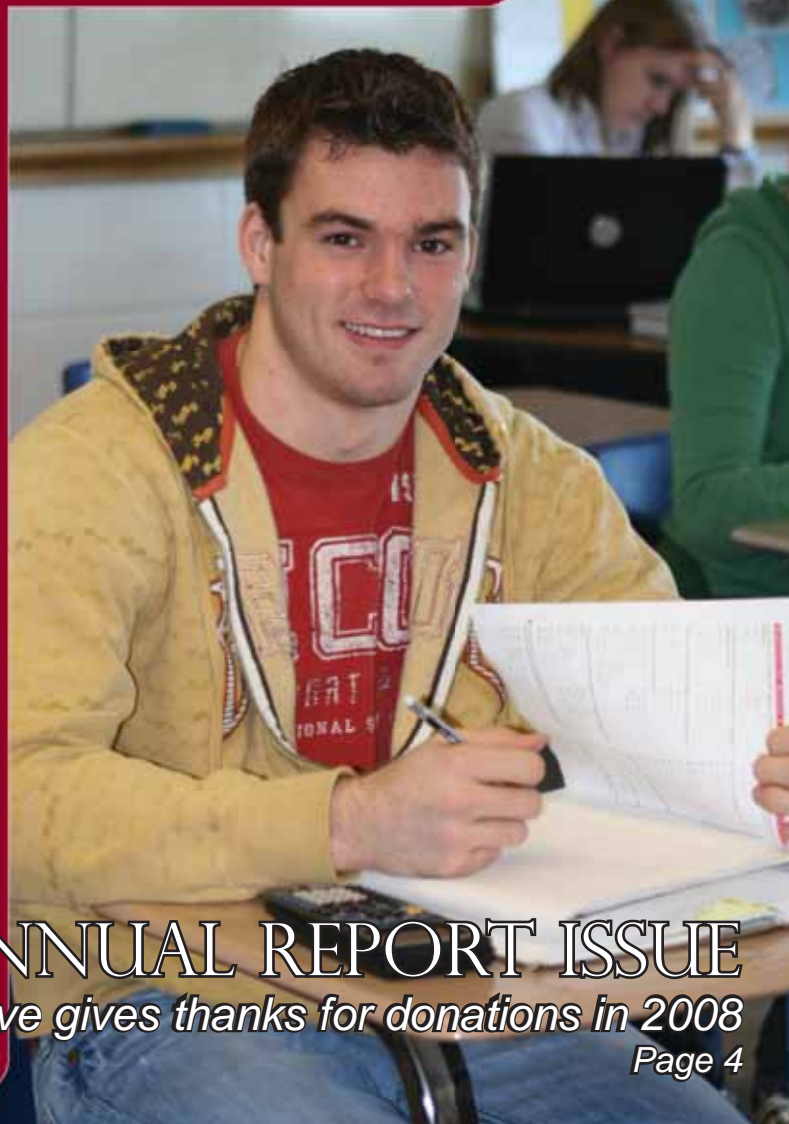


# OAK GROVE

THE MAGAZINE



ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

*Oak Grove gives thanks for donations in 2008*

Page 4

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mr. Bruce A. Messelt, Oak Grove Lutheran School President



I have a friend who is a diehard Green Bay Packers' fan. Even through the down years and the recent departure of their aging star quarterback, he remains as faithful in the green and gold as any true cheese-head. Sure, unlike fans of a certain *other* NFL team, Green Bay can celebrate the glory days of past championships. But there is something more here than mere historic accolade – rather an almost blind faith that each year the team and its players will give it their all, will not let their fans down, and, one day soon enough, will bring ultimate victory and honor back to Lambeau Field.

**Faithfulness** — such a seemingly simple concept. Authenticity, realism, closeness, truthfulness; all terms that help capture and describe what it means when we see someone, or something, as being full of faith, and truly worthy of our faith in them. We understand what it means in terms of our own lives and relationships; though we are sometimes reminded most pointedly of how elusive complete faithfulness can be when confronted by our own shortcomings, or by those of others. So important is faithfulness in our lives that we deem it not only commendable and praiseworthy but, indeed, highly valued and precious.

I find myself, therefore, pondering an equally simple question: If we can seek for ourselves and laud faithfulness in sports teams, political institutions and interpersonal relationships, all replete with human failings and sin, how much more should we celebrate and praise God's perfect and loving faithfulness to us?

As fallen children of God – make that *constantly falling* children of God – no one is less worthy of such faithfulness than we are. Sadly, scripture makes clear the eternal consequences for our rebellious and sinful nature. Yet thankfully, by God's unfailing grace and mercy, we are restored daily into full relationship with Him. As Jeremiah proclaimed; "It is through the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness" (Lamentations 3: 22-23).

Oak Grove, too, has experienced God's awesome faithfulness throughout its 103-year history, and continues to do so today. The incredible work and loving benevolence of so many of God's children, past and present, is clearly evident here at Oak Grove: From our awesome faculty and staff, to our wonderful students and supportive parents, to our passionate alums and loyal community supporters. This edition of *Oak Grove Magazine* is intended to convey to you our faithful stewardship of God's resources and to thank you for your support in advancing God's kingdom through each and every student who attends Oak Grove Lutheran School.

As we celebrate this Easter Season, we are called upon to reflect on God's loving faithfulness to us; His created. Much more so than the covenants made with Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses and David, God's new covenant with us, delivered through the crucifixion of Jesus, affirmed everything. God demonstrated once and for all His steadfast, forgiving love and faithfulness through the suffering, sorrow and death of His son, Jesus, embodied on a cross.

For us as Christians, Jesus' resurrection, therefore, represents the fulfillment of this new covenant; a loving faithfulness in seeing death finally and completely transformed into everlasting life. Jesus' resurrection represents new life flowing from the very presence of God in our lives, unfolding within each and every one of us in faithful relationship with Him, a relationship of reconciliation, healing, and abundant and everlasting love.

What an amazing pronouncement as we prepare to celebrate the Easter resurrection of Jesus — *Great is thy faithfulness!* So powerful that Thomas Chisholm and William Runyan were moved to venerate this declaration in wonderful word and song:

*Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!*

May the God of faithfulness continue to shower you with His love, grace and mercy! Amen.

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**On the cover:** Cover artwork is a collage depicting student life at Oak Grove: Christian service, academic excellence and extra-curricular activities.

*Oak Grove: The Magazine* is published three times a year. Send correspondence to:  
Oak Grove Lutheran School: Magazine editor  
124 North Terrace  
Fargo, ND 58102

Oak Grove Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin or gender to all the rights, privileges and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs. Oak Grove Lutheran School is in its 103rd year of integrating Christian faith and learning. It serves nearly 500 students in pre-kindergarten through grade 12 on two campuses in Fargo, N.D. The school is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

**Want more information?** Contact the school at 701.237.0210, toll free at 1.866.274.9701 or visit [www.oakgrovelutheran.com](http://www.oakgrovelutheran.com).

## ELLIG GIVES BACK

In early February 2008, Centennial Campaign Co-Chair Jon Rustvang, and Bruce Messelt and Paul Holtan from Oak Grove Lutheran School. Over the course of the year, a relationship blossomed. So much so that, in December 2008, Mr. Ellig pledged \$1.25 million in support of Oak Grove's current campaign. To recognize his generosity, Oak Grove has named its new wellness facility the Ellig Center for Health & Wellness.

"We ask for help in life and sometimes we get it!" says Ellig.

Shelly Ellig owns Fargo-based Stop-n-Go convenience stores and Frank McKone Cigars. Since moving to Fargo in 1974, Ellig has grown his companies to 27 locations with 330 employees, from Carrington, N.D. to Alexandria, Minn., 17 of which are located in the Fargo-Moorhead metro area.

In addition to his pledge, Ellig is donating 5% of all Stop-n-Go gift card proceeds sold by the school to Oak Grove's Annual Fund. Oak Grove has Stop-n-Go gift cards for sale in the School Store.

