FINE ARTS FESTIVAL
The annual Lutheran Schools Fine Arts Festival features musicians and artists from all of our feeder schools. Their work will be on display on our campus, and they will perform for family and friends on SATURDAY, MARCH 21

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER CHAPEL
We have entered the season of Lent, and Easter is right around the corner. Join us for Good Friday Chapels (HS March 30; MS April 1) and Easter Chapels (HS March 31; MS April 2) MARCH 30, APRIL 1 & 2

GRADUATION & PROMOTION
It's hard to believe another year has passed as our students get ready to transition to high school and college!
8th Grade Promotion MAY 20
HS Baccalaureate MAY 21
MS Graduation MAY 22

SAVE THE DATE
Mark your calendars for our upcoming events, and meet the newest team member, helping make them happen.
THE WOMEN OF STEM

ACCORDING TO THE 2018 SCIENCE & ENGINEERING INDICATORS (NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION), WOMEN REMAIN UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING WORKFORCE WITH ONLY 28 PERCENT ENTERING STEM PROFESSIONS. THE PERCENTAGES DROP SIGNIFICANTLY WHEN CONSIDERING THE FIELDS OF ENGINEERING, COMPUTER SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.

With similar scores on math and science standardized tests, why do girls “melt” out of STEM-related professions? Although there is no simple answer, research suggests a variety of social, cultural, and societal factors as the cause of women leaving STEM majors and careers. In professions long dominated by men, women are discouraged by the lack of role models, norms in the media and schools, and uncomfortable or hostile environments with their peers.

The Faith Lutheran STEM Academy was designed to encourage females to pursue their passions in STEM fields, and support them as they leave for college. Our continued dream is to launch well-prepared, well-supported women into STEM majors; women who will persevere through some of the societal pitfalls that lie ahead.

The following five “Women of STEM” each come from a different discipline or strand in our STEM offerings here at Faith Lutheran. These five brilliant, talented, and strong women are becoming role models for other young women!

ELLIE THACKER, Senior. Architecture Strand of the STEM Academy

College Plans: Ellie plans on attending either University of Oregon or Washington State University (both offering significant merit-based scholarships) and majoring in Architecture.

Ellie originally desired to be an engineer, but her aptitude in art motivated her parents to encourage Ellie toward architecture, a field that demands both set of gifts. She did, and a new love was born. As a junior, Ellie transferred to Faith Lutheran for their architecture program. In her first year, she enrolled in both CAD (computer aided drafting) and graphic design, and this year she is completing Faith Lutheran’s Architecture course at Kla Juba Wald Architecture + Interiors. Ellie lives the real-life experience of pitching her ideas and receiving professional feedback.

Ellie has noticed that males tend to dominate traditional architecture while female conglomerate in interior design. She wants to buck that trend, becoming a successful architect in a large firm or starting her own.

KAILYN SANNIYAH HAYE, Senior. Computer Science & Cyber Security at Faith Lutheran

College Plans: Sanniyah will attend Benedict College, a small, private, historically black college in South Carolina. She has earned substantial merit-based scholarships to major in computer science or cyber security.

Sanniyah didn’t start off with a natural ability or understanding of computers. She did, however, display a natural curiosity for science, and was intrigued by an announcement for the school’s CyberPatriot team. She admits that it felt a little awkward to walk into an activity that was dominated by high school boys. At first, she didn’t feel treated as an equal, but with continued persistence, she earned the respect of all of her teammates, male and female.

Sanniyah can’t say enough positive things about Jose Diaz, her AP Computer Science and CyberPatriot teacher. “Mr. Diaz had the ability to both make the subject fun and clearly explain the details. He never gave up making sure I understood what was happening.”

BELLA GORICHAR, Senior. Environmental Science Strand of the STEM Academy

College Plans: Bella will be attending the University of Oregon and double majoring in environmental science and psychology.

