



Ask, Seek, Knock

I shared this devotion with our band and choir just before our final tour concert. It's a time when we reflect on how God has used us while on tour.

Over the years, I have come to realize that all too often when we leave these mountain top experiences, we struggle with what comes next. We go back to the usual routine. But God reminds us that there is always more. Much more. More of God that we haven't fully known or experienced - of His love, His compassion, His kindness. More that he wants us to do, of which we have only seen glimpses. *Luke 11:8-9 reminds us to Ask, Seek, and Knock, and if we do this in accordance with the will of God, we will Receive, Find, and have doors Opened.*

The call of those who follow Jesus is to look beyond the narrowing circumstances of our lives into the bigger vision of what Jesus meant when He prayed "Your kingdom come." And this is true in every season of life. For the person who is counting their blessings and full of faith - there is still much more! Equally, for the person who feels like they are on their last leg, battling an endless onslaught of trouble - there is more!

All of this starts at the feet of Jesus. In His presence, in worship, in prayer. Connect your heart with the heart of God. Let His passion become yours. And as your vision is enlarged to see His, may you see there is more He has planned for you!

**- Paul Eschmann,
Music & Technology**



Freshmen English teacher Mrs. Blake works with students on a project. The English curriculum is being overhauled heading into the 2019-20 school year.

VLHS Committed to Academic Excellence

Last year, Valley Lutheran went through the accreditation process with the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) Commission eventually becoming one of the Top 5 accredited Lutheran schools in the country, and next year VLHS is finishing the process to upgrade its facilities with new STEM, art, and athletic facilities.

But that isn't stopping the school from trying to improve this year, too.

Valley is currently undergoing a curriculum overhaul in its English Department that goes into effect for the 2019-20 school year.

"This is huge," said Dr. Lisa Meyers, Academic Dean at VLHS. "They really abandoned everything and rebuilt it from the bottom up. Once you do that, you have to look at everything. How does it change our registration process? How does it change our

placement process? What resources and training do they need?"

"Our three English teachers have been on top of everything. They are really amazing."

Valley typically undergoes a curriculum review in all of its academic departments every 3-to-5 years, or as needed, but Dr. Meyers said it has been 20 years since such a drastic change has been made.

"This new program pulls together all the skills (students) need," Meyers said. "In addition to all the great reading and discussion, analysis and good-thinking skills that come from literature, we'll have a solidified, comprehensive writing program. It gets our students ready to write formally, informally, to be ready for college writing, for career writing. They're very important skills."

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Academic Excellence

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The VLHS Drama Department put on its spring play, Radium Girls, from May 2-4.

“It’s also going to incorporate the speaking and listening component. So they’re going to have a lot of practice doing presentations, working in groups, being able to work verbally and in the written form.”

The new courses include Transitional Reading and Transitional Writing for English 1 students, and Introduction to Literature and Introduction to Research for English 2 students. English 3 students will take Introduction to Language and Composition and a theme-based Literature Seminar with the option of focusing on Mythology, War, Coming

of Age, Monsters, Fantasy, and Faith. Meanwhile, English 4 students will take Research Seminar with another Literature Seminar.

Elective classes include Creative Writing and Interpersonal Communication. Advanced Placement English Language and Composition and Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition classes are also available for juniors and seniors.

For more on Valley’s commitment to excellence, visit www.vlhs.com or Valley’s Facebook page.

Study Abroad Scholarships

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs (ECA) provides more than 1,000 merit-based scholarships each year for U.S. high school students to study abroad for a summer or an academic year in over 25 countries.

These high school exchange programs help students’ foreign language skills, increasing their cross-cultural understanding, strengthening their leadership capacity, and fostering new academic insights and ambitions.

These scholarship programs cover international airfare, tuition, program costs, as well as meals and living accommodations (often with a host family). Applicants must be between the ages of 15 and 18 when the program starts.

Visit the ECA website to apply or for more information.



On Thursday, April 11, VLHS recognized Barb Doyle, Caleb Abraham, Karen Bruner, Jeanette Weilnau, Sondra Yantz, Heidi Behnke, Jim Morgrette, Barb Doyle, Paul Eschmann, Debbie Davis, Amy and Ben Cooper, Jennifer Blake, Kyle DeWees and Kevin Streeter for their years of service, totalling 180 years, to VLHS and to Lutheran schools.

Krista Flory was recognized for her retirement in December, while volunteers Matt Princing, Dave Gesinski, Eric and Margaret Hagenow, and Sandi Brechtelsbauer were recognized with Angel Awards for their support of VLHS

Gifts to VLHS help provide an education with Christ as the foundation. During this past year, gifts were received:

In Memory of...

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Gitta Allmann
Kelly Appold
Norman Bergdolt
Gerald Bierlein
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