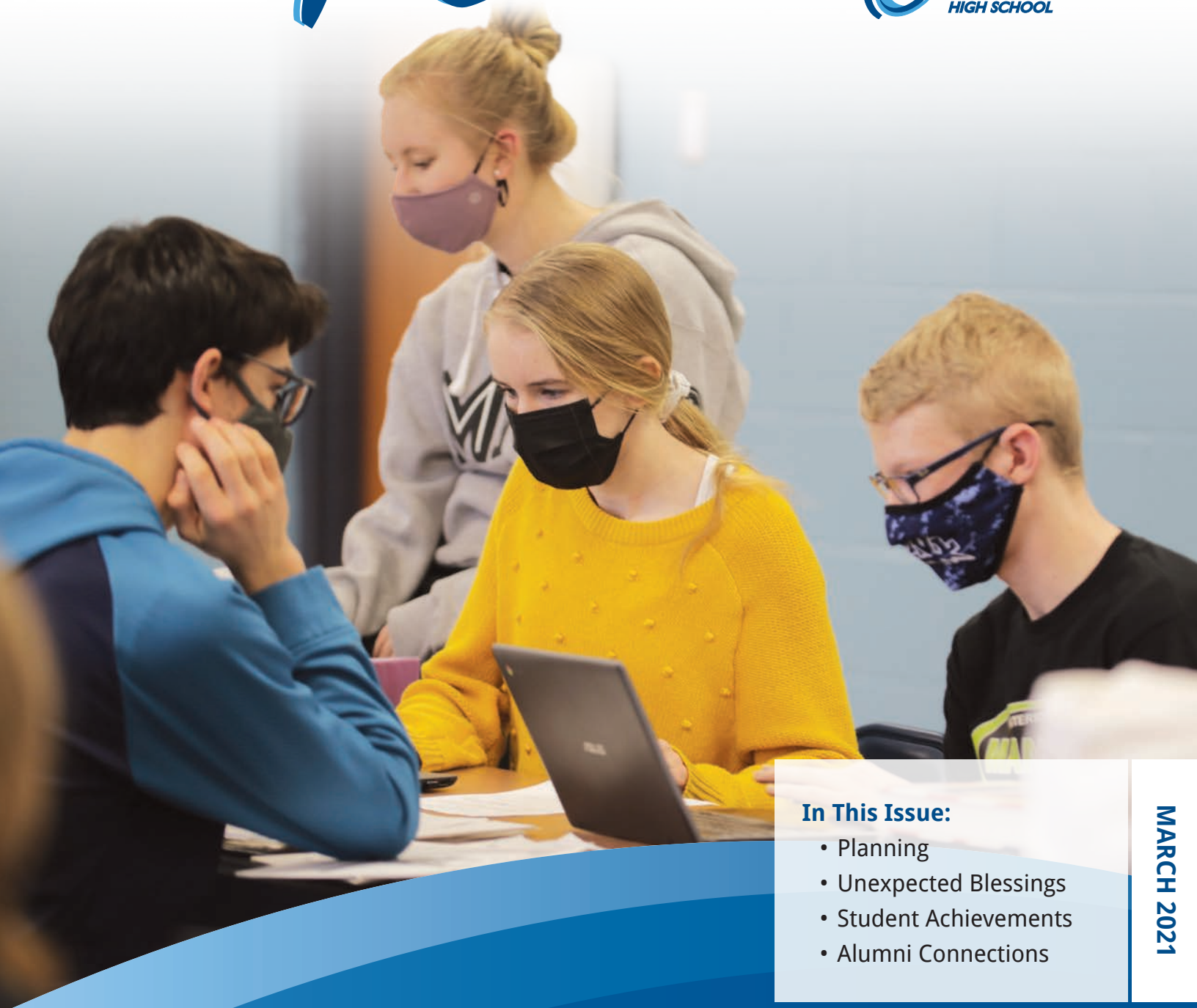


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MINNESOTA VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

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MARCH 2021

Training students for Christian lives



Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School uses God's Word in a Christ-centered education to assist families in training students for Christian lives on earth and for eternity.

PRINCIPAL

Dr. Tim Plath

DEAN OF STUDENTS

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ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Craig Morgan

REGISTRAR

Heath Dobberpuhl

TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

Rev. Tim Hartwig

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

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Kristin Matzke

Contact MVL at
507.354.6851 or mvl.org

To receive *HiLites* by mail or to change your subscription, please contact Kristin Matzke, 507.233.8662 or kmatzke@mvlhs.org.

Planning

I can't imagine that there are too many readers of this article who can't relate to having spent time planning in the last year only to see those plans just get destroyed. That's the way our world seemed to go, didn't it?

