

ALUMNI OF HOLY GHOST

embers

FALL 2021-2022



A LOOK BACK:

HELEN JAGOW REMEBERS
1950'S HOLY GHOST

WELCOME OUR

NEWEST ALUMNI

THE CLASS OF 2021!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

A LOOK AT SOME OF
OUR MOST BELOVED
TEACHERS

THE GALAXY AT
HER FINGERTIPS:

Meet **MEAGHANN
STOELTING**

Spirit

From Melissa and Lynette...



We are delighted to present to you the very first Alumni Newsletter, "The Embers." We hope that you enjoy it! The Alumni group has been something that has been floating around in our minds for the past several years. We are so happy to finally get it up and running.

We realized as we were producing this issue that many people might not know who we are. So wanted to introduce ourselves...

Lynette Boesken (Klettke)

Class of '97

You might recognize me from my family. My parents Neal ('70) and Susan Klettke or my brothers Andy ('99) and Ted ('03) or even my grandparents Ivan and Jean Klettke (Camann) ('44)

I attended Holy Ghost between the years of 1987 and 1997 from Preschool through 8th grade. After Holy Ghost I graduated in the top 10 of my class at Niagara Wheatfield in 2001 and went on to earn my Bachelors in Mathematics at Valparaiso University in Indiana in 2005. From there I worked for Delaware North Companies for two years before moving to South Carolina where I worked at Coastal Carolina University for eight and a half years until I moved back home after the birth of my son. Since then I have been working part-time at Daemen College while living in Wheatfield with my husband Mark and our kids, Stone and Pia who both currently attend Holy Ghost.

It was during my time away where I grew to appreciate how special it was to be a part of a school like Holy Ghost and the documented history

that comes with it. During my transition home it was a pleasure reconnecting with old friends, and I recall being surprised at how many former Holy Ghost students were now sending their kids to the school. It was at that time I realized that others might enjoy reconnecting and reminiscing as well and set out to create a platform to do so.

Melissa Forsey (Fuerch)

Class of '95

Lynette has been one of my best friends since childhood so when she asked me to help her run this alumni group, of course I had to say yes! You might know me through my parents Les ('66) and Mary ('69), grandparents Eugene ('35) and Janice Camann and Norbert ('32) and Arene Fuerch, or siblings Matthew ('97), Michael ('98), and Rebecca ('01).

I attended Holy Ghost from preschool through 8th grade and graduated in a class of three! (What a blessing to see how the school has grown through the years.) I continued at Niagara Wheatfield and UB, earning a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology and worked in that field at Alden and Newfane school districts until my first daughter was born and I began my vocation as a Piano Teacher at Holy Ghost. My husband Craig ('96) and I have been married 15 years and have been blessed to send our own children to Holy Ghost – Abby (new alumni '21!) and Norah (6th grade).

The Holy Ghost community is very much a part of both of our identities and so we are looking forward to documenting our experiences with our fellow alumni!

-L & M



embers

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If you have not done so already, be sure to complete our **Alumni Survey**



Encourage your alumni friends and family to do the same!

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THE NEWEST ALUMNI

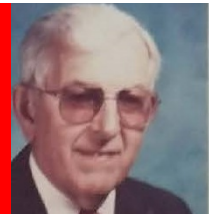


MEET MEAGHANN STOELTING
ALUMNI PROFILE

5

8

OUR FAVORITE TEACHERS



A LIFE AT HOLY GHOST
WITH HELEN JAGOW

13

On Deck For Fall

Join your fellow alumni for a 5K run or family friendly 1 mile fun run/walk on Saturday, September 25th at 9:30 am. Race starts at Holy Ghost Lutheran School on Luther Street in Bergholz.



REGISTER AT [RUNSIGNUP.COM](https://runsignup.com)

MEET THE NEWEST ALUMNI

Holy Ghost's Class of...

