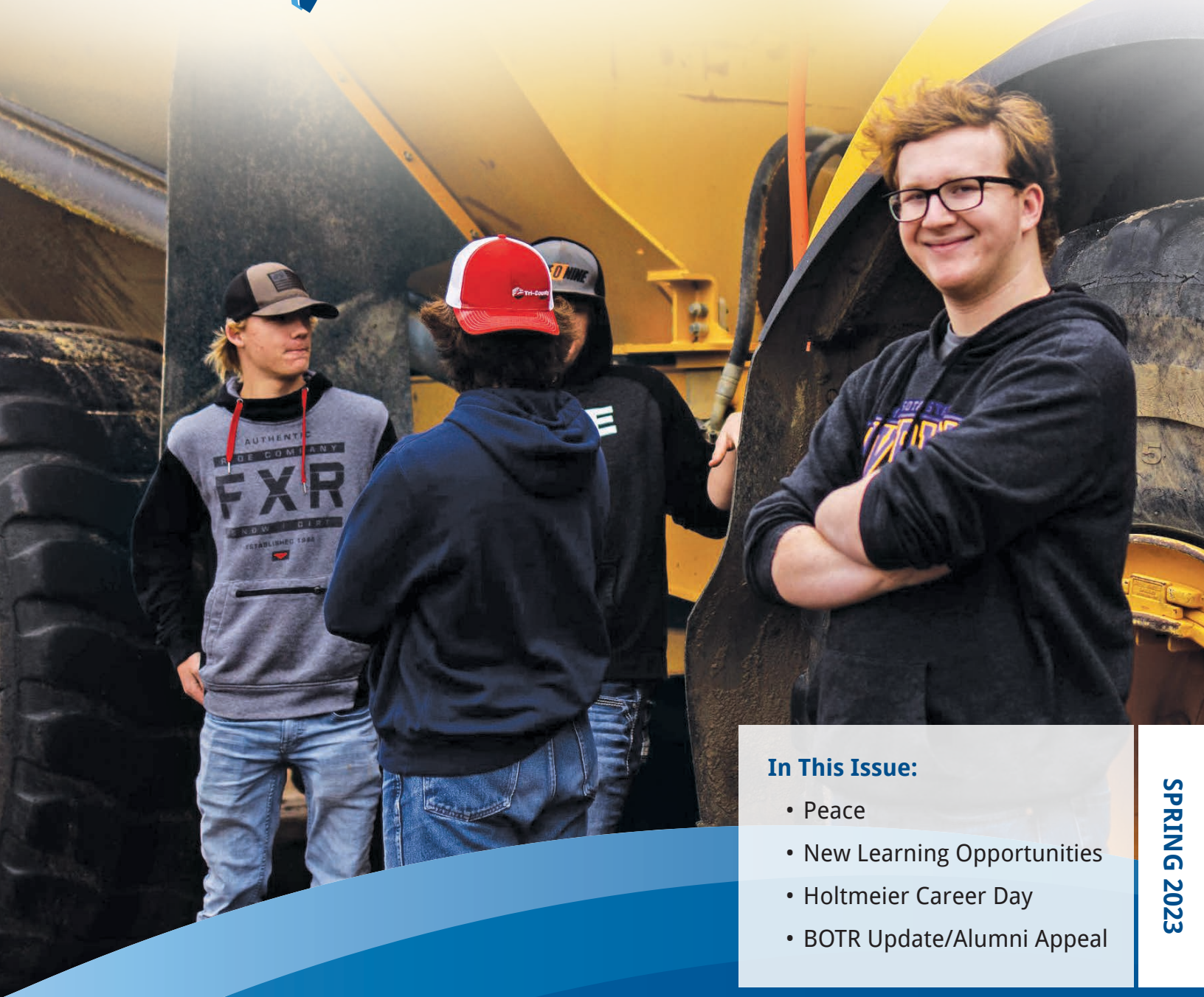


A PUBLICATION OF

MINNESOTA VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

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- New Learning Opportunities
- Holtmeier Career Day
- BOTR Update/Alumni Appeal

SPRING 2023

Training students for Christian lives



Peace

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33

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.

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Try as we might, we will never find peace on earth. Watch the news on TV or check online news sources. It isn't just the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. It may be tension and fighting in the Middle East. Maybe it's politicians from our own country who are continually at odds with each other and can never seem to get along. Maybe it's members of your own family who are continually after each other. Perhaps it's just the lack of emotional or mental peace you feel. Whether it's physical

High School every day of the school year. As teenagers, they are going through a challenging time in their lives. They sin daily, as we all do, and struggle with the expectations of the adults around them, their relationships with their families, and their relationships with each other. At MVL, as we counsel them, help them, and encourage them, they learn that their teachers love their Lord and have the students best interests in mind. They want them to grow in their faith and learn to lean on their

Yes, we have peace! In spite of the challenges that exist in the world all around us, through Jesus, and because of Jesus, we can take heart knowing that Jesus has overcome the world.

or emotional strife, we can be sure that such problems will always be a part of our lives in this sin-infested world.

