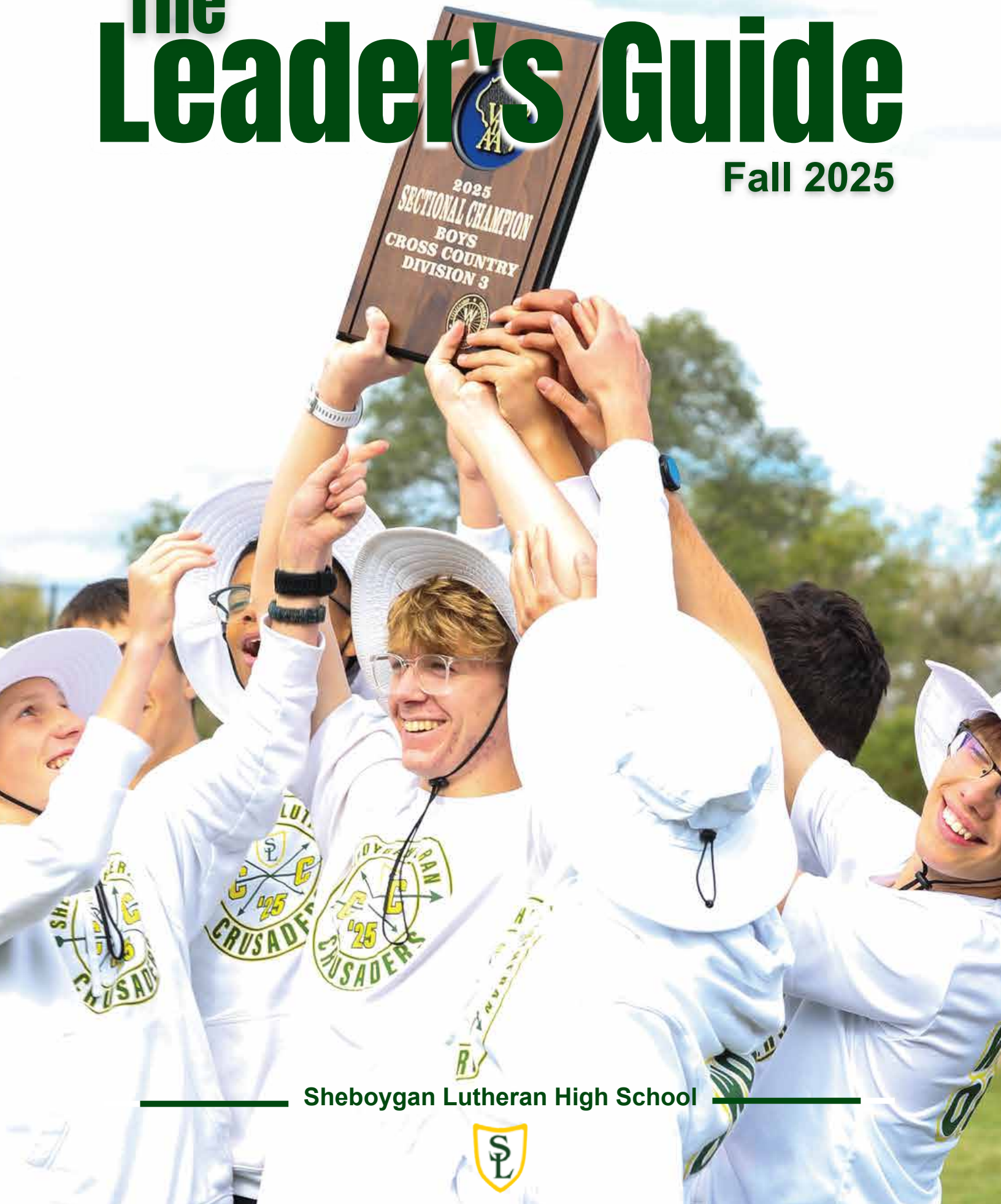


The Leader's Guide

Fall 2025



Sheboygan Lutheran High School



Reflecting the Light of Christ

A Message from the Executive Director

As a child, I was afraid of the dark. The inability to see what surrounded me, the uncertainty of what might be hiding just out of sight, and the imagination's tendency to create monsters in every shadow made darkness seem truly terrifying.

Now that I am older, the dark itself no longer frightens me—at least, not in the same way. Yet recent events in our nation and around the world have stirred a deeper, more sobering sense of unease. From tragic school shootings to political violence and growing societal unrest, I often feel grieved and unsettled. It can seem as though we are stumbling through darkness, searching for direction in a world that feels increasingly chaotic and broken.

But it is in moments like these that Christians are called not to retreat into fear or complacency. John 1:5 declares, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” Jesus Christ is that light, and as His followers, we are called to reflect His truth and love boldly. This calling requires more than words—it demands courage, compassion, and steadfast obedience to God’s Word, even when it costs us comfort or approval. Jesus lived fearlessly and selflessly, and we are invited to walk in His light with that same faith and conviction.

This is why Christian education is so vital. At Sheboygan Lutheran High School, we are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of Christian leaders—young men and women who are deeply rooted in faith and equipped with a strong academic foundation. In a world desperate for hope and truth, we must raise up believers who proclaim the Gospel with clarity, humility, and boldness.

At Sheboygan Lutheran, our mission extends beyond academics. We strive to empower students to live courageously, using their knowledge, talents, and God-given purpose to bring light into dark places. We encourage them to serve others, speak truth, and live as reflections of Christ’s love in every part of life.

