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THE TALON

TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN



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Upper School Retreat

FROM THE HEAD



As Tennessee Christian begins to celebrate our thirtieth year, we are reminded of all the blessings that have been poured out upon us. For thirty years, Tennessee Christian has experienced the faithfulness of our Father, a faithfulness that has no bounds or limits. Starting in 1997, a group of families was dedicated to the idea of a Christ-centered education in Cleveland, Tennessee. Their desire was to create a place where students could learn, grow, and live out their faith in a holistic learning environment grounded in partnership with families. That mission continues today.

As educators, we pray that each child who comes to our campus will know they are loved, not because of anything a teacher does, but because they recognize and see God's love reflected through us. This is our why and it has been for thirty years.

One word continued to ring in my ear as we prepared for this school year: faithfulness. God has been faithful to Tennessee Christian. Through difficult seasons and joyous times, He has remained faithful. I spoke in Chapel this past Wednesday, and as we sang the hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," I was reminded of lyrics I sang as a child, or, more accurately, the wrong lyrics I sang as a child.

Young Jared sang, "Morning by morning new mercies I seek."

It was not until this past Chapel that I realized the important difference between seek and the correct word, see. "Morning by morning new mercies I see." There is something deeply comforting in that difference. We do not have to seek out God's faithfulness as though it is hidden from us. We have the blessing of seeing His faithfulness morning by morning.

For thirty years, Tennessee Christian has not needed to seek God's mercies and faithfulness. We have only needed to look around and see them. We see His faithfulness in the families who have entrusted their children to Tennessee Christian. We see it in the teachers who have poured into generations of students. We see it in seasons of difficulty and seasons of joy. And we see it in the opportunity to continue a mission that began thirty years ago.

As we celebrate thirty years and look toward the years ahead, may we continue to recognize what has been true from the beginning:

Great is Thy faithfulness. Morning by morning, new mercies we see.

UPPER SCHOOL RETREAT













THE UPPER SCHOOL RETREAT IS ONE OF THE MOST LOVED TRADITIONS AND TRUE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR OUR 9TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS. WE SPEND THE VERY FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL ATOP LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN AT CAMP WOODMONT, WHERE STUDENTS ENJOY THE QUINTESSENTIAL SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE; FULL OF OPEN-AIR CABINS, A PICTURESQUE LAKE, GOOEY S'MORES, AND PLENTY OF LIVELY COMPETITION! BUT WHAT MAKES THIS EXPERIENCE TRULY SPECIAL IS WHAT HAPPENS BEYOND THE CAMPFIRES AND COMPETITIONS. THE MEANINGFUL MOMENTS OF WORSHIP, DEEP DEVOTIONS, AND SMALL GROUP TIMES OF CONNECTION MAKE IT THE BEST TWO DAYS OF THE YEAR. IT'S A JOY TO WATCH FRIENDSHIPS DEEPEN WHILE NEW STUDENTS FEEL WELCOMED AND EMBRACED. OUR STUDENTS TRULY DRAW CLOSER TO ONE ANOTHER AND TO THE LORD. THEY RETURN HOME REFRESHED, ENCOURAGED, AND EXCITED FOR THE YEAR AHEAD. WHAT A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO BEGIN THE SCHOOL YEAR!

UPPER SCHOOL RETREAT - KYLIE MACHACEK

CAMP HAWK

COMMUNITY CHARACTER CHRIST

This year, we introduced something brand new to Lower School! <drum roll please> Camp Hawk! Camp Hawk was created as a fun, intentional way to start the school year by bringing our students together, building community, and helping them understand what it means to be a Hawk both inside and outside the classroom.

Over two days, students built nests, created class flags, learned about Hawk Points, met our Golden Hawk, and talked about how we care for the people and places around us. Mr. Tilley also taught students our Camp Hawk chant that goes a little something like this:

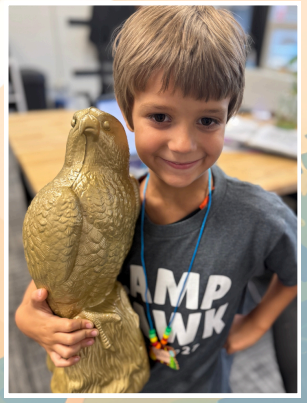
"Camp Hawk, Camp Hawk, take care of our nest, give it our best. Wherever we go, let Jesus show!"

