

SAINTS WAY

ALUMNI MAGAZINE | FALL 2021 | ISSUE 01

*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works
and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16*



**CREAN LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

Proclaiming Jesus Christ through Excellence in Education

SAINTS THUS FAR...

There are 1,855 graduated Saints out in the mission field.

2010

34 graduates

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

2011

81 graduates

The [20]11 disciples went where Jesus told them to go. Matthew 28:16

2012

113 graduates

Go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matthew 28:19-20

2013

115 graduates

You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. Psalm 18:28-29

2014

133 graduates

Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5

2015

166 graduates

Just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines our hearts. 1 Thessalonians 2:4

2016

197 graduates

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

2017

202 graduates

You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf... Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you. 2 Chronicles 20:17

2018

188 graduates

Plans are established by seeking advice; so if you wage war, obtain guidance. Proverbs 20:18

2019

188 graduates

Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

2020

205 graduates

We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18

2021

233 graduates

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you, As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." John 20:21

Crean Lutheran High School:

SAINTS WAY

A message from Jeffrey Beavers | CEO

Dear Saints Alumni,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy that we celebrate our Crean Lutheran High School alumni in a new way through the publication of the Saints Way Alumni Magazine. This magazine represents only one part of our efforts to connect with alumni and share exciting happenings in the lives of our Crean Lutheran graduates. I encourage each of you to keep in touch with the Saints community as we join together in celebrating your plans, accomplishments, and blessings from the Lord.

As Crean Lutheran graduates, you likely remember our schoolwide learning outcomes: I am a Christian; I am a Learner; I am a Servant. These character traits are imperative whether at high school, college, or in life beyond. They revolve around Christian faith and a Biblical worldview. Through the lens of God's word, a Christian can understand, view, and engage with the culture around them, consistently proclaiming Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that we can successfully serve the needs of our alumni, ensuring they are equipped to approach others with and through the love of Jesus.

We cherish the opportunity to hear how God is working in your lives and to share your experiences with your fellow alumni. We hope you enjoy reading about what your fellow alumni are doing in the world and especially in God's Kingdom, and we encourage you to share your story too. Please update us! Keep in touch by sending in a picture, sharing career news, or telling us about your growing family. We want to know the fascinating accomplishments the Lord has led you to do since leaving the halls of Crean Lutheran High School. Also, we invite you to remain updated via our social media platforms, which currently include Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

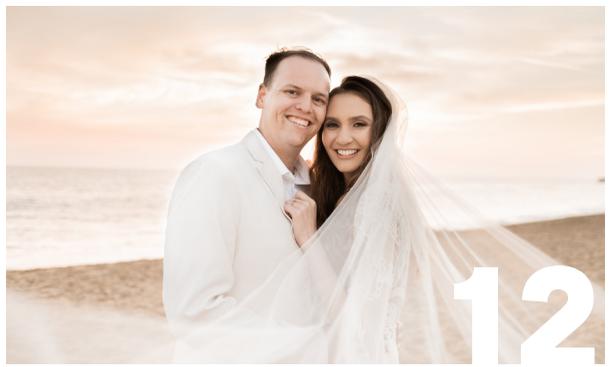
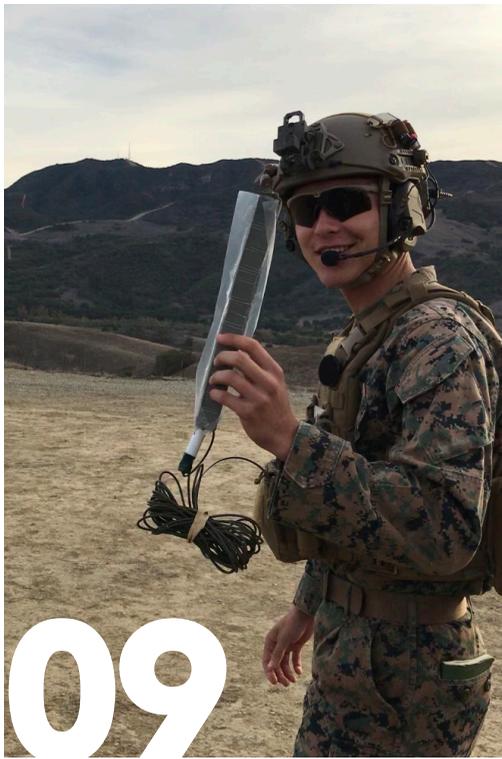
We love and cherish our alumni and are proud of each of you. You have been a blessing and a special part of Crean Lutheran High School. It has been a joy to watch you grow in faith and leave Crean Lutheran High School sharing the light of Christ with others around you. In the meantime, be well, Saints, and please keep in touch. Your high school wants to hear from you! May God continue to keep and bless you.

