



RACINE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

I am a new
creation in Christ
2 Corinthians 5:17

CRUSADER CONNECTION

■ SPRING 2024 ■



GREETINGS!

Many of my friends and neighbors were abuzz about viewing the eclipse of the sun in April. It was hard to avoid getting caught up in all the special TV programs and constant weather updates. Millions of people traveled to get a better view of the eclipse. In spite of all that effort and excitement, the period of totality in most places this year would last only between three and half to four minutes.

Darkness can create an uneasy feeling, sometimes even fear. For Christians, we know well of the darkness that covered the land for three hours while Jesus hung dying on the cross. His disciples hid in fear, and many watched Jesus breathe his last breath wondering what had happened to the man who had healed with His touch and lifted up with His words.

But we now know no darkness, death, or the grave could contain our Savior. He was the One promised to Adam and Eve and the One we share with our students every day at Racine Lutheran High School. Jesus is at the center of all we do. We guide our youth in faith, learning, character, and leadership by nurturing their relationship with Jesus Christ and educating them for a life of service to God and man.

I am very thankful for the support of so many of our alumni and friends for this mission. We could not be moving in this positive direction without your prayers and support. Despite our significant achievements, our dedication to serving every child who enters RLHS means there is still much more to be done. Please consider contributing a spring gift today to help us in this important mission.

God's Peace,



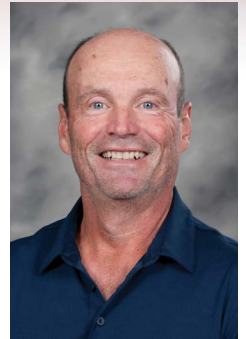
David S. Burgess
Executive Director



BUILDING MEMORIES

After 21 years of dedicated service, Racine Lutheran High School Head of Building and Grounds, Rick Ryddner, bids farewell as he embarks on his well-deserved retirement. Throughout his tenure, he has been more than a caretaker of the campus; he has been a pillar of support and a familiar face to generations of students and staff alike.

He consistently ensured that RLHS maintained a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors alike. Thank you, Rick, for your faithful service. God bless your retirement!



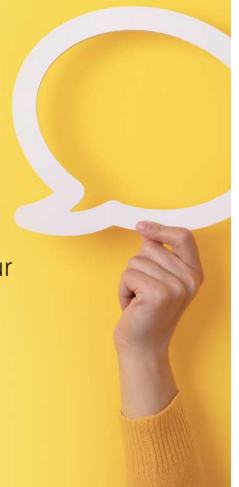
CONGRATULATIONS!

RLHS Industrial Arts teacher, Randy Henderson, was recently honored by the UW-Platteville School of Education with an Influential Educator Award. He was nominated by former student, Seth Luxem '23, because of the influence he had on his decision to pursue a career in education. Randy was chosen for the award because of his dedication to teaching, enthusiasm for his career, and caring relationships with students. We extend our gratitude for serving as an outstanding role model and for his steadfast support in guiding our students toward their future paths beyond RLHS.



SOCIAL SADERS

Discover our vibrant and interactive community across various social media platforms, eagerly awaiting your presence! Connect with Racine Lutheran High School on Facebook, YouTube, X, and Instagram to remain informed and engaged. Access all our social media links conveniently through our website at [RacineLutheran.org](https://www.RacineLutheran.org).



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINTER SPORTS ATHLETES!



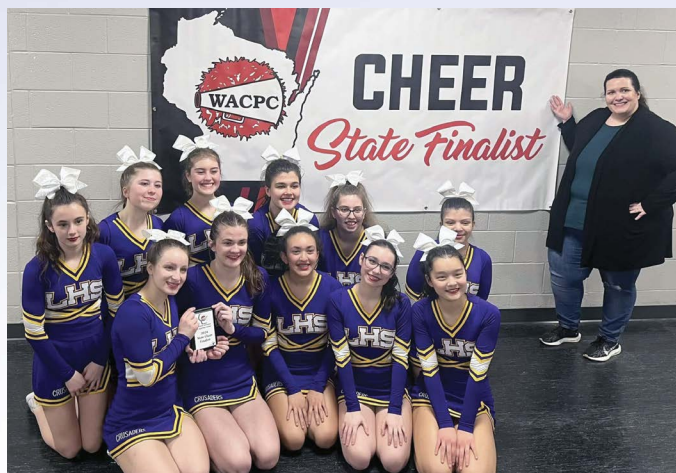
Special recognition goes to Sam Pitrof for earning a spot on the 2nd Team All-Conference, and to Justin Jones, Bryce Austin, and Salma Ibarra for their Honorable Mention All-Conference accolades.



