

Joy:Fully Lutheran!

Valley Lutheran Hosts Joint Lutheran Schools Week Chapel



*Valley Lutheran and area Lutheran grade school students and teachers listen to a chapel message by **Pastor Khumalo** on March 4, 2020.*

There's an ongoing debate of when to "officially" hold Lutheran Schools Week. The debate is friendly, and really, it's

about celebrating Lutheran Schools – not "picking" a right or wrong week – but it goes on none-the-less. The Lutheran Schools Week "debate" pits the last week of January and the first week of March against one another.

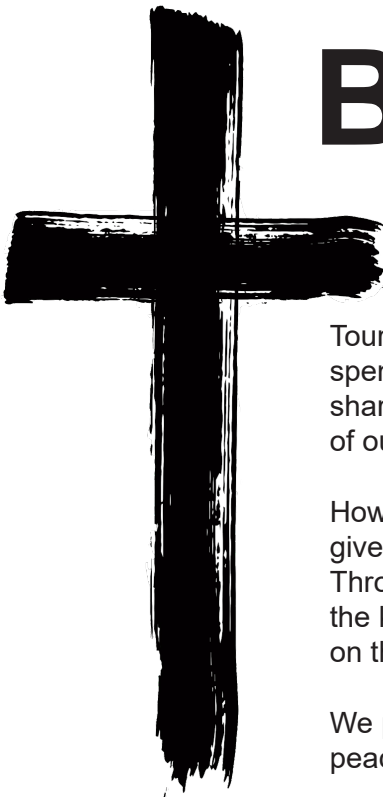
Remember the 2018-2019 school year, when nearly all schools in Michigan were closed for the entire last week in January??!! Many schools had planned Lutheran Schools Week for that week, only to send daily messages of the latest closure. In 2020, with many schools opting for the March week to avoid such cancellations, students have only had a couple snow days throughout

the whole 2019-2020 school year!

Here at Valley Lutheran, we're not advocating for your school to pick one week or another, but we are here to celebrate Lutheran Schools Week – and Lutheran School education throughout the year – with you!

And this year, we celebrated with over 800 students in a joint chapel service held on March 4, 2020. Lutheran School students and teachers from the Bay and Midland area joined together to hear a powerful message from **Pastor Mandla Khumalo**, from St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church in Middelburg, South Africa.

Continued on Back



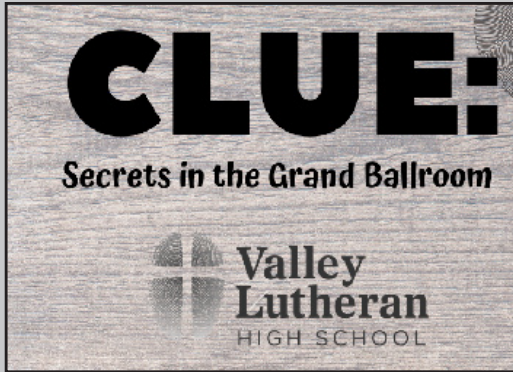
BE

STILL

was the theme of Valley Lutheran High School's 2020 Lenten Concert Tour. The musicians of the Symphonic Band and Golden Voice Choir spent countless hours preparing for the five-day, three state tour to share the message of: "BE STILL" in the peace, presence, and majesty of our Lord God.

However, Valley Lutheran, and the entire United States and world, were given a reminder of just how little control we have in our life. Throughout this Coronavirus pandemic, we take solace and comfort in the knowledge that our Savior, who was crucified for us, also rose for us on that first Easter morning.

We pray that your Lenten and Easter journey be filled with strength and peace, focusing on Christ's ultimate act of love on our behalf.



“CLUE: Secrets in the Grand Ballroom” has closed the case! The 2020 VL auction has come to a close, but not without a final THANK YOU! From sponsorships to advertising, dinner and game ticket sales to cash donations, not to mention the generous bidding on the Silent/Live auction, **over \$60,000** was raised. **Over \$22,000 was raised for the Arts Studio alone.** The Arts Studio plans to use the money to create more functional storage for ceramic pieces, art supplies, and art reference books, as well as for the purchase of wider, longer art tables for increased student workspace. A new, larger kiln will also be purchased, allowing more pieces to be fired at one time so students are able to complete projects at a faster pace. Valley Lutheran is grateful for the many supporters and donors of this and a variety of projects at Valley Lutheran High School.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for next year's auction - **Saturday, February 27, 2021.**

Continued from Front

Pastor Khumalo's message was about trust – and the many places we can put our trust. We can trust in our education, in our mind, in our strength, and in our things. But did you notice all the “our” words in that last sentence? “Our” is not perfect. “Our” will fail.

Instead, Pastor Khumalo instructed, put your trust in the Lord, because that trust will never, never go wrong. The

Bible tells us to “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5, ESV).

When we put our trust in God, we are acknowledging that HE is our creator, He made us and loves us, and that HE is our provider, He gives us what we need, even our next breath!

*At the time of this writing, schools have cancelled all activities and school itself, for the remainder of March. It is fitting that this message was provided to our students and teachers a few weeks before the mandated shutdown. It is a wonderful reminder now, as we face upcoming weeks of uncertainty, that our trust should be placed in the ONE that gives us breath.

Money? Fame? Power? Which is Least Important?

In a recent ethics class, students were asked to consider the aforementioned questions. Caleb Krueger's reply is recorded here in devotion form. Caleb is a VLHS senior who graduated from St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth.

Which is really least important?

Money? Money is almost essential to living today. Adults need money to provide shelter, food, and basic necessities for themselves and their dependents. But money can also cause many problems. Too much love of money is idol worship, but not having enough money can cause much stress, strain, and doubt in a person's life.

Power? Most people strive to hold some sort of power – but what we do with that power can make all the difference. Using our power over someone is not what the Bible asks us to do. As Christians, we do want power behind our words, behind our messages. There is something very powerful about being a Christian role model, someone we want to look up to, and someone we want our children to respect.

Fame? Likely, many of us reading this devotion will not experience great fame within our lifetime. Likely, many of us did not grow up in a “famous” household. So can we even attain this?

When we look at these three: money, power, and fame, it's important to remember that God has placed each of us in a different situation for a different purpose. We do not always comprehend why some people seem to have more than enough money while others struggle to make ends meet, we may not realize how powerful our words and actions actually are, and we may never reach “earthly fame.”

Thankfully it's not about us.

It's about pointing others to **Christ and** it's about our **salvation.** Dr. Martin Luther's “A Mighty Fortress is our God” reminds us that “goods, fame, child and wife” will be gone, but “the Kingdom ours remaineth!”

So...use your money, your power, and/or your fame in whatever capacity God has provided you, to point to Christ. In Him alone may we find comfort, rest, security – and eternal life!