Valley Lutheran HIGH SCHOOL

Valley Vision

A newsletter for the ministry partners of Valley Lutheran

October 2021

Hope

VL Junior Danielle Harding reflects on the hope in her life.

For as long as I can remember, I have loved music. From classical music to pop, I adored it. When I was younger, I remember sitting at the piano and playing all of the black keys from left to right and imagined that I was creating a beautiful melody. I remember watching my mom play beautiful pieces on the piano and wanting to be just like her. And once I started plucking out actual melodies on the keyboard, there was no stopping me.

I cling to the belief that God planted the passion and raw talent of music within me from the very beginning of life. This is God's greatest gift to me regarding my purpose. Some people don't know what God has given them or what their purpose is, but I am sure of what God has given me because of all the evidence He has given me.

Through the very raw talent within me, God molded and still is molding it for His good. I never really learned how to correctly play the piano, and my voice has gone through many phases to get where I am today - and it is still maturing. I believe that God is constantly growing my gift of music. I cannot wait to see what He has in store for me in the future regarding the musical gifts He has given me.

Danielle is a member of Impact. She can be found singing the National Anthem at area events and leading worship at her church.

Meet the 2021 "Hoco" Court

Gentlemen: **Zack Blazejewski** (l), graduate of St. Paul, Frankenlust and member at St. Vincent de Paul, is involved in Student Council, football, and Key Club. *"[I love] all the good friendships I have formed at Valley."*

Hans Ross, member and graduate of St. Peter, Hemlock, is involved in Pep Club, football, and track. *"I enjoy all the opportunities Valley has to offer."*

Dylan Appold, member and graduate of St. Paul, Frankenlust, is involved in soccer, track & field, and basketball. *"It's a privilege to represent this wonderful school [on Court]; it's like nothing I've ever done before."*

John Zinz, member and graduate of Peace Lutheran, Saginaw, is involved in soccer. *"[I love] the friends I have made."*

Riley Greene (r), member and graduate of Trinity, Monitor, is involved in football. *"Valley has a good atmosphere and I'm excited to be a part of it."*

Ladies: **Allison Sowatsky** (l), graduate and member of Bethlehem, Saginaw, is involved in Protect Life, Yearbook, STEM Club, band, choir, soccer, cross country, and Student Council. *"Valley feels like a big family. Faith is important and Valley pushes it's students."*

Alayna O'Laughlin, graduate and member of Peace, is involved in soccer, Student Council, Pep Club, and Spanish Club. *"I'm glad to be representing Valley with my friends!"*

Ashlyn Martin, graduate and member of Peace, is involved in volleyball, basketball, Pep Club, and Spanish Club. *"I love how much of a family it is here - the community atmosphere with the students and teachers."*

Lexie Peplinski, graduate and member of Peace, is involved in volleyball, basketball and Pep Club. *"It will be a very fun and memorable experience to represent Valley on this big of a scale."*

Lauren Lothian (r), graduate and member of Faith Lutheran, Bay City is involved in Student Council, NHS, golf, Global Awareness, Pep Club, Spanish Club, and bowling. *I'm excited to represent Valley on Court "because it's a great school with nice people and atmosphere".*

Stories Colliding, VL Mission Furthered

Every year Valley Lutheran students meet graduation requirements and receive a diploma from Valley Lutheran. But a Valley Lutheran education is so much more than just meeting graduation requirements.

Some years Valley Lutheran has staff or teaching positions to fill and administrators carry out the process to fill those positions. But staffing Valley Lutheran is so much more than just filling positions.

During this year in particular it was abundantly clear that God's hand was working through and among the people that He called, encouraged, and led to join us in new roles at Valley. As people answered the call their stories joined with our story. A taste of these stories is below.

Pastor Paul Biber: Math Teacher
Who knew Pastor Biber of Good Shepherd, Saginaw has a bachelor and masters degree in math from USC? Knowing that Valley needed a part-time math teacher, and with the blessing of his congregation, he answered the call.

Eric Smith: Strength & Conditioning Coordinator, Teacher
Excited about Valley's new position, former AD Mr. Smith stepped down in order to pursue his passion (and masters' focus!) in coordinating our students' training. He also teaches Fitness for Life and freshman theology.

Amy Cooper: Director of Communications & Admissions
As Valley identified the need for a position to oversee all VL communication efforts, Mrs. Cooper's interest, skill set, and willingness to expand her role in Admissions was a great fit.

David Wollenweber: Math Teacher
Valley parent Mr. Wollenweber heard of Valley's need for a math teacher. With prior teaching experience in math and a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering from the University of Illinois, he stepped up to serve.

Tasha Mulder: Athletic Trainer, Teacher
When Valley announced the addition of an Athletic Trainer position, health teacher Mrs. Mulder jumped at the opportunity. With years of previous experience in the role, she provides leadership in this new area for Valley.

Tyler Yahn: Athletic Director, Communications Assistant
With years of experience in both athletics and most recently the business sector, Mr. Yahn was looking to return to the world of athletics. To do so in a place that aligns with his faith and values was a blessing.

Karl Seidel: Food Service Coordinator
Mr. Seidel had recently retired from many years in food service and was looking for a meaningful way to serve. At the same time, Valley was looking for a new Food Service Coordinator for the first time in 25 years.

As the stories of each of these individuals collide with the story of Valley Lutheran and of our other faculty and staff members, we see God's hand clearly at work providing for us and equipping us to do His work in this place. The work of fulfilling His mission and ours - preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation.