CAMPUS LIFE
flourishes with
SHALOM
The mission of Lakeland Christian School is to EDUCATE STUDENTS in the light of GOD’S WORD to equip them for a LIFETIME OF LEARNING, LEADERSHIP, SERVICE AND WORSHIP.
DEAR PARENTS, ALUMNI, AND FRIENDS OF LCS,

These are exciting days at Lakeland Christian School. The accomplishments of our students, the positive “buzz” around the campus, and evidences of the work of the Holy Spirit in young lives promote a deep sense of gratitude to the Lord for his continued blessing.

We are pleased to present this Annual Report for the 2013-14 school year. The purpose of this publication is to provide a snapshot of the progress of the school, increase transparency related to financial matters, and to express appreciation for the generous financial support that is so important in providing high quality Christian schooling for our families.

In April we honored John Douglass who retired after 40 years of service as LCS Business Manager. His faithful service has provided stable financial footing for LCS for many years. Lakeland Christian alum Matt Green ('2001) joined the leadership team this Spring as Chief Financial Officer.

The theme for 2013-14 was “Make a Difference ... Choose Shalom!” The expressed goal was to make LCS a place where all can flourish. The theme encouraged everyone in the school community to make intentional choices to further this goal. Chapel messages, classroom signage, and a host of other applications were implemented to move us toward a culture of flourishing.

The secondary grades complemented this effort with the implementation of a formalized Honor Code which was signed by all students. The rationale for this document was expressed in an accompanying piece entitled Community with Integrity and students were called to demonstrate honor and integrity in every area of their lives.

The elementary grades continued implementation of the Primary Mathematics curriculum and early reports on student achievement are very encouraging. A reading intervention program was added to the instructional program with a dedicated teacher to serve upper elementary and middle school students with reading deficits. This is a great help, particularly for students transferring into the LCS academic program.

The RISE Institute expanded into space renovated in the Snyder Building and added robotics and mock trial team to their offerings, complementing their award-winning science research projects. In February LCS hosted the AXIS team from Summit Ministries for a two-day seminar for high school students related to discipleship, popular culture, and apologetics.

The commitment of our faculty to professional development was demonstrated by participation in a variety of training opportunities. Eight faculty members are pursuing graduate degrees.

We were encouraged to see the $23 Million Deliver the Dream Capital Campaign move closer to completion as we moved from a need of $330,000 in July 2013 to a remaining need of only $50,000 by the close of FY 2014.

Thank you for your continued interest, prayers, and financial support for LCS. We hope you will enjoy this expression of praise for His continued faithfulness to the school, as we seek to be a place of flourishing.

Rejoicing in His Provision,

Mike Sligh, Ed. D.
Headmaster

from the HEADMASTER
[ MIKE SLIGH, ED. D. ]
Through the decades, Lakeland Christian School has not often chosen a campus-wide theme for the school year. However, the challenging times in which we live moved the LCS leadership to adopt Make A Difference ... Choose Shalom! as the emphasis for the 2013-14 year.

Although the term, Shalom, is synonymous with peace, there is much richness associated with this ancient Hebrew word. In its fullest meaning, Shalom encompasses all that is involved in human flourishing. Therefore, school leadership put out a call for LCS to be a place that’s different – a place of Shalom.

The desire is for LCS to be a place where all can flourish. Students were encouraged to take ownership of their school culture, and by doing so, to build a culture of flourishing. LCS was to become a place where the fruits of the spirit are manifest as the first choice, rather than an afterthought. This refreshing spirit permeated Lakeland Christian during this past school year.

The 2013-14 Annual Report reflects a year of flourishing on the LCS campus. Increased enrollment, a solid financial standing, and generous giving are important markers of a healthy school blessed of the Lord.

