer, basketball, choir and Mock Trial team.

Jon's senior thesis will be on the subject of Communism. He will defend why it is

an unbiblical solution that caters to the fallen part of man and destroys the government from the inside.

Jon's favorite bible verse is Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek."



Levi Garrett Sikkema

Levi is the son of Ben and Kari Sikkema and has two sisters. He will be attending Grand Valley State University in the fall majoring in Pre-Dental.

Levi participated in soccer and track. Libertas soccer brought Levi his most precious memories of high school, especially when the team participated in

a tournament in Rochester Hills.

Esther 4:14, "For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"



Jason Michael Steenwyk

Jason is the son of Michael and Emily Steenwyk and has two siblings. He plans to attend Cedarville University majoring in Business in the fall.

Jason participated in cross country, track, and drama productions. He will miss his friends and the people of Libertas most after graduation. His favorite memory is

when Mr. Holt did the "Father Abraham" dance at the end of the school year, last year.

John 3:16 is Jason's favorite verse because it summarizes the whole gospel. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."



Alayna Nicole VanderStel

Alayna is the daughter of Randy and Kathy VanderStel and has three siblings. After graduation, she plans to attend OneLife Bible Institute, and then move on to GRCC to pursue a career as a Radiology Technician.

While attending Libertas, Alayna participated in volleyball, track,

basketball, and drama productions. Her favorite memory was going on the Guatemala missions trip during her junior year of high school.

Alayna's favorite verse is Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?" It reminds her that she has nothing to fear and the Lord is the stronghold of her life.



Randall John Wiebenga Jr.

Randall (RJ) is the son of Randy and Christy Wiebenga and has four siblings. He will be joining the workforce, working for a general contractor.

RJ participated in Libertas basketball and will miss that the most after graduation.

His favorite memory will be making two free throws to help the team win a trophy in a basketball tournament.

RJ's favorite verse is Psalm 46:1, because it is true and reminds him to rely on HIM, instead of himself. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Pending - High School Commencement
September 1 Back to School Night 7 pm
September 8 · First Day of School
September 24 · State of the School Event 7 pm
October 26 · Grandparents Day



2020-2021 ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment at Libertas Christian School for the 2020-2021 school year is in full swing! Although we have a few classes full, there is space available. Contact Mrs. Feenstra at 616-669-2270 or visit our website, LibertasChristianSchool.org/admissions for more information.

**Lord willing, we will
see you in the fall!**

LIBERTAS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
5181 64TH AVENUE
HUDSONVILLE, MI 49426



Legacy Partners is a Ministry of Libertas Christian School

2020 LIBERTAS LEGACY UN-GALA

Due to the cancelation of the First Annual Legacy Gala, we have adjusted our planning to hold this event completely virtual. The 2020 Legacy Un-Gala will be similar to the content you would have received at the original gala, except you can do it from the comfort of your livingroom.

WEEK OF MAY 18 @ 7 PM

Join us each evening on our website, Instagram, or Facebook for special content that will be posted from our students, parents, and others, communicating the value and importance of Libertas' mission and classical Christian education.

Consider becoming a Legacy Partner during this event to further the Legacy of Libertas Christian School.

MATCHING GIFT UPDATE

As we come to the close of our time to utilize the matching gift given by a generous anonymous donor, here is where we stand. We have \$250,000 available in the matching fund. So far we have utilized just over \$70,000.

That means another \$180,000 still available.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Spread the word! Double the impact of your investment. Tell people about Libertas to begin helping them understand the importance of what we do!



HONORING THE LEGACY

Gifts were given in honor of the following

Cheryl Gordillo	Emily Steenwyk	Anna English	Faith Hinken
Bettie Davis	Rebekah Goldberg	Robert Davis	Mark Congrove
Patty Baribeau	Chris Feenstra	Anne Brown	Katrina Schumaker
Band	Sunday Wehrman	2020 Legacy Gala	Ruthie Brand
Drama	General expenses	Ruth Kaercher	Rachel Smith
Jessica MacMaster	Lori Bouslog	Pam Wright	Becky Pusztai
Anna Kinde	Tom Holt	Teacher Compensation	Marissa Berghorst
Barb Boersen	Willson Nemec	Music Program	Valerie Dewey



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
Phone	Email	

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 or call Marissa, at 616-566-5791

My warrior-girl spirit was further encouraged a day or so later when I just “happened” across a lovely necklace that reads “Courage Follows Her”, which I promptly purchased and am wearing as I write. It reminds me daily, even as God’s Word does, that in Him, courage does follow me. But I realize this is not by my own power, but in following my Savior, for He is my encourager. What a confidence builder – not in pride or hubris, but in humble gratitude!

