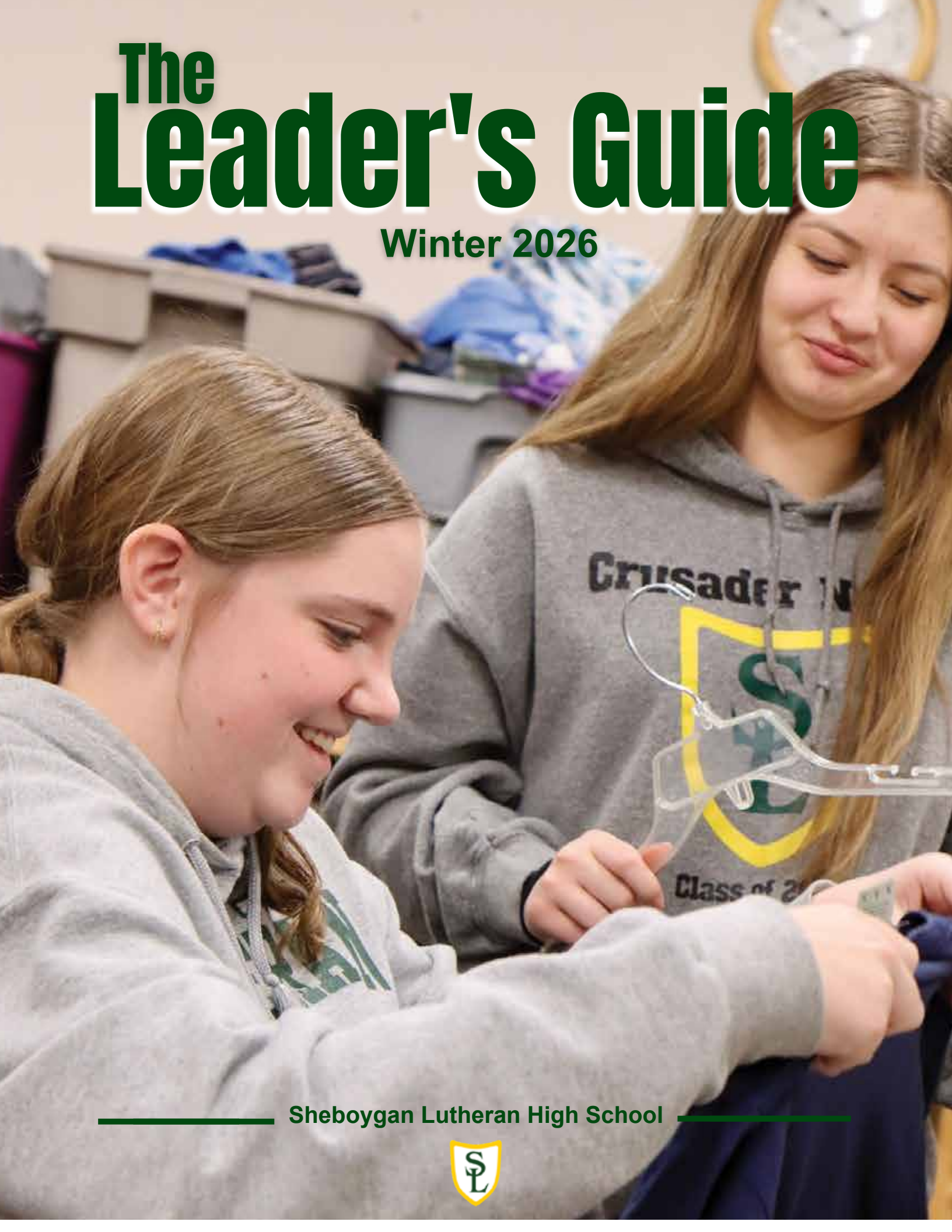


The Leader's Guide

Winter 2026



Sheboygan Lutheran High School



LEAD BOLDLY

A Message from the Executive Director

Of all the leisure activities I enjoy, canoeing is by far one of my favorites. I first began when I was eighteen years old after receiving an Old Town Camper canoe as a graduation gift from my parents. Over the years, that canoe has carried me on countless adventures. I have jump-shot ducks along the riverbanks, fished in the middle of a thunderstorm, and even taken my boys out for what turned into an unexpected swim after we capsized midstream. That canoe has experienced excitement, mishaps, laughter, and memories that I will never forget.

