

Built Together in Christ

The Story of Evergreen Lutheran High School 1988-2003



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Dedication

*To my father who signed his letters,
"Soar with Eagles in His Glory!"
Thanks for teaching me how, Dad.*

Introduction

“Building Together in Christ.” It started as a dream. Twenty-five years ago, a group of Christians were looking forward to a high school with foundations, whose architect and builder was God. Today, “Building Together in Christ” is a reality. This is the theme of Evergreen Lutheran High School as she marches through her twenty-fifth anniversary year.

Today Evergreen is eagerly waiting to start building. These are exciting times. Her foundation is already laid. For 25 years the message of God’s love in Christ has been Evergreen’s foundation. The buildings that rest upon that foundation may change from year to year, just like the theme “Building Together in Christ” will be replaced with a new mantra next year. The message, however, will remain the same.

As the 25th Anniversary Year draws to a close, questions remain about where Evergreen will be in the next 25 years. Will Evergreen relocate? Will the school remain in rented facilities? Will a new school building come any time soon? The truth is that Evergreen is a school that has in fact been built. Her walls are made of jasper, the school of pure glass. The foundations are decorated with every kind of precious stone. The hallways of the school are pure gold.¹ That sounds like a description of heaven! Some of those who know Evergreen might say that it is heaven on earth. Perhaps. But even if Evergreen is not heaven on earth, this is certain: Evergreen is a place that is full of Christ’s love. What better place is there on earth than that? And where else is the message of Evergreen’s foundation and future found than in God’s Word? The plan and the purpose of Evergreen can be outlined from these words to the Ephesians:

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13).

¹ Revelation 21—The vision John saw of a new heaven and a new earth. “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone... The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.”

For 25 years the moms and dads and the men and women of the Pacific Northwest Lutheran High School Association² called teachers to serve the school. For 25 years the teachers brought with them their own unique gifts given to them by God. For 25 years hundreds of students have grown in their knowledge of the Savior and graduates have increased in their faith and have left Evergreen, filled with Christ. For 25 years the foundations of the school have remained solid. Especially at first when the Steilacoom School District provided the old, yet impressive site at DuPont, Washington.³ The brick and mortar structure had been in place for so long that it seemed as if it would never move. But it did. Yet, Evergreen's foundations were built by God in Christ, not bricks.

My foundations were built at Evergreen. I was a part Evergreen when I sat in math class eight years ago. I am still a part of Evergreen as I sit in history class at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and study the history of my alma mater. My research of Evergreen's history has led me to a conclusion that has mathematical precision. My skills may be a little rusty, but this is the equation at which I arrived:

$$\text{SERVANTS} + \text{STUDENTS} + \text{SITE} = \text{SCHOOL}$$

Thirty years ago, God's people wanted a school. It started when they called three men to serve full-time. But, three men do not equal a school. They did not have any students. All they had were offices—and a whole school building full of them at that. However, servants plus a building site does not equal a school. Then, in the fall of 1978 the students came—freshmen and sophomores. Then, with servant and students and a site, then there was a school.

The first ten years of Evergreen's history are celebrated in a paper written by Joe Johnson, Evergreen Class of 1988. The paper is appropriately called *Evergreen: The First Ten Years*. The events of the next 15 years tell the story of how Evergreen is a school built together in Christ. The story puts the mathematical equation to the test. But tests are just one of the many parts that make up a school.

² The Pacific Northwest Lutheran High School Association is the governing body of Evergreen. Most often it is simply referred to as the Association. The Association carries out its responsibilities through the Board of Directors, often referred to simply as the Board. On occasion, the Board is also referred to as the Board of Control.

³ A portrait of the old DuPont building can be found in Appendix D.

Built Together in Christ...by God-Given Servants

There are many families that have more members than the first Evergreen faculty had when they started the 1988-1989 school year.⁴ This family of faculty members was lead by Principal Werner Lemke. It has been said that “in your first year as principal you can’t do anything wrong. In your second year you can’t do anything right. In your third year you can get to work.”⁵ If this is true, Lemke could not have timed it any closer. By the end of his third year as principal he began the daunting task of closing the doors at DuPont for the last time. Frustrating, but not a failure. Lemke led the school through the move. Parents and faculty alike leaned on the gifts God had given him. One Lutheran elementary school principal said, “Under Lemke’s leadership the young school established itself as an asset to the education of the teens in the Pacific Northwest.”⁶ Moving the school was difficult and would prove to test what had been established. Lemke, in turn leaned on the help of the faculty and other faithful supporters as together they used the gifts God had given them. Four teachers made the move with Lemke from DuPont to Kent, Washington.⁷

Tom Schwartz. Schwartz was not at Evergreen during the school’s first year in DuPont.⁸ As it turned out, Evergreen’s first year in Kent was his last year at the school. Schwartz’s departure left a big hole in the small faculty and the students’ hearts. In the spring of 1989 the students dedicated their yearbook to him. They described Schwartz as teaching “everything from Accounting to German,” and willingly giving his time to extracurricular activities—even participating in the school variety shows.⁹

⁴ A list of full-time servants at Evergreen from 1988-2003 can be found in Appendix A.

⁵ Quoted from Jon Schoeneck in a letter to parents and students dated August 17, 1993.

⁶ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Winter 1998.

⁷ In the fall of 1997 Kent, part of unincorporated King County, was annexed by the City of Des Moines, Washington.

⁸ Tom Schwartz arrived at Evergreen in the fall of 1979. His primary responsibilities were math and science. Prior to his arrival, an emergency teacher, who had a one-year call to Evergreen, taught these subjects. His name was... Mark Tacke.

⁹ *Vox Aquilae*, Dedication 1988-1989.

Pastor Bill Stuebs. Over the course of the next 15 years Stuebs would be called: *Herr* Stuebs, *Magister* Stuebs, choir director, principal, and development director.¹⁰ During the 2001-2002 school year he even was called “pastor” again in the most typical way as he served a sabbatical at Beautiful Savior in Everett, Washington.

Ken Borchert. The athletic life of the school was in Borchert’s hands. The DuPont building was complete with every athletic facility the school needed, except a golf course. When the school moved to Kent, the only facilities available onsite were a grade school playground and a gravel parking lot. Somehow Borchert was able to keep the athletic program afloat. Much of his time was spent scheduling games against new opponents, then he got to work finding a place to play the games he just scheduled. Borchert had at some time in the military. The boys that played for him will remember his “Borchert Boot Camp” style of running practices on occasion. In addition to athletics, Borchert taught history and physical education.

Judy Lemke. New to Evergreen during the last year at DuPont, Mrs. Lemke served as the English teacher. Unfortunately, the library that Mrs. Lemke loved and spent so much time with at DuPont was stored away in boxes at Kent. After only one year at Kent, Mrs. Lemke stepped down from teaching. “Mrs. Lemke resigned her post as head of English at Evergreen. She did so out of her concern for Evergreen and the progress our school can make in carrying out its purpose of training young adults in the ways of Jesus.”¹¹ Mrs. Lemke’s vacancy gave Evergreen the opportunity to replace her with a part-time teacher, Karen Schacht.¹² The change from a full-time position to a part-time position was a necessity when the meager enrollment of 45 students bottomed out at 34 the next year.

This faculty might well be called the “functional five.” The 1988-1989 school year came to a close and Evergreen was still open. Had it not been for the God-given gifts of these servants, the first year at

¹⁰ Also affectionately known by some as “Dollar Bill.”

¹¹ Letter to parents from Chairman Doug Weiser dated August 29, 1989.

¹² The following year Evergreen was able to call Schacht to teach full-time. She was the last teacher to teach typing class on typewriters at Evergreen.

Kent could easily have been Evergreen's last. These men and women served Evergreen and the school functioned when everything else suggested that it could not. But it was not easy.

In the fall of 1989, the philosophy of Evergreen's existence changed. The faculty was functioning but the school needed to start looking forward. The Association wanted the principal to serve in recruitment and development as well. More often than not, the perception of Evergreen, when compared to a glass of water, was always half empty, never half full. In a conversation with Steph Rodmyre, teacher at Holy Trinity in Kent, Mr. Lemke said in humility and honesty, "How do you recruit to that (pointing to the two mobile trailers Evergreen called their school)?"¹³

In January 1990 the Association moved forward with their plans to call a man gifted by God to serve in the area of development and recruitment. The Chairman of the Board wrote a letter to the parents that said, "After some difficult meetings, the Board altered the call to Mr. Lemke, so that he will no longer be the principal of Evergreen, but will continue on the faculty as head of the social studies, taking on a full teaching load. The responsibility for school administration falls to the Board. As Chairman of that Board, daily administration will be in my hands with a lot of help from the faculty members."¹⁴ In the words of Stuebs, "It worked."¹⁵ What no one expected was that it would "work" for over a year. One call after another was returned. Stuebs said, "No one wanted to accept a call to be principal and development director."¹⁶

Weiser and Schacht were not the only changes to the faculty in 1989-1990. The hole left by Schwartz had yet to be filled. With just days to go before the school year started God provided Tom Quick.¹⁷ Quick taught math and science. The one change that the school hoped would take place that year did not happen. At the close of the year there still was no principal.

¹³ Interview with Steph Rodmyre, Board member, Chairman 1992-1995 (interviewed on February 29, 2003).

¹⁴ Letter to parents from Chairman Doug Weiser dated August 29, 1989.

¹⁵ Interview with Pastor Bill Stuebs, Teacher and senior faculty member (interviewed on February 29, 2003).

¹⁶ *ibid.*

¹⁷ On the file copy of the letter announcing Quick's arrival there is a sticky note attached: "To parents ASAP before school begins. D.W." That letter was dated August 29, 1989. School was scheduled to start only seven days later on September 5, 1989.

Just before the beginning of the 1990-1991 school year the parents and the students were informed by Stuebs about the status of the much-awaited new servant.

The Lord has chosen not to send to us at this time our permanent principal/development director. At a specially called Board of Control meeting this past Wednesday, the Board of Control extended to me a one-year call to be the principal/development director. To give me the time needed to carry out the responsibilities of this position, they also have asked our seminary at Mequon, Wisconsin, to assign an emergency teacher from the seminary to cover the majority of my classes this coming school year... We are looking forward to his arrival on campus.¹⁸

For the faculty and students who spent the year with the emergency teacher, only one word needs to be said: Baumann. John Baumann came straight to Evergreen from his vicar year—instantly winning the hearts and respect of the Evergreen family, especially the students. Baumann returned to preach at graduation of the class of 1994—the freshmen from when he was at Evergreen. The small school found a deep spot in Baumann’s heart too. In an informal interview he commented that he would be writing his senior church history paper on Evergreen.¹⁹

With Stuebs serving as interim principal, the school experienced the first of ten consecutive years of increased enrollment.²⁰ But Stuebs, admittedly, never felt at home in the principal’s office. Yet, it was clear that he had God-given gifts that would help serve the school.²¹ This success combined with more than half a dozen declined calls for the position of principal/development director led the Association to redefine the type of servant they needed. In February 1991 the Board called Stuebs to be the full-time development director. Four months later the Board met following the graduation service of the class of 1991 to conduct a call meeting for principal. A name was suggested, a vote was taken, and the Board called Jon Schoeneck.²²

¹⁸ Letter to parents and students from Pastor Bill Stuebs dated August 5, 1990.

¹⁹ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, January 1991. The mysterious “Baumann Paper” never materialized.

²⁰ The February 1991 edition of the *Evergreen Lutheran Update* reported, “Augie Gabert [is] the key layman to make a difference in Evergreen’s upscale enrollment in 1990-1991.” I have narrowed the scope of this chapter, to focus on the full-time called servants. There were, however, countless other individuals who served Evergreen. Gabert was a blessing to Evergreen. His life is typical of the attitude and appreciation of Evergreen supporters. Other servants, although not exhaustively, will be referred to in footnotes like this throughout the paper.

²¹ One of the gifts that Stuebs brought to the development office was organization. Stuebs started by keeping track of the Evergreen supporters. Prior to this, the list of Evergreen donors were “cataloged” in shoeboxes. Once Stuebs got a handle on the finances, Evergreen was able to run a steady ship even when the water got rough.

²² It was Saturday afternoon when the Board called my father, but I answered the phone. My brother was a junior at Evergreen that year and the mothers of the junior class hosted a reception for the graduates. My father and I stayed

In the words of Bill Stuebs, “We were starting over. That’s why we called Jon. Starting was Jon’s strong suit. And when he got that job done he stepped out.”²³ Schoeneck had served in the Lutheran elementary school system for 20 years. During that time he started one grade school in Minnesota and two in Washington.²⁴ The next seven years he served as principal at Evergreen and worked at building the school together in Christ. The building process started with the addition of two new faculty members that year.²⁵

Student enrollment increased enough to warrant a full-time replacement for the position held by Baumann. The Board turned to the Assignment Committee and Lisa Vogel was called to join the faculty. Vogel graduated with a four-year degree as a math concentrate. Her assignment was to teach all English classes, direct choir, and coach volleyball. And she did.

At the end of the 1990-1991 school year Tom Quick indicated to the Board of Control that he wished to be released from his call at the end of the school year.²⁶ The Board expressed thanks and appreciation to Quick for his service. Even though Quick was not teaching in the classroom, his heart was still at Evergreen. After his release Quick continued to help out around the school. He was a bus driver among other things. To this day, he can still be found not too far from the school he still loves and once served as a teacher.

at home so I could do my afternoon paper route. While I was answering the phone in our kitchen, my mother was standing in Evergreen’s kitchen. One of the Board members told her that they had just called my father to be principal. As my mother asked that Board member if he was serious, my father asked the other Board member if they were still meeting. Even my brother and I wondered, “Our dad... a high school principal?” Yes.

²³ Interview with Bill Stuebs.

²⁴ Calvary, Bellevue, Washington, 1971; Christ, North St. Paul, Minnesota, 1977; Christ the King, Bremerton, Washington, 1984. Currently Schoeneck is on sabbatical starting Emmanuel Lutheran School, Salem, Oregon.

²⁵ During the next seven years of Schoeneck’s administration, over 10 full-time teachers (in addition to numerous part-time teachers) were added to the faculty. Principal Thiesfeldt has carried on where Schoeneck left off by adding an additional six teachers. Increasing the faculty was not inexpensive, but it was essential. Rodmyre commented that Evergreen struggled the first years at Kent because they were “operating on the frame work of the Lutheran elementary school system—that is, teach full-time and do all the other stuff on the side.”

Kurbis, one of the initial faculty members to arrive, saw that Evergreen would simply be able to do more because “the additional man-power could do things that the existing faculty simply had no time to do.” Time was extremely limited. Stuebs referred to the student participation and assistance especially in the early years at Kent, “They participated in everything and helped with anything they could—the sports, music, newspaper, yearbook, etc.”

²⁶ *Notes from the Principal*, April 1991.

Evergreen called to fill the vacancy but by the end of the summer of 1991 they had no one.²⁷ On August 23, 1991, the Board called Nathan Walworth as an emergency teacher.²⁸ Walworth was the second of two faculty members that were added that year under the Schoeneck administration. Walworth made it from Indiana to Washington with his wife and three boys in time for the first day of classes.²⁹ As if his arrival was not amazing enough, Walworth was also asked to teach first year German. Teaching German may not sound unusual, but was considering that Walworth didn't even know the language. That year he took a quasi-immersion German program at the University of Washington in the late afternoons. Exhausted from the demands of teaching school and attending school, he would often tell students about the dreams he would have while sleeping on the Seattle Metro bus—in German.

At the start of the 1991 school year, the faculty was in flux. There may not have been any construction on campus, but Evergreen was most definitely in the middle of a building project. Everyone knew it, especially the students whom the teachers served. The school yearbook dedication written that summer said it well.

For three years now, Evergreen has been situated in a temporary environment. This introduces much stress in and out of the classroom. It has been hard... especially on the faculty, in dealing with a place that we know we're only borrowing from someone else. This year's *Vox Aquilae* is dedicated to all those faculty members who have endured this sometimes tiring atmosphere, with God still in their hearts.³⁰

At the beginning of the 1991-1992 school year, Schoeneck wrote an acronym “welcoming” the Evergreen family to a new school year. “What a humbling experience to know that the Lord has called me to take on this new experience and responsibility. I am ready, willing, and excited, but above all... thankful for this opportunity to serve, thankful for parents and students dedicated and excited to start a new year at Evergreen, and thankful for a loving Lord that continues to bless his kingdom.”³¹ In four consecutive years Evergreen had seen four different men serve as principal. The streak finally came to an

²⁷ In the spring of 1991 the Board called a science teacher from Northland Lutheran High School to serve at Evergreen. His name was... Mark Tacke.

