



KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

A NEWSLETTER FOR CRUSADER ALUMNI | MAY 2026

"WHAT DO I DO?"

A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT BY RICK ZEUNER

What do I do? That's a question you've probably asked more than once. As a student, you asked it when an assignment felt overwhelming. You asked it when you were confused about something that was covered in class. Sometimes the answer was pretty simple: study more, ask for help, or try again.

But there are other times when the question is much bigger.

What do I do when I have to make an important choice?
What do I do about my relationships, my career, or my future?
What do I do when I'm unsure and afraid of getting it wrong?

God speaks clearly to that question in Micah 6:8: *"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

God does not hide His will from you or make your life a mystery you have to solve. Wherever God places you, He calls you to live as His child. He invites you to act justly, love kindness, and walk humbly with Him.

But if we're honest, this is where things get hard.

We don't always do what is right.
We aren't always kind.
We often walk proudly instead of humbly, thinking we've earned what we have or know best.

That's why we spend time in God's Word. In Scripture, God shows us our sin—and that can be uncomfortable—but He never leaves us there. He also shows us His grace. He shows us Jesus.

Jesus lived the perfect life we fail to live. He did justice, loved kindness, and walked humbly all the way to the cross. There, He took our sin and failure on Himself. Because of Jesus, we are forgiven. Because of Jesus, we are free. Because of Jesus, we don't walk alone.

So when you wonder, "What do I do?" remember this: your answer is not found in having the perfect plan. Your answer is found in Jesus. His justice is yours. His kindness is yours. His walk with the Father is yours.

Let's pray.

Lord Jesus, we often don't know what to do, and we don't always choose what is right. Thank You for forgiving us and walking with us. Give us hearts that trust You, lives shaped by Your love, and confidence that You are with us every step of the way. Amen.



In Christ,

Mr. Rick Zeuner
LHS Science Teacher

I SPY LOTS OF ALUMNI! ...AT THE CRUSADE FOR BIDS DINNER AUCTION

On Saturday, April 18th, we hosted the 46th annual Crusade for Bids Dinner Auction at LHS. It was amazing to see so many alumni here supporting their alma mater! In case you missed it, here are a few of the highlights:

- **Sam Dekker (2012)** spoke about the positive impact Sheboygan Lutheran has had on his life, just before his autographed Wisconsin Badger jersey was auctioned off.
- We enjoyed two exciting rounds of Heads or Tails - first with Crusader alumni, and then with parents of Crusader alumni. That bunch wrapped around half of the gym, which was so much fun to see!
- We ended the live auction with an epic alumni bidding war to name the pond! **Heidi [Stubbe] Detlafl (2000)** represented CustomCraft Roofing and held her own before conceding to **Jon Irish (1999)** of Irish Roofing for this year's naming rights, all in good fun and for a great cause.

The event raised over \$195,000! Of this total, \$77,500 was designated to the 2026 Fund-a-Cause (school vans!). Excluding the Fund-a-Cause and event expenses, we were able to support the school budget with close to \$100,000. Thank you so much, Crusader Nation!



EYE ON ALUMNI AN ADVOCATE FOR CYBER SAFETY

Dee Ann [Schmideler] Ragaisis (1985) is President and Executive Director of the nonprofit organization PLUS3FORCYBERSAFETY. She leads a team of multi-disciplinary experts from the fields of law enforcement/education, counseling/psychology/ and cybersecurity, and will begin offering their first charitable webinar in August of this year. In addition, her team is preparing to provide longer video-conferencing events, a future signature app, e-book, and e-learning system of courses on cyberbullying response and various school safety topics. Their purpose is to provide guidance and educational resources to school personnel and communities on how to overcome cyberbullying. With all of the growing challenges and potential harm that youth face today in social media, they strive to equip them to face any battles with the Full Armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18). Their work is grounded in a biblical

worldview and moral development, with an intentional emphasis on building collective knowledge through collaboration with communities for responding to cyberbullying.

Learn more about this admirable alumni endeavor at www.Plus3forcybersafety.org.



FOLLOWING IN FOOTSTEPS ALUMNI FEATURE

This past March, a familiar story unfolded once again at Sheboygan Lutheran High School. As the Crusader boys basketball team took the court in Madison for the State tournament, two new names stepped into the spotlight: Ben Verhagen and McCoy Michael. Years earlier, they sat in the stands, watching their older brothers, **Casey Verhagen (2022)** and **Robby Michael (2022)**, compete during the Crusaders' 2019 State championship run, dreaming of one day following in their footsteps. Now, by God's grace, that dream had become reality. Their journey serves as a powerful reminder that Crusader athletics is about far more than wins and records. It is about a legacy of faith, perseverance, and Christ-centered leadership, where student-athletes are called to faithfully use their God-given gifts in service to others and to His glory, passing that legacy from one generation to the next.



Casey Verhagen enjoyed one of the most decorated careers in school history, finishing with over 2,200 career points while setting the program's all-time assist record. A three-time First Team All-Conference selection and Big East Player of the Year, Verhagen capped his senior season by averaging over 26 points per game and earning WBCA All-State honors while leading the Crusaders to a 25–2 record. As a member of the 2019 State championship team, he played a key role in one of the most successful seasons in program history. Beyond basketball, he also made his mark on the football field, setting a Wisconsin state record with 21 receptions in a game and delivering multiple standout performances. In all he did, Verhagen demonstrated not only excellence in competition, but a commitment to leadership, discipline, and the faithful stewardship of his talents.