Bella has always been concerned about the environment, but that concerned coalesced into a future career when she enrolled in AP Environmental Science at Faith Lutheran. Her instructor, Mr. Rolfsmeier, taught with the passion and toughness to prepare her for a college major in the same subject area. Psychology also intrigues her and in 15 years, she wants to be conducting research on the psychological effects of climate on humans.

Although there have been as many or more girls in her upper-level biology courses, Bella knows that there are more men in her desired field. Both at school and at her STEM internship, her male mentors have been extremely encouraging, supporting her future goals. She is thankful for her intern mentor, Ray Schuth with the Southern Nevada Water Authority, and credits her parents and Mrs. Blank for being a valuable support network.

Bella wants to remind girls that there are barriers to most good things in life. “Your job is to persist through those problems to reach your goals.”

CHRISTIANA VANCURA, Junior. Engineering Strand of the STEM Academy

College Plans: Christiana will concentrate on biomedical engineering in college.

Christiana comes from a long line of scientists. Both of her parents and many of her older siblings have pursued careers in STEM fields, but she doesn’t feel pressure to pursue a science major. Her parents have always encouraged her to study what was interesting to her. In fact, Christiana has many interests and chose engineering because she believed it to be unique to Faith Lutheran.

At Faith Lutheran like much of the world, there are more boys populating the engineering courses and robotics teams than girls. She believes that Mr. Kober and Mrs. Blank do little things to both encourage and support women in engineering. Christiana has thrived with that support and looks forward to improving surgical robots in the medical field. She and Mrs. Blank are organizing a possible internship at MountaintopView Hospital where they use robots to perform surgery.

Along with many words of encouragement, she recommends that younger girls explore courses in fields that can either help them in the future or “ones that you know the least about. You have options. Go and explore the possibilities.”

COBY SUGARS, Senior. Biomedical Strand of the STEM Academy

College Plans: Coby will be attending Northeastern University or Brown University to study health sciences and prepare for medical school.

When she graduates this May, Coby will have completed nine science courses at Faith Lutheran with three of them just this year. She is extremely intelligent, loves science, and loves a challenge. This past summer, Coby completed her STEM internship working alongside Joel Delapoe inside neurologist James Forage’s practice. Initially, she was interested in neurology but during her internship, she became more interested in interpreting X-rays and scans of their patients. Now she is pursuing a career as a radiologist.

Coby’s father has been a driving force for her motivation, support and dreams. He always had high expectations and equal levels of encouragement. Mr. Morrill and Mr. Rolfsmeier helped unleash her passion and challenged her to be her best.

Coby wants other girls to know that they have the power to pursue their dreams. She tells other girls, “If you like it, do it! Explore what you think you will enjoy.”
Forty-one students are already signed up for the first classes which begin in August and are looking forward to the flight school. At least two other Faith Lutheran students are already way ahead of the game in aviation; meet eighth-grader Summer Van Houweling and sophomore Frankie Fremont.

Summer first started flying when she was eight years old. “My dad’s in the Air Force so I always had some sort of interest in that field specifically aviation.” So far in Summer’s flying career, she has logged about 43 hours in different planes including Tecnams, Cessnas, and Pipers, and she has flown outside the Las Vegas valley and landed in other airports in Laughlin and Jean, Nevada.

Despite the vast amount of studying and education that flying requires, Summer loves to fly. “What I enjoy most about flying is definitely the feeling of freedom when I’m in the air. There’s nothing else like it.” She is excitedly looking forward to getting her pilot’s license when she turns 17.

Frankie started flying a bit later at age 14 after an arm injury sidelined his promising baseball career, but he has more than made up for lost time. Jumping straight to the chase, within a 24-hour span of his 16th birthday, Frankie took a helicopter through four solo patterns, a Cessna through three solo patterns, and a glider through his first check-ride – all successfully. As far as anyone knows, there doesn’t seem to be a record of this combination of events being done on a 16th birthday by anyone else.

