

With heavy equipment rumbling, foundations being poured, and walls rising, there could not be a better year for the theme “Anchored in Hope!” As we witness first-hand how quickly talented workers can change the landscape, we are reminded of God’s faithfulness as the “landscape of our lives” ebbs and flows. We are not promised an easy life, instead we are promised an anchor when things are difficult. The letter to the Hebrews was sent to people whose lives were difficult, when with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit these words were penned, *“We have this hope as an anchor for our soul, firm and secure.”* (Hebrews 6:19)

While building additions occupied much of our thinking, it was especially timely that this year the National Lutheran School Accreditation agency recognized us as a Lutheran School of Distinction. This honor especially celebrated the work already done inside our walls noting the positive relationships and vision for the future. The honor is a result of the renewal of our accreditation from three agencies – AdvanED (the largest accreditation agency in the world), National Lutheran School Accreditation, and the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools Accreditation. It is noteworthy that this is the third consecutive accreditation cycle that Valley Lutheran has received special recognition.

September 14, 2018 will go down in Valley Lutheran history, as ground was broken for building additions that will house four science labs, an art studio, a music rehearsal room, athletic training space, an athletic multi-purpose room, expanded locker-rooms, and a secure vestibule.

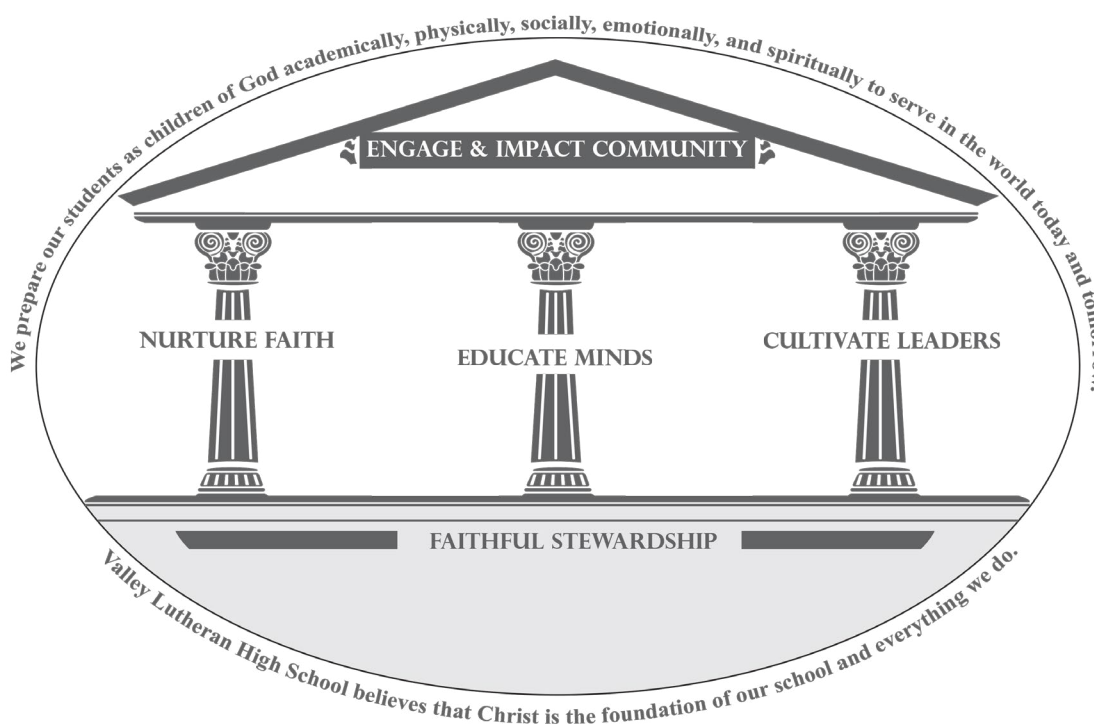
Each space is needed right now and is important for our students. However, there was much more to this day than turning over some dirt.

Pastor **Greg Schlicker (VL 1980)** delivered the message at the ceremony challenging us to keep Christ as our foundation. Then the students and guests headed outside where representatives of the Association congregations, alumni, current students and faculty, and future students took turns breaking the ground. Several community members lent their support and it was especially gratifying when State Senator Ken Horn expressed his appreciation for a ceremony that had God at its focus.

