

Spring 2019

# Family & Friends

A publication of Valley Lutheran High School



## Spotlight:

Ready. Set.  
Let's finish  
building

**Page 2-3**

*Photo Credit: Brady Sting VL '20*

Building upgrades on the west end of campus will provide the athletic department with new locker rooms, a new 69x32-foot weight room, athletic offices, and a newly refurbished meeting room.

## Inside this issue

### **Faculty: Past and Present**

Honoring a past social studies teacher, discuss changes with a present one.

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### **A Boost For Education**

Benefit Dinner, Auction raises \$58,000 for Valley.

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### **GROWING Campaign Update**

Learn more about how you can help us reach our goal.

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## Telling Stories

“If you want to be a great history teacher you need to be a great story teller.” These were the words of the wise veteran Valley Lutheran social studies teacher David Turrill (age 30ish) to me, the new guy on the faculty. Little did I know that Mr. Turrill’s storytelling would result in several published novels. I was learning from a master story-teller.

In 1979, his advice could not have been better. Social Studies classes included many lectures, a fair share of movies, a bunch of writing, and tests. Today, there is still room for each and new ideas have been added – inquiry, collaboration, and internet. Social Studies classes are a training ground for skills necessary for

students to not only sift out the new from the “fake news” but to develop critical thinking and communication skills that will serve them throughout life, while learning



**Brandt**

about this country and world we call home.

This edition of Family and Friends features articles on two long-time Social Studies teachers – Barry Wittig and Bev Feldkamp. So many alumni reached out when Miss Feldkamp passed away in December 2017 that we wanted to share the window designed in her memory by alum **Sarah Van Tol (VL ‘96)**. Mr. Wittig is one of a very short line of Valley Lutheran Social Studies teachers which also includes Mr. Turrill, Jon Frank, Miss Feldkamp, and myself!

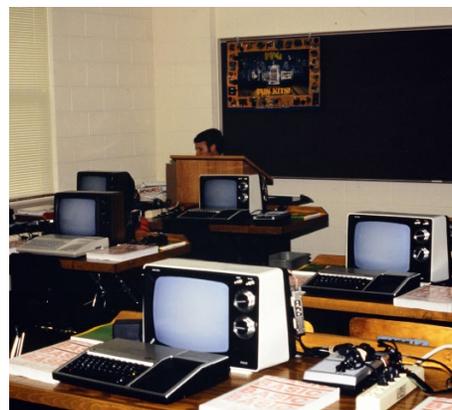
It is often said that our students are learning about God, His creation and their part in it. Government, economics, history, geography and all the rest are studies of His creation.

Continued on Page 13

# NOW...



## What Valley was...



# ...is your time!

Valley Lutheran is rich in tradition, but engaged in dynamic growth on every front. Since 1977, VLHS has earned a reputation as a leader in Christian education. Today, Valley Lutheran is *growing* to prepare for the next 40 years of excellence.

We set a bold goal to raise \$10 million for the GROWING Campaign when we launched this effort in 2015. To date, we have been blessed with over \$7.8 million in gifts and pledges. These funds have helped keep the great programs at Valley going, helped us establish a strong financial foundation, and allowed us to break ground on the important physical improvements our campus needs.

Now, we are asking the greater Valley Family - we are asking you - to join the effort to ensure we reach our goal and ensure Valley Lutheran remains a leader in our region.

### Here's how you can help!

Valley is in the early stages of reaching out to the broader Valley "Family" - beginning with alumni - to help drive the GROWING Campaign to its goal.

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## What Valley will be!



## Faculty: Past ...

# Bev Feldkamp remembered with memorial window

Valley Lutheran sadly lost one of its own last December with the passing of Miss Feldkamp.

A longtime World Geography and Latin teacher, Feldkamp joined the staff at Valley in 1980, and she impacted thousands of lives in nearly 40 years at the school until being called home.

One of those lives she touched, **Sarah Van Tol (VL '96)**, created a stained glass window in her honor, that now resides in the window between the cafeteria and Resource Center at Valley.

**Q: Is it safe to say Miss Feldkamp made a positive impact on you?**

**A:** Absolutely, whether she knew it or not, she was my favorite teacher. I always felt very loved and heard in her class. I took three years of Latin. It tends to be a small group, and our group pretty much became like family. It was always a safe and loved place in her class. I think I took every single class she offered. I loved her attitude and her energy.

**Q: Can you tell us about the different elements you included in her window and why?**

**A:** I tried to incorporate things that Miss Feldkamp was known for, what she taught, and what symbolized her character.

Obviously, I wanted there to be something Latin. Dr. Brandt helped me come up with the idea. He talked to some staff and students, and everyone had an input.

