

JANUARY 2016

# The Crusader

MAYER  
LUTHERAN  
HIGH SCHOOL



305 FIFTH STREET NE  
MAYER, MN 55360  
952-657-2251  
www.mayerlutheran.org



MLHS Celebrates Lutheran Schools 3



#YOUWILL Photo Contest! 4



SnoFest details on back cover!

To submit information for publication in *The Crusader*, please contact Renae Johnson at [rjohnson@lhsmayer.org](mailto:rjohnson@lhsmayer.org) or 952-657-2251. Materials due by the 14th of each month prior to publication.

## Strength in Numbers

By Joel Landskroener, MLHS Executive Director



Dear Friends of Mayer Lutheran High School,

Happy New Year in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! I pray the upcoming year will be full of blessings, hope, and joy!

If you asked me what I believe the greatest strength of the ministry at Mayer Lutheran High School is, I would have a very long answer. We have so many blessings that the Lord has granted to us over the past fifty-four years! Outstanding teachers, coaches, directors and servants to our students are always at the top of the list. Our faithful, generous, and prayerfully-encouraging Association congregations, pastors, and schools are right up there as well. Physical blessings like a 74-acre campus, solid, well-maintained facilities, equipment, technology and the know-how to manage it all in addition to a responsibly-directed endowment make us quite grateful. Our faithful families rank at the top. We are proud of each and every one of our students. Stop by for a visit. You can't help but be impressed by their kindness, faithfulness, and optimism. We have been blessed with fine scholars and are confident that future Crusaders will carry the banner of expectations set by the current crop high and well.

To rank our blessings could stir quite a debate. Yet, in my humble opinion, one of our greatest strengths is our alumni—3,100 strong! Our graduates continue to amaze me. Whether first-generation legacy alumni or a recently-minted Mayer Lutheran diploma holder, I am impressed with what they are doing with the skills, gifts, and learning they have received. One of my favorite things to do is to speak with alums and hear stories about their days at Mayer Lutheran and catch up with what they are doing now. Name almost any profession, occupation, or vocation and we have alumni capably excelling in them. To say that we are proud of each of our graduates would be an understatement. Their alma mater is bursting with pride!

When parents enroll a child at Mayer Lutheran High School, we pledge to partner with them to prepare the youngster to be a Christian leader. Additionally, we require each family to pay tuition and fees for four years to enable us to do so. When a family's four-year commitment ends at graduation, though, our commitment to their child does not end. Our remarkably bold promise is to serve our alumni in any way we can for the rest of their lives! That is one huge promise and requires a lot of work to deliver. Yet, we are determined to do so.

In an effort to better serve our alumni, we were recently awarded a grant from the *Thrivent Financial Community Foundation* to fund our "Alumni Engagement Initiative," which will be used to hire a Director of Alumni Relations. This is a two-year grant and we pray that the support and encouragement from our school community, including our alumni, will enable us to afford to make this a long-lasting part of our ministry. Under this individual's leadership, we plan to form an alumni association, offer regular alumni events and gatherings, coordinate a system to update alumni information, create communication channels for alumni to network with each other, and promote alumni giving for the school's many needs. Please keep this initiative in your prayers for success.

A graduate of Mayer Lutheran High School is the beneficiary of a life-long commitment from their alma mater. Yet, from time to time, our commitment will experience challenges. After all, imperfect people lead our school imperfectly. There is, however, one commitment that will never waiver. In Hebrews 13:5, the writer shares the eternal truth that God *will never leave you nor forsake you*. In the Bible, more than 3,500 promises are given by the Lord and He has never failed to keep even one! As a member of a much more significant group than even the alumni of Mayer Lutheran High School, Christians are promised more than a lifetime of service. They are promised eternal life with the triune God! Through the work of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, we are joined together as the Church and have a very bright and sure future. The love of Jesus drives our passion to prepare Christian leaders in the past, the present, and into the future. If you don't believe it, just ask an alum!