Though the darkness around us may feel overwhelming at times, we remain confident in our purpose. We are committed to shining the light of Christ through every lesson, act, and word. As we continue our mission of *Preparing Christian Leaders – One Student at a Time*, may we hold fast to the promise of 2 Timothy 1:7: “For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”



For Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Tschudy'.

Matthew Tschudy
Executive Director



In This Issue

ABOUT THE COVER: At the time of printing, the Crusader boys' cross country team had won the Division 3 Sectional Championship, qualifying them for the State Meet on November 1. Results will be covered in the next Leader's Guide.

3. From the Development Office

6. New Staff Members

8. Caring Crusaders: The Kretschmar Family

10. Where Are They Now? 20th Anniversary of Cross Country Championship

13. Alumni in Action

From the Development Office

We raised just over \$1 million to date toward our *Impact Tomorrow Today* campaign, which is to reduce our building project balance on the Performing Arts Center. A humble thank you to those who were able to make a gift or pay a pledge in full as we wound down to our August deadline for the interest rate adjustment. It was an amazing show of support for Lutheran High School! As rate adjustment time came and went, we were blessed! The prime rate had been holding for many months at 7.5% or higher, and Oostburg State Bank, our lien holder, gave us a gracious rate of 6.0% on August 1. This rate is locked in until the year 2030 which will come due as a balloon with whatever balance we have left at that point. We currently have a balance of \$3.9 million. We will continue with interest and principal payments until 2030 and do a formal refinancing at that time. Any additional donations toward the debt will certainly be appreciated! Thank you for Impacting Tomorrow Today! May future generations continue to use their God-given talents to His glory in our fabulous facility!

Speaking of fabulous facilities, our Fund-A-Cause project, which was to replace the old deck on the east side of the building, is nearing completion. The 'rebeautification' included a poured and stamped patio, new picnic tables and benches, new exterior lighting, and lit shield logo sign. Additionally, block bench seating and landscaping on the patio perimeter is underway. This renovation gives us a nice level surface off to the grass, a much larger space for functions, and now has great curb appeal!



I hope to see you in the lobby of the PAC this season as we have our Drama Department's Fall Drama, *The Magician's Nephew* (from *The Chronicles of Narnia* series) in a condensed but powerful version in November, and our Music Department's Christmas Concert, *O Holy Night*, on December 13 & 14. Wishing you a happy and blessed Thanksgiving!

In His Service,

Carmen Dolson
Development Director



About Us

Our Mission

*Preparing Christian Leaders -
One Student at a Time*

Leadership Team

Matthew Tschudy - *Executive Director*
Derek Bult - *Principal*
Tom Splittgerber - *Business Manager*
Al Holzheimer - *Registrar & Athletic Director*
Carmen Dolson - *Development Director*

Board of Directors

Aaron Anger - *President*
Rev. Kyle Backhaus - *Vice President*
Jim Fasse - *Treasurer*
Sara Hasler - *Secretary*
Brian Begalke
Jason Grunewald
Lisa Hackbarth
Doug Helmrick
Brian Kaufman
Rev. Alan Kretschmar
Kim Roethel
Mark Schmitz
Steve Schobert
Rev. John Schultz
Matt Wallner

Association Congregations

Bethany Lutheran, Kohler
Bethlehem Lutheran, Sheboygan
Good Shepherd Lutheran, Sheboygan
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Sheb.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Sheboygan
St. John Lutheran Church, Plymouth
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sheboygan
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Waldo
Trinity Lutheran Church, Howards Grove
Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheboygan
Trinity Lutheran Church, Town of Wilson

Connect with Us

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www.lutheranhigh.com
facebook.com/SheboyganLHS
instagram/lhs_crusaders

If the Root is Holy...

The Taproot Club Continues to Thrive

For the past three decades, the Taproot Club members have generously provided hundreds of thousands of dollars to support school operating costs, more specifically, paying teacher salaries and utility bills. The Taproot Club links together the LHS family of faculty, past parents, current parents, grandparents, supporters, and alumni who desire to show their love to God's young people through the ministry of LHS. Donations to the Taproot fund are welcome on a year-round basis.

One of the factors in this success is the ongoing response to the creation of a lifetime membership to the Taproot Club. This is achieved by a one-time gift of \$5,000, which is divided between the operating fund and the Friends of Taproot Club Endowment Fund. This means that a lifetime membership truly keeps giving to Lutheran High's operating budget in perpetuity. The earnings from the Friends of Taproot Club Endowment are used to contribute to the overall goal of the Taproot Club—which is to provide annual operating dollars for the school. Created in 2004, the Friends of Taproot Club Endowment Fund currently stands at over \$800,000. To God be all praise and glory!



The Taproot Club Annual Dinner

Each year, at the Taproot Club Dinner, we celebrate this generosity and God's goodness to all of us in the Lutheran High family. This year's Taproot Club Dinner was held on Thursday, October 16th at The Sheboygan Yacht Club, with over 90 people in attendance. Ten LHS seniors, pictured below, were student ambassadors for the evening, mingling with guests. Allysen Morrelle, Emma Shive, and Ayden Wildman also spoke regarding their thoughts on their education and experience at Lutheran High. Our special Taproot guest speaker was the President of the LCMS South Wisconsin District, Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador. He spoke about Lutheran schools being on the front lines of evangelism and mission work, as they are blessed to be able to teach their students about Jesus on a daily basis. So many people in our Sheboygan community still need to hear about the love and saving work of Jesus. Sheboygan Lutheran High School plays an incredibly important role in that process.

This year, the Taproot Club has raised over \$51,000 to date, and we welcomed three new families to the Lifetime Taproot Platinum Level. As always, the Lutheran High Taproot Club welcomes all contributions to this noble cause and fund.



Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, President of the LCMS South Wisconsin District, was the keynote speaker.



Ten seniors shared LHS experiences at the Taproot dinner:

Teaghan Markevitch, Ayden Wildman, Samantha Gilchrist, Brennen Hackbarth, Allysen Morrelle, Zach Leonhard, Emma Shive, Leah Milatz, Brock Seefeldt, and Winston Hasler



Guests gathered at the Sheboygan Yacht Club for the 2025 Taproot Dinner.

Thank you to the 2025 Taproot Members

Platinum Leaf (\$5,000)

Lifetime Membership

Mr. & Mrs. David Begalke
Mr. John Ballhorn
Rev. & Mrs. Darrel Bergelin
Mr. & Mrs. Myron Buss
Mr. Jay Christopher
Christopher Farm & Gardens
Christopher Family Foundation
Mrs. Jan Dankwardt
Mrs. Jackie Fischer
Atty. & Mrs. Richard Hahn
Mr. & Mrs. Randall Hake
Mr. & Mrs. James Heinecke
Mr. & Mrs. James Hermann
Mrs. Lois Heronemus
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Langenhorst
Mr. & Mrs. Robb Leonhard
Mr. & Mrs. Brian MacGillis
Mr. & Mrs. George Marthenze
Mr. & Mrs. Mark McCabe
Mr. & Mrs. William Murray III
Dr. & Mrs. James Nicholson
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Ottman
Mr. & Mrs. David D. Pingel
Dr. & Mrs. James Pingel
Rev. & Mrs. James A. Pingel
Mr. Mark & Dr. Jennifer Pingel
Mr. & Mrs. Russell Rindt
Mrs. Wayne Rindt
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Scheele
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Solle
Mr. Wendell Storm
Mr. & Mr. Paul Ten Pas
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Toerpe
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Van De Kreeke
Mr. & Mrs. David Zimmermann
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Zimmermann
Mr. Arthur Zimmermann
Mr. William Zimmermann

Gold Leaf (\$1,500 - \$4,999)

Mr. & Mrs. Randall Buss
Ms. Eunice Dissen
Mr. & Mrs. J. Paul Glahn
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hacker
Rev. & Mrs. Bryan Osladil
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Senkbeil
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Strenger
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Witt

Silver Leaf (\$750 - \$1,499)

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Begalke
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Binsfeld
Rev. & Mrs. Jeremy Hanson
Rev. Frederick Jabs
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Nicholson
Mr. & Mrs. John & Pam (Kober) Reali
Mr. James Roberts
Mrs. Barbara Strenger
Mr. & Mrs. John Wallrich

Bronze Leaf (\$500 - \$749)

Mr. & Mrs. Todd Dekker
Mrs. Germaine Erdmann
Ms. Sarah Jabs
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kind
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Margrett
Mrs. Alice Perronne
Ms. Jenni Pickel
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Roethel
Rev. & Mrs. Luke Schnake

Copper Leaf (\$200 - \$499)

Mr. & Mrs. David Ames
Mrs. Sherry Baalke
Mr. John Ballhorn
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Benedum
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Brickner
Ms. Michelle Buss
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Constien

Mr. & Mrs. Jon Dolson
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Dottai
Mrs. Debra Fale
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Gruben
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Grunewald
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Hackbarth
Mr. & Mrs. George Haecker
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Heling
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Holzheimer II
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Jurss
Mr. Tom H.U. Kind
Rev. & Mrs. Alan Kretschmar
Mr. & Mrs. Jon Krueger
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Krueger
Mr. & Mrs. David Lang
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Leibham
Mr. & Mrs. Cesar Lemus
Mrs. Jennifer McClellan Zehnder
Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Nathan Meador
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Muth
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Nimmer
Mr. Hang Nuampi
Mr. & Mrs. David Ourada
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Polster
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Rusch
Mr. Jerry Sabrowsky
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Tschudy
Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Tschudy
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Wallner
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Zeuner

Supporting Endowment Members

Mr. & Mrs. Don Doeberst
Mrs. Raylene Justinger
Mr. Luke Justinger
Mr. & Mrs. James Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. David Rindt
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Scheele



Ways to Support Sheboygan Lutheran High School



Donate to the annual fund, capital campaign, scholarships, or endowments.



Join the Taproot Club.



Remember LHS for memorials and commemorative gifts.



Add Lutheran High to your estate plan.



Support Neat Repeats Thrift Store by donating items, volunteering, and shopping.



Donate online at lutheranhigh.com/giving or via the enclosed envelope.

Two CUNE Grads Join LHS Staff

Get to Know Nathan Pennekamp & Elizabeth Henschen

At the end of the 2024-2025 school year, Sheboygan Lutheran High was faced with two full-time teaching openings after math teacher, Judi Fuchs, passed away from a courageous battle with cancer, and when English teacher, Katy (Billings) Walker moved to Minnesota following her summer wedding. A Call Committee was formed, interviews were conducted, site visits were made, and Calls were extended to and accepted by two new graduates, coincidentally both from Concordia University Nebraska (CUNE).



Mr. Nathan Pennekamp, LHS Math Teacher

Mr. Nathan Pennekamp joined our staff to teach AP Calculus, Pre-calculus, Statistics, Transitions to College Math, and Algebra. With deep roots in Lutheran education, Nathan was a natural fit and eager to begin his ministry here. Nathan attended Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where his father is an administrator. His mother works in family ministries at Emmanuel Lutheran in Fort Wayne. He has twin older sisters as well as two younger sisters.

