

“Blessed to be a blessing” was the theme for the 2017-2018 school year as Valley Lutheran High School celebrated 40 years of ministry to students and families across the Great Lakes Bay Region. As expected, anniversaries are times for both reflection and celebration.

There was much reflection on blessings received from God through His people. Blessings like courage and trust among those parents who enrolled their children in a brand new school with only promises of academic excellence and extracurricular opportunities. Blessings like wisdom and perseverance that guided the founders when times were tough. Blessings like a faculty and staff that built on a “foundation” of Jesus.

There was much celebration for what those blessings brought. Celebration for the impact in the name of Jesus our alumni have made, literally, all over the world. Celebration for the difference Valley Lutheran has made in our community as a school recognized for its Christian ministry. Celebration for the influence of our Savior on the lives of students through their study at our school.

Coordinating this yearlong celebration was a big task taken on by the 40th Anniversary Committee. **Nancy Princing** led the committee of **Beverly Feldkamp, Bess Winter, Sydney Princing, Luke Kaul, Sarah Cmeyla, Kyle DeWees, and Jeff Rauschert**, which made the celebration events a reality. While there were events nearly every month, three events

highlighted the celebrations.

On Sept. 6, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the first chapel service. **Pastor Dean Davenport** (VL’83) was the first of numerous alumni chapel speakers when he gave the sermon at this service. **David Paul Britton**, a member of the original faculty, provided the pre-service music. In December, the Symphonic Band and Golden Voice Choir performed a Christmas concert at the Temple Theatre before a crowd of nearly 1,000. Their mix of instrumental and choral music, with messages provided by alumni, was a memorable part of the Christmas season.

**Pastor Gil McDonald**, the pastor at the first chapel service in the new school building in 1979, spoke on that anniversary, April 23. His message was clear – “It is always about Jesus.” As he shared his observations

from more than 45 years in high school ministry, including 11 at Valley Lutheran, the importance of that message for the lives of students — past, current, and future — was obvious. In the end, all that really matters is Jesus.

Whether you are brand new to our school or have been involved for 40 years — thank you. God has blessed us in countless ways. Join us one more time to reflect and celebrate — “Blessed to be a blessing.”

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



ENGAGE & IMPACT COMMUNITY

NURTURE FAITH

EDUCATE MINDS

CULTIVATE LEADERS

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

It begins with families who know students need more than “head” knowledge, they also need “heart and soul” knowledge. It continues with a faculty who agrees and is prepared with additional theological training to meet the needs of heart and soul. It happens in theology classrooms, daily chapel, team devotions, and personal conversations. Often



“nurturing faith” can be compared to “iron sharpening iron” – teacher to student, and student to student. The death of **Bev Feldkamp** was sad and nurturing. The loss of this longtime highly respected teacher was difficult for the Valley Lutheran “family.” She is remembered for challenging lessons, high expectations, and a generous heart. The final “gift” to this “family” was her chapel address where her words of faith in the promises of Jesus comforted us. They also nurtured our faith as she reminded us of our purpose to “love and serve God by loving and serving others.” Together we learned hard

important faith lessons. Often “nurturing faith” and “cultivating leaders” occurs simultaneously. This spring’s mission trip to the Dominican Republic under the direction of **Renee Brenner** is one example. Students had the opportunity to share their faith with Dominicans as they learned more about life in villages where the running water is a stream. Such experiences help students gain confidence in their Spanish language skills and faith testimony. They also learned to see the world from a different perspective, an important part of leadership.

In our early years the phrase “Quality Christian Education” described our school’s academic programs. Each year we monitor test scores and the experiences of our alumni to measure our progress. Beginning in 1987 we



have been accredited by several outside agencies including AdvancED (formerly the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges), National Lutheran School Accreditation, and the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools Accreditation. This year, as an accredited school, we conducted an intensive self-study culminated with a formal “visit” by a team of educators. The visiting team conducted 41 interviews (including par-

ents, students, faculty, staff, and board members) and observed 33 classes. They identified three “powerful” practices including our family groups, the relationship between the administration and faculty, and our financial position. The committee recommends us for accreditation with formal approval expected this summer. This process helps insure that Valley Lutheran High School remains a school with a “quality Christian education.”