²⁸ *Association Board Minutes*, August 23, 1991. The following year the Board called Walworth to teach full-time.

²⁹ Debbie Walworth is a servant with a special place in Evergreen history. In 1991, Evergreen enrolled its first international student (more details are given in chapter 2). Mrs. Walworth's started the English as a second language (ESL) program that is still used at Evergreen today.

³⁰ *Vox Aquilae*, Dedication 1990-1991.

end. Everyone was excited. The Board Chairman reported, “We are blessed with a talented faculty and staff. A group of Christians dedicated to spreading God’s Word to the teens we send them. A group that considers going the extra mile the norm, not the exception.”³² Enthusiasm was building—the enrollment was proof. But it had not always been that way. Perhaps that explains some of Schoeneck’s initial reactions as principal. “So far things have gone well—I have been surprised that there have been no big surprises! I don’t like the look of all the paper work I’m seeing, but the teaching has been fun.”³³

A little over a year later, the surprise hit and it was a big one. All the paperwork in the world would not have hurt as much this. In the winter of 1993, the Board sent this letter to the parents of Evergreen regarding a situation that had developed on the faculty. “Whereas we are concerned about Ken Borchert’s physical and emotional well-being... we resolve to suspend Ken Borchert from his called duties as Athletic Director, coach, and teacher until the end of the present school year... This action was taken after a great deal of prayerful deliberation. The Board of Directors worked with heavy hearts but felt that this suspension was the proper action to take.”³⁴ Evergreen came together to work through the implications of losing a faculty member in the middle of the school year. Stan Cole, principal and teacher at Calvary Lutheran School in Bellevue, Washington, coached the boys’ basketball team as they were preparing to enter the playoffs. Steph Rodmyre, principal and teacher at Holy Trinity, taught Physical Education. Kurbis covered a math class and Lemke helped cover a history class.

Jeff Kurbis was a new arrival at the beginning of the 1992-1993 school year. As he was deliberating the call he had received to teach math, Schoeneck wrote a letter identifying some areas in which Evergreen could move forward. Areas in which Kurbis had God-given abilities to serve. “Three of our present six faculty members were new to high school last year... Our students benefit from good role models that set stable standards and inspire respect.”³⁵ Kurbis came with experience and youthful

³¹ *Notes from the Principal*, August 1991.

³² Annual report from the Chairman of the Board given by Steph Rodmyre, May 17, 1992.

³³ Letter to Ted Lambert from Jon Schoeneck dated September 4, 1991.

³⁴ Letter to parents of Evergreen dated February 16, 1993.

³⁵ Letter to Jeff Kurbis from Jon Schoeneck dated June 26, 1992.

exuberance.³⁶ With over 20 years of teaching high school Kurbis is well placed as the current Vice-Principal for Student Life.

In short order, Kurbis served as head coach for the boys' soccer team and the girls' basketball team. It was part of the athletic evolution that took place when the man known as simply "Coach" was called at the start of the 1993-1994 school year—Dave Habeck. He also came with the gifts that Evergreen needed. Schoeneck wrote Habeck a letter sharing how he felt that Habeck was a fit for Evergreen's needs.

When I arrived at Evergreen I overheard a student talking about a "real school." He was not talking about Evergreen. In his mind we were not real. Our humble facilities, our small enrollment and our limited class offerings were some of the factors that fueled his feelings. We need real teachers, real Christians, real experience to make Evergreen not only a real school but a really good school. We need you.³⁷

Habeck served with real gifts and Evergreen really benefited. "He was a huge asset."³⁸ He spent his hours in the classroom teaching English, and when he was not teaching or coaching he was recruiting.

After only two years, in the spring of 1994, Nathan Walworth announced his departure. He informed the Evergreen family, "For personal reasons it seems expedient that I would not continue to teach here after the present school year... At this moment I am unsure of any future plans, but I hope you will keep us in your prayers. I will continue to keep you in mine."³⁹ This decision was neither quick nor easy for Walworth. After losing seven full-time teachers in the first six years at Kent,⁴⁰ Walworth's resignation would be the last full-time teacher to leave Evergreen for the next six years.

They say that the third time is a charm. It is not documented in those specific terms, but in the summer of 1994, Evergreen received a gem of a science teacher. His name was... Mark Tacke.⁴¹ No one

³⁶ In my interview with Jeff Kurbis he said his arrival at Evergreen was, "Twelve years ago when I was younger and had more energy." Contrary to what he may think, anyone will tell you that he still has plenty of it.

³⁷ Letter to Dave Habeck from Jon Schoeneck June 21, 1993.

³⁸ Interview with Jeff Kurbis, Vice Principal for Student Life (interviewed on February 28, 2003).

³⁹ *Notes from the Principal*, March 1994.

⁴⁰ Tom Schwartz, Judy Lemke, Tom Quick, Karen Schacht, John Baumann, Ken Borchert, and Nathan Walworth.

⁴¹ Tacke was an intriguing figure because of his unique relation with Evergreen. In a casual Q&A with a student reporter, Tacke was asked the question, "How has Evergreen changed since you came in 1978?" His answer, "The obvious change that I see is that there are now four grades instead of two. Something that hasn't changed is that we

on the current faculty knew Tacke from when he first taught at Evergreen. For that matter, the Evergreen that Tacke knew no longer existed. Yet, from the start, there was genuine excitement about his return to the faculty. Schoeneck shared his excitement about Tacke's arrival in a letter to the family, "We are so happy to have you all heading our way! We are pioneers in this neck of the woods and new families are most welcome. Mark, the experience you will bring to our educational endeavors will be a great blessing."⁴²

Tacke was not the only new face at the start of the 1994-1995 school year. Evergreen entered a unique relationship with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Holy Trinity was considering a call for a part-time, associate pastor. Evergreen was in need of a part-time teacher for German and journalism. The result was a joint call to Pastor Jon Buchholz.⁴³ Janelle Herrel also came on board that year to teach part-time. Her responsibilities included English as a second language (ESL) and geography. Increased enrollment led the Board to call Herrel to teach full-time the following year.⁴⁴ Then something happened in the summer of 1995 that had never happened before and has never happened again since—the faculty did not change.⁴⁵ During this point in Evergreen's history, Chairman Steph Rodmyre commented, "In the

are still nomads. Another aspect that hasn't changed too much are the students. They are good kids and they know what is important, perhaps because of the sacrifice made by them and their parents to attend Evergreen" (*Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Winter 2002).

⁴² Letter to Mark and Rachel Tacke from Jon Schoeneck dated July 5, 1994.

⁴³ Jon Buchholz served part-time at Evergreen almost on an "as needed" basis. He never was a full-time servant at Evergreen. However, his name is mentioned in this paper because of the life-long impact he had on my and his suggestion that I enter the pastoral ministry.

⁴⁴ Janelle Herrel left Evergreen after the 1995-1996 school year. Why? Her husband, Kurt, was so influenced by the school that he quit his job, sold their house, and moved the family to New Ulm, Minnesota. There he attended Martin Luther College as a second career student. In May 1999, Kurt graduated and was assigned as a Lutheran elementary school teacher at Zion Lutheran School in Clatonia, Nebraska. Currently he is teaching at Trinity Lutheran School in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

⁴⁵ One servant did change, but he was not part of the faculty. Steph Rodmyre, principal of Holy Trinity, father of five Evergreen students, husband of Jane, resident on the Kent campus (literally), coach, Board member, and chairman, finished his tour of duty with the Board of Directors in 1995. Jeff Kurbis called Rodmyre, "The most unnoticed person... who gives his whole self to make Christian education happen." The senior class of 1995 dedicated the yearbook to him with these words, "The past seven years, with Evergreen being on the same campus as his own school, Mr. Rodmyre spent many sleepless nights. Whether it was waiting to get another variance permit, or turning off the school alarm, Mr. Rodmyre was always there with a prayer and often an answer to one of Evergreen's concerns." When I asked Rodmyre about the time when he taught physical education at Evergreen he simply replied, "I was just filling in a hole."

past six years we have seen the time of our greatest challenges and now our greatest successes.”⁴⁶ He did not know it, but God had even greater things waiting for Evergreen.

During the 1995-1996 school year Bill Stuebs moved from the development office back into the classroom. Pastor Dave Laabs from Faith Lutheran Church in Tacoma, Washington, filled the vacancy just in time for the 1996-1997 school year to begin. Laabs was there for some of the grassroots work that was done to secure the site in Gig Harbor, Washington. Today this site remains the hope for the future of Evergreen. Development was not limited to the development office, enrollment was also on the rise. Jeff Stellick was called to help teach in a limited capacity. As the school grew so did Stellick’s responsibilities. His position became full-time, much of it spent teaching ESL.

By now Evergreen could hardly look forward fast enough. In 1997-1998, administrative duties took Schoeneck all but out of the classroom. A new teacher was called—Valerie Juergens.⁴⁷ Juergens was on board for the academic counterpart to the athletic evolution of 1993-1994. For the first time at Evergreen, students were competing in events like speech and debate. The academic evolution also manifested itself in the domineering impact Evergreen had, and still has, in the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Academic Championships. Currently there are over a dozen of these awards displayed in the principal’s office.

Was this solid group of servants just chance? There is no doubt they were given to Evergreen by God. That is what made it hard to say “good-bye” to Mr. Lemke when he accepted a call to Malawi, Africa, in the spring of 1998. That year the students dedicated the yearbook to him. “Mr. Werner Lemke has been with Evergreen for more than 10 years—years in which he taught students not only about history but also about life... But this man who has given to Evergreen so much is now moving on to a dream and to a goal—the wilds of Africa! It is our hope that [his years at Evergreen will encourage] him as he

⁴⁶ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, November 1994.

⁴⁷ Valerie was a graduate of the Evergreen class of 1991. However, she was not the first alumna to return to Evergreen as part of the faculty. Her older sister Rebecca, Class of 1989, tutored the advanced math class and assisted with algebra II during the 1991-1992 school year.

brings his love of God... to another world.”⁴⁸ Students and faculty both missed Mr. Lemke. It can be heard that “even kids at Evergreen today hear about Mr. Lemke and would like to have him as their teacher.”⁴⁹

Jon Schoeneck also made a move that year. In the winter of 1998 Schoeneck announced his plans to step out of the principal’s office. According to Bill Stuebs, Schoeneck got his job done and he was very good at what he did.⁵⁰ The following article appeared in the winter edition of the *Evergreen Lutheran Update* that year.

It’s been said that all good things must come to an end. It couldn’t be more true of the end of Jon Schoeneck’s tenure as principal. The formal announcement was made to the student body during chapel on October 23. An emotional Principal Schoeneck announced that the 1997-1998 school year would be his last as Evergreen’s principal. “With the larger enrollment, there’s need for more administrative work running the school,” observes Schoeneck, “and the Board asked me to take on that role of greater administrative responsibility. I said I’d evaluate my talents and abilities for a year. After prayerful consideration and consultation with family and friends, I felt my talents would be put to best use in the classroom.” Faculty members have applauded Schoeneck’s ability to work together with faculty and staff. Former principal Werner Lemke noted that Jon’s “evangelical manner made working and being at Evergreen a real joy.”⁵¹

For the start of the 1998-1999 school year God gave Evergreen two more servants. Evergreen went in a direction they had never really gone before. They called Jodi Justman to direct choir and teach band full-time.⁵² Justman’s responsibilities grew, as hoped, and she began to teach band lessons to grade school students in the Lutheran elementary schools. Justman was an essential component to Evergreen’s recruitment department. With the addition of the band program, Evergreen’s music department also soared. “Jodi came on campus knowing what to do.”⁵³

Evergreen also welcomed a new principal that year. Greg Thiesfeldt was called to begin a new era of administration. In a letter greeting the Evergreen family, Thiesfeldt wrote, “Our family stood in the driveway of our empty Fond du Lac home. The two cars were packed with possessions for our journey to

⁴⁸ *Vox Aquilae*, Dedication 1997-1998.

⁴⁹ Interview with Jeff Kurbis.

⁵⁰ cf. Stuebs’ remarks on page 10.

⁵¹ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Winter 1998.

⁵² Note how gifted the Evergreen faculty was. There were three qualified choir directors on campus. Bill Stuebs directed choir and received his Masters Degree in music while teaching at Evergreen. He handed over the baton to Lisa Vogel when he assumed the role of development director. Vogel then directed the choir for seven years until she got married in 1998 and became a mother in 1999.

Washington. The good-byes, hugs, tears, and well-wishes of a congregational farewell had ended a few moments before. We were ready to move to a new home 2000 miles away. How should we begin our new life? We began by joining hands and bowing our heads in prayer.”⁵⁴ What better qualifications could be hoped for in Evergreen’s new administrator than worship to God in prayer? Thiesfeldt quickly became a part of the faculty family and has had the opportunity to welcome five other teachers to serve as part of the family with him. Thiesfeldt continues to serve as principal today.

Evergreen received another blessing in the fall of 1998. A second pastor was added to the faculty in Dan Voigt. Voigt was called to teach and build the Spanish program. Additionally, Voigt was asked to serve as campus pastor. He works closely with the vice-principal for student life to provide service opportunities and promote spiritual growth in both the students and the faculty.

In 1999-2000 the unbelievable happened—166 students! The jump in enrollment caused an increase in faculty too. Many of the classes were now taught in two sections. Three new faculty members were called that year. Stan Cole was called to teach history, mathematics, physical education, and coaching. Allen Ash was called to teach mathematics and science. For the first time in a while there were positive reports coming from the development office. John Sebald was called to serve as the Director of Development. This position was left empty after Dave Laabs accepted a call in 1998 to Kiel, Wisconsin.

Lisa Vogel, now Rittierodt, left the faculty. The students reflected their appreciation and respect for Rittierodt in the dedication of the 1999-2000 school yearbook. It reads as follows: “With the new addition to her family, Mrs. Rittierodt decided to pass down her responsibilities as choir director and volleyball coach and became a part-time teacher (1998-1999). This year was her last because of her decision to ‘put family first and do what’s best for Evergreen’ by resigning from her position as teacher... She will be deeply missed by the entire student body and faculty.”⁵⁵

⁵³ Interview with Steph Rodmyre.

⁵⁴ *Notes from the Principal*, August 1998.

⁵⁵ *Vox Aquilae*, Dedication 1999-2000.

The 2000-2001 school year brought the last permanent change to the faculty to date.⁵⁶ Scott Anthony was called to teach English and serve as Evergreen's Director of Technology. Anthony carries with him an aspect of the ministry that is impossible to write in words on a call form—trust. The student body embraces each teacher differently, some with respect, some with quick-witted humor. After only two years, Anthony has developed a rapport with the students that is worth mentioning. He does a lot of in-between-class counseling. He is an “ear for the kids.”⁵⁷ They trust him, and why shouldn't they? After all he, like all the other teachers at Evergreen, are God-given servants so that the body might be built together in Christ.

⁵⁶ In a sense the faculty has changed slightly since then. In the summer of 2001, Bill Stuebs took a one-year sabbatical into the parish. He returned for the 2002-2003 school year. In the spring of 2002, Jon Schoeneck accepted a call to start Immanuel Lutheran School in Salem, Oregon. The Evergreen Board of Directors granted this call as a sabbatical with the hope that he would return to Evergreen after two years (*Principal's Notes*, May 2002).

There is another change that should be mentioned. This change will not take place until after the 2002-2003 school year—a scope that is technically outside the limits I have set for this paper. Also, out of respect for their fine service to Evergreen and because of their continuing desire to see Evergreen succeed and grow, I have decided not to include these sad facts in the body of this paper. However, the impact is too great to simply not mention it.

In the past four years the enrollment has dropped drastically from 167 students to 103 students. This has caused the “the necessary termination of two faculty positions... Teacher Scott Anthony and Pastor Bill Stuebs.” In a special edition of the *Weekly Update*, dated February 27, 2003, Board Chairman went on to say, “With trembling hands we discussed the precious privilege of serving the Lord publicly in the teaching ministry and how difficult it can be for human beings to seek out God's will for his church. It was troubling to all of us gathered there that this had to happen, but we recognize God's wisdom over ours. Our Board's decision was not based on the ability or lack thereof of Pastor Stuebs or Mr. Anthony. Our Board's decision meeting was conducted like a call meeting, asking the Lord to guide us through this painful process.”

At the publication of this paper, Anthony has accepted a call to teach at Northland Lutheran High School. Stuebs has recently received a call to be principal and teach at Grace Lutheran School in Yakima, Washington. This situation will also, most likely, nullify the sabbatical-status of Jon Schoeneck's call to Immanuel Lutheran School.

