

2021



Valley
Lutheran
HIGH SCHOOL



FAMILY & FRIENDS

A Year in Review



Preparing students for life with
Christ as our foundation!

A PUBLICATION OF VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Message from the Executive Director



Julian Petzold
Executive Director

Preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation!
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I hope you read the three sentences above. I hope you did not just notice they were the same and skip down to this sentence. If you skipped over those sentences, you skipped over the Valley Lutheran High School **Mission Statement**. PLEASE!!! Please don't miss reading those three sentences. In fact, would you be willing to read them again...and again...and again...so you have the mission statement memorized?!

Simple and yet profound...Valley's mission hasn't changed since the school started in 1978.

However, the mission statement was previously written in two full sentences, and people couldn't memorize it. The faculty and staff were living it out, and students were blessed because of the mission of Valley Lutheran. However, being able to articulate the mission of the school is critical for alignment of purpose for everyone. Thus, simplifying the mission statement allows everyone to know it and live it.

It is simple, but it is also profound because we have a clear mission that is concisely stated and compelling to those we serve! A clear, concise, and compelling mission statement is important for any organization to have meaningful purpose and impact. Meaningful purpose and impact is what makes it so profound in the lives of the students we are blessed to serve.

Passionately pursuing excellence...Valley's mission statement is most meaningful when it is passionately pursued toward excellence. That is exactly why Valley Lutheran is an excellent school...the mission has been passionately pursued toward excellence for years and years. Valley Lutheran was nationally recognized as a School of Distinction in 2018, and that is an honor just a few Lutheran high schools around the country have received. Being excellent for our students is important, but remaining excellent is equally important. That is why things have constantly changed and improved. Things change and improve to remain excellent. We will continue to passionately pursue our mission toward excellence for many years to come. It is going to be exciting, and I'm thankful you are a part of the journey as a member of the Valley family!

Student-focused...Valley's mission statement is grounded in Christ as our foundation, but it is also focused on students and their needs. The mission statement clearly identifies students because they are the focus of all that happens. Every good mission statement needs a good "why" to make it worth pursuing.

At Valley Lutheran, our "why" is our students:

- Why do teachers invest so much time and energy on faith-filled lessons that are academically excellent?
Who benefits? Students!
- Why do we provide all the extra-curricular activities like music, drama, athletics, clubs, etc.?
Who benefits? Students!
- Why did the school board and other school leaders decide to add a \$6.5M addition to the school?
Who benefits? Students!
- Why did we remain in school with in-person instruction throughout the COVID-19 pandemic when other schools were not?
Who benefits? Students!
- Why does Valley Lutheran provide so much financial aid to families who desire a Christian education for their child?
Who benefits? Students! – well, and parents!

This list could go on and on. Students are the focus of our mission. **Students are our "why!"**

Preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation!

That is our mission statement! Students are our "why!" The future is exciting! To God be all the glory!

Julian Petzold, Ph.D.
Executive Director

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“Preparing Students for Life....”

The VL Mission enacted in the lives of current *Students*



In The Classroom

The Valley educational experience is full of intentional lessons & activities that grow the all-important skills that are key to students' success in their next steps. Here are a few examples:

Life Skill Preparation

- Participating in Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace
- Caring for a 'baby' (Safe Baby program through the CAN Council) for a weekend
- Authentic written and spoken conversations in a foreign language with a native speaker
- Public speaking practice
- Setting and measuring attainable goals for health and wellness
- Wrestling with the ethics of many topics in our world that conflict with Biblical views of marriage and family
- Learning and applying stress management skills

Career/Technical Preparation

- Various training programs in technical, medical, and technological fields through the local Career Centers
- Email writing, inbox management, and spreadsheet creation

21st Century Skills Preparation

- Exploring how the environment, human society and culture, and the economy intersect (problem solving)
- Using historical documents to respond to and synthesize a trend or issue (evaluation)
- Analyzing research to determine its validity (critical thinking)
- Evaluating text elements through rhetorical analysis (critical thinking)
- Calculator based labs and activities (technology, critical thinking)
- Compiling digital art portfolios (creativity, technology)
- Partnering with local business leaders to learn and practice entrepreneurial skills through the Junior Achievement program (collaboration, problem solving)

“Valley Lutheran provides many opportunities to prepare you for the next steps into your college and career. It offers many diverse classes to build your knowledge and to explore your skills and to help pick the best fit for your career. Mrs. Mueller is always available to answer any questions and advise you on how you can reach your personal goals.”