"We are trying to give to youth, education and health. I think that Oak Grove is an ideal program to work with. We are making part of our business available to them to help them," says Ellig.

As a member of Olivet Lutheran Church in Fargo, Mr. Ellig is proud to support Lutheran education and leave a lasting impact on education and athletic accomplishments.

"God has blessed me in such a way that I can create jobs for 330 people. He's giving me this money; now I am sharing it with a younger generation," says Ellig.



Photo by Jeanette Boelter

Paul Holtan, Paul Lybeck, Shelly Ellig, Sheila Carney, and Henry Knoll

Ellig knows that he hasn't gotten to where he is alone; he says he is "thoroughly blessed" by his many devoted and loyal employees who have worked for him for many years, in particular his top associates, Sheila Carney, vice president and CFO for Stop-n-Go, and Henry Knoll, operations manager of Frank McKone Cigar. He says they, along with all of his employees, keep his businesses profitable.

"We are so happy to be able to work with Oak Grove," says Ellig. "God loves a cheerful giver and I am trying to live out that role."

If you would like to purchase a Stop-n-Go gift card, please visit Oak Grove's School Store or call 701.237.0212.

## THE TENNEFOS FAMILY LEAVES A LEGACY

After hearing about the school from President Bob Krueger in 1968 at Olivet Lutheran Church, Oak Grove Lutheran School quickly became near and dear to Jens and Jeanne Tennesfos' heart.

"It was our life. Till this day it still is, Oak Grove along with our church and friends, is our life," says Jeanne.

Believing strongly in the mission of the school, Jens and Jeanne sent their four children to Oak Grove: Daniel Tennesfos '72, David Tennesfos '75, Judie (Tennesfos) VandeVoort '79, and Mary (Tennesfos) Shoji '80; and now have grandchildren that attend the school. They immersed themselves in the Oak Grove community, volunteering their time and efforts for the betterment of the school. Jens served on Oak Grove's Board of Regents from 1972-1982 and was also one of the charter members on Oak Grove's Foundation Board. Jeanne was extremely active during the early years of the Grover Club, serving as its president in 1980, and was a key individual in the great success of the Oak Grove Bazaar.

As Jens and Jeanne planned for the future, after taking care of their family, they wanted to leave a legacy by designating a percentage of their estate to Oak Grove. Through sound advice from CPA Steve Johnson, current parent and member of the Oak Grove Foundation, Jens found ways to plan for the future by naming the school as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy and an IRA account, therefore benefitting the students of Oak Grove for years to come.

"Dad always said, 'I don't want to give the government any more money. I don't want them to double dip,'" says his daughter Judie. "That is why he planned to give to Oak Grove."

Upon Jens' passing in May 2008, Oak Grove was blessed to receive a significant gift through Jens' estate, designated for Oak Grove's

Centennial Campaign capital projects and Annual Fund needs. Part of the bequest was also directed to two Tennesfos family endowment funds, the Tennesfos Presidential Scholarship and the Tennesfos Family Endowment, held in the Oak Grove Foundation.

The major portion of the donation came from Jens' IRA, a great tool for deferred charitable giving. "Bequests represent a deferred pipeline of dollars that come to the school in the future, which is key to our financial future," says Paul Holtan, Oak Grove's vice president for advancement.

Oak Grove Lutheran School has established the Oak Grove Legacy Partners, a recognition society for those who have included the school as a beneficiary of a future estate gift, of which Jens and Jeanne were charter members. Through Jens and Jeanne's forward thinking and knowledge of giving options, Oak Grove has received great blessings.

"I think Oak Grove is such a wonderful school," says Jeanne. "I'm so thankful that my family has continued on at Oak Grove. It means so much to me."

If you would like to learn more about how you can leave your legacy at Oak Grove, visit [oglegacy.org](http://oglegacy.org) or contact Paul Holtan at [paul.holtan@oakgrovelutheran.com](mailto:paul.holtan@oakgrovelutheran.com), 701.373.7149 or 866.274.9701.



Jeanne and Jens Tennesfos at Oak Grove in 1980

# 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

## GRANT AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Oak Grove Lutheran School is blessed each year by grant and foundation support. During the 2008 calendar year, Oak Grove received donations from the following:

Dakota Medical Foundation

Impact Foundation

The Dr. Susan Mathison & Steve Johnson Family Fund of the Dakota Medical Foundation

The William C. & Jane B. Marcil Family Foundation of the Fargo Moorhead Area Foundation

The Lutheran Community Foundation  
The Norman M. & Eunice M. Jones Family Fund

The Gordon and Janet Peterson Fund

The LCMS Foundation  
Mrs. Selma Fiechtner Memorial Fund  
Herman & Clara Kosbau Endowment

The Denis & Irene Leach Charitable Giving Fund of the Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc.

The Stanford & Annette Nygard Family Fund of the Foundation for Christian Stewardship

The Lee & Judy Stenehjelm Family Foundation

The Smith Family Foundation

The Ray & Dorothy Conger Family Fund of the Raymond James Charitable Endowment Fund

The Nellie J. Svee Fund of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation

Elim Lutheran Church Foundation, Fargo

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation

First Lutheran Church Foundation, Fergus Falls

Hope Lutheran Church Foundation, Fargo

Olivet Lutheran Church Foundation, Fargo

Pontoppidan Lutheran Church Foundation, Fargo

## GIFT INCOME TOTALS \$2,314,039 IN 2008... THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR!

*By Paul Holtan, VP for Advancement*



Paul Holtan

Given the current state of the economy, we are overwhelmed at the strong support demonstrated by friends of Oak Grove Lutheran School. Looking back over the past year, the commitment of time, talent, and financial support

from you – our alumni, parents, and friends – continues to bless us each and every day!

Of this total, gifts to the Annual Fund amounted to more than \$900,000 last year. When you support the Annual Fund, all students benefit. This support goes above and beyond tuition revenue to lift the school to higher levels of excellence.

Each year, Oak Grove is humbled to receive gifts from donors who have remembered the school in their estate plans. Last year \$662,000 was left to the school through charitable bequests, life insurance and gift annuity maturities. Look for the inspirational interview with Jeanne Tenneson on page 3 on how she and Jens planned their legacy for Oak Grove in their estate plan. These are the types of gifts that we hope to encourage and recognize through our heritage society, the Oak Grove Legacy Partners. We invite you to consider becoming a Legacy Partner – investing in Oak Grove's future by including the school in your estate plan.

More than \$400,000 was contributed to endowment funds last year through lifetime gifts and bequests. As of December 31, total assets of the Oak Grove Lutheran School Foundation were \$5,284,800. Of course, the Foundation felt the downturn in

the financial markets last year, but we are hopeful for a turnaround in the near future. Income from the Foundation used to supplement the 2009-10 operating budget will amount to \$160,000, of which \$134,000 will go to much needed student financial aid.

Our focus continues to be the successful completion of the Centennial Campaign. Not surprisingly, the largest portion of gift income last year, more than a million dollars, was directed to the capital portion of the campaign. More than 2,150 donors have contributed gifts and made pledges bringing the campaign total to \$14.6 million! An exciting example of this generosity was the unprecedented pledge of \$1.25 million from local businessman, Shelly Ellig, owner of the local Stop-n-Go stores.

Our campaign co-chairs, Jon Rustvang and Steve Zimmerman, are tireless in their efforts to help us secure the gifts and pledges needed to reach our campaign goal of \$18 million by the end of 2009. Raising money during these trying times is challenging, but with the support and friendship of volunteers like Jon and Steve, we will succeed!

Our Community Partners deserve a special salute. These local businesses invested more than \$400,000 toward both the Annual Fund and capital projects last year. A large part of this support came in the form of 'in-kind' donations from many of the companies working on the new Ellig Center for Health & Wellness. What a wonderful example of philanthropy in action!

