



## Mr. Cooper Receives International Fellowship

Out of more than a hundred applications from talented educators, life science teacher **Mr. Ben Cooper** was selected by the nonprofit organization Ecology Project International (EPI) to participate in an 8-day Teacher Fellowship in Baja, Mexico this past March.



The fellows were immersed in the diverse ecology of the area, home to 39% of the world's marine mammal species. Mr. Cooper spent four days on Espiritu Santo Island, a UNESCO-protected biosphere reserve, diving into underwater exploration and data collection, exploring the island's desert ecology, and experiencing hands-on lessons in incorporating field studies into the classroom.



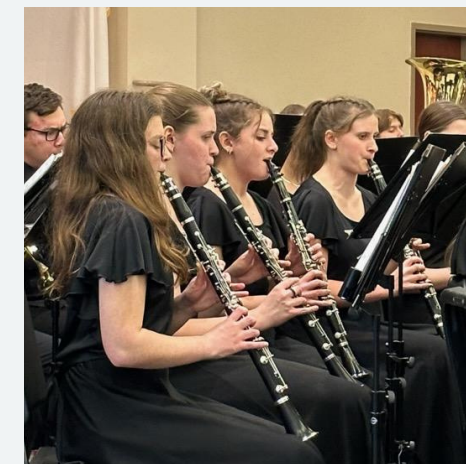
The experience also included time to explore the cultural heritage of the city of La Paz, with visits to organizations restoring coral reefs and cultivating pearls, and learning about the



indigenous peoples who inhabited the Baja peninsula before the arrival of the Spanish.

"This experience not only broadened my own personal horizons, but showed me how I can bring valuable field experiences to my students," Mr. Cooper reflected.

Mr. Cooper's trip was subsidized by the Bev Feldkamp Faculty Fellowship, which honors longtime (1980-2017) VL *cont. on pg. 2*



## Thy Will be Done

*By Al Kaul, Executive Director*

It was my pleasure to travel with the students of our Golden Voice Choir and Symphonic Band as they shared worship concerts throughout the Midwest during their annual multi-state Lenten Tour.

I enjoy listening to each night's concert as students applied their growing talents to praise God through their music. I never grow weary of listening to them playing and singing the same music, and it brings me as much

joy to witness their learning and growth and to see the joy they bring to audiences in different parts of the country.

I was especially pleased to hear one of my favorite 'songs' played each night at the beginning of each concert. The 'song' has been a favorite of mine for many years.

I was not blessed with musical talent *cont. on pg. 2*





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## ANTIQUE SHOW

by the Saginaw Valley Antique Society

April 13, 2024  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$5 Admission

- ✓ Quality Antiques from 40+ vendors
- ✓ 2 Free Verbal Appraisals (10 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- ✓ Bake Sale and Lunch Available

VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL  
3560 McCarty Rd., Saginaw, 48603

## FINE ARTS EVENTS

UPCOMING

APR 14 **HANDBELL CONCERT**  
4 PM, VLHS

MAY 2-4 **"LITTLE WOMEN"**  
7 PM, VLHS

MAY 21 **SPRING CONCERT**  
6 PM  
ST. LORENZ, WEC

VIIST WWW.VLHS.COM/CALENDAR FOR ALL  
UPCOMING EVENTS

### Cooper, from pg. 1

Social Studies and Latin teacher Miss Feldkamp's legacy, by supporting professional development opportunities for teachers.

"Our EPI Mexico instructors often took time to connect personally with us. We were in Mexico on International Women's Day, and they asked us to share about women in our lives who had impacted us. I was proud to share of Bev's passion for teaching, travel, and her love for students. Red velvet cookie bars may have been mentioned," Mr. Cooper shared with a smile.

"I thought of Bev a lot during the trip. I am so thankful to God for her and for the time we spent in ministry together at Valley."

### Thy Will be Done, from pg. 1

as anyone who has sat next to me in chapel can attest. I don't play an instrument, and I cannot sing. But I love music. I never knew the title of that 'song' until this year when I asked Mrs. Sugden about it. When I described it, she looked at me and matter-of-factly said, "It's called tuning."

Tuning. It starts rather quietly and low, and builds as each instrument joins in, and they all play the same note for the duration of the 'song'. It's not particularly pretty or melodious, but it is played at the beginning of every symphony and opera.

I love tuning for many reasons. First, it starts quiet and low, and it builds and builds toward an apex moment. Second, even though it doesn't sound entirely organized, it involves every instrument coming together to produce a single unified sound. Finally, and most importantly this 'song' is a reminder that the best is yet to come.

Our lives are often like that – the Holy Spirit grows our faith over time perhaps quietly at first, but that faith builds as we attend Church and Bible Study and Lutheran Schools, all building toward apex moments in life like confirmation, marriage, the birth of a



baby, the death of a loved one, or other big moments we experience.

Second, these faith-building activities may seem like individual separate tasks while we are growing in faith, but all the while the Holy Spirit is weaving all of these experiences together to prepare us for life with Christ as our foundation.

Finally, we know that our reward does not come here on this earth (the tuning), but rather the best is yet to come when we join our Father in Heaven and meet Jesus at His Father's right hand and experience the Heavenly Host sing the most incredible symphony of praise we will ever hear.

Lent is like the tuning – it is preparation for something better. The best is yet to come – on Easter morning we will find the tomb empty and be reminded that Jesus has won salvation for each one of us!

## Celebrating National Reading Month



March is a big month in grade school! As the nationally appointed 'Reading Month', schools fill the month with many different activities to encourage and foster a love for reading among the students.

For the second year in a row Valley students took part in the fun. This year 6 different area Lutheran elementary schools welcomed our students to spend time together in a good book!