The building project is one component of the \$10 million GROWING Campaign, which at this writing has passed the \$8 million mark. Other critical campaign projects include funding the annual student aid fund (\$1.5 million over 5 years), build the immediate endowment to help meet new operational costs (\$1 million over 5 years) and identify planned future gifts (\$1 million). God has already blessed the GROWING Campaign, and we look forward to a successful conclusion as we prepare for the final year of the campaign. Truly, to God be the glory!

Yes, God has blessed us greatly, most importantly by providing us with hope through Jesus Christ, a firm and secure anchor for our souls.

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



We are a Christian school and that is what we do. It happens formally in daily chapel and theology classes. It happens informally as students are counseled by teachers and



peers. It happens after school during play practice and sports practice. It happens dramatically on the Golden Voice and Symphonic Band Lenten Tour. And it happens quietly during a silent prayer for a friend in trouble.

Sometimes it comes from an unexpected voice. This year Reverend Mandla Khumalo, pastor of St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church in South Africa, spent a day educating

us about South Africa and inspiring us with the story of God's work in his life. It was a day that challenged our thinking about racial divisions to become one of Christian unity. It was a day when he joined the Golden Voice Choir in singing an African song of worship, thus demonstrating the common language of faith in Christ.

We are a school and that's what we do. Today educators are expected to document success in this arena. And by most common metrics we are clearly successful. Our students score well on the SAT and Advanced Placement Tests. They earn college scholarships based on academic merit. They are nearly always admitted to their "first choice" university.



Over the last six years we repeatedly heard there are other important lessons to learn. We heard this when we surveyed nearly 200 individuals some of whom worked internationally. We hear this each year when we convene a group of local business people and educators we have named the "Think Tank." They include representatives from Dow, Nexteer, Morley, Covenant Health Care, Saginaw Valley State University, and others. Their message is that students need to collaborate with each other to produce quality work. They need to communicate at the individual and

group level through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They need to creatively solve problems, including those never seen before. They need to use technology as part of this process, not as an end in itself.

We took up their challenge and named it the 21st Century Classroom Initiative. Their observations guide the professional development of the faculty helping them teach these important lessons. Although not easily measured, the feedback we receive from alumni and employers is that we are making a difference.

There is no doubt we need well-prepared, faithful leaders – we did in the past, we do today, and we will in the future. The "cultivation" is often hard to identify, but with a close look you can see cultivation's results.



through student-led committees, including funding, political action, chapel presentations, and in support of Beacon of Hope, a local pregnancy support agency. Members not only do much good for the life cause, but learn many skills that will also later make a difference.

The Golden Voice and Symphonic Band Lenten Tour is a leadership event as well as musical experience. Directors Paul Eschmann and Lindsay Mueller will be the first to tell you that tour is successful because of the students. Each student has one or more duties at each

tour stop to insure the concert will share the tour's gospel message in an excellent fashion.

"This is amazing," remarked the opposing athletic director at a track meet. He was referring to our track athletes' diligence in helping the meet run smoothly. Yes, there were events to win, but there was also time for a bit of service when hurdles needed to be moved. The leadership begins with Coach Jessica Schwarz and flows through the senior athletes to the freshmen and becomes something we take for granted – a well run track meet.

The student organization "Protect Life" supports life at every phase of life. To get the word out, they work

God calls us to be good stewards of His gifts. Among those gifts are the students, faculty, classes, and programs that make for life at Valley Lutheran High School. The board of directors is tasked with "stewarding" these gifts through wise planning. As 2018 came to a close, so did a successful 5-year strategic plan. Under the direction of Ross Stueber from e3 Leadership, over 140 individuals including current, past and future parents, faculty and staff, students and alumni, pastors and board members participated in the next round of strategic planning. The board of

directors in now engaged in using the gathered information to develop goals and strategies as they continue to steward God's gifts in their care.

The Valley Lutheran Foundation serves as the school's endowment fund, providing steady funding from returns on investments. Investments are managed by Tri-Star Trust Bank and monitored by the Valley Lutheran Foundation Board of Directors. Founded in 1998, the Foundation's assets now exceed \$3 million. Of greater importance, is the distribution of over \$1 million during that time in support of the student aid program

and school improvement initiatives.

Two new funds highlight the importance of the Valley Lutheran Foundation. The Patricia Rennert Scholarship Fund was established with a gift from Ms. Rennert's estate. This scholarship is awarded to a student planning to enter a ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and is renewable for up to eight years. The Beverly Feldkamp Faculty Fellowship Fund was established to honor Miss Feldkamp's love for learning by helping faculty members continue their professional development in any number of ways.

