

CLASS OF 2025
GRADUATION SERVICE

Saturday, May 24, 2025



WELCOME TO ST. CROIX LUTHERAN ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

The faculty and staff of St. Croix Lutheran Academy are happy that you have accepted the invitation to join us on this very important milestone day in the lives of the graduates of the Class of 2025. Today's service is both a graduation exercise and a service of thanksgiving and praise to our Lord on behalf of our graduates.

We join you, the many families, friends, and relatives, in expressing our congratulations to each of our graduates with sincere wishes for God's richest blessings as they now leave our school and enter the next phase of their lives.

As our guests, we extend to you our warmest *Crusader* welcome! We hope that you will be able to come and visit us again.

CLASS VERSE

*So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed,
for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10

Order of Service

Pre-service Music		Ms. Sarah Sauer, Organist
Processional	<i>A Festal Tune</i> <i>The assembly will please remain seated for the Procession.</i>	by Jacob B. Weber
Invocation		Pastor Jon Enter
Greeting/Opening Remarks		Mr. Brian Shult, Executive Director
Anthem	<i>Let All the People Praise!</i>	by Craig Courtney Croixaliers Mrs. April Marquardt, Piano
Scripture Reading		Psalm 100 Pastor Jon Enter
Hymn	<i>He Will Hold Me Fast</i> <i>Please join in singing as you feel comfortable.</i>	CW 813 Ms. Sarah Sauer, piano Mr. Drew Kock, guitar
1	When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast; when the tempter would prevail, he will hold me fast. I could never keep my hold thro' life's fearful path, for my love is often cold— he must hold me fast. (Refrain)	2 Those he saves are his delight; Christ will hold me fast; precious in his holy sight, he will hold me fast. He'll not let my soul be lost; his promises shall last; bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast. (Refrain)
Refrain	He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.	3 For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast; justice has been satisfied; he will hold me fast. Raised with him to endless life, he will hold me fast till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last! (Refrain)
Graduation Address		Pastor Dustin Sievert

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Hymn *How Firm a Foundation* CW 800, stanzas 1, 2, 5
Please join in singing as you feel comfortable. Ms. Sarah Sauer, organ

How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.”

“The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose
I will not, I will not, desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”

Class Speaker Noah Schmeling
Selected by the Class of 2025

Authorization to Confer Diplomas Mr. Nate Kallies, Principal

Awarding of Diplomas Mr. Brian Shult, Executive Director

Presentation of Graduates Mr. Nate Kallies, Principal

A Special Message from Your Teachers

Closing Prayer and Benediction Pastor Jon Enter

Closing Hymn *May the Mind of Christ My Savior* CW 467, stanzas 1, 2, 5, 6
Please join in singing as you feel comfortable. Ms. Sarah Sauer, organ

May the mind of Christ my Savior, Live in me from day to day,
By his love and pow’r inspiring, All I do or say.

May the Word of God dwell richly, In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph, Only through his pow’r.

May I run the race before me, Strong and brave to face the foe,
Looking only unto Jesus, As I onward go.

May his spirit live within me, As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him.

Recessional *Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals* by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

The assembly will please remain seated until the recessional of the graduates is complete. Please limit the taking of PHOTOGRAPHS to the processional, the presentation of diplomas, and the recessional.

Weather permitting, the graduates’ RECEIVING LINE will be outside along the sidewalk leading to the building entrance. In case of rain, the receiving line will take place in the atrium.