However, we have peace in Jesus. Yes, we have peace! In spite of the challenges that exist in the world all around us, through Jesus, and because of Jesus, we can take heart knowing that Jesus has overcome the world.

Today is Ash Wednesday – the start of Lent. As we reflect on this somber six weeks in our church year, we are so thankful that God loved us so much that He sent His Son to the cross to die so that we might live.

This is the message that we get to share with the students at Minnesota Valley Lutheran

Savior in every instance in this sinful, confusing world. This is the kind of peace that we find only in Jesus! This is what makes MVL's mission so important! "Training students for Christian lives on earth and for eternity."

After all, what can be a more important mission than to share the peace of Jesus with our students?

Tim Plath

MVLHS Principal



Romans 15:13
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

BOTR Campaign Surging Ahead

Greetings MVL Alumni and Friends of MVL!

I pray all of you are off to a great 2023. As you have heard and seen, MVL is embarking on a legacy building project for our growing student body and academic curriculum. We call it the Building on the Rock Campaign. For those of you who were here during the years our enrollment reached 250 - 300, you know the need to expand, improve, and continue our excellent Christ-centered education for the next 40-plus years. The past 23 years, while I've personally been here, I've seen how important MVL has been to so many families and students. It's been such a blessing for me and my family as well.

The blessings continue to flow! These past months have reminded me of this. The Spirit of MVL Gala 2022 was one such reminder. We welcomed seven members from the Class of 2006. The Lord led all these men into the military path. When these alumni were addressing the crowd, they were asked, "Is there anything you'd like to say to your parents and the supporters here tonight?" The response that came up again and again was, "Thank you Mom and Dad for giving me MVL". Those in attendance found it very moving. There weren't many dry eyes in the place with those heartfelt declarations!



Members of the Class of 2006 honored at the Spirit of MVL Gala 2022 last November.

In addition, I also recently sat down with an alumnus and his recently widowed mother. They came to MVL to discuss allocation of the memorial gifts received. As I was conversing with the two, the alumnus son shared with me that he told his mom "MVL was the best gift you and Dad could have given us". The mother agreed that it was a gift that her and her late husband wanted so dearly for their kids. This story echoes the stories of so many families throughout my years at MVL. I continue to hear the same for the upcoming Chargers.

These heartfelt messages are what fuels so many of us to continue to support our mission at MVL of "Training Students for Christian lives here on earth and for eternity".

Thank you to all the alumni and families that have already given a gift to this current BOTR Campaign, as well as your prayerful support. If you haven't done so already, please consider a gift to this legacy project and provide an opportunity for many others to experience their Savior at MVL.

God's continued blessings,

Jim Buboltz
MVL Mission Advancement Director

Hear our
Message
See the 3-D
walkthrough!



**BUILDING ON
THE ROCK**

The Cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.
Ephesians 2:20

Project Lead The Way Comes to MVL

As part of MVL's most recent strategic plan with Minnesota Nonpublic Accrediting Association, our goal was to "better meet the needs of the diverse learners within our student body". The addition of the Certified Nursing Assistant program, and the partnership with New Ulm High School and their Career Technical Education Center, have both been a significant blessing to our students. A presentation on Project Lead the Way (PLTW) was given at Martin Luther College last summer.

Project Lead the Way offers a curriculum in three separate pathways: Biomedical Science, Computer Science, and Engineering. Prospective teachers of the classes within the curriculum are offered 80 hours of online training for each class taught.

After much discussion and analysis of our current curriculum, it was determined that we should consider adding PLTW to our curriculum. MVL teachers Bradley Nehls and Kirk Schauland indicated interest in teaching courses in the Engineering and Computer Science pathways. Two separate grant applications were submitted through PLTW. Just recently, we learned that we are the recipients of \$30,000 in funding to train our teachers and pay the enrollment fees for the first two years. In addition, we already have a good number of interested students in these classes for next year.

In the last several years, MVL has been very blessed to send almost half of our graduating classes to either Martin Luther College or Bethany Lutheran College. We thank God for that special blessing!

Yet, we also know how important it is to provide a quality Christian secondary education to all of our students and strive to meet all their needs. We believe that PLTW will be a blessing to our school as we continue "training students for Christian lives on earth and for eternity!"