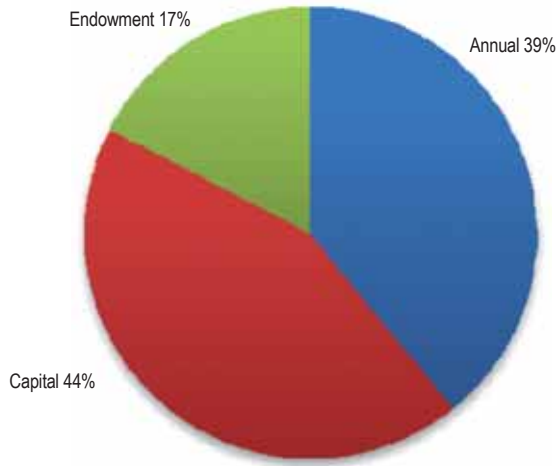
All of us in the Advancement Office want to thank you for your support of Oak Grove. As we savor your generosity of the past year, we look forward to your continued partnership and prayers in the coming months.

**To find out how you can partner with Oak Grove in 2009, contact Vice President for Advancement Paul Holtan at 701.373.7149 or [paul.holtan@oakgrovelutheran.com](mailto:paul.holtan@oakgrovelutheran.com).**

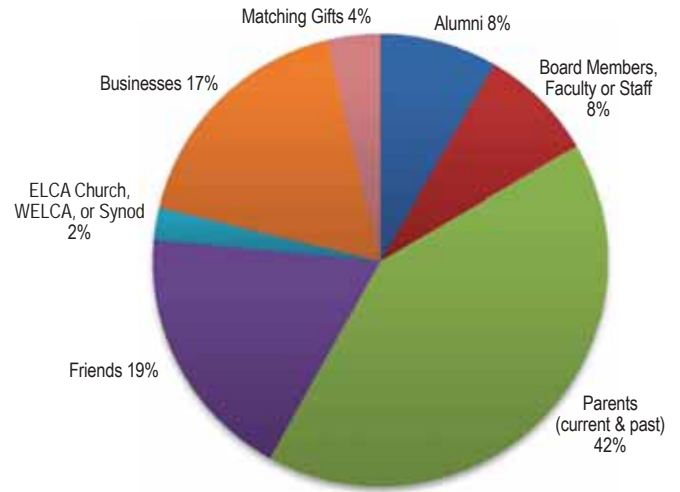
## - ANNUAL REPORT -

Oak Grove's Annual Report reflects gifting from January through December 2008. All 2009 gifting will be reported upon completion of the calendar year, in the 2009 Annual Report. If you have any questions on Oak Grove's Annual Report, please contact the Advancement Office at 701.237.0212.

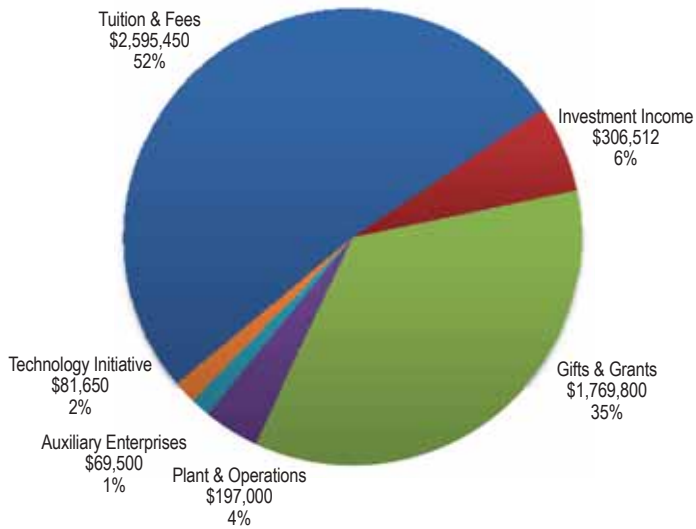
## GIFTS BY FUND



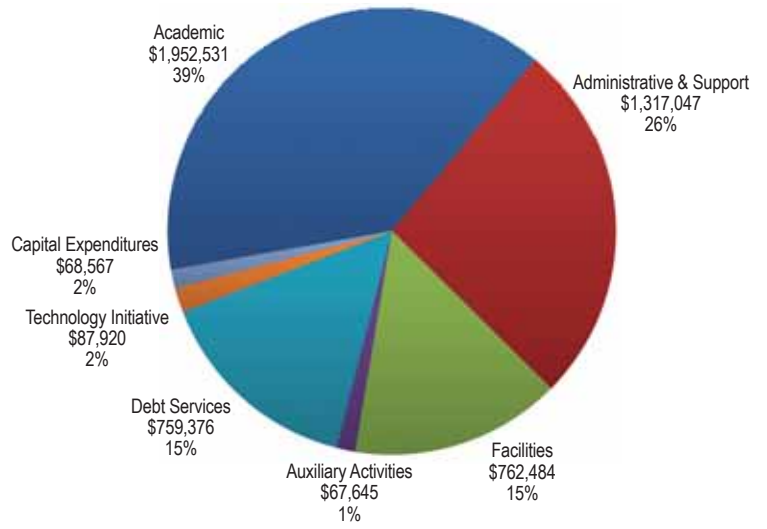
## GIFTS BY SOURCE



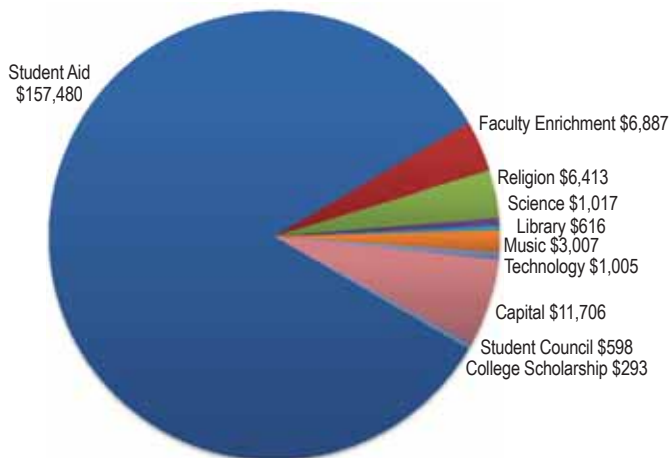
## ANNUAL REVENUE



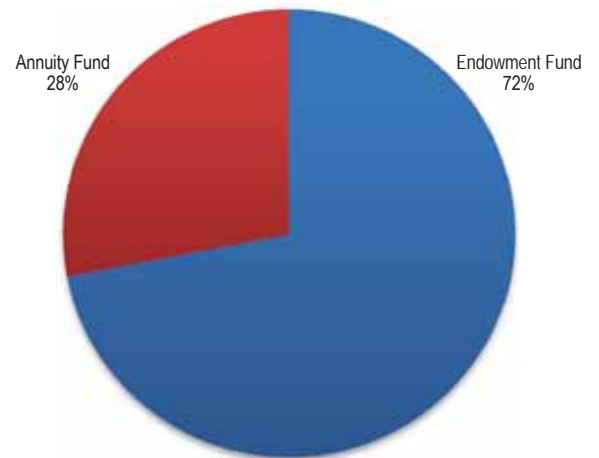
## ANNUAL EXPENDITURES



## ENDOWMENT PROCEEDS



## FOUNDATION PORTFOLIO BY FUND



# ANNUAL REPORT

Oak Grove sincerely thanks the individuals who volunteer their time and talents to serve as a governing body to the school.

