CRUSADERS WIN TWO FALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Girls take home the 4A title.
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Thoughts from the men and women guiding our community
Culturing Compassion

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COURAGEOUS GENEROSITY
The stories of people who give, and the impact they have
Farhan & Ellie Naqvi

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CHRISTMAS BREAK
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Second semester begins.
MONDAY, JAN. 6

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK
Join us and Lutheran schools across the country in celebrating and praying for our shared ministry!
JAN. 27 – JAN. 31

BAPTISM CHAPEL
Annually, one of our favorite chapel services, a number of students and family members will be baptized in MS chapel on Jan. 29 and HS chapel on Jan. 30. Join us to watch God’s hand at work in our midst!
JAN. 29 & 30

IN THIS ISSUE

State Champions
Girls soccer team and senior cross country athlete Raymond Millero win state 4A titles

Many Faces
Farhan & Ellie Naqvi

Leading Faith
Culturing Compassion

FaithLutheranLV.org

IN EVERY ISSUE

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Download on Development

THE only reason we still live in Las Vegas is because Dr. Choi is here.
Dr. & Mrs. Lee

Dr. Chris Choi is the best doctor in Las Vegas. He always goes the extra mile for his patients. His team is caring and responsive.
Cary Katz

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Almost exclusively, the people I follow on Twitter are involved in news, theology, education or leadership. One of those folks is Adam Grant, an organizational psychologist at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, the world’s oldest school of business and among the very best. His Nov. 3 tweet caught my attention when he wrote, “PARENTS FOCUS TOO MUCH ON GRADES AND GOALS, AND TOO LITTLE ON GENEROSITY. KIDS RAISED TO BE KIND ARE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL AND WORK – AND HAPPIER TOO. At family dinner, don’t just ask kids what they achieved. Ask who they helped and who helped them.”

Attached to the tweet was an article he recently published entitled “Stop Trying to Raise Successful Kids.” As a parent of three adult children, grandparent and a school leader, I felt compelled to read the article. If you are a parent, grandparent or influencer of kids, the following quotes from the article may be of value to you.

“If you survey American parents about what they want for their kids, more than 90 percent say one of their top priorities is that their children be caring. This makes sense: Kindness and concern for others are held as moral virtues in nearly every society and every major religion. But when you ask children what their parents want for them, 81 percent say their parents value achievement and happiness over caring.”

“If society is fractured today, if we truly value being helpful, respectful, and kind, we should encourage children to do their best and to take pride in how they treat others, and how they make others feel.”

“Of course, we should encourage children to do their best and to take pride and joy in their accomplishments — but kindness doesn’t require sacrificing those things. The real test of whether or not what your children achieve, but who they become and how they treat others. If you teach them to be kind, you’re not only setting your kids up for success. You’re setting up the kids around them, too.”

“PARENTS FOCUS TOO MUCH ON GRADES AND GOALS, AND TOO LITTLE ON GENEROSITY. KIDS RAISED TO BE KIND ARE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL AND WORK – AND HAPPIER TOO. At family dinner, don’t just ask kids what they achieved. Ask who they helped and who helped them.”

Global perspective

Serving students from 29 countries around the world

Having international students here certainly fits perfectly with our mission statement of "Everyone Prepared, Everyone Saved." It doesn’t say “Las Vegas kids saved,” noted Steve Buuck, Faith Lutheran’s CEO. “We are blessed to have a global perspective on our campus as I believe the key to world peace is bringing different cultures and countries together. We typically find that we all have the same hopes, dreams and desires as everyone else in the world. International students are a welcomed addition to our school.”

Alex Klenz serves as the International Student Coordinator at Faith Lutheran and exclaimed, “Everybody wins with this program. A U.S. high school education allows international students to explore a style of education that is not readily available to them in their country. We are seen as developing people rather than just careers. There is more humanity to the way we do school in the United States. Our international community here is a reminder of our world view and of our mission statement. For our American students to be able to walk into a classroom and sit next to someone from Korea or China or Japan or France gets our students prepared to be open minded as adults.”

International students land at Faith through a variety of ways. Some find Faith Lutheran randomly as they research schools on the west coast; some have relatives or some other social connection to Las Vegas; some live with siblings who are pursuing higher education at UNLV; and others are recruited by Elite Education Global, a partner of Faith Lutheran.

