Pocket Flag Project

Again this year LHS was busy folding flags for the troops. Nearly 600 pocket sized flags were assembled by the G.L.O.W. group to be shipped over seas in time for Christmas.

Sarah Hodges McMullen writes on Facebook, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2014:
“What an amazing gift I received today....It completely blew my mind. I was asked to wrap Christmas presents for our unit members on our day off. I love wrapping so it was an easy “yes.” They showed me boxes of quilts that we were to wrap individually for each Soldier. I was told they were donated and we only had to pay for shipping to get them here. As I looked at the wonderfully made, donated quilts, the Commander said, "Hey Ma'am, these are from WI." He said, “someplace called Plymouth.” I perked up instantly and told him all about back home and how close Plymouth is to Sheboygan, where I went to school, what life was like where I’m from (cheese, beer, brats, Packers).....but then, I also found a small little flag in a bag and the paper inside with the quilt, and said it came from the Plymouth VFW...and Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School...my mouth dropped open...my school...wait...MY SCHOOL!!! I screamed "OMG...these are from MY SCHOOL!" Everyone just stared at me and we all started to laugh. I told them about MY little Lutheran high school and how impossible it was that these were here, right in front of me. I began to miss home so badly, and my husband and children, and then I realized that I was holding a piece of home in my hand...on a day I needed it the most. Thank you Lord, and my LHS Crusaders, Plymouth VFW, and Operation Camo Quilt Project volunteers. Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!”
Sarah Hodges McMullen, LHS Class of 1984, stationed in Kuwait.

G.L.O.W.
God’s Light of the World
Student Service Group

LHS Students labeled and folded more than 400 fleece blankets for Project Linus. The blankets go to Children’s Hospital in Milwaukee for distribution to needy children.

Liz Rindt, Joseph Meador, Jacob Muth and Ben Behling help with blankets after school.

Kiley Hopf, Anna Wheeler, Erin Quam and Lori Herdic assemble supplies and pocket flags. Jonathan Ruiz (right) helps with shoe boxes.

Operation Christmas Child

Students donated school supplies, small toys, and personal hygiene items to fill 42 shoe boxes for Samaritan’s Purse. The boxes are sent to needy children around the world, some of whom have never received a Christmas present previously.
She’s a Dime

When I was in high school, any girl who was kind, caring, approachable, beautiful, and smart was referred to as a “dime”—the perfect ten. Lutheran High is a dime too. Okay, like that All-American girl, she isn’t really perfect. Sinful human beings inhabit our school, and Satan prowls the hallways looking for Christian leaders he can corrupt and destroy. Unfortunately, he is often successful with his temptations, lies, and deceit.

Despite our sinful nature and human frailty, however, Lutheran High remains a wonderful ministry because Jesus is here—in our halls, hearts, hourly lesson plans, and in His Word which we study daily. He is the One who truly makes our school special and distinct.

For the last ten years, I have had the honor to serve as Executive Director. My time to serve in this capacity, however, comes to an end, on December 31st, as I have accepted a Call to serve as Associate Professor of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve for as long as I have.

One of the joys of serving at Lutheran High has been writing this newsletter and sharing how God continues to do great and mighty things in Crusader Country. So, in the spirit of the “dime,” let me tell you ten ways God has blessed Lutheran High:

1) As beautiful as our campus and facility are, what makes Lutheran High special is the people. The Lutheran High community is made up of kindhearted, pleasant individuals who genuinely enjoy being around one another. Do you know how rare it is these days to work, live, or study in an environment full of kind, caring, and thoughtful people? God has truly blessed us with a welcoming, family-friendly school.

2) Lutheran High teachers and support staff make this ministry go. These servant leaders love their Lord, the young adults entrusted to their care, and the mission of the school. They truly look at their vocation as a Calling and not a job. Please remember them in your prayers. Send an email to encourage or thank them for what they do. Go ahead and give them a gas card or grocery gift certificate this Christmas. They deserve it.

3) We need and cherish all our volunteers at Lutheran High, but we are especially grateful and inspired by the ones who give so much of their time long after their own kids have graduated. These salt-of-the-earth individuals maintain our building and grounds, serve at events and on committees with joy and conviction. “It’s all about the kids,” they often tell me. May the next generation of Christian leaders learn from and model these special volunteers in our midst.

4) Our area pastors are wonderful advocates for our mission. Some are leading financial donors to our ministry. Many pray daily for our school and publicly every Sunday. They come to our musicals and concerts, serve on the Board of Directors, and promote our school with new families. They care for the spiritual well-being of each and every student. When I talk to other Lutheran high school administrators across the country, many tell me they do not have the pastoral support that we have at Lutheran High. We are blessed.