## BOARD OF REGENTS

Paul Lybeck, chairperson  
 Susan Asp  
 Dr. Lance Bergstrom  
 Romaine Fuglestad  
 Carroll Gjovik  
 John Larson  
 Lowell Larson  
 Rev. Kathy Pennington  
 Dr. David Pipho  
 Kim Prestidge  
 Rev. Lynn Ronsberg  
 Linda Sailer  
 Steve Scheel  
 Jodi Uecker-Rust  
 Rev. Dale Vitalis  
 Janice Wigen  
 Bishop Thomas Aitken  
 Bishop Mark Narum  
 Bishop William Rindy  
 Bishop Larry Wohlrabe

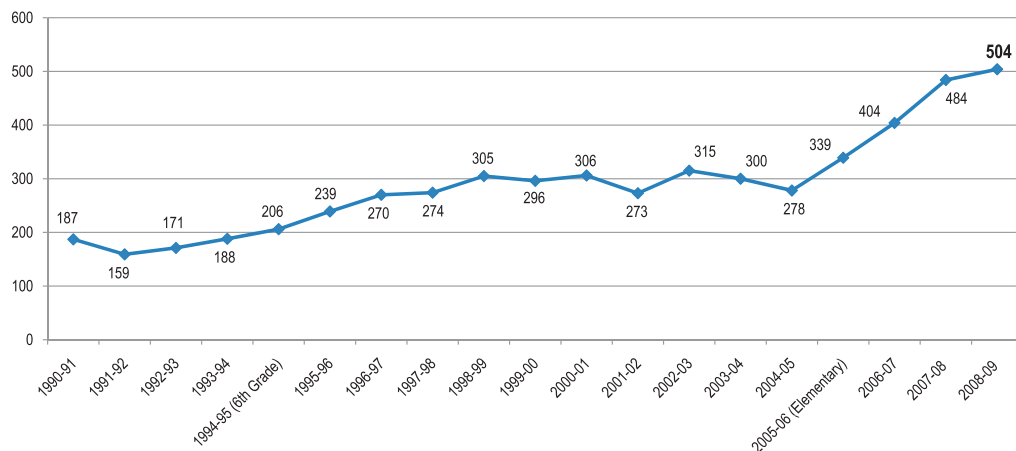
## FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jon Rustvang, chairperson  
 Larry Borlaug  
 Coke Bottrell  
 Jerry Brantner  
 Dr. Jon Dangerfield  
 Dr. Paul Dovre  
 Linette Hartman  
 Laura Hvidston  
 Norman Jones  
 Steve Johnson  
 Michael Lewis  
 Paul Lybeck  
 Ron Offutt  
 Roberta Quick  
 Bryan Smith  
 Michael Warner  
 Harris Widmer

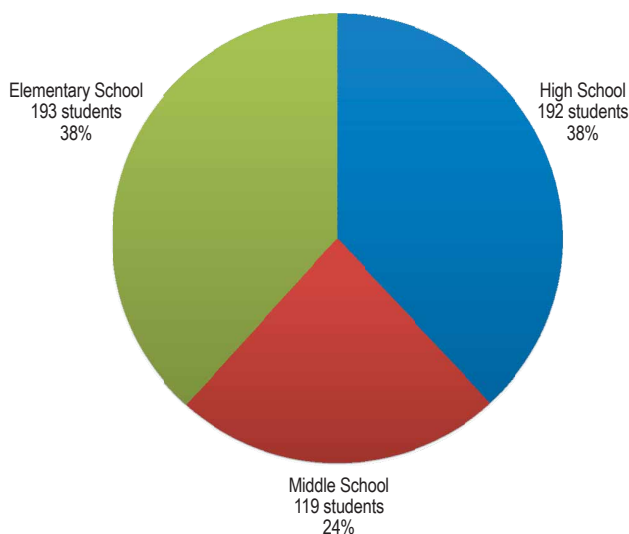
## CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

Jon Rustvang, co-chair  
 Steve Zimmerman, co-chair  
 Dr. Lance Bergstrom  
 Dr. Jon Dangerfield  
 Doug Johnson  
 Scott Kjos  
 Paul Lybeck  
 Dan Martinson  
 Mary Rothfusz  
 Dr. Will Stearns  
 Monica Sunderland  
 Jodi Uecker-Rust  
 Scott VandeVoort  
 Jim Wood

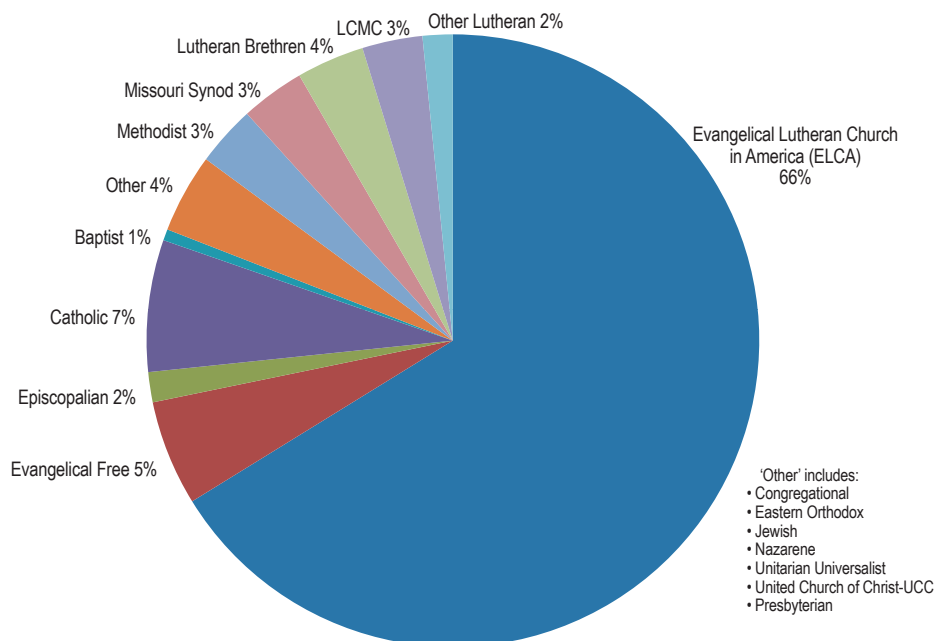
## ENROLLMENT 1990-2009



## ENROLLMENT POPULATION 2008-2009



## STUDENT CHURCH AFFILIATION



## MATCHING GIFTS

Oak Grove Lutheran School was blessed in 2008 to receive more than **\$88,000** in matching gifts through donors' employers and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Utilizing matching gift opportunities is a great way to maximize a donation to Oak Grove!

Specifically, 264 Thrivent policy owners contributed more than \$361,000 to Oak Grove in 2008. These gifts were generously matched with an additional \$38,000 from Thrivent. Imagine if all 1,327 Thrivent policy holders in our database made a qualifying gift earning the maximum match, Oak Grove could receive nearly \$400,000 in matching funds from Thrivent! Thrivent will match 50 percent of your gift up to a maximum match of \$300 per year (\$600 per couple if you both have a Thrivent policy). Be aware, Thrivent associate members are not eligible for this match.

Please remember to utilize your matching gift options as you make your charitable plans for the coming year.

## CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVERS

Individuals age 70½ or older may once again make direct gifts from their IRA to a public charity and not have to report the distribution as taxable income on their federal income tax return. There is no charitable deduction for the distributions; however, not paying tax on otherwise taxable income is the equivalent of a charitable deduction.

You may utilize this gift option if you are over 70 ½, the gift is \$100,000 or less, you make the gift on or before December 31, 2009, or the funds are transferred directly from your IRA to Oak Grove. We can provide a sample letter of instruction that may be used to instruct your IRA custodian to make this transfer.

## NORTH DAKOTA TAX CREDITS

**FOR NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS** — Individuals who set up an irrevocable planned gift that benefits a North Dakota charity are eligible for a tax credit on their North Dakota tax return. This credit amounts to 40% of the charitable deduction, up to an annual maximum of \$10,000 per person or \$20,000 on a joint return. For example, if a couple set up a planned gift resulting in a charitable income tax deduction of \$50,000, they would be eligible to receive the maximum tax credit of \$20,000. Any unused credit may be carried forward for up to three additional tax years.

This credit would apply to such charitable gift plans as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts and retained life estates.

**FOR BUSINESSES** — North Dakota businesses have a wonderful opportunity to receive a significant income tax credit for gifts to qualified (permanent, irrevocable) endowment funds of North Dakota nonprofit organizations.

