



This Moment

*And whatsoever you do, do it heartily,
as to the Lord, and not unto men.*

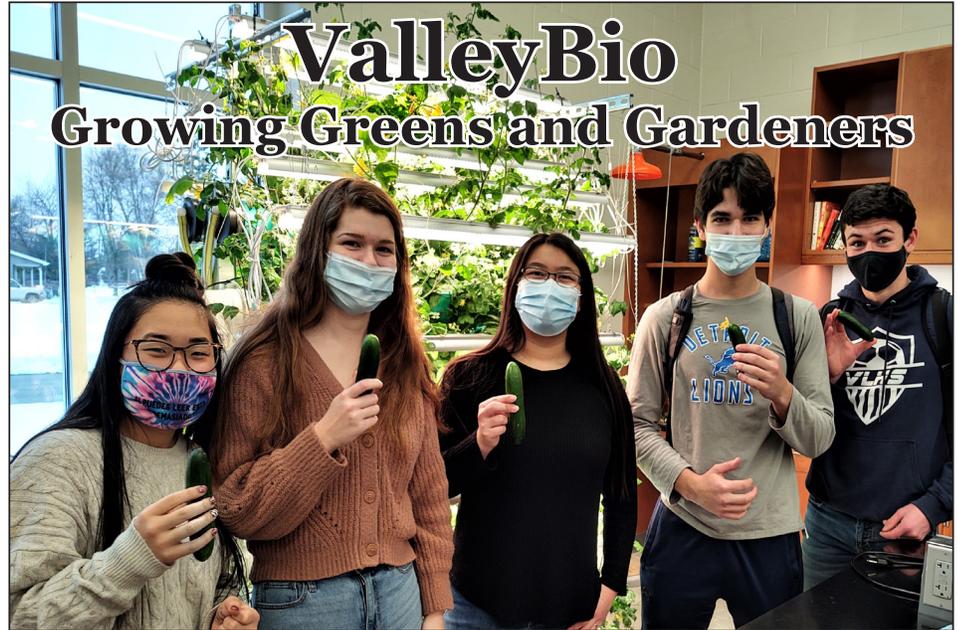
Col. 3:23

Several decades ago, a Concordia professor taught a lesson I've never forgotten. This professor spoke about his first job in a facility that cleaned commercial rugs. As rug after rug passed before his eyes, the minutes slowly ticked by and hours dragged out into eternity; the highlight of the work shift was when a particularly bad stain would present itself, prompting a special spray treatment. He could not wait until his shift was over, until the week was over...until his time at that job was over. And then he realized he was essentially wishing away huge chunks of his life. Thank you, Dr. Looker, for that golden nugget.

Last week when my freshmen began lamenting the length of the school day and the extracurriculars that made the days several hours longer, I couldn't resist sharing the wisdom I learned from that class in Ann Arbor. If we're always trying to just "make it through" to the end of this day, this week, this year, this job...how many opportunities are we missing to really live in those moments? And given the brevity of this life, would we truly wish to fast-forward the life God has given us?

What about you? Are there hours, days, or years you wish you could skip? If so, welcome to the human race. It is a natural tendency for us simply to endure hardship while looking forward to better times. But what if we took on the challenge to begin each day in fervent prayer that God would give us the strength, patience, and genuine concern for the wellbeing of others that could give purpose to even the most humdrum or trying days? Perhaps the annoying wait in the grocery store line holds an opportunity to speak a word

Continued on page 2



ValleyBio members (l to r) Chae Kelsey, Faith Marotzke, Ashley Hoffman, Kris Nisidis, and Isaac Plamondon show off their hydroponic cucumbers.

On a bitterly cold February day, the members of ValleyBio harvested enough sweet, tender lettuce leaves to fill 35 bags, plus 4 bags of tomatoes and 8 bags of pea microgreens. It is the newest STEM-based endeavor led by VL Biology teacher, **Ben Cooper**.

"The overarching goal of ValleyBio is to provide students with real world experiences that cross curricular lines and help them to see the relevance of STEM in both their everyday lives and future careers. Other goals include learning how to grow food, market and sell a product, use social media appropriately to promote our brand, and budget and give back a portion of our profits."

As a fellow in the Dow Corning Foundation/SVSU STEM Community Partnership in 2019, Cooper used the grant funding to purchase supplies to build two A-frame nutrient film technique hydroponic systems in his original classroom. As a part of the curriculum last school year, Biology students planted and grew lettuce in

the structure until schools were shut down in March of 2020.

With a second year in the STEM program, more grant money to invest, and a larger classroom space to utilize, Cooper has adapted and expanded the project to grow a greater variety of vegetables and get students involved in the business aspect of hydroponic growing. ValleyBio members have learned everything from performing pH checks and nutrient flushes on hydroponic systems to using social media and marketing strategies to sell their product. New skills even include cooking! Cooper notes, "After all, if we're going to market and sell something, we should probably know what to do with it. The students cooked stir fried pea microgreens with garlic and ginger. They absolutely loved them!"

For an expanded interview with Mr. Cooper and students in the group go to www.vlhs.com/ValleyBioInterviews. Be sure to follow ValleyBio on Instagram or email valleybio@vlhs.com for produce availability.



The Valley Lutheran Protect Life student leaders organized a Diaper Drive to collect hundreds of baby supplies for a local pregnancy resource center.

Moment Continued from Page 1

of kindness. Perhaps a bleak Monday morning will offer a chance to laugh with a friend and rejoice with them. And just maybe, in the break room, we'll see a coworker who desperately needs to know that Jesus loves them and died to forgive their sins...and we will gladly take the time to tell them.

This sort of carpe diem lifestyle would seem an impossibly tall order if we were relying on our own faculties, but thankfully we have a God that goes with us into the most challenging of days...into break rooms, grocery stores, and carpet-cleaning facilities. Let us strive to meet with our God each morning to be encouraged by his Word and strengthened for the day's tasks... and then go joyfully with Him to our work.

~Bess Winter

We are excited to invite current 8th graders and their families to

Spring Information Night
Thursday, March 18th

Arrivals start at 6pm

*Meet school leaders

*Tour new spaces

*Hear how Valley Lutheran is a place where students belong and excel

Reserve your time slot at

www.vlhs.com/InfoNight

Contact Amy Cooper at

acooper@vlhs.com with ?'s

Jahnke Wins MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award



Senior **David Jahnke** has become the first Valley Lutheran student to be chosen as a MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award winner in the 32 years of the program. Only 32 student athletes in the state of Michigan receive this honor. His many athletic and academic achievements include all-league recognition and a county championship title in wrestling, academic all-state honors in football, and service as a STEM school Chief Science Officer.

For more of his accomplishments and an excerpt from his essay, go to www.vlhs.com/JahnkeMHSAA.

We've updated our mission statement.

Throughout the past 43 years, Valley Lutheran's mission has shaped the educational experiences and impacted the lives of each of our many students. That mission has not changed in the past 43 years, and it does not change today. However, we have recently shortened our mission statement so that everyone can know it, remember it, share it, adhere to it, and allow it to guide the work we do on a daily basis.

The Board of Directors approved this mission statement at the January board meeting:

**Preparing students for life
with Christ as our foundation!**

We will continue to passionately pursue this mission,
and we are so thankful for your partnership in this ministry!