

Spring 2020

Family & Friends

A publication of Valley Lutheran High School



Spotlight:
A Timeline
of Music
Pages 6-7

Music Department Staff Mrs. Lindsay (Meyer) Mueller, Mrs. Rebecca (Eifert) Sugden, and Mr. Paul Eschmann are all smiles as they gather together in the soon-to-be-completed Music Room.

Read more about the GROWING Campaign Progress on pages 10-11.

A Special Message from Dr. Brandt

Dear Family and Friends,

As this Family and Friends publication went to the printer, the impact of COVID-19 was unfolding across Michigan as Governor Whitmer announced the first in a series of state-wide closures beginning with schools. Now the Governor directs us to “Stay Home and Stay Safe.” Here are some key notes you should know about VLHS during this unusual time:

A secure foundation. The phrase “Christ is our Foundation” is more than a tagline. It is a guiding principle, a promise, and it is a source of hope and comfort. Thankfully, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). Challenges provide an opportunity for our faith to grow. And it is during challenges that we have the opportunity to look for the ways God continues to be at work in this world, through His people.

Education continues. Under the direction of Academic Dean Lisa Meyers, Valley Lutheran faculty and staff have met the challenge of E-learning head-on. Teachers and paraprofessionals are actively reaching out to students and families by phone and email to help navigate the myriad of changes that have become our reality. Each day teachers better understand and work to meet student needs. Admittedly, at times it feels overwhelming to replace the “tried and true” with strategies that are entirely different. However, our students are rising to the challenge with nearly 95% actively engaged in E-learning.

Furthermore, our commitment is to something greater than excellent education; it is to excellent Christian education. Guidance Counselor, Lindsay Mueller, is making students and families aware of community resources, and

coordinates help offered by members of the Valley Lutheran Family. And, just as always, there is a chapel message everyday, even if it is delivered a bit different.

GROWING in patience. Construction workers were forced to “button up” and head home for three weeks. Our patience will grow while we wait to move into the science and arts addition. As we wait, I am reminded of the great things that happen at Valley Lutheran every day, and I look forward to the day when we are able to utilize our new spaces as a part of the existing great work of Valley Lutheran!

We are blessed. Valley Lutheran is truly blessed in many ways. While this global pandemic is putting unprecedented financial strain on individuals, families, and employers, I am inspired by the many who continue to be faithful to our ministry. We continue to receive financial gifts to support the important work of this institution - thank you! The ministry of Valley Lutheran is possible because of the faith-filled financial support of many. Charitable giving has been -- and will remain -- an important part of the continued long-term success and stability of this school.

History offers few precedents to help us find direction in navigating our current circumstances. Our commitment to students, their families, and our faculty and staff, requires wisdom and a trust in God’s provision. We count on God’s provision and we pray for his wisdom in using it to meet the needs of those in our care.

God’s peace and good health,

John Brandt, Ed.D.
Executive Director

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Music Memories

Science, the Arts, and Athletics – the three school programs highlighted during our GROWING Campaign and made evident in our building expansion. They may seem to be unrelated, but they are not. In different ways, each prepares students for life. Perhaps a science-related career is not in a student’s future, but scientific reasoning will still prove beneficial. The arts and athletics may be an enjoyable activity for many. Through them, students learn creativity, individual expression, perseverance, collaboration (aka teamwork) and more.

The focus of this edition of Family and Friends is the music program. It is also my final welcome letter, as my ministry at Valley Lutheran ends this summer. Although I am not an

accomplished musician, my memories about our music program could fill the entire edition.

Some memories are overwhelming because of the magnitude of the event. The **40th Anniversary Christmas Concert** featuring **Golden Voice, Symphonic Band,** and **alumni** narrators filled the magnificent Temple Theatre with sounds that lifted our spirits.

Other memories stand out because the performer stood alone – **Aaron Rohde’s** “O Holy Night” or **Emily Marvosh** (featured later in this edition) standing alone on stage to sing at the Tri-City Good Friday Service. Some memories flat out “rock” like **Impact** did as an opening act for “Free to Breathe.”

