

the  
**PARK** quarter

SPRING 2016

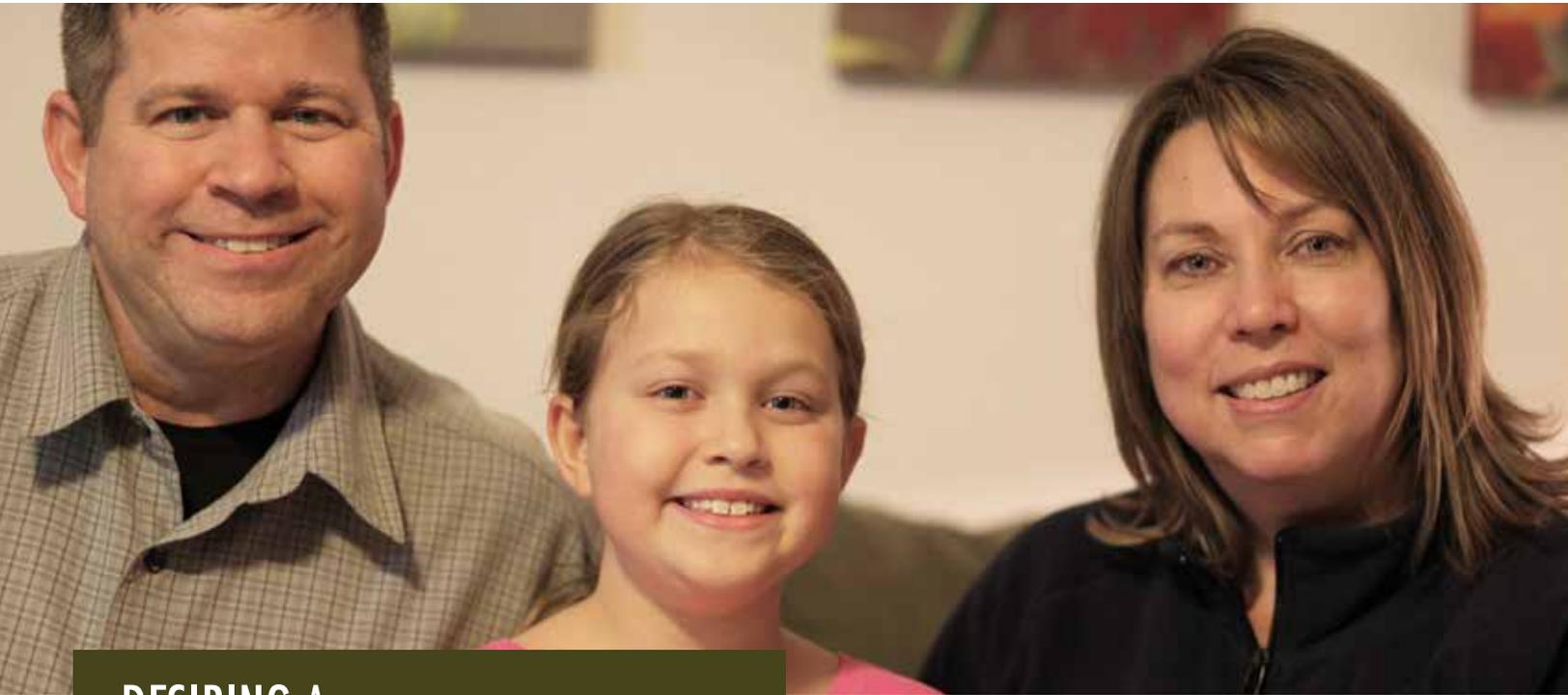


**STAYING GROUNDED IN POLITICS**

**THE IMPACT OF PCS ALUMNI**

**Students Serving Faithfully**

**SCHEELS®  
PLEDGE CHALLENGE**



## DESIRING A GOD-CENTERED EDUCATION

Park Partner Family Profile features Jason and Nikki Loney. Jason is the VP of Store Development for Scheels. Nikki loves being a stay-at-home mom as she chauffeurs 8-year-old daughter, Abby, from dance to ice skating to piano lessons. Nikki also cares for her mother and is a BSF leader. Here is their story. Enjoy!