One of my favorite leadership quotes is the following: "A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." Though a canoe is not a ship, the principle still applies. If my canoe remained in the garage and never touched the water, it would be a waste of its purpose. The same is true for us as Christians. In 2 Timothy 1:7 we are reminded, "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." We were not created to sit safely on the sidelines. We were created to venture out in faith.

God calls us to courageous leadership. Storms will come - whether cultural pressures, educational challenges, or personal trials - but we are equipped with the Spirit's power, love, and self-control. We lead fearlessly not because we are flawless, but because we are forgiven. Christ's sacrifice grants us confidence to continue forward, even when we stumble.

As Mark Twain once wrote, "Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear - not absence of fear." We will face hardship. We will fail. Yet we press on because we are sustained by God's grace. At Sheboygan Lutheran, we have the privilege of teaching truth in a world desperate for it. Lutheran education equips students with a faith that is thoughtful, resilient, and rooted in Scripture.

May we lead boldly, trusting that God has given us exactly what we need - power, love, and self-control - to lead well and proclaim the Gospel faithfully.



For Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Tschudy".

Matthew Tschudy
Executive Director



In This Issue

ABOUT THE COVER: Two Crusader students, Casey Roethel and Sophia Yurk, are volunteering at Neat Repeats, the thrift shop that has been supporting Sheboygan Lutheran for the past seventeen years.

4. From the Development Office

6. Varsity Athletics - Fall 2025 Recap

7. Faithful Fans - Allan Jurss & Ken Leibham

8. Hallway Happenings

10. Alumni Spotlight: Sarah (Oswald) Klug

11. Alumni in Action

Record-Breaking Donation

Neat Repeats recently presented its 2025 contribution to Lutheran High at the annual Christmas Concert, and it shattered records: **\$300,000!** That brings the thrift store's total contribution to over \$2.1 million over 17 years. We are deeply grateful to the faithful volunteers, board of directors, donors, and patrons who keep this store thriving, year after year.



Dave Ames, Neat Repeats' Treasurer, presented Matt Tschudy with the record-breaking gift.

Visit neatrepeatsthiftshop.com for store hours and volunteer opportunities. And be sure to follow Neat Repeats Thrift Shop on Facebook for the latest sales.



CRUSADER SUMMER CAMPS

Led by Crusader coaches, advisors, and student helpers, there is something for everyone in grades K-12!

- ART
- DRAMA
- SLAMMA JAMMA
- BASEBALL
- CRUSADER HOOPS
- WEIGHT TRAINING
- PRO ACTIVE FITNESS

...AND MORE!



Registration Opens in March at
lutheranhigh.com/summercamps



About Us

Our Mission

*Preparing Christian Leaders -
One Student at a Time*

Leadership Team

Matthew Tschudy - *Executive Director*
Tom Splittgerber - *Business Manager*
Al Holzheimer - *Athletic Director/Student Services*
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

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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facebook.com/SheboyganLHS
instagram/lhs_crusaders

From the Development Office

Charitable Tax Incentives and Giving

Significant tax changes to the 2026 Charitable Deduction should give many more Americans the opportunity to claim the new, above-the-line deduction for cash contributions to qualifying charities such as Sheboygan Lutheran High School.