Here at school, we made plans for the end of last school year, only to finish our school year off in ways that we never could have dreamed. We spent countless hours planning for this school year, too. Now, it seems normal that we have to include COVID protocols in the plans that we make for events.

plans were impacted, too. From baptisms to funerals, confirmations to weddings, and summer vacations to Christmas gatherings, everything was different.

The passage listed below from Jeremiah is our theme passage for the school year. It was picked before the pandemic became reality last March. It has been so fitting and such a blessing to consider.

God knows what is going to happen. He has a plan for us, regardless of our employment or family situation. Our Lord

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29:11

If you're a business owner, I can't imagine what your year has been like. I'm sure that your plans have been all over the board, too. If you work for a large corporation, I'm sure that there were (and possibly still are) those anxious moments when you wondered if your position was going to be eliminated because of the negative impact of the pandemic.

As a family member, I'm sure that a wide variety of family

has a plan for us, even though we daily rebel against Him and His Word. He loved us so much that He sent Jesus as our substitute – to suffer and die for our sins. He has plans to give us a hope and a future.

As we look forward, we have no idea what the future holds. Yet we can rest sure in His hands. God has plans for us!

Tim Plath
MVL Principal

Unexpected Blessings

Last summer, the Optimist Club in New Ulm reached out to MVL and offered grant money to purchase non-budgeted items that could enhance the curriculum and student learning experience at MVL. Proposals were submitted for a number of different ideas, and the Optimist Club responded in a very generous way.

One example of this generosity was a \$3,000 grant for the music department to purchase guitars. The guitars would be used in the required freshmen music course, allowing us to study music theory, and then apply it in a very tangible way. Like learning a foreign language, we now can take the vocabulary of music and put those things into practice, deepening



our understanding and retention of musical theory and ideas.

The guitars were purchased near the end of the first semester, and we have begun to implement them at the beginning of this second semester. What a blessing it is that we have been given this

opportunity! We offer a sincere thank you to MVL parent Karla Havemeier and to the Optimist Club of New Ulm. We are so excited to see the benefits of these guitars for years to come.

Jon Hermanson
MVL Faculty



Leaving a Legacy

MVL has recently partnered with Gift Planning Services (GPS) to offer a Legacy Gift Planning Program. GPS's mission is to help individuals and families identify opportunities to leave a legacy that represents their values and allows them to maximize their gifts to both charities and loved ones.

GPS CEO Jenny Nohelty shared, "The Legacy Gift Planning Program can be a very rewarding process. A great

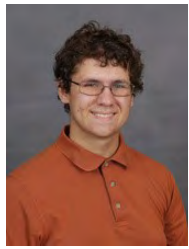
legacy plan is more than the simple transferring of assets to loved ones; it is an act of love and generosity for the people and organizations we deeply treasure."

MVL is pleased to be able to offer this partnership and program as a complimentary service to members of the MVL Family. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Kristin Matzke at 507.233.8662 or kmatzke@mvlhs.org.

Achievements, Awards, and Milestones

Congratulations to all of these individuals as they continue to use their God-given talents to His glory!

National Merit Scholar



Jonah Kramer, is a Finalist in the 2021 National Merit Scholarship Competition (NMSC). The program honors

individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Jonah will soon learn if he is a scholarship recipient.

Triple A Award



Mikayla Bendix and Caleb Carlovsky have been selected by MVL to receive the Triple A Award. Mikayla and Caleb will represent themselves and their school at the Minnesota State High School League's subsection level. The Triple A

Award recognizes and honors high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field, and in the fine arts. The Triple A Award elevates academic standards and creates greater awareness of League-sponsored activities and their values. It also provides member schools with the opportunity to participate in a

statewide program that supports, promotes, and recognizes academic and co-curricular achievements.

Career Points



On February 2, junior Abbie Riederer scored her 1000th career point at MVL vs the Springfield Tigers girls' basketball game.

She is the fifteenth Charger to reach this milestone.

Coaching Wins



Coach Craig Morgan reached his 400th boys' basketball win on January 29. A special celebration was held after the

February 11 basketball game.

Knowledge Bowl Champs



This year's Tomahawk Conference Knowledge Bowl meet was hosted virtually by Springfield on February 26. Twenty-two teams from eight schools were able to compete. In first place was MVL's team consisting of Mark Spengler, Jonah Kramer, Isaiah Carlovsky, and Emma Niebuhr. This win extends MVL's conference champion streak to 15 years.

Jeans & Dreams

Over 90% of MVL students each year participate in at least one academic, athletic, or fine arts activity! The MVL Booster Club supports these "extras" of student life by funding non-budgeted items for our co-curricular programs.

