

United in PRAISE

June 2019

A capital campaign update from
Great Plains Lutheran High School

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Celebration Sunday

Rev. Kenneth Brokmeier

On March 24, 2019 a couple of students at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Brookings, SD may have woken up a bit nervous. As Nolan Hansen and David Fenske rubbed the sleep from their eyes that morning, they both knew they would be on the "hot seat" between Sunday services. They had volunteered to serve on a panel to share information and field questions as part of our congregation's *United in Praise* capital campaign efforts for Great Plains Lutheran High School.

For the record, both did a fantastic job of representing their Savior as they fielded questions and shared thoughts about their personal experiences at GPL. They understand that they would likely graduate before this building project is completed. Yet, both spoke passionately about the blessings this building project could bring to others in the future. Others in the crowd of nearly 70 people chimed in about the blessings the *United in Praise* capital campaign would afford the Christian education offered to students at GPL.

This special presentation was just one spoke in a wheel of information that our members received in March. Newsletter articles, four weeks of bulletin inserts, two weeks of daily prayers and a special 2-week Bible study were other instruments our congregation found valuable to trumpet the praise of the *United in Praise* campaign. On March 31, we held our GPL Celebration Sunday which also included an informative video about the *United in Praise* effort.

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Tyler Goens and David Fenske in the GPL production of *Clowning Around*

Delegates Hear Progress Report

At the Great Plains Lutheran High School Association meeting on May 4, the delegates were updated on the *United in Praise* progress.

In the initial phase of the campaign, 150 visits have been made with individuals who have been supportive of our ministry. We have received 100 responses so far. As a result, we have been blessed with gifts and pledges totaling \$2.2 million.

Pastor Lindhorst, the GPLHS Mission Advancement Director, shared his thoughts on this beginning, "What a joy it is to share with God's people the opportunities God is placing before us within the *United in Praise* capital campaign. These fellow believers clearly recognize the challenges we face and both willingly and joyfully offer their support for this project out of the abundance that the Lord has given them. God's grace in Christ and His joy-filled people are awesome!"

As Pastor Brokmeier described in the article *Celebration Sunday*, this spring the second phase of the campaign began. Ten association congregations implemented a *United in Praise* focus. Responses to the information and invitation for support have been coming in over the past few weeks. Many more association congregations will implement a *United in Praise* focus in the fall.

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(Celebration Sundays... cont.)

The goal of all these materials and testimonials used was simple – to communicate with our members this exciting opportunity and to give them a chance to participate if they wished. We hope your congregation can do the same!



The GPL Honor Choir preparing for Choral Fest 2018



Architect's rendering - west view of addition (Mills Construction)

Delegates Approve Next Step

After hearing how our *United in Praise* campaign is coming along, the delegates were asked to approve spending up to \$12,000 to contract with an architect to move forward in the next stage of designing our facility expansion – a step which they readily approved. This recommendation came from the Board of Directors after hearing from our Site Planning Committee.

The Site Planning Committee came with this suggestion after several meetings conducted over the past few months. During these meetings, the planning committee took a fresh look at our site plan, taking into consideration

comments, questions, and suggestions that have come as we have shared the plan throughout the initial phase of the campaign.

All these groups agreed that the time has come to sit down with the architect and take the next step in making the *United in Praise* concept a reality.

Board Chairman, Christian Weseloh, summed up the day with these words: "When your challenge is immense, it can be easy to get discouraged and believe that success will never be realized. But our God crushes insurmountable odds and provides miracles. He is working for and through us right now. Thank YOU for answering the Lord's call to support this ministry!"

(Delegates Hear... cont.)

The second phase of the campaign will also include efforts to connect with the community and our alumni. Both of these efforts are currently being planned. Several GPL alumni will make up the group forming plans to connect with GPL graduates and encourage their support of this project.