Non-itemizers taking the standard deduction can deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 for married filing jointly) for donations made by cash, check, or credit card. This means if you are in a 22% tax bracket, you could be looking at savings of \$220 if you're single and you donate \$1,000 in 2026. The \$1,000 could be made in one, two, or more payments during the year. These gifts, however, exclude donor-advised funds. Lutheran High School will acknowledge your donation with a receipt for your taxes, indicating you received no goods or services from your donation.

For taxpayers who itemize deductions, there will be a 'floor' put into place for an amount of charitable contributions that exceeds a percentage of the filer's adjusted gross income. Taxpayers itemizing are urged to work with a tax professional to figure out their limit. In light of the 2026 tax law changes, donors should consider their charitable giving amounts to 'max out' the deduction.

2026 Charitable Deduction Rules vs. 2025

Tax Rule	2025 Rules	2026 Rules
Non-itemizer charitable deduction	None; standard deduction filers could not claim a federal tax deduction for donations.	Up to \$1,000 in cash donations may be claimed as a tax deduction (\$2,000 for joint filers).
<u>AGI</u> floor for itemized charitable deduction	No floor; every dollar is deductible (up to limits).	Only the portion of total charitable contributions above 0.5% of your AGI is deductible.
Charitable deduction cap	For those in the 37% <u>tax bracket</u> , the deduction provides a 37% tax benefit.	The tax benefit of the deduction is capped at 35% for top earners.

The changes might not affect everyone, depending on your gifting strategy. Consult with a qualified [tax professional](#) to discuss which tax strategies are best for your financial circumstances.

**Kiplinger.com/taxes newsletter Kate Schubel*



Ways to Support Sheboygan Lutheran High School



Donate to the annual fund, 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/support or via the enclosed envelope.

Other creative ways to make charitable contributions include designating your RMD to LHS, a 501(c)(3) qualified charity. A stock donation for a tax benefit would be a great option (check with your tax professional). Or perhaps direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to LHS. The 2025 Choice dollars expire on March 31, 2026 so review your account soon.

And here is a note from our LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor, and LHS alumni, Craig Toerpe. Craig's words of wisdom for February:

Sometimes we might be tempted to think a Christian estate plan is just a collection of documents (will, trust, POA). A will might refer to a certain percentage of gift to family or ministry, but a beneficiary designation on an account like an IRA might supersede with different instructions. It is important to have help making sure these documents agree.

Contact Craig to facilitate your legacy conversation or other questions you may have regarding how you can faithfully provide for your family and financially support the Lord's work at 262-707-3005 or craig.toerpe@lfnd.org.

Say YES! to supporting Sheboygan Lutheran High School and the mission of Christian education.



In His Service,

Carmen Dolson
Development Director



SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN HIGH PRESENTS THE 46TH ANNUAL AUCTION DINNER

CRUSADE FOR BIDS

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL
3323 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, SHEBOYGAN



You are cordially invited to an evening of support for our mission of *Preparing Christian Leaders - One Student at a Time*. Details, reservations, and donation opportunities are available at lutheranhigh.com/auction



Varsity Athletics

Fall 2025 Recap



Cross Country

Big East Conference Meet results:

- Varsity Boys: 2nd place
- Varsity Girls: 2nd place
- JV Boys: 1st place

Big East All-Conference Honors:

- 1st Team All-Conference: Eddy Giebler, Titus Gottschalk, Isabelle Harder
- 2nd Team All-Conference: James Duplechain, Noelle Makela, Ella Heronymus
- Honorable Mention All-Conference: Isaac Hasler, Elanore Faucher

Cross Country Division 3 State Meet:

- Boys Varsity: 10th place (out of 16 teams)
- Eddy Giebler: 13th place (out of 151 runners)

Volleyball

Overall record: 14-18

Playoffs:

- Regional Round 1 win vs. Random Lake (3-0)
- Regional Semifinal win vs Kohler (3-2)
- Regional Final loss vs *Heritage Christian (0-3)
*Division 4 State Champion

Big East All-Conference Honors:

- Honorable Mention: Giavana Fieldhouse, Alisha Zeeveld, Aniya Zeeveld



Boys Soccer

Overall record: 18-4-3

Conference record: 8-1-1 (2nd place)

Playoffs:

- Regional Semifinal win vs Random Lake (6-0)
- Regional Final win vs Cristo Rey Jesuit (6-5 shootout)
- Sectional Semifinal loss vs The Prairie School (0-2)

Football

Overall record: 2-7

Eastern Wisconsin All-Conference Honors:

- Honorable Mention - Defense & Offense:
Dominic Walter



Faithful Fans

A 45-year Tradition in the Bleachers

During the 1981 season, two young dads - Ken Leibham, now 82, and Allan Jurss, now 83 - began attending Sheboygan Lutheran Crusader basketball games. Their freshman sons, Mike (Leibham) and Jeff (Jurss), were playing JV for Coach Curt Fischer, and the two fathers quickly found their way into the stands together. Before long, Mike and Jeff moved up to Coach Bob Kasten's varsity squad, and Ken and Allan settled into what neither of them realized would become a 45-year tradition.



Ken Leibham (left) and Allan Jurss (right) can often be found side-by-side in the bleachers.

Back then, the Sheboygan Lutheran gym was much smaller, and there wasn't even a three-point line. State championships weren't even a dream - most Crusader fans were just hoping to beat Sheboygan Christian once. But time has a way of surprising you. Today, after multiple State titles and countless memories, Ken and Allan are still in the stands, cheering just as loudly as they did in 1981.

Their families have helped write much of Crusader history. Ken has two sons, James (1997) and Nick (2002) who reached the 1,000-point milestone, and Allan has two grandsons, Jake (2015) and Jared (2018) in the 1,000-point club as well. This year, two of Ken's grandsons, Oliver and Eli, are on the varsity team, while Allan's grandson, Jake, serves as an assistant coach. Ken also has two grandsons on JV (Emerson and Connor) and two granddaughters (Grace and Lucy) playing for the Crusader girls' team. Forty-five years later, the legacy goes well beyond two dads in the bleachers.

When asked how many games they've attended over the decades, both men just smiled. Allan answered for them: "All of them."

Adding to the charm, both Ken and Allan are married to women named Sue - faithful fans who haven't missed many games themselves. More than once, the two couples have been mistaken for each other, which is understandable: they are fixtures of Crusader basketball. Both Sues know their basketball too, complete with strong opinions about the 1-3-1 defense, referees, and the overdue need for a shot clock.

It's a gift to still have these pioneers in the stands. If you spot them at a game, stop by and say hello. They might share a story about the Crusaders' first dramatic win over Sheboygan Christian... or the night their grandsons were on the floor when Sam Dekker hit the famous three-point shot to clinch the 2012 State title.

Some traditions run deep. Ken and Allan - and their families - are living proof.



Special thanks to Jeff Jurss for composing the *Faithful Fans* article

Hallway Happenings

Celebrating Lutheran Schools

The LCMS celebrates the gift of Christ-centered education during National Lutheran Schools Week at the end of every January. This year's theme was "Make a Joyful Noise" based on Psalm 98:4: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!"

There were plenty of joyful noises in our gym as over 800 students and staff from the SALSA schools gathered for mesmerizing entertainment by ventriloquist, magician, and children's pastor, John McLennan. He shared a wonderful message about letting Jesus use your gifts for His glory, no matter how small! Plus, we celebrated the 2026 Crusader Coloring Contest winners and gave thanks for Lutheran education in our community.



Jim Pingel Book Event

On February 15th, we welcomed a familiar face back to Lutheran High. Dr. Jim Pingel, former LHS Executive Director, now serves as Dean of the School of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin. He's also a published author, and he spent the afternoon sharing his new book, *Sacred Inspiration: A Devotional Journey Through the American Revolution and God's Word* with faculty and friends at Lutheran High. You can purchase Jim's book on Amazon.com.



What a Winterim!