Many qualities define Christian leadership including perseverance, initiative, humility, teamwork, communication, and organization. In reality high school students (and for that matter all of us) are works in progress. This is especially true as leaders whose “cultivation” may be very public or far behind the scenes.



support of pro-life issues. This year seven students trained to serve as “Sidewalk Advocates,” a positive peaceful role assisting women to make God-pleasing decisions about the health of their unborn babies. Sidewalk Advocates are **Ruby Yantz, Brad Gipson, Mateo Vargas, Lydia Schultz, Micah Schultz, Sydney Prinsing, Chloe Haynes, Abbey Hambaum, and Abby Brown.**

and funded by Dow Chemical. Robin and Megan organized a field trip for 20 students to the Mid-Michigan Medical Health Simulator. Students experienced leading edge health simulators used by medical professionals to hone their own skills.

Translating words and ideas into positive action is an indication of leadership. Our Students for Life organization has long spoken in

Seizing an opportunity and communicating the benefits to others is another indicator. **Robin Rodriguez** and **Megan Matichak** seized the opportunity to serve as Chief Science Officers (CSO) for the student body. The CSO program is administered by Saginaw Valley State University

Initiative is often a “quiet” indicator for which **Nathaniel Mueller’s** musical composition is an excellent example. Nathaniel, a member of the Glorify handbell choir, surprised director **Barb Doyle** by composing a handbell arrangement of the hymn *Jesus, Priceless Treasure*. His composition not only evidenced musical ability but also clearly demonstrated him to be a student with initiative.

# GROWING. The Campaign for Valley Lutheran.

**GROWING.** The Campaign for Valley Lutheran. was formally launched at a dinner held at Saginaw Valley State University in January.

Coinciding with the 40th anniversary celebration, the Campaign's goals are to position the school to open its doors to as many students as possible and provide them with an excellent Christian education. Funding student scholarships, both now and in the future, opens doors and requires some immediate gifts (\$1.5 million over five years). It also requires growth in our endowment fund — The Valley Lutheran Foundation (\$2 million in immediate and future gifts).

Careful review of our facilities showed the need for critical improvements that will help our faculty better prepare our students for their future. This is especially true in science, arts, and athletics where we long ago outgrew

our current facilities.

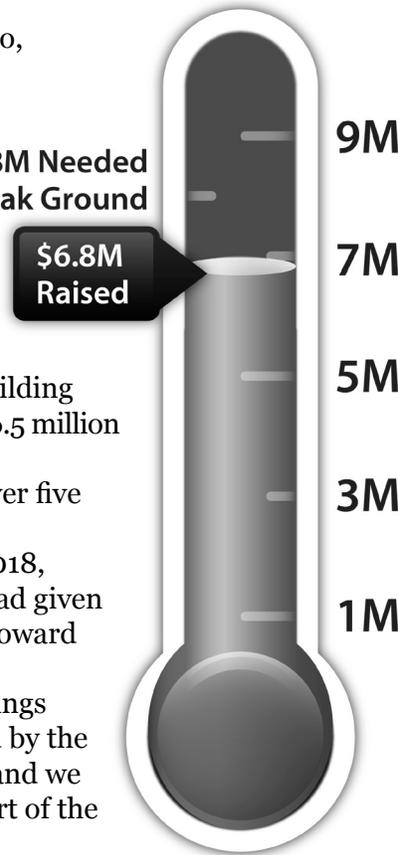
New science labs, a music rehearsal studio, an art studio, athletic training center, and locker rooms will position Valley Lutheran

for service to students for years to come.

The goal for the building improvements is \$6.5 million resulting in a total \$10 million goal over five years.

As of April 30, 2018, generous donors had given over \$6.8 million toward these goals. Initial architectural drawings had been approved by the State of Michigan and we are nearing the start of the bid process.