It is our desire to openly present this information to our school community for your information and for your encouragement. You are valuable partners engaging with us, as we sharpen the minds and shepherd the hearts of children and young people. Above all, may the material on the following pages honor God as we strive to be wise stewards of His generous provision to LCS.
2013–14 Annual Report

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Lakeland Christian is one of the nation’s premier private Christian schools. Students are able to flourish in their challenging academic curriculum, through their participation in championship athletics and by performing in a multi-faceted, award-winning fine arts program. The school’s primary distinctive, though, is the Biblical worldview that permeates every facet of school life.

From K4 through grade 12, the nearly 1,100 LCS students are lovingly guided to make intentional choices for their good and for the glory of God. In today’s culture, the children and young people of LCS see that the call to Shalom is the call to swim upstream, often against the mainstream. Lakeland Christian truly provides a preparation for a life of flourishing.

A place where we can FLOURISH

THE SCHOOL
- Polk County’s oldest and largest K4-12 private school – established in 1954
- Non-denominational
- Biblical worldview
- Extensive co-curricular program
- School families represent more than 160 different local churches
- Accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS) and the Florida Kindergarten Council (FKC)
- Member of the following associations: Florida Association of Academic Non-Public Schools (FAANS), Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA), Florida Vocal Association (FVA), Florida School Music Association (FSMA)

ACADEMICS
- Engaging and challenging curriculum
- 95% of graduates pursue college
- Tests scores exceed local, state and national averages (lcsonline.org/high-school/test-scores)
- 38 AP and Honors courses offered

FACULTY
- Teachers maintain professional certification in their fields
- Student-to-faculty ratio is 15:1
- 32% of faculty hold master’s degrees
- 40% of teachers have taught at LCS for 10 years or more

ATHLETICS
- 40 teams in 14 sports, grades 6-12
- 20 State titles, 19 Runners-up
- Outstanding on-campus stadium and gym
- 65% of students in grades 6-12 participate in athletics

ARTS
- Award-winning band and choir programs
- Musical production and play each year
- 464 students participate in the Fine Arts program
- Private piano lessons available
Lakeland Christian School students and faculty members are high achievers! Opportunities abound for engagement across a broad spectrum of activities – academic and co-curricular. As you will see from the following listing, LCS people flourish!

LCS student and faculty accomplishments could fill a report all its own! For more information on news, events and achievements, visit lcsonline.org/news or one of our social networks: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

*from the 2013-14 school year*

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Asbury University, Baylor University, Bethune-Cookman University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Southern College, Florida State University, Hillsborough Community College, Lee University, North Greenville University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Polk State College, Reinhardt University, Rollins College, Saint Leo University, Santa Fe College, Southeastern University, Stetson University, Tallahassee Community College, Troy University, University of Alabama, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, University of Mississippi, University of North Florida, University of South Florida, University of West Florida, Valdosta State University.