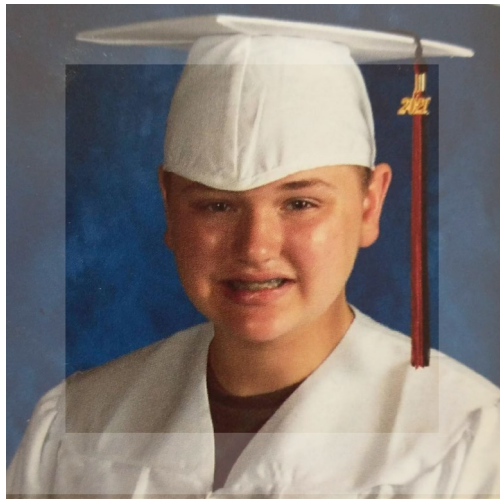




Luke DeVantier
Attending Christian Academy



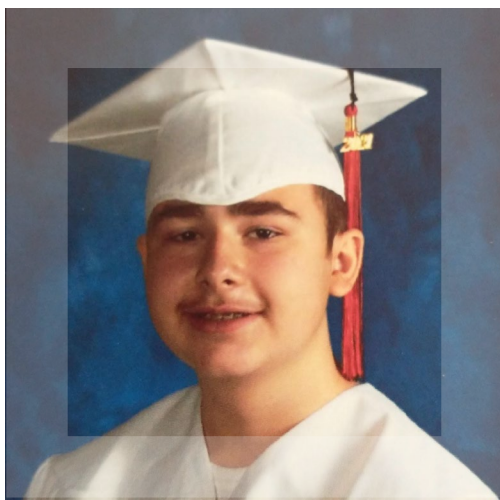
Roman Doyle
Attending Cardinal O'Hara



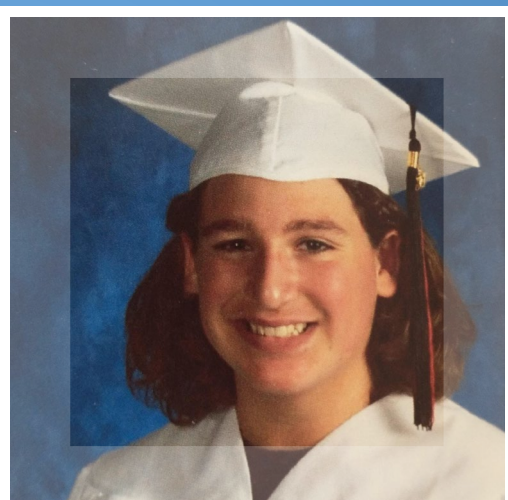
Richie Fiori
Attending Niagara Wheatfield



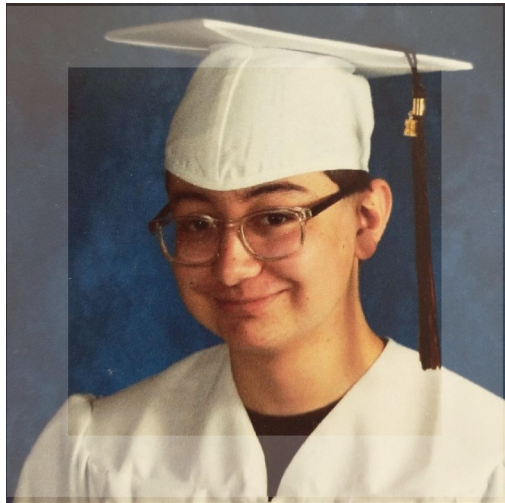
Abby Forsey, Salutatorian
Attending Starpoint



Anthony Gerbec
Attending Niagara Wheatfield



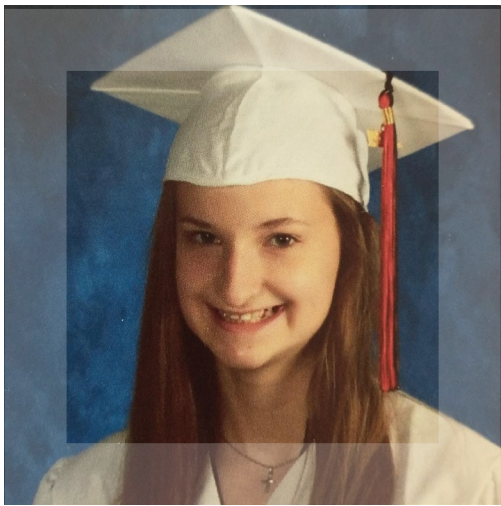
Jay Heuser
Attending North Tonawanda



Vinny Morinello
Attending Cardinal O'Hara



Jason Nowakowski
Attending Niagara Wheatfield



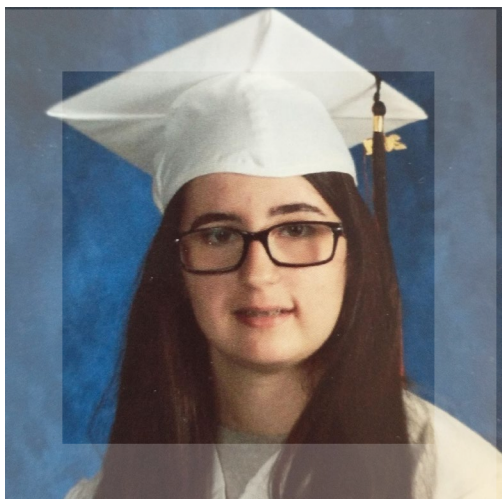
Rachel Rohring, Valedictorian
Attending Buffalo Seminary



Ryan Schoelles
Attending Niagara Wheatfield



Ellis Smith
Attending Niagara Falls



Madyson Specht
Attending Niagara Wheatfield



“ I think attending such a small school for so long HELPS ME REMEMBER

“MY ROOTS” ”

- Meaghann Stoelting

MEET MEAGHANN STOELTING HG Class of 2008

Meaghann Stoelting always had a love for science and so it is no surprise that her career has landed her in Columbia, Missouri working as the planetarium director for the local school district. “In one of the district’s high schools, there is a 40 ft. planetarium theater with both a digital and an original analog star projector. Each school year, about 10,000-15,000 people visit from the public schools, private schools, homeschools, and daycares throughout central Missouri.” She organizes the events and loves seeing the students each week for field trips. The district’s science department is very large and places much emphasis on outdoor and non-traditional learning “which makes my job very fun!”

You might remember Meaghann. She graduated Holy Ghost in 2008 after attending since preschool in 1998. “I think nearly everyone reading this knows my grandparents, Duane and Lois, from various church and school events”. Her parents are Norm and Cheryl, and her brother Jordon “is still in WNY after graduating from NU in 2020 and planning his own wedding for 2023.” While her other brother Jeremy, “has been living and working in the NYC area for the last two years.”