-Luke Sowatsky (VL '24)



In Guidance & Counseling

College planning, career selection and preparation, and counseling in social/emotional wellness have always been keystones of the Counseling office at Valley Lutheran. But the repurposing of old space this year allowed for the creation of a new and updated central location for these services as well as exciting growth in these areas. The new Career & Counseling Center opened in August 2021 under the leadership of school counselor Mrs. Lindsay Mueller.

“The calm and inviting atmosphere of the new Career and Counseling Center has impacted the services we are able to provide students in a positive way. Being among the student body allows connections between class periods and makes the services provided more accessible to students.

The new space also allows us to run Educational Learning Opportunities where students can expand their skills and knowledge in areas of social-emotional wellness, professional and career development, and in the opportunities available to them for their future.” -Mrs. Lindsay Mueller





In Student Activities

Valley Lutheran's many clubs, sports, and extra-curricular activities provide opportunities for students to grow in leadership, perseverance, collaboration, and teamwork. What better way for students to practice these skills than to research, advocate for, and ultimately begin a new club at Valley? The past year saw this happen not once, but twice.

In the spring of 2021, Cody Britton (VL '22) and John Koltvedt (VL '21) proposed the creation of a Trap (Clay Target) Team. They had already contacted a gun club, lined up possible faculty advisors, and identified fellow potential teammates. With approval from Dr. Petzold the team began! The team experienced a great first season, complete with a team 2nd place finish in the Conference as well as members placing at both the state and national tournaments.

Ellie Young (VL '22) aspires to major in journalism. She started the 2021-22 school year with a dream to begin a Journalism Club at Valley that would create a digital school newspaper. A few months, approvals, and planning meetings later, the Valley Voice is now available at www.vlhs.com/valleyvoice in both a weekly and monthly edition.



Ben Tomandl (VL '23) secured a 2nd place finish in the Varsity division at the Michigan State High School Clay Target League tournament. Ben's finish after 4 rounds of competition was 97 out of a possible 100. (That means he only missed 3 targets out of 100!)



Students representing Valley at National tournament. Out of 1800 competitors Collin Engelhardt (VL '23, far right) qualified for the finals by placing in the top 400 during the qualifying round. He finished the finals in 188th place in the nation, with a total score of 190 out of 200 targets across the two days of competition.

"My faith grows every day coming to Valley whether through chapel, or theology, or even other classes. It's amazing how each teacher brings the Bible into the classrooms; it helps give a strong foundation for each aspect of our lives."

-Alayna O'Laughlin (VL '22)



In Athletics

The 2021-22 school year brought two new positions to the Athletic Department, an Athletic Trainer, Tasha Mulder and a Strength & Conditioning Coordinator, Eric Smith. These positions were created to provide greater support in complete physical wellness to our students and student athletes.



"Our athletic training program is dedicated to preparing students for life by promoting healthy lifestyle, providing injury and illness prevention, assessment, education, and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions. The aim is to promote overall health and well-being and minimize the risk of injuries during athletic competition." -Tasha Mulder, Athletic Trainer



Through Faith Life

Faith life continues to be at the center of the Valley experience. Daily chapel services center and encourage students. Theology courses challenge and grow students' walk. And opportunities for service abound, providing students paths for sharing the love of Christ with others.



...with Christ as our foundation."

“Preparing Students for Life....”

The VL Mission reflected in the lives of Alumni

With a mission that focuses on preparation, graduation is not the end. Rather, it is the start - the commencement - of all that is to come of that preparation. Wherever a graduate may find their life’s work (in ministry, medicine, service, or something else), it is a joy to have the opportunity to see God’s calling unfold. We are excited for the opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of a few of our alumni.

Jake Wilson (VL ‘16)

What are some of your favorite memories from your years at VL?

Oh man, there were so many great memories that it is hard to pick just a few! Dissecting pigs in Anatomy class, Mr. Zill’s wacky and awesome experiments, Friday night football games with all of my brothers, and being a part of the crazy loud student sections at all of the sporting events! Those are just a few.