The major fundraising event of the year is the spring auction. The 2021 "Jeans & Dreams" auction has been postponed to Saturday, August 21. The auction committee is hopeful that some of the current restrictions and guidelines will be lifted by that date so that an in-person event can be held at Turner Hall in New Ulm.

More information will be posted online as that date approaches.

If you or your business is interested in donating an item or experience to be auctioned off, please email boosterclub@mvlhs.org. Monetary donations can also be directed to the Booster Club and sent to school.

A sincere thank you goes out to all of our supporters. Together we will continue to provide the tools needed to nurture the many talents and dreams of the students at MVL!

MVL BOOSTER CLUB AUCTION



Together in Spirit

To everyone who was a part of the 2020 Spirit of MVL - item donors, gracious givers, the production team, and viewers - thank you!

This year's virtual event, with the fitting theme "Together in Spirit," raised funds for our livestream technology project. This means a better viewing experience for concerts, access to sporting events, an opportunity for students to have hands-on multimedia learning, and so much more. The event also supported the Partnership Fund. More than \$40,000 was raised for these two important pieces!

Additionally, the virtual event honored our 2020 Spirit of MVL award recipients: John Apitz, Lynn & Dan Hacker, and Fred & Joy Struck. We thank these individuals for using their time, talents, and treasures to the glory of God and the benefit of Christian education.



We extend special thanks to our event sponsors!

Presenter:

Citizens Bank Minnesota

Lead Partner:

Brau Motors
Martin Luther College

Partner:

Bethany Lutheran College
Klassen Mechanical
Pratt Wealth Management
STAR Group NAPA Auto Parts Stores
Thrivent—New Ulm Area Group

Good Value for the Money

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



ShopWithScrip

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. You'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.

Since 2017, more than 100 shoppers have chosen MVL and AmazonSmile has donated more than \$1,500! To shop and support MVL, you can go directly to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1351315>.

Another great way to support MVL with your regular shopping is through the Scrip Program!

Scrip at MVL is an opportunity to use gift cards for everyday items: groceries, gas, restaurants, clothing, household supplies.

Participating businesses have teamed up with MVL, so that MVL receives a percentage of the face value. Scrip businesses not only include local favorites but also chains, which means individuals not in the area can still participate.

Learn more about Scrip by emailing scrip@mvlhs.org.

MVL Family Focus: The Holzhueters

Paul & Val Holzhueter graciously shared why they continue to support MVL through service and stewardship. Here's their story:

In today's world, there are significant benefits of having children and teenagers attend Christian schools. They hear God's word on a daily basis, which strengthens their faith and provides strong guidance for their lives.

MVL's mission clearly states their role in supporting families to accomplish that objective. We have seen the benefits in so many young people who have graduated from MVL, including our own three sons. Besides a strong academic education, MVL provides many co-curricular activities that help young people develop their capabilities.



Continued financial support from many people helps make it possible for more families to take advantage of an MVL education at reasonable costs. We participate in this support with financial gifts and our prayers.

Paul & Val are the parents of Grant ('04), Greg ('07), and Galen ('10). Paul serves on the MVL Board of Directors. Val recently retired from her full-time service with MVL Mission Advancement.

A Special Valentine

In September 1997, Val Holzhueter began volunteering at MVL after seeing a church bulletin announcement seeking additional volunteers. She and her husband, Paul, had already determined that their three sons would be attending MVL, and she wanted to learn more about the school leading up to those years.

While her children were MVL students, Val was an active member of the Booster Club and was on the auction committee. She was also integral in the efforts to start New 2 You Family Thrift Store in North Mankato, which continues to support MVL and area congregations.

After their youngest son graduated in 2010, Val saw an opportunity to continue serving MVL in a new way, through Mission Advancement.

Val retired from her full-time Mission Advancement work at MVL in June 2020. While no retirement gathering could be had, in February we created a way to celebrate Val's service by doing what she'd want most: supporting MVL.

The generous donor who helped kickstart this Val-entine's effort added, "Val has been and is a true blessing and example, using her God-given talents and skills

to His glory. From the sideline, I and many others have observed Val quietly giving it her all in service to MVL's mission. In the last decade, she has helped to pave the way for many MVL students to receive a Christ-centered education. Those very students then serve the Lord with gladness in all the ways their MVL experience inspires and enables them to do. It is my heartfelt joy to donate this gift to glorify God's work done through her humble hands."

Through gifts and pledges, more than \$20,000 was given in support of Christian education at MVL. All glory be to God!

Memorial & Honorary Gifts

The following memorial and honorary gifts were received October 16, 2020 - February 28, 2021. Unless otherwise designated by the donor, these types of gifts to MVL are invested in the Operating Fund Endowment, which accrues earnings that are used for the operating budget.