Repetition is a key to memory development; and it was provided by an annual performance of “Buglers’ Holiday” in the 1980s when we had

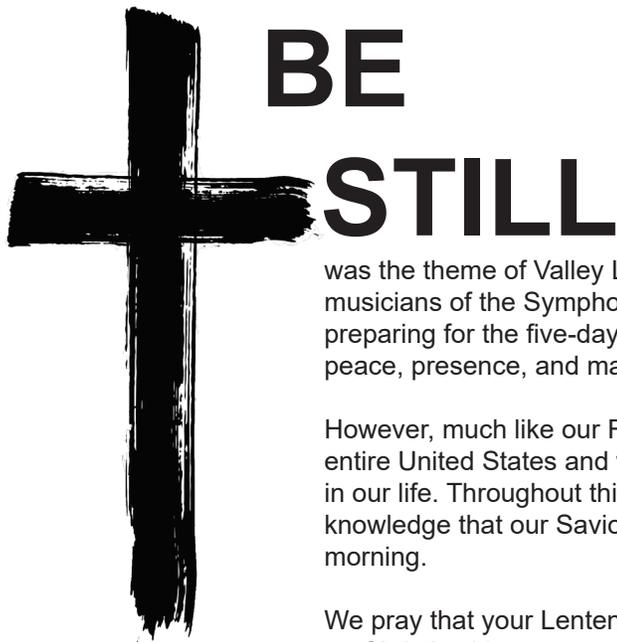
a run on standout trumpeters with names like **Urbytes, Wieck,** and **Burk.**

Of course humor, which is often inadvertently added to a memory, helps too. I always smiled watching **Michael Felten** dutifully play the cow bell for pep band rather than his “real” instruments the bassoon and violin. Then there was the time when the “select” singing ensemble “**Triple Trio**” visited my house at Halloween and serenaded my family, while some members toilet-papered our bathroom.

Yes - creativity, individual expression, perseverance, collaboration – indeed.

I have been blessed by music at Valley Lutheran. I hope you have been as well.

John Brandt, Ed.D.
Executive Director



was the theme of Valley Lutheran High School’s 2020 Lenten Concert Tour. The musicians of the Symphonic Band and Golden Voice Choir spent countless hours preparing for the five-day, three state tour to share the message of: “BE STILL” in the peace, presence, and majesty of our Lord God.

However, much like our Family & Friends Fall 2019 publication, Valley Lutheran, and the entire United States and world, were given a reminder of just how little control we have in our life. Throughout this Coronavirus pandemic, we take solace and comfort in the knowledge that our Savior, who was crucified for us, also rose for us on that first Easter morning.

We pray that your Lenten and Easter journey be filled with strength and peace, focusing on Christ’s ultimate act of love on our behalf.



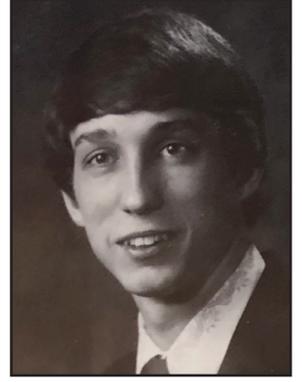
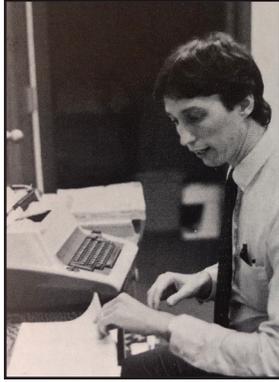
Family and Friends is a publication of Valley Lutheran High School that is delivered to alumni two times a year, in the fall and spring.

To submit a story idea or if you need to update your address, contact Heidi Behnke at 989-790-1676 or email hbehnke@vlhs.com.

Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ValleyLutheranSaginaw



A Tribute to Coach/Mr./Dr. John Brandt's 40+ Years Service at VLHS



Mr., Coach, Dr. Brandt has touched so many lives over his time at Valley. Coach John Brandt will always be a fond memory for me and the other members of the 1981-1982 Freshmen Boys' teams. We had the largest class to date at VLHS and were able to dress an A Squad and a B squad for most of our contests. Coach was a great teacher of the game but also some of our first encounters with the game of life lessons that he squeezed into our practices and games. Some of these lessons I still use to this day as I do my best to cultivate tomorrow's Christian leaders. We had a great season and ended up undefeated, the first VLHS basketball team to achieve this feat, and to this day only (3) other teams have accomplished that feat. Coach Brandt and the 1981-82 Freshmen boys made a bold statement for excellence in the history books of Valley Lutheran High School. Go Blue.

~ Matt Prancing, VL '85



Valley's 1981-1982 Freshmen Boys Team, coached by Mr. Brandt.
(Photo courtesy of the 81-82 Yearbook.)



State Rep. Rodney Wakeman and Dr. John Brandt pose for a photo at the 2020 State of the State address in Lansing on Jan. 29, 2020. Dr. Brandt was Rep. Wakeman's US History teacher at VL in the early 1980s.



July 30,
1977



Grandma and Grandpa Brandt
with their grandchildren
(l to r) Lena, Evie &
Malachi, summer 2019.