Glider piloting seems daunting as a powered aircraft takes them up to 9,000 feet and then lets them loose subjecting them to the forces of lift, drag, and weight without providing for thrust. Flying helicopters is especially challenging as they are inherently unstable so constant control inputs are required by the pilot. A fixed wing plane like a Cessna is inherently stable; it wants to level out and fly straight so it may be the “easiest” of the three.

Frankie describes the feeling of flight: “It’s almost indescribable being up there knowing you are doing something that not many other people can. The scenery, just being up above everything is fascinating.” Frankie’s career goal is to be in the airlines; he also hasn’t ruled out the Air Force.

With students like Summer and Frankie leading the way coupled with the addition of the Oder Family Aviation Academy, look for the skies around the valley and beyond to be filled with Faith Lutheran students. As John H. Secondari once stated, “When once you have tasted flight, you will forever walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward, for there you have been, and there you will always long to return.”
Describing the stark contrast between a structure that, at best, could be described as a dilapidated shed and the new home that had been built next to it was enough to move Julie Buuck to tears.

Buuck, who serves as Director of Student Life at Faith Lutheran, is also the school administrator who oversees the school’s mission trips. During the third week in January, Buuck and five other adults led a group of 64 students – the most ever for a global mission trip organized by the school – to Maneadero (near Ensenada) to build three homes for needy families and visit orphanages, including one for special needs children.

Since January 2018, Faith Lutheran has partnered with Baja Bound, a ministry that was begun more than 20 years ago by a pastor in Chula Vista, CA, to send teams of students to the Ensenada area and experience the joy of providing what many in that part of Mexico can only dream of: A house to call their own.

Buuck explained that families are required to own the land before they are allowed to build. “Baja Bound believes in a hand up, not a hand out,” she said. “Their philosophy is that the owners and builders are in this together, and that philosophy resonates with what we are trying to teach students through the missions program.”

Many indigenous families, she said, move from Southern Mexico to the region in and around Ensenada because of job opportunities – especially farming jobs that don’t require a lot of education. Buuck added that each family in need of housing goes through a vetting process, and once they pay for their land (at a cost of about $7,500), Baja Bound then commits to utilizing their partners – in this case, Faith Lutheran – to pay the cost of building a new home. Once the home is built, the family continues to be accountable to the local church and pastor who recommended their eligibility to be a part of Baja’s program. The idea is that they will share their talents with others in their church community.

Construction costs for each home built by the three student teams was $7,700, meaning that $23,100 was invested to transform the lives of three different families. One of those families literally lived in a structure about half the size of a standard American bedroom.

“The recommending pastor led a devotion and dedicated the house to the Lord, and we had the privilege of handing over the keys to the family,” Buuck said. “One of the families, with two adults and three kids, lived in a 5’x7’ shed-like structure, and yet the mom was still trying to beautify her home with flowers in pots on the outside that had obviously been there a long time. She had pride of ownership in her home, even though it was made from discarded materials they had found. She and her family were so grateful to have a new home, even though it won’t have many of the things we take for granted here in the States. It moves me to tears every time I share the story.”

One of the students who went on this year’s trip, senior Mark Aguilar, was also moved by the experience of making a difference for families in need.

“Going on this trip really opened my eyes and allowed me to see the world for what it is,” he said. “It isn’t perfect, but I learned that with the help and love of others and the support of God anything can be done together. This trip changed my view of how I should live my life with passion and love for all.”

Buuck said she’s always inspired by how Faith students come back from each mission trip with a different life view.

“We take so much for granted in this country,” she observed. “For example, the size of each family home in Mexico affects the kids when they come back from their mission trip and see the difference in what they take for granted.”

The recommending pastor led a devotion and dedicated the house to the Lord, and we had the privilege of handing over the keys to the family.
The bonds you make with a family that you’ve never met before and people who you thought you would never interact with is a blessing I’ll never forget.

