



Who's in Charge?

It has been two weeks since the election and people are still asking "Who's in charge?" Although we may already know that answer, people want to know who to blame when things go wrong. We fight and fight to be in charge of things, and when things go wrong, the blame immediately shifts to someone else. We want to be in charge but don't want to be blamed when things ultimately don't work out.

Although we can find many people or circumstances to blame, God usually bears the brunt of this blame. "Has he seen the condition of this world?" "Does he care about what is happening?" "What kind of God would allow these things to go on?" Since God doesn't communicate the way we do, his silence is seen as apathy or indifference. Meanwhile, our sinful world continues to be...sinful. Anger, hatred, distrust, finger pointing, violence, death. You name it, we do it, and then quickly shift the blame.

2020 has definitely been the blame for all that is wrong. "What a cursed year it is." "Chalk it up to crazy 2020." And yet, through it all, God has not changed. He is the rock on a foundation (earth) built on sand. He is the constant in an ever changing world. He is love, when all we can see and hear and feel is hate. Read Psalm 46. Those 11 verses tell us of a God in charge. It begins with "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble," and ends with "The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." When we tire of another plan going awry or another mandate from our government or another loss of another milestone, God's word remains unchanged and its promises are forever true. He truly loves His people and does not

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Members of Valley Lutheran's Global Awareness Club load canned goods and non-perishable items gathered during a food drive this fall.

Students Who Serve: Pressing On in 2020

We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 2 Corinthians 4:8-10

There's no doubt that this year's seniors have faced any number of challenges and disappointments since life as they knew it changed drastically in March with the fallout of a global pandemic. And yet, the Bible verse they chose as the theme for the school year speaks to the resilience and perseverance they've shown, as they navigate these trying times and still continue to reflect the life of Jesus in their service to others.

Two of those seniors, **Ian Schoemeyer** and **Danielle Browning**, share what their involvement in Valley's student service organizations entails and the ways they've adapted to continue to serve, both

locally and globally. **Schoemeyer**, an active member of the Global Awareness Club, has been involved in a number of the group's efforts to engage the entire student body in service, from organizing collections of canned goods and non-perishables for local food pantries, to assembling boxes of gifts for children sent all over the world through Operation Christmas Child.

Another mission supported by the group is a yearly trip to Good News Bay, Alaska, to do a Vacation Bible School program for the small remote village there. The group spent time during their weekly meetings making tie blankets to send along for the kids in the village. **Schoenmeyer** was planning to travel with the group and participate first hand, but the trip was cancelled because of the pandemic. He shares how they creatively ministered to the people of Good News Bay despite the circumstances: "The other Valley students

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forget them. My go to passage in many circumstances certainly fits into God's promise for us this year and in years past and future. *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 8:38-39

That is the promise I have to remind myself of when asked, "Who is in charge?" Our God certainly doesn't think or act like we would or we want Him to, but instead He is the one truth, the one constant, the one true God. *"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"* 1 John 3:1

~Doug Guenther

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and I put together short devotional style videos that were posted on Facebook so the kids could still have some Biblical teaching. All the supplies, including the blankets we made and craft activities were still sent. It would have been amazing to go on the trip, but I was excited to help the mission in a different way."

The Key Club, an organization focused on getting students involved in service to the local community, has used the humble shoebox to bless homeless men in the area. **Danielle Browning** details last year's efforts in assembling 75 of these gifts: "These shoe boxes contain many items that these men need on a daily basis to properly care for their bodies. We send these boxes out in the winter so we include hats, gloves and hand warmers to keep them warm and also lots of hygiene products."

Key Club members have also been involved with Old Town Christian Outreach and cleaning up several local play grounds in the area. **Browning** knows it won't be the same this year, but she chooses to have a positive outlook: "We are trying our very best to do everything we did last year. Even though there are some more restrictions, we are still going at it with a happy heart. All the members can't wait to get back out into our community!"

New Members Join NHS

Valley Lutheran High School's chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS) was proud to welcome 20 new members at its annual induction ceremony Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Students are selected for membership in NHS based on excellence in four categories: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Students with a qualifying 3.5 GPA were invited to submit an application demonstrating their strengths in the remaining three categories. A panel of Valley faculty members served as the selection committee.

This year's new members include:

Grace Appold	Leah Jezowski
Zack Blazejewski	Lauren Lothian
Caris Cancelli	Ashlyn Martin
Karyngton Castillo	Maxwell Meldrum
Kaitlyn Cloeter	Madelyn Perkins
Noah Doan	Emma Reaman
Autumn Eischer	Allison Sowatsky
Eli Frank	Emma VanTol
Ella Krugielka	Garrett Webb
Brooklyn Kuhl	Ellen Young



VL Volleyball and Boys Soccer Repeat Conference Championships



Valley Lutheran's Varsity Volleyball team has not only claimed the TVC title again, but they are repeat District and Regional Champions. Their season was put on hold with the 3-Week Pause, but they will resume their season the week of December 14th with Quarterfinals.



The Varsity Boys Soccer team claimed the TVC 10 Conference Championship for the second year in a row, undefeated in conference play. They finished the season with an overall record of 12-4-1.