Dr. & Mrs. Brandt, enjoying
a summer day in Colorado,
summer 2019.

Dr. and Mrs. John & Sue Brandt were married July 30, 1977. They will celebrate 43 years of marriage this summer. They are blessed with two children, Mark and Krista. Mark lives in the Netherlands with his wife, Aslinn, and son Malachi. They will be relocating to Michigan this summer. Krista lives in California with her husband, Paul, and daughters Lena and Evie. Read more about Krista as one of our featured alumni on pages 8-9.

My 20-year journey as an administrator is due to the encouragement John provided and confidence that he placed in me.

John, thank you for being a great mentor, friend, and partner in the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ.

~ Kevin Wilaby

Do you have a story about how Coach/Mr./Dr. Brandt touched your life? We'd love to hear it and share it with him.

Visit vlhs.com/brandtretirement and share your story! (The link to submit a story is on the left side of the webpage.)



CELEBRATING DR. JOHN BRANDT'S 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY

Whether you know him as Coach Brandt, Mr. Brandt, or Dr. Brandt, you are invited to celebrate his 40+ years of service to Valley Lutheran High School!

Saturday, May 16, 2020
Horizons Conference Center

\$50/ticket

(includes dinner and scholarship donation)

For tickets and more information, visit:
www.vlhs.com/brandtretirement



Upcoming events may change due to mandates released from the State of Michigan. At the time of printing, these events will take place as scheduled. Please visit vlhs.com and our Facebook page for the most current event information.

A Timeline of

Beginning in 1977, Mr. David Britton served in Valley Lutheran's first music position.

In 1981, Wind Ensemble was added to the music offerings.



The 1985 Barbershop Quartet Members: Darrin Urbytes, Steve Sowatsky, John Mertz, & Brad Hubbell. (Photo Courtesy of the 1985 VL Yearbook).

In 1987, Valley held a 10th Anniversary celebration, entitled "To God Be The Glory." A Male Faculty Chorus was created for the special event. (pictured right)

1985 saw Barbershop Quartet make its VLHS debut, organized by the interest of two of its members.

By 1980, the music program at Valley offered Golden Voice, Symphonic Band, Mixed Chorus, Pep Band, Lab Ensemble, Double Trio and Melody.

In 1982, 63 members of the Symphonic Band celebrated a score of straight ones (1s) at the District Festival. This sent them to the State Festival!

1986 boasts Valley's largest Golden Voice Group with 52 voices (Valley would not have a larger group until 2013).

Valley Lutheran's Family & Friends Publication cannot highlight all the music accomplishments of Valley students throughout the years on these two pages! Valley celebrates a variety of instrumental and vocal music groups that are not highlighted on this timeline.

Many of these musical groups are student-initiated, appearing and disappearing as student interest demands.

Here are more musical groups that have made their appearance at VLHS throughout the years: Brass, Trombone, Flute, & Woodwind Quartet, Quintet, and Ensembles, Triple Trio + One, SDG Brass, Strings, Cantate Deo, Jazz Choir, as well as Acapella Choir groups.

1986 also saw Double Trio move to Triple Trio



The 52 members of the 1986 Golden Voice Group are pictured above. (Photo Courtesy of the 1986 VL Yearbook).

Music at VLHS



Nine faculty members joined their voices in song at Valley's 10th Anniversary Celebration. (Photo Courtesy of the 1987 VL Yearbook).

Current: Valley Lutheran's Music Department is blessed to have Mr. Paul Eschmann, Mrs. Lindsay Mueller, & Mrs. Rebecca Sugden lead VL students in vocal and instrumental musical opportunities.

In the 2004-2005 school year, VL started Acclaim, a select vocal group, formed of Golden Voice students.

In 1995, Golden Voice competed in its first Vocal Competition.



Aaron Winter, Kate Rustem, Will Allen, Bridgette Wolf, Josh Britton, Becca Gadeken, Kong Xiong, & Tricia Wittg were members of the first Acclaim group. (Photo Courtesy of the 2005 VL Yearbook).

In the 1991-92 school year, Miss Lisa Meyers started Valley's Jazz Band. (yes, this is Valley's Dr. Meyers now!)



Miss Meyers directs the Jazz Band (Photo Courtesy of the 1993 VL Yearbook).

