

SUMMER 2015-2016

ST. CROIX TODAY

ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ALUMNI & ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Servant Leadership



IN THIS ISSUE



Junior Dane Rickertsen assists another student at the annual spring blood drive. National Honor Society students organize and staff two blood drives each year, a food drive, a clothing drive, and roadside pickup.

Nothing on earth is more fulfilling than getting out into the world and serving God and his people. Knowing this, St. Croix Lutheran intentionally strives to provide meaningful service opportunities for students throughout the year including mission trips, leadership, and volunteer opportunities. These opportunities provide an awareness of purpose and an expanded view of the world.

In this issue of St. Croix Today, we illustrate a few ways that SCL faculty and staff lead students to serve in and around the world, all for the glory of God. All of them, together with parents and volunteers, work within and beyond the walls of SCL to teach servant leadership.

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Layout and Design

Mrs. Kristina Lewerenz

Contributing Writers

Mrs. Kristina Lewerenz

Photography

Mr. Jeff Lemke

Mrs. Kristina Lewerenz

SCL Archives

St. Croix Grades 6-12
1200 Oakdale Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118
(651) 455-1521 . www.StCroixLutheran.org

FACULTY FEATURE



SCL employs 65 caring and dedicated faculty and staff members who rely on the support of parents and volunteers to serve nearly 500 students, including 120 dormitory residents.

Beyond These Walls

In addition to their service in the classroom, the office, meeting room, field, and court, SCL faculty and staff show their hearts by serving in a variety of leadership roles outside of the school. Some of these happen during the school year and others during the summer months.

They include:

- Youth sports
- Youth groups
- Sunday school
- Bible class
- WELS committees (Latin American Administrative; East Asia Administrative)
- Church councils
- Friends of China
- Christians in Action
- Choir directors/members
- Video/Tech assistants
- Event coordinators
- Mission trips
- Builders for Christ
- Musicians/Accompanists
- Race volunteers
- Altar guild
- Community planning
- Museum board
- VBS
- MLC Governing Board
- ESL Camp
- International Student Program Consulting
- Lutheran Women's Missionary Society
- Others...

How do you serve?

Alumni who are involved in international service, please send us your photo and a one paragraph description of your work. We want to share your story with current students so that their vision is expanded to the worldwide possibility for Christian service.

Friends@StCroixLutheran.org

Teaching to Serve, Serving to Teach

In a world that is becoming increasingly more about “me,” SCL is still a place where students are intentionally being taught to serve others.

Serving starts with the teachers, and SCL is full of servant leaders. As part of faculty and staff training in 2015, a formal assessment was completed for each faculty and staff member using the DISC index based on Dr. William Marston’s behavioral research. The study showed that over 70% of SCL faculty and staff displayed high altruistic tendencies and average to below-average individualistic tendencies.

This comes as no surprise to students and parents who are a part of the SCL family. Each year graduating seniors who describe their experience at SCL during a senior exit interview comment about the willingness of faculty and staff to serve above and beyond the call of duty. One student said, “Teachers create a comfortable atmosphere;

they care about you, your life, and your success; they ask for input from students.”

SCL instructors and staff members follow Christ’s example as recorded in John 13:12-17:

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. ¹³ “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”



Boys basketball head coach and middle school principal Jay Wendland teaches the team to glorify God with victory and defeat.

Where Students Serve

The students of SCL serve in athletics, student council, homeroom, music, drama, volunteer roles, and special missions. They earn service hours throughout the year which are recorded and useful when applying to colleges, universities, and for employment.

Do you have a service idea for SCL students? Send your information to Friends@StCroixLutheran.org



Pastor Jon Leach and others led homeroom leaders through team building exercises at Camp Sacajawea, Apple Valley, MN, last fall.

Alumni Updates

Joseph A. Stumpf, III ('64) passed away to eternal glory on Monday, April 18, 2016. A visitation was held on Thursday, May 5, 2016. Read the full obituary here: <http://tinyurl.com/stumpfobit>

Craig Bahneman ('73) passed away into heavenly glory on Monday, April 18, 2016. His funeral service was on Friday, April 22 at St. John Lutheran Church in St. Paul. Read the full obituary here: <http://tinyurl.com/bahnemanobit>



Deb (Blumke) Beckstrom ('92) continues to work full time as a medical assistant at Park Nicollet and on call as an EMT in Cannon Falls, MN. She is pursuing a paramedic degree at Inver Hills Community College. She and her husband Jon reside in Northfield with their four children ages 8-18.



Lori Ehlke ('02) recently published her first children's book titled *Bless This Mess*. The story, inspired by her four children, follows the path of two boys as they follow their twin sisters through the house. Lori wrote and illustrated the book. It can be purchased on Amazon.com.



Stay up-to-date with SCL at [facebook.com/StCroixLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/StCroixLutheran)

Remember to  us.



Anna (Mielke) LaPorte ('05) married Zach LaPorte on September 26, 2016. Anna and Zach reside in Forest Park, IL. She is employed as an engineer by Nestle USA, and Zach is an engineer with Newell Rubbermaid.