In Christ,

[joel.landskroener@mayerlutheran.org](mailto:joel.landskroener@mayerlutheran.org) | 952-657-2251 x1007

## SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Kathy Martin, Special Education Resource Teacher | kathy.martin@mayerlutheran.com | 952-657-2251 x1404

### A Perfect Storm

Lutheran Special Education Ministries (LSEM) is a blessing in many ways. Specifically, it allowed a perfect storm to take place at Mayer Lutheran High School. When thinking of a perfect storm, pictures of destruction and damage might come to mind, this is a different kind of perfect storm.

There was a freshman who came to Mayer Lutheran in 2013 with an Individualized Education Plan, an IEP. This meant the public schools had done evaluations and interviews to determine there was an educational need for mandatory intervention. This student was burdened with the labels of, Attention Deficit Disorder, Anxiety and Emotional Behavioral Disorder. There were many "goals" written into the IEP about how to address and work through these issues. What this student needed most, though, was not written into the IEP; daily chapel, praise and worship, weekly meetings with a peer devotion group, courses digging into the Christian faith for deeper understanding, faculty prayers, teacher concern for spiritual matters, as well as academics, the feeling of security and belonging in a safe, Christ-focused environment. These are some of the factors which, I believe, led to the "perfect storm."

About two months ago, the student was due for reevaluation,

which happens every three years. At the conclusion of the lengthy process, it was determined that special education services were no longer necessary! One of my best days as a teacher, was when I was able to explain that the label of "special education" had been dropped, removed, wiped away. "I'm normal?," the student asked. My emphatic response was, "Yes, you are!" (Because it works, the LSEM plan we have in place has not changed.)

What did this perfect storm produce? A student who is diligent with classwork, kind, respectful, funny and inquisitive. One who enjoys chapel, listens and asks questions, growing in faith. The ingredients for this perfect storm?—a student and family choosing Mayer Lutheran High School, Lutheran Special Education Ministries providing services and resources through a teacher such as myself, and all the intangible qualities of faith in Christ. Jesus looked at them and said, *"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible"* (Matthew 19:26).

If you would like more information on LSEM, please visit [luthsped.org](http://luthsped.org).



## MATH DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Barbara Hoback | barbara.hoback@mayerlutheran.com | 952-657-2251 x1203



The math department at Mayer Lutheran High School has seen a big change this year. Since Mr. Bierbaum accepted a call elsewhere, a new face has been added to the staff. Well, not really a new face, since Mrs. Heidi Lemke was on our staff as a Media Center Specialist. As a trained math teacher, Mrs. Lemke has taken over the Pre-Algebra and Algebra 1 courses. Some of the courses are taught through the ALEKS program; a computer based, self-paced program that she facilitates. Another course is being taught in a traditional book and classroom setting. Later this year the Math Department will

evaluate which of these systems provides the most success for our students and would be the best setting for future classes.

An additional task we are undertaking is evaluating the results of the most recent ACT scores achieved by our students. By looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the results we can evaluate the topics where our students have success and the topics that need to be included and emphasized in our curriculum.

Another source of evaluation will come in a future year when the Math Curriculum will be the focus of curriculum review. At that time we will also look at the State of Minnesota Math Education Standards. While we are not obligated to follow those standards, it gives us a good objective list to consider. One of our goals is to continually evaluate our teaching to improve the opportunity for Mayer Lutheran students to succeed not only in high school, but in their chosen field after graduation. By introducing our students to a broad base of Mathematics, we attempt to ensure that new courses will be attainable and that students will also be prepared for the math needed in any college courses they take.



### School Leader Speaks to MLHS Students

Dr. Donna Harris, the President of Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis recently spoke to our students about her experience in leadership and reminded the audience that God uses people, circumstances, and time to shape us and that we often do not see our impact on others until later in life. As we impact the lives of others, she asked, "How do you show up in the 'book of life' of the people you know and interact with?" She shared her personal history and her amazing path to becoming the leader of one of the top schools in the city. She has had the opportunity to influence others for the Lord as others have impacted her. Dr. Harris reminded the group that there is no special program you can follow to be an "epic leader." But, there are characteristics leaders possess such as resiliency, humility, honesty, integrity, and courage. We are grateful for Dr. Harris, her passion for Christian leadership, and her willingness to serve our school in this exciting way.

## NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS' WEEK EVENT!

**YOU'RE INVITED!!**



***Join us for this FREE, fantastic, and funny evening of Christian fellowship!***

**Wednesday, January 27, 2016 | 7:00 PM**

**Mayer Lutheran High School | Fine Arts Center**

Mayer Lutheran is celebrating with local Lutheran elementary schools and a community-wide performance on Wednesday, January 27. The Christian improvisation group, **321 Improv**, will be on campus for two daytime assemblies with the students. A performance for family and friends will take the stage at 7 PM for a memorable night of fellowship and lots of laughter.

***You will not want to miss it!!***

*321 Improv creates a unique, interactive comedy experience unlike any you've been part of before. 321 Improv instantly turns audience suggestions into hilarious scenes that will bring tears to your eyes, a pain to your side, and will make your face ache with laughter!*

*Learn more at [www.321improv.com](http://www.321improv.com).*

**MAYER LUTHERAN**  
**H I G H S C H O O L**





## Mayer Lutheran Website Tip Guide! mayerlutheran.org

**Thank you for your comments and suggestions on the new MLHS website!**

**Newsletters are now archived on the website and searchable!**

Find the archives under the "Get to Know MLHS" tab. (<http://www.mayerlutheran.org/get-to-know-mlhs/newsletter-archives/>). Once there, click the month you'd like to read. You can search content by clicking Ctrl+F (Windows, Linux and Chrome OS) and Command-F (Mac). You can also choose "find" from the menu. You can use that tip for any webpage. It's really handy!

**The new website is less convenient, as many items now require more clicks.**

We have eliminated some of the "middleman" pages that required a second click to get to the information you want quickly, such as the lunch menu and the Minnesota River Conference site. Some of the information, such as the Daily Blast were determined to be "not homepage worthy" as we work hard to make our website both functional for MLHS families as well as informational and attractive to prospective students.

**Thanks and keep those comments coming!**  
(visit [mayerlutheran.org/parents/](http://mayerlutheran.org/parents/) and scroll to bottom of page)

### WEBSITE TIPS

#### Submit a Photo

At the very bottom of the MLHS homepage, you will find a gallery of photos. On the left side there is an option to "submit a photo." Simply click on that link and include the information requested. Upload your photo and check back in a day or so to see your photo in the gallery. Photos may be used in MLHS social media and promotional materials.

**Want to post a photo or score to MLHS Facebook, Instagram or Twitter feed? Here's how!**

**FACEBOOK:** First, you need to be friends with us! Search and friend us @mayerlutheran. Then put a photo on your own timeline and tag us (@mayerlutheran)

**TWITTER:** Update the score and tag us: @mayerlutheran  
Make sure that you don't start the tweet with the tag!

**INSTAGRAM:** Tag us: @mayerlutheranmn  
Upload a photo to the website and we will post it for you if you give us the info.

#### Remember to SCROLL!

Lots of users have been frustrated to not find what they are looking for when viewing the website from a mobile device. Just remember to scroll! The 3 horizontal lines indicate the main menu. Tap and tap again to make a selection. Be sure to scroll down to see the entire menu!

## #YOUWILL PHOTO CONTEST!



Post your best Christmas Holiday break photo incorporating @mayerlutheran #YOUWILL to Instagram, Facebook or Twitter by the time the MLHS Mission Trippers get back. Deadline to post is 1/10/2016 at 11:59 PM.

**Winner receives a  
\$25 Ruby's Roost Gift Card!**

Wear your #YOUWILL t-shirt, use your yard sign, make your own #YOUWILL graphic, or download the #YOUWILL Photo Contest pdf from the MLHS website to use in your photo.

- Photos must correctly tag MLHS on the social media platform of your choice (Instagram, Facebook or Twitter) and must use hashtag #YOUWILL
  - Instagram: @mayerlutheranmn
  - Facebook: @mayerlutheran
  - Twitter: @mayerlutheran
- Mayer Lutheran #YOUWILL logo must appear in the photo somewhere
- You must follow MLHS on the social media platform that you post to.