Evergreen continues, as always, to exist in two kingdoms. In 1995 Evergreen took comfort in the successes of what could be seen (cf. Rodmyre's remarks on page 15). In 2003 Evergreen takes comfort in the successes of what cannot always be seen—the work of the gospel—unseen, yet always certain. “This I know: God will do his part” (words spoken by Mr. Lemke when enrollment dropped to 45 students and classes were held in two 14'x30' trailers in a gravel parking lot, *Notes from the Principal*, September 1988).

⁵⁷ Interview with Steph Rodmyre.

Built Together in Christ...to Prepare Christian Students

The purpose of God-given servants at Evergreen is to prepare Christian students.⁵⁸ The faculty carries out this mission by carefully teaching and applying law and gospel to every aspect of the students' lives. Schoeneck spoke to the student body about this one-of-a-kind education students receive at Evergreen. In one of his first chapel devotions Schoeneck said that studying and living under God's law would make some days difficult, "There may even be a day or two when it is not easy to be a student at Evergreen. Days for you to be in the world but not of the world may not be easy. But they are important."⁵⁹ Learning to balance law and gospel and apply in their own lives would not be easy. But it would be important because it is the one thing that would truly prepare them for life. Since Sebald has been at Evergreen the most remarkable event he has seen is "watching kids' lives literally changed and transformed because of the impact of the gospel... they have the opportunity to walk hand-in-hand with the Lord day in and day out."⁶⁰ Today there are 25 years worth of students that tell the story of the gospel in action preparing Christian students.

When Evergreen moved to Kent, the dream was to prepare 60 students.⁶¹ When the 1988-1989 school year started there were only 45. That number remarkably included 18 seniors—not a single student left that class during the move.⁶² It was hoped that this would be Evergreen's low point. However, the following year the enrollment dropped to 34 students. The monthly newsletter reported:

⁵⁸ A list of Evergreen graduates from 1981-2003 can be found in Appendix B.

⁵⁹ *Notes from the Principal*, October 1991.

⁶⁰ Interview with John Sebald, Director of Development (interviewed on February 28, 2003).

⁶¹ This was the maximum number of students legally allowed on the campus by a King County variance (*Evergreen Lutheran Update*, January/February 1989).

⁶² Letter to parents from Werner Lemke dated April 27, 1989.

“Classes now number 7, 7, 11, 9, numbering the seniors first. The fact that the lower two classes outnumber the upper two gives us hope that enrollment has reached the lowest it is going to be.”⁶³

Evergreen owes its existence to the students of these small classes. However, the students would say that it is the other way around. “I have attended grade school at Christian day schools and I am very thankful that Evergreen was here for me when I graduated from eighth grade. Attending high school with other kids who believe the same things as I do has strengthened my faith, and although I may have missed out on some things, it was worth it to go here.”⁶⁴ The faculty never took this humble attitude of the students for granted. At his address to the graduation assembly Weiser, the acting principal that year, commended the students for their commitment and positive attitude through it all, especially the class of 1990, one of the classes that kept the school alive. “[The seniors are] the first class to graduate in the new Evergreen Lutheran location. One has the sense there should be a special award for these seven who ‘stuck with it’ through the long months of classes in the rented trailers and sports in rented gyms.”⁶⁵

Evergreen was doing a fine job of preparing Christian students. They were, of course, also just normal kids. There may have only been seven students in the class of 1990, but that was five more than were needed for a high school romance. Shortly after graduation Tara Sauders and Joel Jon Valerio (J.J.) were married, one of many Evergreen couples to get married.⁶⁶ High school romance was not the only “normal” thing about the students. They also did whatever they could to get out of classes.

⁶³ *Notes from the Principal*, September 1989.

⁶⁴ Letter to Evergreen supporters by Student Body President Joshua Schoeneck dated June 4, 1992.

⁶⁵ *Notes from the Principal*, June 1990. “Rented gyms.” For about a year and a half, Evergreen had a very amicable relationship with a community-type facility called Kent Commons, located about five miles away from the school. The facility worked hard to accommodate Evergreen, however, there were limitations. The only gym time they had available for practice was at 6:30 in the morning. In order to accommodate the “sunrise season,” class started about an hour later than regularly scheduled. This gave the athletes just enough time to shower up and make it back to school in time. Or maybe not, but at least they were never late for class.

Before Kent Commons was available, practice was held wherever possible. There were times when the volleyball team practiced on the recess field. Apart from playing on grass there were other factors the team had to contend with. First, fall weather in the Pacific Northwest. Second, the field became nonexistent when construction began on the gym/classroom building. There also was a small concrete basketball “court” on campus. It is uncertain if there were ever any “official” practices held there. However, that concrete pad, which also served as the only paved parking for many years, contributed to many Eagle victories, perhaps even victories as late as 1999 and beyond.

⁶⁶ In the fall of 2002, three freshmen enrolled as students at Evergreen whose parent(s) are Evergreen alum.

On March 28, 1990, the students were not sitting in their desks, they were moving them. The construction of the Kent building was complete. It was time to say “good-bye” to the trailers. Steph Rodmyre was teaching classes at Holy Trinity grade school that day. He was planning to help with moving day, but by the time his school was out for the day, the high school students had moved everything themselves. They were excited. Jenny Sauer, a senior that year, kept saying, “Man, is this ever neat!”⁶⁷ For her this was one of the greatest things ever. Thanks to Jenny and the other students, that day it truly was a great day in Evergreen’s history.

At the start of the 1991-1992 school year, the face of the student body changed significantly. Yoon-Hee Choi became the first international student to attend Evergreen. The international student program was a way for Evergreen to function as a mission outreach in the area.⁶⁸ The students that it added to the enrollment were relatively few, but the impact Evergreen had on the students’ lives was huge. In an address given by Thiesfeldt listing the top ten reasons to support Evergreen, he said, “We Support Evergreen because of Tom Park, Vera Kim and Vivian Ye. These three students were from Korea and China and graduated from Evergreen in recent years... I mention these three because they were baptized into the Christian faith while at Evergreen. When students sit at the feet of God-fearing teachers and hear the gospel every day, miracles happen.”⁶⁹

“Home” for the majority of the students was closer than the homes of the international students. However, the Evergreen students had a way of racking up the miles. In one year the four school vans put

⁶⁷ Interview with Steph Rodmyre.

⁶⁸ There are times when God uses the sometimes misdirected motives of mankind to increase his kingdom. The international student program brought the gospel to students who had never heard of Jesus before. It also brought students through the doors of Evergreen. Stuebs reflected back at some of the early “recruitment” techniques Evergreen used, “Was Evergreen a tool of outreach? Not as much as we are now and not as much as we would have liked to have been then. There were times when we brought students in who were from the outside because we needed them.” Stuebs may also have been referring to the summer of 1991. That year Central Lutheran Christian School (not WELS) dropped grades 10-12 from their curriculum. Evergreen asked CLCS if they could recruit those students, which they did. About half a dozen students were gained that year.

⁶⁹ *Ten Reasons for Having & Supporting Evergreen*, presented by Principal Greg Thiesfeldt at the 2002 Annual Fund Drive on November 10 (see Appendix J). To clarify, Ye was the only one of the three to be baptized by “water and the Word” while at Evergreen. The blessing of new life through baptism was not limited to international students. Carrie Davis, class of 1996, came to Evergreen with no church background. Her senior year she began a formal doctrine class and was baptized on January 14, 1996 (*Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Summer 1996). Ministry to international students was something that could have happened years earlier (see Appendix I). However, it didn’t.

on 52,138 miles, and that was before two buses were added, including one to Kitsap County.⁷⁰ At one time, the student body had eight students from Korea, one student from Alaska, one from Florida, and one from the Dominican Republic.⁷¹ Not all of them commuted.

However, the days of dormitories at Evergreen were left behind in DuPont. The Association resolved to use boarding homes while in Kent. The administration worked together with parents from long distances to find a suitable home for their son or daughter. Some of the boarding students stayed with classmates, others with family members. There were some students, however, that stayed at the home of a faithful Evergreen supporter whom they had never met. “It’s tough on parents to send their high school kids into someone else’s home far away,” said Schoeneck, who knew the experience first hand.⁷² Before he received the call to Evergreen, his oldest son spent four nights a week in Kent. Finding places for the students to stay was not always easy. The concern was continually on the hearts of the Evergreen family. It was not uncommon to see handwritten notes on the bottom of Evergreen mailings, “PS—Keep the boarding concerns in your daily prayers!”⁷³

In the summer of 1996 Evergreen was able to rejoice in some blessings that could only come with time. The graduation sermon that year was preached by Tony Pittenger. He graduated from Evergreen in 1986. In 1996, Pittenger graduated from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in Mankato, Minnesota. He was assigned to Bethany Lutheran Church in Port Orchard, Washington. That summer he became the first Evergreen graduate to become a pastor. (In the summer of 1998, Joseph Johnson graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin, and became the second.) The graduation service at which Pittenger preached, sent another Evergreen graduate on his way to the pastoral ministry, Robert Guenther. Guenther joined Timothy Gray, Class of 1994, and Caleb Schoeneck, Class of 1995, at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota, the following year.⁷⁴ That graduation

⁷⁰ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, August 1994. Kitsap County was about 60 miles away, one way.

⁷¹ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Fall 1997.

⁷² *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, March 1995.

⁷³ This note was handwritten on the June 1994 edition of *Notes from the Principal*.

⁷⁴ Timothy Gray graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary on May 22, 2002, and became the third. He was assigned to Bison, South Dakota. Caleb Schoeneck will graduate on May 21, 2003, to become the fourth. Robert

service was a significant moment in the history of Evergreen. Also present at that service was Evergreen student Tom Park. That summer Park was confirmed in the Christian faith and has made it his life's ambition to serve the Lord as a pastor.⁷⁵

Evergreen graduates have also served their Savior in other ways. In addition to the role of Christian father, mother, spouse, work force professional, and politician, among many others, Evergreen's graduates have also contributed to the field of Lutheran grade school and high school education. Since 1981, the first class to graduate from Evergreen, students have matriculated at our Synod's worker training schools. More recently, in 2002, 10 students went on to study at Martin Luther College.⁷⁶ The names of the graduates who have gone on to serve in the full-time teaching ministry are too many to enumerate in this paper. Their work and faithfulness has become a lasting tribute to Evergreen.

There is also something to be said for the students who do not go into the public ministry. Through the skills they learned and matured in at Evergreen, the students have learned to become part of the ministry of reconciliation which belongs to all Christians. Lemke depicts this well in an incident that happened to him.

It was the spring of 1998. I was getting ready to make the early school bus run back to Tacoma. When I got into the bus and started pulling out of the parking lot there was a terrible racket. It sounded like the back of the bus had fallen off! When I got out to see what the cause of that racket was I found that someone had tied the back of the bus to the chain link fence and I had proceeded to pull out a portion of the fence!

I recall that I was a bit upset by the incident! When word got around that Mr. Lemke was "really mad" a young man (Luke Talley) came to my room, confessed his prank, realized his foolishness, apologized to me and said that he would fix the damage. I respect Luke for his Christian reaction to his prank.

Pastor Bill Stuebs used to say to me, "Evergreen is for sinners. What makes Evergreen valuable is not that our students don't sin, but rather when they sin the students are confronted with their sins in a God-pleasing way and with the hope that they will be led to repent and receive the forgiveness they need."⁷⁷

Guenther is currently completing his vicar year at Holy Word Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas. Incidentally, both Schoeneck and Guenther were assigned to vicar at the same congregation in consecutive years. Since the graduation service of 1996, three other Evergreen graduates have entered training for the pastoral ministry: Tom Park (Class of 1998), James Wilcox (Class of 1999), and John Dermè (Class of 2001).

⁷⁵ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Summer 1996. On the day before this paper was due Park preached his first devotion in front of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary student body—and he did a fine job. With an anticipated graduation date of May 2006, Park will become the first native-born Korean pastor in the Wisconsin Synod.

⁷⁶ *2002 District Proceedings*, Evergreen Lutheran High School Report to the Pacific Northwest District.

⁷⁷ Letter from Werner Lemke to Caleb Schoeneck dated January 3, 2003 (for use in this paper). Lemke went on to say, "I believe that is why Evergreen must continue, not just for the next 25 years but for many years to come. I will

The faculty has always played the lead role when it comes to preparing Christian students. The students show their affection and appreciation for the faculty in different ways. Some lack maturity at first, as illustrated by Lemke's story. Others express their feelings by using "terms of endearment" for the faculty. Some faculty members have been likened to superheroes such as, "Super Sebald,"⁷⁸ and, "It's a bird! It's a plain! No, it's Super-Thiesfeldt, defender of school, books, and the Evergreen dream."⁷⁹ Still other students tell a more serious story such as Kaye McClain, class of 2002. "I have never thanked Pastor Voigt for helping me get to church every Sunday... I used to be a very shy and self-conscious person... He brought out [my sense of humor] and eliminated my shyness. Pastor Voigt inspired as well as encouraged me."⁸⁰

The students are also well prepared for works of service through the extracurricular experiences offered at Evergreen. New in 2001-2002 is the student service organization called *Eagle Pride*. In their first year the members of *Eagle Pride* canvassed at Amazing Grace in Boise, Idaho. "This effort drew many children to a VBS program at Christmas and Easter."⁸¹ The students also participate in spring clean-up day called "Serve-a-Thon." Different from most spring cleaning, the majority of the students' time and volunteer labor is not spent on their own campus. Instead, they used it as a way to serve the community and thank individuals for their support of Evergreen.

Athletics also have influenced many students at Evergreen. In 2003 the athletic program reached a historic milestone. This announcement was sent to the Evergreen family: "Senior Giselle Grabowski signed her letter of intent to accept a full scholarship from Eastern Kentucky University. The entire student body witnessed her signing along with her parents and her high school volleyball coach, Mr.

always remember Luke's Christian way of dealing with what turned out to be a rather memorable and humorous prank because of his training from Evergreen."

⁷⁸ *Vox Aquilae*, Dedication 2000-2001.

⁷⁹ *Vox Aquilae* 2000-2001, page 63.

⁸⁰ Kaye McClain spoke at the Annual Fund Drive Rally, November 10, 2002. Her story and what Evergreen has meant to her life are part of an essay entitled *Welcomed into God's family*.

⁸¹ *2002 District Proceedings*, Evergreen Lutheran High School Report to the Pacific Northwest District.

Chris Poetter. This is the first Evergreen student athlete to win an athletic scholarship to a Division 1 college.”⁸² Perhaps these blessings will continue for Evergreen athletes in future years at Evergreen.

Academics have been a driving force in many of the students’ lives at Evergreen also. Many students’ names can be found on the Dean’s List of the college or university they attend. Many more students faithfully apply what they learned while at Evergreen. Not all academic excellence is recorded by a grade. Nevertheless, grades can be inspiring—especially when they are perfect. In the spring of 2001, an academic perfection happened at Evergreen. A perfect score on the Standardized Achievement Test (SAT). The student’s name was Cara Zarnstorff. In 2002, Evergreen scored another nice, round number—400. Zarnstorff, the last student in her class alphabetically, became the 400th student to graduate from Evergreen.

The athletics, academics, extracurriculars, music programs, service organizations, and everything else that takes place, have a neat way of co-existing in the students’ lives. In 2001-2002, Evergreen won their first Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Academic State Championship.⁸³ It is described as “the WIAA’s most prestigious annual award. [It is based on] a yearlong program that is emblematic of the top interscholastic programs in Washington that display excellence in academics, sportsmanship and athletic performances throughout the school year.”⁸⁴ This championship takes into account grade point average, academic exhibitions, even band competition. Evergreen is succeeding at preparing students to balance a healthy curriculum in the classroom, on the field, and far beyond.

One area that the WIAA Championship does not consider, and understandably so, is faith. The faculty may take the lead in preparing Christian students, but equally as important are the students as they share their faith with each other. “The spiritual aspect of our student body is something special that

⁸² *Weekly Update*, April 16, 2003.

⁸³ At the time this paper was written Evergreen had a 95 point lead in the 2002-2003 competition and with a strong spring season is positioned to repeat as champions.

⁸⁴ WIAA website, http://www.wiaa.com/news.asp?ID=2003410_2. Note: the Academic State Championship is not to be confused with the Academic Championships mentioned on page 15. The Academic Championships referred to earlier are awarded on a seasonal basis (e.g. soccer, volleyball, basketball, etc.) The Academic State Championship is one award based on the events of the entire year.

Evergreen has,” said Kurbis. “It is most obvious when the juniors and seniors take the lead in living their faith and model it for the rest of the students.”

