



RACINE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

I am a new
creation in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17



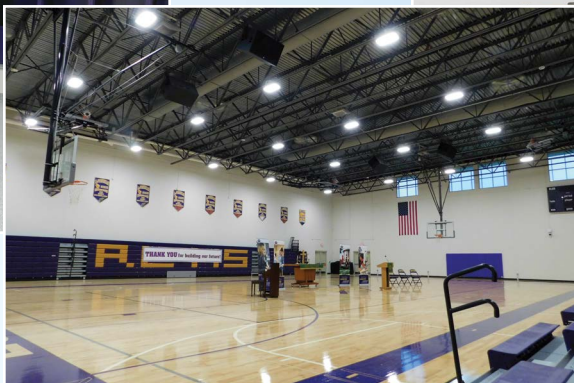
CRUSADER CONNECTION

■ FALL 2023 ■

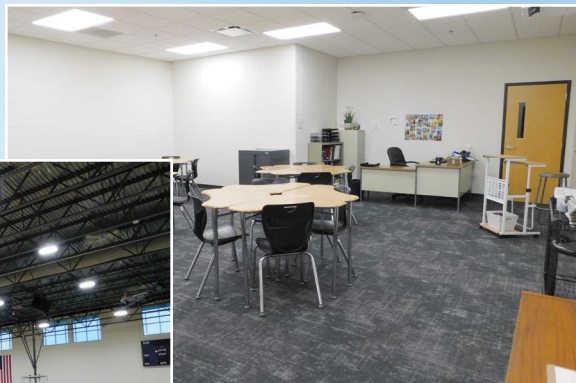




New Locker Room



New Gymnasium



New Classroom



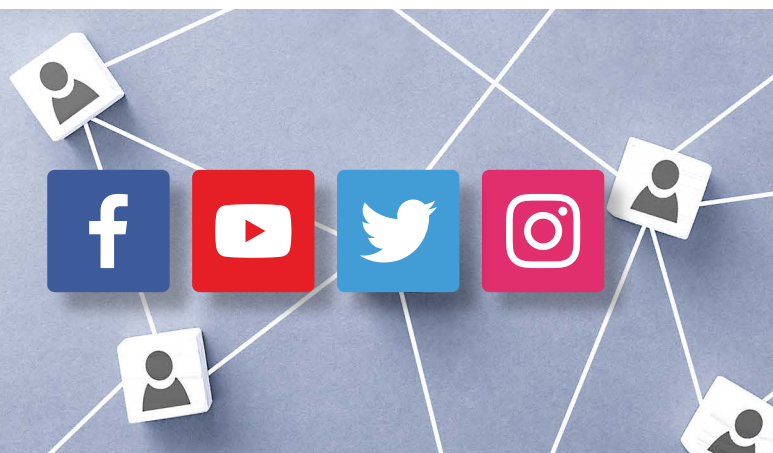
DEDICATION AND RIBBON CUTTING

On Sun., Aug. 6, alumni, family, friends, and community members gathered for the dedication of the new addition and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Pastor David Gehne, Head Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, led the dedication service in the new gymnasium. Tours and refreshments followed. If you were unable to make it to this event, visit [RacineLutheran.org](https://www.RacineLutheran.org) for a virtual tour of the newly expanded RLHS campus.

On the Cover - Pictured L-R: Krista Long (development & alumni relations), Stuart LaRose '84 (Zimmerman Architectural Studios), Greg Strand (Zimmerman Architectural Studios), Chris Eckert Petersen '76, Fred Petersen (Carlson Roofing), Tim Dittloff (Catalyst Construction), Don Riegelman '57, David Burgess (executive director), Jason Block (principal), Racine Alderman Jeff Peterson, RLHS Board of Directors President Andrew Rosenberg '10, Ken Gaschk (Owners Representative Services), Jake Lovdahl (RAMAC Ambassador).

SOCIAL MEDIA

Everyone knows that social media is a fantastic way to stay connected. At RLHS, we embrace an audience of all ages and find joy in bringing generations together in one place. Stay connected by visiting our social media pages (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Instagram) and [RacineLutheran.org](https://www.RacineLutheran.org).





WELCOME TO RACINE LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Executive Director Dave Burgess is pleased to announce the faculty and staff additions for the 2023-24 school year. Katelyn Shieler is a newly commissioned teacher. She and Rachel Kuiper Duchac '01 were installed to their teaching positions in the school's science department. Inducted to serve are Amber Hozey (music teacher), and staff members Katie Hynek Fox '86 (director of admissions), Tracy Pataska (office), Brian Schovain (buildings and grounds), and Noah Henderson '15 (food service).