5) The financial generosity of supporters and donors is both touching and impressive. God has blessed our school with many givers who love their Lord and His school. They give what they can, and they give when they can. Asking for donations has never been a
difficult endeavor because so many believe in our mission and know the difference our school has made in the lives of many.

6) Lutheran High’s mission statement, Preparing Christian Leaders—One Student at a Time, provides clarity and focus for our entire school. The world is begging for leadership in general, and our God is calling for Christian servant leaders in all vocations. God expects much from those who have been given much. Christian writer, C.S. Lewis, once noted “if you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next.” By God’s grace and in Jesus’ name, there is a need to lead!

7) Did you know we are the only high school in Sheboygan County who’s colors are green and gold? This truly is God’s country. 😊

8) The students at Lutheran High are special. I love how they interact and communicate with people from different generations and backgrounds—young kids, senior citizens, troubled Chicago Bears’ fans—not just their peers. Moreover, our students know we expect a lot of them and that we care about their long-term character development, habits, and life skills. While other area schools advertise and brag about not assigning homework, we tell our students, “you’re gonna learn a terrific work ethic here, and you’ll learn to like it, too.” Furthermore, these young adults know we love them and, therefore, will not deny them the truth of God’s Word and the love of Jesus Christ. Since our students know we care for them in an eternal way, they do not mind being challenged, disciplined, or encouraged to lead.

9) Truth alert: Lutheran High has THE best chocolate chip cookies (made by our Renaissance Man, Mr. Tom Kind), Dinner Auction, and Christmas concert around. Just sayin’…thank you God.

10) Most importantly, through all of our ups and downs, Jesus Christ remains the cornerstone of our school and mission. The world is full of sin, destruction, death, disappointment, and despair. Jesus has overcome the world with forgiveness, peace, life, joy, and hope.

God already has chosen the next Executive Director of Lutheran High. He or she will be privileged to lead and serve a special ministry—a dime of a school. Let us continue to thank God from Whom all blessings flow.

In Christ,
Dr. James A. Pingel II, Executive Director

Editor’s note: Dr. Pingel’s new email address is james.pingel@cuw.edu.

In appreciation of ten very productive years here at LHS, we are throwing a “Thank You, Jim” party, and our LHS family is cordially invited to attend. Please join us at Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School in the gymnasium on Friday, January 3rd during an open house from 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm. A light supper and refreshments will be served up with a lot of fellowship, smiles, and opportunities to thank Jim (and Michelle) for their service to LHS.
Caring Crusader: Debbie Schneider

She’s a woman on a mission, has great vision, and is terrific at bringing things to fruition. Caring Crusader, Debbie Schneider, is a familiar face for many around Lutheran High. For the past two years, she has served as Harvestfest Co-Chair, Yearbook Advisor, and all-around Lutheran High supporter. She is also a Lutheran High parent. Her daughter, Gabriella, is a senior and National Merit Scholar Finalist. “She has always been our girl with a book in her hand,” says Debbie.

Debbie’s path to Sheboygan Lutheran High is an interesting one. She grew up in Nebraska, where working in the hot cornfields each summer taught her the importance of continuing her education. Her father, David Held (who along with Debbie’s mother Emma Arnst Held was a graduate of Trinity Lutheran School in downtown Sheboygan), served as a Professor and Choir Director of the Concordia Singers at Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska.

When Debbie was 15, she met her husband-to-be, Steve, at the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX. “He was a 14-year old kid from Mississippi,” Debbie explains, “and I was a 15-year old girl from Nebraska. We were pen pals for six years before God finally got us close enough together geographically to start dating.”

After earning a Secondary Education degree (majors in Biology and Music), serving at Martin Lutheran High School (Greendale, WI) as a science teacher, and eventually marrying Steve; Debbie made a decision to stay home and raise their two daughters, Gabriella and Katarina, while Steve tackled his new job as Guidance Counselor at Sheboygan South High School, where he continues to serve today.

Through joint teacher conferences and her college friendship with Myrna Lastusky (English teacher for many years at LHS), Debbie knew about Sheboygan Lutheran High School while she was teaching at Martin Lutheran High School. “We had always planned for our daughters to attend Lutheran High,” says Debbie, “mainly because of my own belief in Lutheran education. I went to Lutheran schools in both Orange, CA and Seward, NE, so I saw the value in it.”