Moreover, I find that the Lord has continued to teach and lead me as I’ve been reading Tony Evan’s book, *Pathways – From Providence to Purpose*, in which he beautifully lays out the doctrine of God’s sovereignty and the doctrine of God’s providence. From there Tony takes the reader on that beautiful journey through the life of Esther, that young, Jewish girl, who as Queen of Persia, saved her people from evil Haman! What a story! And all true! From Pastor Evan’s book and Esther’s story, the Lord reveals His presence in our Libertas journey, even within our Covid shut down. I am learning that if I, if we, look for them, we will find God’s providential fingerprints all over the place. For instance, Mrs. Steenwyk and I were recently “chewing the fat”, as we say down south, about our school’s circumstances, when she jogged my memory that over a year ago we had a ground lightning strike hit the building. In came the lightning and out went our internet server. Happily, insurance resolved the matter and we were soon back online. And we were further blessed with being able to purchase Google Chromebooks for our keyboarding classes from that lightning strike. With Google Chromebooks came Google Classroom and all its many capabilities. Who knew the timeliness of having Google Classroom? On March 12th it was a resource, under-utilized, right at our fingertips. Yet the Lord knew exactly what we needed and when we would need it! And isn’t it interesting that the lightning hit, not our roof’s lightning rods, but came into the building, providentially, at ground level?

Next, the Lord’s fingerprints showed up on Friday, March 13th. In response to Michigan schools closing, our Libertas Academic Council swiftly met, with the commission from Mr. Davis, our headmaster, to not look at impossibilities, but possibilities for moving forward. In God’s grace, we quickly landed, in lovely unity, upon the plan for Libertas to go online the next week with Google Classroom! Ah ha! Look what we had!

And on Monday, March 16th our faculty met for a crash course on both Google Classroom and Zoom! Now we were drinking from the firehouse! Our motto that we, teachers, are “lifelong learners”, took on new meaning! There we were in a classroom with Mr. Nemec leading the charge, training us on Google Classroom, followed by Mrs. Brand’s husband, Gary, training us on the intricacies of Zoom’ing! Today, we are all Googling and Zooming away with our students! Glitches do occur, internets sometimes go twitchy, parents bravely juggle multiple kids and computers and schoolwork, and our precious students stay the course. Challenges and victories abound, leaving me in awe and wonder!

Miraculously, our kids, your kids, will receive a full nine weeks of credit for the key classes we pulled into action from Grammar School through the Upper School, as we prepare them for next year. In contrast, many school systems lost over four prime, academic weeks before Michigan required them to create workable, online systems for their students. Please – I encourage us all to keep these teachers and administrators in our prayers, for they too, need much guidance and comfort in these last challenging weeks of the school year. Remember their students and parents as well, in Him.

But, OH! If not for that lightning strike! Again, hallelujah with a smile! My father used to say to me all the time, as I was growing up, “Princess” – yes, I was the P (!) –, “God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform.” Daddy was in heaven before I even realized that he was quoting William Cowper, the famous English poet, who wrote these lines in his 1774 poem “Light Shining out of Darkness”. It seems a fitting title, doesn’t it, even though it is over 200 years old? Moreover, it is especially fitting to think of Dad’s words to me in these Covid days. It is absolutely true; God does “work in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform” – for all of us! From Libertas Christian School’s “phoenix birth” to now, how wonderful it is to recognize God’s preparation and provision and protection through His providence. Therein lies courage for the soul along with celebration, thankfulness and praise, which I share from my heart to yours!

Serving You All – In Him . . .

Pam Wright

Secondary Principal & Academic Dean