In Christ,

Jeffrey S. Beavers, M.A., LMFT



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FOLLOW US!



ONCE A SAINT,



@CLHSAlumniSaints



@CLHSAlumni

ALWAYS A SAINT!



04

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." John 20:21

Schoolwide Learner Outcomes

- I have a relationship with Jesus Christ that is evident, and I am able to share the Gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- I proclaim and defend the Gospel.
- I grow in the understanding of God's Word.
- I fellowship and pray.

MADDIE WILLSON

Class of 2015

Saints alumna Maddie Willson knows all too well of our perceived earthly plans as compared to our Heavenly Father's plans. After graduating from Crean Lutheran, Maddie was prepared to follow a career path for which she had a passion. Maddie enrolled at Chapman University to study Public Relations and Advertising.

Quickly Maddie realized the culture of this industry was not one that interested her. Instead, Maddie turned to prayer for guidance as to where God was leading her.



"...what was helpful for me to figure out what God was calling me into, was creating a list of things that I wanted out of life," Maddie recalls. After making the list, Maddie knew that international mission was where God clearly was calling her.

In the summer of 2018, Maddie left the United States for the first time in her life and embarked on her first international mission trip to Tokyo, Japan. After summer trips of serving as a missionary to peers her own age, Maddie returned home to resume her college courses.

The experience was not one that you would have expected. "It was challenging in so many ways," Maddie shares. Over the next three months, Maddie prayed for clear direction as to where God would send her next. As Maddie continued to pray throughout her senior year, she could feel God softening her heart as to how she could serve Him overseas in Japan. What continued to be a point of focus for Maddie, was that less than 1% of Japanese people are Christians.

"These facts just broke my heart, so I decided to go again," said Maddie. Prior to the onset of the pandemic, Maddie spent seven months sharing the good news and great joy of Christ's love and sacrifice for us all. Maddie was able to work and evangelize alongside college aged students that had never heard the greatest miracle of Christ's victory over sin, death, and the devil. Through God's guiding hand, Maddie has found a calling to serve Him through international missions, a passion that has continued to grow each and everyday.

ACTIVE LEARNER

Schoolwide Learner Outcomes

- I use the gifts and abilities given to me by the Lord.
- I use technology appropriately.
- I apply knowledge both inside and outside of the classroom.
- I develop and demonstrate critical thinking and analytical skills.
- I communicate effectively through written, verbal, & auditory means.
- I collaborate with peers.
- I master a variety of disciplines.

“ Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man more clever than the devil.”

- C.S. Lewis



Photo courtesy of The Horizon, a Westmont publication

CRAIG ODENWALD

Class of 2018

Who loves to read? Who loves book club? Who loves to spend time analyzing the dynamics of specific writing styles?

Many of us may answer with a resounding “yes” to the first two questions while taking a moment to pause and reflect on the last question.

Crean Lutheran alumnus Craig Odenwald, will be one of the first to answer “yes” to all three questions. Recognizing his own passion for the written word, Craig made a commitment to growing his God-given talents and abilities in writing and analysis and dedicated the past few years to writing.