Pictured L-R: Executive Director Dave Burgess, Brian Schovain, Tracy Pataska, Amber Hozey, Noah Henderson, Katie Fox, Rev. Brady Retzlaff, Katelyn Shieler, Rachel Duchac, Principal Jason Block.

CONGRATULATIONS MRS. JUGA

RLHS Guidance Counselor, Tracey Juga, recently earned her Master of Science in Education - Counseling from Concordia University Wisconsin. We are so proud of her accomplishment! What a wonderful way to live by example and show our students that learning is a lifelong endeavor!



GREETINGS

Who doesn't like to get something new? Getting something new brings a special level of excitement and anticipation. Remember what it was like when we were younger and we had to wait, and wait, and wait to unwrap our presents on Christmas morning? Or how about that day when you picked up your first brand-new set of wheels from the dealer? When you got in, it had that wonderful fresh new-car smell and everything was shiny and clean.

This fall we were blessed to open an additional 49,500 square feet of beautiful new space to our campus. It was exciting to see the joy on the faces of our students as they explored all that came with the new addition - seven shiny classrooms, a bigger and better gym, a state-of-the-art fitness center, and fresh and clean locker rooms. It all looked and smelled new!

The thought of new stuff is exciting. However, we must never lose our excitement about the One who makes old things new. The One who removes the old and ugly parts of who we are by our nature - sinful and unclean - and makes us NEW!

Our theme for the 2023-24 school year comes from 2 Corinthians 5:17 "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!" Therefore, every student at RLHS can say, "I am a new creation in Christ."

What a gift it is to have the burden of our sins lifted and to be made new each time we confess them to our Heavenly Father! He takes that sin and places it on His Son, Jesus. Jesus carried all our sins and grief to the cross and paid the penalty for that sin so that we are made new - a new creation in Christ.

Sharing this message has been the mission of Racine Lutheran High School for 80 years. As we move forward, we will remain firmly rooted in providing exceptional Christian education. We will continue to share the good news so that those who come to Christ are made new; not just new in life, but also new in death, which springs us forth into eternal life.

My prayer is that you will consider the importance of this message of hope and new life and renew your support for our students and teachers with your prayers and gifts.

God's Peace,

David S. Burgess
Executive Director





RLHS COACH BECKY WILKS DEMUTH '83 RETIRES WITH BIG MEMORIES

Racine Lutheran High School's girls volleyball and softball coach Becky Demuth has retired after 20 years and more than 600 victories. Demuth, who graduated from RLHS in 1983, took over the two programs during the 2003-2004 school year. She closes her coaching career as the winningest coach in school history for both programs. During Demuth's tenure, the volleyball program had a 369-320-1 record with a .536 winning percentage. The softball program achieved a 257-183-2 record with a .584 winning percentage. She led the Crusaders to three conference championships, four Regional championships, one Sectional championship, and one State runner-up. She was recognized by her peers as the Racine County Coach of the Year on three occasions. RLHS players earned multiple all-conference, all-county, and all-state selections, and both programs produced Division 1 athletes.

"Coach Demuth has served and inspired our student-athletes on and off the court for two decades. She has dedicated her time and talent to benefit our school and our sports programs," said Dave Burgess, executive director. "Becky is a true example of a Christian servant, and we are grateful for everything she has done for our school."

RYAN MICHAEL '14 NAMED AS NEW HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

RLHS is pleased to announce the hiring of Ryan Michael as the head softball coach. Coach Michael holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in communication from Wisconsin Lutheran College, where he played baseball, and has eight years of coaching experience. Most recently, he served as the head softball coach at Nicolet High School, where he guided the team through a regional finals appearance. Previously, he served as an assistant coach at Brookfield East High School and multiple softball organizations.

"Coach Michael returns to our school with knowledge, experience, and passion for the game," said RLHS athletic director Steve Shaffer. "We are excited to have him as the new leader of our thriving softball program."

Dave Burgess, RLHS executive director, added: "We are very blessed to have Ryan serve at RLHS. We are confident he will positively impact our students on the softball field."



CRUSADER SPIRIT WEAR

As the holiday season approaches, be sure to visit the online spirit wear store at RacineLutheran.org to purchase a gift for your favorite student, parent, alumni, or staff member who loves to show their Crusader pride!