The cross is a takeaway from the cross that was used at Valley for her memorial service.

The world is for World Geography, which was her subject matter, and the verse was her confirmation verse (Joshua 1:9). I'm sure that was something that was always special to her. It's also a good thought for high schoolers to see every day when they walk by it. Whether they knew her or



In Latin, it reads *Fidelis Sapiens Fortis Charitativus Diligens*, which speaks to her faithfulness, intelligence, strength, charity, and devotion. The window resides in an interior wall for the Resource Center facing the cafeteria.

not, it speaks true of her.

**Q: When did you know you wanted to do something to remember her by?**

**A:** I knew right away. I approached Dr. Brandt, and I asked about a place to put the window. One window turned into two, and it gradually came together. I love the place it ended up being put. It's a prominent place, and people will see it even when class isn't in session.

We kind of decided it should be something in the old building vs. the new building.

**Q: How long did it take from start to finish?**

**A:** Miss Feldkamp passed away in December. We started talking about it in January and where we were going to put it. Dr. Brandt asked if we could get it done before graduation. That seemed like a good thing, so everyone could see it and be reminded of her.

**Q: Is it special being able to leave a memory like this of her?**

**A:** It means a lot that I can be a part of the school's history and remember my favorite teacher.

It's a way to keep her there forever, so when students who didn't know her come through, they'll get a feeling of how great a person she was.



## ... and Present

# Barry Wittig sees God's hand at work every day through history

Barry Wittig is in his 28th year teaching social studies at Valley Lutheran.

**Q: Tell us a little about your background?**

**A:** I come from a family of Lutheran school teachers. My dad and my mom were both Lutheran school teachers. When I was in high school, I did not want to be a school teacher, especially a Lutheran school teacher. But you never tell God no, because you'll look like a fool. Look where I'm at now? My dad was my principal through eighth grade. I lived in Buffalo, New York, near Niagara Falls. Then I lived in Detroit before I came up here. I say I came into Lutheran school teaching through the back door. I was working sales in my 20s. When I finally decided to go back and finish my education, I went to be a teacher.

**Q: What classes have you taught?**

**A:** I've taught Honors English, Freshman English, Economics, Psychology, British Literature, Government, U.S. History, Church History, and World History. Anything in the social studies area, I've probably taught.

**Q: Why did you decide to teach high school social studies?**

**A:** When I started back to college, because I had dropped out, I was originally looking at elementary. First of all, I've always liked history. When I was a kid, I always read biographies about famous Americans, but when I was in college I was inspired to switch. I had a couple history professors who told me if I really like this stuff, I should do this instead. So I switched from elementary to secondary.

**Q: How has Valley changed over the years?**

**A:** I think one of our strengths is we're not afraid to change. Valley has always dedicated itself to getting better from a curriculum standpoint. I think we do a better job of teaching the kids today. Back 28 years ago, I think we did a good job teaching kids, but that's changed. I think the biggest change has been technology. I was the technology coordinator for awhile, because I really saw how we can use that in education. That's what lets us bring alive different aspects of education in the classroom. It used to be, you used a VHS. Now you can use Youtube and all different kinds of technology. And, of course, the kids can access technology. So what they can access, and how they learn, is different.

**Q: What are some of your favorite memories at Valley?**

**A:** For me, it's been directing musicals. About 15 years ago, I picked up a real passion for it. I really enjoy it, and I find it really rewarding. It's a ton of work and requires a lot of different people, but watching how kids grow from the time they try out to the time it's over is a really positive experience. Some of my best memories aren't even the shows, but practices and working on them with the kids.

**Q: How do you incorporate religion or Bible lessons into your classes?**

**A:** I try to impress upon kids that this is a nation that God has richly blessed. I think that's because there's a lot of Christians in the U.S. But at the same time, as sinful human beings, we're going to see sinful human beings throughout history who've made mistakes. I think one cool thing is the United States continually makes mistakes, but we continually try to improve after them so that we're better. In Psychology, I tried



Barry Wittig joined the teaching staff at Valley Lutheran in 1991.

to incorporate what Paul says and Christian points about counseling. Any time I have a chance to bring God into the classroom, I do. In history, one thing I always say is, "We can't always see God's hand at work in the present, but we do quite often when we look back at history."

**Q: You seem to have a strong relationship with a lot of students. How important is that to you?**

**A:** That's really what makes a teacher. You try to impress upon kids that it's not necessarily how great they perform academically in the classroom. They have to recognize their own gifts and talents. I really like working with kids to find that out. Some of my best memories are building those relationships with kids, working side-by-side with kids to show them the ropes then see them take over. Some of those kids have kids who are at Valley now, and that's really cool to see.