Following graduation, Craig completed his book series and is now challenging himself to take the next steps in a literary career. Currently enrolled in the C.S. Lewis School of Literature program at Azusa Pacific University, Craig hopes to continue to spread Christ’s love through writing and the opportunities provided by his graduate program.

06 *Thus far the Lord has brought us. 1 Samuel 7:12*

MAKAYLA FLORES DE APODACÁ

Class of 2015

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:4-6

For 15 years, Crean Lutheran has been committed to the mission of *Proclaiming Jesus Christ through Excellence in Education*. Throughout the school's history, myriad alumni have lived this mission, modeling belief and confidence in the Lord while actively seeking to glorify Him.

One example of such a student is Makayla Flores de Apodaca (Denniston), who was the Lux Christi Award recipient for her class. Humbled, dedicated, and driven by her commitment to Jesus Christ, Makayla used her time as a Crean Lutheran Saint to explore the opportunities Christ gave her, serving the campus in a multitude of ways.

Makayla believes Crean Lutheran had a positive impact on her life and desire to serve the Lord. Upon graduation from Crean Lutheran, Makayla promptly enrolled at Concordia University Irvine (CUI), declaring nursing as her major. While

attending CUI her faith walk and commitment to Christ grew even further, leading her to regularly seek opportunities to advance the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20), striving to share the good news of the gospel and the great joy of Christ's love for all.

Makayla's ongoing faithfulness has not gone unnoticed; rather, she has been recognized by CUI's Board of Regents, President, and administrators. Supported by faculty sponsor Dr. Buddy Mendez, Makayla was awarded first place in the prestigious President's Academic Showcase with a project titled *Assortative Mating and its Application to Marriage*.

While receiving recognition from Crean Lutheran High School and Concordia University Irvine is quite an accomplishment, Makayla remains humble with the heart of a servant. She appreciates her current path in ministry, which will lead her to be a nurse. Makayla has remained steadfast in her faith walk and understanding of the Father's love for us.



Schoolwide Learner Outcomes

- I demonstrate a Christ-like heart for local and global service.
- I respect and value the diversity of others.
- I live as a servant leader.
- I connect the heart of Christ to the world.
- I demonstrate faithful stewardship of God's creation.



JULIA ORR

Class of 2012

After graduating from Crean Lutheran, Julia Orr went on to Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee, and graduated with a degree in Business. Julia serves as a captain in the U.S. Army and is currently stationed in Germany, where she will support a Stryker Regiment for the next three years.

JACQUELINE FINCH

Class of 2014

Jacqueline Finch (Orr) graduated from the United States Military Academy West Point and is currently stationed in Northern Italy. She is looking forward to earning a Master's degree in Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



ELIZABETH "JOY" FRICKE

Class of 2016

Elizabeth "Joy" Fricke (Orr), the valedictorian for the class of 2016, is also a graduate from the United States Military Academy West Point and will be spending the next 18 months in Alabama, where she will be attending flight school. Upon completion, she will be stationed with her husband on either the East Coast or in the Middle East.

WILLIAM ROBINSON

Class of 2012

After graduating from USC, Will received his commission as an officer in the United States Marine Corps. He completed follow-on training in Quantico, Virginia. He was stationed at Camp Pendleton, California, where he served in his primary military occupational specialty as a military police officer for four years. Throughout this time, he conducted security operations within the continental United States, he served overseas in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and later served as an instructor and liaison officer for Marines and Sailors preparing for deployments across the world. He credits this time as some of the most impactful and unique experiences to date, a myriad of opportunities to practice firmly and compassionately leading for Christ, and a privilege to lead and serve with our nation's finest.



BEN SCHUMACHER

Class of 2012

Ben Schumacher graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in exercise science. Ben is currently a captain in the U.S. Army and is stationed in Fort Carson, Colorado.

ZACK BEAVIS

Class of 2013

Zack completed his undergraduate degree at Point Loma Nazarene University and graduated from Creighton University School of Medicine in May 2021. Zack was commissioned as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and will be working as a family medicine resident physician at Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton.