After graduating from Holy Ghost, Meaghann graduated from Wilson High School in 2012. She then received her Bachelor’s Degree in Astrophysics from Alfred University in 2016,



Movie –
Lord of the Rings:
Return of the
King

Meaghann’s
Favorites:

View
of the sunset at
Wilson pier

Musician –
will always always
always love the
Backstreet
Boys

Visiting
the Niagara Gorge
Whirlpool trail

and her Master's degree in Astrophysical Science and Technology from RIT in 2019. During her studies she started doing a lot of teaching and science communication via summer camps, science museums, planetariums, and observatories. It was while working at the Rochester Museum and Science Center's Strasenburgh Planetarium, that she knew she wanted to continue working in planetariums in the future.


"During college, I knew that people studying astronomy typically end up completing a PhD and then continue on to keep doing research. I also knew I DID NOT want to do that as I hated actually doing the research part. I loved reading science journals and papers and then teaching other people about it, as well as thinking of ways to better explain and teach different topics. After working at RMSC in Rochester, I really loved the museum and planetarium field and wanted to stay in informal education. Even though I work for a public school district, I am not a licensed classroom teacher, I only teach summer and day camps, field trips, or astronomy lab activities. I never thought I would work for a school, but here we are!"

Following her schooling, Meaghann ended up in Columbia, Missouri after applying to "literally every planetarium in the continental US that was hiring at the time, not caring about where it was." Columbia is almost exactly in the middle of the state, and is home to the University of Missouri so it is a BIG college town and everyone loves Mizzou football. It's two hours each way to KC and STL on the interstate and about 30 minutes north of Jefferson City, the state capital.

She currently resides there with her fiancé Thom and their dog Rizzo. "We both work full-time here in Columbia and are currently planning our wedding happening (fingers crossed, post-COVID) next summer in August 2022."



In her free time Meaghann enjoys painting her nails. "I am absolutely no pro, but I don't want to go to the salon when I can paint them myself! I watch probably way too much YouTube of people painting nails and doing makeup." Since moving to Missouri and especially during COVID, both Meaghann and Thom have gotten very into Dungeons and Dragons. "I have always loved loved loved fantasy and don't know why I never got into it earlier because I knew people in college who played. Creating new characters is very fun and I also watch webseries and listen to podcasts of other campaigns."

<p>Favorite Bible Verse: Matthew 28:20 Favorite Subject: Math Favorite Sport: Volleyball Favorite Quote: "Do you remember the taste of strawberries and cream?" - Sam Gamgee Will be Attending: Wilson high school Future Plans: Get through high school Legacy: Cheerleading uniform to Hannah "Bus driving" to Julie</p>	 <p>Meaghann Stoelting</p>
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We asked Meaghann some questions reflecting on her time at Holy Ghost. Here is what she had to say:

- *Can you recall what a typical day would be like at Holy Ghost while you attended?*

I feel Holy Ghost changed so much in the ten years that I attended, it's hard to remember! I don't remember the older kids changing classes when I was in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades, but then once our class reached 5th-8th grades, we changed classes and had such a different schedule.

- *Who was your favorite teacher at Holy Ghost and why?*

How can I choose one!? Simply based on memories and also to give her a huge shout out, I think I want to give this to Mrs. Tafel, my 5th grade teacher. It was her first year teaching (I believe) and we were an absolutely terrible class LOL. I have such good memories during that year in her class and I feel during both 5th and 6th grade I really learned and grew up.

- *What were some of your favorite activities at Holy Ghost?*

I loved the old metal playground before they built the new one. I know it was probably a human health hazard and dangerous but I still miss going out to recess and playing on the big slide and the bar! I also loved playing four square in the morning in the gym while waiting to walk down to our classrooms. Pin bombardment also became a thing during the time I was there and will always be a favorite game.

- *What is something during your time at Holy Ghost that you think would surprise current Holy Ghost students?*

Like I said, I feel like Holy Ghost changed so much during the time that I was there into what it is now. The four newest classrooms were built, the old metal playground was torn down, the new yellow playground was built, the old stained glass on the front of church was covered up, and the current circle drive was put in. Kindergarten with Mrs. Stenzel was also still in the church basement!

- *Who was your best friend(s) at Holy Ghost? What were your favorite things to do with your friends?*

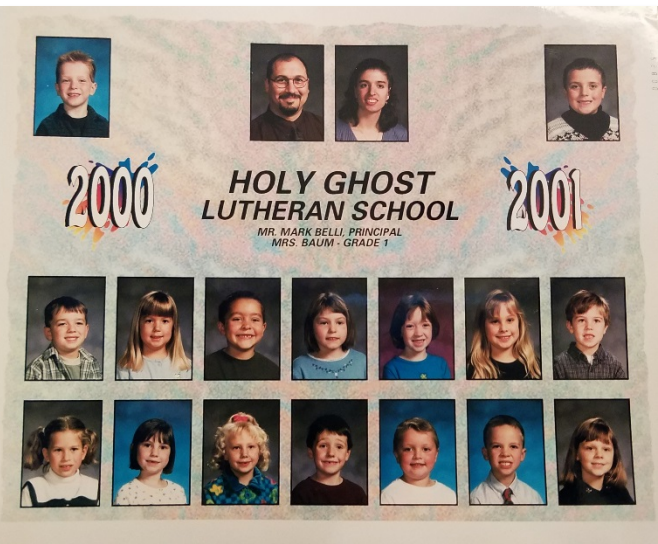
I had great memories with all the girls in my class and still think about them all frequently! Adrienne Demmin, Jessica Hastings, Kelsey Nielsen, and Afton Demster all went through the majority of Holy Ghost together with me and I thought of them all as best friends at one point or another. I also have good memories of all the girls I did cheerleading with from 4th-8th grade! I could never list all of them, but it was so much fun.