Take us on a brief educational and vocational journey since you graduated from VL.

After I graduated from VL in 2016 I attended Ferris State University for 2 years and received my Associates Degree in HVAC-R. Since departing Ferris State in 2018 I started work as a refrigeration technician for Schroeder Store Fixtures and have now been working there for 3 years.

Is your profession what you thought it would be when you were in high school?

I always had a little bit of an understanding in high school about what being an HVAC tech entailed, but I can’t say 100% that it is what I expected. I never really knew how much it challenges you both mentally and physically. On the mental side, you’re faced with a new challenge everyday and you never have the same routine. On the physical side, it can be long hours and lots of hours spent in the hot sun or the bitter cold.

Tell us about your role and the responsibilities of your job.

As a refrigeration technician I am responsible for service and installation of refrigeration equipment. When a customer calls in a panic because they have a piece of equipment that is down and you fix it for them, the relief and the smile on their face is the most satisfying thing to me about this job. The most challenging thing about this job is when the days are super hot/humid. Those days are tough because you get exhausted fast. My hidden gems for this job are all of the different places and all of the different faces you get to meet. I love meeting new customers and getting to know them. I’m also lucky because my office is on wheels so I get to have a different view every day!

The mission of VL is “preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation!” As an alumni, how has this played out in your life so far? And what does that vocation of serving look like for you in the near future?

VL prepared me for life with Christ as my foundation very well. Going to a big public college made me realize that not everyone has that foundation, while certainly some try to find it, some also try to change that foundation as well. I found that surrounding yourself with people who have the same beliefs as you helps to keep that foundation strong. I am blessed that my vocation is a combination of my work and family, since I am in the family business. We are blessed to be a blessing as we give back to our community and especially our church and schools, servicing all of the refrigeration equipment at Bethlehem and VLHS.



Where do you live (city, state)?

Saginaw, MI

How do you like to spend your time when you are not at work?

I like to spend my time golfing and hanging out with my friends while I am not working.

What is your favorite color?

Blue

What is one thing that you always order when you see it on a menu?

Southwest Eggrolls for the table!

Candice Colby-Scott (VL '00)

What are some of your favorite memories from your years at VL?

Meeting my husband, Steve Scott! Second to this would be all of the biology classes with Mr. Guenther, particularly walking through the Jurassic Park series and genetics. I think back to these times and the ability Mr. Guenther had to provoke thought and discussion - I truly believe this gave me a solid foundation not only in science but in becoming an avid learner of science and in encouraging me to keep questioning and moving forward.

Take us on a brief educational and vocational journey since you graduated from VL.

After graduating from VL, I attended college at Ferris State University and graduated with a degree in Biotechnology and Psychology, then went on to medical school at the University of Michigan. I moved to Atlanta, GA for five years for Otolaryngology/ENT residency at Emory University and then to Minneapolis at the University of Minnesota for a two-year fellowship in Neurotology (specializing in disorders of the ear and skull base). I worked at a few places in Michigan before having my third child and landing back in the Great Lakes Bay Region- I now currently specialize in ear surgery at McLaren ENT and Cochlear Implant Center with clinics in Midland and Petoskey.



Is your profession what you thought it would be when you were in high school?

This is quite a complicated answer for me but the short answer is no-- I originally thought I wanted to work in Big Pharma and work to cure cancer or find some new miraculous drug. However, the more I got into this the less it seemed for me- too much work alone with animals, not enough work with actual people. I never thought of becoming a physician but just kept moving onto the next logical step. Although it was a long, tough road at times I am unreservedly content with my career and where I am in life.

Tell us about your role and the responsibilities of your job.

The part of my job I find most satisfying is giving people back the ability to hear. It constantly reminds me to never take for granted the sound of the birds chirping or the sound of the snow crunching under your feet, or any of the "little things" for that matter. It is a blessing every day that God has given me the ability to give a sense back to people that have otherwise lost their ability to communicate with their loved ones and interact with their environment.

The part of my job I find most challenging is when I have patients with difficult social situations such as children in foster care settings or those without adequate support systems. It is difficult when you have limitations with what you can do within the confines of the clinic or the operating room besides offering prayer.

