



**Valley  
Lutheran**  
HIGH SCHOOL

# 2020

# Annual Report

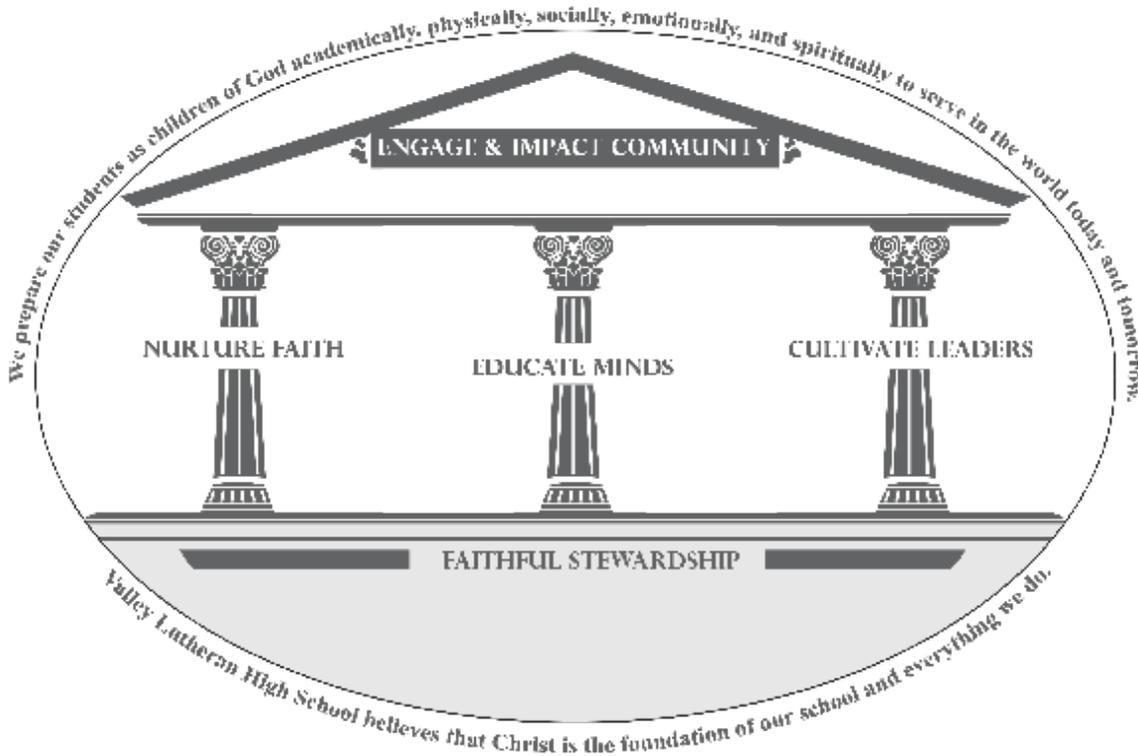
On March 9, Golden Voice Director Paul Eschmann and Symphonic Band Director Becca Sugden made the heartbreaking announcement that the annual Lenten Tour was cancelled. Mr. Eschmann's words of consolation focused on the Tour's theme "Be Still", and especially the words that followed "and know that I am God." Four days later students with books in hand left the school building for the remainder of the school year. However, they did not leave their classes.

The Annual Report 2020 is a report of God's hand at work in the midst of crisis. It is a report of God at work

through faith-filled teachers. It is a report of God at work through diligent students. It is a report of God at work through technology tools. It is a report of God at work through encouraging parents.

In some ways it is a report like no other year, and in other ways it is a report just like every other year. God is always at work in good times and bad. It is always good to "Be still and know that I am God."

**In His Service,  
John Brandt, Ed.D.  
Executive Director**



God calls us to be good stewards of His gifts. While it is easier to report good stewardship when successful school programs are growing and the economy is booming, perhaps stewardship during trying times is an even better indicator.