During the first week in January, students have the incredible opportunity to dive into a week of hands-on electives to explore new experiences, gain new skills, and have some fun. Our teachers select topics beyond the traditional curriculum that are meaningful to them, and from there, they educate students in a variety of topics, ranging from gastronomy to auto care, college exploration to outdoor adventures, leadership games to guitar instruction, and more.

One Winterim class, *Love and Serve* led by Mr. Jeff Jurss, ventured off campus to spread love throughout our community. They packed meals at The Sheboygan County Food Bank, volunteered at The Salvation Army, delivered lunches for Fresh Meals on Wheels, and played BINGO with residents at Pine Haven Christian Communities.

Every Winterim course offers Crusaders a unique opportunity to explore, learn, and grow as Christian leaders. What a wonderful Winterim it was!



National Honor Society Welcomes 11 Members



In November, eleven Crusaders were inducted into the Sheboygan Area Lutheran Schools Association (SALSA) Chapter of National Honor Society:

[Back row] Oliver Leibham, William Leibham, Nolan Roeh, James Schulze, Samuel Detlaff

[Front row] Dannielle Bult, Ella Heronymus, Courtney Kaiser, Emma Krueger, Aniya Zeeveld, Madeline Thomas

The selection committee, led by NHS advisor, Mr. Aaron Buchholz, determined these students exemplified the ideals of the organization: character, scholarship, leadership, and service. They are now part of our active NHS chapter, taking part in important endeavors such as hosting the SALSA elementary school spelling bee, organizing a Christmas drive to provide assistance to families in need, delivering gifts to nursing home residents, and helping with monthly Senior Citizen Bible Breakfasts, to name a few. They will also be hosting **Trivia Night on Saturday, April 25**. Watch our social media for sign-up details.

Alumni Spotlight

Where Are They Now, Featuring Sarah Klug

Sarah [Oswald] Klug (Class of 1994), has devoted her life to Lutheran education and ministry, a calling that first took root during her years at Sheboygan Lutheran High.

Sarah earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW). It was also at CUW that she met her husband, Josh. In a full-circle moment, Josh completed his student teaching at LHS with Mr. Rick Zeuner, further strengthening the Klugs' connection to the Crusader community.



Sarah Klug with her sons Ryan and Aaron, and her husband, Josh

Sarah spent 27 years serving at Our Savior Lutheran School in Arlington, Virginia. During that time, she taught preschool, second grade, and third grade. Her ministry extended far beyond the classroom, as she served as Student Council Advisor, led Girls on the Run, and was actively involved in altar guild, handbells, women's Bible study, youth group, Sunday school, and Vacation Bible School. She also served on numerous boards, faithfully supporting the ministry in countless ways.

In the summer of 2025, the Klugs moved to Sheboygan after Josh accepted the Call to serve as principal at Bethlehem Lutheran School. Sarah joined him in ministry at Bethlehem, where she now serves as a resource teacher. The move marked a significant change after more than 25 years on the East Coast - years they treasured, especially living near the historic landmarks and museums of Washington, D.C. Yet returning to Sheboygan feels providential. After decades of living hundreds of miles from family, Sarah's parents have recently retired and also moved back to the Sheboygan area. Josh's family is nearby in Grafton, making this new chapter even more meaningful.

Sarah and Josh are blessed with two sons. Ryan graduated from CUW in 2024 with his MBA and now works at Advanced Comfort Systems. Aaron is currently attending CUW, majoring in Business Marketing.

When asked about her favorite memories from LHS, Sarah smiles as she recalls going to State in volleyball, the excitement of basketball games, and the fun of homecoming parades and bonfires. But the impact of LHS ran deeper than activities. Two teachers in particular shaped her path. Mrs. Mary Hilgendorf made learning meaningful and fun while holding students to high standards, inspiring Sarah's own love of teaching. Pastor Don Johnson's calm, patient, and compassionate leadership strengthened her faith and modeled integrity in action.