This credit amounts to 40% of the value of the gift, up to an annual maximum credit of \$10,000 per year, per business entity. Therefore, eligible gifts that total \$25,000 will produce the maximum credit. Any unused credit may be carried forward for up to three additional tax years. Business owners may well realize that over 2/3 of their gift could be "subsidized" through State and Federal tax savings!

The Oak Grove Foundation has established a qualified endowment fund that will allow any business based in North Dakota to take advantage of this exciting opportunity while building future financial security for the school.

**FOR MORE INFO** — For more information on any of the above charitable gift planning options, contact Paul Holtan at paul.holtan@oakgrovelutheran.com, 701.373.7149 or 866.274.9701.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**Thank you Community Partners!** — Oak Grove has many opportunities for small to large businesses to participate in the success of the school, while at the same time gain exposure within a rapidly growing community. We sincerely thank the following Community Partners for their investment in young lives. These businesses are making a large difference at Oak Grove by providing significant support to the school's Annual Fund.

### ROYAL OAK – \$10,000 & above

Adams Development – Radisson  
Hotel Fargo  
Asplin Excavating  
Barrington Corporation  
Bergstrom Eye & Laser Clinic  
Brandt Holdings Company  
Comstock Holding Company LLC (Kjos)  
Custom Aire Inc.  
Dakota Monument Co.  
Dell Arneson Inc.  
Elite Energy Systems Inc.  
Fargo Glass & Paint  
Gateway Chevrolet  
Gehrtz Construction Services  
Gopher Stage Lighting  
Industrial Builders Inc.  
InterceptEFT  
Microsoft Corporation  
Orthopaedic Associates  
Patty and Arvid Benson LTD  
Richards Excavating  
Ron Offutt Investments  
Rust Sales Inc.  
Scheels All Sports  
State Bank and Trust  
Stop-N-Go – Shelly Ellig  
Tennefos Enterprises  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Tri-County Insurance & Leasing Inc.  
Wayne's Electric  
Zerr Berg Architects  
Zimmerman Investments

### GOLDEN OAK – \$5,000 to \$9,999

Cable One Advertising  
Cormax – Northern Fitness  
Dakota Stone Design  
Floor to Ceiling Store  
Grosz Photography & Caulfield Studios  
Jeffrey Harvey, DDS SCD PA  
Manning Mechanical  
Pepsi Cola Bottling Co.  
Red River Valley Sports Medicine  
William G. Stearns, DDS  
Warner and Company Insurance

### SILVER OAK – \$2,500 to \$4,999

Anderson, Bottrell, Sanden and Thompson  
Bremer Bank  
Ceramic Specialties  
G & M Lathing  
Hektner Lybeck Erickson  
Insurance – Paul Lybeck  
Knight Printing Co.  
Legal Professionals, LTD – David  
Nameniuk, CPA  
Maynard Thorseth Painting & Decorating  
MinKo Construction  
Nodak  
Steen & Berg Co  
Stein's Inc.

### MIGHTY OAK – \$1,000 to \$2,499

Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND  
Climate Control Inc.  
Colvin Properties LLC  
Country Kitchen Restaurants: South  
Fargo, Dickinson and Detroit Lakes  
Diversified Technologies  
Eide Bailly LLP  
Face & Jaw Surgeons, PC  
FM Plumbing & Heating  
Holland's Landscaping  
Indigo Signworks Inc.  
Innovative Erectors Inc.  
Insure Forward Inc. – Travis Voegelé  
Integrated Lining Systems, Inc.  
KBAA Consulting, Inc.  
Liberty Business Systems  
Moorhead Vision Associates  
Nodak Mutual Insurance  
Nova Fire Protection  
Office Supply Liquidation  
Rusco Windows  
Craig Rothfus, DDS  
Steen & Berg Co.  
Terry Becker Construction, LLC  
The Sunderland Group  
Thomas J. Halstenson Inc.  
Tony Eckert & Sons  
Twin City Garage Door  
Valley Endodontic Associates, P.C.  
Wells Fargo Bank North Dakota  
West Fargo Auto Body and  
Glass – Brian Kounovsky

### OAK LEAF – \$500 to \$999

Anderson & Fercho, CPA  
Athletic Republic  
Centre for Hair & Wellness  
Christianson's Business Furniture, Inc.  
Country Greenery  
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP  
Ellenson Caulking Co.  
Energy Tech. Systems Inc.  
Fargo Assembly  
Fiebiger, Swanson, West & Co.  
Happy Harry's Bottle Shop  
Harley Davidson  
Homewood Suites by Hilton  
Hornbacher's Foods  
James Frisk ENT  
Korsmo Funeral Service  
Lisa Dresser – Hair Success  
Mid America Steel  
Moore Engineering  
Ottetail Corporation  
Paul J. Tronsgard, DDS  
SDC-Ltd. – Scott Currie  
The Computer Place  
Thorsteinson & Sons Construction Co.  
Toppers Custom Car Club  
David Tranby, DDS  
West Acres Development LLP

# Spring Gala & Auction

APRIL 18, 2009

THE GREAT HALL OF THE HOLIDAY INN

DREW WRIGLEY, MASTER OF CEREMONIES  
PATRICK MINEER, AUCTIONEER

MUSIC BY THE 42ND STREET JAZZ BAND

5:30 P.M. • SOCIAL & AUCTION PREVIEW

6:00 P.M. • DINNER & PROGRAM

7:30 P.M. • LIVE AUCTION

9:00 P.M. • GALA AFTER-PARTY

*By Linda Olson, director of advancement*



Spring Gala & Auction Co-Chairs Jill Drage and Lynsey Kjos

The 2009 Spring Gala & Auction promises to be a wonderful evening of dinner, donating, and dancing – all to support the students and programs of Oak Grove Lutheran School.

Join Co-Chairs Jill Drage and Lynsey Kjos, along with a host of volunteers and avid Oak Grove supporters, for a great night of entertainment! Kick off the evening with a social and silent auction preview, followed by dinner and the Gala program. Wrap up the night with friends at the Gala After-Party, immediately following the live auction. **Come and enjoy, you won't want to miss this special event!**

"I am thrilled to be on the Gala planning committee," says Jill Drage, Gala co-chair. "This is my daughter's first year at Oak Grove and my husband and I have been so impressed with everything about the school. It's truly a blessing to be part of this wonderful community."

"When I was asked to be a part of the Oak Grove Gala Committee, I thought what a wonderful way to give something back to the school that has given our son so much.

This is our son's fourth year at Oak Grove and we, as a family, could not be happier with the attention, commitment and love our child receives within this community," says Lynsey Kjos, Gala co-chair. "I also thought, what a fabulous way to meet other parents. The volunteers we are working with are talented, energetic and giving individuals. They are helping make this event the success we know it will be!"

Featured live auction items include round-trip travel and lodging to exciting destinations, golf and fishing trips, works of art, front row tickets to entertainment events and so much more. Silent auction treasures run a wide gamut – we assure you there'll be something for everyone!

The dinner entrée will offer Filet Mignon or Parmesan Crusted Walleye, along with delicious accompaniments and dessert.

Reservations for the event may be purchased individually for \$50 a ticket or by table sponsorship for \$1,000, which entitles businesses and their guests to a special evening of fine dining and entertainment, along with a full-page ad in the Gala program booklet. A portion of the sponsorship cost is tax-deductible.

For reservations, contact Advancement at 701.365.4132. To learn more about the event, go to [www.oakgrovelutheran.com/advancement/gala.php](http://www.oakgrovelutheran.com/advancement/gala.php).



The 42nd Street Jazz Band

**Save the Date – there's a special place at the  
2009 Spring Gala & Auction for you!**





## GIVING HEARTS DAY

Dakota Medical Foundation and Impact Foundation held Giving Hearts Day on February 12 to encourage contributions to health-related organizations. Because of the school's Health & Wellness Initiative, Oak Grove was one of 40 non-profit organizations selected to participate in this event.