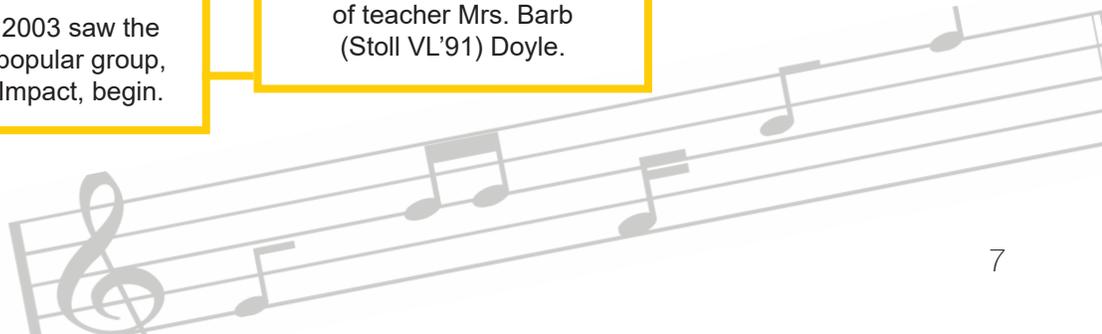
In 2013, Valley Lutheran began its Percussion Ensemble.



Nine of the eleven members of the inaugural Glorify Handbell Choir are pictured above. (Photo Courtesy of the 2003 VL Yearbook).

2003 saw the popular group, Impact, begin.

2003 also saw Glorify, VL's Handbell Choir begin. Glorify continues under the direction of teacher Mrs. Barb (Stoll VL'91) Doyle.





Three Valley Grads Reflect on Their Time at Valley



Emily Marvosh is a 1999 Valley grad. She currently calls Boston, MA her home and is a full time musician.

Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I grew up at Peace Lutheran, attending VL for high school. I graduated from Central Michigan (Bachelor of Music) before I settled in Boston. I am a full time performing musician and travel all around the country. On occasion, I have had the privilege of being a radio host for a classical station in Boston.

Emily Marvosh (photo credit Tatiana Daubek)

Q: What does “performing musician” mean?

A: I am a vocal performer – meaning I can sing chamber, large orchestral, and opera music. In the “music world,” I am a classical vocalist.

Q: Have you had a favorite performance?

A: Stefansdom is the big central cathedral in Vienna, Austria,

where I studied abroad in college. I often attended performances there. Several years ago I was asked to go back and perform as a soloist there. That was a very special honor. I’ve also had the opportunity to perform solos in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Q: Any advice for seniors as they graduate from Valley?

A: You’re likely leaving VL full of confidence, looking to find how you fit in the world. Use this time to explore. Travel. Learn a new language. Learn about another culture and people from a new area. Enjoy this time as you transition into adulthood.

Q: How did your time at VL help you in your career path?

A: I came to Valley with a very supportive family and community. It seemed everyone was in band or choir, and the music programs were not sidelined like they might be in a larger organization. I think it encouraged a culture of support for musicians. The majority of my professional development happened at Interlochen, in college, grad school, and even ‘on the job’ once I was working full-time. I think that one of the most important advantages VL gave me was the confidence to make the decisions and choices that were right for me in the years after high school.



Krista (Brandt) Elliott poses with husband, Paul, and daughters’ Evie (l) and Lena (r).

Krista (Brandt) Elliott is a 2000 graduate of VLHS. She’s made her way to California where she’s a full time music teacher.

Q: Tell us a little about your background.

A: I grew up in Saginaw, attending Bethlehem and then Valley Lutheran. I earned a degree in Music Education from Concordia River Forest (now Chicago). My husband, Paul, and I were married in 2004. He studied at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, as well as overseas in Cambridge, England and Dresden, Germany. We later lived in Cincinnati for 7 years, where I taught at a Lutheran school and Paul got his PhD. We currently live in California, where I am the full time music teacher at St. John’s Lutheran School in Orange and Paul

is a theology professor at Concordia, Irvine. We have two daughters, Lena who is 8, and Evie who is 6.

Q: How did Valley help prepare you for where you are now?

A: The dedicated, Christian teachers set a positive example of how to treat students. I can now bring that to my own students.

Q: How did your education experience at VLHS help further your career path?

A: Valley had, and likely still has, excellent music teachers. I remember going to Valley’s music concerts and plays with my parents when I was young. I remember really looking forward to performing in them myself, and especially loved watching the

and the Influence of Music in Their Life

Pastor Lance Klamer, a Kantor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fowler, Mich. is a 2001 Valley graduate. Music plays a key part in his everyday life.

Q: Tell us a little about your background:

A: I attended Faith, Bay City prior to attending Valley. After graduating from Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska with a degree in parish music, I obtained my Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. My wife, Melissa, and I have four children: Lydia, 10, Christiana, 7, Carl, 2, and Jakob, 1.

Q: How did your education at VLHS impact your career?

A: As a Lutheran School, Valley provided a solid foundation upon Christ, God's Word, and His Gospel. The music department did a great job of teaching us that the Word of God and music go together to the glory of God.