Winners announced by Friday 1/15/16.

Entries will be judged by an expert panel\*

**@mayerlutheran  
#YOUWILL be creative! #YOUWILL have fun!**

\*LEGAL NOTICE: "Expert panel" is in the eye of the beholder.

# Student Spotlight On...

## Ian Gaida, American Eagle Scout



On October 28, 2015, Ian Gaida, son of Sheryl and John Gaida of Victoria Minnesota, earned the Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Award. Ian is a member of Troop 337 which is sponsored by the Victoria Lions.

For his Eagle scout project, Ian constructed 10 sets of corn hole toss games for the Lions to use in their fundraising.

While a Boy Scout, Ian has earned 32 merit badges, put in over 200 hours of community service, attained the position of Brother in scouting's honor society, the Order of the Arrow, and has traveled over 270 miles by hiking, biking, and canoeing. While in the troop Ian has held the leadership positions of Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Web Master.

Ian has attended two of the Boy Scout high adventure camps—Northern Tier in Ely, Minnesota, and at Sea Base in Key West, Florida. He has also earned the following BSA awards: The 50 Miler, Lake Monitoring, Duty to God, and the National Outdoor Camping Award.

Ian is a Senior at Mayer Lutheran High School. His plans are to continue his studies in college this fall.



## J-TERM LABORATORY

The classroom is a great laboratory of learning and our students spend plenty of time there. But, for the first four school days in January, Mayer Lutheran scholars are immersed in interesting, unusual, and enjoyable experiences that allow them to explore interests not normally found in a typical school day.

For the past five years, Mayer Lutheran teachers have created four-day learning experiences that challenge our kids to think and grow and move out of their learning routines to consider new skills and be a part of activities that enable them to learn beyond the classroom walls. Serving on the Mexico mission trip, learning about ice fishing, outdoor skills, cooking, skiing, knitting, carving, business, computer programming, recording music, and many other topics await our entire Mayer Lutheran family during "J-Term."

With a challenging semester behind them and another awaiting them, J-Term is a perfect time to find out about the wide, wide world in a way our students will remember for a lifetime. January 5-8, 2016.

### J-TERM COURSES

- Latin-American Cuisine—Mrs. Alvarez
- Make A Joyful Noise: Recorded Music and You—Mr. Strehlke
- How Do They Do That? A Study of Minnesota Fortune 500 Companies—Mr. Landskroener
- Wild Minnesota—Pastor Wismar, Mr. Masters, Mrs. Gesch
- Wacky and Wild Sports—Mrs. Grimsley, Mrs. Martin, Mr. Gustin
- Roots and Toots of Jazz—Mr. Dulas
- Counted Cross—Mrs. Hoback
- Blood, Bikes and Bilbo Baggins—Mrs. Baker
- Candle Making & Carving—Mr. Loontjer
- String Art & Soap Carving—Mr. Loontjer
- So You Want to Be a Photographer—Mr. Thomas
- Introduction to Programming—Mr. McClintock



## WOOD SHOP DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Dean Aurich, Wood Shop | dean.aurich@mayerlutheran.com | 952-657-2251 x1102

### WHAT WOOD YOU DO?

**During Woods 1** students have put the finishing touches on their 2nd quarter independent projects. In the first quarter, students learned to use numerous power tools while making three required projects. The second quarter, students designed and constructed a project of their choice. The following reveal the variety and interests of the students...



**SHOP STUDENTS**  
Photos L to R:  
Top Row: Dylan Fisher,  
Seth Pauna, Chris Nelson  
Middle Row: Jeff  
Otterstatter, Mitchell  
Johnson, Jack Buitenhoff,  
Brandon Jilke, Noah Elliot  
Bottom Row: Nick Huinker



We are excited to move into the new shop 2nd semester. Woods II classes will be the first students to use the larger and much improved shop area.