One additional positive aspect that people may not realize is that I am thankful to work with amazing people, people that love what we do and maintain a positive attitude despite our most challenging days.

The mission of VL is "preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation!" As an alumni, how has this played out in your life so far? And what does that vocation of serving look like for you in the near future?

Everyday I realize that every skill I have is a blessing from God. Even in the darkest times I know He is there and I believe VL absolutely helped lay this foundation. I am also confident that everything I give of myself will be given back in this life or the next and knowing this encourages me to serve others unconditionally and continually.

Where do you live (city, state)?

I live in Midland, MI with my husband and three children ages 2, 5, and 6.

How do you like to spend your time when you are not at work?

I like to spend time with my family and friends drinking wine, enjoying good food, and being outside or traveling.

What is your favorite color?

Purple, although it looks terrible on me.

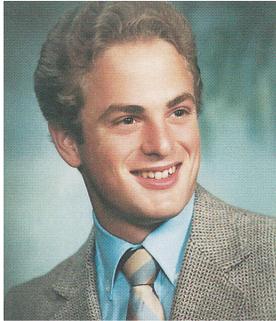
What is one thing that you always order when you see it on a menu?

Crepe brulee (or any dessert for that matter).

The VL Mission reflected in the lives of Alumni continued on pg. 8

...with Christ as our foundation."

The VL Mission reflected in the lives of Alumni



Dean Davenport (VL '83)

What are some of your favorite memories from your years at VL?

The Florida orange and grapefruit sales that were a perennial fundraiser for the school. I remember the back hallway, by the “in the day locker rooms”, filled, floor to ceiling with boxes of citrus! I remember the carpeting on the gym floor – what was up with that?! I remember thinking “what am taking this keyboarding class for”? As far as I was concerned I wasn't going to be a secretary and therefore didn't need to worry about typing anything. Can anyone say COMPUTERS? I remember the hallways and the small narrow lockers. I remember Pastor Mac and the relationships that he developed with the kids, disciplining them for

life. I remember Mr. Krause and the visits to his office (some of them were for non-disciplinary issues). I remember Golden Voice and the joy that we all found in singing challenging and beautiful music. Choir tours were sweet! – Mr. Britton was the driving force there at the time. I remember Jerry our dedicated and faithful custodian/bus driver/and anything else that needed to be done, kind of guy. I remember homecoming parades that amounted to decorated wagons that were dragged throughout the gym at the halftime of basketball games, yes inside! I remember our daily chapels, in the gym, hearing God's Word. I remember all of the shenanigans too – but that will have to be for another time! I have fond memories of individuals that modeled what it meant to be a servant, with the last names Krause, Turrill, Brandt, Schlensker, Schlesselman, Vaul, Looker, Tieman, Feldkamp, Britton, MacDonald....(many others too!)

Take us on a brief educational and vocational journey since you graduated from VL.

As the end of high school was approaching I can remember wondering what I was going to do for the rest of my life. That was a huge thing to chew on then and it is for young people now. I so wanted my dad to tell me what to do, what to pursue for a career – but he was noticeably silent on that. I was frustrated with that, to be honest. If he would've just said “do this or do that” I would have listened and accomplished it. But he didn't. “All” he and my mom did was to support and encourage me in whatever I said I was going to do. I came to understand that this was called parenting. Starting my journey at Michigan Tech for 1.5 years and then finishing up my undergrad degree at MSU, I graduated with a bachelors in horticulture in 1987 and was thankful to land a job at Kluck Nursery in Saginaw. I really thought that this was how God was going to use me throughout my life – I enjoyed the work and the family that I worked for. What could be better than that? The problem was that I thought this was my past, present and future – God had other things in mind as I came to find out. My wife (Amy Kraenzlein VL '85) and I began to pray that God's will would be done in our marriage, in our family and in our careers. I fully expected that His will would be in lock step with mine. WRONG! After realizing that God was going to use me as a pastor we moved to Ft. Wayne to attend the seminary some 10+ years after graduating from college. Amy and I had three children at the time. Proverbs 3:5,6 became my go to verses from the Bible – “trust in the Lord with all you heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths”.

Is your profession what you thought it would be when you were in high school?

