

A PUBLICATION OF

MINNESOTA VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

# Hiliter



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FALL 2023

*Training students for Christian lives*



## Free

*"In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."*

Ephesians 3:12

**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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This school year's theme is "Forgiven—Free—Faithful. The Scripture passage on which our theme is based is Ephesians 3:12: "In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." In this issue of *HiLites*, we will focus on the word "Free."

Jim Buboltz and I try to get out to the construction site several times a week to see what has changed. With the concrete wall and roof sections going up, our project is pretty impressive. What a blessing it is to envision what our project

do a little dance. To say that prayers would be answered would be an understatement. In effect, we would get our science classrooms, fine arts center, convening area, and field house...for free!

Isn't that what God did for us when he sent Jesus to earth? His work was to live a perfect life and die an innocent death—with the weight of the world's sins on His shoulders. And...He did it all for us, at no cost to us! Our salvation through Jesus' suffering and death is free!

*He did it all for us, at no cost to us! Our salvation through Jesus' suffering and death is free!*

will look like when it's completed. I'm confident that the friends and families of MVL will thank God on dedication day!

There's a reality that is connected with such a project. There's a cost for the new construction. And...it isn't cheap. Planning for paying off the expansion, as well as ongoing fundraising, continues. As we plan to carry out our work to pay for the new addition, we trust that God will bless our work.

But, how would we feel or react if someone came into the office one day and just wrote out a check to cover the entire cost of the project? I think we'd shout for joy and maybe even

While it would be a wonderful blessing if someone would pay off the entire project with one check, I'm not going to hold my breath. We will continue to work in earnest to pay off this wonderful new addition. What we don't have to worry about is paying for our sins. It's been done. It's free! Praise the Lord!

*Tim Plath  
MVLHS Principal*



**·FORGIVEN  
·FREE  
·FAITHFUL**

Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School  
In Him and through faith in Him  
we may approach God with  
freedom and confidence.  
-Ephesians 3:12



## Exciting Times at MVL

Greetings from MVL! It was a little over a year and a half ago that the MVL Association Delegates prayerfully decided to relaunch the Building on the Rock campaign. At that time, the goal of the Campaign Committee was to raise 6.8 million dollars in gifts and pledges in order to start the building project. I'm very humbled to say that the Lord has led the hearts of His people to not only recognize the blessing MVL has been the past 40-plus years, but to now support the building of a historic addition to continue those blessings for the next 40 years.

As you can see, construction has begun. The walls have arrived and their construction will continue through mid-November. The science wing already has taken form, with the welcome center and fieldhouse following. With our growing enrollment, it is all very exciting! Please feel free to follow along with the building progress on our live stream, as well as looking for updates on social media. I'll also be visiting our association churches to share current, first hand updates on Building on the Rock.

Again, I thank God for our MVL supporters. From our association to our alumni, from our grandparents to our current parents, and the many of you who have found it in your hearts to support MVL through your gifts and prayers, we thank God for all of you! We ask for your continued support as we look to complete the funding of this project, provide an excellent Christ-centered high school education, and welcome so many new faces into our MVL family.

If you have any questions about MVL, or on how to contribute to the Building on the Rock project, please contact me at MVL or via email at [jbuboltz@mvlhs.org](mailto:jbuboltz@mvlhs.org).

These certainly are exciting times at MVL! We continue to thank our Lord for bountiful blessings and pray for a prosperous future!

*Jim Buboltz*  
MVL Mission Advancement  
Director and Dean of Students

## MVL Building on the Rock Construction Update

While getting to MVL may be one of the most difficult drives you or your child does over the course of the week, witnessing the changes to our campus these next few weeks is well worth that drive! The roof, floor, and pre-cast walls, are installed on the new science/technology wing of our addition! As I write this, the walls of the new welcome area are going up. By the second week of November, the entire shell of the building will be in place. Many other things are happening as well...

- New sidewalk in front of the current entrance will be poured over MEA break.
- The transformer will be moved by the bus shed during MEA break.
- Design meetings are happening and various renditions are being created for the "MVL Plaza" –the outdoor space that will connect the "old" to the "new".
- The gym floor designs and scoreboard/video board needs for the new gym are being finalized.
- Meetings are happening regarding software (i.e. – digital trophy case and video wall) needs for the new welcoming area.
- We are currently researching vendors to assist us with purchasing stage curtains and rigging for the new event center.
- Theater seats for the new event center have been ordered.

We certainly appreciate all the people – both contracted workers and volunteers alike who are working to make our project a success. While the drive to MVL might pose a challenge at the moment, we encourage you to tackle it a time or two during the next few weeks to watch the MVL campus being transformed right before your eyes. Remember, you can also see live updates on our live stream located at the bottom of the MVL homepage: <https://mvl.org/>.

*David Bendix*  
Chairman of the BOTR Building Committee



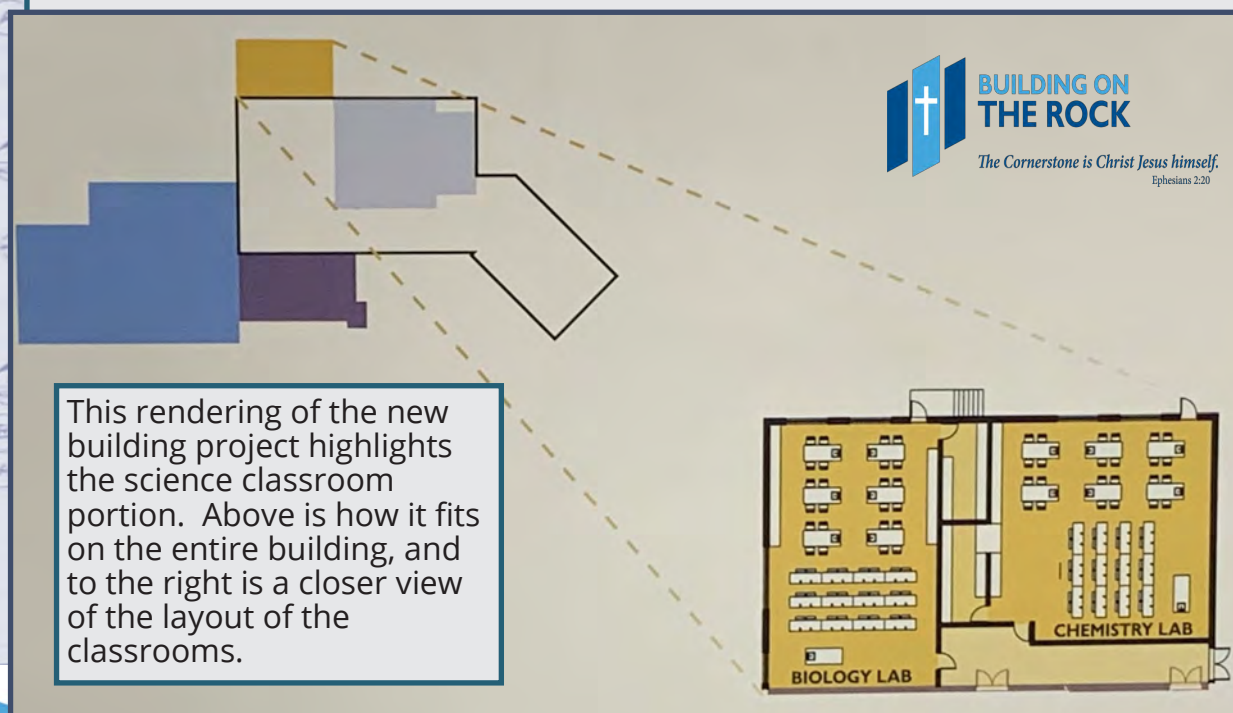
Students watch the crane place walls for the new entrance.

# BOTR Science Classrooms

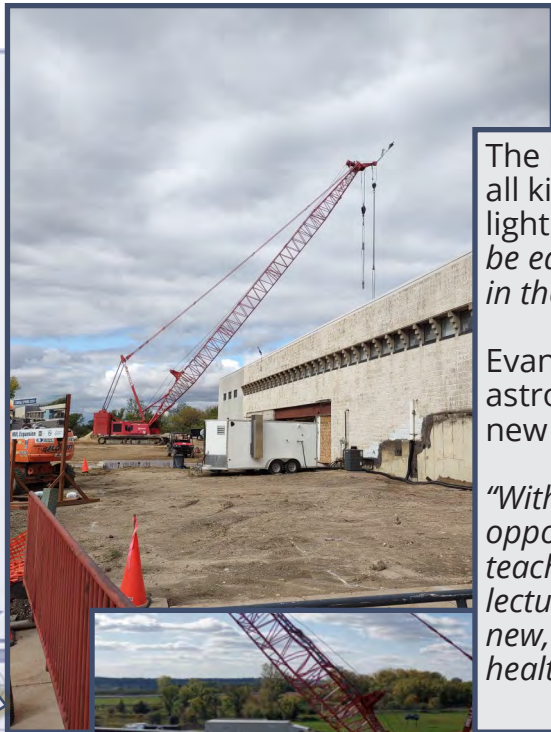
For several months, it seemed like all we saw was dirt, machinery, and rubble. That is what was needed to prepare a firm foundation for the new addition. Then one day not so long ago, semi trucks drove in and dropped off the lattice crawler crane that has been sitting onsite since. Its enormous presence on campus is impressive! What is even more exciting, however, is watching the walls go up and the structure take form. It's been amazing to see the progress! Large slab walls were lifted by the crane and gently set in place with what looked like little effort. Within two weeks, the walls of the new science classrooms were complete. Jennifer Uher, who teaches Physical Science and Biology, is excited for the completion of this new learning center.