# The Wizard of Oz



## Oh, What a Wonderful Wiz There Was!

This past November, Mayer Lutheran High School Drama presented the Wizard of Oz to three sold out audiences. The Director, Producer, cast, Pit Band, costume and makeup artists, stage crew, choreographers, and publicity did a fantastic job! Many thanks to parents, photographers, volunteers, and our audience. ***Dreams really do come true...***

## MLHS Seeking Director of Alumni Relations

Mayer Lutheran High School is seeking an individual to help prepare the next generation of Christian leaders by serving as the Director of Alumni Relations. This part-time position is generously funded by a two-year grant from Thrivent Financial.

The job description is available on the MLHS website at [www.mayerlutheran.org](http://www.mayerlutheran.org). Call Executive Director, Joel Landskroener, at 952-657-2251 x1007 for more information. Applications consisting of a cover letter and resumé should be emailed to [joel.landskroener@mayerlutheran.org](mailto:joel.landskroener@mayerlutheran.org) or delivered to Mayer Lutheran High School, 305 5th St. NE, Mayer, MN 55360. The deadline for applications is January 15, 2016.



Thrivent Financial presented a check to fund the MLHS Director of Alumni Relations position. Pictured L to R: Thrivent representatives Peter Hess and Martin Cole; MLHS Board member Brad Quass; MLHS Executive Director, Joel Landskroener; Thrivent representative, Chad Henke.

PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS



GENESIS  
VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Genesis Virtual Academy is expanding the reach of Mayer Lutheran High School and advancing the mission of *Preparing the Next Generation of Christian Leaders*. Since its inception in 2011, Genesis Virtual Academy has served 487 students from 39 schools in 858 total semester classes. The primary schools served are Lutheran Church Missouri Synod schools located in 11 different states. We have also served Wisconsin Synod, Catholic, Non-Denominational, Jewish, and public schools, and several home-schools.

The most popular courses are Advanced Math, Art, and Health courses, as well as credit recovery. All GVA courses are taught from a Biblical world view and taught by Christian teachers employed by MLHS.

This spring, Genesis Virtual Academy is adding college prep courses for the ACT and SAT exams. GVA is also developing an Introductory Bible course designed for young people in congregations as a foundation to Confirmation instruction. This course is designed for students new to Christian education as well.

Please 'Like' Genesis Virtual Academy on Facebook and 'Follow' us on Twitter.

For more information about Genesis Virtual Academy, visit our website at [www.genesisva.org](http://www.genesisva.org) or contact us at [info@genesisva.org](mailto:info@genesisva.org).

*Because the future matters*

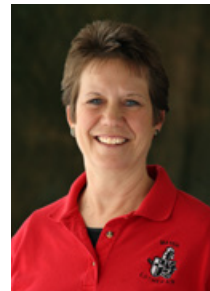
Expanded Course Offerings • Remedial Classes  
Credit Recovery  
Economical Solutions • Customized Services  
• Advanced Placement

A MINISTRY OF MAYER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL  
MR. KIM ROSS, DIRECTOR

## Counselor's Corner

By Debra Kelzer, Guidance Counselor

[debra.kelzer@mayerlutheran.org](mailto:debra.kelzer@mayerlutheran.org) | 952-657-2251 x1012



Happy New Year! May you feel God's love and peace throughout this new year—2016!

This past November, I went over EXPLORE and PLAN results with freshmen and sophomore classes, what to look for when interpreting their scores, and the process of planning their future. Freshmen had an assignment to research future careers and sophomores researched 2-3 colleges and/or military. If they haven't shared the results with you, please encourage them to. They really have some awesome ideas and goals to pursue!

Mid-January, I will be meeting with juniors regarding their PSAT scores. Ask your child to share and discuss his/her results with you. In late February and early March, students choose their classes for next fall. If you have any questions regarding their choices, please let me know.

Seniors are making final plans for college and many transcripts, ACT scores, and recommendation letters have been mailed. Encourage your child to continually look to see what is needed for his or her application process as early deadlines have come and gone. However, it's not too late! I am happy to help if students need assistance with final application deadlines—have them stop by and ask.

On Monday, January 25, Bailey Colbert, Regional Admissions Representative from Grand Canyon University, will be doing a presentation on financial aid. Bailey is well-qualified to help all parents and students understand financial aid for college. Join us in the Media Center at 7 PM!