**PP: What drew you to Park Christian School and explain the impact it has had on your family?**

*Jason:* As our faith grew, we knew that when we had children, we wanted them to attend a Christian school. We recognized that Park Christian is one of those places that would give this God-centered education.

*Nikki:* The impact of Park Christian on our family has been more than we ever imagined. The teachers and staff members have made a positive impact on Abby, growing up as a child of God, and improving our part in her life as well.

**PP: Jason, tell us how you became a believer?**

*Jason:* I can't remember a time I did not have faith in God. I grew up in a family that went to church regularly. My mom worked at our church. I was part of an active youth group, and I participated in Christian leadership events throughout the region. However, I did not start having a personal relationship with Jesus and accept Him as my Lord and Savior until I was 20 years old. It was while I was away at advanced training for the Army National Guard. I was at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas. One of my platoon mates and I were sitting outside our barracks after being relieved from a long guard duty. He started telling me about his relationship with Jesus Christ and how much it changed his life. It was at that

moment that I realized I had not yet personally accepted Jesus as my Savior and did right then and there!

**PP: Nikki, what is your spiritual journey?**

*Nikki:* Always growing! I look back on my life and I can see God pursuing me at a young age. I always attended church, and believed that God was my creator and Jesus His Son, who died on the cross for us. But not until my father's death did I personally take Jesus to be MY Savior, dying for MY sins and acknowledging this to Him. That's when I began studying the Bible, learning about His truth and righteousness, and having a personal relationship with God. I now see that I am on the path of sanctification, learning to lean into Him for all things.

**PP: Jason, what is your role in the PCS Expansion project, and why is it needed?**

I have been blessed to be able to work with two committees of talented, passionate people who have a deep love for PCS. The first team is the Design Team that is working to create the best design to fit our current and future school needs, while keeping the budget in check.

The second team is the Expansion Executive Committee. This is comprised of the leaders of each of the different committees involved in the expansion... Prayer, Communication, Finance, Capital Campaign, Transportation, Design and School Board.

**PP: What is your favorite Abby story?**

*Jason:* We are so blessed to have Abby in our lives. She is the type of girl who can turn your bad day into a good one simply with her perspective on things, whether it is with a hug or a "mature beyond her years" statement. The one thing that she is always adamant about is her involvement at Park. When we are talking as a family about some of our potential life changes, she always asks, "I'll still be able to attend Park, right?"

# SCHEELS®

## SCHEELS PCS EXPANSION PLEDGE CHALLENGE!

In an effort to help Park Christian School grow, Steve D. Scheel has laid out a challenge offering a 2:1 match that could result in a \$3 million gift to the school this year. If we can raise at least \$1 million by December 1, 2016, your gift to the project will be doubled!

The main components of the \$9.4 million dollar renovation project are a new education wing, competitive gymnasium, and expanded commons. This will allow the school to house more than 600 students! We put this all in God's hands. We cannot thank Mr. Scheel enough for this pledge challenge, and we ask you to consider a gift for the expansion project. Thank You, Scheels!

### PCS EXPANSION PLANS

- Education wing, which includes 8 classrooms and 2 team centers: 27,000 sq. ft
- Competitive gymnasium with 2 practice-sized courts: 12,000 sq. ft
- Expanded commons/circulation: 5,000 sq. ft
- Small addition that would net two new classrooms: 3,000 sq. ft

**44,000 sq. ft @ \$180 per sq. ft .....\$7,920,000**  
**Remodel/Upgrade .....\$1,500,000**



### SO MANY REASONS TO BE THANKFUL!

A big thank you to our PCS Families & Friends who have seen various needs of our school and have generously met them. Here are a few of our blessings over the past months:



## JORDAN KERR RECOGNIZED AS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR FINALIST

**Jordan Kerr** advanced to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Jordan was one of 16,000 Semifinalists asked to submit a detailed scholarship application, which included essays and information about extra-curricular achievements, awards, and leadership positions. Semifinalists also needed to have an outstanding academic record, be endorsed and recommended by a school official, and earn SAT scores that confirmed their qualifying test performance. From this group of Semifinalists, Jordan met all the necessary requirements and advanced to Finalist standing. He is in the top 0.5% of the state's senior students with this award.



## REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

Nine projects qualified for state competition: **Noah Bechtold, Noah Brush, Chloe Drummond, Lauren Knoll, Georgia Lodewyk, Julia Mathews-Halmrast, Ben Ostlie, Natalie Roisum, and Kaytlin Tesch.**

## OVERALL REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

Eleven special awards were given with the top being awarded to:

High School Division:

**Noah Bechtold** – 2nd Place

Junior High Division:

**Georgia Lodewyk** – 2nd Place

**Ben Ostlie** – 3rd Place

Congratulations, Students and PCS science teachers, **Mrs. Krista Rankin** and **Mrs. Nancy Schnabel.**



## PCS HOOPS STAR TO PLAY IN COLLEGE

**Morgan Nepstad** signed her letter of intent to play women's basketball at the University of Wisconsin, Superior. We are proud of Morgan and excited for her to be playing basketball at the college level!

## PCS STUDENTS SERVING FAITHFULLY

### NORTH DAKOTA'S TOP MIDDLE LEVEL YOUTH VOLUNTEER

**Evan Knoll** (5th grader) has been named North Dakota's top Middle Level Youth Volunteer by the 2016 Prudential Spirit of the Community Awards program. He will receive a \$1,000 award, an engraved silver medallion, and an all-expense paid trip for himself and one parent to Washington, D.C., for a series of national recognition events.



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Park Christian students packed and prayed over 248 shoeboxes for OCC, and PCS families generously gave \$1,478 toward mailing the boxes.

### PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

**Cameron Knoll** (10th grader) and **Jordan Kerr** (12th grader) received the 2016 President's Volunteer Service Award through this same program. This award recognizes Americans of all ages who have volunteered significant amounts of their time to serve their communities and their country on behalf of President Barack Obama.



### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN



Two hundred twenty 7th-12th grade and fifteen 5th grade PCS students packaged meals for the Feed My Starving Children event.

# PCS ALUMNI

## JOSIE PETERSON ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

Josie Peterson is a 2010 PCS graduate. God has placed a passion for politics on her heart. The Park Partner recently caught up with her in Houston, Texas.

**PP: Josie, bring us up to date. How did you get involved in politics and who are you working with now?**

*Josie:* While I always had an interest in politics, I truly got involved as a college student, doing internships at nonprofits, in the campaign world, and in both the Minnesota and U.S. legislatures. Internships taught me what I liked and what I didn't like - and provided valuable political contacts along the way. I knew I wanted to work on a campaign post-grad, so I worked hard to graduate early and joined Joni Ernst's longshot-turned-Cinderella-story senate campaign. I've been doing campaigns ever since.

Now, I live in Houston and am Political Director for Just Win Strategies, a consulting firm based out of Houston and Washington, D.C. I work with political and research clients, including Ted Cruz's presidential campaign.

**PP: What have you learned in working with Senator Cruz, Governor Scott Walker, Senator Ernst and other national figures in politics?**



*Josie Peterson with Wisconsin Governor Walker*

*Josie:* Work hard, stay humble, and be flexible. Stay grounded. I can't say enough good things about the people I have worked with and worked for. I'm blessed to have worked for strong candidates of integrity - people that I believe in.

**PP: How does your faith play a role in your work?**

*Josie:* Knowing that there's something bigger than me keeps me steady. Campaigns are intense with 80-, sometimes 100-hour weeks in which you're focused almost exclusively on one thing - advancing your client's cause. There are a lot of ups and downs. You face big wins and big losses. If you don't have something to keep you steady and grounded when times get tough, it's hard to survive in this business.

**PP: What impact did Park Christian School have in the foundation of who you are today?**

*Josie:* I'm grateful to have had teachers, classmates, and friends at Park Christian who were focused on not just academic excellence, but on faith, integrity and kindness. Big faith pours out into other people, and having folks that poured into me made a huge difference as I grew into adulthood.

**PP: Do you ever plan to run for office?**

*Josie:* I'll never say never, but as of now, I have no plans to run. I'm more passionate about helping advance strong candidates and causes.

## THE PCS IMPACT - A STORY OF SPIRITUAL INFLUENCE

A young man was being interviewed by one of our member churches for an open pastor position. When asked who had been instrumental in his decision to follow Jesus and in his growth as a believer, he gave names of two individuals: **David Leedah** (*Mrs. Leedah's son and 2005 alum*), Chi Alpa pastor at NDSU, and **Jon-Michael Sherman** (*2007 alum*), campus pastor of the Remedy, a college ministry on the campus of the University of MN.