— Mark Aguilar, student

In 1994, John Faulis moved to Las Vegas after graduating from Canisius College in his native Buffalo, N.Y. to start his career at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. About 10 years later, he met his now wife Nadine, who was a fellow native New Yorker but had resided in Las Vegas since 1977 after moving across the country at a young age with her parents and three siblings to start a new life in the desert.

One moved to start a career, and one moved to start a new life. And both were moves for good, because they led to a marriage of 15 years and counting, a family that includes two incredible daughters with deep ties to Faith Lutheran, and a heart for service that centers around a strong devotion to their church and equally strong commitment to their community.

But first and foremost, they are committed to Christ and what He wants for their lives.

Since retiring from Metro as a lieutenant after a distinguished career that included Police Officer of the Year for the entire U.S. as well as twice being awarded with the Medal of Honor, John transitioned to real estate in 2011 as a Realtor and broker for Vegas Dream Homes. For the past five years, he has earned a spot as one of the top 250 real estate agents in Nevada.

Nadine has had a highly successful career in the area of financial services after earning her degree from UNLV in 1989. Since that time, she has been assisting individuals, families and businesses with their financial planning needs and currently serves as financial advisor and managing director for Merrill Lynch Wealth Management. She has been recognized and honored by both Forbes Magazine and Barron’s as one of the top financial advisers in America.

Despite their very busy work days and commitment to their two daughters, John and Nadine generously give of their time doing philanthropic work. Nadine is active with Nevada Women’s Philanthropy, an amazing group of women that each year donates nearly a half million dollars to local charity. John is President of Cops for Kids, a charity he founded in 2010. Cops for Kids donates 100 percent of the money it raises each year to children’s causes and to college scholarships for kids in the Las Vegas Valley.

Their two daughters are amazing in their own right. Madison, 23, is a proud Faith Faithful and a graduate of UCLA with a BA in economics and minor in digital humanities. She is currently working on a Master’s degree at UCLA in information science with an emphasis in Informatics. For the past three years, Madison has worked part-time as a client associate at Merrill Lynch.

Olivia, 14, is an eighth grader at Faith and involved in many activities like Applied Christianity, Choir and Praise Band, for which she sings and plays piano. Olivia has also played volleyball for Faith Lutheran since sixth grade and is currently a member of the National Junior Honor Society.

For 14 years, the Faulis family have been members of Faith Community Lutheran Church, where John also serves on the board of directors. Faith in God is what drives John and Nadine in all they do, especially parenting their daughters, and it’s very important to them that Madison and Olivia continue to deepen their faith at school.

“We chose Faith for our daughters for the high quality of education and for the way the school increases the focus of students on college preparation, but most importantly we chose Faith because it’s all about commitment to Christ,” Nadine said.

“We love the fact the teachers and staff at Faith Lutheran are passionate about teaching, committed to providing a safe learning environment and dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ,” John added.

John and Nadine are strong supporters of Faith as parents and donors, and they are very excited for the future of the school.
Jacquelyn obtained her bachelor of arts in human services and psychology at Hawaii Pacific University. After graduating, Jacquelyn worked for Child Adolescent Mental Health Division where she spearheaded programs that directly enhanced the entire family’s well being. She continued her educational journey taking 30 credits towards her Masters in Education and Curriculum.

Jacquelyn, a proud wife and mother of three, (Jake 17, Makena 15 and John 12) is a woman that leads with a sense of passion and purpose in her life. In addition to her lifetime of advocacy, Jacquelyn has also run several successful businesses and nonprofits that have helped the lives of countless people.

Jacquelyn and her husband Matt moved to Las Vegas in 2005. She spent years volunteering and participating on local boards and committees enhancing the landscape of education and extracurricular activities throughout the Valley. In 2010, she became the assistant director and curriculum specialist for a neighboring school and spent five years cultivating and developing relationships, enrollment, and curriculum. In 2016–2017, she founded and directed a local private nonprofit school serving children Nursery - first grade. Jacquelyn has extensive experience raising money and successfully heading fund-raisers for charities, businesses, and other organizations nationwide.