# Valley Students March for Life in D.C.

Valley students attended the March for Life and toured the capital

You don't need to be an adult to make a difference. You just need passion and a will to act.

Valley Lutheran students and staff know this, and they put that into practice Jan. 16-19 while attending the annual March for Life in Washington D.C. to celebrate life and promote the protection of unborn children.

"It was a lot of fun," **Valley junior Abby Brown** said. "You don't realize how many people are there until you're actually at the event. There were swarms of people on the streets. It was really special to see so many people who stand up for the same thing you do."

Conservative news estimates place the number of people who attended the March in the hundreds of thousands.

"They said last year there were 700,000," Brown said. "I didn't realize how many people that was. We waited for an hour to get on the road and march because it was so packed."

Thirty students from Valley and 10 chaperones and alumni made the trip this year -- joined on the bus by 15 friends from Lutheran High Westland -- for the fourth sponsored trip by the school.

"It's very encouraging to our students to witness how many young people actually support life and to be able to speak out against the greatest atrocity of our day," said **Valley French teacher Cris Urbytes**, who organized the trip.

The bus left Valley Wednesday evening and picked up the Westland contingent later that day before making the all-night drive to Washington D.C. Upon their arrival, the group quickly checked into their hotel before heading to the Holocaust Museum. During the afternoon, the group attended the Youth Rally where they learned from prominent pro-life speakers, including Lila Rose, founder



Valley Lutheran students and staff, along with a group from Lutheran High Westland, attended the March for Life in Washington, D.C. and toured the capital.

of Live Action. A tour of several memorials and monuments, along with commentary on our Christian heritage closed out the day.

In addition to their traditional meeting with Michigan Congressman John Moolenaar's Chief of Staff, the group had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol Friday morning before the Rally and March. In a bit of a surprise, Vice President Mike Pence and Mrs. Pence made an impromptu visit to support those in attendance.

"What an awesome surprise," Urbytes said. "Vice President Pence attended a couple years ago, the first sitting VP to do so, but this year no one knew about it except the president

of the March for Life."

A highlight for the students and chaperones was connecting with a large Lutheran delegation along the route and marching alongside LCMS President Harrison. At the conclusion of the March, they took some time to listen to women who are now pro-life share their post-abortion stories on the steps of the Supreme Court. After dinner at Union Station, the crew headed for home.

"The majority of the people in the March were our age, which is a big change from when it started," Brown said. "It used to be older people, but now the younger generation is taking over and trying to fight back."



## Yes, I want to make Valley accessible!

Please mail this form to VLHS, 3560 McCarty Road, Saginaw, MI 48603

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ Other

Please designate my donation to help ...

Alumni Angel Fund (Minimum \$500) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student Aid Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me information on Legacy Circle.

To donate online, visit <https://www.vlhs.com/give>

## Search on for Alumni Angels

Alumni Angels is a group of Valley Lutheran High School alumni who step forward to provide additional financial assistance beyond the school's resources for students with exceptional needs.

Your minimum pledge of \$500 can be the decisive factor that allows a deserving student to get the life-changing, quality, Christian education that Valley has to offer.

For more information, contact John Brandt at 989-790-1676.

## You are unique

We all have unique identifications. Your fingerprints are different from anyone else. Your eyes can identify you through Iris Recognition. In fact, the March issue of *The American Journal of Human Genetics* published a study conducted by scientists at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, plus universities in Sweden and the Netherlands. Ten pairs of identical twins were studied, including nine pairs with one twin showing signs of dementia or Parkinson's disease, while the other did not.



**Burmeister**

According to Jan Sumanski, a professor at UAB and author of the study, they expected only epigenetics (don't ask) would differ greatly between twins. But they found changes on the genetic level, the DNA sequence itself. Bottom line: Identical twins apparently do not have identical DNA. You're unique.

We are all created as individuals. God has chosen us and given us our unique identity. But we all have a common purpose. We are to live each day for Him. We are all asked to be

stewards.

Stewardship is what we do after saying, "I Believe". Faith lives in our actions. What we do is a response to God's love for us.

There is a story of a young boy who worked all winter making a model boat. In spring he was excited to sail the boat, but once the wind caught the sails, he realized his boat was sailing off and he would not be able to retrieve it. Later that summer he saw the boat in the window of a shop in town. He needed to raise the money to buy the boat from the shop owner. When he was able to get the boat, he said, "Now you are twice mine, first I made you and now I paid for you".