Thanks to parents conscientiously

paying tuition, generous donors, and access to several new revenue sources, we provided additional help to families impacted by the government's shut-down of the economy. We kept our faculty and staff fully employed. We maintained a solid financial footing going into the

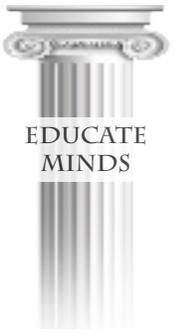
new school year in spite of the uncertainties ahead.

The financial wisdom of the school and Valley Lutheran Foundation board was clear and evidence of God working through the hearts and minds of His people.



As school moved online so did this pillar. Each day included Chapel. Some simply written and delivered via email. Some presented as videos by faculty members and there were even some chapels delivered by people who don't know Valley Lutheran but they do know Jesus.

"Nurturing Faith" is more than a daily chapel. It is also Theology classes that engaged students in new ways to insure that the coursework remained both head and heart work. And it is personal relationships that actually grew as personal emails were sent, virtual meetings held, or phone calls made to students and parents to remind them of the hope found in Jesus.



In two days our faculty went from classroom teachers to online teachers. Was it seamless? No. Student, teachers, and parents learned there was much to learn about this different way of teaching and learning. New teaching strategies emerged as the faculty shared discoveries. The reality of having no choice but to change, led to an even greater understanding of students' needs and how to best meet them.



"Cultivating Leaders" requires more than a program. It requires relationships between students and Christian adults that provide the opportunity for genuine mentoring. For three quarters of the year such relationships were developed and then in the final quarter they were tested. And most passed the test. Many students rose to leadership as they encouraged each other. Faculty members, coaches and advisors continued to mentor in spite of the circumstances, in fact in some cases, they mentored even more.

## { FINANCIAL STATEMENTS }

### Operating Revenue

Revenue	2017-2018	2018-2019
Total	4,360,015	3,448,621
Tuition	2,098,696	2,072,812
Association Congregation Assessment	263,185	270,672
School Programs	231,090	186,136
Gifts	1,888,729	1,153,819
VL Foundation and Investments	\$145,305	\$169,562

### Operating Expense

Expense	2017-2018	2018-2019
Total	2,747,153	2,660,174
Instruction	954,765	969,698
Administration	402,575	396,412
Employee Benefits	436,882	475,662
Financial Aid	301,750	454,224
Facility Operations	375,853	313,291
Student Activities	321,177	297,785
Fund Development	255,732	207,135
Debt Service	169	191

Note: As of June 30, 2019, Audit by Yeo & Yeo CPA



## CHARGING Toward the Finish!

Valley Lutheran High School is nearing the conclusion of the largest campaign in school history. This exciting project will:

- **EXPAND** our building to support current education needs (in sciences, the arts, and athletics),
- **GROW** the Valley Lutheran Foundation to ensure the school's long term success and stability,
- **DEVELOP** and foster long-term, and mutually beneficial relationships with donors and friends across the Great Lakes Bay Region.

### GROWING CAMPAIGN UPDATE JULY 1, 2015 - APRIL 30, 2020

Category	Goal	Current Gifts and Pledges
Building Addition & Annual Needs	\$8,000,000	\$7,586,446
Current Gifts for the VL Foundation (Endowment)	\$1,000,000	\$736,663
Planned Future Gifts	\$1,000,000	\$854,000
<b>GROWING Campaign Totals</b>	<b>\$10,000,000</b>	<b>\$9,177,109</b>
Cash Gifts & Pledge Payments Rec'd to Date (Building/Annual Needs)		\$5,657,051

The following individuals are serving as volunteers for the GROWING Campaign.

