

Extraordinary in the Ordinary

In 2007, at a Metro subway station in Washington, D.C., a busker with a violin played six pieces of classical music. Hundreds of people walked by, going about their busy morning, and only six people stopped to listen for a short time.

The irony is that the musician was Joshua Bell, possibly the greatest violinist in the world. Overall, about \$50 had been tossed into the case of his Stradivarius violin, made in 1713 and valued at 3.5 million dollars. He had just played a sold-out performance in Boston, where the average ticket price was \$100, and it was this performance that he replicated at the subway station.

Why didn't more people stop to listen? Why weren't they able to distinguish the exquisite music from the mundane? Perhaps they weren't expecting to find the extraordinary in the ordinary.

And it is that way with Jesus too. He entered this world in very humble and ordinary circumstances, and lived much of his life that way.

But at the Jordan River, his true glory was revealed in his baptism by John, when the Father's voice was heard and the Spirit descended upon him. From that point onward, he turned the ordinary into the extraordinary. Fishermen into disciples, water into wine, healing the leper, raising the dead, and dying and rising again to conquer the curse of sin and death.

And he continues to make the ordinary extraordinary today. Water, with the words of scripture, makes us his own through baptism. Ordinary bread and wine become the means of grace for the forgiveness of sins.

What about us? (Yes, we are very ordinary.) He works through us by his Spirit to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and action. Will we walk on by? Or, may we instead, through the power of His Spirit, stop and listen to his words and take up his noble calling for our life.

- Ben Cooper

VL Students Shine at Career Center Competition

Public speaking, medical assisting, and digital media production...these are just a few of the areas that Valley students recently participated in as a part of regional competitions at the Career Centers (SCC). A record number of students placed, and we look forward to hearing how the next round of state competitions go as well!



Name: Lydia Bruner

Program: Physical Therapy

Event: HOSA - Healthy Lifestyle

Place: 1st

About the Competition: I presented a plan for maintaining a healthy lifestyle based on what I've learned from my own experiences. I explained ways to keep up good habits and how to hold yourself accountable.

About SCC: It's a great way to meet new friends!

Name: Blake Lowe

Program: Nursing Occupations

Event: HOSA - Prepared Speaking

Place: 1st

About the Competition: I enjoyed being at SVSU for the day! I had a week to prepare a 5 minute speech on the topic "Beyond All Limits". I used my life and personal appeals throughout my speech. I had no idea I would win!

About SCC: Try it out! It's interesting real world experience.



Name: Hannah Soule

Program: Medical Academy

Event: HOSA - Medical Assisting

Place: 1st

About the Competition: I had two months to perfect an assigned medical skill (urinalysis). At the state competition we need to be prepared for any of 8 different skills!

About SCC: It's a great way to gain experience in a field and better prepare for college.

Name: Hunter Krause

Program: IT & Cyber Security

Event: BPA - Digital Media Production

Place: 5th

About SCC: I got involved because of my interest in computers. The hands-on labs are the best; it's cool to work with all different technologies like cameras, computers, green screens and drones.



Name: James McLeod

Program: Entrepreneurship

Event: DECA - Human Resources Management

About the Competition: I enjoyed being around others with shared interests and dressing in professional attire.

About SCC: It's an amazing experience!

Learning, Growing, and Sharing

It was a joy to host the 11th Great Lakes Bay Region Lutheran Educators Conference at Valley on January 16. This conference brought together over 250 educators from Lutheran schools throughout the region for fellowship, worship, collaboration, and sharing. Special thanks to:

- Dr. Jim Pingel (CUAA) - author, researcher, and professor who provided the keynote, "You Can't Give What You Don't Have".
- Rev. Dr. & Mrs. David Maier for joining us and sharing their expertise.
- Lutheran Special Education Ministries and Concordia University, Ann Arbor for sponsoring breakfast and lunch items for attendees.
- Pastor Baerwolf and 'Rock of Zion' from Zion, Bay City for leading worship.
- the many presenters from within our Lutheran schools who shared their knowledge and skills.



Thanks be to God for the ministries of our Lutheran schools!

Pictured below are the many VLHS graduates who serve in our area Lutheran schools. Wow!



The VLHS Drama Department
Presents

It Was a Dark and Stormy Night

February 16, 17, 18
7:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church Gym

VLHS INVITES 8TH
GRADERS TO A

CHARGER VISIT DAY!

*This new visit opportunity
highlights the Valley experience.
Join us from 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. on
one of the dates below!*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
MONDAY, MARCH 13
MONDAY, APRIL 10
FRIDAY, APRIL 28
MONDAY, MAY 15

Sign-up at
www.vlhs.com/visitday

VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

20th Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023

*at the DoubleTree Hotel
on the Bay City Riverfront*

VISIT WWW.VLHSAUCTION.COM TO:



• **Purchase your tickets to attend!**

* **See available items as they are added!**

• **Register to bid - virtually!**
(Virtual bidding begins Thurs., Feb. 23)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/valleylutherauction) : @valleylutherauction

[i](https://www.instagram.com/vlhsauction) : @vlhsauction