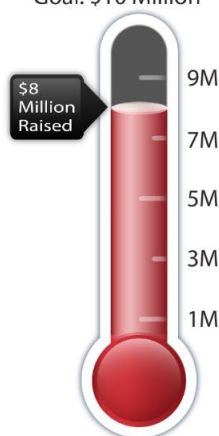
# GROWING.

## The Campaign for Valley Lutheran.

Inspired by our vision of educating minds, nurturing faith, and cultivating leaders, and to continue to give our students the highest level of educational excellence, the GROWING Campaign's capital improvements will:



Goal: \$10 Million



### STEM

Help to grow our position as a leading educator and teach students vital skills for today and tomorrow.



### The Arts

Accommodate the growing needs of our arts education courses and nurture the creativity of our students.



### Athletics

Provide space for training to better position our students athletes for success while cultivating team and leadership skills.

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

\* Chairpeople

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Operating Revenue

Revenue	2016-2017	2017-2018
Total	4,056,415	4,360,015
Tuition	1,979,075	2,098,696
Association Congregation Assessment	257,173	263,185
School Programs	266,868	231,090
Gifts	1,590,611	1,888,729
VL Foundation and Investments	\$237,169	\$145,305

### Operating Expense

Expense	2016-2017	2017-2018
Total	2,743,649	2,747,153
Instruction	969,966	954,765
Administration	376,593	402,575
Employee Benefits	433,758	436,882
Financial Aid	292,254	301,750
Facility Operations	308,228	375,853
Student Activities	304,760	321,177
Fund Development	350,189	255,732
Debt Service	155	169

Note: As of June 30, 2018, Audit by Yeo & Yeo CPA

## Balance Sheet: Three-Year History

As of June 30, 2018, Audit by Yeo & Yeo CPA

Category	2016	2017	2018
Cash and Equivalents	663,175	238,139	1,578,839
Investments (Operations)	2,012,681	3,130,900	2,695,705
Investments (Foundation)	2,391,816	2,633,881	3,039,673
Land/Building (less accumulated depreciation)	1,283,266	1,266,613	1,452,937
All Other	2,104,193	2,133,605	2,433,185
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>8,455,131</b>	<b>9,836,972</b>	<b>11,964,901</b>
Liabilities	252,322	218,086	218,086
Long-Term Debt	0	0	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>252,322</b>	<b>218,086</b>	<b>218,086</b>

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

### By The Numbers

- 1 – National Merit Commended Scholar, Devin Neumann
- 1 – MHSAA Girls Soccer District Championship (2018) & Tri-Valley Conference Boys Basketball Championship
- 1 – Rating for the Symphonic Band at the MSBOA District Band & Orchestra Festival
- 1 – Webinar for the Lutheran Education Association presented by Barb Doyle on her teaching philosophy.
- 22 – New members inducted into Valley's chapter of National Honor Society
- 2 – Monthly meetings for Parents in Prayer led by Carla Bellill
- 70 – Speakers from across the community who shared their experiences with our students on Career Day.
- 76 – Percentage of students "passing" Advanced Placement Calculus compared to 57% of all test takers.
- 104 – Individual Advanced Placement tests taken by 66 students in 7 subject areas.
- 108 – Boxes packed for Operation Christmas Child.
- 1099 – Individuals who contributed to Valley Lutheran High School in 2018.
- 1 and 2 – Teacher Ben Cooper and students Matt Lemanski and Megan Mattichak toured the Zilwaukee Bridge from top to bottom with the Dow/SVSU Chief School Science officer program.
- \$1,799,780 – Value of scholarships earned by the Class of 2018

## Valley Lutheran Board of Directors

Todd Brechtelsbauer, President	Immanuel, Frankentrost
Sue Kuck	Peace
Scott Wilson	Bethlehem
Joann Marotzke	Good Shepherd
David Britton	Faith
David Duclos	Holy Cross
Debra Beffrey, President-Elect	Messiah, Carrollton
Tom Denton	St. John, Amelith
Susan Olguin	St. Mark
Barb Appold, Secretary	St. Paul, Frankenlust
Dawn Mueller	St. Peter
David Peruski	Trinity, Monitor
Julie Neumann, Treasurer	Trinity, Reese
James Klein	Zion, Auburn
Vacant	Zion, Hemlock
Kyle Smith	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

Rodney Wakeman	President
Darrell Zolton	Vice President
Rich Marker	Secretary
Jim Milroy	Treasurer
David Duclos	
Kathy Engelhardt	
Ken Gremel	
Al Kaul	
Karen Zehnder	
Tara Frank	
Carol Laux	
Dr. John Brandt	Executive Director