



The Wait is Over!

VL Enjoying Spaces Created by GROWING Campaign

Five years ago, the leadership of Valley Lutheran High School embarked on the largest campaign in school history, with a bold goal of raising \$10 million.

Why would school leadership take-on this daunting task? To ensure Valley Lutheran High School remains an outstanding educational institution, with Christ as our foundation, preparing students to serve in the world today and tomorrow.

Now, the GROWING Campaign has officially concluded. Valley Lutheran leadership is overjoyed to announce the GROWING Campaign has raised over \$12 million over the past five years to support scholarships, campus improvements, foundation growth, and the long-term financial stability of the school. Thanks be to God!

"This campaign was successful because people truly love Valley Lutheran High School and want to see it continue to thrive well into the future," said **Julian Petzold** (VL '89), VL Executive Director. "We give thanks for the many blessings from God our Father, and we celebrate the generosity of many people who came together to make this campaign successful."

The campaign consisted of more than 5,600 gifts from more than 1,780 donors. This generous group of people included alumni, parents of alumni, parents of current students, grandparents of alumni, grandparents of current students, parents of future students, community members, area foundations, and local businesses... even future students gave their support!

"One particular gift stands out in my mind. After visiting

an association congregation, a boy right around the age of 10 approached me, and gave me a gift 'to help Valley,'" remembers **Kyle DeWees**, VL Development Director. "His kindness and genuine desire to give what he could to help, was incredible. That is a gift I will never forget."

Every school day, students, faculty, and staff enter the building through the new entrance; walking under the cross which offers a tangible representation of the love of Jesus and the faith that provides the foundation of everything in our school. VL teachers are enjoying the new, larger spaces, and are particularly grateful for the ability to spread out a little more this year.

A key to the success of the GROWING Campaign was in its design. Valuable scholarship and recurring annual needs were prioritized, enabling over \$1 million in scholarship funds to be distributed over the last five years. Keeping a Valley Lutheran education as accessible as possible is extremely important.

"The word 'family' is frequently used to describe Valley Lutheran," reflects DeWees, "it has been amazing for our students to see this project come to life and to know that

Continued on Page 2

In addition to the campaign supporters,
THANK YOU to the volunteer groups who helped
make the **GROWING** Campaign possible:

**VL Board of Directors
Campaign Cabinet
Building Committee**

Law and Order! Law and Gospel! Law and Love???

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

I'm not much of a TV guy. I'm not much into movies either. However, I know a few family members who have gotten into watching the show "Law and Order." That seems appropriate since making people follow the law creates order for members of society. Living in an orderly society with law and order is a good thing together.

I am a Lutheran guy, and so I've been raised my whole life on the concept of Law and Gospel. The law of God shows us our sin, guides our behavior, and creates in us the realization that we need a Savior. The gospel, which means good news of Jesus Christ, provides us with the Savior we need. It has long been said that every good sermon or lesson needs a good dose of both the law and the gospel. The reality of the law and gospel is a good thing together.

I'm really more of a Jesus guy than anything though, and I am amazed at how Jesus deals with all the religious leaders regarding following the laws of the Old Testament. In Matthew 22, the Pharisees try to test Jesus about the law by asking which one is the greatest (Psst – they thought they were all equally valuable). Anyway, Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it" Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:37-40 I am fascinated how Jesus joins the law and love like nobody had done before. It's remarkable, and while Law and Order go well together, Law and Gospel go well together, well, Law and Love is what Jesus taught as the best thing together.

~Julian Petzold
Executive Director

Coming to a screen near
you this November...

The Saving Spark

A play adapted from a
Slavic Folktale

Valley Lutheran's
Fall Play
to be produced
as a movie!

Look for a trailer
and a release date
coming soon!

We are excited to invite current 8th
graders and their families to

Fall Information Night

*Meet school leaders

*Tour new spaces

*Hear how Valley Lutheran is a place
where students belong and excel

October 6th

(rain date: October 8th)

Reserve your time slot at

www.vlhs.com/FINregistration

Contact Amy Cooper at

acooper@vlhs.com with ?'s

GROWING Campaign

Continued from Page 1

there are so many people who care for them and who care for this school. I hope everyone who is connected to this school is excited and proud of this accomplishment."

New and renovated spaces made possible through the campaign include:

- Four new science labs
- A new music room
- A new art studio
- Weight room
- New and expanded locker rooms
- A multi-purpose athletic room
- A new secure entrance
- Renovations to the main office
- New, larger hallway lockers
- A fresh coat of paint and LED lights throughout the hallways
- Repurposing (and future renovation) of vacated spaces



This aerial photo (looking east) provides an excellent view of our recent additions to the west end beyond the existing gymnasium and the new classrooms on the east end of the building (drone photo taken June 2020).