That is just like us. Psalm 139:13 reminds us that He knit us together in our mother's womb. And Jesus bought us from the grasp of Satan by dying on the cross, defeating death and rising from the grave. We have a new identity through Jesus. We are God's own children.

Stewardship begins in gratitude for what He did for us. All that we have is a Gift. Our time, our talents and treasures are all from Him. We don't volunteer, sing in the choir or support ministry because we have to. We do it as an act of worship; praise for all the

gifts that He has given us.

As you look forward to the time you receive the best Gift, life in Heaven, what are you planning to do with the earthly gifts that will be left behind?

You are the steward, the caretaker of those gifts. Are you planning to leave a portion to family? Have you considered including a final tithe, 10%, as a last thanksgiving to help insure that the saving message of Grace is shared for generations to come? It's really all His! We are just returning a portion of the Gifts He has given to us. Do it today. Call CEF to assist you in putting your Estate/Gifting Plan in place.

***"God has chosen us and given us our unique identity. But we all have a common purpose. We are to live each day for Him. We are all asked to be stewards."***

***— Bill Burmeister***

**— Bill Burmeister**  
Church Extension Fund  
of the Michigan District LCMS

# Family & Friends

## ALUMNI INFORMATION

Please mail this form to VLHS, 3560 McCarty Road, Saginaw, MI 48603 or email information to [hbehnke@vlhs.com](mailto:hbehnke@vlhs.com).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ Is spouse a VL alum? \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like to share my email address with my classmates: Yes No  
 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children:      Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
                   Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
 News or Note: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

# Alumni Information



Valley Lutheran alumnus Rodney Wakeman (VL '84) is sworn in as the State Representative for the 94th district.

## Lost Alumni

Do you know the address of these alumni? If so, email [hbehnke@vlhs.com](mailto:hbehnke@vlhs.com) with details.

Gabriela DePaula	1987	Karen Fahrenbruch	1983	Diana Frederick	2004	JiHyun Ham	2015
Jeffrey Dietrich	2001	Kristine Failla	2000	Jack Fritz, Jr.	1983	Sarah Handeguand	1993
Melinda Dietzel	1999	Julie Feldotte	1998	LeeAnn Gauthier	1988	Yee Hang	1985
Patrick Dirker	1986	Jennifer Feldotte	1995	Kerry Gerard	2008	Wang Hang	1993
Kevin Dorey	1981	Florence Fernandez	1989	Brooke Gielczyk	1994	Marie Hangsleben	1982
Desiree Downing	2002	Brenton Ferris	2006	Eric Gills	1989	Grant Hannum	1989
James Doyle	1981	Victoria Filatova	2002	Sara Gonzalez	2005	Amy Hannum	1991
Lisa Usher	1982	Kristie Reber	1998	Thomas Grass	1998	Rev. Dr. Paul Harder	1983
Kenneth Euler	1983	Nichole Fitzgerald	2000	Travis Gray	1999	Sabrina Hare	1993
		James Fitzpatrick	1991	Lori Grigg	1980	Catherine Harris	1997
		Janine Fogg	1989	Michael Haas	2001	Michael Harrold	1998
		Alice Patterson	1986	Lindiwe Hadzisa	1984	Amanda Raymaker	1998
		Harry Frederick	1997	Jeffrey Haiderer	2002	Weiling He	2016
		Michael Frederick	2002	Faith Hall	1984	Rebecca Pickens	2002

## Alumni News

1983

**Lisa Heidrich** married Mitch Larson on July 21, 2018. The couple resides in Saginaw. Heidrich is a Special Education teacher for Saginaw Public Schools.



Jacob Sherry (VL '05) was installed as Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Onekama, Michigan.

2005

**Jacob Sherry** was installed as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Onekama, Michigan on Dec. 2, 2018. Sherry and his wife, Jessica, have three children -- Sarah, Leah, and Charles -- and are expecting a fourth.

**Dr. William Allen** joined Magdalen College at Oxford University in 2018 as a Fellow. After completing his studies at Alma College, Allen completed an MPhil in Development Studies at the University of Oxford as a Jack Kent Cooke Graduate Scholar. He also worked for the Migration Observatory at Oxford as a Research Officer, eventually leading its analysis of British media coverage about migration, as well as projects on research communication practice.

2006

**Stephanie (Petzold) Long** married her husband, Andrew, in 2011. Together the couple have sons Braxton, 5, and Kolten, 1. Long is a Registered Nurse and case manager for Concerto Health, and she has coached volleyball at Colon High School for 13 years. She is currently working on a masters degree to become a Nurse Practitioner.

2011

**Hannah (Keinath) Woolwine** married her husband, Danial, on May 19, 2018. Hannah is an Occupational Therapist at Marlette Regional Hospital. The couple resides in Vassar.