- *What were some of your favorite traditions that you can recall during your time at Holy Ghost?*

I don't know if this would be a tradition, but I loved doing chapel buddies. Both when I was little and when I was a chapel buddy myself during 7th and 8th grade!



even Alfred is VERY small compared to say, UB. But both of these places are much different and much bigger than Holy Ghost. I really enjoyed attending smaller schools for so long and really got to know the people, places, and things around me. It's also so interesting working in a very large school and school district and comparing it to my experience. The high school I currently work at has about as many students as Alfred University did total when I was student there. I have no idea how teachers here create the feeling of familiarity and secureness that I had while at Holy Ghost. I think that was crucial to my experience.



- *What do you think makes Holy Ghost School special/unique?*

I am sure so many other school alumni and teachers would say the same, but I think all the teachers and staff cared so much for the students and really worked together to help everyone. I know all the teachers were good friends on top of coworkers and I really noticed that when teachers visited classrooms and talked to us students, etc. It was nice to see everyone, both students and teachers, get along and work together. ■

- *How do you think Holy Ghost school helped shape you as a person?*

I think attending such a small school for so long helps me remember "my roots" if you will. I really liked having small classes where you felt like you were friends with everyone and the teacher. Wilson High School is small compared to NW or Starpoint and

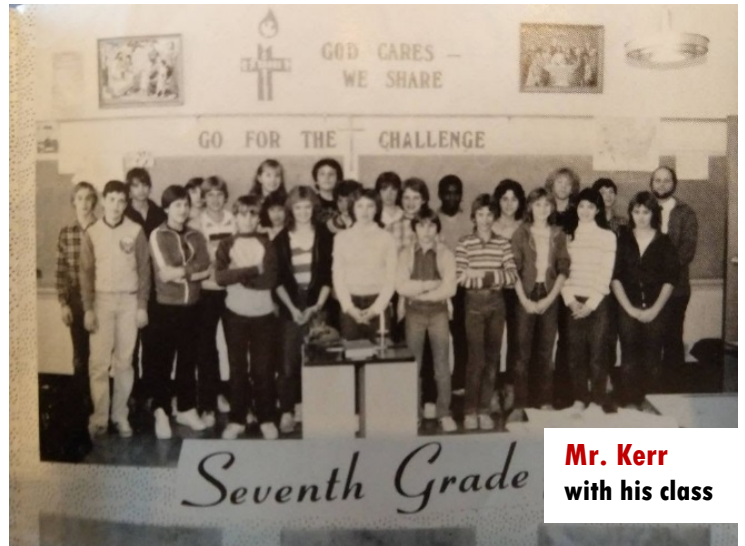


A LOOK BACK

Last spring for Teacher Appreciation Week we asked our Alumni to share with us their favorite Holy Ghost teacher and what made them so special. Here is what they had to say..

Mr. Kromphardt

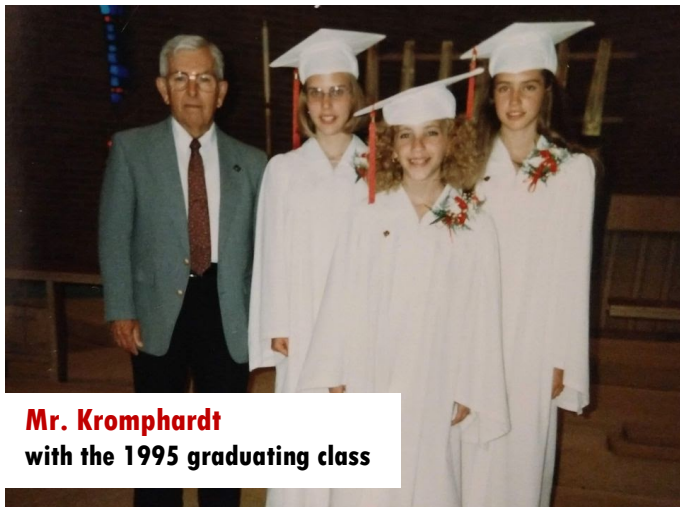
A memorable principal and 7th-8th grade teacher in the 1990s. Kindhearted and easygoing, always with a smile and a story to tell, he is remembered for his famous and sometimes cringe-worthy "Mr. Kromphardt jokes" (Gee, I'm a tree!). He retired in 1995 but still refers to his past students as his "kids" and enjoys keeping up to date on their lives. He is still living in the area and attends Holy Ghost church.



**Mr. Kerr
with his class**

Mrs. Wurl

A memorable kindergarten teacher in the 1950s. Her students recall how she would let her classes play often in the huge sandbox, which was INSIDE the old school where the current church stands.