Career and Technical Education Program for MVL Students

Beginning in the 2022-2023 academic school year, the MVL Board authorized participation in Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses in cooperation with ISD #88. The regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center offers industry standard courses in welding, machining, manufacturing, auto mechanics, small engines/ATV repair, cabinetry, and construction for area high school students. CTE courses provide students with the unique opportunity to take a multitude of courses, most of which are "hands-on" learning. MVL juniors and seniors have the opportunity to enroll in these classes as one of their electives. The classes are held at NUHS. This provides unique challenges in that the two school's daily schedules do not always align, however, through communication, and by being proactive, students have made these courses work with their class schedules and found them to be very enriching! This is just one more way MVL is expanding its learning opportunities to fit the needs of all of its students!

On the Cover....

Jack Hamen smiles for the camera as Dylan Sandgren looks on during the Holtmeier Career Day last fall. Tyler Sandgren and Ben Price face away from the camera.

We are most grateful to **Maggie's Moments Photography** for the cover photo and Holtmeier Career Day photos on page 5 of the publication.

Maggie and her husband Matt also own **Ghost Dog Media LLC**, which produced a video of the day. The QR code for the video is included on page 5. A big thanks to them for their support of MVL!



Holtmeier Career Day

MVL has been very blessed to have a supportive and giving community of Christians within our MVL family. Joe and Bethany Holtmeier, owners of Holtmeier Construction, have given generously and continuously to MVL over the years. They have provided construction supplies such as limestone, top soil, clay, and culverts to be used on several ongoing construction projects including the new track, septic system, softball fields, and the new parking lot. They have also provided workers, trucks, and the fuel needed to haul and move the products they have donated over the years.

In keeping with their giving spirit, and wanting to help students learn more about career opportunities in their area of expertise, Holtmeiers hosted a career day for the MVL students last fall. The idea was to introduce students to the construction trades, including engineering. The afternoon started with classroom instruction from Joe Holtmeier and a representative from Bolton Menk. After the classroom instruction, the students participated in hands-on opportunities lead by the Holtmeier crew. They were able to try several pieces of equipment, run the tamper, learn about site surveying, and even help in laying some pipe. Holtmeiers even arranged for Maddie and Matt Maisch, founders of Ghost Dog Media, LLC and owners of Maddie's Moments Photography, to be on hand to capture the day with their photography and a special video. The photos attached to this article and on the front cover are thanks to Maddie! The QR code for the video is below! Please take time to watch it!



Long Run at the Finish Line

When the track season begins at Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School this March, a familiar face will be missing. After twenty-six years of coaching, as well as donating his time driving the bus to meets, Coach Dennis Jaspersen will not be a part of the team. He has been a great asset to the track program throughout his many years of service. In 2015, Mr. J was recognized by the Minnesota State High School Track Coaches Association as the state's Volunteer of the Year.



When asked about the impact that Dennis has had on the MVL track program, Head Coach Rollin Timm shared these thoughts: "He brought coaching expertise, especially in the hurdle events, and that was a great blessing to our program." Coach J was also instrumental in MVL having a practice track for our athletes. His determination and drive, along with help from the Booster Club and Holtmeier Excavating, helped us find an area on our property that would accommodate a small practice track.

Craig Morgan, MVL Activities Director, added these thoughts: "The practice track has greatly aided our track teams and athletes. It has been a great addition to our property. It has also helped us relocate our practice football field. Dennis has truly been a blessing not only to our track athletes, but also to MVL.

Thank you, Dennis, for all your time, effort, and gifts!"

"Garden of Eden" Creates Educational Experiences/Fresh Produce

The farm field on the top of the hill behind the school has now become home to the new septic system. The 2 1/2 acre plot is more than just grounds for the septic system, however. Last year, the field was seeded with Bird and Butterfly Mix from Ramy Seeds, to be used as pollinators and provide aesthetics to the area. A test garden spot was also tilled and used to raise tomatoes, cabbage, onions, and cucumbers. All vegetables produced last summer were used for the school lunch program. The vision for the future is to have enough produce to help will school lunches through the fall and winter. This would help reduce costs and add nutrition to the lunches served. The area was dubbed "The Garden of Eden" by those caring for it.