Each month I'll be including various tips helpful for parents in the newsletter. Please consider the following...

**How to Talk to a Reluctant Teen** by Focus on the Family.

**Tip #1: Talk about a "neutral" issue. Not every conversation has to be about feelings and relationships. Read a book and discuss the choices the characters made. Watch a movie and talk about it (see [PluggedIn.com](http://PluggedIn.com)). Take an article from a teen magazine and discuss it. Share thoughts about the last sermon the two of you heard.**

God's blessings to all of our students and families as the second half of our school-year is just beginning! May God bless your new year with hope, encouragement and inspiration!

### Upcoming ACT Dates:

**February 6** (register by Jan. 8)

**April 9** (register by March 4)

**June 11**, MLHS campus (register by May 6)



## ADMISSIONS DEPARTMENT NEWS

By Dan Perrel, Director of Admissions | dan.perrel@mayerlutheran.org | 952-657-2251 x1011

### Compliment or Conflict

I am often asked a question in the form of a statement. Sometimes it sounds like this, "So, you're from New Germany." Maybe when you encounter these statement/questions you're better than I am at walking through them, but I'll admit they do cause me to pause—am I supposed to answer, or just nod my head in agreement. But this article isn't about the fact that I'm from the metropolis of greater New Germany. It's about making a sound case for Mayer Lutheran High School to be the right choice for prospective students.

So, here's an actual statement/question I get from parents that are weighing the public school option against our Christian school option. "So, tell me why I shouldn't send my child to a public school." The embedded question is pretty obvious, but that doesn't make the process of addressing that statement/question easy. Generally, both you and I know that we genuinely do not want to go around saying or implying negative things about other people or institutions. As Christ-followers, we're not called to go around bashing others. Bring to mind Colossians 4:6, *Let your speech always be gracious...* And yet, failing to address this question is much like ignoring the gigantic elephant in the room. You know what I mean. It's like having an issue at your workplace. Everyone knows about it, but no one will talk about it.

How do you answer this statement/question without bashing? I think this is how we do it. If you'll agree with me that, in general, public education and our Christian education both have all the nuts and bolts of education pretty well tightened down, then there is no reason to talk about some vast difference in educational quality. But, will you also agree that by the time your child completes high school, they will have spent more time directly with their teachers, coaches, and program leaders than with you over those four years by a margin of nearly 4:1? According to the National Center of Education Statistics, Minnesota high school students spend an average of 6.28 hours per day in class for 176 days per year. That's 1,105.3 hours per year that they spend with someone other than you! I'll do the math for you: over four years of high school that equals 4,421.2 hours that another adult has access to your child. Put another

way, that's 31.4 hours per week they are with some other adult. That doesn't include hours spent with an adult (coaches, leaders, directors) in sports, musicals, and a whole host of extra-curricular activities. For instance, and I'll be conservative, if they just played basketball for four years—at 2 hours per day for five days per week, that equals 10 hours per week and 40 hours per month. Over three months (basketball actually lasts four months) that is another 120 hours, or 480 hours over four years.

Interestingly, researcher Melissa Milkie (University of Maryland) reported in her longitudinal study, *Does the Amount of Time Mothers Spend with Children or Adolescents Matter?*, published in April of 2015, that the time parents spend with their child during adolescence is key in producing positive behavioral and academic outcomes. In fact, she found it significantly more important than time spent between the ages of 3 and 11. The question, then, is how much time do parents actually spend with their teenaged children? The answer is startling. On average the time American teens spend directly or indirectly with their parent(s) is fewer than 6 hours per week! If I calculate generously, that equals a mere 312 hours per year.

So what? So, who has the greater influence on your adolescent child? You or the adults your child spends a whole lot of time with? Don't take this as an insult, but it's not you (according to the data). It is others. Therefore, please don't miss this punch line—given the inordinate amount of time your adolescent will spend being influenced by another adult, doesn't it make more sense to place your child with adults that affirm your home's beliefs; your home's love for and commitment to Christ; your home's core Christ-centered values. Our Christian school is a complement to your home that our public counterpart cannot be. Mayer Lutheran High School has the privilege of complimenting your Christ-dependent home life socially, academically, and spiritually. And we do it all out loud—not secretly or on the sly. Does it matter? You bet it does!