In an interview with Bethany D’Andrade, senior and 2002-2003 Student Body President, she demonstrated how this happens at Evergreen. As D’Andrade reflected over her four years of high school at Evergreen she very quickly identified the trip to Arizona as highlight of her high school career. “I appreciate Evergreen more than anything. I am thankful and treasure my time here. What I will always treasure is going to Arizona Lutheran Academy. We went to play basketball and there we were sitting and talking about God and all the issues with other Christians.”⁸⁵ The motivation is not an award or a championship, it is an attitude that simply flows into their day-to-day lives. On June 7, 2003, D’Andrade will join the over 400 other graduates of Evergreen—another student prepared by a school that is built together in Christ.

**Evergreen
Student Enrollment**

1988-1989	45
1989-1990	34
1990-1991	47
1991-1992	63
1992-1993	75
1993-1994	80
1994-1995	101
1995-1996	104
1996-1997	117
1997-1998	143
1998-1999	157
1999-2000	166
2000-2001	137
2001-2002	122
2002-2003	104

State Athletic Appearances

1991 A/B Boys Soccer—3 rd in State
1997 A/B Boys Soccer—4 th in State
1998 A/B Boys Soccer—4 th in State
1999 B Boys Basketball—2 nd in State
2000 B Slowpitch Softball—4 th in State
2001 B Boys Track—4 th in State
2001 B Gilrs Volleyball—State Qualifier
2001 B Boys Basketball—State Qualifier
2002 B Boys Basketball—6 th in State
2002 B Boys Track—6 th in State
2002 B Girls Track—6 th in State

⁸⁵ Interview with Evergreen Student Body President Bethany D’Andrade, Class of 2003. D’Andrade is referring to the third annual Western Lutheran Shootout in Arizona that Evergreen participated in during the 2002-2003 basketball season. This West Coast version of the Lutheran Invitational Tournament (LIT) includes Arizona Lutheran Academy, California Lutheran High School, Eastfork Lutheran High School, and Evergreen.

Built Together in Christ...at a Site of His Choosing

It is not a coincidence that the theme for 2002-2003 school year is, "Building Together in Christ." It comes at a time when Evergreen is planning to build a new facility. It also was not a coincidence when the 2001-2002 theme was, "Building the Family of Believers." Building is something that has been on the minds of Evergreen supporters, faculty, students, and parents for many years. It is a difficult story to tell exactly where Evergreen has been, might have been, or will be. One thing is certain, for 25 years Evergreen has been built together in Christ at a site of his choosing.⁸⁶

The site planning process in which Evergreen is still involved began in 1987. At the annual Association meeting the following report was given:

This may be the year the Lord has great things in store for us. At the April Board meeting of Steilacoom School District it was voted to declare the DuPont school building, the home of good old Evergreen, surplus property. That means, in a nutshell, the place is being offered for sale! What it also means is that this could be our last year in this building. What it does not mean, however, is that it is the end of Evergreen Lutheran High School.⁸⁷

Optimism ran high at first. The Association felt confident that they could either purchase the DuPont facility or purchase land and be ready to move into a new facility by January of 1989.⁸⁸

As the situation progressed, it became increasingly obvious that Evergreen would not be able to outbid the competition. The lumber industry giant Weyerhaeuser was also interested in the DuPont property. Even though the Steilacoom School District did not announce whose final bid they would accept, the Association wisely began to look at other potential property sites. In the winter of 1988, two sites became available and an Association meeting was held. "The purpose of the meeting was to

⁸⁶ A list of Evergreen's past, probable, potential, and permanent property sites can be found in Appendix C.

⁸⁷ Report given at the Pacific Northwest Lutheran High School Association meeting, April 24, 1987.

⁸⁸ *Notes from the Principal*, December 1987.

determine if a school site should be purchased in the Federal Way area or in the DuPont area... A vote was taken. The DuPont "Bell Hill" site was selected."⁸⁹

By early March the Steilacoom School District informed the Association that the site of the old DuPont school was sold to Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company (WRECO) for about \$600,000 cash. Evergreen had rented that facility for the past ten years for \$850 per month. Their lease would terminate on July 31, 1988.⁹⁰ "Bell Hill" became the battle cry for the future of Evergreen.

The majority of the Association may have voted to move to Bell Hill, but there was division in their midst. A long-standing debate arose—should Evergreen move to a new, and perhaps more centrally located site, or should Evergreen continue the process of establishing itself in the greater DuPont area? These concerns were brought up at the March Association meeting. Weiser, who was the Chairman at the time, addressed these feelings. "The planning materials for the meeting were prepared under considerable time pressure... There has been some criticism of how the materials were prepared, the short length of time for study of the materials, and the way the vote was conducted. The fact remains that the Association voted to purchase the Bell Hill site and to pursue funding. Two motions to table the vote on land purchase were defeated."⁹¹

It may have been Bell Hill or bust, but there were only five months before the 1988-1989 school year began. Where was Evergreen going to hold classes? The Board had considerable difficulty finding a suitable rental site. But, by the end of the month the Association had three options to consider.⁹²

⁸⁹ *Notes from the Principal*, February 1988.

⁹⁰ The letter went on to say, "We are asking WRECO to leave the gym building standing through 1989... WRECO is concerned that citizen groups might try to block the demolition if they do not proceed immediately..." WRECO's concern seemed to be legitimate. It was thought that if the DuPont building was left standing, the long time residents of the small town of DuPont may have been able to add the building to the National Historic Register. If this happened, WRECO would not be able to demolish the building. Since WRECO was primarily concerned with the value of the land and not the value of the buildings, it was in their best interest to proceed immediately. The corporations' name seems to be quite ironic, doesn't it?

⁹¹ Letter from Pastor Weiser to members and friends of the Association dated March 7, 1988.

⁹² The following letter outlines three options. According to Stuebs there were a number of other "unofficial" offers, possibly including Lakewood Lutheran School in Lakewood, Washington, and Our Redeemer Lutheran School in Yelm, Washington. Needless to say (yet Stuebs said it anyway), when one offer was chosen the others were not. Emotions ran high and feelings were easily affected and angered (Interview with Pastor Bill Stuebs). The bottom line was that many faithful supporters personally took on the endeavor of Evergreen's existence. In a letter to Evergreen from Nate Radichel dated July 13, 1989, he said "I fully agree that Yelm is not the ultimate location for

- Faith Lutheran Church and School in Tacoma, Washington, offered to expand their property to include a commercial building for Evergreen to rent.
- Remaining in DuPont could possibly be accomplished in one of two ways. 1) Bring in trailer homes, remodel them as classrooms, and remain on the DuPont campus while preparing the Bell Hill site. 2) Rent the current gym and three or four classrooms from Weyerhaeuser, while the rest of the DuPont school demolition would be underway.
- Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Kent, Washington, offered to build a 140' x 80' building on their site.⁹³ This would provide four classrooms, one office, four storage rooms, a kitchen, two public restrooms and locker/shower room facilities. There would also be a raised stage and a gym on the main floor.⁹⁴

One month later the Association reached a decision. “In answer to the search for a rental location for the coming years, the Association has voted to cast our lot with a building project at Holy Trinity, Kent. It means that Evergreen will be able to rent a suitable school location with a gym for the next four years, and maybe beyond that if needed.”⁹⁵ Evergreen agreed to pay \$3,500 per month for rent for 48 months. Part of the rent (\$1,000 times 48 months) would be a lump sum due “up front” to assure financing the project.⁹⁶

Even though not much time had passed, many decisions regarding Evergreen’s future had been made. It became clear that the Bell Hill site was not the site of God’s choosing for Evergreen. The dream of keeping the school established in the DuPont area had come to an end for the time being.⁹⁷ A move to Kent would give Evergreen the most flexibility. It looked like four years would be more than enough time for Evergreen to circle their wagons and start fresh. Holy Trinity’s offer was for “the next four years, and maybe beyond that if needed.” No one ever thought that Evergreen’s time in Kent would eclipse the length of time they spent in DuPont.⁹⁸

Evergreen but taking all things into consideration, it may be the only option we have left.” Note: Today, 15 years later, Yelm is still suggested as an option (*Weekly Update*, February 24, 2003).

⁹³ A blueprint of the original building can be found in Appendix E. The building that stands there today is essentially the same—with one exception. A parking lot size requirement resulted in a building that was ten feet narrower and two feet shorter than originally designed.

⁹⁴ Letter to members and friends of the Association from Weiser dated March 31, 1988.

⁹⁵ Letter from Pastor Weiser to members and friends of the Association dated April 25, 1988.

⁹⁶ Letter to members and friends of the Association from Weiser dated March 31, 1988.

⁹⁷ Interview with Pastor Bill Stuebs. According to Stuebs, the Bell Hill property deal was for 20 acres at \$10,000/acre. That was \$200,000 no buildings.

⁹⁸ There may have been one man who thought that Evergreen would need to stay “beyond that,” but we will have to wait until we are in heaven to ask him. John Henning was a strong supporter of Evergreen. He was also the Pastor at Holy Trinity until God called him to the site of his choosing—heaven. Henning passed away in 1999. This paper is really incomplete without an interview with him.

Meanwhile, as the Association went about their work, the teachers were trying to do what they did best—teach. Even though Evergreen was “out” of DuPont and not “in” Kent yet, they were not completely homeless. In 1985, Evergreen had purchased a building in the town of DuPont that served as the girls’ dormitory. This piece of property was not affected by the WRECO purchase. With less than a month to go before school started, Lemke wrote, “Our office has been set up in the girl’s dorm... we will stay here until we can move to a new office at Holy Trinity... We are still waiting for all the proper permits to be ‘okayed’ before the building project can begin at Holy Trinity. There have been some objections by the people in the area around Holy Trinity to having a high school and all of its activities in their midst.”⁹⁹

The objections by the neighbors became part of a long, involved process with King County and the dreaded “v-word.” Variance. The Kent site was never designed to support a church, grade school, and high school. In order to allow for the changes, the permit that limited the number of students on the campus needed to be changed.

At the start, Holy Trinity Lutheran School was granted 200 students in pre-k through 8th grade. When Evergreen came on campus we told the court that the combined enrollment of the grade school and the high school was not going to be over 200 students total. There was no way it would grow so much in four years that we would go over that limit! The hearing bought our words and granted us permission over the opposition of the neighbors.¹⁰⁰

Steph Rodmyre, co-worker and long time friend of Henning said, “He was a rare bird among WELS pastors in that he considered the school (Christian education) a fundamental part of the church’s operation. Many people believed that the school is an arm of the church. Henning believed that the school together with the church were the trunk of the body.”

Henning knew that the facilities at Kent did not provide everything the high school needed, but he believed things would find a way of working themselves out. Jane Rodmyre, who also worked with Henning said that “he was one man that felt if it was God’s will and according to his Word it would work—and it most often did.” Steph Rodmyre related the words of Bill Hartwig, a long time Evergreen supporter and Board member. “John Henning had the concept of *The Field of Dreams* long before Kevin Costner ever made the movie.” He built it and they came.

It would be unfair to say that Henning wanted Holy Trinity Lutheran High School. However, some perceived it that way. It would be fair to say that Henning had a deep concern for the future of Evergreen and he did everything that he possibly could to provide that future for Evergreen at Holy Trinity. At a time when the Association meetings dealt with dollar signs and diplomacy, Henning approached the situation as part of something bigger. For Henning it was a “faith-based ministry not a bottom line mentality” (Interview with Steph Rodmyre).

⁹⁹ Letter to members and friends of the Association from Lemke dated August 5, 1988.

¹⁰⁰ Interview with Steph Rodmyre. While the variance gave Evergreen freedom to be on site, Evergreen in turn took away the freedom of the students to be off-site. The neighbors’ concerns were treated seriously. A “closed campus” policy was put into effect so that students were confined to the school grounds at all times.

Whenever Evergreen wanted to make a change to the campus, they needed the neighbors’ approval. At one such hearing, Evergreen made their request and a man from the neighborhood stood up and said, “Where is the high school?” From that moment on the school was able to declare victory over the neighborhood opposition.

The variance process hurt Evergreen tremendously. By late August 1988, construction on the building had not yet started. School was scheduled to start in less than a month. Lemke informed the students and their parents of the situation: "There is a good possibility that we can move some temporary classroom facilities onto the property at Holy Trinity... Where does that leave us? It is still our intention to start the 1988-89 school year on September 6. Just what facilities we will have remains to be seen."¹⁰¹ School started on time that year, but it was no secret that the site was, "Not the most glorious school."¹⁰²

The following description of the school was given of the classrooms:

The temporary classroom trailers for Evergreen Lutheran were barely installed in time for opening service. Room #1 has desks for Mr. Lemke's classes at one end and typing tables set up at the other for Mrs. Schacht. Room #2 is Mr. Borchert's classroom, having sufficient desks facing his desk and computers set up on the east end. Mr. Quick has his science and math classes in Room #3 and is equipping it for various experiments that are possible under the circumstances. All student lockers are in Room #4. Pastor Stuebs' class and choir are in Room #5 (Holy Trinity's lower level!).¹⁰³

All this (with the exception of Room #5), plus two offices fit into two portable trailers 14 feet by 30 feet! Study halls were conducted in the back of the classrooms, almost always when another class was being taught.

After the dust had settled from the first month of school, Lemke gave an overview of what had happened and the blessings God had given through it all.

By July 31, thanks to many willing workers, Evergreen was loaded into four large vans and safely stored in a truck yard. Good. Two portable trailers were rented and three classrooms and two offices were set up. Evergreen began classes on September 6 as scheduled. Good. Classroom space is smaller than the 45 students and 5 teachers would call ideal. Yet in each room learning is taking place. Good. God has given us the opportunity to begin Evergreen's eleventh year of Christian secondary education. Very good—Thank you, God. Many other things could be mentioned to show how good God had been to Evergreen. There remain many things that you and I can still do to help Evergreen grow. Our work is not over. Good.¹⁰⁴

Shortly after this the "closed campus" policy was lifted. At first there was great concern about the change in policy. The students, however, demonstrated that they had been well prepared. Schoeneck wrote in his monthly letter to the parents: "Blessings abound. The clerks at seven-eleven told me, 'As teenagers go, the kids from your school are top notch. They are filled with energy and are friendly and happy'"(*Notes from the Principal*, November 1993). Now how often do you get a chance to quote a clerk from Seven-Eleven?!

More recently, Evergreen has faced neighborhood opposition at the Gig Harbor site. Their track record with the people in Kent has served them well throughout the latest litigation.

¹⁰¹ Letter to members and friends of the Association from Lemke dated August 5, 1988.

¹⁰² *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, September 1988.

¹⁰³ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, October 1989.

¹⁰⁴ *Notes from the Principal*, September 1988.

The dust may have settled in Kent, but there was one last item of business to attend to in DuPont.¹⁰⁵

In a touching Christmas letter sent to the members and supporters of Evergreen, Lemke told about his final walk down the hallways of the old school.

I made one final stroll through the DuPont school building, home of Evergreen for 10 years. Before leaving the building, I paused at the front door and thought about the many blessings God has given us through Evergreen Lutheran High School. I could recall [one blessing after another]. I could... and a tear ran down my cheek. God has been good to Evergreen. He gave us 10 years at DuPont. Now he has given Evergreen a new home at Holy Trinity in Kent. Memories continue to be made. Just what memories are yet to come will remain to be seen. This I know: God will do his part.¹⁰⁶

Shortly after Lemke's famous last stroll, Evergreen played their ace in the hole. In the spring of 1989 the girls' dormitory building sold for \$110,000. That was just enough money to pay off all Evergreen's outstanding debt.¹⁰⁷ It also was just enough to put an end to the Evergreen loan program.¹⁰⁸ The DuPont chapter of Evergreen's history was closed. Yet, history and fond memories of the old school building keep DuPont alive in the hearts of many still to this day.

Kent began to feel more like home for Evergreen everyday. Yet there was a tremendous task ahead if the Association's dream was to come true: stay at Holy Trinity for only 4 years, get a contract for 15 acres by 1989, complete a gym/classroom building by 1993, have 150 students and at least seven teachers."¹⁰⁹

A property committee was formed. They began to look at sites that were "centrally located." The "primary zone" was limited to "the area bound by Interstate 5 on the west, Highway 18 on the north,

¹⁰⁵ Evergreen's lease expired in July, however, WRECO was not able to demolish the school right away. Evergreen continued to salvage anything they could. One Saturday that fall, my father took me along for a "salvage party" at the old building. I was a seventh grader with a crowbar. My first assignment was removing carpet from the tutor's suite above the old gymnasium. I don't know if they really wanted to keep that carpet or not. They may have just been looking for a way to keep me out of their way.