**Mr. Kromphardt
with the 1995 graduating class**

Miss Gartenman



A beloved 1st-2nd grade teacher in late 1980s. She is remembered for her hugs, being gentle, kind and encouraging, and having a genuine and loving nature. She let her students and their families know she cared deeply for them. She enjoyed her

students so much (and they loved her back) that she would often let them stay after school just to be in her classroom with her.



Mr. Kerr

The cool 7th-8th grade teacher in the 1980s.



Students remember him for being an all around good guy. He was patient and communicated effortlessly with his students, which made learning easy. He often played his guitar at school.

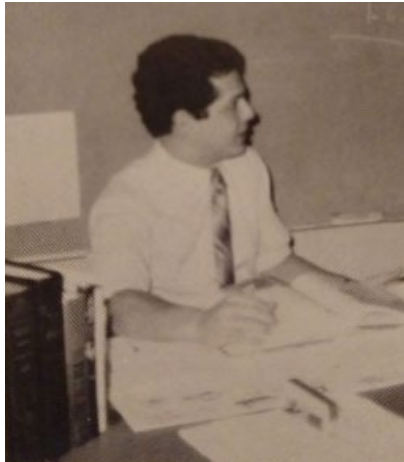
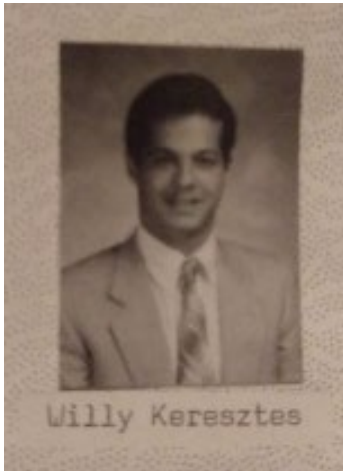




Miss Gartenman
with her 1st graders

Mr. Keresztes

An energetic 5th-6th grade teacher in the 1980s. His first teaching job was at Holy Ghost and he was excited about teaching which made his classroom fun. Students recall that he made up songs on his guitar to help students learn new concepts. He also taught students to write essays and projects and challenged them to do more than they believed themselves capable of doing. Mr. Keresztes went on to become an education administrator and Buffalo councilman.



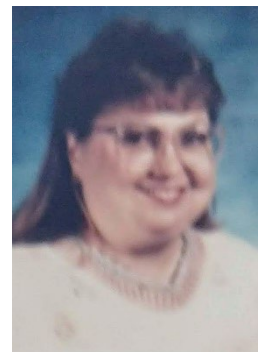
Mr. Keresztes
with his class

Mr. Stamm

A renowned grades 6-8 teacher and principal in the 1960s. He is remembered as a man of high character who prepared his students well for high school. He continued his teaching career after Holy Ghost in the midwest.

Mrs. Woodley

A much-loved kindergarten then ultimately a 3rd-4th grade teacher throughout 1990s-2020. She is remembered for challenging her students and taking an interest in what they love. Her class pets were a huge hit with the kids every year. She is known for her love of music and she directed musicals and choirs from the time she began at Holy Ghost until her retirement in 2020! She is also a Holy Ghost alumnus and church member.



Mrs. Woodley
with the choir in the mall



Mrs. Woodley
Directed many school musicals

Mrs. Witkop

A beloved 3rd-4th grade teacher in the 1970s. She is remembered for her hugs and being loving and kind. She loved music and directed the school musicals. Students recall that shared her life experiences with

them which helped them grow. She believed in her students and expected a lot from them. Her students remember her spelling marathons and playing mum ball, as well as when Mrs. Witkop would read Uncle Wiggly to her class after lunch and do all the voices.



Mrs. Voelker



A beloved preschool teacher and Home Ec. teacher throughout the 1980s-2000s. She is remembered for being gentle and sweet, with songs for every occasion. Her Home Ec. students fondly remember her cooking classes in the school kitchen, where she taught them to bake things from cookies and brownies to pancakes and her



Mrs. Voelker
with her preschoolers

famous rice pudding. She continues to bake her sweet confections for her family including grandchildren and great-grandchildren! She is also a Holy Ghost alumna and church member.



Mrs. Forsey (or 4C)

A wonderful 2nd-4th grade teacher as well as filling roles of principal and gym teacher throughout the 1980s-1990s. She is remembered for lots of laughter in the classroom and making learning fun.



She was always a silly, joyful and spunky teacher with a perpetual positive attitude, and was also known for her love of M&Ms. Students recall learning Bible stories

and books through song and acting in her classroom (specifically the story of Moses and the burning bush- can anyone remember this song? and Zaccheus), playing 7-up, building tepees in the classroom. She was creative and crafty and let the kids take control of decorating the room for Christmas. Mrs. Forsey still belongs to Holy Ghost church and her fun, creative, and positive outlook continues to be enjoyed by all who know her.