Let's get together and talk more about it.  
Dan Perrel, 952-452-2351.



### MLHS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

- All MLHS Minnesota Conference activities and practices are now on our website calendar (<http://www.mayerlutheran.org/events/>).
- Mayer Knights, open gym times, and other non-high school activities are ONLY listed at <http://www.mnriverconference.org/>.
- We are still in the process of fine-tuning the Activities Calendar. It's a great idea to visit the MLHS page on [mnriverconference.org](http://mnriverconference.org) and scroll through the list of activities, checking each box for items you want to "subscribe" to. After clicking "view" you are given the option to receive notifications and to import those calendar feeds to your own calendar. This site is not part of the MLHS website, however it is a very useful tool.

# MAYER KNIGHTS

Youth Activities Outreach of  
Mayer Lutheran High School

## BASEBALL REGISTRATION DEADLINE—JANUARY 15!

If you are interested in playing Mayer  
Knights Baseball, PLEASE REGISTER NOW!

**THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS  
JANUARY 15.** The Knights must register  
our teams with the Crow River League at  
that time, so it is important to let us know  
that you are going to play. Go online to  
[www.mayerlutheran.org](http://www.mayerlutheran.org) and click on  
Knights Registration to sign up.

## KNIGHTS SUMMER CAMPS 2016

are right around the corner! Please watch  
for the information card in the mail next  
month. Register early to secure your spot!

If you have any questions, please call  
Barb Christopherson, Mayer Knights  
Coordinator, at 952-657-2251 x1010.

**Thanks for supporting the Knights!**



## FEBRUARY 19, 2016

Mark your calendars for a night of fun and fellowship.

February 19 will be the culmination of

## CRUSADERS FOR A CURE.

The MLHS girls basketball team will be hosting this event in an effort to  
raise awareness and funds for women who have cancer.

All proceeds of the **CRUSADERS FOR A CURE** activities will go  
to Ridgeview Medical Center's *Pay It Forward* patient assistance fund.

Through this fund Ridgeview is able to provide emergency financial assistance  
to patients facing challenges during their treatment for cancer.

Some of the events include a shooting contest, *Crusaders For A Cure* bracelets,  
honorary ribbons, and more. Plan on coming and show your support for  
those who have faced and will face cancer. For more information or to  
donate to this great cause, please contact a MLHS girl's  
basketball player or Coach Gustin at 952- 657-2251 x1217.

Prepared  
to  
**BUILD**



## Mark Your Calendars Prepared to Build Kick-Off Night

Join the Mayer Lutheran family  
Saturday, February 20, 2016, for an  
evening of appetizers, beverages,  
and social hour followed by a short  
presentation highlighting the MLHS  
building program.

See how God is preparing us to expand  
for the next generation of Christian  
leaders!

Watch for more information coming  
your way!

**UNLESS THE LORD BUILDS THE HOUSE,  
THOSE WHO BUILD IT LABOR IN VAIN.  
PSALM 127:1, NIV**



We would like to thank the  
Board of Directors of Mayer  
Lutheran High School students  
and their parents for the Christmas  
gifts and donations that were  
given to MLHS faculty and staff.

## THANK YOU!



## THE LAST WORD

By Kevin Wilaby, Principal | kevin.wilaby@mayerlutheran.org | 952-657-2251 x1008

## Eternally Significant

In recent articles Mayer Lutheran's essential values—equipping, nurturing, and aspiring—were discussed. These values provide guidance for how our educational ministry is carried out on a daily basis. These values and what they mean are challenging to accomplish and set a very high standard for the education and experience that students will encounter during their high school years. There is one more essential value, the most significant one, which drives the ministry of Mayer Lutheran High School—we are Christ-centered.