After a hiatus of over two decades, we proudly hosted a wrestling match, leaving spectators thoroughly impressed by our newly renovated gym facilities.



Kudos to our outstanding scholar athletes for Racine County, Mabel Beversdorf (cross country, track, soccer) and Cameron Porcaro (baseball)!



A big shoutout to our cheerleaders for clinching a spot as a 2024 state finalist team! Way to go, Crusaders!



Hats off to Jackson Contreras! Concordia University has recognized his outstanding soccer performance by naming him to the Second Team of the All-American Team, representing Lutheran schools nationwide. Congratulations, Jackson!



ARSENIC AND *Old Lace*

BRAVO!

Under the direction of theology teacher, Tyler Zander, the RLHS theater department presented *Arsenic and Old Lace* in November. It was a very successful weekend for the fall theater production, and we are grateful for the community support that came out and watched!



RLHS MUSIC PROGRAM STRIKES A CHORD

With three music performances already completed and two more on the horizon, RLHS Music Director Amber Hozey reflected on the success of her students and their endeavors.

“As the new director of the RLHS music department, I want to express how grateful I am for the opportunity to make music with my students every day. Though a small program this year, I cannot be prouder of the impact we have been making throughout the school and the community. The Concert Band, Concert Choir, and Handbell Choir have been working hard to give great performances for the entire school year.”

In October, all ensemble groups participated in a fall music series, presenting a variety of music genres, including sacred, classical, marches, and pop. The *Lessons and Carols* program was a highlight, with students helping to decorate and passionately performing to celebrate the birth of their Savior.

This year, they decided to change up the annual tour format, opting for two smaller tours around Wisconsin instead of one big tour. The students visited Parkside Manor in Kenosha, Harvest Home in Mt. Pleasant, and concluded with a Lenten service and concert at the Prince of Peace Church in Racine. Our musicians are currently preparing for their next travel day and concert in May. Stay tuned to RLHS's social media platforms for updates on our music program!



CLASH

RLHS faculty and students were privileged to engage with two distinguished speakers during our recent CLASH assemblies. CLASH, which stands for Changing Lives and Serving Him, provides a platform for community members to impart their personal experiences and insights to our students.

Last fall, Racine native, Vinny Rottino, spoke on goal setting, adversity, and following God's plan. Vinny was a professional baseball player for several teams including the Milwaukee Brewers, which led to his current broadcasting career.

In Feb., Edward DeShazer shared his story of how God led him to where is today, and about how important our faith is. Edward was a special education student who was suspended from school 30+ times and expelled three times. He has grown into a servant leader who has a true heart for people and is an award-winning speaker and author.



JUNIOR JOURNEYS: NAVIGATING LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

RLHS counselors organized a Junior Parent Night aimed at supporting 11th-grade students and their families in preparing for senior year. The event covered essential topics such as post-high school planning, navigating the college search, and the application process.



SENATE SCHOLARS

RLHS Juniors, Evan Hansing and Abigail English, spent a week in Madison with the Senate Scholars Program. This is an intensive week-long educational program offered by the Wisconsin State Senate. Admission to the program is highly competitive and is limited to 33 academically exceptional high school juniors and seniors from around Wisconsin. Each Senate Scholar receives a hands-on, up-close view of the Legislature's role in our democracy. The students gain experience in such diverse areas as policy development, constituent relations, and processing legislation by working with Senators, legislative staff, and University of Wisconsin faculty.



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

In January we celebrated God’s work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We thanked God for the opportunity to provide exceptional, Christian education and share Jesus’ amazing love with students and their families. National Lutheran Schools Week gave us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve. We celebrated with fun theme days and by having our feeder school students visit and join us in chapel led by our NHS.



Pj Day



Spirit Day



Class Color Day



Teacher/Student Switch Day



Twin/Dynamic Duo Day



COMMUNITY

RLHS proudly belongs to RAMAC (Racine Area Manufacturers and Commerce) and recently hosted their March Business Blender. These events serve as networking opportunities, bringing together RAMAC members and community partners to foster new connections in a social setting.

ART AWARDS

Racine Lutheran High School was part of the Milwaukee Regional Art Competition at the Visual Arts Classic run by the WAEA (Wisconsin Art Education Association). The Regional consists of nine schools and the statewide competition includes more than 60 teams.