**ACADEMIC**

- Primary Mathematics was implemented in the Elementary school, designed to strengthen the foundation students will need for more advanced math.
- Eighty-one students participated in the Advanced Placement Program, taking 154 exams. Eighteen high school students earned AP Scholar Awards which are granted to students who earned scores of three or higher on three or more AP Exams.
- Derek Andersen was selected as a National Merit Scholar, placing him in the top 99 percent of the nation’s high school students. He received a scholarship package from the University of Alabama.
- The iPad initiative, implemented in the Middle School in 2012, now covers all students in grades 6-10.
- Ninety high school students participated in the Student Leadership University program last year. During the summer, these students traveled to leadership conferences in Orlando (SLU 101), Washington, D.C. (SLU 201) and Europe (SLU 301).
- Ninety-three seniors graduated in June. Hope Dodd was the valedictorian of the class of 2014.
- Josie Koretscho was the salutatorian, and Charlotte Varnum was chosen for the Christian Leadership Award.
- Scholarship offerings for the next four years to the Class of 2014 totaled more than $3 million.
- Ninety-seven percent of the 2014 graduates indicated they will attend college and 88 percent plan to attend a four-year college or university.
- Thirty-three students took online courses through Florida Virtual School, and seven upper classmen took part in dual enrollment courses.
- Maria Baker won The Ledger’s Silver Garland Award in the category of English Literature for community service.
- Junior Amanda Fulton was named to the 2014 All-County A-Team and represented Polk County at the 2014 Commissioner’s Academic Challenge at Walt Disney World.
- Freshman Julia Canady won the Young Naturalist Award for the second year in a row. This award is given out by New York’s American Museum of Natural History. Victoria Benson was also a national finalist.
• Three teams represented LCS at the State Odyssey of the Mind tournament.
• The LCS Archery Team won State of Florida Grand Champion at the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP) state tournament.
• The RISE Institute has partnered with the following research universities:
  • University of Florida
  • Emory University
  • University of Georgia
  • Duke University
  • North Carolina State University
  • Florida Southern College
  • University of South Florida
• The RISE Institute has partnered with the Lakeland Economic Development Council to start the LCS RISE Entrepreneurship Forum, bringing local entrepreneurs and business professionals to campus to interact with middle and high school students.
• The RISE Institute started a Robotics Program. There are two teams: the Middle School First Lego League Team and the High School First Technology Competition Team.
• Ten RISE Institute students represented the Polk Region at the State Science and Engineering Fair in April. All ten received awards and three were nominated for Broadcom MASTERS.
• RISE Institute student Brooke Benton’s research on the effect of amber tinted lenses on post-concussion syndrome headaches was published in a scientific journal.

F A C U L T Y A C C O M P L I S H M E N T S
• Gaye Lene Hasha completed work for her National Board Certification.
• Sue Wilsman was selected as one of six recipients of The Ledger’s Golden Garland Awards. A PE teacher and coach, Sue won the sportsmanship award.
• Elementary teachers completed training in Singapore Math and Primary Mathematics. These new curriculums were adopted for the 13-14 school year.
• Seth Miller, Debbie Stump, Heather Rhoden and Fred Wiechmann traveled to New Orleans for the National Science Teachers Association STEM Conference in May.

A T H L E T I C S
• Ten out of the 20 varsity teams won District championships, and five teams were District runners-up.
• Lakeland Christian School won the Polk County Sports Marketing (PCSM) and The Ledger Small School of the Year Award.
• Fourteen seniors signed letters of intent to play collegiate sports.
• Jake Molony was named The Ledger All-County boys’ soccer Player of the Year, and FACA District Player of the Year.
• The girls’ varsity soccer team was the State Runner-Up and was named as the FHSAA 1A Academic Team Champion. They also won the Polk County Female Prep Team of the Year presented by PCSM and The Ledger.
• Sophomore Bri Folds was named the 2013-2014 Gatorade Florida Girls’ Soccer Player of the Year. She was also the 2014 Florida Dairy Farmers Miss Soccer 1A Player of the Year and the Polk County Female Amateur Athlete of the Year. She was named as the FACA Girls’ Soccer Player of the Year.
• LCS added competitive cheerleading to the varsity sport line-up.

F I N E A R T S
• The LCS Bands achieved a “Clean Sweep” by earning superior ratings from all judges at their various festivals: Sixth Grade Band (ACSI Band Festival), Middle School Band (FBA District Music Performance Assessment), and High School Symphonic Winds (FBA District Music Performance Assessment).
• The Symphonic Winds High School Band earned straight superiors at the State Music Performance Assessment in May.
• 6th Grade Choir and Junior High Choirs both earned straight superior ratings at the Spring Music Performance Assessments.
Although LCS reviews enrollment figures on a regular basis, it all comes down to some simple, yet profound, math – as the number of students on campus increases, so does the opportunity for more children and young people to be taught and influenced by the skilled, Christian LCS faculty. Lakeland Christian was blessed once again with a healthy enrollment increase, reflected across all grade levels.
In a day when many private schools face year-to-year financial struggles, LCS continues to reflect sound and prudent management of the school’s critical business operation. LCS, once again, made a concerted effort to assess only a modest tuition increase for the 2013-14 year, despite a necessary increase in salaries along with the increased expenditures of maintaining an excellent Christian school. By the end of the year, LCS was even able to contribute $300,000 to the school’s capital campaign and place $200,000 in a reserve fund for future opportunities. Careful oversight by wise leaders allow LCS to continue to flourish.