Mr. Bohleber

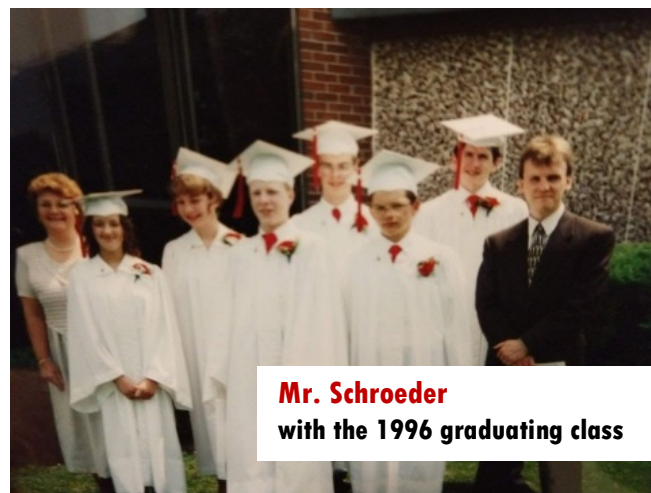
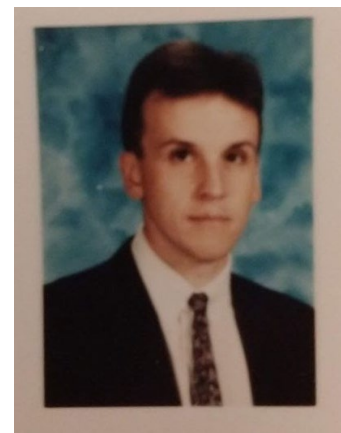


A fun 3rd-4th grade teacher in the early 1970s. Students say he spoke with a southern drawl. He is remembered for being a great teacher who kept his students' attention and interest. He made learning fun and enjoyed games in the classroom - one student recalls how he would try to shoot his piece of chalk

down her bell shaped sleeves when she raised her hand. Another student recalls how he gave his class extra recess time to finish up a ball game so it wouldn't end in a tie.

Mr. Schroeder

A wonderful 7th-8th grade teacher in the 1990s. He is remembered for making learning fun every day. He was thoughtful and helpful to his students, and he let them know he believed in them and their potential. Students remember their exciting Boston class trip with Mr. Schroeder. He is also a Holy Ghost alumnus.



Mr. Gade Found in a document from Holy Ghost's 1993 One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary that reflected on favorite teachers from the past.

My favorite teacher was Mr. Hugo W. Gade [1927-1934] grades 1-8. Even though Mr. Gade operated a one-room school with an average of 50 pupils, he taught us all as individuals. he taught not only the required subject matter, but he also taught us Christian ideals and attitudes, mostly by his own example. We obeyed him not because we had to, but because we wanted to. His concern for us continued even after we left Holy Ghost school. Mr. Gade was not only a great teacher, he was an outstanding Christian gentleman. He, in cooperation with Mr. Theodore Grabau of St. James, helped to heal the breach between Holy Ghost and St. James and thereby laid the foundation for bringing about fellowship between the two Lutheran Churches in Bergholz.

Aside from my parents, Mr. Gade had the greatest influence on my life!
Eugene Camann

My favorite teacher was Hugo W. Gade grades 1-8. He taught all 8 grades in one room. He was a truly dedicated man of God who also taught us how to play and housekeeping techniques for inside and the school grounds. Next to my father he was the greatest. I thank God for his influence on me