Seven RLHS students received a 1st place ranking at the competition and went on to qualify for State - Deandrea Pritchett, Brooklyn Baratki, Elenna Garrett, Phoenix Falaschi, Lilly Niermann, Angelica Munoz, and Lillian Holland. The state final results were recently announced with five winning 1st place medals, two winning 2nd place medals, 2 winning 3rd place medals, and one taking home an honorable mention! Congratulations!



During the team critical thinking challenge, the students were tasked with creating a poster representing their school out of torn paper. Many teams were showing mascots and other school symbols. **Out of anything they could have chosen to represent our school, the RLHS team decided to show our core values - faith, learning, leadership, and character.**



BUILDING DREAMS

Randy Henderson's Construction Trades students engaged in practical learning through the construction of a custom-built 70-square-foot playhouse. The structure boasted sturdy 2" x 3" framing with a steep 24/12 pitch roof. The exterior walls featured triple 3" vinyl siding, while vinyl half-round siding adorned the gable ends. Designed with an open concept and vaulted ceilings, the playhouse showcased both functionality and craftsmanship. The finished product was auctioned off at the RLHS Grand Gala in Feb. and the proceeds went back to the school and students.



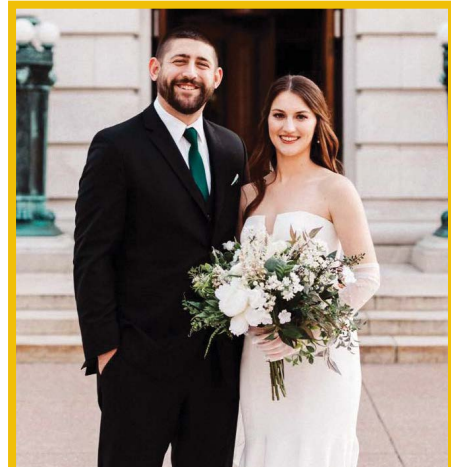
GATEWAY STEM TOUR

A group of RLHS students embarked on an enriching field trip to Gateway's STEM & Manufacturing Career Expo at their iMet Center. There, they had the opportunity to delve into various career paths within Engineering, Information Technology, and Manufacturing, including Civil Engineering (Highway), Mechanical Design, CNC, Welding, and Information Technology.

NUPTIAL NEWS & CRUSADER CREATIONS



Zhane Pica '12 married William Cobb Jr. on Feb. 24, 2023, at Cobb County Courthouse in Marietta, GA.



Tyler Naegeli '12 married Sadie Ottow on Nov. 11, 2023, at The Tinsmith in Madison, WI.



Nathanael Poppe '09, wife, Molly, and siblings Zadok, Titus, Esther, and Basil, welcomed daughter, Jael, on Sep. 29.



Paul Tuskowski (Teacher, IT Coordinator, Head Track & Field and Cross-Country Coach), and wife, Ruth, welcomed daughter, Eleanor Ruth, on Dec. 3.



Stephanie Schulz (Teacher and Head Girls Varsity Volleyball Coach), husband, Doug, and big brother Mason, welcomed son, Owen Weston, on Jan. 21.



Tyler Ryddner '10, and wife, Jackie, welcomed daughter, Juliet Margaret on Mar. 15.



Ty Demuth '12, and wife, Amy, welcomed daughter, Olivia Marie on Mar. 25.



Ryan Ganther '10, and wife, Alyssa Wilkinson Ganther '13, welcomed son, Logan Ryan on Apr. 3.

OBITUARIES

We pay tribute to the following alumni who have recently passed away.

Class of:

1951 – Irene Pongo Schmidt	1960 – Richard Bartel
1952 – Lucille Nelson Cherney	1960 – Joanne Selkurt Martin
1954 – Elizabeth “Betty” Borgardt	1962 – Thomas Hynek
1954 – Alice Rupnow Walters	1963 – Vincent Parise
1954 – Fred Klaus	1963 – Raoul Reiser
1955 – Patricia Piehler	1964 – Larry Winterle
1955 – Marlene Mae Marweg Lampman	1966 – David Cole
1957 – Shirley Geissner Mentink	1972 – John Jensen
1959 – Kenneth Luedtke	1972 – James Kanetzke
1959 – Thomas Koppe	1973 – Susan Eberhardt
1959 – Janet Krenzke O’Foley	1985 – Kurt Rosenberg
1960 – Joanne Pfeiffer Tamblingson	2010 – Sara Petersen



CONNECT



STAY CONNECTED

Our alumni network is a testament to the lasting impact RLHS has had on our alumni. To ensure that these bonds remain strong and that you stay informed about upcoming reunions, events, and opportunities, we kindly request you to take a moment to update your contact information. By providing us with your current email address, phone number, and any other pertinent details, you'll help us keep you connected with fellow alumni and informed about all the exciting happenings at Racine Lutheran High School. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to staying in touch with you.