There are many things Debbie values about Lutheran High, but one thing she notes is “the size and atmosphere encourages our students to stretch beyond their own wheelhouse and try out something that might make them a bit nervous or uncomfortable.” Indeed, “since the expectation here is that all students can find a way to be involved, I have appreciated the many times my own daughter has tried something that stretched her personally. I think back to Gabriella’s one year in Track and Field and can only smile. It was so far removed from what she normally likes to do! But she lettered in Track that year and can proudly say that she was in sports at LHS.” In the same way, Gabriella got on stage for the first time this past fall and played a lead role in one of the one-act plays at Lutheran High’s Comedy Café.
Debbie does not just talk about how she values Lutheran High, she shows it. As one of the three HarvestFest Co-chairs the past two years, she has spent countless hours organizing and bringing things together for the big fall fundraiser. “It’s amazing what you can do when you get a small team together…I also enjoyed working with the students. Our student volunteers were the best!”

As Yearbook Advisor, she has had great success in recruiting busy high school students to commit to numerous Saturday mornings and afternoons in order to bring a nationally award-winning yearbook to fruition. In fact, “yearbook meetings with my Crew,” as she calls them, are one of her favorite memories of Lutheran High. “My time spent with Yearbook Crew is a blessing,” she insists. “These kids work HARD. They have some wonderful abilities in many different areas, and that makes working with them a blast.”

Lutheran High is blessed to receive so much generosity from someone as busy as Debbie. Currently she serves as the Discipleship Coordinator at First United Lutheran Church where she also directs the Middle/High School choir. In addition, Debbie teaches New Testament classes for sophomores at Orange Lutheran Online. “As an educator myself, I believe in supporting our kids in their education,” she explains. “For me, that has meant that any school my daughters are enrolled in deserves some of my time and gifts back to help it be the best it can be. That may mean that I volunteer to help teach, or to run an event, or just to set up for a breakfast. It’s not always convenient to do that work, but it’s completely fulfilling.”

Spoken like a Caring Crusader. Thank you Debbie for all you do!

**Comedy Cafe a smashing success**

Resurrected by Director, Matt Thiel, over 30 LHS students participated in five one-act plays in early November. Both performances were very well attended. Patrons enjoyed the humorous plays, pie and other goodies, and a plethora of talented Crusaders in action.
Crusaders in Action

Cross Country Team to State
The boys cross country team built upon their historic success winning the Sectional Championship and finishing in 8th place at the State Championship meet. Junior, Tess Leibham, qualified for the State meet for the girls team and took 8th place in that race.

Soccer Success
The joint Lutheran - Christian High Varsity soccer team had a splendidly successful season. The team had a 20-0 regular season record and became Regional Champions before losing to eventual State Champion, University School, in the Sectional Final. All-Conference honors to senior Jeff Hess, Second Team and senior Eric Puksich, Honorable Mention.

Volleyball nets a record
Senior Emily Hammann received a unanimous CLC All-Conference First team selection in Volleyball. Emily became only the 8th player in the county to reach the “1000 kills” mark, as well as recording 178 blocks, 372 digs and 81 aces in her career. Teammate honors went to senior Danielle Byrum, All-Conference Second Team and sophomore Ashley Oberreich, Honorable Mention.

Football Highlights
The Lutheran/Kohler/Christian Football team saw All-Conference honors go to Michael Chorowicz, Honorable Mention at Wide Receiver and Defensive Back and Taylor Zastrow, Honorable Mention at Defensive Tackle.
Legacy Gifts

“Don’t judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seeds you plant.”
– Robert Louis Stevenson

Charles Benedum Student Mentor & Athletic Endowment Fund
The earnings from this endowment provide financial scholarships to families and individual students who require significant tuition assistance and funds to maintain, supplement, and enhance Lutheran High athletic programs.

Crusader Activities Endowment
The earnings from this endowment provide funding for programs specifically dedicated to co-curriculars (athletics, music, drama), outreach, and Christian leadership development (i.e. special guest speakers, Christian training and leadership seminars, mission trips, service projects, etc.).

Emily Hughes Memorial Scholarship Endowment
The earnings from this endowment provide tuition assistance for Catholic families based on need.

Friends of Taproot Club Endowment
The earnings from this endowment directly support the mission of the Taproot Club, which is to help raise money for the daily operating costs and expenses of Lutheran High.

Heidi G. Hake Athletic Scholarship Endowment
The earnings from this endowment provide scholarship assistance for students with financial needs and an interest/aptitude in athletics.

John & Laverne Hermann Scholarship Endowment
The earnings from this fund are used to offer scholarship assistance to families and students in need.