**Sound financial management CHARACTERIZES LCS**

The firm of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP conducts an annual independent audit of the LCS financial statements. The complete auditors’ report is available for review in the school office.

### Enrollment Figures 2013-14
- Total: 1049
  - Elementary: 395
  - MS: 277
  - HS: 359
  - Discovery: 18

### Revenue
- Tuition and Fees: $8,947,072
- Contributions: $270,486
- Interest Income: $82,977
- Athletics/Food Service/Other: $544,116
- Total Revenue: $9,844,651

### Expenses
- Salaries and Benefits: $6,248,744
- Instruction: $529,277
- Financial Aid: $608,014
- General Operating Expenses: $620,654
- Plant Operations and Repairs: $756,244
- Capital Expenditures: $666,593
- Athletics/Food Service/Other: $677,231
- Total Expenses: $10,106,757
- Cash Reserve: $(262,106)

* $300,000 of this amount is the school’s contribution to the capital campaign, and $200,000 represents money set aside for future renovation & expansion.
An excellent Christian school like LCS is an expensive venture. Tuition and fees simply don’t provide all the revenue needed to maintain and even advance the school in the manner expected by parents who entrust their most precious asset under our daily care. Therefore, private giving to LCS is essential. As parents, grandparents, alumni, alumni parents and other friends of the school invest their stewardship dollars in the advancement of LCS, they are giving to an organization where the dividends are certain – the sharpening of minds and shepherding of hearts of the next generation. The following information reflects the heartfelt generosity of ministry partners to Lakeland Christian:

Given/Pledged by Constituency:
- School Parents: 277 gifts $200,526
- Grandparents: 75 gifts $457,426
- Alumni: 177 gifts $16,347
- Alumni Parents: 341 gifts $519,079
- Other: 399 gifts $1,066,627

Given/Pledged by Funds:
- Campaign Giving: 857 gifts $1,982,098
- Financial Aid: 223 gifts $218,589
- Families in Crisis: 22 gifts $2,190
- General Fund: 73 gifts $33,827
- Other: 94 gifts $23,301

CAMPAIGN UPDATES

LCS is blessed with some of the finest educational facilities in all of West Central Florida. Over the past several years, campus expansion and renovation has totaled nearly $23 Million. This massive transformation of the Lakeland Christian campus has been funded through three separate capital campaigns. Generous ministry partners have stepped up to provide heartfelt gifts to make these fine facilities a reality for the children and young people of LCS. Substantial progress on the campaigns continued during the 2013-14 year.

**Deliver the Dream**
- Campaign Goal: $18,435,577
- Commitments as of 7/1/13: $18,061,167
- Commitments as of 6/30/14: $18,373,074

**Viking Stadium**
- Campaign Goal: $2,762,164
- Commitments as of 7/1/13: $2,775,154
- Commitments as of 6/30/14: $2,775,154

**Center For Early Childhood Education**
- Campaign Goal: $1,244,048
- Commitments as of 7/1/13: $1,244,046
- Commitments as of 6/30/14: $1,244,048

Dream Come True Wrap-Up Campaign

The unprecedented expansion of the 27-acre LCS campus includes the Elementary/Middle School building, Viking Stadium, the Center for Early Childhood Education (K4/K5), expanded parking, new maintenance complex, the new main entry and all related infrastructure.

In October, 2012, LCS began the Dream Come True Wrap-Up Campaign to encourage the completion of the funding of the school’s $23 Million expansion. For the past two years, this effort has been the school’s top funding priority.

Significant progress was made toward campaign completion during the 2013-14 school year. Generous ministry partners continue to step up!