I do remember the attitude of the men working there that day. The day began with energy and enthusiasm, it ended with thoughts of, "When are we ever going to use this?" The attitude of the kids who were there mirrored their parents. By the afternoon there were three of us kids kicking holes through the sky-blue painted dry wall of what would have been our student rec room. Today, a Starbucks Coffee shop sits on the site where I once dreamed of going to school.

¹⁰⁶ Special Christmas letter from Werner Lemke dated December 1988.

¹⁰⁷ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, June 1989.

¹⁰⁸ In a letter to the loan holders from Doug Weiser dated May 9, 1988, he wrote: "With this letter we are sending you the interest due you as of the end of 1987. We hope it will assure you that we are making every effort to keep faith with our friends who loaned to Evergreen in times of need... Our loan program is sailing along [with several] difficulties... We will not be able to pay 1988 interest anytime soon... We humbly ask that you consider whether you would forgive part or all of your loan to Evergreen by turning it into a direct gift."

Highway 167 on the east, and Highway 512 on the south.”¹¹⁰ The men who worked on this committee looked at every piece of property that became available within the zone. There was only one problem—the rest of the Puget Sound was looking at the same sites. Property was, and still is, a hot commodity. Rodmyre, who served on the property committee remembered finding the ideal site. “We found out about a property that became available on Wednesday night. Thursday we talked to the realtor. Friday night was the Board meeting. We approved the site committee to make an offer. When we called to make our offer the next morning the land had sold.”¹¹¹

Despite the demand for land along the I-5 corridor, Evergreen was able to find a site. The first site to be seriously considered after the move to Kent was a 16.39 acre parcel located between I-5 and Highway 167 at 272nd Street.¹¹² Just a short while later, there was a new site for the Association to consider. There were 11 acres available just east of Highway 167 on the boarder of Sumner, Washington, and Auburn, Washington. It was encouraging news whenever a new site was discovered. However, these first two sites were located just a few miles from Evergreen’s location in Kent. The divisions that were present at the March 1988 Association meeting resurfaced. In the summer of 1989, the Association assembled to make a decision based on the work of the property committee. Included in their consideration at the meeting was a pasture located near Yelm, Washington, about 20 miles from DuPont. The decision was made to pursue the \$350,000 Sumner property.¹¹³

Life on the Kent campus was getting exciting too. The letter said, “The cement slab was finished as of Tuesday, September 5. The inside framing started by Friday, September 8. There’s a sense of excitement in the Evergreen students knowing that their four year home is actually being built right outside their classroom windows.”¹¹⁴ The building at Kent went up remarkably quick. There were times,

¹⁰⁹ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, March 1989.

¹¹⁰ *Notes from the Principal*, February 1989. There was one unofficial stipulation that the site committee kept in mind even if a site was found inside the zone. The general thought was to have a site that was independent of one of the Lutheran elementary grade schools (Interview with Steph Rodmyre).

¹¹¹ Interview with Steph Rodmyre.

¹¹² *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, March 1989. This may be the site that Rodmyre was referring to above.

¹¹³ *Notes from Evergreen Lutheran*, September 1989.

¹¹⁴ *Notes from Evergreen Lutheran*, October 1989.

however, when it felt like progress was at a standstill. Permits, variances, and weather were all unexpected delays. Had it not been for Henning, the building project would have stood still much longer than it did. Rodmyre said that Henning “lived in the BALD,” that is, the King County Building, Land, and Development building.¹¹⁵ The first anticipated date for the new building dedication was November 19, 1989.¹¹⁶ Almost 14 months later, to the day, it finally happened. On January 20, 1991, Evergreen held a dedication service in the new building. Pastor Carl Rosenow presided at the liturgy, Pastor Warren Widmann preached, and Pastor John Henning led the rite of dedication.¹¹⁷

There were only positive things said about the move into the new building. The faculty said, “The gym is large. The classrooms are spacious, especially when compared to the temporaries we have been using the last year and a half.”¹¹⁸ “We truly are appreciative for our new ‘temporary’ facility. We thank the Lord for moving the hearts of our brothers and sisters in Christ at Holy Trinity to make this facility available to us.”¹¹⁹ Historical perspective shows just how exciting the new building was. No letters or announcements mentioned that the parking lots were gravel at best, mud when it rained, hardly a blade of grass could be found on the campus, the sidewalks were pallets with plywood over the top of them. What they had may not have been much, but finally they had something that felt, and maybe even looked, like home. These were humble beginnings for a school that was learning how to begin all over again.

While improvements were being made to the campus, new sites also became available. As plans were made for dedicating the new building, the property committee found a 9.6 acre site just two miles north of Kent, immediately adjacent to the east side of Highway 167. The price was \$250,000.¹²⁰ The Association had to make a decision. If they did not choose the new property, it would be one more step toward a permanent decision to go to Sumner. Momentum carried the day and it was determined that

¹¹⁵ Interview with Steph Rodmyre.

¹¹⁶ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, November 1989. In the following months several announcements were made in the school’s publications: New Building Dedication January 14, 1990! New Building dedication February 4, 1990! New Building Dedication February 18, 1990! In the March edition of the *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, the dedication date was officially suspended. Apparently that was all it took—on March 24, 1990, Evergreen received the occupancy permit (*Notes from Evergreen Lutheran*, March 1990). Moving day was March 28, 1990.

¹¹⁷ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, January 1991.

¹¹⁸ *Notes from the Principal*, January 1990.

Evergreen would summit at Sumner.¹²¹ “We were way into it at Sumner,” said Rodmyre. “We were at city meetings and starting to make plans.”¹²²

In February 1991, the papers were signed. However, this was against the wishes of the City of Sumner. Stuebs was attending the city meetings and soon it became obvious. “The city did not want us. They made it so that the property was too expensive.”¹²³ The excitement that Evergreen had for Sumner quickly faded. By May, the Sumner property was rejected by Evergreen due to a technicality that it could not support a septic system. Sumner was not the site of God’s choosing.

That summer Stuebs began working as the full-time development director. Schoeneck had just accepted the call to be the new principal. What better way for this new team to get started than with a new property site? In June 1991, the “dream” happened: 19.5 acres, two minutes west of Highway 167, and \$350,000.¹²⁴ The site was located on Jovita Boulevard in Milton, Washington, about 10 miles south of Kent. The adjacent lot was a towering cliff overlooking the Kent Valley and Mt. Rainier. The heavily forested piece of property was known as Edgewood. Schoeneck’s first official act as principal was to sign the Edgewood papers.

Could this finally be home? Evergreen had been in Kent for three years. The student body was growing and so was financial support. Rodmyre, now the Board Chairman, reported, “We are blessed with a growing student body that will soon put a strain on the capacity of our temporary quarters (this barn we call home).”¹²⁵ The timing for Edgewood seemed to be just right.

In the fall of 1993 Edgewood was put to the test. There was a very deep ravine that divided the property in two. As site prep work was beginning there were environmental concerns about how to deal

¹¹⁹ *Notes from Evergreen Lutheran*, April 1991.

¹²⁰ *Notes from Evergreen Lutheran*, November 1989.

¹²¹ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, October 1990.

¹²² Interview with Steph Rodmyre.

¹²³ Interview with Pastor Bill Stuebs.

¹²⁴ *Notes from Evergreen Lutheran*, June 1991.

¹²⁵ Annual report from the Chairman of the Board, Steph Rodmyre given May 17, 1992. Just how strained were the quarters? Stuebs’ office was in the back corner of the kitchen. The door to his office was a filing cabinet. The August/September 1993 edition of the *Evergreen Lutheran Update* reported, “Principal Schoeneck demonstrated the intercom to Pastor Stuebs’ office with a couple of sharp raps on the wall between them.”

with the ravine. When the Association heard that there might be trouble with the ravine, two other sites were suggested. But the commitment of the Association was to go ahead with Edgewood.

Momentum was building at Edgewood. The annual SPIRIT (Supporters Providing Income Reality In Christ) Banquet toured the property and showcased a future site plan. The students painted a grand picture as they gave personal tours of the property to Evergreen supporters. “You are now entering the front doors of the school,” they said. “To your right is the gymnasium, to your left is a hallway lined with student lockers leading to the classrooms. Down the hallway in front of you are the doors that lead to our athletic fields...”

Then in 1994, the dream ended. The environmental impact of the ravine whittled the 19.5 acres down to only a few acres on which Evergreen could build. Just as Evergreen was about to bid farewell to the property, the site adjacent to Edgewood became available. It was hard to let the dream go. Plans to acquire the adjacent property fell through. In November 1994, the announcement was made: “Edgewood property for sale. Evergreen looking for schools to rent.”¹²⁶

Evergreen supporters wanted a place to call their own. Not to mention, the school was outgrowing the Kent campus. In August 1994, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School presented Evergreen with an offer to purchase their entire campus in Yelm.¹²⁷ This was not the first time Our Redeemer made this offer. For years, Our Redeemer suggested available sites in Yelm. But, at the first sight of trouble at Edgewood, Our Redeemer offered its own facilities to Evergreen.¹²⁸ They were willing to relocate their church and school. The obvious benefit for Evergreen would be an instant move. On both occasions, the Association graciously voted down the offer.

The Association did, however, authorize a change to the Kent campus. Having only been in the new building for four and a half years, Evergreen made its first physical expansion on the Kent campus. In the summer of 1994, a 24-foot by 40-foot portable classroom was purchased for \$10,000. It was centrally located on the Kent campus. Schoeneck informed the students about the changes: “New features that will

¹²⁶ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, November 1994.

¹²⁷ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, August 1994.

improve our school have materialized. The first major materialization is ‘Room One.’ That is the scheduling code that has been given to the portable classroom that arrived in July. It will be Mr. Lemke’s classroom and home for the freshmen book lockers.”¹²⁹

The 1994-1995 school year was a milestone in Evergreen history—for the first time, there were over one hundred students. Evergreen would not be able to stay on the Kent campus much longer with the present facilities. Site options along the I-5 corridor were all but exhausted. If the property committee wanted to present new options it had to start looking “outside the box.” New members on the Board of Directors encouraged the idea. On March 13, 1994, a site became available in Gig Harbor, Washington, about 45 miles west of Kent. In August 1994, the Association announced, “The high school will continue to lease facilities in Kent, as progress continues on the move toward a permanent campus in Gig Harbor.”¹³⁰ Nine months later, the Association kicked Gig Harbor up a notch. “The Lord has led the Board of Directors to propose that the Gig Harbor site be put before the Association as a permanent home for Evergreen Lutheran High School.”¹³¹

While the Association added Gig Harbor to their agenda, the faculty was looking for ways to add more classrooms to the Kent campus. Schoeneck informed the parents just how crowded life had become during 1995-1996 school year. “This is the eighth year on the Kent campus and we are bulging at the seams. The stage is being used as a classroom as well as the kitchen and my office.”¹³² In addition to space limitations there were also legal limitations. The Evergreen family was informed that:

Under the present zoning variance the total number of students occupying the Holy Trinity campus is capped at 200. Enrollment at the grade school limits Evergreen’s student body to 110. The high school expects that neighborhood support around the Kent campus may be a positive influence on the King County variance. When Evergreen first moved from DuPont to Kent, neighborhood opposition posed difficulties in county variance hearings. Local support for

¹²⁸ *Notes from the Principal*, June 1994.

¹²⁹ *Notes from the Principal*, August 1994. A map of Evergreen’s spatial arrangement on the Kent campus can be found in Appendix F.

¹³⁰ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, August 1994.

¹³¹ *Notes from the Principal*, April 1995. The fact that the seller threw in an extra 13 acres at no extra was added incentive for the Association (see the chart on the bottom of page 43).

¹³² *Notes from the Principal*, April 1995. At this same time Our Redeemer once again extended the offer to move to Yelm in order to alleviate some of Evergreen’s space constrictions on the Kent campus. The offer was declined. (*Evergreen Lutheran Update*, March 1995).

Evergreen has grown as the surrounding residents have come to see the positive effects of the Lutheran high school.”¹³³

King County granted the variance and by February 1996 Evergreen devised a plan to increase the facilities on the Kent campus. Schoeneck informed the benevolent landlords about the plan in a peculiarly worded letter.

[My request] concerns consideration for the continuation of Evergreen on the Holy Trinity Campus... I have talked with the Korean church around the corner about the possibility of renting classroom space on their site. That may be workable. The mention of “additional portables” has also been talked about... My specific request at this time is that you talk about these possibilities and determine what boundaries, limitations, rental adjustments, worries, etc. that Holy Trinity may have regarding the situation. In honesty this is not so much a request as it is a notification that some changes are imminent.¹³⁴

It is worth mentioning Evergreen’s relationship with Holy Trinity. Rodmyre had lived on the Kent campus for over 15 years. He has been both the principal at Holy Trinity and the Chairman at Evergreen. He has been a teacher at Holy Trinity and a coach at Evergreen. He has been a member at Holy Trinity and a parent at Evergreen. If there is one person who would know what is happening on campus, it would be Rodmyre. Yet when asked about the relationship between Evergreen and Holy Trinity he said, “People do not understand how we can be two ships on the same campus passing in the night.”¹³⁵

Communication between the two, while not perfect, was certainly not missing. Schoeneck played a major role in making sure of this. It may seem like a simple thing, but he understood the importance of saying “thank you.” This letter to Holy Trinity is typical of the many he wrote.¹³⁶

The new grass is coming in well. It looks so nice after the construction zone atmosphere that was here all summer... Just when you thought there was no way possible to accommodate more

¹³³ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Winter 1996.

¹³⁴ Letter to Holy Trinity from Jon Schoeneck dated February 20, 1996. There was an increasing desire among the Association to let Holy Trinity have their campus back. Life with Evergreen was a little crowded at times for Holy Trinity, but the time they had spent together forged a close bond between the two. As ugly as they were, Holy Trinity wanted those two additional portable buildings on campus as much as Evergreen did. When it felt like the momentum was starting to head in the direction of moving off the Kent campus, Holy Trinity offered to reduce the monthly rent that Evergreen paid on the gym/classroom buildings. In addition, Holy Trinity also offered to find funding for the two portable classroom buildings.

¹³⁵ Interview with Steph Rodmyre.

¹³⁶ Here is another example of Schoeneck’s communication with Holy Trinity. Two years earlier he wrote, “Dear members of Holy Trinity, I am writing to say “thank you.” There are many times when I thank God as I walk into this church or walk across this campus. I thank him for you. Evergreen has had a home for the last six years because of you. We have filled your buildings and your grounds, and you have been wonderful hosts... Praise the Lord that Evergreen has been able to make its rent payments on time. The Lord granted us the ability to pay \$9,500 in “back rent.” You have been generous and patient with us” (Letter to Holy Trinity dated July 1, 1994).

people, the Lord provided Evergreen with our new portable classrooms. Thank you for allowing us to plant them on your campus temporarily. We could not have gotten this school year started without your assistance in completing the portable project.

Just as important as saying “thank you” was saying “we’re sorry.” His letter went on to say, “We are aiming for a less cluttered look and promise to keep everything as neat and tidy as we can.”¹³⁷

Holy Trinity and Evergreen are like two brothers living in the same house with their own bedrooms—sometimes it’s fun to play together in the same room. That is not to say the relationship was without an occasional brotherly squabble. Rodmyre referred to these squabbles as part of a love-hate relationship. He went on to clarify his definition of love-hate, “It really is a blessed and close relationship that is 99% love and 1% oh nuts!”¹³⁸

In the summer of 1996, Holy Trinity and Evergreen held a joint work party to install the new portable buildings.¹³⁹ Two well used 28-foot by 64-foot portables provided four functional classrooms and two additional office spaces. The two portables were purchased for \$20,000.¹⁴⁰ The portables were placed on a piece of land that Holy Trinity acquired in 1993. The land was called the “Steele house” property.¹⁴¹ Little did anyone know it at the time, but the Steele house property was the site of God’s choosing for this most recent addition to Evergreen’s facilities.

The portables were a huge asset to the campus, and an essential bridge between Evergreen’s current situation and Evergreen’s goal of moving to Gig Harbor. However, the portables were not the only idea that Evergreen supporters had for building a bridge to Gig Harbor. In the winter of 1996, a existing school became available to rent in Tacoma, Washington. St. Anne’s Catholic School was located about 25 miles south of Kent. The facilities were perfect for Evergreen, as far as classroom and office space was concerned. However, there were some facilities that were missing—most noticeably a gymnasium.

¹³⁷ Letter to Holy Trinity from Jon Schoeneck dated September 11, 1996.

¹³⁸ Interview with Steph Rodmyre.