Schoolwide Learner Outcomes

- I demonstrate a Christ-like heart for local and global service.
- I respect and value the diversity of others.
- I live as a servant leader.
- I connect the heart of Christ to the world.
- I demonstrate faithful stewardship of God's creation.

MATT ADAMS

Class of 2015

Matthew Adams graduated from Boston University using an NROTC scholarship and was commissioned into the United States Marine Corps in May 2019. Matthew is currently stationed at Camp Pendleton, California where he serves as a military police officer. He and his platoon protect and serve the 80,000 residents and 125,000 acres that make up the installation.

**PAIGE ATKINSON**

Class of 2015

After graduating from college in the spring of 2020, Paige was prepared to travel the world; however, this was not the traditional celebratory trip. Paige patiently waited in Dubai to begin what she views as her calling, serving internationally as a member of The Peace Corps.

Paige proudly shares that her passion for service was fostered during her four years at Crean Lutheran High School.



REBECCA SCHELL

Class of 2016

After graduating from Crean Lutheran, Rebecca Schell completed her Associate of Arts degree from Irvine Valley College; then she transferred to Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado. Rebecca is currently working on completing her Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education. In addition to completing college coursework and making the western slope of Colorado her new home, Rebecca joined the Colorado Army National Guard. While the world was locked down throughout 2020, Rebecca was training across multiple states as a member of the military police. She feels it is both a calling from God as well as a privilege to serve and protect the United States. Ongoing weekend training opportunities keep her prepared for the time when a natural disaster or evacuation order requires her involvement.



NATHANIEL SCHUMACHER

Class of 2017

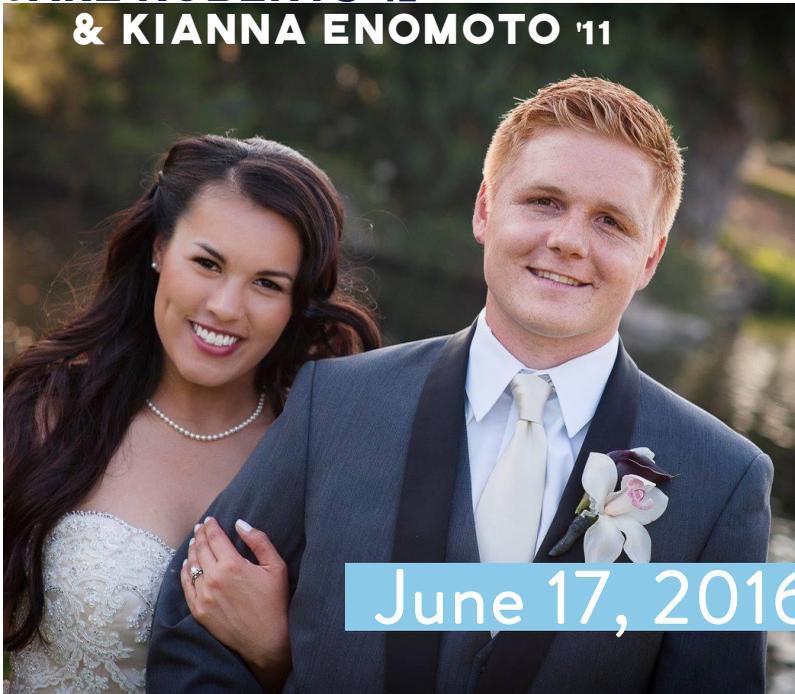
Specialist Nathaniel Schumacher enlisted right after graduation and will soon be promoted to sergeant. Nathaniel is currently stationed at Joint Base Lewis McChord and is a part of the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). SPC Schumacher deployed to Afghanistan in 2019 - 2020 and is about to reenlist to continue his service.

HIGH SCHOOL

Sweethearts

These Saints fell in love at Crean Lutheran and tied the knot on...