Special thanks to Southview Garden Center for providing shrubbery for the graduation service and to Volkswagen of Inver Grove Heights for sponsoring recordings of this graduation service for each graduate through Town Square Television.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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2025 Graduates

Conner Lynn Aldean	US National Guard
Zoe Thoko, Ifeoluwa Ayodele	University of Arizona, Tucson
Matthew Lee Beekman	Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA
Jacob Miles Boyd	Hennepin Technical College, Brooklyn Park, MN
Arthur Brisot Santini	University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN
Hunter Robbin Burt	Iowa State, Ames
Josiah Anthony Burtman	Interstate Truck Driving School, West St. Paul, MN
Henry David Bymark	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Margaret Yeseon Cheon	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Gavin Paul Christensen	Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA
Alex Duane Collignon	North Dakota State University, Fargo
Addison Grace Degener Δ	University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse
Nhi Ngoc Lam Dinh Δ	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Benjamin Nicholas Dolan	Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount, MN
Boying Duan Δ	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Yulin Jack Feng	University of Alaska, Anchorage
Julissa Evelyn Frederick	Northwestern Health Sciences University, Bloomington, MN
Elijah Nathaniel Frey Δ	West Air Flight Training, Las Vegas, NV
Mateo Martin Garcia	Undecided
Hannah Elizabeth Gullickson	Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, MN
Owen Timothy Harley	University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN
Romen Joseph Harrington	Century College, White Bear Lake, MN
Serenna Grace Hartsock Δ	University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN
Luke Timothy Healy	Century College, White Bear Lake, MN
Samuel Frank Hoffman	Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN
Evelyn Muriel Hoppe	Montana State University, Bozeman
Jinghan Huang	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Yebin Hwang	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Hannah Elizabeth Isenberger	Bethel University, St. Paul, MN
Yuto Ishizuka	University of North Carolina, Charlotte
Ty Marley Johnson	Century College, White Bear Lake, MN
Moira Jean Julian	Century College, White Bear Lake, MN
Avery Grace Kallies	Northwestern College, Orange City, IA
Evan Austin Kasa	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mason James Kelm	Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount, MN
Grace Melissa Kinsley	Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Mano Akos Kocsis	Brevard College, Brevard, NC
Julianne Alexis Le	Marymount Manhattan University, New York, NY
Christian Robert Little	Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN
Isaiah Curtis Luepke	Rochester Community & Technical College, Rochester, MN
Jack Lewis Malovrh	St. John's University, Collegeville, MN
Riccardo Marzetti	Fort Hays Tech Northwest, Beloit, KS
Denzel Joseph Massawe	Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN
Oliver McAghon	University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse
Kaylee Jean McEllistrem Δ	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
David Yehl McKee	Century College, White Bear Lake, MN
Jordan Bree Melde	Electrician Apprenticeship
Drew Charles Mildebrandt	Dakota State University, Madison, SD
Hunter Jacob Miller	Hennepin Technical College, Brooklyn Park, MN
Savanna Elizabeth Moe	University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Santana Michael Navarro	University of North Dakota, Grand Forks
Maya Anne Navin	University of Wisconsin, Platteville
Luke Thomas Richard Newgard	Century College, White Bear Lake, MN
Ngoc Huynh Bao Nguyen	Ohio State University, Columbus