Roland Camann



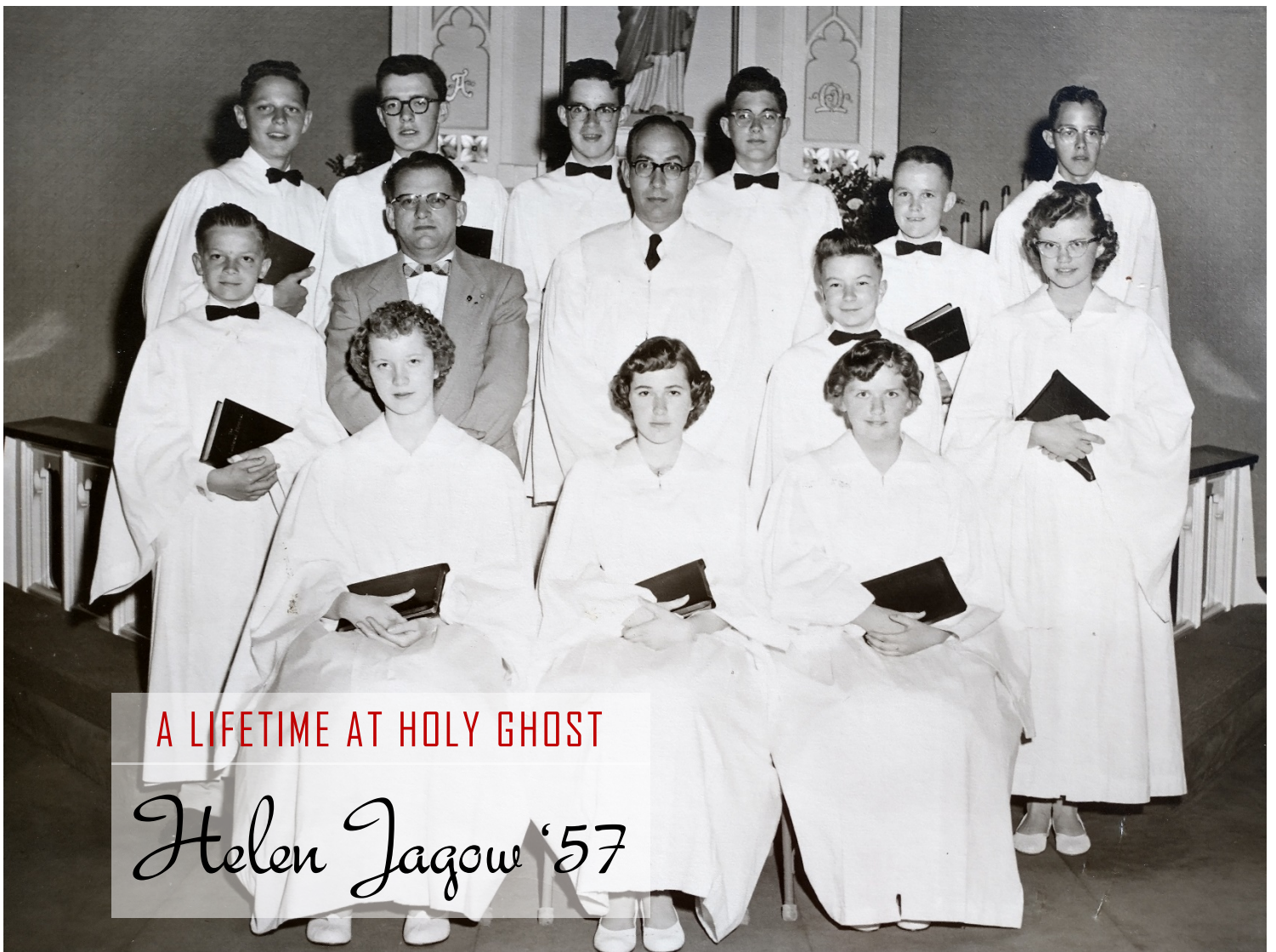
Miss Mueller

A wonderful grades 1-2 teacher in the early 1960s. She is described as exactly how you would imagine a perfect teacher to be. She was soft spoken, loving and kind. Her students recall how they would gather around the piano while she played it and would sing songs like Go Tell Aunt Rhody. Presently her name is Mrs. Lange and she attends Holy Ghost church.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

To submit a Class Note online, go to:
alumniofholyghost.godaddysites.com





Helen with her Confirmation class in 1957

Helen Jagow attended Holy Ghost from 1948-1957 and recalls that class began each and every day with prayer and Bible study.

“First and foremost, Holy Ghost instilled in me the love of Jesus. Every day began with Bible lessons and memory work. These memory verses have been my guide all through the years.”

It will come as no surprise that you can find Helen in the pews at Holy

Ghost church every Sunday morning. She lives her life in the way she was taught at school, “to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, to readily forgive my enemies, to be humble and to treat others as I would like to be treated.” She is thankful to God for parents who brought her up in a Christian environment and for the privilege of attending a Christian day school.

When Helen attended Holy Ghost, there were four grades per classroom, which she thought was great because students all learned from those in other grades. Following lessons, she and her classmates enjoyed playing outdoors, taking

walks or swinging and using the slide on nice days, and making snowmen in the winter during recess. She also recalls playing kickball, baseball, track and field day, and field trips to the Buffalo Museum of Science and the zoo.



Mr. George Gerdes

Helen's favorite teacher at Holy Ghost was Mr. George Gerdes, who always had time to answer questions about anything his students asked, was patient, caring and helpful.

She believes Holy Ghost was and remains so special because of loving and caring teachers, a quality education, and most importantly that "Jesus is first and foremost in the classrooms and is the foundation for learning." Her fondest memories

include Sunday School picnics, where the children often dressed up and paraded around Bergholz along with rides, games, and pony rides. She also has fond memories of singing upstairs in the old church and being part of the Christmas pageants, after which the children would receive brown paper bags of candy and peanuts. Following her graduation from Holy



Kindergarten teacher in the mid-1960's



Helen with one of the kindergarten classes she taught, on the stage in the school gym

Ghost, Helen attended Niagara-Wheatfield High School, graduating in 1961. She was able to return to Holy Ghost as a kindergarten teacher for three years before going on to work for NRD (Nuclear Radiation Developers) on Grand Island. Here she worked with americium, polonium, and tritium, loading



Helen retired in 2008 after working 22 years for NRD

radioactive foil into small rivets with an airpen before they were crimped and inspected for use in smoke alarms. She retired in 2008 after twenty-two years with the company.

Helen was the youngest of five children (three brothers now deceased), and she and her siblings were all baptized, attended school, and were confirmed at Holy Ghost. She has a son, Christopher, a daughter-in-law, Rebecca, and two terrific grandsons, Benjamin (17) and Nathan (12). A lifelong resident of Wheatfield, Helen is active in the community, providing transportation to doctor appointments and senior groups for those in need of a ride. She enjoys biking, pool walking, jigsaw puzzles, board games, bonfires in her backyard with friends and neighbors, and spending time with her family and grandsons. ■



Helen, on the right, with two classmates from Holy Ghost, Margaret (now deceased) and Marlene

Who were your friends at Holy Ghost & what were your favorite things to do together?

Mary Wilkson, Margaret Stoelting, & Marlene Haseley. We enjoyed taking walks at recess, attending birthday parties, and going roller skating at Rainbow Roller Rink in North Tonawanda.