I really got to be close with Pastor Mac at VL. I knew him to be a great friend and my pastor at school. We never really talked about me becoming a pastor – that couldn't have been further from my mind at the time. I thought that in being a pastor you had to give up having fun. I have found out that you don't!

Tell us about your role and the responsibilities of your job.

The most satisfying part of my job is getting to tell young and old alike that Jesus loves them – seeing the Holy Spirit transform their lives! The most challenging part is dealing with a culture/society/families that just “don't have time” for things of faith. Urging adults to live out their faith in real and tangible ways. A positive aspect of my job that most people wouldn't realize is that the message of God's love for the world, in Jesus, is the same yesterday, today and always. When everything else changes, and it does, He is immutable (unchanging!).

The mission of VL is “Preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation!” As an alumni, how has this played out in your life so far? And what does that vocation of serving look like for you in the near future?

My faith in my Savior Jesus has always been something that has been there for me – a solid rock to stand on/grab on to. VL did a great job underlining that truth – hearing it in all of my classes and then seeing it modeled in the lives of my teachers. Even when I strayed after high school and thought I knew what was best, I could count on Jesus being there. He was faithful even when I wasn't – and He still is! I try to remind myself every day that I am an UNDERshepherd – serving under and for the Good Shepherd. As long as I get that right while remembering that He came to serve mankind I won't have a problem understanding that he would have me serve the people that have called me to be their pastor.



Where do you live (city, state)?

Livonia, Michigan

How do you like to spend your time when you are not at work?

Spending time with my wife, children and grandchildren and working on projects around the house.

What is your favorite color?

Go GREEN!

What is one thing that you always order when you see it on a menu?

Chicken fried steak (I'm trying to break the habit!)



Graduation

On June 13, 2021 Valley Lutheran launched 70 new graduates into their next steps. Former Executive Director Dr. John Brandt spoke at graduation of one his favorite Bible passages, 1 Peter 4:10 which states



“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” Dr. Brandt remarked to those assembled, “We are ‘stewards of God’s varied grace.’ Stewards take care of things. [So] we are called to take care of God’s grace, His greatest blessing. We take care of it when we share it with others.” While sharing the stories of a number of alumni who through their varied life experiences actively steward God’s grace, he then called on not only the soon-to-be-alumni but all of God’s people to continue to act as good stewards. He challenged, “We are stewards when we share God’s ultimate grace - our eternal life earned with Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. We are stewards when we share God’s daily grace by encouraging, defending, helping - loving our neighbor.”

May God grant this to each of our 2021 graduates as they live out their life of service, vocation and faith!



Brendan McDonald
Valedictorian



Ian Schoemeyer
Valedictorian



David Jahnke
Salutatorian

2021 2nd Generation VLHS Graduates

- | | |
|---|--|
| Zane AdamskiBrooke (Bauer) Adamski '92 | Brady MaurerThomas Maurer '84 |
| Ben BrennerMark Brenner '88 | Alexis McNallyDr. Ryan & Jennifer (Sanders) McNally '00 |
| Miriam CmeylaSarah (Helmrich) Cmeyla '92 | Amber OlguinSusan (Klopfenstein) Olguin '90 |
| Ryan FehnGary Fehn '90 | Gannon Ponichtera ...Jeremy Ponichtera '89 |
| David JahnkeLisa (Turner) Jahnke '84 | Jack SchwarzJessica (Wardin) Schwarz '94 |
| Samuel KarasMichael & Cheryl (Murlick) Karas '89 | Elliott UrbytesDarrin & Cristina (Survant) Urbytes '87 |
| Jonah KeupJoel Keup '92 | Margaret WalkDale & Mary (Berlin) Walk '88 |
| Kyle KowalskiLori (Schwab) Kowalski '86 | Isabel WarrenJeremy & Andra (Theiss) Warren '96 & '97 |

HOMECOMING Times Two!

Flash back a year with us...to the fall of 2020. Numerous COVID-19 restrictions were in place and Valley Lutheran was unable to hold typical Homecoming activities to the great disappointment of its students. When asked what they missed the most, students identified selecting a Homecoming Court and celebrating with a Coronation as these were marks of a Senior year that they did not want to miss. And so, come spring, it became so! On April 28, 2021 the 2020-21 Valley Lutheran Homecoming Court was introduced during a school assembly and a King and Queen were crowned! Congratulations Scott Smith (VL '21) and Anna Katenhus (VL '21)!