With an impressive resume that includes business expertise, excellent fundraising abilities, executive and family coaching, and educational management and administration, Jacquelyn is an asset to our Advancement team. She is versatile and caring, but above all has a passion – a passion to help others.

WHAT DO YOU GET WHEN YOU COMBINE SUMPTUOUS WINE, DELICIOUS APPETIZERS, A BEAUTIFUL LAKESIDE SETTING...AND YOU?

THE 2020 DONOR APPRECIATION WINE TASTING!

This year’s Donor Appreciation Wine Tasting will be held on Friday, April 24 from 7-9 p.m. in the beautiful Swan Garden Banquet Room at Desert Shores. It’s free to all donors and their spouses who have given $1,000 or more to Faith Lutheran during the academic year, and just $35 per person ($50 per couple) for everyone else.

This year’s event will feature wine from OneHope, which was founded in 2007 as a charitable enterprise to make great wine and in the process help fund worthy causes. OneHope donates half its profits to charity and each bottle sold supports a different charitable cause or organization.

In 2010, Robert Mondavi Jr. became OneHope’s winemaker. OneHope and its thousands of customers have given to such causes as Alzheimer’s research; cancer research; disaster relief; microloans to citizens in Third World countries; reforestation projects; and campaigns to end hunger, eliminate tropical diseases and provide clean drinking water.

In addition to the free tastings, a percentage of all OneHope purchases from the Donor Appreciation Wine Tasting will go back to the school.

TO PURCHASE TICKETS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT BRENDA MAY AT 702.804.4415 OR AT MAYB@FLHESEMAIL.ORG.
I BELIEVE THAT FROM GOD’S PERSPECTIVE, OUR MONEY IS AN ETERNAL RESOURCE. AND, EVEN THOUGH YOU CAN’T TAKE IT WITH YOU, YOU CAN SEND IT ON AHEAD. ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN...

Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there your heart is also” (Matt. 6:21). If your focus is on things that benefit you now with what you currently have, that’s what you’ll commit your resources to – whether it’s your time, your abilities, or your treasure. But if your focus is on what will benefit the people and things you care about in the long-term – with what you will have – your commitment to investing your resources changes. We invest in things we care about, and our hearts will always follow our money. And God wants our hearts.

The Apostle Paul was giving his young disciple Timothy advice on how to counsel people regarding their money, and he said a very interesting thing in 1 Tim. 6:18-19. The Message Version puts it this way:

“Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage – to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they’ll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.”

A lasting treasury, resulting in a life that is truly life. That should be the focus of our generosity. If we believe God is the source of all that we have – our very breath, our possessions, our relationships, and yes, our eternity – we can have confidence that He will provide not only for us but for the things we care about.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER GIVING A PORTION OF YOUR LASTING TREASURY TO FAITH?

Every gift – large or small – blesses our school. But it will also bless you. Typically, we view generosity as a blessing to those who receive it. God focuses on the blessing that generosity offers to those who provide it.

When you bless Faith with a one-time donation, a multi-year pledge, a stock transfer, a planned gift or an inheritance when you leave this life, I believe it opens the floodgates of God’s blessing on your life. As Solomon said in Proverbs 3:9-10, “Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.” You will impact what you care about – and you will gain life that is truly life.
For more on everything happening at Faith Lutheran, READ OUR BLOG!
BLOG.FAITHLUTHERANLV.ORG

@Faith Lutheran Middle School & High School
@faithlutheranlv
@FL_Crusaders

FAITHLUTHERANLV.ORG

LIVING FAITH
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FAITH LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL SPRING 2020

TRUMAN
ORTHODONTICS

Free Consultation • Braces
Invisalign • Invisalign Teen
iTero Scanner (no more messy impressions!)

10000 W. Sahara, Suite 110
Las Vegas, NV 89117
(702) 500-1112
www.TrumanOrthodontics.com