As the area is developed and expanded, the science teachers are also looking at the area for potential use in biology studies, or as an "outdoor classroom". To help with that, the Farm-City Hub Club provided a grant to continue the development of the area. The generous \$2,800 grant MVL received will purchase a used disc, Troy-Bilt tiller, and irrigation and fencing for the area. These new additions should help improve the plot and greatly increase the vegetable production this year. Ken Opitz, our maintenance supervisor, wanted to get the word out to interested parties. "If you'd like to help with the garden during the summer months, please feel free to contact me!" Beth Fluegge, the MVL kitchen manager, is thankful and excited to move forward with the project. "The MVL kitchen crew is very pleased and grateful for the gift from Farm-City Hub Club. Working with our MVL family, our "Garden of Eden" will certainly flourish. We cannot wait to get our hands dirty!"



Memorial & Honorary Gifts

The following memorials were received October 1, 2022, through February 20, 2023. Unless otherwise designated, memorial gifts to MVL are invested in the General Fund Endowment, which accrues earnings that are used for the operating budget.

In Memory of

Walter & Elviera Becker	\$ 40.00	Richard Mielke	\$ 10.00
Jerome Bentz	\$ 40.00	Doug Neitzel	\$ 10.00
John & Olga Bentz	\$ 40.00	JoAnn Opitz	\$ 20.00
Don Berndtson	\$ 25.00	Thomas & Marlys Renner	\$ 270.00
Roger Block	\$ 20.00	Carol Richter	\$ 20.00
Virgil Bode	\$ 25.00	Gene Rodewald	\$ 4,970.00
Bruce Boerner	\$ 315.00	Ina Schvelein	\$ 20.00
Aaron Carlovsky	\$ 500.00	Mel Schwark	\$ 50.00
Duane Duenow	\$ 25.00	Julianne Shaw	\$ 125.00
Lou Ella Eystad	\$ 100.00	Bev Simonsen	\$ 25.00
Don Fosburgh	\$ 20.00	John Sommer	\$ 60.00
Janet Graupman	\$ 20.00	Alois Spaeth	\$ 25.00
Beverly Haar	\$ 20.00	Lyle Thompson	\$ 250.00
Evelyn Heinlein	\$ 25.00	Erna Zahn	\$ 125.00
Timothy Koestler	\$ 395.00	Evelyn Zimmer	\$ 10.00
Jacob Lansteiner	\$ 500.00		
JD Ligget	\$ 175.00		
Kathy Lindstrand	\$ 40.00		

In Honor of

Nate & Jen Scharf	\$ 40.00
A Special Friend	\$ 5,350.00

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

Upcoming Events At MVL

April 1st. Booster Club Jeans & Dreams Auction at Turner Hall
beginning at 5:00 p.m.

April 5. Spring Sacred Concert School Gymnasium
beginning at 7:00 p.m.

April 23. End of Year Sacred Concert, Bethany Lutheran College
beginning at 7:00 p.m.

May 5, 6, & 7. Musical "Music Man" State Street Theater
7 p.m. Friday and Saturday evening
2 p.m. Sunday afternoon

May 13. Prism Concerts, School Gymnasium
5 p.m. & 8 p.m.

May 28. Graduation, School Gymnasium
2 p.m.



A Big Thumbs Up To Alumni!

The Building on the Rock Capital Campaign continues to gather momentum as we head into our final 45 days! During the early phase of the campaign in June 2022, pledges and gifts averaged \$12,000 per week. During a recent 27 week stretch, this increased to \$62,000 per week. Since January 1, 2023, we have seen our weekly averages rise to \$95,679 per week! God has blessed this campaign in so many ways! We still have work to do, however. We have some large grant requests outstanding, and recently began seeking our local businesses to partner with MVL in this ambitious project! As of March 1, 2023, we sit close to 4 million in pledges, gifts, and like-kind work!

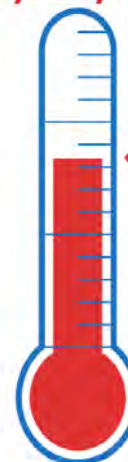
A large part of this BOTR Campaign is our **Alumni!** We are reaching out to all **Classes of 1982 – 2016** to partner with us in this important endeavor! To date, our **Alumni** have contributed **\$317,675** to the campaign! Our goal is to average \$15,000 from each class for a total **Alumni** contribution of \$500,000! As of March 1, the **Class of 2006** is leading the way with the most dollars pledged, followed closely by the **Class of 1999** and **Class of 1985**. The highest percentage of participation comes from the **Class of 1982**. The **Class of 1985** is in second place in participation, followed by the **Class of 2006**.

This is a team effort! **Get your class in action today!**

Mark Smith
Building on the Rock
Capital Campaign Chair

"Building on the Rock" Ground Breaking Goal!

\$6,500,000



Raised
\$3,872,000



**BUILDING ON
THE ROCK**

The Cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.
Ephesians 2:20