JAKE ROBERTS '12
& KIANNA ENOMOTO '11



June 17, 2016

RILEY EVANS '16
& LEXI RAMOS '16



June 25, 2020

JOSHUA FOSS '15
& KRISTI KITTELSON '15



October 18, 2020

August 29, 2020



**TIM GHITA-URMANCZY '17
& JANAЕ' WONDERGEM '17**

**TYLER HYLTON '11
& KENDRA LEACH '11**



July 8, 2020

July 9, 2021



**DANIEL ORGILL '17
& TAYLOR GRATZ '17**

**CHRISTOPHER CAMPBELL '16
& AMANDA REYES '16**



August 1, 2021

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant. 1 Corinthians 13:4

SAINTS in Love

These Saints have been swept away!

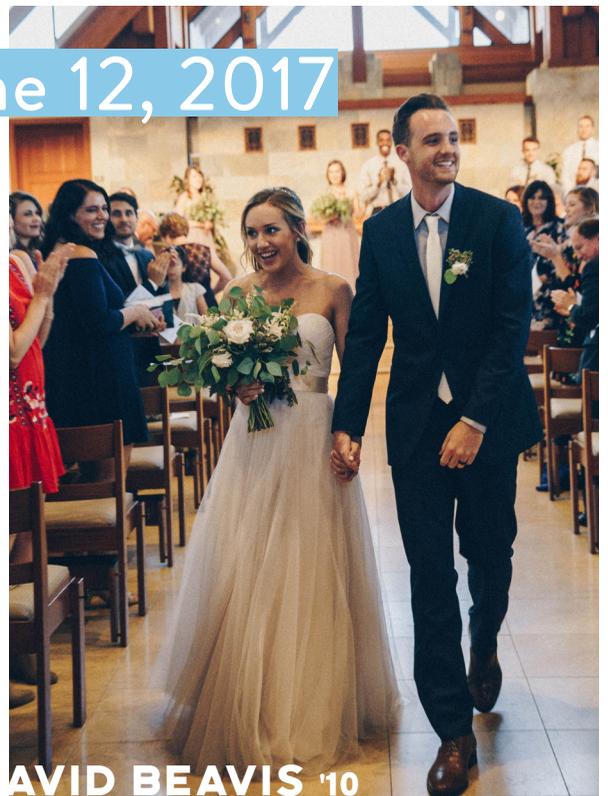
GUI HADLICH

& TORI OCCHIPINTI '13



May 12, 2019

June 12, 2017



AVID BEAVIS '10
& LAURA STUCKEY

MICHAEL MESBAH

& ALYSSA HEBBARD '13



April 17, 2020

**BUZZ MILLER
& KRISSEY GRATZ '15**



July 24, 2020

May 21, 2019

**DEONDRE BRYANT
& JOHANNA WADE '13**



July 14, 2018



**ROBERT FLORES DE APODACA
& MAKAYLA DENNISTON '15**

So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

THE MIRROR

A Literature & Arts Magazine

In 2020, Crean Lutheran published the inaugural edition of The Mirror, a literature and arts magazine featuring current student and alumni works. Both the inaugural and Volume 2 editions are available on the school website at creanlutheran.org/themirror. In celebration of Crean Lutheran's 15th anniversary, the third annual edition of The Mirror (Spring 2022) will focus on the theme of LEGACY.

To view the full magazine, go to creanlutheran.org/themirror.



SMALL MOMENTS
by Erik Reynolds, Class of 2017

We walk along the hot silver trail
Her hand in mine
I gaze upon her mirrored face
And thank God for this time

Ahead of us, another sign:
Avoid the crutching leaves.
She twists around and beckons
As the points in what she sees

These little gifts, my sisters,
Are joy personified
My life is all the brighter
With them walking by my side

I savor these small moments,
But know that soon will pass
The gift of being little
Is a gift that does not last!