#### Campaign Cabinet

Dwight & Brenda McNally\*  
 Gene & Lori Pickelman\*  
 Laura Conway (VL'98)  
 Pete Bender  
 Greg Causley  
 Mike Denno (VL'81)  
 Lisa Helmreich  
 Katrina Kaschinske (VL'97)  
 Al Kaul (VL'87)  
 Matt Princing (VL'85)  
 Roy Schmidt  
 Shawn Sny (VL'91)

#### Building Committee

Bill Wittig\*  
 Sarah Bartnikowski  
 John Brandt  
 Todd Brechtelsbauer (VL'89)  
 Mike Duclos (VL'95)  
 Jim Klein (VL'88)  
 Josh Schmitt

## And There is More...

- Although the pace of construction slowed and then came to a halt, students enjoyed new locker rooms and equipped weight room, as they anticipate the new school year with 4 new science labs, music rehearsal studio, and art studio. Each addition will help us better prepare students for their futures.
- One measure of academic quality is success on Advanced Placement Tests. We offer College Board authorized Advanced Placement classes in Spanish, English, Calculus, Biology and U.S. History. Over 85% of our students passed the tests in those courses, which is far above the national average. All Spanish AP students passed the test! Renee Brenner is Valley's Spanish teacher.
- The Volleyball team completed a memorable season winning the TVC West league championship, District and Regional Tournaments, before falling in the State Semi-Finals. They competed at an exceptional level and enjoyed a loud large and loyal following. Success in the fall

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## Balance Sheet: Three-Year History

As of June 30, 2019, Audit by Yeo & Yeo CPA

Category	2017	2018	2019
Cash and Equivalents	238,139	1,578,839	2,463,313
Investments (Operations)	3,130,900	2,695,705	1,792,005
Investments (Foundation)	2,633,881	3,039,673	3,445,350
Land/Building (less accumulated depreciation)	1,266,613	1,452,937	3,458,728
All Other	2,133,605	2,433,185	2,324,623
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>9,836,972</b>	<b>11,964,901</b>	<b>13,484,019</b>
Liabilities	218,086	218,086	950,975
Long-Term Debt	0	0	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>218,086</b>	<b>218,086</b>	<b>950,975</b>

Note: Growth in investment (operations) and total assets is a result of the **GROWING** Campaign.

## And There is More... Continued from Page 3

was not limited to volleyball as the boys soccer team was also a TVC league champion and sophomore Allison Sowatsky competed in the state cross country meet, where she recorded the second fast time for a Valley Lutheran girls cross country runner.

- Jeremy Britton joined an elite group of wrestlers as he recorded over 100 career victories.
- The Symphonic Band directed by Becca Sugden earned "Straight 1's" at the District Band Festival.
- The Quiz Bowl team, coach by Renee Brenner, won its local competition and qualified for the state quiz bowl.
- Not only did students perform on stage in the production of the "History of Theater (abridged)" under the direction of Jeanette Weilmann, but they also directed. Silas Kaul and Abigail Hambaum, with advice from Jennifer Blake, directed two one act plays. Now that is leadership!
- Barb Doyle, Becca Sugden, Ben Cooper, and Jennifer Blake made presentations at the Lutheran Education Association Convocation in St. Louis, Missouri. The Convocation brings Lutheran educators together from around the world.
- The Valley Lutheran Foundation distributed over \$100,000 in grants. Since its inception in 1998 it has distributed more than \$1 million in support of school programs.

## Valley Lutheran Board of Directors

Debra Beffrey, President	Messiah, Carrollton
Tara Frank	Peace
Scott Wilson	Bethlehem
Joann Marotzke	Good Shepherd
David Britton	Faith
David Duclos	Holy Cross
Todd Brechtelsbauer, President-Elect	Immanuel, Frankentrost
Tom Denton	St. John, Amelith
Susan Olguin	St. Mark
Barb Appold, Secretary	St. Paul, Frankenlust
Brad Hubbell	St. Peter
David Peruski	Trinity, Monitor
Julie Neumann, Treasurer	Trinity, Reese
James Klein	Zion, Auburn
Vacant	Zion, Hemlock
Collett Dominowski	Association Teacher
Rev. Dr. William Morris	Association Pastor
Dr. John Brandt	Executive Director
Dr. Lisa Meyers	Academic Dean
Heath Vincent	Dean of Students

## Valley Lutheran Foundation Board of Directors

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Rich Marker	Secretary
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Kathy Engelhardt	
Ken Gremel	
Al Kaul	
Karen Zehnder	
Tara Frank	
Carol Laux	
Dr. John Brandt	Executive Director