*"I'm so excited to see how these new state-of-the-art classrooms can take the learning and experiences in the science classroom to a whole new level! The rooms will offer a great deal more space to fit our growing class size, allowing students to move around easily and safely within the classroom. The new space will have both a lecture space with tables, as well as a space specifically for lab work."*

Each new lab station will provide water, gas, electricity, and storage. They will replace the outdated, leaky, and crowded tables. The space will provide plenty of room to work with a partner or collaborate with other groups. The lab area will also provide the teacher with plenty of space to walk around the stations and easily monitor and help students at work. Extra screens placed in the lab area will allow biology students to easily see teacher-led dissections and other demonstration up-close from any spot in the lab.







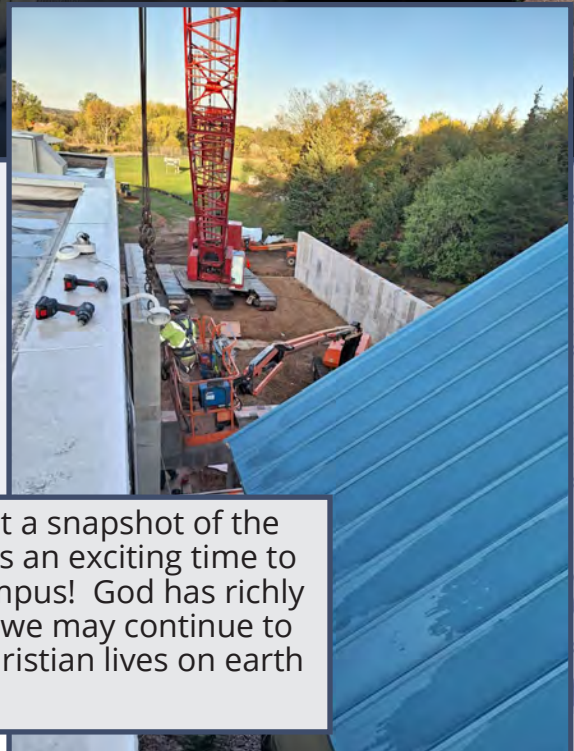
The many large windows will be awesome for growing all kinds of plants, as well as providing great natural light and a beautiful view. Mrs. Uher added, *"There will be easy access to the outside of the building to put us right in the middle of God's creation in a matter of moments!"*

Evan Vant Hul, who teaches chemistry, anatomy, astronomy, and geology, is also thrilled to get into this new space.

*"With the extra available lab space, I will have the opportunity to provide different types of classes and teaching methods for every type of learner, both lecture-style, as well as hands-on. I'm excited to have this new, fresh classroom that we will be able to mold into a healthy science environment,"* he said.



Check MVL's homepage at [mvl.org](http://mvl.org) for live streaming of the building project



The photos show just a snapshot of the work-in-progress! It's an exciting time to take a trip out to campus! God has richly blessed MVL so that we may continue to train students for Christian lives on earth and for eternity!



## New Ministries Begin



### Sarah Zahrt

is excited to be back in a high-school setting teaching American literature and novel/speech this year at MVL. Sarah went to Northwestern Preparatory School (now LPS) before heading to Martin Luther College, where she graduated in 1999 with an elementary/secondary education degree. Her first call was to Michigan Lutheran Seminary, where she served as a tutor, freshman English teacher, volleyball coach, and Student Council advisor. In 2004, she took a call to Martin Luther College to be an admissions counselor. After the birth of her first child, she resigned that position and spent the next thirteen years as a classroom and reading interventionist

paraprofessional in New Ulm Public Schools and at St. Paul's Lutheran School in New Ulm.

Sarah loves people and enjoys volunteering in several capacities with MLC and St. Paul's. She thoroughly enjoys spending time with friends, reading, eating copious amounts of dark chocolate, and running long (or as some call it, "crazy") distances.

Sarah says she's looking forward to meeting the students and working with this amazing staff! She and her husband, Jesse, and their daughters, Ziva and Siri, belong to St. John's in New Ulm. She is beyond grateful to them for their support and to her parents for their wonderful example of lifelong service to our Lord.



### Miranda Maasz

is no stranger to sporting the MVL Charger Columbia and navy blue. Years ago, she pulled on MVL colors as a student and athlete herself, graduating MVL with the class of 2011. Twelve years later, she reconnects with MVL, but this time as a faculty member.