Homecoming 2021-2022

Homecoming is a time to celebrate - to reconnect with friends and classmates, to appreciate the relationships formed while at Valley Lutheran, and to celebrate Charger Pride. After two years without a traditional Homecoming celebration (Friday's events in the fall of 2019 were canceled due to bad weather, fall 2020 was not possible with COVID-19 regulations) the Valley family was extra excited to celebrate this fall!



2021-2022 Homecoming Court

L-R Ladies: Allison Sowatsky, Alayna O'Laughlin, Ashlyn Martin, Lexie Peplinski, Lauren Lothian. Gentlemen: Zack Blazejewski, Hans Ross, Dylan Appold, John Zinz, Riley Greene.



2021-22 King & Queen:
Dylan Appold & Alayna O'Laughlin

A number of fun activities filled the school week:

- Homecoming 'Kick-off' Soccer game on Monday
- Daily themed dress-up days
- Homecoming Volleyball games on Wednesday
- Class float planning and decorating
- Friday's tailgate, parade, football game, and coronation!



2020-2021 Homecoming Court

L-R Ladies: Chae Kelsey, Emily Starke, Quinn Stefanski, Sydney Krause, & Anna Katenhus. Gentlemen: Scott Smith, Elliott Urbytes, Eli Frank, Josh Samsell, & David Jahnke.



Former King Keegan Hook (VL '20) and Former Queen Jaccilynne Bodrie (VL '19) were in attendance to crown the new royalty.

2021-2022 Spirit Week



Valley Accomplishments

Jahnke Wins MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award

David Jahnke (VL '21) became 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 received this honor during the 2020-21 school year. 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.



Harding Places at States in Bowling

Michael Harding (VL '21) (pictured here with bowling coach Nate Engelhardt VL '16) took 7th Place out of 60 Finalists in the Division 4 State Bowling Competition. Congratulations Michael!



Plamondon Wrestling Regional Champ

In early 2021, Isaac Plamondon (VL '21) wrestled in the individual regional match and won his weight class, taking home the title of Regional Champ and qualifying to wrestle at the state meet.



Smith Named NHSSCA All-American Athlete

Scott Smith (VL '21) was recognized as a National High School Strength Coaches Association All-American Athlete for 2021. This annual award is given to a high school athlete who has demonstrated outstanding achievement on and off the field in regards to strength and conditioning, academics, athletic performance, and leadership. Former Valley teacher and then assistant football coach Christian Wilke nominated Smith for the award: "It has been an absolute honor to coach Scott over the past four years, to see all the hard work he has put into the weight room pay off in a big way for him. This is an amazing honor to be recognized as one of the best in the nation. CUAA is getting an amazing football player but an even better man." Smith played football for Concordia Ann Arbor this fall.

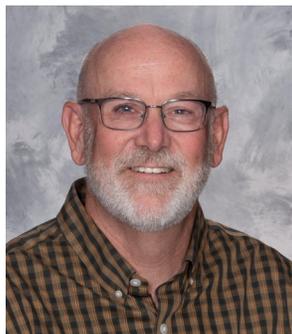


Memorial Garden Dedication

On May 27, 2021 students, faculty, administrators, family members, and friends all gathered for a service of dedication of the new Memorial Garden in front of the school. "Stemming" from the GROWING Campaign building addition, this garden provides a place to honor and remember any and all of the students or faculty who entered eternity while at Valley Lutheran High School. Thank you to all who attended and for all who helped make this space possible.

Neumann Sets School Record, Qualifies for States

In the spring of 2021, Claire Neumann (VL '24) broke the VL school record in the 400 meter run with a time of 58.77 seconds. Later that week she placed 5th in the state track meet in the same event.



Doug Guenther: 2021 Michigan District High School Teacher of the Year

In June 2021, Mr. Guenther was recognized by the Michigan District as their High School Teacher of the Year. Travis Grulke, Superintendent of Schools for the Michigan District summarized, *"It is evident that Doug's ministry to the students, staff, and families at Valley is one that should be celebrated. He has blessed Valley's ministry for many years. We are thankful for his work both inside and outside of the classroom, and we look forward to hearing how Doug continues to have a powerful impact on those he has been called to serve!"* To read more visit www.vlhs.com/Guenther.