STEPHANIE SCHULZ NAMED AS NEW HEAD VOLLEYBALL COACH

Stephanie Schulz has been named as Demuth's successor for the volleyball program. Schulz, a full-time Spanish teacher at RLHS and former collegiate player, coached with Demuth for seven years before taking an assistant coach position at her alma mater Wisconsin Lutheran College.

"We are thrilled to have Stephanie return to our volleyball program. She has big shoes to fill; however, she is well-equipped to take the program to the next level," said Steve Shaffer, athletic director.





ATHLETICS CONGRATULATIONS!

Metro Classic Girls Volleyball Champs

This is the first Conference Championship in volleyball in school history. Congrats Coach Schulz, Coach Antony, Manager Joe, and players.

Volleyball

Julia Kellner (Jr.) reached 1,000 kills in her career and was also named WisSports Athlete of the Week in September.

Football

Finished second in the Midwest Classic Conference.

Softball

2023 Metro Classic Conference Champions

All Conference Selections: Lindsey Thoennes (Sr.) - Player of the Year, Jenna Beaudin (Jr.) - First Team, Olivia Rosenberg (Sr.), Kendyll Holub (Sr.) Iyana Garza (Fr.) - Second Team, Emilie Lozano (So.), Jordan Ramos (Fr.), Abbey Agerholm (Jr.) - Honorable Mention.

Baseball

All Conference Selections: Jason Schmierer (Sr.) - First Team, Eli Gasau (Fr.) - Second Team, Jayden Jaramillo (Jr.), Easton Charpentier (Jr.) - Honorable Mention.

Girls Soccer

All Conference Selections: Ellie Jaramillo (Sr.) - First Team, Sarah Strande (Sr.) - Second Team, Ally Rosborough (So.) - Honorable Mention.





RLHS OPEN HOUSE

Open House events are an important way we can showcase our beautiful, Christian school to the community. On the evening of Oct. 16, over 100 prospective families came to this drop-in event to tour our school, learn about co-curricular activities, and meet our faculty, staff, and coaches. The tours were led by Student Ambassadors who volunteered their time to share their love of RLHS. The next Open House event is scheduled for Mon., Jan. 29, from 5 – 7 p.m.



SENIOR LEADERSHIP RETREAT

The annual Senior Leadership Retreat at Edwards YMCA Camp and Retreat Center allowed members of the Class of 2024 to identify, develop, and practice their unique leadership skills. The students enjoyed a wide variety of activities including a high ropes course, zip-lining, small group discussions, group initiatives, and worship time.



INTERNATIONAL CLASSROOM

Ally Dustman (Jr.) took an international trip through WorldStrides to Cambridge, England over the summer. She studied International Relations and Espionage – learning through classes and instruction in Cyber Security, Cambridge 5, Enigma Code, World War II and Winston Churchill.



CRUSADERS FLY!

On Sept. 30, 12 females from six local high schools experienced the world of aviation like never before. Cadence Gulan (Jr.), and Ella Pollock (Fr.), participated in the 2nd annual WINGS TO FLY event. The Racine Police Department became the first police department in the nation to host an EAA Young Eagles event, thanks to the efforts of the Community Oriented Policing Unit and Officer Travis Brady. Wings to Fly provides high school-aged females and minorities a front-row experience in the world of aviation. These students received a hands-on learning experience with a WI Army National Guard Blackhawk Helicopter and were treated to a 45-minute private airplane ride in the skies of Wisconsin.



2023 HOMECOMING COURT

Pictured L - R: Abigail Agerholm, Jayden Jaramillo, Riley LaBoda, Matthew Hoeft, Queen Salma Ibarra, King Cameron Mitchell, Kaitlyn Zurawski, Jack Lichter, Mabel Beversdorf, Anthony Peralta.

HOMECOMING 2023

This year's Homecoming theme was "Hollywood Homecoming." The week included class competitions, food trucks, a pep rally, sporting events, powder puff football, and coronation followed by a dance. Many of the festivities were photographed by RLHS alumna Mrs. Julie Meissner Porter '67. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make it a week full of memories!



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2023

Grace Hansen and Sarah Seils earned the distinction of being valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, as the top members of the RLHS Class of 2023. Grace attends St. Olaf College and Sarah attends the University of Evansville.

This year's graduates received awards and scholarships totaling more than \$4 million. Future journeys include studying at two-year colleges, four-year universities, serving in the military, and entering the workforce, including positions in the trades.



DID YOU KNOW?