In addition to teaching, Nathan became part of the Crusader cross country coaching team, which has been one of his favorite parts of Lutheran High so far. With the first quarter under his belt, Nathan shared these thoughts about LHS: "I have been impressed with the culture of LHS, and that students are respectful and engage so well with their teachers. I am very thankful for an experienced staff that has taken me in, shown me the ropes, and given me plenty of great examples to follow. More than anything, the entire community around LHS has been incredibly welcoming and not hesitant to offer me help!"

While he hasn't spent much time exploring the Sheboygan area yet, Nathan did get a chance to dine at Stefano's, which he thought was excellent. He has also been enjoying runs along the lake.



Mrs. Elizabeth Henschen has been another welcomed addition to the LHS staff. She is teaching freshmen and sophomore English classes and Journalism, and has taken on the yearbook and Pep Club.

Christ-centered education has been an essential part of Elizabeth's life. She attended Sioux Falls Lutheran from preschool through 12th grade, and she spent two summers as a counselor at a Christian English camp in Austria. Her father is a pastor in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and her mother is the kitchen manager at Sioux Falls Lutheran. She has two brothers studying education at CUNE and a younger sister in high school. Elizabeth got married this summer. Her husband, Micah, is pursuing a degree in physical therapy at Concordia University Wisconsin.

When asked about her first few months at Lutheran High, Elizabeth shared, "My favorite part of working at Lutheran High is getting to know the students! Every class is a little more fun for me because I know my students better. I like that the school is small enough that I can get to know almost everyone, even if I am not their teacher. Homecoming week was also really fun - it's great to see how much tradition there is here!"



Mrs. Elizabeth Henschen, LHS English Teacher



Elizabeth enjoys walking down by the pier, getting ice cream, and trying new restaurants in the area. Eb Flo Coffeehouse is her favorite Sheboygan spot so far.

Lutheran High is incredibly blessed to have two energetic, synodically trained teachers, especially in a time when LCMS workers are in such high demand. Please be sure to keep these newest staff members in your prayers and to warmly welcome them into the Crusader family when you see them around the halls.

 **SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

**BE A CRUSADER! Applications for the
2026-2027 school year are now open!**

APPLY TODAY!

LUTHERANHIGH.COM/ENROLL



Caring Crusaders

THE KRETSCHMAR FAMILY - A FAMILY GIVING BACK

Over the years, the Caring Crusaders feature has focused on individuals or couples, but never has an entire family been featured. However, based on the support and involvement of the Kretschmar family, it seems appropriate to recognize them as Caring Crusaders. They are a family that recognizes the value of Christian education in general and Sheboygan Lutheran High School in particular. Let us introduce you to the Kretschmar family.

Rev. Alan Kretschmar

Born in Tulsa, OK in 1958; raised in Texas

Schooling: Concordia Austin, Concordia River Forest, graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1984

Ministry: First call to Dunnell, MN; then called to St. Paul, Sheboygan in January 1988 where he is currently Senior Pastor

Importance of Lutheran High School as you considered a call to Sheboygan: "I did not have the opportunity for Christian education, but Wendy did, and she was clear evidence of the importance of it. Our girls would definitely go there."

Your start in the ministry of LHS: "Bob Kasten, then principal, recruited me to be a part of the Education Committee in the 1990s."

Rev. Kretschmar with the camera: He is a familiar sight at LHS events, capturing the activities with his camera. His interest in photography was cultivated at Concordia River Forest, and he was recruited by former LHS teacher, Jeff Holt, to photograph sporting events for the yearbook. When his daughters were students, photography picked up. Rev. Kretschmar's favorite photo opps included his daughters' graduations and Sam Dekker leading the Crusaders at the State basketball tournament.

Roles at LHS: In addition to volunteer photographer, Rev. Kretschmar has served on the Board of Directors several times, including currently, leads Bible studies for faculty, and presents chapel for students.

Importance of Lutheran secondary education and LHS: "The pressure on our young people to leave the faith has never been stronger. LHS education, led by loving, Christian teachers and staff, has a great influence on their lives that will hopefully endure for this life and into eternity. LHS is a vital extension of the ministry at St. Paul's as well as in our family. We have gained numerous friends in our sister congregations. It has greatly added to our time in Sheboygan. We pray for blessings on LHS in its work of preparing Christian leaders."

Wendy Kretschmar

Schooling: Graduate of Concordia University, River Forest

Ministry: Our Redeemer in Overland, MO; Trinity in Nashville, IL; St. James in Fairmont, MN; Martin Luther High School in Fairmont, MN; St. Paul in Sheboygan, beginning in 1988, and Principal at St. Paul beginning in 2007

Importance of Lutheran education for your family: "The opportunity to send our very young children to St. Paul School was a great opportunity. The older our girls got, we were excited to send them to a school that not only offered high-quality education, but would partner in raising our children in a Christian environment."

Involvement at LHS: Wendy served as an auction volunteer, co-chairing it twice. In 2002, their daughters were in *Guys and Dolls*, and a last-minute accompanist was needed. Wendy stepped up, and has worked with her daughter, Laurie, as music director for musicals for eleven years. She has also accompanied many LHS students at Solo & Ensemble competitions.

Favorite memories: Homecoming dress-up days, sports, concerts, musicals, parties, pre-dance dinners

Importance of Lutheran secondary education: "I taught middle school for 40 years and have seen first-hand the societal effects on our kids. LHS teaches kids that Jesus loves and forgives them, and that they matter, and it encourages them to use their gifts. Kids need to hear that every day. My parents sacrificed to give me a Lutheran education. Many families at LHS do the same. It is a blessing for St. Paul to be a part of the Association and for members to support LHS. I pray more and more families see the importance and value of Lutheran High when choosing a school."