Holly (Reiter) Gleason ('07) married Craig Gleason (originally from South Dakota) on January 22, 2016. Holly works as a marketing analyst at the online retailer Bluestem Brands, Inc., and Craig is a program advisor at Capella University in Minneapolis.

Becca (Wells) Biebert ('09) and Joseph Biebert are the proud parents of Elliot (December 3, 2015) and Ella (May 18, 2013). The family moved in January from New Ulm, MN to Neillsville, WI. Both are MLC graduates. Joseph currently works as a diesel mechanic and Becca is a new accounts banker.

Bryan Berg ('10) has launched his own business as an agent of Farmers Insurance Group in the Twin Cities.



Siblings Jacob ('12) and Ellyn ('14) Mortell each earned a 2016 Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC) player of the year award while playing golf for Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, WI. Read the full story here: <http://ow.ly/R49d30019rD>

Jackson Goplen ('13), a four-year baseball letter winner and Class 2A all-state pick his senior season at SCL was recognized as the St. Cloud State fall MVP each of the last two years. Read more about his college baseball performance here: <http://ow.ly/wjN-5300nxPc>



Kalle Burney ('14) was named to the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) winter and spring all-academic team for track and field at Concordia University in St. Paul. Kalle also placed 3rd in points at Concordia's recent heptathlon. Read more here: <http://tinyurl.com/burneyhepta>



Amir Trotter ('14) is one of eight student actors in the country to be nationally recognized by the Kennedy Center for "Distinguished Performance by an Actor in a Play" for his performance in Bethany Lutheran College's fall 2015 production of *Leveling Up*.

If you have alumni news, please visit us online at StCroixLutheran.org/alumni or forward your updates to Ashley Gilleland at AGilleland@StCroixLutheran.org

REUNIONS

Planning a class reunion? Send your info. to: AGilleland@StCroixLutheran.org

Look for more information in the next issue, or watch www.StCroixLutheran.org/AlumniEvents for updates.



All 60s Reunion

Friday, August 12, 2016
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
St. Croix Lutheran Commons
1200 Oakdale Avenue
West St. Paul, MN 55118



Class of 1962 - St. Croix Lutheran's first graduating class.

SCL graduating **classes of 1962-1969** are invited to reunite with friends, enjoy a buffet lunch and refreshments, and tour the school. All former students who attended SCL during those years are invited, including those who graduated from other schools. Individual classes are encouraged to make plans together for an evening reunion.

10:00 a.m. Coffee & Refreshments
11:00 a.m. Welcome & Class Photos
12:00 p.m. Lunch - *open mic to share memories!*

Use the enclosed envelope to mail completed form to St. Croix Lutheran, or **register online at www.StCroixLutheran.org/60sReunion**. Deadline to register is **Monday, August 4, 2016**.

Name: _____ Maiden Name: _____ SCL Class of: _____
Address: _____
Email: Phone: _____
Guest Names: _____

Purchase Tickets (tickets will not be mailed; please pick up tickets at the event)

Number of persons: _____ x \$15 per person = \$ _____
Additional Donation to SCL: \$ _____ Total: \$ _____

Method of Payment

Cash / Check enclosed.

Make checks payable to:
St. Croix Lutheran

Credit Card: Mastercard Visa Discover

Card #: _____

Exp. Date: CSC/CVV: _____

Name on Card (print): _____

Signature: _____

SPRING SPORTS RECAP



Baseball

Conference Record: 4-4; Overall Record: 10-10
 Highlights: Tied for 5th in conference and rcvd 4th seed in section play. All season - solid pitching and fielding, but struggled to finish big games with key hits.



Girls Bowling

Conference Record: 5-13
 Highlights: Victory over Apple Valley 4-1, shooting the high game (173) and series for the season. Lynn Piekarski rcvd All Honors for Leadership, Dedication, and Sportsmanship.



Boys Golf

Conference Record: 1-4
 Highlights: The love of the game was shown in the team's dedication to hard work and improvement.



Girls Golf

Conference Record: 1-5; Overall Record: 2-5
 Highlights: 5th in Tri Metro Conference; two players advanced to the second day of sections.



Boys Lacrosse

Overall Record: 0-13
 Highlights: New team in '15. Co-op with Minnehaha Academy, DeLaSalle, SPA and Summit School, Concordia Academy, and St. Agnes.



Softball

Conference Record: 1-8; Overall Record: 6-13
 Highlights: 3rd seed in playoffs; the team earned a gold academic award.



Boys Track and Field

Conference Record: 7-1; Overall Record: 8-6
 Highlights: Undefeated in conference track meets; Tri Metro Conference champions; Section 3AA True Team Champions; 2nd place at Section 4A meet.



Girls Track and Field

Conference Record: 1-2
 Overall Record: 1-8
 Highlights: Two second place finishes (SCL Invitational and Redhawk Invitational); Section 3AA True Team third place; MSHSL Honor Roll for 800M Relay.