RLHS encourages students to join in and find activities outside of the classroom for fun and friendship. Built into the weekly schedule is a "Thursday Activity Period." It's a great opportunity to make memories and connect with others. Here are some of the offerings for students:

- National Honor Society
- Quiz Bowl
- Student Council
- Yearbook
- Art Club
- Student Ambassadors
- Ladies Bible Study/31:30
- Service Club
- Theater Club
- Fishing
- Unplug & Reconnect
- Sports Leadership
- Weightlifting



RLHS ALUMNI - LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Our mission is to connect, engage, and celebrate our alumni by keeping them informed and involved. Have you recently moved, changed email addresses, gotten married, or celebrated a birth? We want to hear from you! Contact klong@RacineLutheran.org to share your news, or visit RacineLutheran.org (under the ALUMNI tab) and update your contact information to ensure that you receive the latest news, exciting updates, invitations to events, and more from Racine Lutheran High School.

OBITUARIES

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

Class of:	1956 – Marie Kilman Andersen	1962 – Robert Schmidt	1968 – John Gatzke
1948 – Audrey Petavine	1956 – Terry Exner	1962 – Thomas Kugler	1969 – Dorthea Tews Rice
1951 – Leroy Exner	1959 – Richard Hynek	1963 – Michael Crawford	1974 – Larry Seyferth
1952 – Lois Rudat Berkholtz	1959 – Marsha Popp Wranovsky	1964 – Thomas Petersen	
1952 – Eugene Vedder	1961 – Deana Hackbarth	1966 – David Wirt	



NUPTIAL NEWS



Jenna Geyer '14 married Ian King '13 on May 19 at Pentecost Lutheran Church



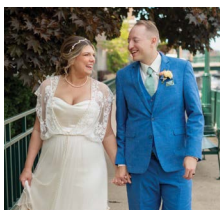
Nicole Holtz '07 married Eric Risser on Aug. 26 in Bayview, Milwaukee



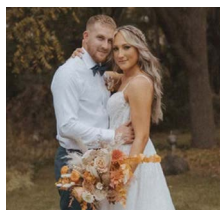
Catherine Lie '11 married Johnny Clark on May 20 in Charleston, SC



Jonah Mandli '13 married Kate Wintheiser on Sept. 15 at The Starling in the Third Ward, Milwaukee



Jessica Dahms '13 married Ben Anderson on May 27 at the Milwaukee County Historical Society



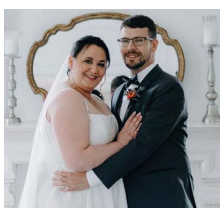
Nicholas Wilckens '12 married Kayla Ricchio on Sept. 16 at The Farm at Dover



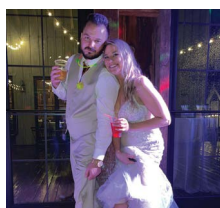
Zachary Kennow '14 married Elizabeth Nelson '17 on June 17 at The Eloise in Mt. Horeb, WI



Ryan Michael '14 married Kaitlyn Grunert on September 30 at The Legend at Merrill Hills in Waukesha

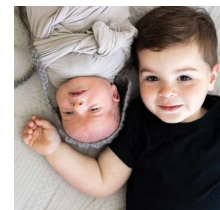


Sarah Porter '04 married Matt Marinac on July 2 at The Covenant at Murray Mansion

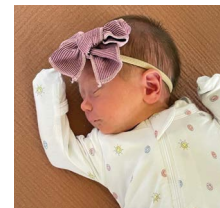


Jared Kosmala '12 married Hannah Sobczak on Oct. 13 at The Landing at 1841 Farms & Vineyard in Burlington

BIRTHS-CRUSADER CREATIONS



Aaron Palmer '15, wife, Megan Taleck Palmer '16, and big brother, Graham, welcomed a son, Leyton William, on June 9



Peter Drummond '12 and wife, Baylee, welcomed a daughter, Everlee, on Aug. 25



Kayla Gauthier Hart '13 and husband, Mike, welcomed a daughter, Loretta Anne, on Sept. 8



Rachel Moriarity Opgenorth '10, husband, Jared, and big sister, Brynley, welcomed a daughter, Ella James, on Sept. 29





THE 2024 RLHS

INSPI(RED)

GRAND GALA

Saturday, February 10

GRAND GALA

Racine Lutheran High School is hosting its 26th annual Grand Gala on Sat., Feb. 10, at Racine's Roma Lodge. All are cordially invited to the 2024 RLHS INSPI(RED) GRAND GALA where we will celebrate the alumni, parents, friends, and community that have inspired RLHS to thrive. Each year this vital fundraiser lifts up, showcases, and supports our students. Guests are welcomed with complimentary beverages as they enjoy the silent auction, followed by a delightful dinner and voice auction. The remainder of the evening is spent dancing to the live music of Chicago's High Society Orchestra.