2012

**Jacob Blazejewski** received the Dean's Award at Michigan Tech University for Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching in the fall of 2018. Blazejewski earned his PhD in Mathematical Sciences.



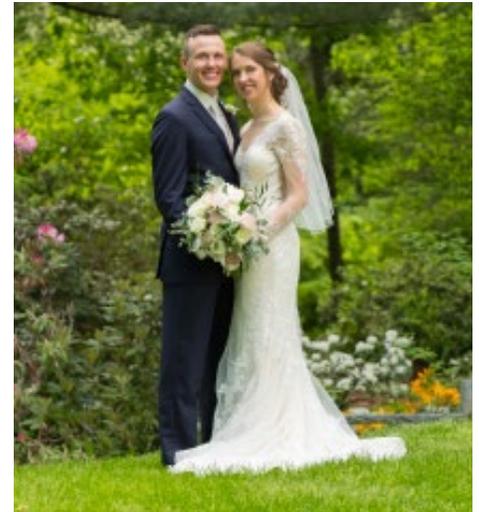
Calvin Howard was born on Aug. 21, 2018.

2013

**Evan Howard** and his wife, Olivia, welcomed their son Calvin on Aug. 21, 2018.

**Madison (Diehl) Patrick** and her husband, Adam, graduated from Michigan Tech University in May of 2018. Madison graduated with

a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. The couple married the same month and took an extended summer honeymoon visiting National Parks across the United States and Canada. Following their honeymoon, they moved to Peoria, Illinois to work for Caterpillar.



**Madison (Diehl) Patrick (VL '13)** graduated from Michigan Tech and was married in May of 2018.

2017 and 2018

**Max Wood (VL '17)**, **Josh Darling ('18)**, and **Corbin Stefanski ('18)** all competed for the Concordia University -Ann Arbor football program in the fall, and all three were recognized as Honor Roll players with GPAs of 3.49 or higher.

### In Memoriam

Joe Miller Jr., VL '82  
Nov. 20, 2018

Dane Taylor, VL '86  
Jan. 31, 2019

Christopher Enriquez, VL '02  
March 16, 2019

John Sadowski, VL '84  
March 24, 2019

# Valley Activities



The Destination Imagination team discusses strategy for the state competition after competing in the Regional Competition at Clare Primary School. Valley's team advanced to the state tournament after building a drone capable of dropping a payload.

The Valley Lutheran Quiz Bowl team competed and won a match against Carrollton at Saginaw Heritage High School. The Chargers ended the season third in the region.



The National Honor Society chapter at Valley Lutheran inducted 22 new members during a ceremony in September.



## Send us your info!

Parents, have your children moved out and you're still reading their Family and Friends? If yes, then it's time to get a copy sent to their new address.

Please email updated contact information to Heidi Behnke at [hbehnke@vlhs.com](mailto:hbehnke@vlhs.com). While you're at it, consider this your invitation to brag about your child. We'd love to hear what our alums are doing now!

## VL Class of '09 Planning a Reunion

Nikki (Lisee) Martus is in the stages of planning the 10-year reunion for the Class of 2009.

Martus made a private facebook page to keep the class up-to-date. The majority of classmates have been added, but a few are missing.

The reunion will be in 2019.

For more information, contact Martus at [nikkilisee@yahoo.com](mailto:nikkilisee@yahoo.com) or call 989-274-8271.

## Send us your updates

Please mail or email current information to us using the form at the top of page 8.

We will include marriage announcements, job accomplishments, awards, additions to your family, or most other information that you would like to share, as space allows. Please identify your year of graduation.

We will publish a photo of your announcement, as space allows. Please provide a quality photo.

# Lenten Tour

The annual Lenten Tour at Valley Lutheran High School is one of the more popular extracurricular activities and a staple for music students for more than two decades.

Each spring the Symphonic Band and Golden Voice Choir travel the Midwest performing at churches and schools during Lent.

“It was great,” said Valley Choir Director Paul Eschmann, who just completed his 20th tour. “We had five great nights of concerts and one assembly at a great school. The kids were phenomenal. They did a great job.”

The group of 78 musicians, under the direction of Eschmann and Lindsay Mueller, departed Wednesday, March 13 after performing at Valley for chapel, and they embarked on a five-day, six-concert tour through Ohio and Michigan.

“It was really fun,” said senior Madison Fehn, who completed her third tour. “You get to meet people you wouldn’t usually meet and talk to people you wouldn’t normally talk to. It’s something in His service, and some of the songs really make you think of the passion and what Jesus did for us.”