**Goal: \$10 Million**



These individuals are serving as volunteers for the GROWING Campaign.

## GROWING Campaign Cabinet

Dwight & Brenda McNally\*  
 Gene & Lori Pickelman\*  
 Laura Baldauf (VL'98)  
 Pete Bender  
 Greg Causley  
 Mike Denno (VL'81)  
 Lisa Helmreich  
 Katrina Kaschinske (VL'97)  
 Al Kaul (VL'87)  
 Leslie Perry (VL'97)  
 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

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Operating Revenue

Revenue	2015-2016	2016-2017
Total	4,706,277	4,056,415
Tuition	2,078,871	1,979,075
Association Congregation Assessment	241,273	257,173
School Programs	275,276	266,868
Gifts	2,211,132	1,590,611
VL Foundation and Investments	221,005	237,169

### Operating Expense

Expense	2015-2016	2016-2017
Total	2,775,497	2,743,649
Instruction	1,107,890	969,966
Administration	352,275	376,593
Employee Benefits	443,924	433,758
Financial Aid	330,593	292,254
Facility Operations	330,383	308,228
Student Activities	314,854	304,760
Fund Development	224,832	350,189
Debt Service	1,339	155

Note: As of June 30, 2017, Audit by Yeo & Yeo CPA

## Balance Sheet: Three-Year History

As of June 30, 2017, Audit by Yeo & Yeo CPA

Category	2015	2016	2017
Cash and Equivalents	1,070,535	663,175	238,139
Investments (Operations)	1,181,532	2,012,681	3,130,900
Investments (Foundation)	2,502,339	2,391,816	2,633,881
Land/Building (less accumulated depreciation)	1,266,577	1,283,266	1,266,613
All Other	590,870	2,104,193	2,133,605
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>6,611,853</b>	<b>8,455,131</b>	<b>9,836,972</b>
Liabilities	217,635	252,322	218,086
Long-Term Debt	0	0	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>217,635</b>	<b>252,322</b>	<b>218,086</b>
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>6,394,218</b>	<b>8,202,809</b>	<b>9,618,886</b>

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

### By The Numbers

- 1** – National Merit Scholarship Finalist, Danielle Behnke
- 1** – Rating for the Symphonic Band at the District Competition
- 1** – VL alum, Ed Van Cise (1995), who serves as a Flight Director for the Space Station and spoke to chemistry students.
- 1** – Golden Apple Award presented to Lisa Meyers for contributions to law education.
- 2** – Consecutive years for 100 percent passing test scores on the AP Spanish test. (26 for 26!)
- 2** – Place in the U of M Flint Math Field Day
- 3** – Plays – Camelot, The Importance of Being Earnest, and Alibis
- 4** – Consecutive volleyball Tri-Valley Conference West championships.
- 8** – Teachers who shared their expertise with others by making conference presentations.
- 21** – Different dual credit courses taken by VL students this year
- 36** – Home zip codes in the student body
- 92** – Members of the Class of 2018
- 3,308** – Valley Lutheran alumni (3400 on June 10!)
- 11/18/37/61** – The hand bell choir Glorify performed 11 times using their 18 arms to play 37 chimes and 61 bells.

## Valley Lutheran Board of Directors

Todd Brechtelsbauer, President-Elect	Immanuel, Frankentrost
Sue Kuck, Treasurer	Peace
Scott Wilson	Bethlehem
Matthew Princing, President	Good Shepherd
David Gesinski	Faith
David Duclos	Holy Cross
Debra Beffrey, Secretary	Messiah, Carrollton
Tom Denton	St. John, Amelith
Currently Vacant	St. Mark
Barb Appold	St. Paul, Frankenlust
Jim Milroy	St. Peter
David Peruski	Trinity, Monitor
Julie Neumann	Trinity, Reese
James Klein	Zion, Auburn
Joyce Little	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

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Rich Marker	Secretary
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Kathy Engelhardt	
Ken Gremel	
Al Kaul	
Karen Zehnder	
Tara Frank	
Dr. John Brandt	Executive Director
Kyle DeWees	Development Director