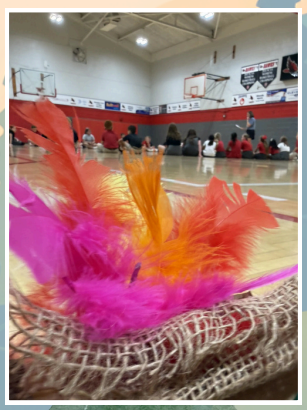
And some of our older students even got the added experience of a very loud (but adorable!) crow interrupting their nest building!

But underneath all the fun was a much bigger message. A nest is made of many different pieces woven together to create something strong, safe, and welcoming. Our school community is the same way. Every student is an important part of our nest, and the choices we make help shape the kind of place it becomes.

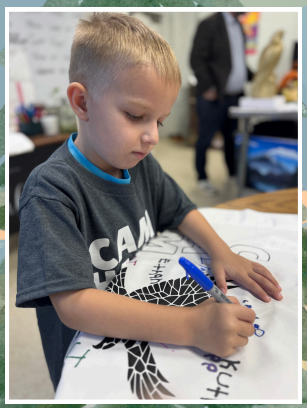
We also reminded students that our nest doesn't stop at the classroom door. Our character travels with us. Whether we are in the hallway, lunchroom, car line, on an athletic field, or out in our community, we represent Christ, our families, and Tennessee Christian.

My hope is that Camp Hawk becomes a meaningful part of how we begin each year, reminding our students to take care of their nest, take care of the people in it, and wherever they go, let Jesus show.











2026-2027

first day of SCHOOL







The first day of school always has its own kind of energy, and this year was no exception! Our hallways were full again with familiar faces, new and old friendships, crispy new supplies, and lots of excitement as our Hawks made their way back to their nests.

One of my favorite parts of the day was coming together as one for chapel. There is just something special about hearing our students worship together and beginning our year with a reminder about faithfulness; that so much of who we become is built through the small choices we make faithfully, day after day.

The first day always feels like a fresh start, and I am so excited to watch our students learn, grow, serve, and become more of who God has created them to be this year.

Athletics
TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN



Scarlet McPherson, Isabelle McKeown, Sophia Adams, Maggie Botts, Amelia Shepherd, Gracie Gilbert, Lexi Gilbert, Addy Ratcliff, Aubrie Epperson, Coach Georgia McPherson, Frannie McPherson, Reagan Hartline

The Tennessee Christian Lady Hawks opened their volleyball season with a big conference victory over Knoxville Christian. Taking the court for the first time this season, the Lady Hawks showed energy, determination, and teamwork. Opening-night matches always bring excitement and a few early-season challenges, but Tennessee Christian responded well and found a way to earn an important win.

The victory carried extra significance as the first conference matchup of the season. Starting the year with a conference win gives the Lady Hawks an early boost as they begin working toward their goals for the season.

Throughout the match, the Lady Hawks competed together. They communicated, encouraged one another, and continued battling for each point. Their effort showed the importance of playing as a team and staying focused when the match became competitive.

There is still plenty of volleyball ahead, but the Lady Hawks could not have asked for a better way to begin their season. One match, one conference victory, and a strong start to the year. Congratulations to the Lady Hawks on opening the season with a win! Go Hawks!

