

Graduates Blessing 2015 May 24, 2015

Blessing of Graduates

Pastor: We are delighted to honor you as you graduate from high school and college. We are proud of you! It is our privilege to affirm you as members of this congregation. You have completed an important phase of your lives and you are entering another.

Graduating 2015:
Danielle Balbach
Larynn McKenzie Shumaker
Carl Wayne Kurth
Daniel Adam Kurth

Pastor: I ask you to affirm your commitment to a life of faith in the body of Christ. Graduates, as you celebrate your achievements and prepare for your new endeavors, do you thank God for the many ways your faith has been your strength and guide?

Graduates: With God's help I do.

Pastor: As you consider the next steps of your journey of life, do you acknowledge God going with you, before you, behind you, below you, above you, and within you?

Graduates: With God's help I do.

Pastor: As you make choices about your new endeavors, do you promise to remain connected to the church, offering your gifts to the world as part of the body of Christ and receiving the support of a family of faith?

Graduates: With God's help I do.

The assembly stands. The leader addresses the assembly with these words.

Pastor: People of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, listen: Do you claim these graduates as brothers and sisters in Christ, called to ministry according to their talents?

Congregation: In God's love, we claim them.

Pastor: As their home congregation, do you promise to support them, take an interest in their future, be with them in their celebration and sadness, and welcome them whenever they return to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Congregation: In God's love, we support them.

Pastor: Do you promise to faithfully pray for these brothers and sisters, placing their futures into God's loving hands as they make their choices?

Congregation: In God's love, we pray for them.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, you bless your servants with many achievements. We give thanks especially today for the milestones that these graduates have attained. As they begin new phases of their lives, may they know your love in all the experiences they have. Bless the parents of these students, who have raised their children and nourished them in Christian faith. Give them strength in your holy presence, and give them many joyful reunions with their sons and daughters, those who are leaving home to go far away, and those staying close by. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Go out into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Larynn McKenzie Shumaker daughter of Neal and Cynthia Shumaker is graduating from North Central College in Naperville, IL. Larynn played basketball for the Lady Cardinals for 3 years. She works on campus at Res/Rec & Merner Fieldhouse. Larynn did her Internship at Naperville Central High School with the Football Team. Larynn received an All Conference Team for Basketball. Her research group was selected to present at N.C.U. R. (National Conference on Undergraduate Research) in Washington. She went to Colorado over spring break to work for Habitat for Humanity. Larynn will continue her education at A. T. Still University in Mesa, AZ to get her Masters Degree in Athletic Training. She has a Grad Assistantship at an area school as an Athletic Trainer.

Carl Wayne Kurth, son of Wayne and Janis Kurth, is graduating Western Illinois University with a Master of Music Degree in Music Education with an Emphasis in Conducting. After graduating from Lena Winslow High School, Carl attended Highland Community College graduating with an Associate of Arts in Music Degree and then attended the University of Wisconsin Platteville where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education. Carl was the Assistant Band Director at Lena Winslow School District for four years and then moved to the V.I.T. School District in Table Grove, Illinois where he has been Director of Bands for the past nine years. Carl has professional affiliations with: National Association for Music Education, Illinois Music Educators Association, North American Saxophone Alliance, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Carl, his wife Jessica ,and children Tristan and Loran live in Ipava, Illinois. Carl plans on continuing to teach his students the enjoyment of learning to play an instrument and to make music for others to enjoy

Daniel Adam Kurth, son of Wayne and Janis Kurth is graduating from Western Illinois University with a Bachelor Degree of Science with a Major in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration and a Minor in Recreation, Park, and Tourism **Administration**. During Daniel's studies he has achieved a grade point average high enough to accredit him with the honor as graduating with Cum Laude Honors. Daniel participated in numerous student organizations such as the national Honors Law Enforcement Fraternity Alpha Phi Sigma; the Nation Law Enforcement Fraternity Lambda Alpha Epsilon; a founding member of the WIU chapter of Delta Epsilon Iota; and finally serving as the Vice President of the Horn Environmental Learning Project.

Through out the last year, Daniel has achieved the necessary criteria to graduate as a student of the Honors Program within the School of Law Enforcement and Justice Administration and will thus be recognized in the Honors Convocation at WIU. Due to Daniel's high academic success, Daniel was able to consecutively achieve the recognition of being on the **Dean's List during the four semesters of his continued education at WIU**. Lastly while at WIU, Daniel volunteered throughout the college and other local events by offering his talents and services in such ways as helping in controlled burns at Horn Field Campus as well as volunteering as an Ambassador of WIU for the National Gang Crime Research Center at their annual training seminar in Chicago, Illinois. In future years, Daniel will seek out a career as an Officer of the Law. Daniel intends to accomplish this by first working over the summer at his normal summer job at Canyon Camp BSA. Following camp, Daniel is applying to be part of the Police Academy Class of Fall 2015 at the Blackhawk Technical College of Janesville, Wisconsin. Following tentative graduation of the Academy, Daniel will be seeking a Law Enforcement position in the state of Wisconsin