Growing up in a family devoted to Lutheran ministry, Sarah was surrounded by pastors and teachers who modeled faithful service. Still, she credits LHS with deepening her faith and clarifying her calling. It was there she realized her desire to serve in Lutheran education - to help children grow academically while nurturing their relationship with Jesus. "Serving in Lutheran schools has been one of my greatest joys," she shares. "Each day I have the privilege of reminding students that they are deeply loved and saved through Christ."

One especially meaningful chapter of Sarah's LHS story came when her family moved to Michigan during her high school years. Realizing the new school was not the right fit, her parents made the difficult decision to allow her to move back to Wisconsin to finish at LHS. She lived with the family of her best friend Amy [Thiel] Weir (Class of 1994), who welcomed her as their own. That courageous decision strengthened lifelong bonds between the families. Today, Sarah and Amy remain best friends - and now serve together at Bethlehem.

Sarah reflects with gratitude on how God has guided every step. "We truly feel like God brought us to Sheboygan at exactly the right time," she says. As this next chapter unfolds, the Klug family looks forward to seeing how He will continue to use them in service to His Church.



Alumni in Action

Hans Gruben (Class of 2021) and his wife, Hannah [Eatherton] welcomed their first child, Lewis Norman, on October 27, 2025. The Gruben family resides in Illinois.



Kyle Jagler (Class of 2002) was recently recognized as the 2026 South Wisconsin District Teacher of the Year. Kyle is currently teaching middle school math and is the Athletic Director at Immanuel Lutheran in Brookfield, WI.



Claudia Zastrow (Class of 2015) married Jordan Winkelman at the Sheboygan Yacht Club on September 6, 2025. Claudia's maid of honor was **Rachel Holk (2015)**, and **Anna Wheeler (2015)** was a bridesmaid. The couple lives in Fond du Lac, where Claudia works as a Speech-Language Pathologist in the Fond du Lac School District, and Jordan works as a Sales Representative for Custom Craft Roofing & Construction in Oostburg.

Alumni Pep Band Night

On January 9th, we were thrilled to welcome several Crusader alumni band members back to the gym! They dusted off their instruments and joined the LHS Pep Band in some tunes before the varsity basketball game.



Brandon Nikisch (2025)
Elizabeth [Montaba] Diener (2021)
Andrew Leibham (2025)
Elizabeth [Rindt] Ekblad (2015)
Carson Stopar (2025)
Allie [Albert] Cook (2014)
Aidan Diener (2021)



NEW! ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER

We recently launched a brand new e-newsletter just for you, Crusader alumni! Don't miss out on devotional thoughts from faculty members, alumni business and ministry features, plenty of throwback photos, and more. Send your current email address to lhalumni@lutheranhigh.com to ensure you receive the next edition.



Upcoming Events

Michigan Lutheran High School Tour Concert

March 19

LHS Spring Musical *Fiddler on the Roof*

April 10-12

Auction Preview Night

April 17

Crusade for Bids Dinner Auction

April 18

Trivia Night

April 25

Honors Night

May 13

Spring Pops Concert

May 20

Class of 2026 Graduation

May 22 | 7 pm

LHS Golf Outing

June 26

Senior Citizen Bible Breakfasts

March 17

April 21



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



SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

3323 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081

Dated Material

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We're always on the hunt for alumni news and newsworthy features for future editions of The Leader's Guide. Don't be shy! Email your ideas, as well as address or email updates, to lhsalumni@lutheranhigh.com.

SHEBOYGAN LUTHERAN DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

"Fiddler on the Roof"

SHOWTIMES

APRIL 10 & 11 - 7:00 PM

APRIL 12 - 2:00 PM

TICKETS ON SALE AT: lutheranhigh.com/PAC

3323 UNIVERSITY DRIVE, SHEBOYGAN



DESIGNED BY EDDY GIEBLER, CLASS OF 2028