Katie Marie Immel Memorial Scholarship Endowment
The earnings from this endowment provide scholarship assistance for incoming freshman based upon need, grades, and participation in athletics.

Leaders for Life Endowment
The earnings from this fund are primarily used to offer scholarship assistance to families and students in need and to provide vital third source funding for the mission and ministry of Lutheran High. This endowment plays a significant role in keeping Christian education affordable for families in the Greater Sheboygan Area.

Teach Me Your Way Endowment
The earnings and interest from this fund are used to provide a Christmas bonus for Lutheran High teachers and staff. As the fund grows, earnings will also be used for tuition assistance to families with the most severe, sudden, and emergency financial needs.

The Legacy Tree hangs in the West Gym Foyer of LHS. Donors of $500 or more to the Leaders For Life Endowment can purchase a leaf to be engraved in honor or memory of someone from our LHS family. Contact Executive Assistant, Carmen Dolson for more information at dolson@lutheranhigh.com.

(Note: Board of Directors’ Policy at Lutheran High mandates that named and published endowments must be “active”—a recent history of gifts made to it—and over $25,000).
Faith & Finances: Jocelyn is Smiling

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.  
Proverbs 11:25

Jocelyn decided to give $20,000 to our campaign. But she had to put on her gift-planning hat before she did.

She remembered hearing that it is usually better to contribute appreciated stock than to write a check for the same amount. She also remembered some shares of one company that her banker says are worth about ten times as much as she paid for them back in 1988, based on reinvested dividends and adjusting for stock splits. Sure enough, her last statement showed Jocelyn still had those same 1,000 shares, and a quick check on the Internet showed they are currently trading around $20 a share.

Jocelyn considered the options. If she sold the stock, she would have $20,000 (minus the sales commission) to give to Lutheran High. But then, at tax time, she will owe capital gains tax on $18,000 of growth as the stock appreciated. Applying 20 percent capital gains tax rate, she will pay a federal tax of $3,600.

She also knew her charitable deduction could offset that amount, because in her 28 percent federal income tax bracket, a $20,000 gift should save her about $7,800 in tax. Still, Jocelyn asked herself, why incur the capital gain and extra tax at all? She has other taxable income that can be sheltered if the stock isn’t sold.

This reminded Jocelyn why it was so smart to give appreciated stock instead of cash. Two benefits are better than one! She could give the stock and get the market value deduction for her gift and avoid paying the capital gains tax. Because Lutheran High is a duly qualified charitable organization, it can sell the stock without paying tax on the gain.

Transferring stock is easy. Lutheran High has a relationship and setup with Morgan Stanley that has helped many who wish to donate stock gifts to Lutheran High and take advantage of tax deductions.

How about you? Do you have appreciated assets in stocks or bonds that could make a similarly smart gift and help Lutheran High Prepare Christian Leaders—One Student at a Time?

Tax Deduction for Private School Tuition

For the first time in Wisconsin history, parents with a child in a private school will be able to receive a tax deduction for tuition under the state budget recently passed by the state legislature.

Under the program, parents statewide will be able to deduct a percentage of paid tuition on up to $4,000 per student in grades K-8, and up to $10,000 per high school student. The tax deduction begins in tax year 2014. Please note, for parents with a high school senior in 2013-14, tuition checks written prior to January 1, 2014, will not be eligible for the deduction. The full language of the motion is listed on the Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools (WCRIS) website at http://www.wcris.org/tuitiontaxdeduction.cfm.
It’s A Good Time To PrePay Your Child’s (Or Grandchild’s) High School Tuition

Lutheran High’s Prepaid Tuition program is a popular option for many families who intend to send their child (or children) to Lutheran High. In fact, many families prepay future tuition for multiple years for multiple children.

The two main benefits for prepaying your child’s tuition are:

1) You save dollars in the future by locking in at current tuition rates. When tuition goes up in the future, you owe nothing in addition to what you have already prepaid (not counting registration fees).
2) You will have the comfort and satisfaction of knowing your child’s high school tuition is already paid. Your school plan for the future is set.

For more information, check out our website at www.lutheranhigh.com. Click on the “Enrollment” tab and then click on “Prepaid Tuition Form.” Make a decision for Lutheran High today that saves you money tomorrow. To lock in this year’s tuition rate, it must be paid by January 15, 2014.

Tax-free IRA Rollover extended

As part of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, individuals aged 70 1/2 or older may make tax-free transfers up to $100,000 from an IRA to Sheboygan Lutheran High School for the 2013 tax year. Gifts for the 2013 tax year may be made until December 31, 2013. These transfers would fulfill some or all of your required minimum distribution without increasing taxable income. Contact your IRA custodian soon.