Alan & Wendy with their youngest daughter, Rachael, son-in-law, John, and grandsons, Julius and Jackson

Laurie (Kretschmar) Dillman (LHS Class of 2003)

Post-LHS education: Studied acting at Carroll College and UW Whitewater

Involvement at LHS (high school years): Cheerleading, Chamber Choir, Treble Choir, Konzertchor, National Honor Society, Student Council, Drama

Marriage: Dated LHS student, Nate Dillman, in high school and married him in 2009. They have been blessed with three children: Herschel, Greenlee, and Myron.

Favorite LHS memories: Playing Rosie in *Bye Bye Birdie*, and four years of cheerleading

Involvement at LHS (after high school): "My mom told me LHS needed a director for the fall play. Though inexperienced, I gave it a shot anyway, and it led me on a path I never expected. I have been involved now for 17 years in various drama roles, with the musical, *Cinderella*, starting my role as musical director in 2015."

Favorite post-high school memory: "The musicals are such a blessing. I am thankful for the people God has drawn into the process to truly make it a team effort, and I LOVE working with the kids."

The role of LHS in your life: "LHS is a community. I can see its thread woven through our lives from high school all the way to today. We have made and continue to make lasting friendships that keep evolving and blessing us in unexpected ways."



Laurie (Kretschmar) Dillman with her husband, Nate, and their children, Herschel, Greenlee, and Myron

Nate Dillman (LHS Class of 2003)

Post-LHS education: graduated from UW Whitewater

Extracurricular involvement at LHS: A little cross country and baseball along with 4 years of basketball and track and field

Relationship with Laurie: Started dating at age 15 (June 15, 2000) and married in 2009

Favorite LHS memories: The close friends that helped to make us better people, then and now; The relationships with those friends, even today, show how God is moving through our lives; Basketball: beating State-ranked teams, and overcoming a 19-point deficit in the 4th quarter to beat Howards Grove; Track: making it to State all four years, and breaking the long jump and triple jump records

Employment: Project Management Consultant/Trainer at Acuity Insurance; owner of Pigeon River Orchard

Involvement in LHS Track Program: "I had knowledge of jumping that needed to be shared; Hans Otten gave me the opportunity as 'jump coach' for 12 years, and I have been head Track and Field coach for the last two years."

New business venture: "In our desire to serve the Lord by being good stewards of His creation, we have acquired Pigeon River Orchard with a great location, customer base, and equipment. We hope to serve others through this orchard."

Thoughts on LHS and its role in your life: "LHS has a foundation very few schools have, and it helped me to start my life as an adult. The teachers, staff, and faculty drive its goal of preparing Christian leaders. We need to encourage these people so more students can leave LHS with a foundation of furthering God's Kingdom on earth."

Rachael (Kretschmar) Franklin (LHS Class of 2005)

Post-LHS education: Bachelor's degree from Concordia Chicago (2009); Master's degree from Concordia Wisconsin (2018)

Employment: Teacher at Danville Lutheran School in Danville, IL (2009-2012); St. John's Lutheran School in Chicago (2012 to present), teaching science, history, and PE, and serving as technology coordinator

Family: Married John Franklin in 2016. John is a teacher and athletic director at Walther Christian Academy in Melrose Park, IL; They have two sons, Julius (age 3.5) and Jackson (age 1).

Involvement at LHS: Choirs, band, volleyball, basketball, track, musical, Student Council, and National Honor Society

Favorite LHS memories: Homecoming week, especially our senior year pyramid victory

Importance of Christian education at LHS: "I firmly believe in Christian education and the impact it can have on our students. It is so important for kids to have strong, positive role models. I loved my time at LHS. I was given the opportunity to participate in all sports, choirs, and musicals. The teachers knew how to connect with the students, were willing to listen, assist, and have fun."

Where Are They Now?

20 Years Later: Remembering the Crusader Cross Country Dynasty

In 2004, the Sheboygan Lutheran Crusader Boys Cross Country team hoped simply to finish in the top five at the WIAA State Cross Country Meet. Instead, they shocked even themselves—winning the Division 3 State Championship by an impressive 34 points.

That team was young and hungry, featuring junior Adam Lang, sophomores Peter Bolgert, Sean Hasenstein, Zach Hasenstein, Peter Buck, Karl Luedtke, and freshman Brian Begalke. Throughout the 2004 season, the Crusaders showed flashes of greatness but didn't always finish first. With such a young roster, their surprise title run felt like the start of something special.

Heading into 2005, expectations were sky-high. With every key runner returning, the Crusaders were favored to repeat as State champions—and sportswriter Adam Thompson of the Sheboygan Press wrote in his preview that “the Crusaders may be even better than they were last year.” He was right.



**The 2004 & 2005 D3 State Champions (left to right):
Coach Jeff Jurss, Adam Lang, Sean Hasenstein, Brian Begalke,
Zach Hasenstein, Karl Luedtke, Peter Buck, Peter Bolgert**

The 2005 Crusaders put together a perfect season, winning every invitational they entered: Kettle Moraine, Concordia Classic, St. Joe's at UW-Parkside, Cedar Grove's Rocket Invite, the Crusader Challenge, St. Lawrence Hilltopper, St. Mary Catholic Jakubek, Sheboygan County, Laconia (where they scored a perfect 15 points by finishing 1–5), the USM Wildcat Invite, the Central Lakeshore Conference Meet, and the Sectional Meet—scoring only 27 points there.

Along the way, they defeated top Division 3 programs like Brookfield Academy and Sevastopol, strong Division 2 schools like Luther Prep, Lakeside Lutheran, Fox Valley Lutheran, and Xavier, and even held their own against larger Division 1 schools such as Rufus King, Sheboygan North, and Plymouth.

