



## Hope

Hope is powerful. The world of psychology will tell you that no matter what the circumstances, as long as there is hope, all is not lost. Hope lays dormant until it's amazing strength is beckoned, supplying a sheer belief that you will overcome, you will persevere and you will endure anything and everything that comes your way.

With the release of a vaccine in the midst of the pandemic, it feels to many as if there is hope. As a school, we have hope for a brighter spring as restrictions ease and we begin to plan for "normal" events to take place. Even the weather, with the beautiful spring-like days, brings hope for warmer days as winter drags on. Hope is a belief - not a wish - a belief that things will get better. Hope is powerful.

As a church, we are in the midst of a darker season - the season of Lent. We set aside this time to ponder the cross - the sacrifice that was made on our behalf. A sacrifice that we don't deserve. And yet, in the midst of all of the talk of our fallen nature, of our need for redemption, of the black and purple in our sanctuaries and the hymns set in minor keys, there is hope. We know God's Word as truth. And we know that Jesus Christ, God's perfect and holy Son, was our sacrificial Lamb. Christ was perfection, sacrificed on our behalf.

But the story doesn't end there. We have hope in Easter morning - in the resurrection power of Christ and his defeat over death. Because of this, we are redeemed children of God and have the hope of everlasting life with Him in Heaven. In the midst of our crazy world, we always have hope. All is not lost. Come soon, Lord Jesus!

~Lindsay Mueller

## VL Music Department Enjoying New Space



With one-third of Valley Lutheran students enrolled in music classes, the August 2020 completion of the new music room was a timely blessing. The substantially larger space has made it possible for the music program to adapt to distance requirements: "The new room is incredible! In the year of COVID, the extra space means that we are actually able to hold rehearsals safely. I'm not sure we could have accomplished this in the old music room," notes Lindsay Mueller, director of Valley Lutheran's Wind Ensemble.

Before the pandemic was even on the horizon, the new music room was intentionally designed not only with more space for students and storage but with acoustics in mind. Mueller explains how the new room enhances the program significantly: "The attention to detail in the acoustics of the new room has allowed our students to refine and hone their musical ear. They listen better and are able to practice in a more realistic environment. When they step onto a stage, it will sound the same to their ears as if they were playing in the classroom."

Valley's Symphonic Band director, Rebecca Sugden, has noticed the acoustic difference, not only for the students but also in her experience as a director: "Because the room is acoustically treated, it's significantly *healthier* for the students and director to be playing in the room. I'm able to hear a lot more of the sound, and we're able to balance better than we were in the old space."

Paul Eschmann, director of both the Mixed Chorus and Golden Voice choirs shares similar praise for the acoustics and the added space: "The choirs have been able to move around the room more. This allows us to hear ourselves in different ways. We've been able to incorporate new warm-up techniques, such as body percussion, that help us to improve our craft!"

While it has been a blessing to be able to play and sing in person for most of the school year, COVID restrictions have added a number of challenges to the music program. The cleaning procedures take up more classtime, students have to wear

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## Handbells Claim “New” Space

After spending 15+ years setting up handbell tables in her classroom twice a week, Mrs. Barb Doyle is ecstatic to have claimed the vacated art room across the hall for the Glorify Handbell Choir practice area. The group was on their third set of tables because of the wear and tear of set up and take down. According to Doyle this also translates to, “We can spend more time actually practicing!”

The group will be playing for at least a couple of area church services this spring in addition to sharing their musical gifts during VL chapels.

### Fleece Needed!

VLHS Global Awareness Club is making fleece blankets to donate to local pregnancy centers and womens shelters. How can you help? Raid your fabric stash or pick up some fleece at least 1.5 yards long x 60” wide the next time you’re at JoAnn’s or Hobby Lobby. Contact Patrick Winningham at [pwinningham@vlhs.com](mailto:pwinningham@vlhs.com) with any questions.

**THANK YOU!**



Valley Lutheran’s Symphonic Band participated in the Band and Orchestra Festival virtually by recording their pieces on March 12th.

masks as much as possible, and the necessary distancing makes it more difficult to hear each other. Among the biggest disappointments for the musicians has been the cancellation of concerts and the annual Lenten tour, and the suspension of extra-curricular music groups.

But there have been a number of bright spots hidden in the pandemic protocols. Even though choir members must sing through masks, Eschmann notes, “It has helped them focus on their breathing. I can’t wait to unleash them to sing without masks!”

The Symphonic Band was able to participate in the Band and Orchestra Festival by submitting a recording of

their two pieces. According to Sugden, “We spent time learning how to listen and balance for recordings as opposed to live performance, which was a new skill set we all needed to learn.”

Another blessing bestowed on the music department this year has been the addition of a Steinway baby grand piano. The students love it! Of all the new spaces, “I have enjoyed the choir room the most, especially the new grand piano. There is so much more room, and the acoustics make everything sound amazing,” according to junior Emma VanTol.

The music department is working to make the Spring Concert happen in May. Look for more details soon!

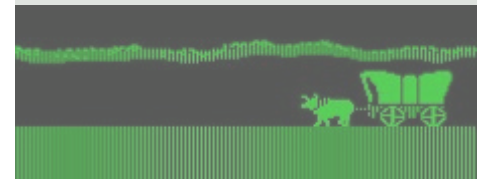
## Drs. Petzold and Meyers Present at LEA Conference

Valley’s Academic Dean Dr. Lisa Meyers and Executive Director Dr. Julian Petzold presented at the 2021 Lutheran School Administrators Conference March 22-23. This virtual event was hosted by the Lutheran Education Association (LEA) in collaboration with LCMS school ministry and Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools.

Petzold’s sectional, *School Safety Best Practices*, based on his doctoral thesis, covered myths vs. facts in crisis situations, crisis tactics, and trauma care for the critically wounded.

Meyers addressed the needs of the 21st century learner and providing quality instruction regardless of the format with her presentation on *Blended Learning: An Instructional Solution and an Educational Vision*.

**THANK YOU**  
**THE 2021 VLHS**  
**VIRTUAL EVENT GOAL HAS**  
**BEEN ACHIEVED!**  
**HIGH SCORE: \$57,616**



There are SO MANY people who come together to make the Annual VLHS Auction a successful event!

From bidders to sponsors.

Donors to volunteers.

Students to teachers.

We are thankful for each and every one of you. Thank you for your support of Valley Lutheran High School! Because of you, VLHS remains a vibrant ministry that prepares students for life, with Christ as our foundation.