MEET THE MEGA ROOM

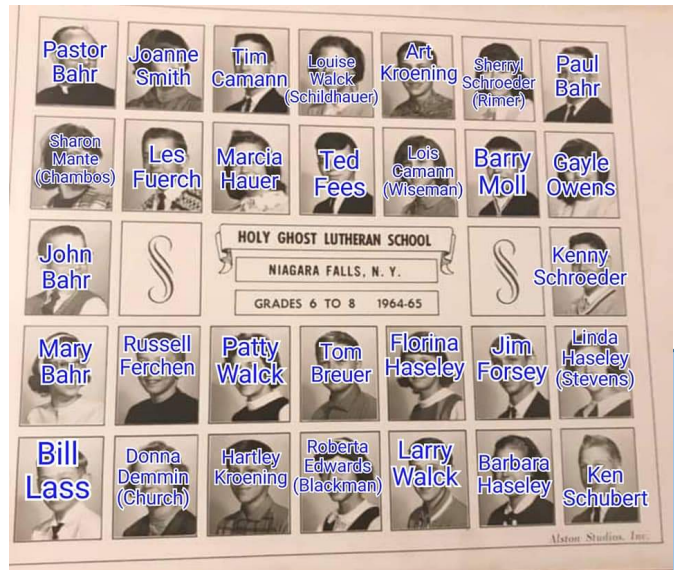


The 2020-2021 school year was certainly unlike any other that Holy Ghost School had encountered before. While there were many changes that took place, one of the most notable was the temporary classroom built inside of the school gym. Lovingly called the “Mega Room” this space allowed middle school students the extra space needed to meet proper social distancing protocols.

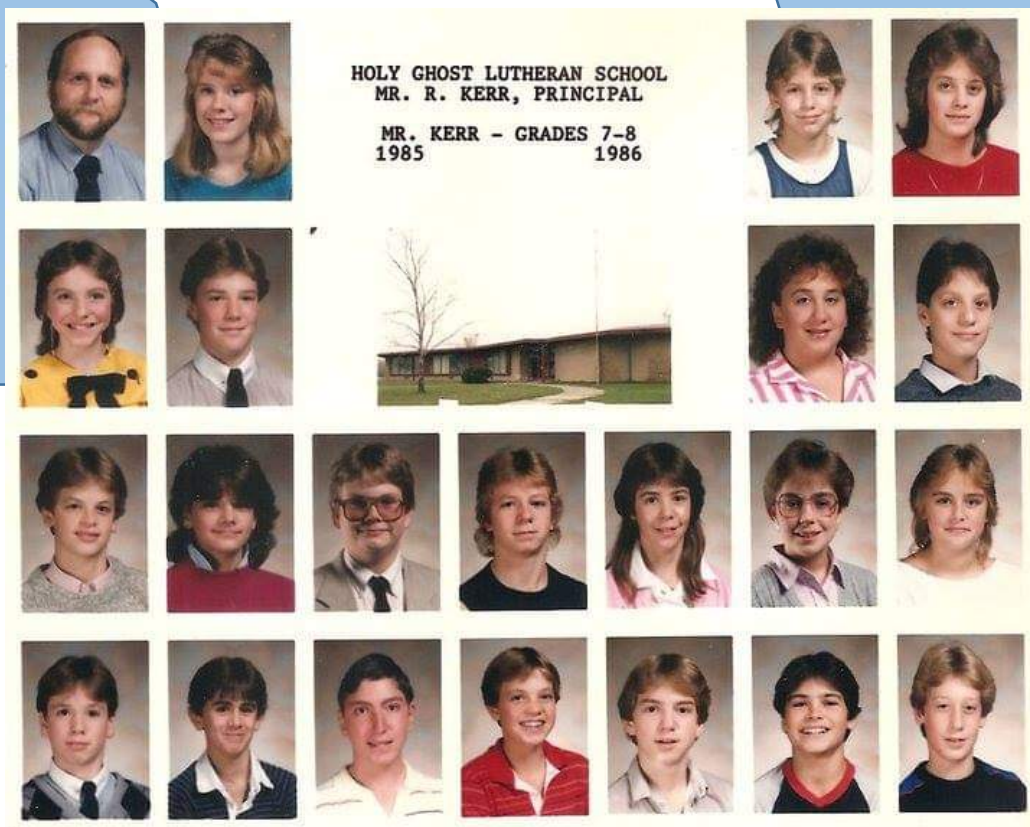


CAN YOU NAME THESE ALUMNI?

Last spring we had some fun on social media determining who's who in this 1964-65 class photo:



Let's see if we can do it again with this 1985-86 class photo:



Submit your answers to our social media pages, and check the next newsletter for the answers!

ALUMNI OF HOLY GHOST

6630 Luther Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14304



embers [em-bərs]

(plural noun)

slowly fading emotions, memories, ideas or responses still capable of being revived

After asking the alumni for help in coming up with a name for our brand new newsletter we knew we had a winner right away when Debbie Markant Nowakowski recommended “embers.” A play on words for members and sort of like flames – the beloved Holy Ghost mascot – it appropriately reflects how as alumni we are past our time as the Holy Ghost Flames but we are very much still ‘part of the fire’. So welcome embers! We are looking forward to reviving many memories together!