¹³⁹ Schoeneck recalled having a faculty meeting that day with everyone in “work clothes.” Stuebs lead the work with his carpentry skills. Schoeneck commented, “I am sure that another Carpenter from a few years back would praise him for his faithful service” (Letter to Evergreen family from Jon Schoeneck dated October 7, 1996).

¹⁴⁰ Letter from Principal Jon Schoeneck dated June 19, 1996.

¹⁴¹ The previous owner of the property was the Steele family. The property ran the length of the campus along the west fence line. Holy Trinity purchased the house and converted it into church offices. The garage was converted into storage and a make shift weight room for the high school. The Dilly Bar freezer was also “hidden” in there.

These factors, combined with a general lack of desire towards entering another rental agreement, took the wind out of St. Anne's sails. At a special Association meeting held at the St. Anne site in August 1996, the option was voted down.¹⁴² The Association determined that this was not the site of God's choosing.

Evergreen could rest for the time being, but it was never far from the Association's mind that Evergreen was not at Kent for good. But it was good for Evergreen to be at Kent. The following was a description of Evergreen's situation: "Space and facility limitations, however, will propel forward movement to a more adequate, permanent space. The high school will continue to lease facilities from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church at a significantly reduced cost compared to previous years."¹⁴³ Sebald referred to Holy Trinity's reduced rent as "the best rent west of the Mississippi (and they've given most of it right back.)"¹⁴⁴

During the 1996-1997 school year, Gig Harbor was all that Evergreen was talking about. The Association really was not considering any other options. Yet, the Gig Harbor site had not been purchased. The owner of the property, a lumber company called Pope Resources, was content hold the land while Evergreen did all the necessary legal work. One legal obstacle for Evergreen was a well-organized homeowners association that voiced their concerns about having a high school in their neighborhood.¹⁴⁵ In addition to that there were environmental concerns with which Evergreen had to contend.¹⁴⁶ Evergreen's goal was to take care of the obstacles and obtain an Administrative Use Permit.

Before Evergreen could get their hands on the elusive permit, something drastic happened to the price of the Gig Harbor land—it dropped! In the summer of 1997 the development office announced: "The Lord has placed a fantastic blessing before us as we are in the process of securing the land for our permanent campus in Gig Harbor... We had planned on purchasing 20 acres at \$13,000 an acre and now are able to purchase 36 acres at \$7,000 an acre."¹⁴⁷

¹⁴² *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Summer 1996.

¹⁴³ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Summer 1996.

¹⁴⁴ *Vox Aquilae*, Dedication 2000-2001.

¹⁴⁵ *Notes from the Principal*, January 1996.

¹⁴⁶ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Fall 1996.

¹⁴⁷ *Notes from the Principal*, August 1997. For those who need help with math... was \$260,000... now \$252,000.

The land opportunity came as a mixed blessing. The land was dirt cheap, but the Pierce County Court denied Evergreen's application for an Administrative Use Permit. In October 1997, Evergreen made an appeal to reverse the decision. Momentum was carrying Gig Harbor in the hearts of Evergreen supporters, but there was still much uncertainty. A court date was set for late October. Association members and Evergreen supporters were encouraged to attend the hearing. The faculty selected students to be involved in the hearing. On a rainy October day in 1997, the site of God's choosing to build the school together was a courtroom. The verdict: "The Eagles are landing in Gig Harbor!"¹⁴⁸

The decision to deny the administrative Use Permit was reversed. Schoeneck closed his letter to the parents that month with a prayer of thanksgiving.

Thank you, Lord for the recent show of support for Evergreen. Many people attended the hearing last Wednesday and showed their love for our mission. Thank you, Lord for the fantastic student body with which we work every day. Twenty of those students represented the school at the hearing. Everyone present, supporter and opponent, made mention of the fact that we have high quality students. Thank you, Lord for the outpouring of gifts toward the land purchase.¹⁴⁹

Support was so overwhelming for Gig Harbor that the property was bought outright by the end of the year. The column shown at the end of this chapter appeared in the 1998 winter edition of the *Evergreen Lutheran Update*. It gives a summary of the Gig Harbor site history. The 1998-1999 school year was a time to rejoice. Evergreen added two more full-time servants, the student enrollment was at an all time high, and Evergreen even had a site for their future school.

The court decision of October 1997 was a huge boost for Evergreen. Even though the ruling was in favor of Evergreen, it did not grant the actual Administrative Use Permit. All the court ruled was that the permit could not be denied for the specified reason. The work in the development office became terribly frustrating. Laabs move to Wisconsin left to position of development director all but nonexistent for over a year.

The 1999-2000 school year started with what would become the record enrollment at Evergreen. Thiesfeldt's opening comments that year were:

¹⁴⁸ This was the theme of the Capital Campaign that began in 1997.

¹⁴⁹ *Notes from the Principal*, October 1997.

What a blessing it is to have 162 of God's children present on our campus! Our staff considers it a great privilege to "prepare God's children to serve him now and forever." Our campus is a very cozy (some would say crowded!) place... It is necessary to use all classrooms for nearly every period of the day. The Evergreen Board of Directors has developed a plan to bring a mobile office unit to the campus to alleviate some crowding and to provide much-needed office space.¹⁵⁰

Part of the crowding was the addition of three new faculty members. Sebald, new that year, was called to be the Director of Development. In March 2000, he and his team moved into the mobile office unit and got to work. By the summer of 2000, Evergreen held in its hand the Administrative Use Permit! It had been nearly five years since Evergreen first began working on the Gig Harbor site. Through all of this Evergreen's leaders focused on the fact that Evergreen was built together in Christ and nothing else. Shortly before the Administrative Use Permit was granted, Thiesfeldt wrote, "Our work to secure permits at Gig Harbor, for instance, might make us wish that we had a magic thread to pull. But let us remember that God is in control. He is the one who reminds us that "In all things God works for the good of those who love him" (Romans 8:28). We need to put our trust in God's timetable. He has reasons that are beyond our comprehension for the course he has designed."¹⁵¹

Evergreen was not the only kid on the block with exciting news in the summer of 2000. Holy Trinity also announced its plans to build a new church. But where would it go? Space on the campus was at a premium. In the fall of 2001 Holy Trinity leveled their 30-year-old church building and began construction on a new church. In order to accommodate the new facility, "Room One" needed to be relocated. Holy Trinity absorbed the cost. The following year the two other portable classroom buildings also needed to be relocated. Holy Trinity absorbed the cost of that too. Today the three buildings are aligned on the southeast portion of the Steele house property. Perhaps their next move will be to the Gig Harbor campus.

On Monday evening, January 14, 2002, the most decisive action to date took place regarding the Gig Harbor site. Sebald announced, "The Campus Relocation Steering Committee took groundbreaking action to finance, plan, and build *Evergreen Parkway*, a road that will access our new campus home in

¹⁵⁰ *Principal's Notes*, September 1999.

¹⁵¹ *Principal's Notes*, March 2000.

Gig Harbor. Take a deep breath, friends. We've left Camp Muir and we're headed for the summit."¹⁵² Is God showing Evergreen that Gig Harbor is the site of his choosing? Perhaps. But this is certain, Gig Harbor is just another way that he shows Evergreen that she is a school built together in Christ.

Gig Harbor land purchase: *A history...*

- **March 13, 1995**
\$195,000 (financed)
\$25,000 (25% of road cost)
5-10 acre option
\$45,000 (water storage cost)
Contingent upon permits and
Association approval
Total cost: \$265,000
- **December 1995**
Increased acreage to 20 acres
\$260,000 (financed)
\$25,000 (25% of road cost)
\$45,000 (water storage cost)
Contingent upon permits
Total cost: \$330,000
- **April 1997**
Option discussed to purchase
30-33 acres for \$225,000 (50%
down), with ELHS assuming
total cost of road and
wetlands mitigation.
- **June 1997**
Pope Resources accepts
offer at approximately 35
acres for \$250,000.
\$125,000 (wetlands and road)
Total cost: \$375,000
- **November 1997**
ELHS offers \$150,000 cash
and agrees to assume cost
of wetlands and road
(\$125,000).
No contingencies.
- **December 1997**
ELHS closes purchase
of 36.48 acres.
Total cost: \$275,000

¹⁵² *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, Winter 2002. Camp Muir is the famous staging area located on the southeast side of Mt. Rainer. The camp has an elevation of 10,000 feet. From this base camp the mountain climbers prepare to summit the 14,410 foot tall giant of the Pacific Northwest. Speaking from personal experience, it is an extremely exciting moment, but there is a lot of hard work that must be done before reaching the top of Mt. Rainer.

Built Together in Christ...as a School Unified in Faith

Today Evergreen has 11 full-time servants. Add to that 104 full-time students. Add to that a gym/classroom building and three portable buildings on a full-time site.¹⁵³ It equals a school. But five full-time teachers plus 34 full-time students, plus two 420-square-foot trailers also equal a school. The equation has been put to the test—and passed. However, as I studied the different parts of the equation I discovered a variable. There is another formula that arrives at the same answer:

$$\text{SERVANTS} + \text{STUDENTS} + \text{SITE} + \text{SUPPORT} = \text{SCHOOL}$$

Or the equation can be balanced to read:

$$\text{SERVANTS} + \text{STUDENTS} + \text{SITE} = \text{SCHOOL} + \text{SUPPORT}$$

In closing, what are some of the ways that a school is supported? One way in which Evergreen is supported is by faithful men and women. When Evergreen moved from DuPont, they were in debt well over their heads. There were times when teachers did not get paid, raises were frozen, and personal loans were not be paid back. And then there were times when an anonymous gift of \$33,000 kept their heads above water. There was a designated gift of \$15,000 and the teachers were paid. And there was Murial Bernhard, who never set foot on the Kent campus, but when she passed away she left \$142,479 from her estate to Evergreen.¹⁵⁴ Evergreen has benefited from the faithful support of individuals.

How else might a school be supported? Technically, school does not even have to be fun. But it sure does not hurt when there are exciting teachers and times when school is even kind of fun. Of course celebrates together after a high school state championship game is not bad either. It took Evergreen a while before other schools knew where this little school was from. But it sure did not hurt when the

¹⁵³ Jeff Kurbis, "I have never called this temporary," referring to the Kent site.

¹⁵⁴ *Evergreen Lutheran Update*, December 1992.

unranked boys' basketball team made a run at the state title, only to lose in overtime.¹⁵⁵ One game, or any number of games, does not equal a school. But it sure helps when there is community support and even a little pride at the school. Not to mention, it is a whole lot of fun to see the youth being faithful with the energy and the skills God has given them.

There are even more ways for a school to receive support... Not every school loves like Evergreen does. Evergreen would not have to love in order to be a school, but it is a blessing that they do. A school does not have to say, "When you are here you are family." Evergreen does. These emotions do not make a school, but they support a school and make it better. One of Evergreen's family members remarked,

I have been at enough other places to compare Evergreen to... The Midwest has a long history of Christian education. Out here in the Pacific Northwest there is more of a mission zeal and excitement for the mission and spread of the gospel. The one thing that I find that is the greatest joy of being here is the family of believers... It is close and encouraging and supportive. There is more evidence of a closeness and a family spirit here. That is what makes our school special. We don't offer a better education than everyone else. But that is not what makes us better.

These special little blessings can easily happen at any school, anywhere. But the reason they support Evergreen is because they all come from a common faith. It is a faith that unites. It is a miracle. And when a school is united in faith, it is without a doubt that the school has been built together in Christ.

¹⁵⁵ Steph Rodmyre, "It really put Evergreen on the map," referring to the 1999 state championship game.

Bibliography

Evergreen Lutheran Update.

The *Update* began as a monthly newsletter for friends and members of the Association. Much of the information had to do with day to day operation of the school. For many years the *Update* was produced and published by Doug Weiser. Through the years, various members or friends of the Association assisted with publishing responsibilities. In 1992, when Weiser no longer held a position on the Board of Directors, production of the *Update* was relinquished to the school office. At times, the school records seem to be missing an issue of the *Update* here or there. The truth of the matter is that when things got busy the *Update* often got overlooked. Since much of the same information was published in *Notes from the Principal*, the *Update* was seldom missed. By the summer of 1993 the *Update* became a bimonthly publication. In 1996 the *Update* was overhauled into what it is today—glossy paper, lots of pictures, and publicity as well as school news. Presently the *Update* is published three times a year—fall, winter, and summer.

Notes from the Principal.

The *Notes from the Principal* began as a formal communication to students and more importantly parents. This monthly news bulletin was especially important when Evergreen had dormitory students. During the year that Doug Weiser was acting principal (1989-1990), the name was temporarily changed to *Notes from Evergreen Lutheran*. More recently (January 1999), the name has been slightly modified to *Principal's Notes*. Around the same time that publication of the *Update* became more infrequent, the *Notes* became more detailed and full of important information. Today the *Principal's Notes* are supplemented by various other information sources such as *Weekly Update* (e-mail), *Time-In*, and a band/choir publication.

Other primary source documents include:

- Board and Association minutes, reports, and summaries
- Faculty minutes
- Pacific Northwest District Proceedings
- Various Letters from the Principal's correspondence file
- Vox Aquilae* (the school yearbook)

Information was also obtained from personal interview with the following individuals:¹⁵⁶

- Bethany D'Andrade, Student Body President 2002-2003 (interviewed on February 28, 2003)
- Jeff Kurbis, Vice Principal for Student Life (interviewed on February 28, 2003)
- Steph Rodmyre, Board member, Chairman 1992-1995 (interviewed on February 29, 2003)
- John Sebald, Director of Development (interviewed on February 28, 2003)
- Pastor Bill Stuebs, Teacher and senior faculty member (interviewed on February 29, 2003)
- Gregory Theisfeldt, Principal (interviewed on February 28, 2003)

¹⁵⁶ Interviews were conducted by Caleb Schoeneck. Information from interviews is shared by permission.

Appendix A

Servants: Evergreen Lutheran High School Faculty 1988–2003

1988-1989 Warner Lemke, Principal Tom Schwartz Bill Stuebs Ken Borchert Judy Lemke	1989-1990 D. Weiser, acting principal Werner Lemke Bill Stuebs Ken Borchert Tom Quick Karen Schacht (½)	1990-1991 Stuebs, Interim Principal Werner Lemke Ken Borchert Tom Quick John Baumann Karen Schacht	1991-1992 Jon Schoeneck, Principal Werner Lemke Bill Stuebs Ken Borchert Nathan Walworth Lisa Vogel
1992-1993 Jon Schoeneck, Principal Werner Lemke Bill Stuebs Ken Borchert Nathan Walworth Lisa Vogel Jeff Kurbis	1993-1994 Jon Schoeneck, Principal Werner Lemke Bill Stuebs Nathan Walworth Lisa Vogel Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck	1994-1995 Jon Schoeneck, Principal Werner Lemke Bill Stuebs Lisa Vogel Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Jon Buchholz Janelle Harrel	1995-1996 Jon Schoeneck, Principal Werner Lemke Bill Stuebs Lisa Vogel Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Jon Buchholz Janelle Harrel
1996-1997 Jon Schoeneck, Principal Werner Lemke Bill Stuebs Lisa Vogel Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Dave Laabs Jeff Stellick	1997-1998 Jon Schoeneck, Principal Werner Lemke Bill Stuebs Lisa Vogel-Rittierodt Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Dave Laabs Jeff Stellick Valerie Juergens	1998-1999 Greg Thiesfeldt, Principal Bill Stuebs Jon Schoeneck Lisa (Vogel) Rittierodt Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Dan Voigt Jeff Stellick Valerie Juergens Jodi Justman	1999-2000 Greg Thiesfeldt, Principal Bill Stuebs Jon Schoeneck Lisa (Vogel) Rittierodt Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Dan Voigt Valerie Juergens Jodi Justman John Sebald Stan Cole Allen Ash
2000-2001 Greg Thiesfeldt, Principal Bill Stuebs Jon Schoeneck Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Dan Voigt Valerie Juergens Jodi Justman John Sebald Stan Cole Allen Ash	2001-2002 Greg Thiesfeldt, Principal Bill Stuebs (sabbatical) Jon Schoeneck Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Dan Voigt Jodi Justman John Sebald Stan Cole Allen Ash Scott Anthony	2002-2003 Greg Thiesfeldt, Principal Bill Stuebs Jon Schoeneck (sabbatical) Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Dan Voigt Jodi Justman John Sebald Stan Cole Allen Ash Scott Anthony	2003-2004 tentative Greg Thiesfeldt, Principal Jon Schoeneck (sabbatical) Jeff Kurbis Dave Habeck Mark Tacke Dan Voigt Jodi Justman John Sebald Stan Cole Allen Ash