Q: You're an Associate Pastor in

Fowler, MI, and you're also a Kantor. What does that mean?

A: Kantor is a term that dates back to early Lutheranism. It's the equivalent of being a Director of Parish Music – specifically, a person who has a background in both church music and theology.

Q: Since you're a Pastor, this question may seem "obvious" – but how do you show your faith in your day to day life and ministry?

A: As a Pastor and a church musician, it's a joy to get to know my congregation – getting people together to hear and sing God's word on Sunday mornings, and also to bring what we sing in church into our daily lives and into the world around us. It's about getting people to sing the word of God together in church, at choir rehearsals, Sunday School, and everywhere in between!

Q: Do you have any advice for parents contemplating enrollment at Valley Lutheran?



Pastor Lance Klamer and his wife Melissa, surrounded by their four children: Lydia, Christiana, Carl, and Jakob.

A: Nothing is more important than the Word of God and His Gospel therein. There is no greater investment than a school where Christ and His word is central for its students.

Q: Well said! What about advice for graduating seniors?

A: Remember the things you've learned at Valley. Take the Word of God with you as you go out into the world. This world is filled with increasing hostility toward Christians. Even so, we remember Christ's words in Revelation to be faithful unto death and He will give us the crown of life. Nothing is more important in this life!

Triple Trio sing. When I got to Valley for high school I was able to be part of those groups. That was a really neat experience to go from watching something as a little kid to being part of it in high school. Valley offered many opportunities for music; I was able to participate in Golden Voice, Symphonic Band and Triple Trio, as well as acting in a few musicals. I think that helped me foster and pursue my love of music.

Q: What advice do you have for parents contemplating enrollment for their son or daughter at Valley?

A: Never underestimate the impact of a Christian environment for a child. The kind, caring, Christian teachers help mold and shape kids at a very important time in their life!

Q: How do you show your faith in your vocation?

A: I try to share the love of Christ with my students, both in and out of the classroom. I encourage them to appreciate the beauty of music – and that through music we can cooperate and work together while using our God given talent. And of course we can sing and play praises to our Lord!

Q: Any musical milestones you'd like to share?

A: I performed with the Symphony Chorus in St. Louis MO, also the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, Sing Akademie Dresden, and Cincinnati May Festival Chorus. Currently I perform flute with the Concordia Irvine Wind Orchestra and Sinfonietta.

A Note to Dad (Dr. Brandt):

Valley is going to be a different place without you around! Look at all the changes that you were a part of over the years: removing the taxidermied animals from the hallways (definitely frightening to me in my youth), replacing the carpetdome with the wood floor in the gym, coaching teams to the State Finals, teaching and leading students who had never imagined cell phones to students who always have them at their sides, building the football stadium, and now, completing the new addition! But one thing has never changed: your dedication to the students of VLHS and your unwavering commitment that they would know their Lord and Savior. You've worked hard, Dad. Enjoy your retirement (and make lots of trips to sunny CA)!

GROWING Campaign Update



There was a stunning, cloudless sunset the night the new signage was mounted on the new entrance to Valley Lutheran (above picture).

After the sun has set, yet before it grows dark, we tend to slow down, come to the end of our day, and feel the need to relax. But, dusk can also bring a frenzy of activity. Like the final “push” to finish mowing the lawn before complete darkness.

Both scenes accurately reflect the current season of the GROWING Campaign.

And at the same time, the GROWING Campaign is in a twilight stage as there is a flurry of work to make the final “push” to complete construction and also cross the fundraising finish line.

We invite you visit us, in person, to see the results of this exciting project.

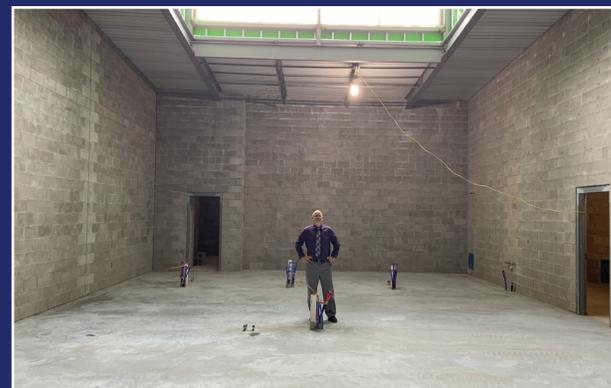
We also invite you, if you haven’t already, to join the hundreds of others who have stepped forward with their financial support.

Finally, we invite you to join us in a prayer of thankfulness to God. We thank Him for the privilege of providing a quality, Lutheran High School education for the students and families in the Great Lakes Bay Region.

