

## Volunteer Handymen Take On Valley's Toughest Chores



Many volunteers help out around Valley Lutheran doing such things as taking tickets at games, working with students one on one, and stuffing envelopes for large mailings.

In addition, **Gary Engelhardt, Larry Klemish, Gary Guerin, Ron Berlin** and **John Herzog** spend countless hours volunteering their time at Valley, fixing and installing as needed. Executive Director Dr. John Brandt considers their help invaluable: "It is inspiring to witness these men share so freely of their time and talents because they love our Lord and love our school," he said. "The skills shared by these volunteers are gifts worth tens of thousands of dollars every year. What a wonderful gift to each family, as those dollars do not have to come from tuition!"

While helping school custodian Mr. Jerry Neuenfeldt cut the lawn and fields surrounding Valley keeps Mr. Klemish and Gary Guerin on regular schedules, the others show up whenever

there's a project to tackle. Recently, they put up a new scoreboard in the gym. An on-going project is replacing lights in the gym as the bulbs burn out. In the past, they helped install cabinetry in the chemistry and biology labs.

Mr. Engelhardt helps with appliance repair; Mr. Herzog helps out with simple electrical projects and Mr. Berlin provides support in whatever project they tackle.

"As long as we have coffee, we'll be around," joked Mr. Berlin. He said the coffee was a little scarce in the summer when the staff was reduced. "But we came in, anyway."

Besides providing light maintenance and repair, Mr. Engelhardt said sometimes they get a call from Dr. Brandt merely for advice on what direction to go on a project.

"I believe we all have callings," said Mr. Engelhardt. "Mine is to use my hands, and I serve by doing that. Everyone uses their gifts, and it all helps in the long run."

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

In October, the signs of the changing seasons are everywhere. Football season has started, the maples are beginning their graceful change from luxurious green to brilliant red, and stores' displays abound with pumpkins and candy corn.

Yet, as we look forward to this fall season with its harvest decorations and Halloween costumes, we Christians also celebrate the Festival of the Reformation. A familiar and poignant aspect of this celebration, which is commemorated on October 31st, is Luther's well-loved and powerful hymn, "A Mighty Fortress," the text of which is based upon Psalm 46: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

The connection between Psalm 46 and Luther's hymn may not be immediately apparent. Christ is not explicitly mentioned in this Psalm, though He is the central figure in the hymn. However, Luther's hymn aims to show that we as Christians know that Psalm 46 is in actuality talking about Christ, who is the heart of the Reformation. While the pre-Reformation church subverted the all-sufficient sacrifice of Christ in favor of human works, Luther saw that Christ's work of salvation was central to all of Scripture and the Christian life.

As Christians, it seems that we sometimes struggle to rely completely on Christ. As we are bombarded with self-help books and other programs that promise to restore self-esteem or claim to have found the way to a stress-free, successful, or otherwise idealized life, it becomes all too easy to depend on ourselves for solutions to our problems.

The second stanza of Luther's hymn brings the truth sharply into focus. He presents both our sinful condition "with might of ours can naught be done"

Continued on page 2

## The VL Foundation Corner:

### *You can help now through Project 12 Baskets*

In past months, we have described the advantages of making gifts of cash, check, or stock to the Valley Lutheran Foundation. A very unique way of making a donation is through "Project 12 Baskets," an on-line auction service that converts items into cash for the school. In the last

**VL FOUNDATION**  
*To provide financial support for  
educational and charitable activities  
at Valley Lutheran High School.*

year, furniture, collectibles and jewelry have all been sold through Project 12 Baskets with the proceeds given to the school. For more information, visit the website [www.project12baskets.com](http://www.project12baskets.com)

or call VL Executive Director John Brandt at 989-790-1676.

# “John Lennon and Me” Set for Oct. 23-24

Valley students will perform “John Lennon and Me” Oct. 23-24 at 7 p.m. nightly. This comedy/drama was written by Cherie Bennett and adapted from her popular book, “Good-bye, Best Friend,” published by Harper Paperbacks in 1993. Winner of the Kennedy Center New Visions/New Voices award, “John Lennon and Me” tells the story of a young girl named Star with cystic fibrosis who is also the ultimate Beatles fan. As she spends her days in the hospital, she confronts her deadly disease with a fertile imagination. She and her hospital roommate Courtney, another young girl struggling with illness, come to an understanding of each other’s disparate lives. The play speaks to young audiences of learning to live life to the fullest.



Directed by **Mrs. Renee Brenner**, the production features students **Sarah Askew** and **Emily Peters** in the lead roles of Star and Courtney. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for students, \$20 for a family pass. Call the school office at 790-1676 to purchase tickets in advance.

## Craft Bazaar on Sat., Nov. 7



Join the fun at our annual Craft Bazaar on Sat., Nov. 7, from from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to up to 40 craft booths, home-party consultants will offer demonstrations and information. A luncheon will be available from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. All proceeds will go toward upgrading classroom technology.

Anyone who is interested in reserving a craft booth at the bazaar or interested in helping with the luncheon should contact the school office at 790-1676.

## A Big Thank you!

Since 2006, I have had the privilege of writing this newsletter, letting interested readers like you know about all the great events going on at VLHS, as well as the outstanding accomplishments of the students and faculty. My husband has a new job in another city, and we are moving on to our next adventure. I am passing the baton to Krista Flory, who will take on these additional duties as she continues her job as Dr. Brandt’s assistant.

Thank you to everyone I have ever contacted for a photo or for one more piece of information to tell the story!  
*Cindy Wickersham*

## Mighty Fortress — Continued from page 1

and then our hope: “but for us fights the valiant One.” And in case it isn’t clear enough, Luther continues: “Ask ye, who is this? Jesus Christ it is, of sabaoth Lord, and there’s none other God. He holds the field forever.” Christ is our strength, our help in trouble.

May we all take comfort in these words during this season, and may He always be the foundation of everything we teach and do at Valley Lutheran High School. Amen.

*Melissa Klamer*

## Upcoming Events

- Sept. 24 Homecoming Soccer, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 25 Homecoming Football, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 26 Homecoming Dance, 7-11 p.m.
- Oct. 23-24 “*John Lennon and Me*,”  
7 p.m. nightly
- Nov. 7 Annual Craft Bazaar, 9 a.m.  
to 3 p.m. @ VLHS

## Charger Home Games

### Football

**Sept. 25 vs. St. Louis, 7 p.m.,  
HOMECOMING**

Oct. 2 vs. Merrill, 7 p.m.

Oct. 16 vs. Breckenridge, 7 p.m.

### Boys Soccer

**Sept. 24 vs. Birch Run, 7 p.m.  
HOMECOMING**

Oct. 1 vs. Bullock Creek, 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 5 vs. Garber, 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 12 vs. North Branch, 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 15 vs. Genesee Christian, 4:30 p.m.

### Volleyball

Oct. 7 vs. St. Louis, 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 28 vs. Ithaca, 7:30 p.m.

## Consider VL for Year-End Gifts

Fundraising at Valley Lutheran High School goes toward helping families pay tuition during these challenging economic times, as well as for funding the school’s 21st Century Classroom Initiative. You can help meet these challenges as you consider your end-of-year giving. Members of Thrivent Financial will have their gifts matched by the organization.

## You’re Invited! Open House, Dec. 1

Prospective 7th- and 8th-graders and their parents are invited to attend our Open House, Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m.

You will have a tour of our facility, get to meet our faculty and staff, and have all your questions answered. Come learn about the great education Valley Lutheran has to offer! No reservations are necessary — just come!