



EVERGREEN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMER 2018 UPDATE TO THE WELS PNW DISTRICT CONVENTION

THE SOULS THAT WE SERVE WITHIN OUR MINISTRY

We closed the 2017-2018 school year with 86 students, having served 89 students overall throughout the year. We graduated 19 students this past Saturday. Enrollment numbers for our incoming freshman class for 18-19 are lower than normal, and we are strongly encouraging our current families to share Evergreen with their friends and neighbors with an incentive program. We are praying that God adds to our numbers for the coming year through this program and an increased web presence. Please keep encouraging your members and other people connected to your congregation to use Evergreen to prepare their young adults for the future. You won't be disappointed.

God also added to his numbers with the baptism of two of our graduates who are from China. We pray that God goes with them as they look to share His word back in their home country.

THE CALLED SERVANTS OF GOD'S MINISTRY

God truly blessed His ministry during the 2017-2018 school year with an amazing faculty and staff. With almost $\frac{1}{4}$ of our faculty and staff being brand new to ELHS, it was a cause for fear. Yet, the LORD granted us great blessings through our new team. However, in ministry, there always seems to be change. For next school year, there will be very little faculty or staff change. As of penning this report, God has blessed Evergreen with a complete ministry team for the 2018-2019 school year. Earlier this semester, Mr. Allen Ash was led to accept God's call to teach at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan starting next school year. The Board of Directors for Evergreen was tasked to fill Mr. Ash's position. Mr. Phil Bunkowske has accepted the position of athletic director. Mr. Bunkowske will also remain a part of the recruitment/admissions team, but the work of recruitment director will be split between multiple people on staff. Due to a smaller pool of incoming freshman from our TELSS schools, the board was led to extend a one-year retirement call to former Evergreen teacher Mr. David Habeck. Mr. Habeck has retired from his principal and teaching position at Trinity Lutheran School in Caledonia, Wisconsin and is moving back to the Tacoma area in June. Mr. Habeck was a teacher at Evergreen from 1993-2010. We are extremely excited to welcome back Mr. Habeck. He will be teaching two sections of Religion, one section of English and be serving as our transportation coordinator. Although these are not the exact classes that Mr. Ash was teaching, the section load that Mr. Ash was teaching will be covered by Mr. Habeck. Other teachers will be taking on Mr. Ash's courses, most notably Mr. Lund taking over Chemistry. Our entire school system across the country has a shortage of called workers, both teachers and pastors. We are truly blessed at Evergreen that our faculty is complete for next school year.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO JOINING FULL-TIME MINISTRY

This past year, we continued to encourage our students to consider ministry in their future plans by attending MLC, as well as to carry on their Christian education at either Bethany Lutheran College or Wisconsin Lutheran College. All of these colleges visited Evergreen, and the basketball and cheer teams made their annual trip to BLC and MLC in December. At the time of this writing, one senior is planning on attending WLC next fall. We pray that many students in future classes will make ministry their career path through MLC or BLC (pastoral ministry) and that others will also choose BLC and WLC for the solid Christian training they offer.

We were blessed this year with the creation of the Bill and Lois Lobeda Scholarship. This scholarship was created through a generous \$50,000 donation. Annual scholarships are offered to students who want to pursue a career in ministry. The scholarships will be given out to 1 boy and/or girl at Evergreen selected through application. Scholarships up to \$2500 will be given out a year (\$1250 each) and will increase as the fund increases with interest.

THE NATIONAL ACCREDITATION OF OUR MINISTRY

For the most of the 2017 calendar year, the faculty, staff and volunteers took on the huge task of renewing Evergreen Lutheran High School's National Accreditation with the NCPSA (National Council for Private School Accreditation) and WELSSA (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod School Accreditation). In 2009, while Evergreen was located on the Des Moines campus, we became provisionally accredited meeting 81% of the national standards met, leaving thirteen of the required standards not met. Evergreen was allowed to fix many of these requirements in order to meet the 85% threshold and became fully accredited. During the past 7 years, the Board of Directors, administration, faculty and staff were able to bring many of those deficiencies up to code. The largest improvement was the new facility. The other deficiencies included handbooks for different aspects of the school, different policies concerning workings of the school, and repairing items.

Our wonderful steering committee led by Pastor Tony Pittenger (Bethany, Port Orchard), Brian Humann (Faith, Tacoma) and Mark Finstrom (Holy Trinity, Des Moines) completed the self-study process in preparation for the site visit from the WELSSA team. This self-study process included finding evidence and artifacts for ten different standards. These standards included: Mission, Vision, Objectives; The School and It's Relationships; School Climate; School Governance and Administration; Professional Personnel; Curriculum; Instruction; Student Services; Physical Facilities; and Planning and Information Management. Each standard had upwards of 50 sub points that need to be proved. The steering committee had various faculty, staff, board and supporters working on the subcommittees to prove that we have met these standards. This work took nearly 6 months. We thank these individuals for their hard work on this task.