Coach Jurss emphasized that the goal was never to win every meet, but to “run their best at every meet”—and that mindset translated into domination.

When State rolled around, the pressure was immense. The night before the big race, Coach Jurss took the team to what had been their lucky Wisconsin Rapids pasta place—only to find it had transformed into Chick & Wings, a local version of Hooters! What hadn't changed was the team's easygoing spirit. Unlike the coach, the runners were relaxed and confident. Still, they admitted the weight of expectation—Lang told the Sheboygan Press the team “felt a lot of pressure to repeat,” while Begalke simply said, “the pressure was sick.”

On October 29, 2005, 127 runners toed the line at the Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids. The Crusaders delivered once again:

- Adam Lang – 4th (16:39)
- Sean Hasenstein – 9th (17:00)
- Peter Bolgert – 12th (17:06)
- Zach Hasenstein – 31st (17:39)
- Brian Begalke – 64th (18:14)
- Peter Buck – 94th (18:59)
- Karl Luedtke – 100th (19:09)

Their effort sealed a second straight State Championship—this time by an astounding 43 points over Brookfield Academy and 48 over Sevastopol. To top off the day, junior Stacey Thiel finished 3rd in the girls' 4000-meter race (15:26), making it a truly great day to be a Crusader.



2005 Division 3 State Champions

So, where are they now?

ADAM LANG (Class of 2006) has been living in Milwaukee since 2018 and is a Training Specialist at Generac.

Season Memory: "One memory that still stands out is how crazy that we won 11 of 13 meets during the season."

State Meet Memory: "With everyone returning from the 2004 state championship team, we had the target on our backs as the favorites. Each of us did everything we needed to do to pull out a dominant win."

PETER BOLGERT (Class of 2007) spent most of his adult life in Milwaukee but recently moved to Kohler. He is working at Acuity Insurance and got married earlier this year.

Season Memory: "After almost losing to Brookfield Academy at an early season meet, Coach Jurss made us do a workout at Parkside after the meet. Sometimes he was crazy."

State Meet Memory: "In 2005 we were basically supposed to win, and it would've been a disaster if we didn't. It was a relief that we won."

SEAN HASENSTEIN (Class of 2007) lives in Sheboygan, working as a software engineer. He has been coaching cross country and track at Sheboygan Lutheran for the past 13 years.

Season Memory: "It's cool to see so many traditions from 2005 still going strong 20 years later - like the team cactus and the 'spit pole' (if you know, you know). Looking back, I realize we were living what Coach Jurss now calls the four Fs - Fun, Fitness, Fellowship, and Faith - even before we had a name for it."

State Meet Memory: "After unexpectedly winning State in 2004, it was pressure-filled and nerve-racking being the favorites in 2005, but it was also fun going in knowing that if we all ran our best, we had a really good chance to win it again. Also, it was awesome to have the fan bus of LHS students and parents on the course, cheering and celebrating with us."

BRIAN BEGALKE (Class of 2008) lives in Kohler and is a CPA/Partner at Begalke & Associates.

Season Memory: "Actually winning the Sheboygan County Meet in 2005 after failing to do so in 2004. (Inside joke: In 2004 we were sitting at the awards ceremony at State, and freshman Brian said he really wished we would have won the Sheboygan County Meet that year.)"

State Meet Memory: "Coach Jurss accidentally knocked over my 80-year-old grandma while celebrating with everyone. Also, I got the results on a paper sheet and threw them in the garbage because I didn't believe that we actually won."

ZACH HASENSTEIN (Class of 2007) lives in South Milwaukee with his wife and two daughters, and works at Summerfest as the CFO.

Season Memory: "The unexpectedness of it all in 2004 and accepting the challenge with the targets on our backs to repeat in 2005."

State Meet Memory: "I remember hanging out at the finish line and Coach Jurss coming over to tell us that we won! The other great memory was when we got back to Sheboygan and rode down Taylor Drive into the school parking lot on the back of a fire truck with a sea of people waiting for us to celebrate."

PETER BUCK (Class of 2007) lives in Charleston, SC and is a Code Enforcement Officer with the City of Charleston. He has a girlfriend, Jackie, who has a teenage daughter, Kayla, and he also has two dogs that he runs with often, especially on the beach at Sullivans Island.

Season Memory: "I remember a meet at UW-Parkside where we didn't perform well. Mr. Jurss led us in a cool-down run that really motivated us to turn things around. He told us that he believed we were better than our performance that day and encouraged us to leave everything we had on each course. It must've been all the motivation we needed because our team never lost a race for the remainder of our high school careers."

State Meet Memory: "I remember having a big spaghetti dinner the night before the State meet in 2005 in the basement of a restaurant in Wisconsin Rapids. We carbo-loaded with all the spaghetti and garlic bread we could fit in! I remember reading cards that were sent from family and friends wishing us luck and praying for us and our race that Saturday."

KARL LUEDTKE (Class of 2007) lives in Canberra, Australia with his partner and teaches 7th-10th grade social studies.

Season Memory: "Even though it sounds cliché, the running part of cross country was always the best. Running with a group of 10-20 people all around the sights and sounds of Sheboygan was memorable. It was a great group of people, and I enjoyed my time with them. Not to mention, the spaghetti dinners were the best! A memorable moment was when the team touched the electric fence!"

State Meet Memory: "The night before State, we always went to this nice supper club. However, the owners changed hands to another restaurant that was geared to a different clientele. It was there where I made the most embarrassing speech. (Sorry, Mrs. Bolgert.)"