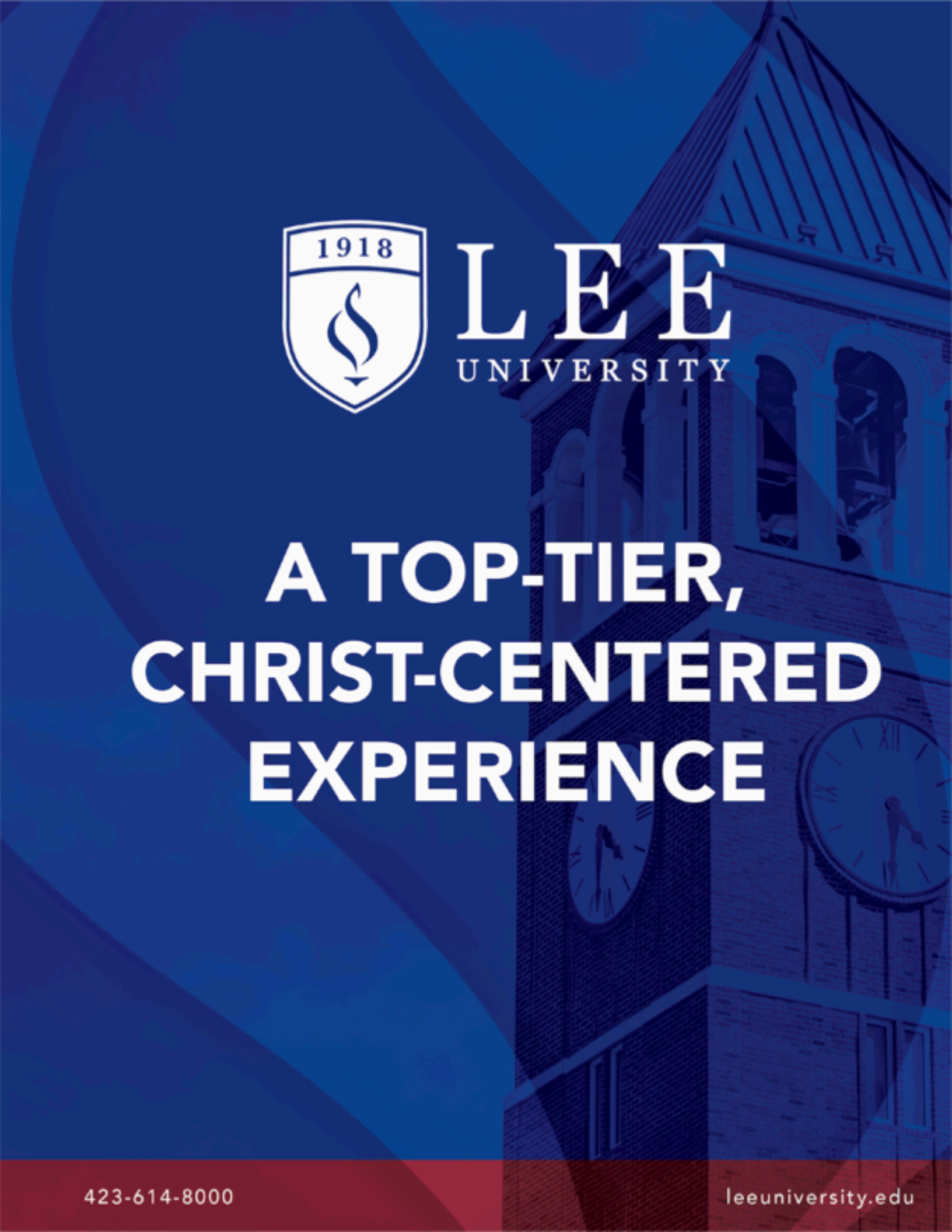
Our Middle School boys cross country team competed in the Jamboree Cross Country 2 Mile at Woodland Park, continuing a journey they have shared together for several years with Coach Kelly Ahlers guiding them along the way! All three boys returned this season with experience, determination, and a strong foundation already in place. As they continue training and competing together, they are growing stronger, developing greater consistency, and sharpening their skills with each race.

We are also excited to see both our Lower School and Middle School cross country teams compete on Monday, August 24, as they take on their first meet of the season together.

Cross country builds endurance, discipline, perseverance, and confidence, while also introducing students to a sport they can enjoy for a lifetime. The habits they develop through running now can continue well beyond their school years.



Kai Ahlers, Henry Sluder, Greyson Laws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