If you are interested in donating to the silent or voice auctions, or you would like to learn about our sponsorship levels, please contact klong@RacineLutheran.org. Your donation, as well as all proceeds generated from this event, will have an immediate and positive impact on the education of our students, and our community.



ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI HOMECOMING

More than 50 RLHS alumni came together on Sat., Sept. 29, for a memorable day as the Lutheran Crusaders defeated the Dominican Knights at Horlick Field. This annual event features a free evening of fun for all our graduates! This year, our alumni enjoyed complimentary admission, 50-yard-line VIP seating, and a free gift. (Pictured L-R) Lydia Balke '17, Krista Long (development & alumni relations), Tracy Erickson Wasik '91 and Terri Boscher Tigges '64.



RLHS MEDIA MARKETING WITH BARRY TAIT '86

When looking to provide a fresh face to RLHS social media, Krista Long (development & alumni relations) knew exactly who to call. Barry Tait has been the Owner/Producer of Tait Media in Racine for over 30 years. As an alumnus of Racine Lutheran High School, he knew the school's mission and vision and was able to easily help create the message and content that was needed to convey what RLHS is all about! You can check out the finished product on our website or social media platforms.



The Racine Lutheran High School Hall of Fame recognizes former students, athletes, and faculty members who have shown a commitment to the school's mission and have made outstanding contributions with their God-given gifts. Congratulations to the Hall of Fame Class of 2024 inductees:

- Jim Deibler '81
- Kristine Milaeger Reisdorf '66
- Dr. Ryan Stanton '87
- Dr. Larry Vanderhoef '59 (posthumously)

Please join us for the 2024 Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Sat., Jan. 27.

- 3:30 p.m. - Pre-game Reception in New Commons
- 4:00 p.m. - Induction Ceremony in New Gym
- 5:00 p.m. - Boys' Varsity Basketball Game Tipoff

RLHS is currently seeking nominations for the 2025 Hall of Fame. To nominate one of our deserving alumni, please visit the About Us section at RacineLutheran.org and use the nomination form provided. Contact Stephen Shaffer at sshaffer@RacineLutheran.org with any questions.



CLASS OF 1956

The Class of 1956 held their annual gathering on Oct. 7 at Joey's Yardarm. Pictured L-R: Sandy Eckert Sorensen, Don Wiese, Claire Boerger Lovdahl, Joe and Diane Thomsen Yust, Pat Amann, and Gail Sorenson Gotch.



CLASS OF 1959

The Class of 1959 met for their annual lunch on Oct. 12 at Thunder Bay Grill in Pewaukee. Judy Kossow Conrad shared, "Lots of good times were remembered and we had a good time catching up. We had a mealtime prayer led by Dennis Malone and finished our time together by singing our class song, "Jesus Savior, Pilot Me." A very appropriate song for the times we are in."

Pictured L-R: (front row) Judy Kossow Conrad, Bonnie Gildemeister Perkins, Carol Robb Johnson; (back row) Janice Butler Bertermann, John Bertermann, Dennis (Gumshoe) Malone, Jim Sheridan.



CLASS OF 1957

The Class of 1957 had so much fun at their 65th reunion last September that they decided to meet again this year (and will continue to get together annually on the third Wednesday of every month moving forward). The group met for lunch at Buckets Pub 2nd Round to reminisce and catch up. While they were there, they celebrated Jerry and Arlene Suban Cacciotti's 65th Anniversary! Pictured L-R: (front row) Joan Malone Scully, Arlene Suban Cacciotti, Carol Kralovetz Grundy, Connie Brodsko Lonergan, Mary Ann Mitzenhelm Kuhl, Janet Brown Exner; (back row) Don Gifford, Diane Pishny McCue, Harry Kitzman, Bob Christiansen, Don Riegelman, Jim Roepke, Geraldine Fiedler Ulcek, Ron Mau, Faye Vierk Witt.



CLASS OF 1963

The Class of 1963's 60th reunion began with a tour of RLHS on Aug. 5, followed by lunch at Meadowbrook Country Club.