Nhi Xuan Nguyen	Rutgers University, Camden, NJ
Thu Trinh Bao Nguyen	Northeastern University, Boston, MA
Tien Pham Thuy Nguyen	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Nathan Charles Nikoley	Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN
Rio Nomura	University of Debrecen, Hungary
Mya Lynn Nunez-Williams	St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN
Tobenna Chimamanda Okeke	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Brogan Kamakanamaikeakua Onato-Pannkuk	University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse
Nathan David Ostman	Hennepin Technical College, Brooklyn Park, MN
Devin Parker Ozangar	North Dakota State University, Fargo
Alexandra Domi Park	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Martin Roger Paulsen Δ	Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN
Federico Pedersoli	Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL
Claire Lois Peterson	Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee
Uyen Hoang Phuong Phan	Rutgers University, Camden, NJ
Lauren Elizabeth Piga	College of St. Benedict, Collegeville, MN
Miguel Dos Santos Rafael	Whatcom Community College, Bellingham, WA
Alexis Michelle Rathje	Concordia University, St. Paul, MN
Tessa Rae Richter	Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon
Mía Victoria Rivera Rodríguez Δ	Dakota County Tech College, Rosemount, MN
Caitlyn Jeanne Robinson	St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN
William Stephen Ross Δ	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Sophia Marie Rubio	Bethel University, St. Paul, MN
Lydia Rose Schaefer	Concordia University, Chicago
Noah Benjamin Schmeling	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Jenna Marie Schmotter	American College of Greece, Athens, Greece
Savelli Lawrence Schneck	Steamfitters Union
Austin Michael Schommer	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Isabella Catherine Schroeder	St. Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona
Stella Rae Sell	Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA
Ole Avery Skrien	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Gabriel Carl Sonsalla	University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Anna Margery Spott	University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point
Carson Owen Stehr	University of Wisconsin, Stout
Jonah Otis Stelljes	Minnesota State University, Mankato
Ruth Henok Teshome	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Kenyon David Tess	University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Korban Samuel Thrasher	St. John's University, Collegeville, MN
Phankorn Tienwivat	Rangsit University, Thailand
Tova Rae Ulrich	Luther College, Decorah, IA
Kaylin Da-Hyeon Van	Boston College, Massachusetts
Tawin Vithantirawat	Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
Zoe Marie Wilkins	University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire
Tory John Curtis Wollersheim	University of Northwestern, St. Paul, MN
Addison Renae Wood	Concordia University, St. Paul, MN
Evan Dustin James Wood Δ	Dordt University, Sioux Center, IA
Yi Chris Zhao	University of California, Irvine

Explanation of Academic Awards

Recognition of academic accomplishments is distinguished by various colors and cords:

- National Honor Society members wear gold cords.
- Latin award recipients receive a medal with the St. Croix Lutheran Academy seal on the front. This seal is also printed on the diplomas. The seal is an adaptation of the first “logo” designed for the school in its beginning years.
- Latin awards recognize the student’s hard work and dedication throughout their high school years in the following way:

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

3.9+ GPA and 7+ AP/Dual Credit
(red ribbon)

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

3.9+ GPA and 1-6 AP/Dual Credit
(white ribbon)

CUM LAUDE

3.80+ GPA
(gray ribbon)

Explanation of Stoles

Embracing a global Christian perspective is a key objective of St. Croix Lutheran Academy. To celebrate the diverse student body, graduates wear national or cultural stoles during the service. On one side of the stole will be the school logo, and on the other is the flag of the student’s home country.

Symbols by graduate's names: Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude,
 Δ Cum Laude, National Honor Society

Faculty and Board of Regents

Faculty

Mr. Nate Kallies, Principal
Mr. Brad Essig, Principal
Mr. Brian Shult, Executive Director
Ms. Anna Biedenbender
Mr. Lucas Boehm
Mr. James Brohn
Mr. Phil Bunkowske
Mr. Kincaid Diersen
Mr. Tony Drkula
Mr. Austin Eisenmann
Mrs. Kayla Eisenmann
Rev. Jonathan Enter
Mr. John Fenske
Mr. Adam Frey
Mr. Andrew Grady
Mrs. Rachel Grev
Mrs. Rebecca Hillstrom
Mr. Riley Hillstrom
Mr. Jonathan Huebner
Mr. Mark Kaiser
Mr. Drew Kock
Mrs. Jill Kock
Mr. David Liebhard
Mr. Ryan Maertz
Mr. Chris Maki
Mrs. Rebecca Maki
Mrs. Emily Mantz
Mrs. April Marquardt
Mr. Michael Marquardt
Mr. Cory Olson
Mrs. Heidi Paulsen
Mrs. Abby Plocher
Mr. Gabe Plocher
Dr. Ryan Rathje
Ms. Sarah Sauer
Mr. Brent Schacht
Mrs. Calla Schoch
Mr. Garrett Schoch
Ms. Samantha Schoch
Mrs. Karen Scislow
Rev. Dustin Sievert
Rev. Bradley Snyder
Mr. Phil Sundblad
Mr. David Tess
Mrs. Amanda Weddle
Mr. Timothy Weddle
Ms. Hannah Willems
Ms. Summer Xu
Mrs. Abby Zuberbier

Board of Regents

Mr. Roger Toomey, Chairman
Mr. Joel Hahm
Mr. Jason Harper
Mr. Corey Krieger
Rev. Brian Krueger
Mr. Chad Little
Rev. Keith Schreiner
Mr. Matt Otterstatter
Mr. Luke Schroeder
Mr. Aaron Wakeman
Mr. Jeremy Wood

Mission Statement

Educating the total student – spiritually, intellectually, and physically – in a caring, Christian family community.