Annual Citrus Sale
Dec. 16 - Jan. 20

There are many ways to support the operating budget of Lutheran High School. The next fundraiser on the calendar is our annual Citrus Sale. Lutheran High will offer sugar sweet Florida Indian River, red grapefruit and delicious large California navel oranges. The fruit will be the freshest available, arriving just in time for pick-up.

Grapefruit and oranges will be available in 40# (full case) for $40 or 20# (half case) for $20.

There are gift certificates available for purchase to give as a Christmas gift! may be ordered from any student at Lutheran High School or by calling the Lutheran High School office at 452-3323 starting Dec. 16th until January 20th. The fruit is to be picked up and paid for on Saturday, February 1st at Lutheran High School between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Alumni Engagements

Kaitlyn Hilbelink and Alex Kazmierski - LHS Class of 2011 - are engaged to be married. Katie is attending Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon majoring in Social work, and Alex is employed by Apple. A wedding is planned for July 26, 2014.

Alumni Weddings

Kimberly Buck - LHS Class of 2010 - married Tyler Shadick on August 3, 2013, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sheboygan. The wedding party included Peter Buck - LHS Class of 2007, Amanda Buck Fritsch - LHS Class of 2005, Shannon Buck Hoepner - LHS Class of 2003, Allison Buck Zehnder - LHS Class of 2001, and Stephanie Kempf - LHS Class of 2010. Tyler is working at CUW as the Online Learning Systems Analyst and Kimberly is in her fourth year at CUW in the Lutheran School Art Education Program. The couple resides in Grafton, WI.

Kristen McCabe - LHS Class of 2002 - married Kalon Jarvis on August 10, 2013. Kristen is a graduate of Marquette University, Milwaukee, and Macquarie University, in Sydney, Australia. She is employed at Deluxe, a film and television post-production company, and is also an actress. Kalon is also a graduate of Macquarie University and works as a derivatives trader.

Alumni Births

Penny Schneider Clark - LHS Class of 1993, and her husband, Tony, welcomed the birth of their seventh child, Rebekah Hope on October 4th.

Adam Schroeder - LHS Class of 2001 and Becky Sommersberger Schroeder - LHS Class of 2002, welcomed their first daughter, Siena Jane, on October 12th.

Alumni News and Notes

Laura Renzelmann - LHS Class of 2003 traveled to Kisumu, Kenya, Africa, in October for a two-week mission trip. It was her second trip to this area in Kenya. While there, the team taught VBS, painted classrooms, and built a mud hut for an area family. The school now has over 300 children, many of whom are sponsored by Emanuel Lutheran Church in New Haven, IN, where Laura has been teaching 4th grade since 2007.

Amber Akright - LHS Class of 2012 - recently graduated as a surgical technologist in the U.S. Navy and is currently stationed at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Guam.

Sarah Hodges McMullen - LHS Class of 1984 - is serving in the Army, stationed in Kuwait.

(From our cover story)

Thank you to everyone who is serving! Send us your story.
Hey Alumni...
Send us your news! Engaged? Married? New Job?
Let your classmates know what you’ve been doing!

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My News:

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Email your news, notes, and photos to Carmen Dolson at dolson@lutheranhigh.com for future newsletters or mail this form in the enclosed envelope to Lutheran High School.

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Save the Date
Annual Dinner Auction
Saturday, April 12, 2014

It’s all new! If you haven’t been to our website lately, we recently did an upgrade to our homepage and added more content.

Check out the Crusader tidbits for upcoming events, our Calendar for all the sports outing details, or order pictures via the Crusader Gallery.

Last year’s excitement included LHS favorites such as “Name the Pond” and some new fun such as “A Bowling Party with the Rollin’ Revs!”

It’s also easy to donate to LHS by clicking on the “Ways to Give” tab and using your credit card. Visit us often!
Spread the word!

**Open House and Freshmen Registration Night**  
**Tuesday, January 21st (4:30 - 7:00 pm)**

Interested students and families will have an opportunity to get a close-up look at LHS.  
Incoming Freshmen will be able to register for classes.
Encourage your family and those you know to check out LHS!

- Where teens are surrounded and supported by Christian classmates and teachers.
- Where students strive and are challenged to grow, improve, and lead with purpose in life.
- Where students excel scholastically and are involved in as many co-curricular activities as they choose.

**Sheboygan Lutheran High School**  
*Preparing Christian Leaders – One Student at a Time.*