All Conference

Danica Cambrice	Track & Field
Alec Cline	Track & Field
Myah Dado	Track & Field
Jeremy Leonard	Track & Field
Danielle Lopez	Softball
Yusei Matsutomo	Track & Field
Jordan Miller	Track & Field
Rachel Montgomery	Track & Field
Tsugumi Murata	Track & Field
Matthew Nelson	Baseball
Rintaro Naito	Track & Field
Lynn Piekarski	Bowling
Jason Rupprecht	Track & Field
Wade Shult	Baseball
Lauren Wolfrath	Golf

Honorable Mention

Kaitlin Adsit	Softball
Adam Bastian	Track & Field
Rebecca Boehlke	Track & Field
Nathan Birr	Track & Field
James Chernohorsky	Track & Field
Audrey Gadison	Track & Field
Brett Goplen	Track & Field
Grant Goplen	Baseball
Daphne Huang	Bowling
Paul Junker	Track & Field
Erika Krieger	Track & Field
Allyson Lauer	Golf
Garett Maag	Track & Field
Thomas McBryde	Track & Field
Elsa Ponath	Track & Field
Abigail Raasch	Track & Field
Paige Reiners	Softball
Joseph Quandt	Golf
Jordon Schletty	Golf
Theodore Schmenk	Golf
Adam Schuyler	Baseball
Natalie Wendland	Track & Field
Chris Wilmot	Golf

Academic All-State

Adam Bastian, Paul Junker, Danielle Lopez, Garett Maag, Jordan Miller, Thomas McBryde, Yusei Matsutomo, Tsugumi Murata, Paige Reiners, Jason Rupprecht

Graduation 2016

President Todd Russ awarded diplomas to 121 graduates of the class of 2016 (including the first five students to complete consecutive grades 6-12 at SCL) on Sunday, June 5, 2016 in the gymnasium.

Pastor Matthew DeNoyer, Bethany Lutheran Church, Fort Atkinson, addressed the graduates, basing his message on the class verse of Psalm 23:4. Pastor DeNoyer is deeply rooted in Christian education and is the father of six children ranging in ages from 2-18. His oldest son, Joshua, is a 2016 graduate, and his oldest daughter, Samantha, is a sophomore.

Owen Smith, an original middle school graduate, exuberant football captain, student council member, and NHS member, was selected by the class of 2016 as their student speaker. Smith led his message with "Go Big Red!," thanked the assembly, and reflected on his seven years at SCL.



The first group of graduates to complete all SCL middle school and high school grades 6-12 include class speaker Owen Smith, Lisa Beltz, Gaby Diaz, student body president Marissa Sievert, and valedictorian Katya Gurgel.

He left his classmates with this thought, "As we leave these halls and go out our separate ways, we will face tough times... we will have to face our adversities head on. None of us could possibly overcome these on our own, but I know that we have no reason to fear these trials... we have a Good Shepherd who loves us and protects us."



Owen Smith, 2016 Class Speaker.

Class of 1996 Reunion

Ready, set, reunite! A 20-year reunion for the class of 1996 is planned for Friday, July 29 at 5:00 p.m. at Nancy (Wiplinger) Pone's parents' hangar in Inver Grove Heights. Information and invitations will be posted on Facebook (<http://tinyurl.com/SCL1996>). Contact Jill (Ward) Morse at 651-303-8636 or Nancy at 612-865-2982 for more information.



Faculty/Staff Anniversaries

At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, President Todd Russ, Mrs. Rachel Grev (instructor, coach), and Mrs. Leanne Stob (instructor, STEM) celebrated 25 years in ministry. Staff members Mrs. Cheryl Bloomer (athletics assistant) and Mr. Jim Wakefield (maintenance) celebrated 15 years of service to SCL. All were honored at the final spring concert.





Educating the total student
1200 Oakdale Avenue
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visit StCroixLutheran.org or follow us on Facebook and Twitter: [/StCroixLutheran](#)

Join us for Homecoming!

Start planning now! SCL makes it easy for alumni to reunite at homecoming on Friday, September 30. Free tickets for alumni, give-a-ways, and free tacos after the game at the Fireside. Come and cheer for your Crusaders when they take on the Fridley Tigers at 7:00 p.m. Making a comeback this year - homecoming buttons! Visit StCroixLutheran.org/HC16



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 11, 18, 25, Aug 1	Art Camp, gr. 5-9
July 18-21	Science Camp, gr. 5-8
July 25-29	Volleyball Camp, gr. 6-9
August 1-5	Soccer Camp, gr. 5-9
August 8-12	Football Camp, gr. 6-9
Monday, August 15	Fall Sports Begin
Monday, August 29	First Day of School, gr. 6-9 and NEW 10-12
Tuesday, August 30	School in Session for All Students, gr. 6-12
Thursday, September 22	Grandparents Day
Friday, September 23	Grandparents Day
Friday, September 30	Homecoming Parade, 5:30 p.m.
	Homecoming Game vs. Fridley, 7:00 p.m.

Do you have questions about St. Croix Lutheran?

- Call 651.455.1521
- Visit our website: www.StCroixLutheran.org
- Connect with us at [Facebook.com/StCroixLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/StCroixLutheran)