Jesus Christ is proclaimed as Lord and Savior within our hallways, in our classrooms, in our practices and rehearsals—everywhere. This proclamation distinguishes Mayer Lutheran from many high schools which will not allow the truth of Christ, as found in God's Word, to be proclaimed. In this proclamation we set our foundation. We resist temptations to add to or take away from it. We do not define truth based on our own ideas, as what seems true to an individual, but stand on the inerrant Word of God. We do not believe in works righteousness—no one can do enough to earn their own salvation. We do not find our motivation to 'do good' in the belief that God will shower us in material blessings because of our good works. We are saved by grace alone, through faith in Christ as the one and only Savior, and it is because of His work that we receive forgiveness of sins, faith, and the certainty of eternal life!

This message, as sweet and incredible as it is, finds less and less acceptance in our society. We hear society scream for tolerance, while at the same time we see the growing intolerance of the Gospel message. Our young adults are under attack by ideologies that do not align with God's Word or the Gospel. It is the Gospel message that needs to be clearly spoken, taught, and applied to Christian living by all of God's

children. High school students need to be immersed in an environment that keeps them connected to the Gospel everyday.

The ministry of Mayer Lutheran High School has tunnel vision on Jesus Christ, yet we exist in a world that is weighed down by sin and no one is immune to its impact. The ministry of Mayer Lutheran High School is not perfect, we make mistakes, but we find our peace in the knowledge that our God, through the redeeming work of Christ, has defeated every sin. Our students are reminded of this, and together faculty and students experience confession and absolution. Jesus Christ is front and center every day. As a school we pray together and for each other. Students, faculty, and staff are challenged to learn more and more about the faith they have been given through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our school community provides numerous opportunities to respond to the love of God in word and deed. Students are equipped, nurtured, and challenged to aspire

in their faith by being faith-filled, faithful, and ready to share the hope that they have in Jesus Christ.

I have seen the impact of the Gospel message, as encountered through the ministry of Mayer Lutheran High School. I have seen it in my own children, in the lives of our alumni, and current students. I am thankful for what I see, knowing that God is at work in our students, past and present. He is growing them in faith, in love, and is fulfilling His promise to be with them always, even to the end of the age. When that day comes, I am confident in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting that will belong to them and to countless others who will be brought to faith because of students who have been touched by God through the ministry of Mayer Lutheran High School—a ministry that is vital and necessary in our mixed up culture.



### Mayer Lutheran Essential Value—Christ-Centered

At Mayer Lutheran, Christ—His life, death and resurrection—remain at the center of all we do. The Gospel informs the values we hold, the choices we make, the way we live, and our focus, at school, at home and in our communities.

***Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.***

Ephesians 2:21-22

**EQUIPPING • NUTURING • ASPIRING • CHRIST-CENTERED**

  
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Another way of helping to prepare the next generation of Christian leaders is a click away. When you shop online, go to [igive.com](http://igive.com) and shop your favorite online retailers from there. A portion of each purchase is given to Mayer Lutheran when you begin your shopping at [igive.com](http://igive.com). What a simple, effective way to raise funds for our movement! Call Renae Johnson at 952-657-2251 x1002 for more details or email her at [renae.johnson@mayerlutheran.org](mailto:renae.johnson@mayerlutheran.org).

**Deadline Fast Approaching!  
Application Waiver for New Students**

MLHS will waive the application fee (\$100 value)  
for all new 2016–17 students who submit an  
application by December 31, 2015.



MAYERLUTHERAN.ORG | TWITTER.COM/MAYERLUTHERAN | FACEBOOK.COM/MAYERLUTHERAN | INSTAGRAM.COM/MAYERLUTHERANMN

Mayer Lutheran High School admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its policies, financial aid program or other school-administered programs.



**Join in the fun!**

**SnoFest Week**  
**January 31 – February 6**  
**2016**

**STARLIGHT  
PARADISE**

**CORONATION...**

**Sunday, January 31**  
**7 PM**

**SNOFEST DANCE...**

**Saturday, February 6**  
**8–11:30 PM**

**DRESS UP DAYS...**

**Monday**

**Winter Pajama Day**

**Tuesday**

**Awkward Flannel Friend Day**

**Wednesday**

**Class Color Day**

**Thursday**

**Throwback Thursday–  
Grade School Clothes**

**Friday**

**Crusader Spirit Day**