Miranda grew up on a farm south of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. Her parents, Paul (1982) and Judy, partnered with MVL, to provide a quality earthly and heavenly education for her and her three sisters. Upon graduating from MVL, Miranda attended MLC in New Ulm,

Minnesota. She graduated in 2015 and received her first teaching assignment as a dorm supervisor and coach at Nebraska Lutheran High School in Waco, Nebraska. After three years, Miranda accepted a call to teach high-school social studies and coach at Divine Savior Academy in Doral, Florida. Last year, the Lord presented her an opportunity to, once again, be an MVL Charger.

Miranda is humbled by the opportunity to teach classes that Mr. Buboltz taught her, such as U.S. history and government. She also teaches world geography and economics. Miranda is involved with the volleyball program and the National Honor Society.

When Miranda isn't in the classroom or MVL gym, she is hiking, traveling, exploring local attractions, spending time with her family, working on the farm, or alligator hunting.

You'll still find Miranda sporting her MVL Columbia and navy blue, but this time not as a student and athlete, but as a teacher, coach, and advocate for the family atmosphere and Christian education that each MVL student receives.



# Memorial & Honorary Gifts

The following memorials were received July 1, 2023, through October 24, 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

Scott Anderson	\$ 25.00
Walter & Elviera Becker	\$ 60.00
Jerome Bentz	\$ 60.00
John & Olga Bentz	\$ 60.00
Larry Czer	\$ 65.00
Brenda Erickson	\$ 20.00
Steven Enter	\$ 335.00
Randy Gieseke	\$ 50.00
Darwin Gunderson	\$ 45.00
Arlene Helle	\$ 15.00
Edgar Kiecker	\$ 270.00
Gordon Koopman	\$ 20.00
Dylan Maas	\$ 490.00
Shirley Madsen	\$ 20.00
Andrew Madson	\$ 610.00
Laverne Muehlenhardt	\$ 25.00
Allen Mueller	\$ 120.00
Sharon Portner	\$ 25.00
Harold Reed	\$ 200.00

Ted Sauers	\$ 20.00
Joel Schroeder	\$ 20.00
Janice Steffen	\$ 45.00
John Trebesch	\$ 5,100.00
Leorda Wels	\$ 25.00
Vernone Wylie	\$ 50.00

## In Honor of

Doug & Karen Guenther 50th Anniversary	\$ 50.00
Jade Melvin's Senior year	\$ 250.00
Dave & Tanya Norris 30th Anniversary	\$ 30.00

## Upcoming Events At MVL

**Spirit of MVL Gala**  
November 18th, 5 p.m.

**Thanksgiving Break**  
November 22 through 24

**Christmas Concert**  
December 21, 7 p.m.

**Christmas Break**  
December 22-January 3

**Pork Chop Dinner**  
March 3rd, 10:30-1:30  
**Winter Concert**  
March 3, 1:30

## 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



### On The Cover

Art Teacher Mike Wiechmann takes a bird's-eye view photograph of the crane placing concrete panels in for the new science classrooms.



## Party with a Purpose

Each November, MVL hosts their Spirit of MVL Gala Event. This year, the event takes place on November 18th, beginning at 5:00 in the evening. The Spirit of MVL Recognition Banquet was started as a way of recognizing some of the many supporters who have given tirelessly and generously of their time and talents, to MVL. These supporters wanted to make sure MVL is able to continue to provide an excellent education founded on the Word of God.

Several years ago, the Gala was incorporated with the Spirit of MVL Recognition. This much-loved event gives supporters an opportunity to financially support special, unbudgeted needs of the school. Each Gala raises funds for a specific item or project. In the past, funds have been put toward things like live streaming equipment, updating school security, and renovating the weight room. This year, the proceeds of the event will go toward signage for the inside and outside of the new BOTR addition. Everyone can participate in this event, whether you attend the dinner or not. Prior to the ticketed event, there is an "open house" reception for the year's award recipients. This year, MVL will be recognizing the wonderful partnership forged with Palmer Bus Company over the years, the generous and continual support from Arvid & Judy Schwartz, and the amazing donations received every year from New 2 Your Family Thrift Store. What a blessing these individuals and entities have been to our school! During the reception from 5:00-6:00, all are welcome to congratulate and visit with the recipients and fellow MVL friends. After the reception, there is the ticketed dinner, followed by the auction and appeal. The evening winds down with the "afterglow," a time to continue Christian fellowship with other MVL "family" members.

If you have never attended the Spirit of MVL Gala, consider attending at least one part of this wonderful event in an upcoming year. I guarantee you will leave with renewed zeal for MVL. It will amaze you and warm your heart, experiencing the love and support so many Christians share for a common goal. If you would like to contribute to this year's Gala appeal, even if you are unable to attend, you can give at the following link. [SOMVL23.givesmart.com](https://SOMVL23.givesmart.com). Most importantly, though, we ask for your continued prayers for MVL, the students who attend, and our ministry! "Training students for Christian lives on earth and for eternity."



Arvid & Judy Schwartz

