



For Immediate Release

Lake Country Classical Academy Announces NEW School Location Plan in Oconomowoc for Fall 2021 Opening

OCONOMOWOC, Wis. (April 28, 2021) — Lake Country Classical Academy (LCCA), a new K-12 charter school employing the curriculum and academic program of the Hillsdale College Barney Charter School Initiative, recently signed a multi-year lease with both St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church (818 W. Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc) and Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (N50 W35057 Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc). These two campuses combined will accommodate approximately 400 students in grades K-9 for the 2021-2022 school year.

This past February LCCA was made aware of a zoning change in the Village of Summit that would likely preclude the school from leasing the Abundant Life Apostolic Church as originally planned, which led the LCCA team to pursue an alternative location, including both the St. Matthew’s and Holy Trinity sites.

“We are extremely grateful for the cooperation we’ve received from both St. Matthew’s and Holy Trinity, which will allow us to provide a content-rich, classical education option for over four hundred children beginning this fall,” said Bart Williams, LCCA Principal. “Dividing our student body among two campuses—LCCA West at St. Matthew’s (grades 5-9), and LCCA East at Holy Trinity (grades K-4)—will provide a great learning environment while we work towards our future permanent home with all of our students in one location.”

“St. Matthew’s has been blessed to serve our congregation and community at the 818 Wisconsin Avenue campus for nearly 100 years,” said President Bob Schroeder of St. Matthew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church. “The option of leasing our underutilized former school building to LCCA aligns with our long-range strategic ministry plan. Our members took a big step down the path of our long-range plan in 2018 with the building project on our Brown St. campus. We relocated the pre-K through eighth grade Lutheran Elementary School and started our First Steps Child Care Center. This lease agreement is another step in the direction of having ALL of our ministry activities together on our Brown Street campus in the next 3-to-5 years. Although St. Matthew’s is not a ministry partner with LCCA, I believe that leasing our space to them provides mutual benefits to our congregation, LCCA, and our community as we look forward to the next 100 years of St. Matthew’s ministry in the Oconomowoc area!”

“We are excited by the educational opportunities that the LCCA will present to the greater Oconomowoc and Lake Country area”, said Joseph Daubert, president of Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. “Since its beginning in June of 1947, the Holy Trinity Congregation has consistently adapted its ministry to serve the needs of its members and the community at large. As we approach our 75th year, we once again adapt by focusing our educational ministry on our Preschool and Daycare. We expect the opportunity to enter into this arrangement with LCCA to be mutually beneficial and a wonderful blessing to the ministry and community outreach efforts of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Preschool, and Daycare.”

Lake Country Classical Academy will initially serve kindergarten through 9th grade students and will expand by one grade each year until serving grades K-12 by 2024. As an independent public charter school authorized by the LCO Ojibwe College, LCCA will be tuition-free and open to all students. LCCA is an affiliate school of the Barney Charter School Initiative (BCSI), an outreach of Hillsdale College, the first of its kind in the state of Wisconsin. The BCSI team is assisting LCCA in creating and implementing a challenging and engaging academic program, as well as providing teacher training that will serve as the foundation for a liberal arts and civic education. The BCSI learning model has already seen substantial success throughout the United States, with more than 20 affiliate schools currently serving over 14,500 students across the country. For more information, visit www.lakecountryclassical.org.

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