Valley Lutheran High School, and its music program, used the opportunity to share Christ’s message and remember the salvation we all enjoy because of the sacrifice He made.

The group performed at Immanuel Lutheran in Bridgman, Michigan, Saint John Lutheran in Rochester, Michigan, Bethany Lutheran in Parma, Ohio, and Saint Paul Lutheran in Napoleon, Ohio before capping it off with a home concert at Peace Lutheran Church in Saginaw on Sunday, March 17.

In between the performances, the group took the opportunity to stop by a couple attractions such as the Rock’n Roll Hall of Fame and the West Side Market in Cleveland.

“It’s really fun,” Fehn said. “I love travelling, and you get to go to things



Symphonic Band and Golden Voice Choir performed six concerts over five days during the annual Lenten Tour. They made stops in Michigan and Ohio.

you wouldn’t think of going to. ... You get some freedom to see things.”

The official verse for this year’s tour was *Romans 5:1*, “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Peace was also the theme of the performances with the hope of allowing students to use their gifts to impact others.

“It gives our students the opportunity to put into practice what they’ve learned all year long, and

that’s to use their gifts and talents to share Christ with other people,” Eschmann said. “What makes it special and unique is that they have the opportunity to do that on their own, without any guidance. When they go to host family homes, they engage in conversations with those families about their faith, what they believe, what they plan to do in the future, and how Christ fits into that picture.

“I would love for more people to have the opportunity.”

# Auction and Benefit Dinner nets \$58,000 for VLHS students

The idea for bringing a Lutheran high school to Saginaw, Michigan was first tossed around in the 1950s.

This made the 2019 dinner-auction theme of Fabulous 50's an apt one as Valley Lutheran High School enters the final stages of a GROWING campaign that will provide future generations of students with the facilities they need to continue to receive an exceptional education.

"The proceeds from the auction really do have a direct impact on the students at Valley Lutheran - mostly in the form of student aid. That could be the difference from a student attending Valley or not," Valley's Director of Development **Kyle DeWees** said.

More than 325 people were in attendance for the 16th annual event that raises funds typically for student financial aid. However, this year's auction had the added benefit of contributing to the construction currently underway at Valley's McCarty Rd. campus.

All told, the event raised \$86,000, which provided a net gain of \$58,000 after expenses.

Of that, \$22,000 is earmarked towards the installation of new lockers throughout Valley Lutheran. The old half lockers will be replaced with 400 new, full-size lockers, in addition to four new types of lockers in the new locker rooms and more than 30 new lockers in the new music department.

The remaining \$38,000 will go towards student aid.

"There is no other time that people come together with the sole purpose of fun and fellowship with one main thing in common: VLHS - a school with Christ as its foundation. There is an energy in the room unlike any other event I've attended," DeWees said.

Valley staff, alumni, donors, and supporters were all decked out in the Fonz's leather jackets and poodle skirts at Apple Mountain's Conference Center in Freeland, which was colorfully adorned in 50's memorabilia for the



Above: More than 325 Valley supporters, staff, students, and friends were on hand for the 16th Annual Auction and Benefit Dinner

Left: Sisters-in-law Jennifer Princing and Jenny Princing (VL '87) looked fabulous in their '50s attire.

event.

The planning committee went all out, even purchasing a soft serve ice cream machine for the root beer float station.

Students even took part in the evening's entertainment performing old musical hits for the benefit of the attendees.

"There were even a couple of performances from the main stage featuring some talented individuals who looked strikingly similar to Patsy Cline, Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, and a young Elvis," DeWees said "The 'Side

Stage' singers were an absolute hit."

Eleven Valley students took turns singing classic '50s songs, while others helped out with the auction, and staffed various aspects of the event, such as running the ice cream station and coat check.

DeWees said the silent auction raised more than it ever has before. Other auction items such as the Torch Lake vacation home rental, wine barrel furniture set, and Mackinac Bridge tour received a lot of attention, as well.

# Your Invitation to Make an Impact

Dear Friends and Family,

This is an exciting time in the history of Valley Lutheran High School! The GROWING Campaign for Valley Lutheran is in its fourth of five years, building progress is well underway, and we are on schedule to be “in” the new space at Christmas of this year!

The GROWING Campaign seeks to strengthen and build upon the same vision cast by the school’s founding fathers: a high school experience where academic excellence is combined with leadership development, in an environment with Christ at our center.

This bold, \$10 million effort – of which \$7.8M has already been raised - seeks to:

- Enhance our science curriculum with new labs.
- Grow our music, art, and athletic programs with expanded space.
- Provide a more secure entrance for the safety of our students and staff.
- Keep our school as financially accessible as possible, by providing scholarship support and endowment funding.