Dappled sunlight streams around us
As we wander through the woods.
We are silent, hushed forever
Our God is truly good

BASK IN SOCIETY
Store As, Class of 2022
© 2022

22 / 100 pages

CREAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS



THE MIRROR
A LITERATURE & ARTS MAGAZINE

INAUGURAL ISSUE
2020

CREAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL
THE MIRROR
A LITERATURE & ARTS MAGAZINE
VOLUME 2 | 2021



Secure

FOR I AM SURE THAT NEITHER DEATH, NOR LIFE,
NOR ANGELS, NOR RULERS, NOR THINGS PRESENT,
NOR THINGS TO COME, NOR POWERS, NOR
HEIGHT, NOR DEPTH, NOR ANYTHING ELSE IN ALL
CREATION, WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US FROM
THE LOVE OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.
ROMANS 8:38-39

THE LOTTERY | by Matthew Burnett
CLASS OF 2021

Walking into CVS is usually a short, boring time, except when I walk past that machine. The machine that makes some people feel intense excitement. The machine that might let you down a little or make your lifetime unimagineable. The machine that takes just a little from you and can turn it into something wonderful. I am, of course, talking about a lottery machine. They are amazing. For just a little amount of money, you get such a rush. Who would've thought that something with more numbers could create so much fun? In my case, this one machine, this one time, was about to change my life forever.

I walked into CVS on my regular Wednesday afternoon to buy my dinner right before I picked up my dinner for the night. I looked to my left and waived to the employee who always held a smile and welcome for me. I smiled back and headed to the middle of the store, grabbed my Snow Patch Kids, and made my way towards the register.

Before I walked up to the counter to purchase my candy, I took a quick glance at the lottery machine with a digital that read, "You could be next." I approached the machine and looked at the bright, flashy colors that glowed in my face. I made my selection and fed in the cash the machine was asking me to insert. I finished my purchase at the machine and headed to the register to empty my pockets some more. I was almost ready for dinner.

I took my quarter out after purchasing my candy at the register and began to read the list: "Match three leprechauns to win!" Nothing more had to be explained. All I had to do was scratch off the silver paper. I disregarded my quarter along the first black square and started scratching at it. Under the square was a number.

"Not a great start," I said to myself. Next square, scratch, a diamond. Another square, scratch, a little bit of green squares. I scratched the rest and saw my first leprechaun! I was excited to find my first leprechaun but remained humble knowing there were six squares left. It went like this for five more squares, scratch, and repeat.

What remained were two leprechauns, three diamonds, two unicorns, and one green turtle.

One square lay between me and a prize anywhere from \$10 to even \$100,000. I took my quarter off the cart and thought about what I could buy with \$100,000. I thought about a brand new sports car, a brand new iPhone, or even one semester at college. I put my quarter back on the cart and slowly scratched off a corner of the square. Nothing could be seen yet. I started to sweat, knowing that the next image to come up could change my life. I began to feel hesitant and decided to move my quarter to the middle. I scratched off a little bit more to see just a little bit of green! I was excited to see green but knew it could be a turtle and wouldn't be myself! Thank too much of it.

The suspense finally got to me, and I scratched off the rest. A bright green leprechaun was revealed! Completely forgetting about the cashier next to me, I screamed, "I did it! I won!"

The cashier smiled and said, "Congratulations, would you like to redeem it?"

"Yes, please," I replied. I handed her the ticket and asked, "Where do I get the prize money?"

"Right here," she replied.

I did not believe what she said. There was no way there was that much cash in the cash register. I responded to her, saying, "There's not enough cash in that register, is there?"

While pulling out a \$100 bill, she said, "Yes, there is more than enough. You might want to look at the ticket again, please?"

I looked at the ticket, but this time the back.

"Scratch off 6 Super Grand Mega Prize!
Scratch off 4 for Grand Mega Prize!
Scratch off 3 for Mega Prize!" Finally, aware of what the rest of the lottery ticket said, I became skeptical. I walked out of the CVS and spent the money the best way I could: on the brand new Travis Scott burger only from McDonald's.