Some things are complete and there is excitement and joy as we have begun to use these finished spaces. We eagerly await the use of other, soon-to-be-finished new spaces.



The new weight room is open and operational. Spring sports teams have enjoyed integrating weight training into their pre-season schedules.



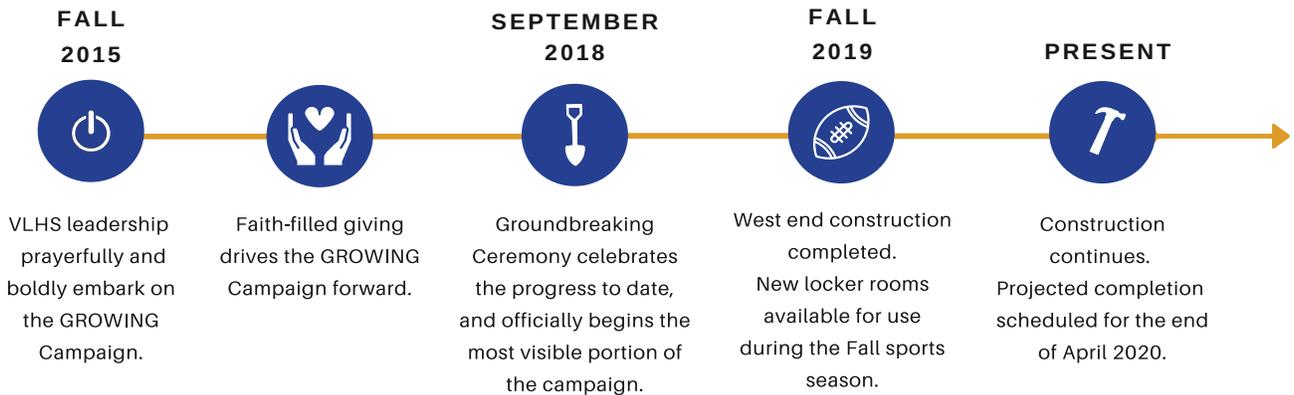
Mr. Guenther (and the entire science department) grows increasingly anxious to get into the new science labs (look closely for an ear-to-ear grin).



Before the weight room flooring was installed, the floor was signed by all students, faculty, and staff during a chapel message. We were reminded that “whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus...” Colossians 3:17.



GROWING CAMPAIGN TIMELINE



Yes, I will help meet the goal of the GROWING Campaign!

Please mail this form to VLHS, 3560 McCarty Road, Saginaw, MI 48603

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Amount enclosed: ___\$50 ___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___Other Amount

Please designate my donation to help ...

- Valley's GROWING Campaign \$ _____
- John & Sue Brandt Scholarship Fund \$ _____
- Student Aid Fund \$ _____
- Please send me information on Legacy Circle so I can support Valley through my estate.



Valley set a bold goal of raising \$10 million when we launched the GROWING Campaign in 2015.

God has blessed us with over \$9.1 million in gifts and pledges.

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can help push this effort over the finish line and to a successful completion.

Alumni News

1994

Stephanie Katzenberger was inducted into the Concordia University Chicago (CUC) Athletic Hall of Fame for her contributions to the softball program at CUC. CUC's Hall of Fame inductees exemplify the mission, spirit, and philosophy of Concordia and her Athletic Department. Katzenberger was introduced by Rachel (Keup) Ash VL '94. Stephanie is pictured below with Jan Fisher, former coach and athletic director of CUC.



1995

Karl Frixen was named the 2019 Illinois Basketball Coach of the Year by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association. He currently coaches girls varsity at Chicago Christian High School and serves as a case manager at UCAN, an organization helping youth navigate trauma they have suffered. He resides in Chicago with his wife and four children.

1999

Rev. Matthew Peters was one of four recipients of the 2019 Fr. John B. Zwiers Award by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS) Board of Trustees. Peters serves as Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church & School in Petoskey, MI. The award was given in recognition of Peters' continual support of Lutheran school education, as well as for his ongoing connection and dedication with the Zion Lutheran's staff, parents, and students.

2000

Candice Colby-Scott was a 2020 RUBY Award recipient. RUBY (Recognizing the Upward, Bright and Young) Awards are given to professionals under 40 demonstrating excellence in their area of expertise. Candice is an Otology, Neurotology and skull base surgeon at Baker ENT Associates as well as an Adjunct Faculty member at Central Michigan University Medical School and Audiology Department.