Now, I would like to invite you to join us in the fund raising effort. Many have already affirmed their belief in the ministry of VLHS with a pledge of support – thank you! And, in the coming months, there will be opportunities for everyone in the greater Valley Family to financially support this effort. In doing so, you will affirm the mission—and commit to the vision—of Valley Lutheran and the GROWING Campaign.

I hope and pray that you will join us in this effort because you know the value and importance of a Valley Lutheran education. I ask that you begin to give prayerful consideration to making a multi-year pledge that will assist in reaching Valley’s end campaign goal. And, when provided with the opportunity, that you would support Valley’s GROWING Campaign to help us cross the finish line!



In joining this effort, you are helping to advance the mission and vision of Valley Lutheran High School. Your participation will impact the lives of students and families of the Great Lakes Bay Region for now and for generations to come!

In His Service,

Kyle DeWees  
Development Director  
kdeweess@vlhs.com

P.S. I encourage you to visit [vlhs.com/growing](http://vlhs.com/growing) to learn more, see the most up-to-date progress of the campaign, and even make a gift.

## Telling Stories, *cont'd*

We are blessed and grateful that we are still able to teach about this corner of God’s creation. And it is always with joy and a certain amount of pride to hear from alumni who are making an impact in the areas of the Social Studies.

**John Brandt, Ed.D.**  
**VLHS Social Studies (1979-1994)**

# Not Guilty, Your Honor

A series of Valley Lutheran students showed a glimpse of their bright futures, even if taking advantage of that one day means you're probably having a bad day.

Twelve Valley students took part in Saginaw County Law Day on Thursday, March 21 trying a fictional case in front of an actual magistrate at the Saginaw County courthouse.

"They won a not-guilty verdict on pretty much a slam dunk guilty case," VLHS Academic Dean Dr. Lisa Meyers said. "They picked a strategy and really stuck to it over and over again. They did such a good job."

In the fictional case, a Valley student played the part of a teenager who was texting and driving in a construction zone. He swerved to miss an oncoming vehicle striking and killing a construction worker.

"There was another individual who was an 88-year old, one-eyed man that cut my client off," Valley senior Zach Marotzke said. "What we tried to do was pin the blame over there. Since the jury was made up of high school students, we tried to make them feel sympathetic towards the high school student's perspective of how it happened. Then we were able to show that it was a result of the other guy making my client make the swerve that caused the accident."

Marotzke and Katie Wilson played the part of lawyers with Andy Fritz serving as the defendant. Kelsey Vittitow, Abi Walk, and Megan Mattichak served as witnesses.

"It was nerve-wracking," Fritz said. "I wasn't nervous during any of the practices, but then we got to court and everyone hated me. Obviously, it wasn't me. I was playing a part, but all the prosecutors were saying all these bad things about the part I was playing and everyone was looking at me like, 'How could you do all these bad things.'"

Magistrate Richard Alger Jr. presided over the day, which included 20 schools playing the role of prosecutors and defense attorneys in the same case 10 times. Valley was 1 of



Valley Lutheran was 1 of 2 teams out of 10 to earn a not guilty verdict during the annual Saginaw County Law Day on Thursday, March 21.

Junior Megan Mattichak testified as a witness in the trial with Magistrate Alger presiding over the case.



2 schools to return a not-guilty verdict.

"We were up against St. Charles, and when the jurors left the courtroom, I had no idea which way it would go because they were both so strong," Meyers said. "The judge was impressed."

Carson Hundley, David Jahnke, Nathaniel Mueller, Valerie White, Anna Katenhus, and Allison Lemanski, attended to serve as jurors in one of the other cases. Students from Freeland High School served as jurors in Valley's case.

"The theme this year was, 'Free Speech, Free Press, Free Society' and emphasizing people's rights, but also their responsibilities," Meyers said.

"So they did texting and driving to really get kids thinking how dangerous that is."

Meyers said the group spent six weeks preparing for the case, including visiting with attorneys **Darrell Zolton (VL '80)** and Eric Dalek to polish up the details of the team's case, as well as to learn proper procedure.

"It was cool," Marotzke said. "You had all the regalities with standing and showing (the magistrate) the proper respect, calling him Your Honor, and using legal terms."

The Saginaw County Bar Association put on a lunch for the participants at First Presbyterian Church following the day's conclusion.