In October, the site visit team visited our campus for two days. The site team talked with students, faculty, staff and parents. They visited classrooms and watched the workings of the school. They sifted through the evidence and artifacts that the subcommittee found. At the end of these two long days, the site visit team gave their report. Evergreen Lutheran High School met 93% of the standards and all the required standards were met. This score was just short of an exemplary rating. The site team was very impressed with our school facility, our staff and many of the articles of evidence. They gave us recommendations to work on for the next 5 years. The faculty and board will now take those recommendations and will continue their work to improve our school. God truly blessed us through this process and gave us opportunity to see the blessings that he has given us in our school. We pray that God continues to bless our work as we continue to improve each day.

We pray that with each passing year Evergreen Lutheran High School improves. We are looking forward to making additions to our curriculum, improvements to our procedures, and an increased presence within our congregations with both information and visits. We pray that you continue to share this precious gift of Evergreen within our ELS and WELS congregations. May God continue to bless our ministry as we continue to preach that amazing message of Christ-crucified and risen!

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP OF OUR MINISTRY

As we draw closer to the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year, we are in awe of the blessings that God has given to us at Evergreen. The association forged ahead in faith with a -\$90,000 projected budget for the 17-18 fiscal year as well as a -\$55,000 debt carryover from previous years. During this year, God abundantly showered financial blessings on our school. Financially to date, we have received over \$500,000 in donations. (\$60,000 of that was to restricted accounts \$50,000 to Bill and Lois Lobeda Scholarship Fund and \$10,000 towards the Security System upgrade.) The remaining amount has gone towards the general budget, reducing if not eliminating the \$90,000 deficit and the \$55,000 debt carry over.

Because of our Lacey Mortgage Restructure, we were also able to pay off the remaining part of our St. Matthew's Spokane loan of \$75,000 and our HVAC (\$27,000) and Light Loan (\$21,000 remaining) of \$48,000. We went to an interest only loan for 5 years which will reduce our mortgage by \$65,000 a year to allow us to pay of remaining debts to individuals of (\$75,000 and \$50,000) as well as pay back what we borrowed in the restructure (\$123,000) and refill the accounts that were borrowed previously (@\$75,000).

This year's auction brought in a profit of \$40,000. Many hands came together to make this event a success. We received \$2,000 sponsorship from LACE. We thank you all for helping and attending.

THE EXTENSION OF OUR MINISTRY ONLINE

We have begun discussions with Dr. Jim Grunwald, retired professor at MLC and current superintendent of the ALHS Online, about being the field test school for a fully-online WELS high school option. This vision is in the planning stages and we are looking at options to begin a few classes this next school year with a limited test group of people. We have already been contacted from individuals in Alaska, Montana and Florida about the program. The program is currently proposed to have 4 invested groups offering high-quality, Christ-centered online classes. These groups would be the following:

- ALHS Online- offering various elective courses including languages, STEM, and other courses.
- Bethany Lutheran College's Dual Credit High School program- offering many junior and senior courses which would also offer dual credit at BLC or another college.
- The Local Congregation Pastor- would be given materials by Evergreen or allowed to develop materials to teach an onsite religion course and give a face-to-face presence within their geographic area.
- Evergreen Lutheran High School (or another ALHS)- offering the remaining core courses and would offer the diploma. We are looking to create the structure and then work with other ALHS's to take on students within their geographic area or time zone.

There is still a large amount of logistics that need to be ironed out for the program to function effectively. We are collecting names of people within congregations that have families interested in the program. Look for more detailed information in the coming year on the program. We pray that this online school option would allow God's Word to be tied into academic subject of students all over our district and possibly further.

AP COURSES AND STEM WITHIN OUR MINISTRY

The Board of Directors' Curriculum Committee is looking at the possibility of adding AP courses if enrollment continues to grow. They see the greatest need would be in these two curriculum areas currently: AP Calculus and AP Computer Science. There has also been initial discussion on looking into Project Lead the Way which focuses on STEM in the high school and Jr. High curriculum. This program is not widely used by many private Christian high schools in the Tacoma area and could be a huge draw for families and students. This is also been something that our grade school students are looking for in their high school years.

THE BOARD THAT IS TASKED TO LEAD OUR MINISTRY

This past year, we reviewed the revised constitution several times and voted to send the final draft to the association for the final vote at our January Association meeting. A huge thank you to everyone involved in this process!

The following shows who currently serves on the Board and when the terms of service for each position will finish. At our June Association meeting, the men listed in italics were elected into the open positions on the board.

AUGUST-JULY

2017-2020

Chairman – Seth Habeck

Secretary – Dan Smith

Building & Facilities – Alan Van Horn

2018-2021

Vice-Chairman – VACANT

Curriculum – Brent Sorn

Transportation – Matt Henning

2019-2022

Treasurer – Anthony Circelli

Worker Care – Pastor Geoffrey Rue

R & M – Mike Lorette

Special thanks to the men who have given their time and talents by serving on the Board. We would especially like to thank outgoing members Pastor Joel Hoff and Chris Hintz for their faithful service.

