



**exceptional** education, formed in **faith**



## A Word from the President of the CLS Board of Trustees

Dear Carroll Lutheran School Families, Friends, and Faithful Supporters,

It is now October of 2024, and we have come to review the 2023-2024 school year. However, I want to begin a decade ago when Carroll Lutheran School’s mission was defined as, “exceptional education, formed in faith.”

“Exceptional Education” is the heart of this organization, and it begins with a top-notch faculty. CLS is built around small class sizes and a full array of supports and programs. Our teachers use nationally recognized curricula and materials that are peer-reviewed and updated on a routine basis. Anyone in education can tell you that children have changed over time and that means our faculty must develop new skills to meet student needs. Few, if any, private schools provide special education services or guidance counseling, but Carroll Lutheran School does. Mrs. Gilbert saw these needs and the Board of Trustees agreed. Finding creative ways to bring training and resources to her staff and hiring special education and guidance staff to provide these services has been a focus of Mrs. Gilbert over the past four years. Carroll Lutheran School goes from strength to strength as new faculty are hired and new trainings are provided for staff. The staff are beginning preparations for a new faith formation curriculum and for



a new testing system to start next year. Like the absolute best schools, Mrs. Gilbert and her staff are seeking constant improvements to the exceptional education they already provide.

“Formed in Faith” is the soul of this organization and the reason so many are here. Mrs. Gilbert, her faculty, and staff have the joy and responsibility of helping children in their faith formation. Bible verses to remember, lessons to learn, and chapel each week surround the students with God’s love and power. This school, and the people who support it, are working on a mission that extends far beyond the walls of the school. Each student can be touched by the grace that God provides, and they can see it in their daily lives. When these students go home to their families, hang out with their friends, play sports, go to church, etc. they bring that faith with them. The education and faith formation that Carroll Lutheran students develop here can last throughout their lives.

When I began my first term at CLS, I was most impressed by the energy and passion of the faculty and staff. As my sixth year on the Board of Trustees ends, I continue to be impressed with their passion for learning, their passion for student achievement, and their passion for Christ which are the bedrock of a Carroll Lutheran School education.

I ask you to look forward and consider what you can do to make Carroll Lutheran School a better place for the 2024-2025 school year. What can you give of your time, your talents, and your treasure? How can you support the mission of this wonderful place and the people who provide that “exceptional education, formed in faith”?

Respectfully submitted,

**Mr. Steve Findeisen**  
President, CLS Board of Trustees



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**BOARD MEMBERS 2024**

## Who Helps?

Mr. Fred Rogers of children's television fame was given some words of wisdom from his mom. She said, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." Her message is wise advice. CLS is a school community where someone is always helping. A teacher provides additional academic support for a child who is struggling. A lunchroom volunteer opens fruit cups and juice boxes. A pastor leads worship at chapel, sharing God's love with our students and staff. Better yet, a student stops to help a friend who dropped their belongings. As a school community, we fill Christmas stockings for Shepherd's Staff and collect car loads of food for Carroll Food Sunday. Board Members advocate for the school. Families fundraise. Donors generously support our CLS mission. I'm not sure you'd find a school community where there are more loving, dedicated helpers than at CLS. We are forever grateful for every helping hand.



But, the answer to the question, "Who helps?" has a broader, more important response than noticing the roles that our staff, volunteers, and donors play in the life of the school. Psalm 121:1-2, our Scripture focus for the year, reminds us that God is our ultimate, constant source of help. God is always watching, always protecting, always there as a stronghold in times of trouble. I want our students to understand this fully and deeply, to know that God loves them and is NEVER leaving them. But those Scripture verses also remind us that we, too, are called to be helpers. God uses us to provide support where it is needed. We can be the answer to prayers. We can be the helpers. As you consider the mission of Carroll Lutheran School, I humbly ask that you would consider how you can help. Your prayers, time, involvement, and financial support are crucial for the work of CLS to continue well past its 25th anniversary year. We welcome you to come alongside us in mission. We're looking for helpers.

In God's Love,

**Mandy Gilbart**  
CLS Principal



## FIELD DAY: JUNE, 2024

Field Day is a beloved tradition, a community celebration to mark the end of a wonderful school year. Students, staff, and families enjoy a full day of fun and fellowship. We were blessed with wonderful weather—warm enough for water games, but with enough cloud coverage that we didn't get sunburned. We had a fantastic turnout of families to cheer our students on. Our morning included field games like relay races, tug-of-war, soccer, gaga ball, scooter races, and more. At lunchtime, students and staff refueled with lunch provided by our FPP and generous donors. We rehydrated with Kona Ice, then headed back outside for water games. We went home wet, tired, happy, and grateful for all the fun.