How wonderful to hear that a young man who is pursuing a lifelong quest of ministry in the local church had been challenged to follow Christ and pursue Him passionately through the ministry of two PCS graduates! Praise the Lord for the equipping work of PCS in David and Jon-Michael's lives, and pray that this influence continues to impact our world for Jesus Christ!



*Jon-Michael Sherman*



*David Leedah*

## ARE YOU KIDDING ME?

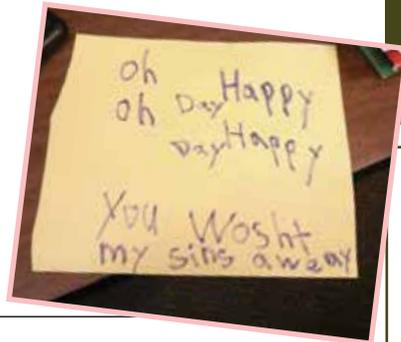
March is one my favorite times of the year. There are numerous basketball tournaments, and each game has everything on the line. You win: You go on. You lose: You go home. It can be intense. During a four-day period, there are 48 Division I basketball games on television! Are you kidding me? That's a lot of basketball!

Did you know a student in Minnesota spends approximately 7 hours a day in school? Which means they spend 1,232 hours a year in school. Which means from Kindergarten to high school graduation they will have spent 16,016 hours in school. Are you kidding me? That's a lot of time!

Each school promotes at least one worldview, and most have numerous worldviews represented. At Park Christian School we play basketball (and a lot of other things as well), but most importantly students are immersed in one worldview...a biblical worldview for all of the 16,016 total hours. Are you kidding me? That's awesome!

Are you motivated to invest in something that pays eternal dividends? Park Christian School: equipping students to think biblically, live wisely, and serve faithfully.

Amazed by God,  
**Kent S. Hannestad,**  
*President*



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

To get the most up-to-date calendar information, click on the calendar page of our website: **ParkChristianSchool.org**

May 25 .....Baccalaureate  
May 29 ..... Graduation  
June 27 ..... Golf Scramble  
*(at the Hawley Golf and Country Club)*

Elementary Chapels: Mondays, 8:10-8:40 A.M. in room #309.  
Jr & Sr High Chapels: Mondays, 8:10-8:50 A.M. in the gym.  
Park Christian School welcomes guests to Chapel.

## MEMBER CHURCHES

**Bethel Church**  
(since 1981)

**Calvary Church at  
Village Green**  
(since 2014)

**Fargo First Assembly  
of God**  
(since 1981)

**Metropolitan Baptist**  
(since 1993)

**River Valley**

**Assembly of God**  
(since 1991)

**Salem Evangelical  
Free**  
(since 1991)

**Triumph Lutheran  
Brethren**  
(since 1996)



**Giving Hearts Day**

**PCS HITS NEW RECORD**

**DONATIONS TOTALING  
\$146,517!**

*Thank you to our 236 generous donors!!!*

## PARK CHRISTIAN SCHOOL CORPORATE SPONSORS

OUR GENEROUS CORPORATE SPONSORS DEMONSTRATE THEIR SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND EDUCATION IN THE FARGO-MOORHEAD COMMUNITY.

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Nodak Mutual Insurance Company  
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Olaf Anderson Construction  
Park Co. Realtors, Vicky Matson  
Pearle Vision, Dr. Don Gunhus  
Petro Serve USA  
Prairie Wealth Management,  
Jerry Kensock  
Premier Benefits Group  
R & M Vending, LLC,  
Marlin & Rhonda Pfingsten  
Roers

Rogness Contracting Services  
Sandy's Donuts & Coffee Shop  
Scheels  
Signature Landscapes,  
Ryan Aakre  
Skaff Apartments  
Small Wonders Preschool  
& Child Care Center  
Smile Care, Dr. Ryan Nygard  
Stenerson Lumber  
Sweeney Cleaners  
Sweet Dreams Confections  
Terry's Home Repair, Terry Payne  
Thimjon Courier, Inc.  
Thrivent Financial, Steven Asche  
Thrivent Financial, Bruce Saum  
Van Dam Chiropractic  
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Zerr Berg Architects