To notify us of any changes, please go to our website and click on the ALUMNI tab and select UPDATE CONTACT INFO on the dropdown menu. We take precautions to protect your identity and do not share private information with any outside parties.

VETERANS PROJECT

The RLHS Veterans Project proudly pays tribute to the alumni who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. To date, 214 RLHS veterans' names have been added to the plaque that is beautifully displayed in the Commons. To honor an RLHS graduate and add their name to our RLHS Veterans plaque, send the following information to the school or email klong@RacineLutheran.org: name of veteran and RLHS graduation year, branch of service and the years served. New names are added to the plaque annually on Veterans Day.



ALUMNI - SHARE YOUR LIFE'S MILESTONES

As the vibrant pulse of our institution, your journey beyond these halls continues to inspire and enrich our community. We are eager to celebrate your achievements as they weave the tapestry of your life's story. Whether it's a new job, a marriage, a growing family, or a personal accomplishment, we invite you to share your milestones with us. Your experiences not only honor your individual path but also contribute to the collective narrative of RLHS. We cherish the bonds that unite us as alumni. Together, let's celebrate the journey of life and the enduring spirit of our community.

Please share your latest news and updates with us at klong@RacineLutheran.org. We will happily include it on our social media pages and/or in the next edition of the *Crusader Connection*.





GRAND GALA GRATITUDE

It is with grateful hearts that we extend our sincere appreciation for the support shown to Racine Lutheran High School at our **2024 INSPIRED Grand Gala** on Feb. 10. Seeing community members, families, and friends come together to celebrate RLHS and our students inspired us all. All of the proceeds from this event will go directly towards the RLHS Top-tier Facility Expansion. Thank you to all who attended, donated, and helped make this a fun and successful event. The commitment shown to our students and their education is truly inspiring! Save the date for the **2025 Denim & Diamonds Grand Gala** on Sat., Feb. 8.



ALUMNI BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

As the final buzzer echoed through the gym last November, marking the culmination of the 2023 RLHS Alumni Basketball Tournament, we celebrate the camaraderie, skill, and memories shared on the court. This annual tournament is a testament to the enduring spirit of our alumni community.

Looking ahead, we invite all alumni, both players and fans, to mark their calendars for this year's tournament on Sat., Nov. 30. Whether you're a seasoned competitor or a passionate supporter, join us for a day filled with friendly competition, rekindling old friendships, and creating new memories. For registration details visit RacineLutheran.org and click on the Alumni tab. Let's keep the spirit of basketball alive within our alumni family!

The 2023 champs pictured standing L-R: Owen Jozwiak '21, Riley Gall '21, TJ Christensen '21, Scooter Molbeck '21, Henry Hoelt '21, Luke Bethke '21, Jackson Woodward '21



ALUMNI SOCCER GAME

The RLHS soccer team invites former Crusader players to a friendly match on Fri., Aug. 23, at Franksville Park. Bring along your family and friends to support both past and present teams. After the game, join us for food and fun at the Franksville Beer Garden located within the park! Former RLHS soccer players interested in participating, please reach out to Sam Theuer '16 at samtheuer@gmail.com.

36TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Join us for a day of golf on Mon., Aug. 5, at Meadowbrook Country Club! This event aims to raise funds to support our school's athletic programs – every swing, every laugh, and every donation will directly benefit our athletic department, providing crucial resources to help our athletes thrive. For more information or to register online, visit RacineLutheran.org and click on Golf Outing under the Support Us tab.

All Smiles! Pictured L-R: Volunteers/RLHS Teachers - Julia Pedrosa '17 & Sarah Ragland; Golfers/RLHS Teachers – Jaelle Charpentier & Rachel Kuiper Duchac '01





HALL OF FAME 2024

RLHS 2024 Hall of Fame inductees were honored in January. Pictured from L-R: Dr. Ryan Stanton '87, Jason Block, RLHS Principal, Jim Deibler '81, David Burgess, RLHS Executive Director, Kristine Milaeger Reisdorf '66, Rosalie Slifka Vanderhoef '59 (accepting for her husband, Larry N. Vanderhoef '59, who was inducted posthumously) Stephen Shaffer, RLHS Athletic Director

Complete induction biographies are posted in the About Us section at RacineLutheran.org. A photo album of the event and videos of the acceptance speeches are posted on the Racine Lutheran High School Facebook page.