2005

Paul Walter Hauser starred in Clint Eastwood's "Richard Jewell" (released 12.19). Hauser won the 2019 National Board of Reviews Breakthrough Performance award as well as the Hollywood Critic Association's "Game Changer Award" for his performance. Hauser credits his relationship with God as having the most impact on his career. "This career could go away any minute, but my relationship with Jesus isn't going anywhere," he said.



2008 & 2009

Steven (VL '08) & Natalie (Yurgens VL '09) Schaeff welcomed Franklin Darwin Schaeff on January 1, 2020. Steve is a Sales Account Manager for LG Seeds and Natalie teaches kindergarten at Peace Lutheran in Saginaw.



2012

Jacob Blazejewski participated in Michigan Tech's 3 Minute Thesis Competition, a competition founded by the University of Queensland, Australia that works to improve student communication skills about research. Blazejewski won the competition and will be heading to Milwaukee, WI, in April for the next round of competition. Blazejewski was also recently awarded Michigan Tech's Graduate Student Government's Exceptional Student Leader award.



Elizabeth Ringel is the Director of Student Ministries for 6th - 12th grade youth at Rosewood Church in Jenison, MI.

Alumni News

2013

In May of 2019, **Zach Seder** and **Kaelin Martlock** married. Both 2013 alum, Kaelin and Zach reconnected in college while at different colleges in Indiana. The Seder's reside in Corning, New York where Kaelin works for Corning, Inc and Zach works for Johnson & Johnson.



Caitlyn Gilbert graduated from Army boot camp in March 2019 at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Gilbert currently serves as a specialist in human resources with the Army reserve unit.

Adam Jackson has started his third year as a Buena Vista police officer. In October 2019, he received a Certificate of Merit from the Saginaw Fire Dept. for his assistance in helping save the lives of two men involved in a hit and run accident.



2017

Faith Korte was featured in a recent edition of the Lutheran Educators Association's Shaping the Future publication for sharing the experiences that led her to pursue a career in teacher education training at Concordia University Chicago.

Send us your updated information!

We are always happy to hear what our alum are up to! If you have marriage and/or job accomplishments, awards, additions to your family, or other important information, please mail the information to us with the form below. Or, email those updates to hbehnke@vlhs.com. Please include your year of graduation and a high quality photo. We will publish your information and photo as space allows.

In Memoriam

Eric Handeguand, VL '91
April 17, 2019

Sara Claus, VL '88
October 12, 2019

Michael Beeckman, VL '99
November 16, 2019

Steve Masters, VL '85
March 2, 2020

ALUMNI INFORMATION

Did you move recently, land a new job, change your name or get a new email?

Please use this form to update your information (or your child's information) so you can stay connected with your alma mater. We also invite you to share big news or accomplishments with us (ie. marriage, professional accomplishments, etc.) and we may use it in a future publication. We promise not to share your information with anyone else!

Please mail this form to VLHS, 3560 McCarty Rd, Saginaw, MI 48603 or email information to hbehnke@vlhs.com.

Name: _____ Class of _____

Spouse: _____ Is spouse a VL alum? ___ Class of _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email address: _____ Phone number: _____

I would like to share my email address with my classmates: Yes No

Children: Name _____ Age _____ Date of birth _____

Name _____ Age _____ Date of birth _____

Name _____ Age _____ Date of birth _____

Occupation: _____ Employer: _____

News or Note: _____

Varsity Soccer = Conference Champs!



Congratulations to Valley Lutheran's Varsity soccer team who won the Tri-Valley West Conference Championship this fall.

Volleyball Heads to State Semi-Finals!



Congratulations to Valley Lutheran's Varsity volleyball team as they earned the title of TVC Conference Champions, District Champions, and Regional Champions, advancing them to be a State Semi-Finalist in Division 3 play. The team finished the 2019 season with a record of: 40-9-5.

Cross Country Sends Sowatsky to States



Allison Sowatsky came in 2nd at the Cross Country Regionals and ran at States for Division 3 schools. She placed 36th / 236 girls and made the Academic All State team.

Fall Sport Accolades

Valley Lutheran High School celebrated a fall sports season filled with exemplary players. Twenty-five student athletes from football, soccer, cross country, and volleyball received individual recognition for their exceptional play.

Please visit vlhs.com/news/accolades to see the full list of fall sport student athlete accomplishments.

Be sure to check the website in early-April to see the winter sport accolades, too!

Are you currently serving as an active or reserve member of the military? Do you know a grad who has been honorably discharged or is now a Veteran?

Valley Lutheran is compiling a list of alum currently serving in, or honorably discharged from, the United States military. If this applies to you, or a VL grad you know, please complete and return this form to Valley Lutheran. You are also welcome to email your information to hbehnke@vlhs.com.