Pictured L-R: (back row) George Kling, Bill Hurtienne, Bruce Haselhuhn; (third row) Jim Hanneman, Jerry Voll, Ron Nommensen, Russ Hook, Roger Ferch, Ed Luther, John Blask, Walter Miller, JoAnn Krueger Haselhuhn; (second row) Bill Mortensen, Lynne Robbins Glick, Laura Francis Staven, Dawn Naumann Ferch; (front row) Cheryl Zimmerman Zwaga, Judy Klaus Hurtienne, Kathy (Cizmar) Hagemann, Sue Gatzke Prough, Kathy Friedericks Stanis, Lynn Guentzel Wozniak.

If your graduation year ends in 4 or 9, it's a milestone anniversary in 2024! Let us help you plan something big to celebrate. Contact klong@RacineLutheran.org to start your plans!



CLASS OF 1973

The Class of 1973 gathered at RLHS on Sept. 10 for its 50th reunion. After they toured the school, the celebration continued at Wells Brothers restaurant. (Picture 1 in RLHS Old Gym) L-R: Robin Trick Milaeger, Phyllis Weise Mortenson, Curtiss Petersen, Jim Kalb, Linda Walker Kramer, Dan Schultz, Beth Miskimen Jackson, Rhonda Weidner Weronke, Vicki Niemczyk Clauer, Charlotte Schaefer Klieve, Diane Weidner Gatzke, Vicky Thorsen Schultz, Jim Roberts. (Picture 2 at MCC) L-R: (back row) Robin Trick Milaeger, Susan Eberhardt, Barbara Borowsky, Diane Growth Leon, Jim Roberts, Ted Diedrich, Curtiss Petersen, Dan Schultz, Jim Kalb, Mark Riegelman, Robin Jacobsen; (front row) Bonnie Preuss Christensen, Phyllis Weise Mortenson, Linda Walker Kramer, Vicki Niemczyk Clauer, Diane Weidner Gatzke, Laura Lacock Kastelic, Lisa Mainland Frost, Rhonda Weidner Weronke, Barbara Borowsky, Margaret Hislop West, Tom Palmer.



CLASS OF 1988

The Class of 1988 celebrated their 35th Reunion the weekend of July 28 and 29. The festivities began with a casual get-together on Friday night, followed by a busy Saturday that included a tour of RLHS, a Milwaukee River cruise, and dinner out. Pictured L-R: (back row) Kari Rench Eschmann, Kathryn Schaefer Czarnecki, Julie Grant Strande, Kayme Kampenga Bell; (front row) Andrea Krause Felle, Tim Hasko, Tonya Pittsley Christiansen.



GOLF OUTING

A special "thank you" to the 35th annual RLHS Golf Outing sponsors, donors, participants, and volunteers for your support! On Aug. 7, 122 golfers enjoyed the camaraderie, friendly competition, beautiful golf course, and delicious food at Meadowbrook Country Club. Since its inception, this event has raised more than \$490,000, with 100 percent of the proceeds directly benefiting the RLHS Athletic Department. Mark your calendars for next year's outing on Aug. 5. (Photo 1) Pictured L-R: TJ Christensen '21, Tyler Christensen (Jr.), Tanner Christensen (Fr.), Torben Christensen (Photo 2) Pictured L-R: Jack Poulson '59, Edwin (Butch) Luther '63.



ALUMNI SOCCER

12 former soccer players, encompassing a range of classes from 1989 to 2023, returned to Franksville Park on Aug. 18 for the annual Alumni vs. current Crusaders soccer game. After ending the game in a 0-0 tie, the RLHS current Crusaders team won in penalty kicks 4-1. Thank you to all the students, players, parents, and fans who came out and supported this fun event! Pictured alumni L-R: (back) Thomas Asher '19, Mason Wagner '18, Trenton Tenner '18, Chris Troop '17, Logan Schoff '23, Simon Theuer '17, Steve Theuer '89; (front) Nehemiah Falaschi '22, Austin Ortiz '19, Sam Theuer '16, Matt Patzke '08, Steel Falaschi '23.

If you are interested in getting an alumni game together for your sport or convening a reunion for one of your favorite clubs/activities, please reach out to klong@RacineLutheran.org.



MISSION

VALUES

SCHOOL YEAR THEME

PARENTS



DID YOU KNOW...

If you're 70½ or older, you can consider a tax-free charitable gift to Racine Lutheran High School from your individual retirement account (IRA) up to \$100,000! Want to hear more? Please reach out to klong@RacineLutheran.org.