HALL OF FAME 2025 NOMINATIONS

RLHS is presently accepting nominations for the 2025 Hall of Fame. Selection criteria encompass demonstrating exemplary character and a dedication to RLHS's mission. Alumni nominees must have graduated a minimum of 10 years prior to selection and must have achieved notable milestones during their high school years or made significant contributions in their respective fields. For nominated teachers, coaches, or staff members, there must be a five-year gap following active tenure at RLHS before selection. Inductees may be recognized in categories such as athletics, academics, humanitarianism, the arts, or church service. To propose an individual for consideration, please visit the About Us section at RacineLutheran.org and utilize the provided nomination form. Any questions may be directed to Jason Block at jblock@RacineLutheran.org.



REUNIONS

Class of 1965

The Class of 1965 held a Christmas luncheon at Erv's Mug in Oak Creek on Dec. 14.

Pictured from L-R: Bob Welch, Gordon Bradshaw, Ted Oertel, Bob Wuerzberger, Don Schmidt, Margret Ratzburg, Bill Ratzburg, Karyn Kluge Schmidt, Karen Wuerzberger, Deb Oertel, Ruth Conradt Kamin, Sandy Bertermann Bradshaw, and Jane Kannenberg Boesch. Not pictured is photographer, Roger Kamin.

Plan Your Reunion Today!

If you graduated in a year that ends in a 4 or 9, then 2024 is your reunion year! Whether you are planning a simple family picnic or a formal event, it's not too late to get something on the calendar! Please visit our website and click on REUNIONS, under the ALUMNI tab, for suggestions and things to consider. Contact klong@RacineLutheran.org for your graduating class list, and for help getting started with planning your special celebration.

Upcoming Reunions

- Class of 1964 – 60th Reunion
Sat., Sep. 14: 1:30 p.m. tour at RLHS, 4:30 p.m. "Back to the 60's" dinner at Douglas Ave. Diner
Sun., Sep. 15: 1:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner at Buckets Pub
- Class of 1984 – 40th Reunion
Sat., Nov. 16 at the Racine Yacht Club



CONTRIBUTE AND CONNECT

- Give a gift today – easily and securely online or by using the enclosed remittance envelope
- Donate monthly
- Sponsor a student or event
- Honor someone special through our brick program
- Make a memorial donation
- Utilize corporate matching gifts or payroll deduction
- Include us in your planned giving
- Direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to RLHS
- Volunteer at school events and our Thrift Shops

Visit [RacineLutheran.org](https://www.RacineLutheran.org) and click on the Support Us tab for links and more information.

2023 GIVING AT A GLANCE

From 1948 graduates to current students, Crusader supporters throughout the country shared their blessings and gifts with Racine Lutheran High School. Each gift will help us to continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and beyond! Thank you!

- **506 total gifts**
- **68 graduating classes represented**
- **29 states represented**

WALK OF FAITH

The RLHS Walk of Faith is a special way to honor or remember a loved one and to show your RLHS support and pride. The bricks are beautifully displayed around the flagpole and front entrance to the school. Visit [RacineLutheran.org](https://www.RacineLutheran.org) and click on Ways to Give under the Support Us tab. Orders received by Sept. 1 will be installed in the fall.



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Thank You!



RACINE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

251 Luedtke Avenue | Racine, WI 53405

262.637.6538 | RacineLutheran.org

MISSION

Racine Lutheran High School's mission is to guide our youth in faith, learning, character, and leadership by nurturing their relationship with Jesus Christ and educating them for a life of service to God and man.

VALUES

Faith, Learning, Character, Leadership.

SCHOOL YEAR THEME

I am a new creation in Christ

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

PARENTS

If your son or daughter is no longer living at this address, please email his or her current address to klong@RacineLutheran.org.



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EUROPE
JUNE of 2026

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FESTIVE FOOD /
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SAVE THE DATES

- Mon., Aug. 5 – Golf Outing
- Fri., Aug. 23 – Alumni Soccer Game
- Fri., Oct. 11 – Homecoming Game and Alumni Event
- Sat., Nov. 2 – Harvest Fair
- Sat., Nov. 30 – Alumni Basketball Tournament
- Sat., Jan. 18 – Hall of Fame
- Sat., Feb. 8 – Denim & Diamonds Grand Gala