## Swing for Scholarships Golf Tournament

Carroll Lutheran School held its 21st Annual “Swing for Scholarships” Golf Tournament at Oakmont Green Golf Course on Friday, September 29th. This annual event is being renamed the Bob Fischer Memorial Golf Tournament. The funds from this tournament will now fund a Robert Fischer Scholarship Fund as a living legacy for Bob and his stellar dedication to the CLS campus construction. The annual event was attended by over 60 golfers, and 18 sponsors supported the event including Presenting Sponsor, Friend Commercial Real Estate. This year’s tournament raised \$15,000. These funds will allow several more students to experience an exceptional education, formed in faith at CLS. We are very grateful to our golfers, sponsors, volunteers, and the organizations that contributed donations towards door prizes and raffle gifts. Please support our sponsors as they have supported CLS. This year’s sponsors were:



ACNB	HUB International	Open Professional Group
DLM Specialty Equipment, LLC	IMACS Automation	Diane and Fred Riehl
First Class Mechanical, LLC	JJ Headley Construction	St. Benjamin’s Lutheran Church
Friend Commercial Real Estate	Kairos Wealth Advisors	Thomas, Bennett, and Hunter, Inc.
Hermine Saunders	Kevin Dayhoff and Caroline Babylon	Velnoskey Wealth Management Group
Hoffman, Comfort, Offutt, Scott, & Halstad, LLP	Let It Be Acupuncture & Wellness	
	Lutheran Social Ministries of MD	

## Parent Testimonial

### CLS Parent Letter from Kelly Offutt

I could say so much about CLS! I am the mother of children in fourth and sixth grades. From one mom to another, if you are seeking a higher education in a safe, loving, and fun environment for your children, you must check out Carroll Lutheran School. From the moment you walk into the school, you will not be disappointed. After researching several other private schools in the area, we made the best decision for our boys by choosing CLS. CLS shined much brighter than the rest of those schools. There hasn't been a day that has passed in the five years since we made this move from public school that we doubted our decision. Every staff member employed at CLS has made an impact in our children's lives. They care about every student and family. It is more than just a job to every one of them and it shows daily. Our boys have grown in so many ways since we started at CLS. Please do yourself and your children a favor and make that same choice we did. I can promise you that you will not regret it.

## We Thank Our Generous Contributors For Their Generosity

We extend our sincere appreciation for the following gifts received from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in listing all contributions to CLS. If you are aware of an error or omission, please contact [development@clsedu.org](mailto:development@clsedu.org) or call (410) 848-1050.

### LEGACY (over \$85,000.00)

Ruth B. Bare Irrevocable Trust

### (\$5,000.00 to \$50,000.00)

ABC Scholarship Fund

Mr. Fred Myers

Mrs. David and Margaret Arnoult

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION (\$1,000.00 to \$4,999.00)

#### [Congregations & Church Groups](#)

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

St. Mary's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Lutheran Social Ministries of Maryland

#### [Individuals](#)

Mr. & Mrs. Alex Myers

Dr. Hermine Saunders

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Baber

Rev. Charles Marshall

Mrs. Hilda K. Asher

Mr. Dave Kulow

Mr. Andrew Dean

Ms. Cindy Wigfield

Mr. Glenn Bair

Mr. & Mrs. James Boesler

Mrs. Genny Resch

Mr. and Mrs. Eric and Susan Kron

#### [Corporate](#)

IMACS Automation

Open Professional Group, Inc.

Friend Commercial Real Estate

### PATRON (\$500.00 to \$999.00)

#### [Congregations And Church Groups](#)

Immanuel Lutheran Church

St. Benjamin's Lutheran Church

St. John's Lutheran Church

#### [Individuals](#)

Mr. & Mrs. Bronson & Margaret Jones Jr.