Hallway Happenings

10 Years of Community Family Fair

In 2015, Lutheran High launched the Community Family Fair, designed to be a community outreach event filled with affordable family fun on the LHS campus. On September 6th 2025, the 10th annual event was once again a smashing success with the fan-favorite inflatables, carnival games, raffles, and pie-eating contest, along with some new fun, including bumper cars, trunk-or-treat sponsored by the SALSA schools, and reptile exploration. Take a peek at the 2025 Community Family Fair by the numbers:



Crusader Leadership Program



As part of the strategic plan implemented earlier this year, we recently launched a school-wide leadership development program designed to help every Crusader learn how to lead. Once a week for four years, students meet in small co-horts, led by student captains, to work their way through a focused curriculum based on *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader* by Christian author John Maxwell. Two of the leadership traits explored so far this year included character and charisma, with corresponding discussions, videos, and Bible studies.

Homecoming 2025: Crusaders on the Coast

This year's homecoming theme was full of beach vibes and some of our favorite traditions, like dodgeball, powder puff, tug-of-war, human pyramids, and another epic bonfire!



2025 Homecoming Court (left to right)

Freshmen: Max Foster & Zoey Hirt

Juniors: Dominic Walter & Emma Krueger

King & Queen: Brennen Hackbarth & Megan Walz

Seniors: Nick Stoelb & Grace Pape

Sophomores: Joseph Rood & Elayna Mueller



Alumni in Action



Jacob Glewen (Class of 2017) is engaged to be married to Maggie Brill. Jacob is the Children's Ministry Pastor at the Sheboygan Evangelical Free Church, and Maggie is a middle school math teacher in Plymouth. A wedding is being planned for May of 2026.



Kinsey (Hopf) Gough (Class of 2014) and her husband, Lucas, welcomed their first daughter, Louisa Mae, on July 23, 2025. She was baptized on September 7, with LHS alumni **Kiley Hopf (2016)** and **Ashley (Scheele) Murphy (2013)** serving as two of her godparents. The Gough family resides in Sheboygan Falls.

Karl Berg (Class of 2016) married Caroline Schoenfeldt on June 28, 2025 in Whitefish Bay. A reception was held at Caroline's parents' yard in Bayside. LHS alumni in the wedding party included **Jacob Berg (2015)** and **Matthew Berg (2020)**. The couple resides in Fox Point, WI where Karl is a Business Analyst for Artisan Partners and Caroline is a Medical Sales Representative for Young Medical.



Ryan Schoening (Class of 2011) and his wife, Celia, welcomed their second child, Wesley David, on July 10, 2025. He joins big sister, Avery. Wesley was baptized on August 31, with LHS alumni **Derek Yurk (2005)** and **Megan (Schoening) Yurk (2006)** serving as two of his godparents. The Schoenings reside in Sun Prairie.



Shae Holzheimer and Graden Grabowski (both Class of 2019) got married on July 12, 2025 in the Chapel of Christ Triumphant at Concordia University Wisconsin. LHS alumni in the wedding party included **AJ Holzheimer (2016)**, **Caitlyn (Kaiser) Holzheimer (2016)**, **Katelyn Witte (2019)**, **Josie Pingel (2019)**, **Lance Bolden (2019)**, and **Jackson Holzheimer (2022)**.



Dylan and Jessica (Kanz) Usadel (both Class of 2010) welcomed their second set of twin girls on September 11, 2025. Averie and Sophie join big sisters Sadie, Jaylie, and Kylie, and were baptized on October 12th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The Usadel family resides in Sheboygan.

AJ and Caitlyn (Kaiser) Holzheimer (both Class of 2016) welcomed their first daughter, Audrey Jo, on June 4, 2025. AJ is an engineer for the Vollrath Company, and Caitlyn is a 5th grade teacher for the Sheboygan Area School District. The Holzheimer family currently resides in Sheboygan Falls.



Aaron Reseburg (Class of 2013) and his wife, Martha, recently celebrated the birth of their 3rd child, Seth, this past February. Aaron has been the Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Watertown, Wisconsin since 2023. They have two older children, Eden (4) and Olive (2).



Ethan Norlander (Class of 2018) and his wife, Taylor, had an official ceremony on September 20, 2025 to celebrate their two year wedding anniversary.



Eli Norlander (Class of 2020) married Kara Bushman on August 16, 2025 in Milwaukee. **Matthew Berg (2020)** was the best man, and **Connor Buss (2019)**, **Ezekiel Norlander (2023)**, and **Ethan Norlander (2018)** were also in the wedding party.

Meghan (Falconer) Strandt (Class of 2011) gave birth to her second son this past April. No photo was submitted.



Connor Buss (Class of 2019) is engaged to Mickey Topp. Connor works as a Communications Director in the Wisconsin State Senate. Mickey works as a Compliance Auditor at the Legislative Audit Bureau. An August 2026 wedding is being planned in the Madison area.

Aidan Diener and Lizzie Montaba (both Class of 2021) were married at St. John Lutheran Church in Plymouth on May 31, 2025. The couple now resides in Sheboygan, where Aidan teaches at Bethlehem Lutheran School. Members of the wedding party included **Ambryn Diener (2022)**, **Asa Diener (2024)**, **Andrew Meador (2021)**, **Lauren (Kempf) Lunceford (2021)**, and **Kirsten (Solle) Bearinger (2021)**.



Mary Hendrikse (Class of 2020) married Diego Santiago on June 26th, 2025. The wedding party included several LHS alumni: maid of honor **Hannah Hendrikse (2018)**, bridesmaid **Natalie Mullens (2020)**, groomsmen **Jacob Hendrikse (2023)** and emcee **Ellie Fredericks (2022)**. The couple resides in New Berlin where Mary is pursuing her Masters of Science in Mental Health Counseling.