Due to a tremendous outpouring of support, Oak Grove received \$57,171 within the 24-hour Giving Hearts Day event.

THANK YOU – from the students, faculty and staff of Oak Grove Lutheran School. Your gifts make a tremendous difference!

## THE ANNUAL FUND

### *Making the Oak Grove "Experience" Possible*

*By Linda Olson, director of advancement*



**We remain ever grateful for gifts to the Annual Fund!** Your gifts afford Oak Grove the necessary resources to support core priorities, such as: campus ministry; academic programs; financial aid; school-wide initiatives; classroom resources; technology; extracurricular programs; teacher salaries and benefits; and campus maintenance.

Every gift, no matter the size, impacts the learning experience at Oak Grove Lutheran School. When you give to the Annual Fund, your gift is combined with hundreds of other gifts, and it doesn't take long for these gifts to add up in a big way. And because these dollars are typically unrestricted, they give Oak Grove the flexibility to fund our most pressing needs – and that has a huge impact on the school.

The Annual Fund gift revenue goal for the 2008-2009 school year is **\$1,065,800**. Thanks to the continuing generosity of donors, we have raised **\$708,273**,

leaving a remainder of **\$357,527** needed by June 30, 2009.

We hope you will join us in contributing to the Annual Fund. Our goal is 100% participation! No matter how you choose to support it – you can be sure that your gift will make a difference.

Please consider making a tax-deductible gift prior to Oak Grove's fiscal year-end of June 30, 2009. Your faithful support is tremendously important!

***Every gift matters.  
Please make yours before June 30, 2009.***

### HOW CAN I GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND?

You can give to Oak Grove in a variety of ways – by check, through bank transfer or by on-line credit card. To learn more about these payment methods go to [www.oakgrovelutheran.com/advancement/egive.php](http://www.oakgrovelutheran.com/advancement/egive.php)

## OAK GROVE BY NUMBER

73 fleece blankets made by middle school students to give to homeless in Fargo-Moorhead

217 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child donated by Oak Grove Lutheran School elementary students

400 dollars raised for Mental Health America of ND by the high school's Charitable Dodgeball Tournament in February

35 actors in Oak Grove's spring musical, *Les Misérables*

8,475 copies of the winter 2008 edition of the *Oak Grove Magazine* mailed

976 points scored by the girls' basketball team in their '08-'09 season

39 cardio and weight machines in the new Ellig Center for Health & Wellness

82 entries at the middle school science fair, 19 students selected to take their projects to the regional fair

300 costumes used in Oak Grove's production of *Les Misérables*

1 God to whom we give glory for making everything we do at Oak Grove possible

The mission of Oak Grove Lutheran School is to express God's love by nurturing students for academic achievement, lifelong Christian commitment and loving service throughout the world.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP SHINES IN '08-09

***“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.”***

**1 Timothy 4:12 • 2008-2009 Theme Verse**



At Oak Grove, students are viewed as valuable assets to the community. The administrators, teachers and staff know students’ ideas, passions and abilities can be harnessed into *greatness*. This has never been more evident than the 2008-2009 school year, one of the finest years of student leadership and empowerment, from elementary through high school.

Many events, fund drives and initiatives have been student-led this school year, from the Fill the Dome Event to the Charitable Dodgeball Tournament, from opening the Mission Resource Center in Jackson Hall to reopening HeBrews Coffee in the expanded concessions stand. Students seek out where they can have an impact at the school and in the community. They have focused on others, both nationally and locally, and united for action with such projects like sending shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child, tying fleece blankets for the homeless, teaching the elderly how to use technology in the Teen Tech Tutor Program, and donating chapel offerings to those in need. Oak Grove students continually give their time and talents to fulfill the needs of others, giving up school breaks and weekends for mission trips and Pay It Forward tours.

“The adults on campus believe in the dreams of young kids. Leadership opportunities at Oak Grove are everywhere, whether it is Student Council, Peer Ministry, mission trips, Leo Club, Fill the Dome, and many others,” says Senior Michael VandeVoort, student body president. “All of these give students opportunities to learn and excel outside the classroom, and can give you a great self fulfillment.”

Oak Grove adheres to the SEARCH Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets to empower students. In 1992, Oak Grove adopted the SEARCH philosophy and since then has seen a rise in school attendance, a decrease in discipline issues and bullying, the development of student mentoring programs and service projects, and an increase in overall student leadership.

“Student leadership has helped me with my leadership skills, my public speaking, and my ability to approach people feeling confident. It has equipped me with many necessary skills for the future,” says VandeVoort.

As the SEARCH philosophy spreads to other schools in the area, student collaboration has grown. Students in the Fargo-Moorhead metro area are banding together on projects and initiatives. The November 2008 Fill the Dome Event and its related events were collaborative efforts of students from all school districts in the area. For the second year, their determination to fill the 80,000 square foot floor of the Fargdome with canned and nonperishable foods was a tremendous success, in total collecting 71 tons of food and raising \$58,000 to feed the hungry. For their collective effort, *The Forum of Fargo-Moorhead* named the local youth its Area Person of the Year for 2008.

“It speaks volumes of what these young people did and how they impacted the community. What was so impressive that not only did they organize the largest food drive in North Dakota’s history with the Fill the Dome event, they did so without any office staff, facilities, or financial resources,” says Morgan Forness, high school principal. “I think we can all learn a valuable lesson as they demonstrated the ability to cross borders, network with other schools and businesses, and all pull together for the common good, without personal agendas or egos in the way. I am proud of the leadership Oak Grove students have provided, not only for our school but for the community as a whole. They are definitely ‘walking the talk’ in terms of who we are as children of God as we attempt to live out the mission of the school in all we say and do.”

As the theme verse for the school year says, Grovers aren’t allowing their age to define their abilities. Instead, Oak Grove students are setting the utmost example for the youth and adults that surround them.

For more information on the Search Institute, visit [www.search-institute.org](http://www.search-institute.org).



Top: Middle School fleece blanket tying in December. Middle: Elementary students delivering food to the Fargodome for Fill the Dome. Bottom: Students manning the counter in HeBrews Coffee. photos by Jeanette Boelter & Oak Grove staff

## STUDENT PROFILE



**ALI FROSLIE**

*Seventh Grade*

**Number of years at Oak Grove:** Two

**Activities/Hobbies:** Reading, writing stories, dancing, theatre, singing, listening to music, and playing the piano

**Favorite subject:** My favorite subject is either choir or English. Choir because I love to sing and it gives me a chance to learn more about music. I like English also because I love reading books and writing stories, and English gives me a chance to do that.

**What activity do you enjoy most and why?** I love theatre. I don't fully know why I'm so drawn to the stage, but there's something about being able to take on the whole different personality of the character that thrills me.

**Why did you decide to attend Oak Grove?:** Ever since my parents and I heard about Oak Grove, I always knew I was going to go here. However, my old school had pre-kindergarten through sixth grade, and I had every intention to go through sixth grade and move school in seventh. But in the summer going into sixth grade, I felt like God was really calling me to come a year early. I'm so glad I did.

**What do you want to be when you grow up and why?:** I'm not entirely sure – it changes about once every two weeks! But I know I want to do something with theatre, whether it be acting on stage or going into directing high school productions.

**What have you enjoyed most about attending Oak Grove?:** The people, for one thing. Everyone is so friendly and not afraid to joke around with you. Also, Oak Grove has something for everyone, whether it be sports, music, theatre, tech, etc.

**What do you like most about being a Grover?:** There is lots of support for everything. Sports draw crowds of fans and the musicals/concerts bring the music lovers.

*Ali is the daughter of David and Dawn Frosli of Dilworth, Minn.*

## ADMINISTRATOR PROFILE



**DAVID NESS**

*Middle School Principal & Director of Campus Ministries*

**Hometown:** I grew up on our family farm in the southwest corner of Clay County, between Comstock and Wolverton, Minnesota.