Purpose

St. Croix Lutheran Academy is a Christ-centered educational ministry sharing God's love with all students.

We carry this out by pointing students to the truths of God's Word in the Bible, by helping students strengthen their relationship with their Savior Jesus, and by sharing the good news of his love for all with those who do not yet know him as their personal Savior.

Core Values

St. Croix Lutheran Academy holds to the following core values:

- **Biblical World View** - We believe that the Bible is God's unchanging truth, the foundation for all learning and life, and the message of God's saving grace for all.
- **College Preparation** - We challenge and support students and staff to develop and utilize their God-given gifts in order to become productive leaders in the school, church, and local/international community.
- **Excellence** - We pursue excellence in all aspects of Christian education - academics, athletics, and the arts - to the glory of God.
- **Global** - We embrace the culturally diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and gifts of individuals to enrich excellence and to enable one's personal ministry.
- **Student Focused** - We recognize that all students are unique, and we strive to put their needs first, as we help them develop spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.

St. Croix Lutheran Academy

Mission

Purpose

Core Values

History

Although the inspiration for the foundation of St. Croix Lutheran Academy high school goes back to January 1957, the Twin City Lutheran High School Association was not officially formed until June 1958. At that time the first instructor, who also served as the first principal, was called, and classes for the first academic year, 1958-59, were conducted in the basement of St. James Lutheran Church, West St. Paul.

In 1960, the student body and faculty moved into the first permanent school building on the campus at 110 Crusader Avenue, West St. Paul. In 1965, the second building, containing additional classrooms and a gymnasium, was erected. These two units were combined with the addition of a library and multi-purpose room in 1975.

In 1990, the physical expansion of St. Croix Lutheran Academy took a dramatic turn. A major fundraising/expansion campaign was inaugurated, with the goal of completing much needed expansion and renovation of the existing facility. The price tag was high and fervent prayers were directed to our omnipotent Lord to make the vision possible. Midway through the campaign, the Lord answered our prayers in a wonderful way. Archbishop Brady High School, located two miles northeast of the Crusader Avenue site, was closed and placed on the market for sale. Because the Brady school property was much larger and met all current and future needs at a cost substantially less than expanding the Crusader site, the purchase of the campus on Oakdale Avenue was completed in April 1992.

After hundreds of hours of work by hundreds of volunteers, and with the necessary contracted work completed by professionals, the Oakdale Avenue site was renovated and remodeled, and a beautiful “new” and expanded St. Croix Lutheran Academy was ready for the first day of school in September of 1992.

Since moving into the building, God has allowed the school to expand and improve in many ways:

- 1998 - Dormitory opens to house international students.
- 1999 - International program begins.
- 2002 - Outdoor athletic facilities are added and updated.
- 2005 - The St. Croix Lutheran chapel is added and dedicated.
- 2009 - The middle school is opened.
- 2015 - The 152-bed dormitory is added and dedicated.
- 2017 - The school name is modified to *St. Croix Lutheran Academy*.
- 2021 - A new front entrance and fine arts addition is completed.
- 2022 - The auditorium is renovated.

As more and more young people and their parents come to appreciate the value of a Christian secondary education, planning continues for expansion of facilities; curricular and extra-curricular offerings; and additional staff members to accommodate increasing enrollment. The Lord has truly blessed the devotion to Christian education of the founding fathers and those who took up their lead. May the devotion and concern of the present and future generations continue to provide for this ongoing ministry to young people and their families.

History of St. Croix Lutheran Academy





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