

## Debt Free, Once Again!



Thanks be to God, Valley Lutheran is once again debt free! It was just three short years ago that we celebrated the completion of the original mortgage, and now thanks to God's provision and through the generosity of the 1,780 GROWING Campaign supporters, the expansion and improvements made through the campaign have been paid in full.

On October 12th a mortgage "burning" celebration was held. The

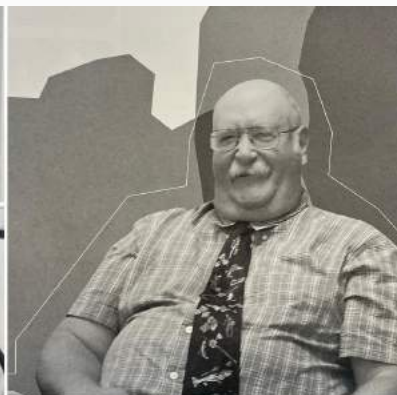
evening's celebration featured fellowship, delicious food, great speakers, some light-hearted fun, and wonderful music courtesy of the VL Brass Ensemble. And even though we couldn't actually burn the mortgage, we did discover some rather creative methods to dispose of the debt!

Each of the three building area additions were featured – the tuba players blew the mortgage into confetti, an athlete tore the document apart with

his strength, and a chemical solution turned the organic paper into black carbon and then carbon dioxide. Whatever the method though, the message was the same – the mortgage is gone!

Every priority of the GROWING Campaign had one goal in mind: to better equip Valley Lutheran to effectively pursue our mission: Preparing students for life, with Christ as our foundation. To God be the glory!

## Remembering Mr. Zill



On October 6, 2022, Mr. Steve Zill was welcomed into the arms of our Heavenly Father, in what was one of the best "Zill hugs" of all time.

Steve Zill was beloved and remembered for many things: his contagious and unmistakable laugh, his inescapable hugs, a love for the Lord that was truly contagious, and the uncanny ability to seek out and love everyone who God placed in his path.

Mr. Zill retired from Valley Lutheran High School in 2016 after serving for 29 years. While at Valley, Mr. Zill taught science and theology, coached boys and girls soccer and girls golf, and served as the faculty supervisor for a variety of clubs.

He was infamous for his school-picture antics, for producing a BOOM that would echo down the hallway in one of his "Interactive Devotions," and for wearing out the binding of his Bibles from so much use.

Before coming to Valley, Mr. Zill taught at Calvary, Lincoln Park; Mount Hope, Allen Park; and one year in Kalispell, Montana.

*"Well done, good and faithful servant!" Matthew 25:23*

# LEA Convocation Reflections

I love going to the Lutheran Educators Association (LEA) convention. This marked my 5th Convocation - 3 as a staff member at Valley Lutheran, and 2 as a member of the CUC Wind Symphony while I was in college.

One of the best parts of LEA is reuniting with high school and college classmates, family (because Lutheran school teacher-ness runs deep!), and friends serving at other schools around the nation. I'm not quite at the point where I'm running into former students, but the other VL faculty that were able to attend certainly did.

Unfortunately, meeting people this year was not quite the joyous reunion it's been in years past. Upon arrival in Milwaukee, the Valley team learned about the passing of Steve Zill. We then felt it was our responsibility to tell - in person - everyone who might've known Steve. It was announced at the opening dinner because, as Jeanette Weilnau put it, "We don't even know how far-reaching the connections that Zill had were."

Valley is such a special place to so many, and we know that it's not the



building that makes it special, but the people. I personally had alumni and others intentionally seek me out to check in on me, make sure I was okay, and to pray with me.

Our mission statement is 'Preparing students for life with Christ as our foundation'. Even though this has only been the official statement for the last two or so years, I believe Valley has been doing that since its inception.

Through this experience, though, it became evident to me that we prepare students not just for LIFE but also for DEATH, with Christ as the foundation.

Because of Mr. Zill's evident faith, we were able to have these conversations with people knowing for certain that Zill was celebrating the ultimate opportunity to worship his Lord and Savior.

*Thank you, Lord, for Valley Lutheran, for the mission you have given us, and the faith of our leaders.*

- Mrs. Sugden

The pictured VL teachers were among the 3000 who attended the LEA Convocation this year. Four led sectionals, sharing their wealth of expertise and providing a glimpse into what our VL experience every day.

Mrs. Blake - (1) Get Them Talking, Keep Them Talking; (2) Lights, Camera, Edit!

Mrs. Doyle - Keeping Math Accessible

Mr. Cooper - (1) Pull! Build Character Through Shooting Sports; (2) Teaching Science Using Storylines

Mrs. Sugden - (1) Educational Power Tools; (2) Fine Arts Gathering