**Family:** My wife, Sara, and I have been married for twelve years and have been blessed with three children. Daniel (4th grade) and Samuel (1st grade) attend Oak Grove's elementary school. Rachel is in pre-school at Triumph Lutheran Brethren, where my wife works and we attend, and is very excited to be a Grover next year.

**Education:** After graduating from Oak Grove, I attended the University of Minnesota – Morris, where I received degrees in History and Social Studies – Education. I completed my Educational Leadership degree through Tri-College/MSUM.

**Career history:** I began teaching history at Houston Public School in southeastern Minnesota and was there for three years. My wife and I then moved into the Boys' Dorm at Hillcrest Lutheran Academy in Fergus Falls where I served as Dean of Men (aka Dorm Dad) and taught. I came to Oak Grove in the fall of 2000 and taught and coached. I enjoy my current position, but miss being in the classroom full-time.

**What's your favorite part about being a principal/director of campus ministries?** I have always wanted to be involved with a vocation where I was able to openly share my faith and hear and see others share theirs. At Oak Grove, I am able to do this at daily chapel, interacting with middle and high students, supervising middle school students at lunch, and attending events. I learn so much from our students and my colleagues and have grown in my faith at Oak Grove.

**What have you enjoyed most about working at Oak Grove?** God has blessed Oak Grove with people; students, parents, and employees working together to carry out the mission of the school and His work. I love the variety of announcing at a football game, being with middle school students in Oak Grove Park or the gym, hearing from guest speakers, traveling to Mexico with a mission trip, and working with faculty and staff that are passionate about what they do.

**What makes Oak Grove Lutheran Middle School special?** I believe caring faculty and staff make the middle school a special place to be. The middle school years can be challenging, but appropriate encouragement, discipline, faith formation, and high expectations make for a unique environment.

**What do you think Oak Grove excels at in its campus ministry program?** Oak Grove has an incredible opportunity to be involved in relational ministries. More than any particular programs or activities, students and staff can be blessed through the process of discipleship, that is listening to, loving, encouraging, and challenging others in ways that strengthens their faith in Jesus Christ.

**Why is the integration of faith in education crucial?** Our faith isn't for Sundays only. A Christian school like Oak Grove can be "set apart" by effectively integrating faith into all academic areas and into all aspects of life. As we study, faith should be the lens through which we view the world. As we compete, our faith should compel us to be more concerned about our conduct than the outcome (although it's okay to care about the final score, too). The Bible is relevant and pertinent today and can speak to our times, our emotions, our fears, our dreams, and our questions.

## CONCERT CHOIR OFF ON TOUR

**The choir is setting off on its annual tour!** Oak Grove Lutheran School's 49-voice Concert Choir, directed by Aaron Zinter, will leave on its annual tour on March 20. The choir will travel to the Pacific Northwest this year, visiting the Montana and Washington areas, plus traveling into Canada. The group will cover around 3,600 miles on their 10-day tour, visiting four states and three Canadian provinces, giving nine concerts and singing at Sunday morning church services. Each concert will feature selections from around the world and will include songs by composers Alexander Gretchaninoff, F. Melius Christiansen, Jan Sandstrom, Allen Koepke, Frank Ticheli, and Aaron Zinter..

The choir will return to Fargo on March 29, giving their final tour concert, their "Home Concert," in Oak Grove's Scheels Center for the Performing Arts at 7:30 p.m.

There is no charge for the concert; a free-will offering will be taken to help defray tour expenses. The tour itinerary is as follows; we hope you can join us at one of the performances. Come and share in the artistry and spirit of the Oak Grove Concert Choir as they sing glory to God through song!



2009 Oak Grove Concert Choir, directed by Aaron Zinter  
photo by Grosz Photography and Caulfield Studio

### CHOIR TOUR 2009

**Friday, March 20 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Ray Lutheran Church**  
216 Score Street  
Ray, ND 58849

**Monday, March 23 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**University Lutheran Church**  
1604 NE 50th Street  
Seattle, WA 98105

**Saturday, March 28 – 1:00 p.m.**  
**First International Bank and Trust**  
100 N. Main Street  
Watford City, ND 58854

**Saturday, March 21 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
3125 5th Avenue South  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
*(will perform at Sunday services in the area)*

**Wednesday, March 25 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**  
2481 Sunset Drive  
Kamloops, BC V2C 4K1

**Saturday, March 28 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
502 17th Street NW  
Minot, ND 58703  
*(will perform at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. Sunday services)*

**Sunday, March 22 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**St. Luke Lutheran Church**  
9706 North Division Street  
Spokane, WA 99228

**Friday, March 27 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
4825 Dewdney Avenue  
Regina, SK S4T 1B7

**Sunday, March 29 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**Scheels Center for the Performing Arts**  
124 North Terrace  
Fargo, ND 58102

### STOP-N-GO GIFT CARDS

Oak Grove has Stop-n-Go gift cards for sale in the School Store; 5% of gift card sales are donated back to the school by Stop-n-Go. If 200 Oak Grove families purchased \$2,500 of Stop-n-Go gift cards for gas and foods, Stop-n-Go will give \$25,000 back to Oak Grove (\$500,000 X 5%) which could be used for student financial aid, a critical need during these difficult economic times. If you would like to purchase a Stop-n-Go gift card, please visit Oak Grove's School Store or call 701.237.0212.

### OAK GROVE PRESENTS *LES MISÉRABLES*

Oak Grove Lutheran School high school students presented *Les Misérables* March 5-8 in the Scheels Center for the Performing Arts.

The large-scale production involved nearly one-third of Oak Grove's high school population in the cast, technical crew and orchestra. The show, directed by Rusty J. Bender, was a labor of love by students, parents and many volunteers. Hundreds of volunteer hours were logged sewing costumes, constructing and painting the set, and locating or assembling props.

**Thank you to all those who helped with the successful production and to those who attended the show!**



Oak Grove students performing *Les Misérables* in the Scheels Center for the Performing Arts.  
At left: the male ensemble; at right: Fantine and the female ensemble.



photos by Jeanette Boelter

## STUDENT EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

By David Ness, middle school principal/director of campus ministries

Throughout the last half of January and the first half of February, Oak Grove was absolutely blessed to have a teacher and four students visiting from our sister school in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Cristina, Meli, Macu, Caro, and Javier made an excellent impression on their host families and the Oak Grove community. We enjoyed seeing them in the hallways at school, presenting at chapel, sledding, ice fishing, skiing, and even shopping! Despite the cold weather, they wanted to experience Minnesota/North Dakota winters – sometimes even when their feet were feeling frozen!

We have many Grovers that would like to visit Argentina, since they have met such excellent ambassadors from the Instituto

Evangelico Americano (IEA) in Buenos Aires. Thanks to the Oak Grove community for welcoming our guests into your homes, hearts, and lives.

After the experience, one of the student's mothers wrote from Argentina to say "many thanks and congratulations for the beautiful experience at Oak Grove." She added that her daughter "felt so loved and cared for that she had no time to miss us here in Argentina" and closed with "our home is open for any Grover who wants to come to Argentina."

*What a testament to a successful exchange!*



Oak Grove students and students from Instituto Evangelico Americano in Buenos Aires, Argentina pose with a snowmobile and a small sunfish during their day of experiencing Minnesota ice fishing.

## SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS WEEK

By David Ness, middle school principal/director of campus ministries

Oak Grove Lutheran School held a Spiritual Emphasis Week March 2-6, in conjunction with the national Lutheran Schools Week. During this week of special focus, Mr. Greg Anderson, of Inspiration Point Christian Camp, shared a message from the book of Hebrews and spoke at both campuses. Oak Grove was blessed to have him share such a powerful message of holding "unswervingly to the hope we profess" and considering how to "spur one another on toward love and good deeds" (Hebrews 10:23-24). Greg also encouraged us to "doubt our doubts" and not our faith.