Amount remaining to be raised
- October 1, 2012: $1,700,000
- June 30, 2013: $330,000
- June 30, 2014: $50,000
LCS AUCTION

LCS is pleased to present a school-wide auction each spring to provide support for the school’s Financial Aid fund. This fun event is also an exciting social opportunity for school family and friends. The theme of the 2014 auction was Pizza, Pasta & Paddles!

FINANCIAL AID

The need for financial aid assistance continues to be significant at Lakeland Christian School. Many families rely on this help for their children to be a part of the LCS experience. In fact, Lakeland Christian issues about a half-million dollars of tuition assistance to families each school year. The school is passionate about making a Christian education accessible to a greater number of students each year. However, LCS must raise more money for financial aid to make this goal a reality.

YEAR | $ RAISED | BENEFICIARY
--- | --- | ---
2011 | $48,114 | Financial Aid
2012 | $59,124 | Financial Aid
2013 | $58,543 | Financial Aid
2014 | $54,097 | Financial Aid

HOW TO Give to LCS

Good financial planning honors God, may help you avoid unnecessary taxes and may enable you to make a larger gift. As you prioritize your stewardship plans, we share these ideas to help you identify the most effective ways to invest as a financial partner with Lakeland Christian School.

CASH GIFTS AND PLEDGES

This represents the most direct method for making a contribution. You may provide a single gift or make a pledge. Multi-year pledges offer the opportunity to maximize your support. Online giving is also available.

APPRECIATED ASSETS

A gift of appreciated stock or real estate you have owned for more than one year will generate a tax deduction based upon the fair market value.

TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY

If you make a gift of a boat, automobile or other tangible personal property, you will enjoy certain tax advantages.

GIFTS IN KIND

The possibilities for giving “in-kind” are limitless. LCS uses and needs many goods and services, especially those related to the building campaign.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many corporations offer matching gift programs for current or retired employees. For more information, contact your company’s personnel office.

PLANNED GIFTS

Consult with your attorney and other financial advisors to provide for LCS through your estate and tax planning. These charitable vehicles allow you to maximize your giving and/or minimize the impact on your estate. A planned gift is made in lifetime or at death as part of a donor’s overall estate/tax planning.

For more information, contact: Steve Wilson, CCNL, Director of Advancement | Lakeland Christian School 1111 Forest Park Street | Lakeland, Florida 33803 863-688-2771 | swilson@lcsonline.org

YEAR | $ RAISED | BENEFICIARY
--- | --- | ---
2009-10 | $71,951 | 147 Total Students
2010-11 | $275,255 | 178 Total Students
2011-12 | $279,084 | 147 Total Students
2012-13 | $350,499 | 167 Total Students
2013-14 | $198,870 | 194 Total Students
2014-15 | $272,686 | 178 Total Students
MINISTRY PARTNERS
Bless LCS During 2013-14

Lakeland Christian School expresses heartfelt appreciation to the many individuals, businesses & organizations who have financially supported the school this year.

Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Abbott
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Adams
Dr. and Mrs. Steven Agosti
Agrium Advanced Technologies
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Albritton
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Lakeland Regional Medical Center’s Executive Leadership Team
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Mr. and Mrs. Craig Wilsman
Mrs. Dorothy Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Wilson
Ms. Shawn Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wineinger
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Wineinger
When people provide a gift to Lakeland Christian in honor or in memory of a loved one, they are creating a double blessing – not only are they creating a special tribute, they are supporting the school’s mission to educate students in the light of God’s Word. Many thanks to the following individuals for their thoughtful giving.