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The Rev. & Mrs. David Schafer

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Kairos Wealth Advisors of Raymond James

DLM Specialty Equipment LLC

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HUB International

JJ Headley Construction

### BENEFACTOR (\$250.00 to \$499.00)

#### [Congregations & Church Groups](#)

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

#### [Individuals](#)

Ms. Molly Pollasch

Mr. Steve Findeisen

Mrs. Margaret Rogers

The Rev. and Mr. Melissa Helfer

Mr. John Olsh

Mr. Errol Smith

Mrs. Dawn M. McFadden

Ms. Barbara Croft

#### [Corporate](#)

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### SUPPORTER (\$100.00 to \$249.00)

#### [Congregations And Church Groups](#)

Trinity Lutheran Church

Messiah Lutheran Church

#### [Individuals](#)

Mrs. Christine Crouch

Ms. Sharon Harris

Mr. & Mrs. David & Lois McGinnis

Mr. and Mrs. Guy and Phyllis Myers

Mr. and Mrs. Diane & Fred Riehl

Mr. Kevin Dayhoff

Mr. David Citron

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Ms. Melanie Haines

Mr. & Mrs. Edward D. Leister

Mr. & Mrs. Melvin A. Arbaugh

Mrs. Sandra Parker

Ms. Nancy Dean

The Rev. Michael Dubsky

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ACNB Bank

The Velnoskey Wealth Management Group  
of Janney Montgomery Scott LLC

Thomas, Bennett & Hunter

Let It Be Acupuncture & Wellness

Hoffman, Comfort, Offutt, Scott & Halstad  
LLP

### FRIENDS (\$1.00 to \$99.00)

#### [Congregations And Church Groups](#)

Mt. Joy Lutheran Church

#### [Individuals](#)

Amy Hartman



## ALUMNI REUNION

Maintaining strong connections with our alumni is essential to the continued growth and success of our school. Our alumni are key contributors to our future. In January, all former staff, teachers, and alumni were invited to a CLS Reunion at the school on a Sunday afternoon. All enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies while reminiscing about their time at the school. Everyone enjoyed browsing through old yearbooks and finding their ceiling tile in a middle school classroom or hallway. Painting a ceiling tile upon finishing 8th grade at CLS has been a tradition since the beginning. When alumni visit the school for any occasion, the first thing they want to do is visit those classrooms and find their tile. They are treasured memories for sure. This was the first gathering of former staff and students since 2017 and was the first time many alumni had been back to the school. Reunions and other gatherings of alumni build a community of lifelong advocates, mentors, and supporters who can offer invaluable insights, foster opportunities for our current students, and help sustain the legacy of excellence at our school. The alumni committee plans to continue to host reunions and picnics each year to build continuity amongst our alumni.

## Westminster Area Conference

### **CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Mt. Airy**

The Revs. Eric & Anke Deibler

### **CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, Upperco**

Pastor Michael C. Adams

### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, Westminster**

Pastor Matt Pensinger, Assoc. Pastor Cody Danner

### **HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH, Eldersburg**

Vicar Tom Smoot

### **IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, Manchester**

Pastor Dot Lundgren & Pastor Ellen Lichtfuss

### **JERUSALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, Westminster**

Pastor Dot Lundgren & Pastor Ellen Lichtfuss

### **KEYSVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH, Keymar**

Pastor Cathy Feil

### **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, Sykesville**

Pastor Michael Dubsky

### **MOUNT JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Gettysburg**

Pastor Peter Naschke

### **MT. ZION HAUGH'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Keymar**

Pastor Cathy Feil

### **ST. ABRAHAMS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Beckleysville**

Pastor Dot Lundgren & Pastor Ellen Lichtfuss

### **ST. BENJAMIN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Westminster**

Pastor David Schafer

### **ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH, Union Bridge**

TBD

### **ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Westminster**

Pastor Chris Litton

### **ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, New Windsor**

Pastor Nicole Wachter

### **ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Hampstead**

Pastor Andy Carr

### **ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Snydersburg**

Pastor Michael Dubsky

### **ST MARY'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Westminster**

Pastor Cris Frigm

### **ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Harney**

Pastor Peter Naschke

### **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Upperco**

Pastor Dot Lundgren & Pastor Ellen Lichtfuss

### **ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, Hampstead**

Pastor Dot Lundgren & Pastor Ellen Lichtfuss

### **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Taneytown**

Pastor Cris Frigm

### **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Westminster**

Pastor Melissa Helfer

# A FEW MEMORABLE MOMENTS



**Westminster Fallfest Parade**



**Kindergarten Butterfly Release**



**4th Grade Dam Science Project**



**Balloon Float Science Project**



**Stockings for Shepherd's Staff**



**Plant Studies with Alumna Miss Gilbert**



**4th Grade Building Nests**



**6th Grade Preschool Reading Program**



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*CLS thanks our exceptional community of churches,  
staff, families, students and volunteers for making our  
school amazing!*

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