# Athletics

## Fall 2018, Winter 2019 Individual Sports Awards

### Soccer

First Team All-State

Andrew Gunn  
Tri-Valley Central

First Team

Andrew Gunn, Kasey Appold, Evan Beach, Ryan Fehn, Mason Strawn

### Football

Tri-Valley West

First Team

Matthew Johnson, Robert Eggers, Jacob Hecht

### Volleyball

Honorable Mention All-State

Kelsey Vittitow

Tri-Valley West

First Team

Kelsey Vittitow, Peyton Bartnikowski

### Boys' Basketball

Tri-Valley West

First Team

Jonathan Giglio, Andrew Gunn

### Girls' Basketball

Tri-Valley West

Second Team

Kelsey Vittitow



Senior Andrew Gunn drives to the basket against Ithaca. Gunn and the Chargers went 18-4 overall and 13-1 in conference play to win the Tri-Valley West crown.

## TVC West Champs

The Valley Lutheran boys basketball program put together a dynamite season this year.

The Chargers finished 18-4 overall and rolled to the conference championship in dominating fashion finishing 13-1 in the Tri-Valley West.

Jonathan Giglio capped his career No. 5 on the all-time scoring list at Valley with 874 points, while Brady Hagenow set a single season record with 102 blocks and finished his career No. 3 all-time with 542 rebounds. Andrew Gunn's 231 career assists rank No. 6 all-time.



Jonathan Giglio goes up for a shot against Nouvel.



Fritz

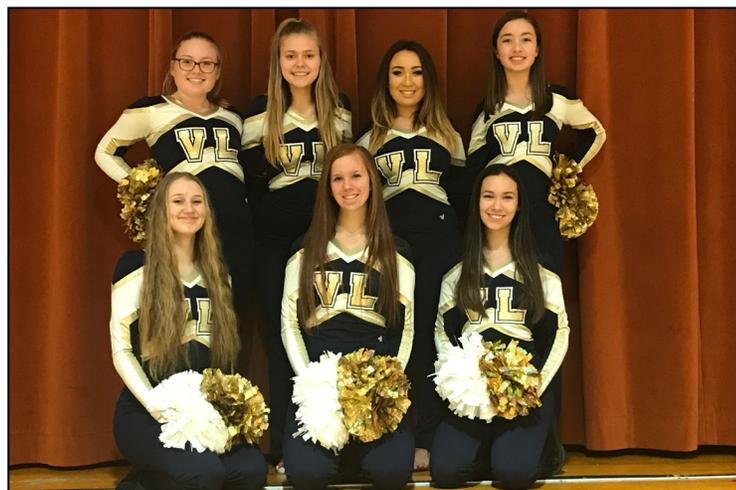


Plamondon

**Left:** Senior Andy Fritz rolled three 200 games and totalled 1,173 pins to advance to the Division 4 boys bowling state finals where he finished in fourth place.

**Right:** Senior Chris Plamondon won the Saginaw County Wrestling Championship at 160 pounds

## State Runner-up



The Chargers competed in the Mid-American Pom Pon championship and finished second. It's the fifth state runner-up finish in program history, along with nine state titles.

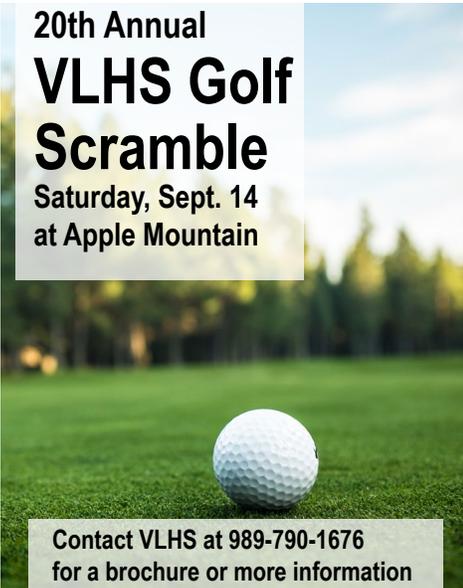


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## Upcoming events

<p><b>20th Annual VLHS Golf Scramble</b> Saturday, Sept. 14 at Apple Mountain</p>  <p>Contact VLHS at 989-790-1676 for a brochure or more information</p>	<p><b>Homecoming</b></p>  <p>Sept. 26 Soccer Game, 7pm Sept. 27 Grand Tailgate, 5pm Football Game, 7pm</p>	<p><b>VLHS Benefit Dinner Auction</b></p> <p>Go to Facebook. Search 'Valley Lutheran Auction and Benefit Dinner.'</p> <p>There we'll reveal next year's event theme.</p> <p><b>Save the Date Reminder!</b> Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020</p>
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### Other dates to remember

May 19	Open House, 2-3 p.m.
May 21	Spring Concert at SVSU, 7 p.m.
June 9	Graduation, 2 p.m.