The week also included a message from Pastor Kevan Smith from Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, titled "Soul Survival: Soul Tested," about the trials and temptations we face and how total dependency

on God is imperative. Oak Grove students also had the opportunity to see an excerpt from the student musical, *Les Misérables*, a powerful story of grace and redemption. We concluded the week with Sara Lybeck, class of 2005, who shared a message about dealing with the "Botflies" in our life. May God bless the impactful messages that were shared during this week!

Parents were also able to participate in the Parenting with Purpose Seminar, sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Greg Anderson spoke on "Listening to Today's Youth Culture," "3 'Moves' that Make a Difference," and "Real Good Responses." Greg's words were both practical and challenging. What a blessing to be able to learn about youth culture and encourage parents in their important roles.



## HIGH CLIMBERS

Oak Grove elementary students work their muscles on the school's new horizontal climbing wall. The wall was added in the gymnasium renovations in the summer of 2008. Students have been using the wall during second semester as a part of their physical education curriculum.

## OAK GROVE CAROLERS



Oak Grove Lutheran School students wished many in the community a Merry Christmas in December as they traveled to churches, businesses and events singing Christmas carols. Oak Grove's newest choral group, The Carolers, consists of 24 a cappella singers in grades nine through 12 that travel and share the joys of Christmas through song during the Advent season. Dressed in authentic caroling garb, the group made 13 appearances. Students audition for The Carolers during the first week of the school year and are directed by Aaron Zinter.

photo by Grosz Photography & Caulfield Studio

## ALUMNI NEWS



**CLASS REUNION** — *The class of 1958 gathered at Homecoming in September 2008 for their 50th reunion. Their weekend was filled with reliving days passed and making new memories. Photo submitted.*

**1993 Peter Olson** is the pastor at the Dustin Assembly of God Church in Dustin, Oklahoma. From 2000-2007, he and his wife, Ann, served an Assembly of God church in Forsyth, Minn.

**1994 Dan Phillips** and his wife, Wendy, welcomed a son, Connor Jackson Phillips, into their family on January 6, 2009. They live in Willmar, Minn. Dan is a loan officer at Home State Bank.

**1999 Stephanie (Bradley) Graham** completed the Detroit Half Marathon on October 19, 2008 in 2:32:09. She raised \$1,600, in memory of fellow Grover Anthony Richard "Richie" Liming, who died on April 14, 2000, for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society to help in the fight against blood cancers.

**2002 Miquette Denie** has formed TeachHaiti, a non-profit organization that funds scholarships for children to attend school in Haiti. In its second year TeachHaiti supplied 108 children with scholarships. The organization also supports a hot lunch program and provides school supplies to children. Miquette graduated from Concordia College in 2006.

*Do you have alumni news to share with your classmates? Contact the school at 701.237.0210 or visit [www.oakgrovelutheran.com](http://www.oakgrovelutheran.com) and fill us in on your news! Also, if you have changed your address, phone number, e-mail address or any other biographical information, please contact the school at 701.237.0210 or [oakgrove@oakgrovelutheran.com](mailto:oakgrove@oakgrovelutheran.com).*

## IN MEMORIAM

**1950 Marjorie (Johnson) Udem** of Houston, Texas died on November 17, 2008.

**1953 Gene Schulze** died on January 1, 2009 from cancer.

**1955 Kenneth Heggem** died on January 21, 2009 in Minneapolis. After graduating from Oak Grove, he graduated from Augsburg College and received a master's degree in education from Mankato State University. He taught junior high school math for many years.

**1974 Stephanie Schulz** died January 14, 2009 after a short illness. One of Stephanie's fondest memories was singing in the Oak Grove Choir. Stephanie was a barber in Hemet and San Diego, California for over twenty years.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars!

We hope you can join us for the following upcoming events.

**March 20-29 – Concert Choir Tour**  
**April 3 & 4 – Grover Invitational**  
**April 18 – Spring Gala & Auction**  
**May 15 – Choral Festival**  
**May 31 – Baccalaureate & Graduation**  
**July 21 – Grover Grill Out**  
**September 25-27 – Homecoming**

For the complete Oak Grove calendar, log on to [www.oakgrovelutheran.com/calendar](http://www.oakgrovelutheran.com/calendar).

## REMEMBER WHEN?



### **The Snack Shack**

The place to socialize at Oak Grove in the 1960s was the Snack Shack, located in the basement of Jackson Hall. It was run by students, open from 4:00 to 9:30 p.m., and served soft drinks and candy.

## HOMECOMING DATES SET

Oak Grove Lutheran School will hold Homecoming 2009 from September 21-27. This year's honored classes include: 1919, 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1999, and 2004. The weekend will be complete with a football game against Grafton, Variety Show, 5K Road Race, Alumni and Past Parent Reunion, Homecoming Worship, Alumni Banquet Brunch, and the Music Festival. More information about Oak Grove's Homecoming, including the schedule of events, event locations, registration materials and more, will be available in the summer.

All classes are encouraged to plan their class reunions on the evening of Saturday, September 26 to be able to participate in other Oak Grove events. Once a class has formed plans for a reunion, please contact Oak Grove at 701.237.0210 or oakgrove@oakgrovelutheran.com so the information can be shared in future Oak Grove Homecoming communications.

Visit [www.oakgrovelutheran.com/alumni](http://www.oakgrovelutheran.com/alumni) in the coming months for more Homecoming information.

## CONNECT WITH OAK GROVE

### **Want to stay up-to-date on all Oak Grove news and events?**

Register for Oak Grove e-mail announcements! Log on to [www.oakgrovelutheran.com](http://www.oakgrovelutheran.com) and sign up to receive e-mail today. Simply click on the "Sign up for Oak Grove E-mail" link on any page of the website. Then, enter your name and e-mail address, select the topics you want information on electronically, and click Subscribe. After subscribing, you will receive an e-mail confirming your registration.

**Want more information?** Contact the school at 701.237.0210, toll free at 1.866.274.9701 or visit [www.oakgrovelutheran.com](http://www.oakgrovelutheran.com). For the Office of Admissions, contact Terry Haus at 701.373.7114.



## CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Students will be conducting Oak Grove's  
**ALUMNI PHONATHON**  
the week of

**APRIL 20 – 24**

**The Alumni Phonathon supports the Annual Fund, providing vital dollars for the students and programs of Oak Grove Lutheran School. Current students look forward to visiting with you. Please help us reach our Annual Fund goal by receiving their call!**



From left to right: Dan Eastvold '74, Vicki (Soberg) Eastvold '74, Ingrid Haika Sangiwa '88, Eunice (Nordby) Simonson '48

## IT'S A SMALL WORLD

What are the chances of running into fellow Oak Grove graduates in a small local church in Arusha, Tanzania? That is what happened to Dan and Vicki (Soberg) Eastvold from the class of 1974. They relocated to Tanzania where Dan was doing mission and volunteer work, and Vicki was working at the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. They met these fellow Grovers and became dear friends. Ingrid Haika Sangiwa ('88) resides in Arusha and is doing very well. She sends her greetings to the class of 1988. Eunice (Nordby) Simonson ('48) says she still cherishes her wonderful memories of Oak Grove. Eunice and her husband, Dave, have been missionaries in Tanzania for the past 52 years.

*photo submitted*

Oak Grove Lutheran School  
124 North Terrace  
Fargo, ND 58102

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## DEDICATION & GRAND OPENING

Oak Grove held the grand opening and dedication for the Ellig Center for Health & Wellness and a rededication of the Darwin Gorder Gymnasium on February 2 at the boys' and girls' basketball game against Hillcrest Lutheran Academy.

Darwin Gorder and Shelly Ellig, along with student leaders, basketball captains, and Oak Grove administrators, cut the ribbon to officially open the new and renovated facility. Pastor Dale Vitalis provided the prayer and dedication for the event, lifting up the facility to be used to the glory of God.

Construction began in May 2008 and completed in early December. In total, 6,700 square feet was added to the facility, including a two floor wellness center, two classrooms, two offices, an expanded school store, new restrooms, an expanded concessions stand, and additional lobby space.