Appendix B

Students: Evergreen Lutheran High School Graduates 1981–2002

* Married

Class of 1981

1. Linda Albert
2. Jon Buettner
3. Phil Buff
4. Tammy (Dunn) MacDonald
5. Aaron Hinz
6. Rod Hominda
7. Ellen (McCullough) Soukup
8. Brent Morgan *
9. James Perry *
10. Mike Sabrowsky *
11. Brenda (Stout) Drinkwine
12. Mark Teske

Class of 1982

13. Heidi (Burklund) Croy
14. Wendy (Caretti) Wicklund
15. Brian Earsley
16. Aaron Gibbs
17. Mitchell Gilbreath
18. Ren Harner *
19. J. Craig Howard
20. Randall Kuehne
21. Scott McLean
22. Darrell Morrison
23. Jennifer (Nielsen) Sabrowsky
24. Linda (Quick) Adams
25. John Schuller
26. Debbie (Steffen) Leon Guerrero
27. Craig Wentzel *

Class of 1983

28. Beth Baxmann-Piercy
29. Ron Gentele *
30. Mark Hinz
31. Vance Julien
32. Morgan Perry *
33. Sue (Sabrowsky) Thompson
34. Jay Slater
35. Shawn Swigart
36. Beth (Wosje) Khalil

Class of 1984

37. Kent Dirksen
38. Brian Dunn *
39. Doug Edman
40. Jeannine (Earsley) McCoy
41. John Egerter
42. James Grizzell *
43. Mark Nelson
44. Amy Nielsen

45. Dawn (Nollmeyer) Johnson
46. Beth (Pittenger) Henry
47. Dave Teske *
48. Del Valerio *
49. Diedria Voss-DeAngelo
50. Kim (Weed) Junk

Class of 1985

51. Michaelanne (Bennett) Heinley
52. Patty (Bieren) Wilson
53. Cindy (Dunn) Finn
54. Jim Ellenberger *
55. Heidi (Guenther) Wood
56. Kathy (Hazelwood) Rohlena
57. Paul Hinz *
58. Kevin Hoskins *
59. Peter Lemke *
60. Scott Morris
61. Tina (Schuller) Bleasdale
62. Kirsten (Smith) Schenk
63. Lisa (Turretta) Klockziem
64. Kyle Valerio *
65. Joy Waller
66. John Weed *
67. David Wosje
68. Debbie (Wosje) Bodjanac

Class of 1986

69. Jennifer Clark
70. Wendy (Ditter) Winterstein
71. James Fairbanks
72. Jonas Figueroa, Jr.
73. Paula Grassell
74. Jana (Grizzell) Stott
75. Carolyn (Juergens) Young
76. Rob Knapp
77. Sheila (Gentele) King
78. Laoura Piccinini
79. Matt Pietrusiewicz
80. Anthony Pittenger * (Pastor)
81. Samantha Salazar
82. Trevor Sauders *
83. Carren (Sauer) Jenne
84. Deran Schneider
85. Steve Shuey
86. Kristen (Snow) Nieland
87. Sharon (White) Jacobs

Class of 1987

88. Tina (Anderson) Speight
89. Justin Estby

90. Virginia (Gabert) Kehren
91. Lee Ann (Grassell) Kroon
92. Philip Hinz *
93. Steve Hinz
94. Paul Juergens *
95. Wendy (Lemmerman) Braun
96. Lance Liesmann
97. Erick Loomis
98. Alan Murvine
99. Sarah Nielsen
100. Lisa (Nollmeyer) Frady
101. Pamela (Roberts) Lilley
102. Jeff Snow *
103. Mark Steffen *
104. Catherine (Teske) Ball
105. Welland Wilson *

Class of 1988

106. Tobi (Anderson) Suit
107. Rebecca (Dengler) Bergmann
108. Alan Grassell *
109. Sarah Hoskins
110. Joseph Johnson (Pastor)
111. Wendy (Kettner) Marske
112. Todd Knapp
113. Kristine (Lemke) Westra
114. Kathryn Pittenger
115. Teri Radichel
116. Robert Sabrowsky
117. Chad Sauders *

Class of 1989

118. Brenda (Baerbock) Henning
119. Leslie Clark
120. James Dorsey *
121. Thomas Fuegmann *
122. Kathy (Gabert) Rundgren
123. Keith Guenther
124. Dan Handberg
125. Frank Woodrow Heino
126. Matthew Henning *
127. Rebecca (Juergens) Strom
128. Kelly (Kettner) Parker
129. Dawn Pederson
130. Mary Kate Perry
131. Janet (Pietrusiewicz) Daniels
132. Tim Sauer
133. Joel Staab *
134. James Sundby
135. Michael Weiser *

Class of 1990

- 136. Laurie (Juergens) Burkhart
- 137. Barbro (Rakos) McKee
- 138. Tara (Sauders) Valerio
- 139. Jennifer (Sauer) Hixson
- 140. Ross Sharp
- 141. Joel Jon Valerio *
- 142. Jonathan Walden *

Class of 1991

- 143. Kyle Barrow
- 144. Jamey Carter
- 145. Christoph Green
- 146. Rachel (Hansen) Doviak
- 147. Michelle (Henning) Welling
- 148. Belinda (Johnson) Edwards
- 149. Valerie Juergens
- 150. Keith Rodmyre
- 151. Johnny Tippett

Class of 1992

- 152. Amy (Baerbock) Kuether
- 153. Mike Duby
- 154. Rebecca Gabert
- 155. Brigetta Guelker
- 156. Eric Henning
- 157. Heidi (Lemke) Walz
- 158. Jennifer (Lescher) Wood
- 159. Erin (McLeish) Nessly
- 160. Eric Rodmyre *
- 161. Joshua Schoeneck *
- 162. Jason Slater
- 163. Stephen Sundby *
- 164. Sarah Swift
- 165. Deborah (Weiser) Faber

Class of 1993

- 166. Jeff Cole *
- 167. Jason Duby *
- 168. Jeremy Heino *
- 169. Shu-Ting Lai *
- 170. Melissa (Mantey) Pittenger
- 171. Carin (Mosley) Wendland
- 172. Angela (Pflueger) Duby
- 173. Chad Plotkin
- 174. Jennifer (Radichel) Rodmyre
- 175. Rhonda (Sharp) Walden
- 176. John Wendland *

Class of 1994

- 177. Jill (Barrow) DeVleiger
- 178. Tammy Barton
- 179. Paul Boyle
- 180. Karl Gartman *
- 181. Tim Gray *
- 182. Luther Guelker

- 183. Jonathan Guenther
- 184. Tim Hansen
- 185. Bart Henning
- 186. Sarah Inglis
- 187. Kwang Kim
- 188. Gretchen (Laete) Kramer
- 189. Nathan Loudin
- 190. Autumn Miller
- 191. Jin Min
- 192. Eric Nash
- 193. Thomas Perry
- 194. Aaron Tomt
- 195. Randy White

Class of 1995

- 196. Twanya Allmer
- 197. Christopher Barton
- 198. Jared Guthmiller
- 199. B.J. Habermann
- 200. Frank Holden
- 201. Randy Jacoby
- 202. Jong-Oh Kim
- 203. Ga-Hsin Lai
- 204. Won-Jae Lee
- 205. Kari (Mantey) Hahm
- 206. Brenda Murphy
- 207. Christy (Rodmyre) Feuerstahler
- 208. Caleb Schoeneck *
- 209. Connie Showalter
- 210. Dana Stamm
- 211. Ronald Sunday
- 212. Joann Tippett

Class of 1996

- 213. Luther Anderson
- 214. Aaron Case
- 215. Chris Corey
- 216. Bianca Cousineau
- 217. Carrie Davis
- 218. Rachel Dobberstein
- 219. Bethany Duby
- 220. Tony Garcia
- 221. Dennis Gentele
- 222. Sarah Gray
- 223. Hans Guelker
- 224. Robert Guenther
- 225. Michael Hansen
- 226. Lisa Hay
- 227. Robert Hofland
- 228. Christina Keen
- 229. Sarah Kettner
- 230. Nathan Laabs
- 231. Erick Larsen
- 232. Jun-He Park
- 233. Brian Murray
- 234. Marc Scherschel *

- 235. Heather Wilcox

Class of 1997

- 236. Dustin Bemis
- 237. Wilfred Cotto
- 238. Seth Habeck
- 239. Ryan Hartwig
- 240. Adam Highfill
- 241. Rebecca Laabs
- 242. Aaron Lambert
- 243. Stacey Mantey
- 244. Rachael Nicholson
- 245. Desiree Nollmeyer
- 246. Kathryn Obenberger
- 247. Ashley Song
- 248. Molly Swenson
- 249. Boris Todorovic

Class of 1998

- 250. Ruben Alanis
- 251. Matt Baerbock
- 252. Joanna Bandy
- 253. Jenai (Barrow) Wiechmann
- 254. Matt Boucher
- 255. Katie Burns
- 256. Justin Cho
- 257. Brandi Cook
- 258. Lindsey Daniels
- 259. Joe Demmit
- 260. Laura Fisher
- 261. Mark Grassell
- 262. Joe Gray
- 263. Kali Green
- 264. Michael Hanson
- 265. Shu-Yun Lai
- 266. Andrew Mascaro
- 267. Derek Morrison
- 268. Mark Mosley
- 269. Tom [Dam] Park
- 270. Laura Scherschel
- 271. Joshua Schuch
- 272. Jason Schwark *
- 273. Ruth (Stuebs) Schwark
- 274. Cambrie Surette

Class of 1999

- 275. Luke Talley
- 276. Devin Tippett
- 277. Cori Bitz
- 278. Ethan Bryant
- 279. Caroline Burns
- 280. Eric Carter
- 281. Brandon Green
- 282. Heidi Habeck
- 283. Andrew Hartwig
- 284. Thomas Hicks

- 285. Alexandra Holden
- 286. Michelle Humann
- 287. Min Jeong
- 288. Jin Sil Vera Kim
- 289. Alan LaBissoniere
- 290. Aaron Larsen
- 291. Yo Han Lee
- 292. Kim Nollmeyer
- 293. Karl Rodmyre
- 294. Mark Rodmyre
- 295. Jackson Thiesfeldt
- 296. James Wilcox

Class of 2000

- 297. Andrea Baer
- 298. Clare Barnes
- 299. Heidi Bauer
- 300. Erin Bishop
- 301. Angela Conway
- 302. Nicholas Coss
- 303. Joshua Daniels
- 304. Erick Elhard
- 305. Ruth Fisher
- 306. Natalie Habeck
- 307. Joshua Hanson
- 308. Shigeheto Inoue
- 309. Leah Juergens
- 310. Tiffany Keen
- 311. David Kratsch
- 312. Faith Kurbis
- 313. Kristen Laete
- 314. Jennifer Manning
- 315. Jessica Mantey
- 316. Joshua Marlow
- 317. Johnathan McQuiston
- 318. Winter Mitchell
- 319. Daniel Morrison
- 320. Nicole Murphy
- 321. Erin Nylander
- 322. Luke Scherschel
- 323. Justin Schuessler

- 324. Katie Snyder
- 325. Daniel Sommerfeld
- 326. Travis Stokes
- 327. Heidi Stuebs
- 328. Rachel Taasaas
- 329. Diana Thom
- 330. Keith Tobin
- 331. Sarah Viveiros
- 332. Luke Wiken
- 333. Tyson Zarnstorff

Class of 2001

- 334. Nathan Alanis
- 335. Renee Aube
- 336. Ronshad Berry
- 337. Jason Bone
- 338. Jessica Boone
- 339. Caleb Cordes
- 340. John Dermè
- 341. Mykol Fischer
- 342. Matthew Green
- 343. Desiree Gutz
- 344. Erin Hartwig
- 345. Bethany Holter
- 346. Min Gun Jeong
- 347. Brian Kiel
- 348. Leah Kurbis
- 349. Ga-Wing Lai
- 350. Jonathan Lockman
- 351. Elizabeth Lum
- 352. Sara Mangold
- 353. Dwaine Morrison
- 354. Joshua Nollmeyer
- 355. Robert Obenberger
- 356. Ryan Orme
- 357. Nathan Quick
- 358. Justine Rude
- 359. Jennifer Sacherer
- 360. Michael Sauer
- 361. Christina Stratton
- 362. Leigh Talley

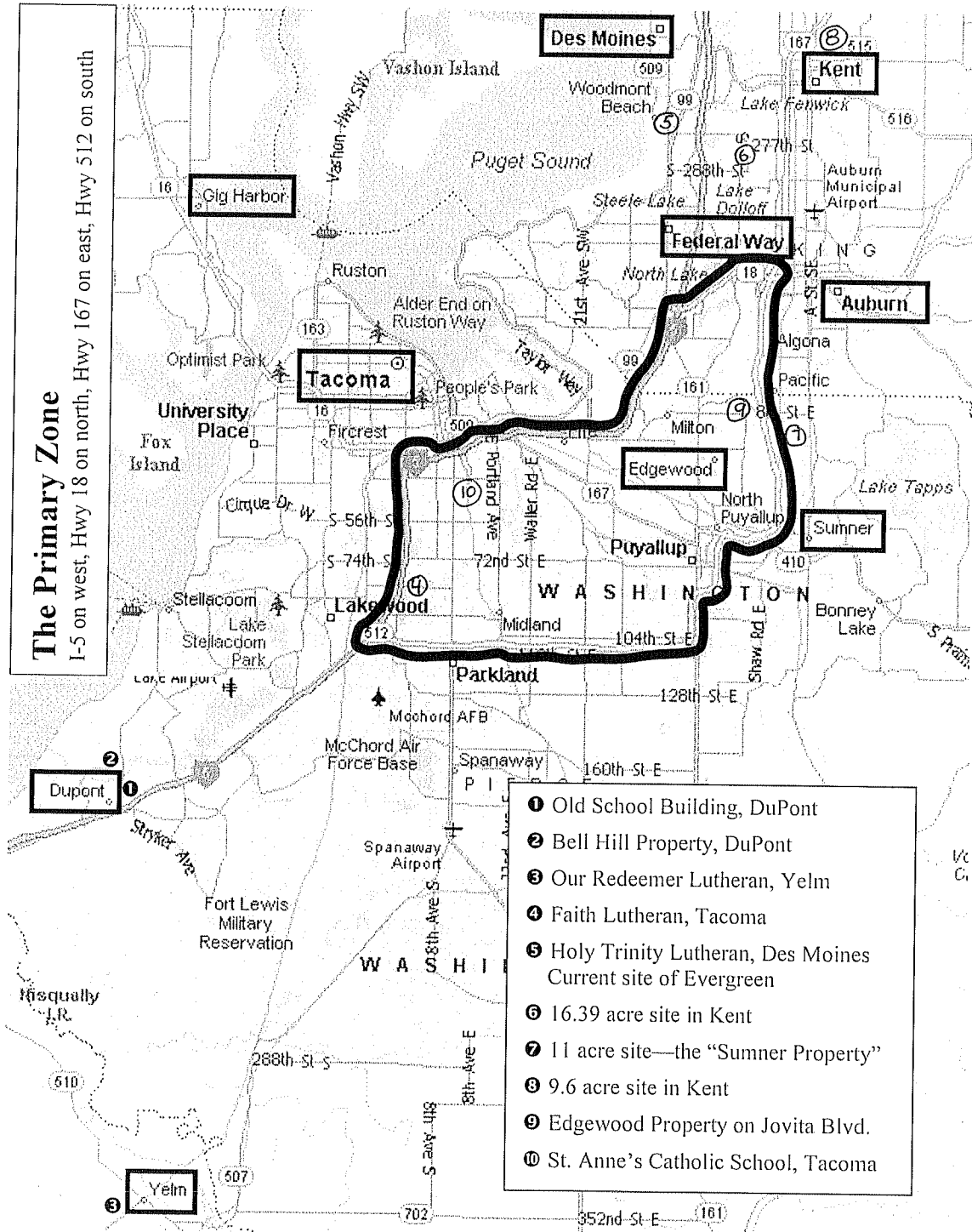
- 363. Laine Thomas
- 364. Natasha Todorovic
- 365. Erin Wilkinson
- 366. Trevor Zehfus