10 / 100 pages

11 / 100 pages

SOCIAL DISTANCING
Yona Woo, Class of 2021
© 2021

16 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12

A MESSAGE

from Crean Lutheran's Principal, Dr. Moyer

Christ's everlasting peace, joy, and comfort to each of you!

In Hebrews 13:8, we are reminded that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." In contrast, Crean Lutheran's alumni are changing. They are progressing through college and careers, getting married, and starting families. Prayerfully, as they change, they remain steadfast in their faith life and in the foundation of faith supported and nurtured while at Crean Lutheran High School.

Crean Lutheran's alumni are valued as a reflection of our past -- our rich history that was furthered and secured by their presence and efforts throughout their time in high school. Our alumni are also tied to the present as they are regularly welcomed home to Crean Lutheran for homecoming games and other alumni events. Finally, alumni are a link to the future as their personal stories, successes, and love for the Lord guide future generations of Saints.

Our alumni serve as brand ambassadors for Crean Lutheran High School. They have internalized the Gospel message of Jesus Christ and the message of Proclaiming Jesus Christ through excellence... Whatever their path, they do not walk it alone; rather, they are comforted in and through Jesus Christ and His presence through every hill, slope, turn, and obstacle. As an increasing number of Crean Lutheran High School graduates move forward in faith and life, they are empowered to guide and shape future generations. A single drop can make an oceanic difference in someone's life. The Saints family invites you to share your story, your faith journey, and your time. We invite Saints Alumni to return to Crean Lutheran regularly, whether it is to visit a teacher, watch an athletic contest, listen to a concert, attend an alumni event, or provide a chapel message.

Saints, you are appreciated. You are valued. May God go with you and work through you. As you reflect on your memories of Crean Lutheran, know that those memories may be expanded. We welcome your return and look forward to visiting with you.

In Christ,
Daniel Moyer, Ed.D



WE ARE SAINTS

A message from Crean Lutheran Advancement

Many of our alumni students and parents have been involved in serving Crean Lutheran High School over the years through prayers, volunteering, and generosity.

Your gifts to Crean Lutheran's Saints Fund will help provide current and future Saints with the many blessings of a Crean Lutheran experience. Students will have the opportunity to achieve their dreams of learning in an extremely positive environment, playing on competitive sports teams, and participating in our extraordinary visual and performing arts programs.

Each gift, of any amount, makes a difference and helps provide students access to the same exceptional education you received. Through the generosity of our alumni, nearly \$5,000 was given to the Saints Fund in the 2020-21 school year.

As you think back on your years at Crean Lutheran, please pray that the Lord will empower us to uphold our mission and minister to our students to grow in their faith, to be lifelong learners, and to serve wherever God places them.

There are many ways for you to volunteer on campus. We would love your help with our upcoming 15-Year Anniversary Celebration! And if the Lord places it on your hearts to help the school financially, please visit creanlutheran.org/support. We greatly appreciate your generosity and faithful support.



“ I have thoroughly **ENJOYED** my experience here and having a way to stay **CONNECTED** with Crean Lutheran is valuable to me.”

- Michael Hammerle, Class of 2014



COME ON DOWN TO CREAN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL'S

★ 15 YEAR ANNIVERSARY ★
CELEBRATION
& TREASURE THE TRUTH

Family BBQ, Performances, Auction,
Games, Festivities, & More!

OCTOBER 23, 2021

5:00 - 8:00 P.M.



**CASUAL ATTIRE,
BOOTS ENCOURAGED!**



Crean Lutheran High School
12500 Sand Canyon Avenue, Irvine, CA 92618



Get your tickets by October 8
Register at creanlutheran.org/15year

*I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and
my fortress and my deliverer. Psalm 18:1-2a*



**CREAN LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL**

Proclaiming Jesus Christ through Excellence in Education

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