Now at Concordia University Wisconsin, Verhagen has continued his record-setting career while growing as both an athlete and leader. Emerging as one of the top players in the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference, he earned First Team All-NACC honors during the 2024–25 and 2025–26 seasons while leading the Falcons with 20.0 points per game. He also averaged over five assists per contest and was named both NACC Player of the Week and a D3Hoops.com National Team of the Week selection. Highlighting his season was a remarkable 44-point, 10-assist performance, narrowly missing a program record. Through his continued success, Verhagen reflects the mission of Concordia and Sheboygan Lutheran alike: to compete with excellence while honoring God through effort, humility, and leadership.

Robby Michael was a dynamic two-sport athlete at Sheboygan Lutheran, excelling in both football and basketball. As the quarterback for the Kohler/Lutheran/Christian (KLC) football program, Michael developed into one of the most productive and explosive players in program history. During his career, he delivered several record-setting performances, including an incredible game as a sophomore in which he accounted for eight total touchdowns in a 50–28 win over Manitowoc Lutheran. He later etched his name into the state record books by throwing his 93rd career touchdown pass, a WIAA record, leading KLC to a 59–0 playoff victory over Sheboygan Falls and a berth in the second round of the Division 4 playoffs. That night also highlighted the connection between two Crusader greats, as Michael's top target, Casey Verhagen, totaled 250 receiving yards and four touchdowns.

On the basketball court, Michael was a key contributor to the Crusaders' 2019 State championship team, helping anchor one of the most successful eras in school history. Known for his toughness, athleticism, and leadership, he consistently demonstrated a team-first mindset and a willingness to serve wherever needed. He also competed in track and field, contributing to a 4x400 relay team that set a school record and qualified for the State meet, further reflecting his versatility and commitment to excellence.

At Lakeland University, Michael has continued to grow as both a quarterback and a leader. Building on a strong foundation, he has developed into one of the most dynamic players in the country, earning conference honors all four years, including Freshman of the Year in 2022 and NACC Offensive Skill Player of the Year. During his senior season, he led the nation in total offense while setting the program's all-time career offense record and the record for most yards per game in a season, while also finishing second in career rushing yards. His success reflects not only his athletic ability, but also his discipline, resilience, and intentional commitment to using his platform to lead and serve others.

Together, Verhagen at Concordia University Wisconsin and Michael at Lakeland represent the continued tradition of excellence rooted in Sheboygan Lutheran athletics. From a State championship run in 2019 to record-setting collegiate careers, both athletes are not only achieving at the highest levels, but doing so with purpose. Their journeys reflect a deeper calling—to lead, to serve, and to honor God through their gifts. In doing so, they carry forward the Crusader legacy into new arenas, inspiring the next generation to do the same.

EYE ON ALUMNI BUSINESS

EATON'S FRESH PIZZA

Laura Schultz (2007) has taken an exciting step into entrepreneurship as the owner of Eaton's Fresh Pizza in Sheboygan.

After graduating from LHS, Laura continued her education at UW–Stevens Point, earning a Bachelor's degree in English Education with a coaching minor in 2015. While her path initially pointed toward teaching, an unexpected opportunity led her in a new direction. When a friend approached her about opening an Eaton's location in Sheboygan, Laura didn't hesitate to say yes. From there, things moved quickly. She spent December and January preparing the space, building her team, and bringing her vision to life. The restaurant officially celebrated its grand opening on February 22, 2026.



During her time at LHS, Laura built lasting memories through music and athletics. She recalls her time in Pep Band under the direction of Mr. Peter Olson, who made music engaging and inspired a deep appreciation for it. Another influential figure in Laura's life was Mrs. Myrna Lastusky, who inspired her to pursue English education.

Laura credits LHS with helping her understand Christian leadership in a practical way. Through both real-life and classroom experiences, she gained perspective on how leadership

shows up in everyday situations. She reflects that LHS taught her not only how to lead, but how to lead with purpose - using positivity and faith as guiding principles.

Support this alumni-operated business at [Eaton's Fresh Pizza](#), located at 2825 N 15th St in Sheboygan.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB!

Thirty-five Crusaders are about to walk across the graduation stage, switch over their tassels, and join **YOU** the prestigious ranks of LHS alumni! We invite you to give thanks for these students who have chosen to make Sheboygan Lutheran High their home for the past four years and to pray for God's guidance as they embark on their next adventures.

Join us for the Class of 2026 commencement ceremony in the LHS gym on Friday, May 22nd at 7 pm.



"For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps."

1 Timothy 2:21

SAVE THE DATE: LHS GOLF OUTING

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 at QUIT QUI OC GOLF COURSE

Registration for the annual LHS Golf Outing will open soon! Save the date, and [contact Carmen Dolson](#) if you are interested in sponsoring the event.



DON'T BE A STRANGER!

Spring is prime time for graduations, weddings, and all kinds of major life events! Do you have an exciting alumni update to share for the next issue of *The Leader's Guide*? Let us know via the easy [Alumni Google Form](#).

And as always, [drop us a line](#) if you have an address or email change so we can keep our database current!



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