**In memory of:**
Mrs. Norma Harrell  
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Mrs. Margie Webb  
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Mr. and Mrs. Robert Whitehead  
Mr. and Mrs. James Wilbanks, Jr.  
Mrs. Dorothy Wilson  
Ms. Shawn Wilson  
In memory of:  
Mr. Dawson Klages  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Aldridge  
Ms. Darlene Hall  
Mrs. Barbara Jessen-White  
Mr. and Mrs. Christian Klages  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike McCormick  
Mrs. Heldegard Meffert  
Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Meffert  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Phyllis Jacobs  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Blalock  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Audrey Parrish  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. James Burgner  
Rev. and Mrs. Mike Latham  
Mr. James D. Parrish  
Mr. Wade Parrish  
In memory of:  
Dr. Albert Chan  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. John Douglass  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Cathy Asbridge  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. James Evans  
In memory of:  
Dr. James Anderson  
Given by:  
Mrs. Robert Hightower  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Betty Privett  
Given by:  
Mrs. Robert Hightower  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Jewel Sterling  
Given by:  
Mrs. Robert Hightower  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Lois Nellis  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Horvath  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Arlene Knowlton  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Knowlton  
In memory of:  
Mr. Clint Schultz  
Given by:  
Mrs. Ann Matthews  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Vicky Dawson  
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Mr. and Mrs. Bill Merritt  
In memory of:  
Cooper Naughton  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Naughton  
Landon Naughton  
In memory of:  
Shaun Pleima  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Pleima  
Mr. Nelson Pleima  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Ann Matthews  
Given by:  
Mrs. Billie Sutton  
In memory of:  
Mrs. Arlene Wilbanks  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wilbanks  
In memory of:  
Mr. Chuck Fulton  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Blanchard  
In memory of:  
Victoria Vandegrift Holmes  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Louie Holmes  

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**COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS PROVIDE A DOUBLE BLESSING**

In memory of:  
Mr. Dawson Klages  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Aldridge  
Ms. Darlene Hall  
Mrs. Barbara Jessen-White  
Mr. and Mrs. Christian Klages  
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Mr. Chuck Fulton  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Blanchard  
In memory of:  
Victoria Vandegrift Holmes  
Given by:  
Mr. and Mrs. Louie Holmes
I trust you’ve enjoyed reading about the remarkable flourishing of Lakeland Christian School in this year’s Annual Report. What a privilege to serve such an outstanding school that seeks to honor God by being excellent in all endeavors.

As Dr. Sligh presented the concept of Shalom to our school Board prior to the school year, and as he unpacked the notion of our campus culture being transformed by a new intentionality of thought, word and deed, I began to reflect upon this marvelous concept of flourishing. My dictionary showed several intriguing definitions – to be in a vigorous state ... to thrive ... to be in one’s prime ... to be at the height of influence ... to be successful ... to prosper ... I immediately thought, “That’s us! That’s our school! What great descriptions of LCS!” Yet, I realize that we only fit that collection of accolades because of the hand of our Lord upon our school. To God be the glory forever and ever!

Just as He has led us from the beginning, we are confident of our tomorrow because of the Lord’s presence with Lakeland Christian. And what an exciting future is just ahead!

During the 2014-15 school year, we look forward to a grand celebration of our 60th Anniversary. I can’t wait to reflect on the long and storied history of God’s faithfulness to our school through the decades.

We also look forward to the completion of our massive capital campaign, which we hope will occur in the Fall of 2014. We are blessed with amazing facilities and now we need to bring the fundraising to a conclusion. Related to this venture, even now our school leadership is considering “what’s next” on the expansion front. Lord willing, we will have exciting plans to announce at some point during the next school year.

And, of course, we’re always passionate about strengthening the school in all important ways. For instance, there is no doubt students will be taught by the strongest faculty in school history during this next year. What a blessing to serve with these skilled practitioners who are passionate about Christian schooling.

Even though the Board and Administration faithfully pray and carefully plan for the future of Lakeland Christian, we can certainly never fully know every plan He has in store for our school. However, one critical facet of LCS is certain – a distinction that’s been the core of our mission from the beginning ... providing an Education in the Light of God’s Word, to equip students for a lifetime of learning, leadership, service and worship.

May this passion continue to flourish at LCS!

Kevin C. Knowlton
Senior Shareholder, Peterson & Myers, P.A.
Chairman, LCS Board of Directors
Make a difference, choose...

SHALOM