In memory of	
Norman Barrer	\$ 125.00
Walter & Elviera Becker	\$ 30.00
John & Olga Bentz	\$ 30.00
Robert Berg	\$ 35.00
Melvin Bode	\$ 20.00
Helen Brau	\$ 225.00
Aaron Carlovsky	\$ 400.00
Lillian Dehn	\$ 25.00
Carl Enck	\$ 20.00
Vern Flitter	\$ 200.00
Francis Gustaf	\$ 110.00
Ronald Harper	\$ 540.00
Diane Hippert	\$ 50.00
Evelyn Hoffman	\$ 25.00
Sylvia Hulke	\$ 25.00
Myra Jahr	\$ 75.00
Deloris Kiecker	\$ 210.00
Nancy Jo Lindemann	\$ 10.00
Rev. LeRoy Lothert	\$ 20.00
Hazel Meinert	\$ 30.00
Mason Meister	\$ 50.00
Rev. John Moldstad	\$ 175.00
Robert Rickheim	\$ 15.00
David Schlei	\$ 100.00
Bernice Schultz	\$ 20.00
Wilma Schwichtenberg	\$ 482.50
Trevor and Dillan Sommer	\$ 250.00
Donald Steffen	\$ 550.00
Brian Tohal	\$ 115.00
Selma Voth Albers	\$ 60.00
Timothy Zander	\$ 15.00

In honor of	
John Apitz, Lynn & Dan Hacker, Fred & Joy Struck	\$ 150.00
Valerie Holzhueter	\$18,801.00
Jennifer & Nate Scharf, Michaela Otterstatter, Jared Otterstatter	\$ 40.00



MVL ASSOCIATION CHURCHES

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Arlington, Minnesota

Courtland Lutheran Church
Courtland, Minnesota

St. John Lutheran Church
Fairfax, Minnesota

Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church
Gaylord, Minnesota

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Gibbon, Minnesota

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
Mankato, Minnesota

St. Mark Lutheran Church
Mankato, Minnesota

Zion Lutheran Church
Morgan, Minnesota

St. John's Lutheran Church
New Ulm, Minnesota

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
New Ulm, Minnesota

Zion Lutheran Church
New Ulm, Minnesota

Trinity Lutheran Church
Nicollet, Minnesota

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
North Mankato, Minnesota

Peace Lutheran Church
North Mankato, Minnesota

St. John Lutheran Church
Redwood Falls, Minnesota

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
St. James, Minnesota

Norseland Lutheran Church
St. Peter, Minnesota

St. Peter Lutheran Church
St. Peter, Minnesota

Zion Lutheran Church
Sanborn, Minnesota

St. John's Lutheran Church
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota

Zion Lutheran Church
Winthrop, Minnesota

Calling All Alumni!

While we continue to see changes and challenges in our lives, **thanks be to God that His Word never changes!** Just as you and more than 2,000 of your peers did, our 2020-21 student body is hearing that same Word every day in class.

As an alum, you're already an important part of the MVL family, and **you're invited to be an MVL partner.** Your contribution to the Partnership Fund will impact our current students, whether you donate \$5, \$50, or \$500.

If you want to be a part of this effort, just visit mvl.org/alumni and choose your giving level and alumni gift now through May. Think about it, pray about it, and share about it!

Kristin Matzke

MVL Mission Advancement



Giving Level

\$50
\$500
\$5

Charger Pride Thank-You

Alumni-exclusive shirt designed by a member of the Class of 2020
Alumni-exclusive shirt + MVL swag bag
MVL coozie, jar opener, or coin purse of your choice

Rescheduled: Class of 1985 Reunion

Save the dates for your newly rescheduled 36th class reunion, July 9-11, 2021. A formal invitation will be sent in late April. Email will be the primary form of communication, so reach out to the planning committee below or Kristin Matzke, MVL Mission Advancement, at kmatzke@mvlhs.org if any of your contact details have changed.

Planning Committee

Jana (Brueske) Finken: djfinken@msn.com
Wendy (Hulke) Ellwein: wellwein@yahoo.com
Amy (Licht) Magyar: amy.magyar@gmail.com
Andy Willems: awillems9@gmail.com

Schedule of Events

Friday evening: Swany's Pub, 6 P.M.
Saturday afternoon: Hermann Heights, 1-4 P.M.
Saturday evening: New Ulm Country Club, 6 P.M.
Sunday morning: Church service & tour at MVL

This weekend also ties into the MVL Classic on Monday, July 12. You are invited and encouraged to stay an extra day to join in this annual fundraising tradition! Registration for that event will open soon.