Faithful Service Celebrated

Following the 2021 school year, Mrs. Peggy Herbolzheimer (left) and Mrs. Tracy Bauer (right) retired from VL food service. In addition to both having children attend Valley, they each supported the ministry of VLHS through a combined 50 years of faithful service - wow! Thank you!

Hagenbach Named a National Merit Commended Student

Trent Hagenbach (VL '22) placed among the top 50,000 students nationally and was named one of 34,000 Commended Students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. He received this honor based on his performance on the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).



A Favorite Place to Gather

Created by the GROWING Campaign, designed by the Student Council, and purchased through the generosity of 2021 Auction donors, the Gathering Space has become a favorite spot to meet between classes, host a short club meeting, work after school, or just relax for a few minutes. In this case, members of the Pep Club create decorations to be placed around the school.



Alumni News



CLASS OF 2008 Mark & Kristen (Cisneros VL '08) Tolsma announce the birth of their second son, Charles Henry Tolsma, on June 1, 2021. Little brother to 2 year old Theodore James Tolsma.



CLASS OF 2009 Thomas Kye Sugden was born on June 9th, 2021 to Becca (VL Band Director) & Kye (VL '09) Sugden and baptized at Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn, on June 20th. He's happiest when there's music playing, especially the organ, and is already working on his brass embouchure... his buzz is a little spitty, though.



CLASS OF 2010 Timothy Kern (VL '10) graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne and received a call to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Marlette, Michigan. Kern was ordained and installed on July 11, 2021. He and his wife Hanna were married on June 28, 2019 and have two beautiful children: Clara (1.5) and Frederick (newborn).



CLASS OF 2012 Brandon Wittig (VL '12) graduated from Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis and was ordained on June 20, 2021 in the church he grew up in, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saginaw. Pastors Korte and Buckhahn (pictured) of Bethlehem were part of the ordination service. Brandon currently serves as Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sawyer, MI.



CLASS OF 2013 Christopher 'Critter' Deneen (VL '13) was ordained at his home church of St. Peter Lutheran Church in Hemlock, Michigan on June 20, 2021 after graduating from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in May. He was installed the following week as Associate Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Lansing, Michigan. Christopher is excited to be back in Michigan and is loving every minute of his ministry at Our Savior. Christopher and Lauren along with big sister Ida (2) welcomed their second child in February 2022.



CLASS OF 2014 Mackenzie Dempsey (VL '14) married Matt Dawe on August 8, 2020 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Hemlock. They celebrated with friends and family at a magical outdoor reception at the Dempsey family home.



CLASS OF 2016 VLHS high school sweethearts Kyle Jahnke (VL '16) and Lauren Arner (VL '16) said 'I do!' on April 17, 2021. They are so grateful for Valley so that they could find each other and build a relationship with Christ as the most important thing.



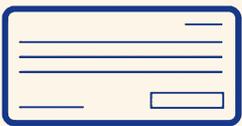
CLASS OF 2018 Nathan Krueger (VL '18) and Lauren Frank (VL '18) were united in marriage on May 29, 2021.

In Memoriam
Steve Schindler
VL '87
April 6, 2020

Valley Lutheran High School is blessed by the generosity of others who make it possible to passionately pursue the mission of this school:

preparing students for life, with Christ as our foundation!

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Note: In an effort to be good stewards we have consolidated this mailing to one per household. This may include your alumni student(s) if this is the only address we have for them. Please email hbehnke@vlhs.com if your alumni student has an updated address or did not receive one at their current address.



VLHS Bands, Choirs, and Bells performed a wonderful open air concert at the Huntington Event Park on May 25, 2021. After 15 months of no performances, it was a joy to hear our students share their gifts and talents.

Save the Date

Aladdin Jr. the Musical

April 29-30, 2022 May 1, 2022
7 p.m. at VLHS 2 p.m. at VLHS

Spring Music Concert

May 24, 2022

Time & Location: TBD

Graduation

June 12, 2022

2 p.m. at VLHS

Golf Outing

September 17, 2022

Apple Mountain

Homecoming Week 2022

September 19-24, 2022