Kirsten Solle (Class of 2021) married Brady Bearinger on August 31st, 2025 in Sheboygan. They met four years ago at Liberty University and now live in North Carolina. Kirsten teaches elementary Spanish, and Brady is a lieutenant in the Air Force.



Josie Pingel (Class of 2019) got engaged to Jacob Lawrence in April while on a hike with their two pups. They are planning a wedding in Phoenix in June 2026.



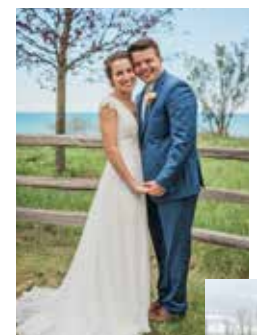
Ambryn Diener (Class of 2022) got engaged to Zak Schroeder on October 4th, 2025. They will both be graduating in December - Ambryn with a Bachelor's degree in rehabilitation science, and Zak with a Bachelor's degree in accounting. Additionally, Ambryn is in year 2 of 3 of her occupational therapy doctorate (OTD) program at Concordia University Ann Arbor, with graduation in May 2027. Zak is working for Gerken Companies Construction, and he begins full-time as a logistics specialist right after December graduation. A wedding is planned for 2027.

Nate Leibham (Class of 2004) and his wife, Kelsey, welcomed their first child, Kenneth Nathaniel Leibham, on July 19, 2025. He is the 46th grandchild of Ken and Sue Leibham.



Aiden "Fuzz" Reimer (Class of 2020) recently completed the Crucible at Marine Corps Boot Camp at MCRD San Diego. He graduated on October 31.

Maddie Hackbarth (Class of 2023) is engaged to Jayden Fairweather. They met at Stonebrook Church in Ames, IA. Maddie is pursuing a degree in interior design, and Jayden is studying aerospace. They are planning a summer 2026 wedding.



Naomi Gruben (Class of 2019) married Eli Wallace on May 24, 2025. Alumni in the wedding party included **Kalee Muth (2019)**, **Abby Janke (2019)**, and **Emma Otten (2019)**. Naomi graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy this May and is now working as a Physical Therapist at St. Cloud Hospital in Minnesota.





Zachary Nicholson (Class of 2011) recently married Taylor Gardner of Birmingham, Alabama. In his wedding party were **Seth Menzer (2011)** and **Zach Jensema (2011)**. Zachary completed his residency in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Alabama. The couple is moving to Nashville, TN where Zach will begin his practice and Taylor will be working as a surgical nurse.

Amanda (Buck) Fritsch (Class of 2005) and her husband, Kevin, celebrated the birth of their fourth child, Caleb Jonathan Fritsch, on June 22, 2025. He joins siblings Daniel (8), Joshua (6), and Abigail (3). In addition to the Fritsch family and grandparents Roger and Alice Buck, the photo includes **Peter Buck (2007)** and **Shannon (Buck) Hoepfner (2003)**.



Josiah Anderson (Class of 2011) graduated from the University of Wisconsin - Stout with a Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering.



Michael and Stephanie (Kempf) Timm (both Class of 2010) welcomed a baby girl, Jane Eleanor, into the world on July 25, 2025. The Timm family resides in Oostburg.



CLASS OF 1985 REUNION

On August 23, 2025, the members of the Class of 1985 gathered to fry brats, tour the school, and celebrate the 30th anniversary of their graduation from LHS. Pictured here, left to right: **Front row: Bob Trempe, Mike Knop, Rob Hemenway, Phil Zastrow, Kare Crook Hynek, and Lori Kamps Laporte; Back row: Joel Kaeppler, Rev. David Knuth, Mike Stapel, Mike Leibham, and Jim Feld**



IN REMEMBRANCE

We are saddened to share the passing of the following alumni, but as we hold their families and loved ones in prayer, we take comfort in 1 Corinthians 15:57: "But thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- **Rob Kamin (Class of 1992)** and his wife, Melissa, who tragically passed away in the Texas flooding during July 2025
- **Matthew Ertel (Class of 1999)** who passed away July 15, 2025



Upcoming Events

Fall Drama *The Magician's Nephew*

November 14 & 15 | 7 pm

Alumni Basketball Tournament

November 29

Lutheran High Christmas Concert

Saturday, December 13 | 7 pm
Sunday, December 14 | 2 pm

Open House

(for 5th-8th grade families)
January 21 | 6-8 pm

Trivia Night

Hosted by National Honor Society
March 14 | 6 pm

LHS Spring Musical

April 10-12

Crusade for Bids Dinner Auction

April 18

Senior Citizen Bible Breakfasts

November 18
December 16
January 20
February 17
March 17
April 21



Find the most up-to-date event calendar, including athletic competitions, online.



Thanks to Charles Benedum for his contributions to the *Caring Crusaders* article, and to Jeff Jurss and Sean Hasenstein for the *Where Are They Now* article.



SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

3323 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081

Dated Material

ATTENTION, CRUSADER ALUMNI:

In January 2026, we will be launching *The Shield*, an e-newsletter just for you. Every other month we'll share devotions from faculty, photos & memories, business connections, and more.

Please send your current email address to lhsalumni@lutheranhigh.com so you don't miss out!

SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN
BAND AND CHOIR PRESENT

O Holy Night

Matthew 2:9-11



SATURDAY - DECEMBER 13 7:00PM

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 14 2:00PM

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

3233 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, SHEBOYGAN

