

## 2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



**Craig Ernstmeyer**

Craig Ernstmeyer is a 1988 graduate of Lincoln Lutheran Junior High. He went on to attend Lincoln Northeast High School and Concordia University where he received a degree in Secondary Education. Craig served as a math educator at Lutheran High South in St. Louis, MO and Lincoln Lutheran High School before moving into leadership as the Principal and Head Administrator at Saxony Lutheran High School in Jackson, MO. Craig currently serves as the Head of School for Lutheran High School in St. Charles, MO. He received his Educational Doctorate from the University of Missouri in 2010.

While serving as Head Administrator for Saxony Lutheran, Craig provided leadership for strong enrollment growth taking the new school from a student body of 57 to 196. He also led two separate building projects for the high school totaling over \$6 million.

Craig stated his education at Lincoln Lutheran helped prepare him for life in the following ways: “Lincoln Lutheran helped me to see Jesus is part of my every day. I went to a public school through sixth grade so this thinking was new to me. I had seen it on Sunday mornings at Immanuel, but Lincoln Lutheran brought Sunday morning and Jesus into my week. It also taught me hard work and giving it your best. It provided that firm foundation that would be leaned on as I got older. Finally, it prepared me for life because my vocation as a Church Worker would not have happened without the impact and influence of John Roeber as well as Don Duitsman, Mike Breckel and Paul Leckband.”

When asked what some of his favorite memories from Lincoln Lutheran were, Craig shared: “Beating Trinity, Grand Island, who was led in scoring by Coach Jason Glines, in the Roundball Tournament in 7th grade. We won 41-37 and I think Coach Glines had 35 of their points. We were later teammates at Concordia Nebraska. I always appreciated Mr. Roeber’s gentle encouragement to “do your best, or else.” I also enjoyed the close community and knowing all of my classmates, which was helpful when

your mom gets pulled over for running a yellow, ok slightly red light and the trooper turns out to be a former classmate who recognized the Ernstmeyer name.”

When asked what advice he would share with current Lincoln Lutheran students, Craig replied: “Try new things. Get outside your comfort zone because it’s only when you get outside your comfort zone that you grow and reach the heights God intended you to reach. Second, keep track of the big things and let the little things pass, they won’t be remembered in the big scheme of life. Finally, life is 10% about what happens to you and 90% how you respond!”

Craig and his wife Tammy make their home in St. Charles, MO where they both enjoy spending time watching their children participate in a variety of activities. Craig and Tammy are blessed with three children, Amanda (16), Ashley (14) and Drew (12).