Class of 2002

- 367. Michael Babler
- 368. Andrew Bishop
- 369. Sarah Bishop
- 370. Aaron Carr
- 371. Treana Graham
- 372. Nicolas Habeck
- 373. Kari Hanson
- 374. Bo X Huang
- 375. Veronica Ide
- 376. Michael Johnson
- 377. Walter Juergens
- 378. Amy Kirk
- 379. Katherine Kraklow
- 380. Kyle Lasica
- 381. Joanna Lescher
- 382. Heather Lockman
- 383. ShiBai Lu
- 384. Megan Lum
- 385. John Macdonald
- 386. Kristin Mantey
- 387. Ashley Mawe
- 388. Kaye McClain
- 389. Daniel McQuiston
- 390. Sean Murphy
- 391. Denise Rangeloff
- 392. Nicole Rogich
- 393. Tayler Seals
- 394. Adam Shakoor-Asadi
- 395. Valerie Streich
- 396. Joel Stuebs
- 397. Daniel Tacke
- 398. Debra Viveiros
- 399. Biying Ye
- 400. Cara Zarnstorff

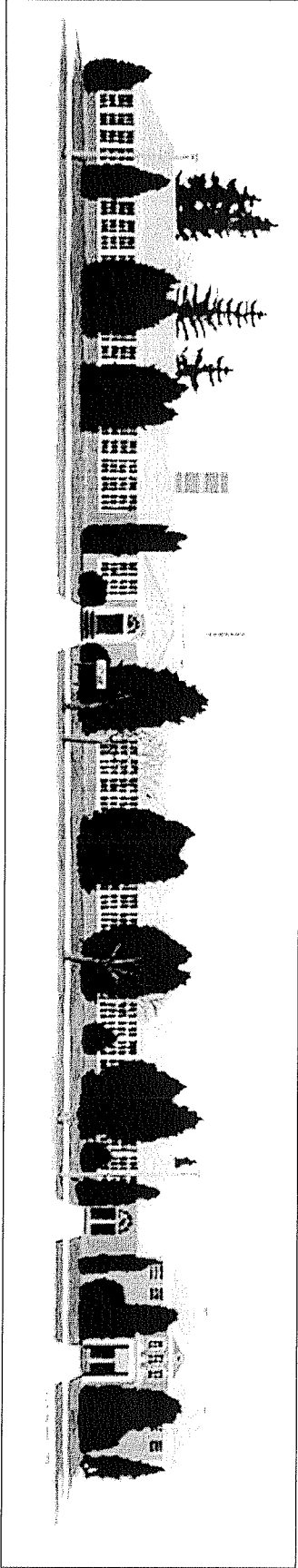
Appendix C

Sites: Past, Probable, Potential, and Permanent Properties



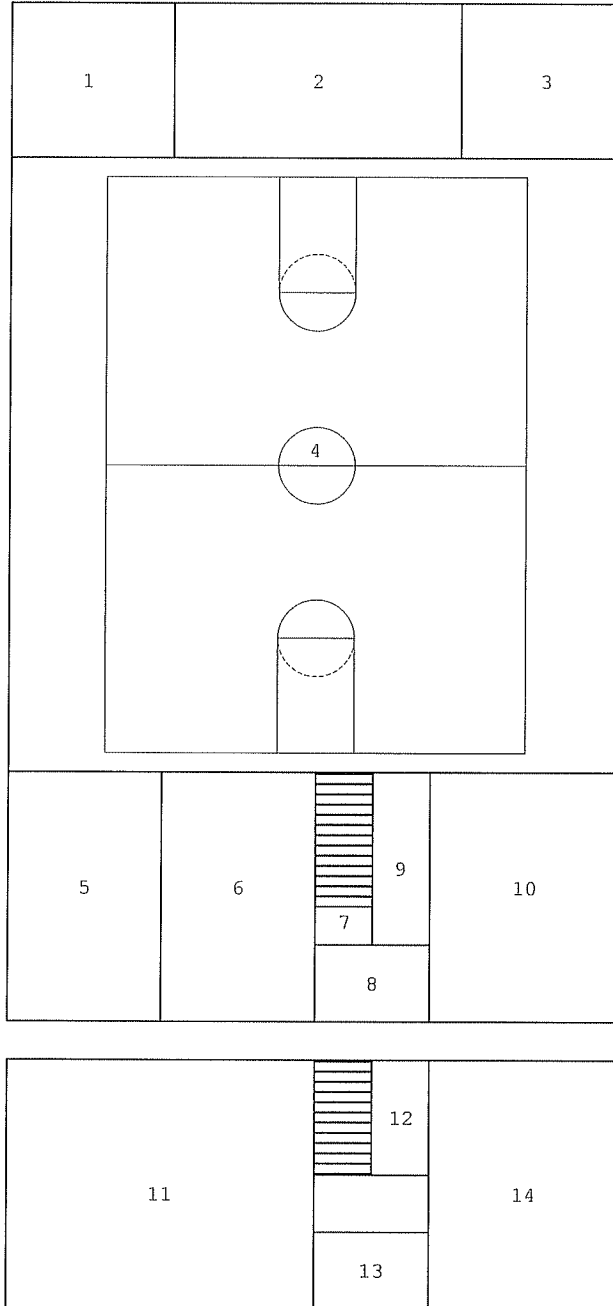
Appendix D

DuPont Portrait by Lance Hartzell



Appendix E

Kent Classroom Structure Schematic



Overall Building 80' x 140'
w/20' sidewalls

- 1) Storage (classroom) 22' x 22'
- 2) Stage (classroom) 22' x 36'
w/storage underneath
- 3) Storage (classroom) 22' x 22'
- 4) Gym 80' x 88'
Main BB court: 48' x 80'
2 practice courts: 40' x 70'
main VB court: 30' x 60'
2 practice courts: 30' x 60'

- 5) Public restrooms/Lockers/Showers
- 6) Public restrooms/Lockers/Showers

- 7) Storage (under stairs) 8' x 18'
- 8) Outer office 10' x 18'
- 9) Office 12' x 18'
- 10) Kitchen (classroom) 22' x 30'
- 11) Classroom 30' x 40'
(or two rooms 20' x 30')
- 12) Storage 8' x 12'
- 13) Storage (workroom) 10' x 16'
- 14) Classroom 24' x 30'

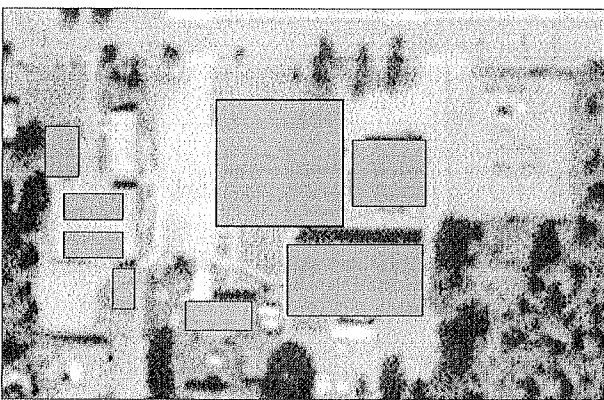
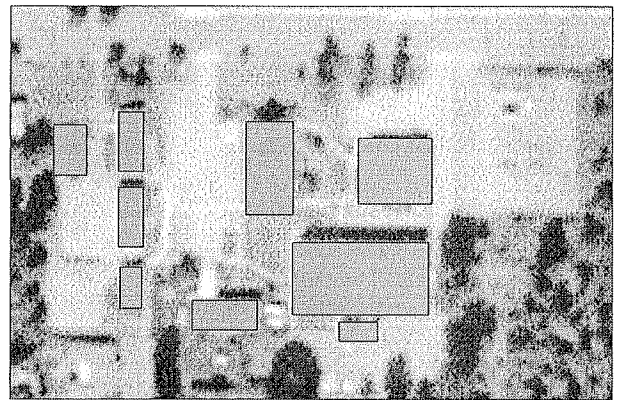
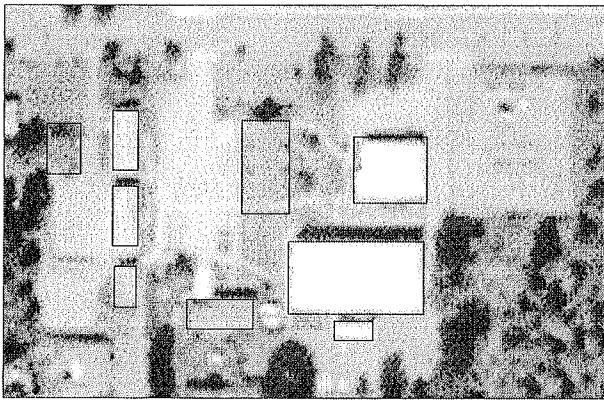
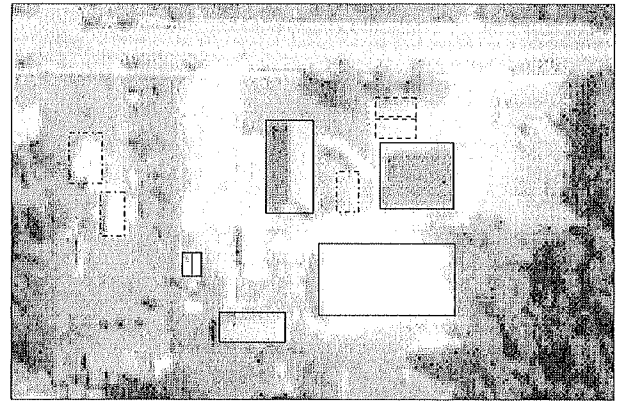
(11-14) above (5-10)

2nd Floor

Note: The final dimensions of the building were 70' x 138'. The stairwell got wider and the kitchen shrunk. No. 7 was used for workspace. No. 12 and No. 13 became part of No. 14.

Appendix F

The Evolution of the Evergreen Campus



Appendix G

Muriel Bernhard Bequest

SECURITY PACIFIC BANK OREGON

January 31, 1992

Jon Schoeneck, Principal
Evergreen Lutheran High School
2021 South 206th Street
Kent, WA 98032-5446

Re: Muriel I. Bernhard Trust Under Agreement
Dated February 8, 1988, number 7343000

Dear Mr. Schoeneck:

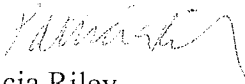
On February 8, 1988 Muriel I. Bernhard established a trust and named Security Pacific Bank Oregon, formerly known as The Oregon Bank, as her trustee. Miss Bernhard passed away on December 24, 1991 at Rose Villa Retirement Center where she had resided for some time.

Your organization is named in her trust agreement as a beneficiary of her estate. I have enclosed the portion of her trust agreement that relates to this gift. The duty of the trustee in now to settle Miss Bernhard's estate which included paying her final bills, filing her income tax returns, appraising her personal property and distributing her assets as she has directed.

At this time, I would like to verify the correct mailing address and obtain your organization's taxpayer identification number. Please sign and return a copy of this letter with that information.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (503) 222-7632.

Sincerely,



Patricia Riley
Vice President and
Trust Officer

enclosure
PR:af

Appendix H

Earthquake Editorial



NOTES from the Principal

Soaring to excellence!

February 1995

Earthquake

The most “moving” basketball game I have ever attended may well have been at our Winterfest celebration on Saturday, January 28, 1995. It was a girl’s varsity game. Our Eagles had just pulled ahead by one with only seconds to play. I was standing at the office door watching the crowd going wild. I heard a loud rumble and said to myself. “Is that thunder?” But immediately I knew that it was not. My feet swayed, my knees buckled a bit and I had a “sinking-elevator” feeling in my stomach, Earthquake !

In recalling the events the next day, different people saw different effects of the 5.0 seismic event epicentered less than a few miles to the northwest of the school. Some people saw a wave or ripple flow across the gym floor. The spectators on the stage saw the backboard swing as if King Kong had slam dunked in front of them. I had looked up and seen the steel girders momentarily turn to Jell-O as the entire building did a silly wiggle.

What a powerful God we have that is able to demonstrate his protective love over our school and our students and their parents !

That love is shown in so many powerful ways. Less than fifteen minutes after the quake and the girl’s victory, our basketball players assembled with their parents and house parents on the perimeter of the gym. God’s love for us was reflected in the circle that was created there. Thank Him that his love is unshakable.

Appendix I

Hong Kong Connection

4A Block 1
Jubilee Garden
Lok King Street
Fotan, Shatin
Hong Kong

September 1st. 1989

The Admission Office
Evergreen Lutheran High School
Barksdale & Steilacoom Rd.
Dupont
Tacoma, Washington
U.S.A.

Dear Sirs,

We are citizens of Hong Kong and we are planning to migrate to the United States of America in 1990. Seattle-Tacoma is our proposed destination of settlement. It is our keen desire to acquire more before our arrival so that we may pitch in the new community more easily.


From the Tacoma Yellow Page 1985 we check up your address and we are writing to seek help for we have no direct connections in Seattle-Tacoma and its vicinity. We understand it is quite intruding however we have no alternative but to do so.

We shall be grateful if you can send us the following information or at least guide us where to get one. We are ready to pay the covering charges on receiving your response.

School Bulletin, Admission Requirement and
Relevant Informations

Your attention to the above matter is much appreciated.

Yours truly,



Simon S.C. Ng (Mr.)

Appendix J

Ten Reasons for Having & Supporting Evergreen

At the 2002 Annual Fund Drive on Nov. 10, Principal Greg Thiesfeldt spoke on "Ten Reasons for Having & Supporting ELHS." Below is a condensed version. After you read his reasons, we pray you will understand the importance of Evergreen to the teens and families of the Pacific Northwest.

- 1.** We should support ELHS because of Tom Park, Vera Kim and Vivian Ye. These three students were from Korea and China and graduated from Evergreen in recent years. We have had many international students over the years, but I mention these three because they were baptized into the Christian faith while here at ELHS. When students sit at the feet of God-fearing teachers and hear the Gospel every day, miracles happen. A school that has God's Word at the heart of the curriculum and which aims to turn the hearts of its students to their Savior is worthy of your support.
- 2.** How many ELS/WELS high schools are there in the PNW? One - ELHS. That means that there is only one school that you can be certain teaches the truth of God's Word as found in the confessions of the Lutheran Church. So that the true Word of God may be taught to teenagers in the PNW, we should have and support ELHS.
- 3.** Speaking of lists...Do you know that the state of WA ranks 49th out of 50 in church attendance? Oregon is 50th. There is a need for a school that promotes and encourages faithful worship habits. We do that at Evergreen. God willing, our students will take along good worship habits when they leave here and make their way in life.
- 4.** We should have and support ELHS for the sake of the Gospel. Did you know that the Gospel is always, at any given time, just one generation away from extinction? A generation is 25 years - the same age as ELHS. So that the next generation may hear the Gospel, we need to have Evergreen for another 25 years...and then another 25...
- 5.** We should have and support Evergreen because it is a place for future pastors and teachers. At MLC right now there are 22 Evergreen graduates preparing for the ministry. Because we need pastors and teachers in our pulpits and classrooms in the future, and because Evergreen encourages its students to consider the public ministry, we need to support this school.
- 6.** Today is November 10. In 1483 - 519 years ago today - Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany. God used Luther to bring truth and purity of doctrine back to the Church. Luther was a strong advocate of Christian education at all levels. Here is a well-known Luther quote: "Where the Holy Scripture does not rule I advise no one to send his child... I greatly fear that schools for higher learning are wide gates to hell if they do not diligently teach the Holy Scriptures and impress them on our young folk." Because Luther was right about the importance of Christian education at all levels, we need to have and support ELHS.
- 7.** Look around, see the little children in your lives. In a few years these little children will need a Christ-centered education. By God's grace ELHS will be here to provide it. These children and hundreds of others like them are more reasons for us to support the ministry of ELHS.

8. Does the name James Verthien mean anything to you? He was a student at ELHS about 20 years ago. I learned his story from former Evergreen teacher Richard Wiechmann last week at the Reformation Rally. James was killed in an auto accident, but Pastor Wiechmann says that he knows that God took James to heaven. James' testimony of faith made while he was at Evergreen assured his teachers, friends, and family that he did indeed receive the reward of eternal life. Because Christ-centered education prepares our young people for eternity, we need to have and support Evergreen.

9. Now and then we have a happy occurrence when two Evergreen graduates get married. And many other students have enjoyed wholesome Christian companionship that has led to wonderful, lasting friendship. For the many opportunities that it provides for the development of Christian friendships, we should have and support Evergreen.

10. Finally, I submit to you my last, but not the least important reason for having and supporting Evergreen. I have told you nine so far and there many other reasons. But the number one reason is because God says we should. God does not say, "Support Christian education" anywhere in His Word. But in Proverbs 22:6 he says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." The responsibility for training our children to fear the Lord is primarily the responsibility of the parents in the home, but Christian schools are supporting partners in that work. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus says, "Go and make disciples of all nations." This is our mission: to make disciples of our young people, to prepare them for lives of Christian service now and for eternity. To obey God's command to make disciples, we need to have and support Evergreen Lutheran High School.