Please mail this form to VLHS, 3560 McCarty Road, Saginaw, MI 48603

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Currently Stationed: _____

Time of Service: _____



**Valley
Lutheran**
HIGH SCHOOL

A Reason to Celebrate

Would you Consider Valley Lutheran in Your Estate Plan?

Celebrations of different events take place all year long. Christmas and Easter hold a special place for Christians all over the world. In the United States, we shoot off fireworks on July 4th and look forward to long weekends on Memorial and Labor Days.

More obscure celebrations include National Fruitcake Day in December and National Kite Month in April. Who can resist National Ice Cream Month in July or National Soup Month in January? In August, we find National Make-a-Will Month.



Burmeister

It might seem strange to celebrate a Will for an entire month! Most of us don't even like thinking about Wills, much less writing one. But taking time to think through the legacy you would like to leave is reason to celebrate.

As Christians, we are able to reflect on all the blessings poured out on us throughout our lifetimes. By planning your legacy, you are making a lasting statement of the relationships developed over the

years, what is most important to you, and dream about how the future could look through you.

Psalm 78:4 encourages us to: "tell the next generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done."

Your Estate Plan, including gifts to the ministries most important to you, helps tell the story of God's grace and blessings of your life, to future generations of people. Your Plan can tell your story through words and by example. How you distribute your estate assets can be a powerful testament to the people and ministries most important to you.

As you contemplate taking the first step toward writing a Will or reviewing your existing plan, consider using the Gift Planning ministry of Church Extension Fund (CEF) as a trusted resource to suggest ideas you may want to include in your Plan. Allow us to propose Christian messages like a

"Your Estate Plan ... helps tell the story of God's grace and blessings of your life, to future generations of people."

Preamble, how you want your funeral to be handled and various ways to bless your family, while leaving a Charitable Gift to your most beloved ministries.

There is no cost or obligation when you choose to use CEF Gift Planning Services. It is a ministry of CEF to the congregations and members of the LCMS in Michigan. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

- **Bill Burmeister**
Church Extension Fund
of the Michigan District LCMS

Did You Know? Valley Lutheran has a Legacy Circle!?

100+

More than 100 families or individuals have made a monetary gift to the VL Foundation (the endowment fund of VLHS) or included the Foundation - or high school - in a planned gift.
Thanks be to God!

Please contact VLHS if you would like additional information on VL's Legacy Circle.

Lost Alumni: We'd Love to Get Back in Touch!

Do you know the addresses of these alumni? If so, email hbehnke@vlhs.com with details.

Suzanne Labadie	1997	Hamin Lee	2010	Andrea Malec	2003	Lauren Melcher	1981
David Lach	1990	Kevin Leist	1987	Jared Manwell	1997	Michelle Melnik	1992
Erica Lambert	2002	Paul Lentner	1981	Michael Marshall	1992	Elizabeth Mertz	1982
David Larkin	1987	Tortorean Lewis	1994	Ashley Martin	1999	Russell Miller	1988
Erik G. Lawrence	1984	Wenjie Li	2016	Ingrid Martin	2003	Martin Moehring	1989
Marisa Leavens	1991	Tara Lisk	1998	Nauder Matinkhah	1996	Rebecca Moehring	1993
Ahryang Lee	2003	William Lyden	1984	Lisa Matusenske	1985	Tracy Mohney	1984
		Suzette Lynn	1983	Christine Maul	2004	Jeffrey Moll	1982
		Nathaniel Maas	2002	Kathryn McDonald	1991	Janet Monroe	1982
		Amanda Macomber	1994	Casey McMann	2002	Patrick Moore	1996
		Alysha Macon	2005	Bradley McRae	2004	Latoya Moore	1997
		Tina Mader	1988	Raul Medellin	1988	Kelly Morgan	1989



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Upcoming Events*

CELEBRATING DR. JOHN BRANDT'S 40 YEARS OF MINISTRY

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020
HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER
\$50/TICKET

For event details, to purchase tickets,
or to share a special memory, please visit:
www.vlhs.com/brandtretirement



21ST ANNUAL VLHS GOLF SCRAMBLE

Saturday, Sept. 19th
at Apple Mountain



Contact VLHS at 989-790-1676
for a brochure or more information



Spring Musical
April 30, May 1 & 2
@ VLHS
Tickets: \$7 adults, \$5 students



2020 Graduation
Sun., June 14
2:00 pm @ VLHS



Homecoming & Grand Tailgate
October 9, 2020

*Upcoming events may change due to mandates released from the State of Michigan. At the time of printing, these events will take place as scheduled. Please visit vlhs.com and our Facebook page for the most current event information.