Each student is required to apply just like domestic students. They fill out the application and submit vaccine and academic records along with teacher and administrator recommendations. Additionally, they must submit a TOEFL score (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and then go through a Skype/WeChat or in-person interview with Klenz to check their conversational abilities.

Life as an international student is often quite challenging. Klenz stated, “It’s impressive that they come here as high school students. Some of our international students will graduate and will have only gone home once or twice in their four years here. It may be easy to think of what a difficult year it would be for anyone to leave their home and study in a foreign country. But we don’t even think about what a difficult hour or class period it would be. Every moment of every day these students are reminded that they are not in their own countries. Food is different, homes are different, every street sign is in another language. Those small things can wear you out. The realization of everything being in a second language is exhausting. Then they have to go home exhausted and add at least double the amount of time that doing homework in a second language requires.”

Laurence Lequent, a junior from Switzerland concurred. “What makes it especially difficult is having to adapt to a different lifestyle and language. It is very tiring at first because your world changes and your brain has to ‘switch’ to a different language in all areas of life.”

Linh Tran, a senior from Vietnam, added, “Of course, the most challenging part is the language. Vietnamese is my first language, and I started learning English since first grade, but we don’t speak English every day so my communication skill is very bad. I have to study everything in another language and that’s tough. I use translation, but I can’t show me continued on pg. 6
the real meaning. For example, in my English 12 class, we’re reading Shakespeare books. I used the dictionary and translation, but it has a very different meaning, therefore, I can’t fully understand it. Besides that, adaption is also a difficult part. Move to a new country, meet new friends and teachers. That’s exciting, but still hard because it’s not easy to get used to a new lifestyle in a different country.”

Yuting Zhang, a senior from China, added, “I will say the most difficult thing for me was English. At first, I can barely understand the class and chapel’s message, also people’s conversation! It was also hard for me to overcome the homesick by myself, and be independent to take care of myself in a country I have no families and friends. The cultural differences also caused many misunderstandings and confusions in my relationship with host families, teachers, and friends.”

To attempt to help them adjust, Faith Lutheran offers two specific classes for these students: Faith 1 for International Learners and English Linguistics and Cultural Exploration. The English class provides the opportunity to use English through methods like impromptu debates, writing movie reviews, and practicing interviews. It also allows international students to spend time preparing for collegiate English. The goal is for students to leave the class with lowered inhibitions in using English.

The theology class is designed for those who do not come from Christian countries. It is a survey of Old and New Testaments. It includes small group discussions about biblical topics and prepares students for traditional faith classes.

“These students are mission opportunities. Build relationships with someone who can potentially come to know Jesus. It’s our privilege to view them as a child of God,” Klenz said. “This may be the only years they are seen by their teachers as a whole person, not just an academic person. Remember that they are kids that need to be loved. We’ve had students come from countries that don’t have the best political relationship with the United States so they are already worried and weighed down by how that political relationship might affect their personal relationships so we try to stabilize them as people.” Lequint has noticed the kindness. “What I like best about being a student at Faith is Faith’s sense of community. I know that Faith Lutheran is a family for me here on Earth and that the faculty and staff genuinely care about me.”

Tran stated, “The best thing about being a student at Faith is having a chance to study in a safe environment. At school, I will be protected by my wonderful teachers who also prepare me for when I grow up and go to the real world outside. At school, I have a chance to make a closer relationship with my Savior – Jesus, and worship him. At school, I met a lot of amazing friends who always help me and teach me more about this country. At school, I always feel like I’m home even my hometown is 17 hours flight away. Honestly, I will never regret that I chose Faith. That was the best decision of my life.” Zhang concluded, “I LOVE many things at Faith. First I will say at Faith I built good relationships with teachers. They are so open-minded and friendly to international students, because students in China don’t really have a personal relationship with their teachers, but at Faith the teachers like Mr. Klenz, Dr. Meyer, the Crowders, Mrs. Buuck and so on ... they not only help me with academic problems but also affect me a lot positively and witness my growth in three years. Their encouragement, understanding, and communications with me make me become more and more confident, outgoing, and help me develop a sense of responsibility for my roles as a student and a leader in the International Student Association. I also love that the school really respects my identity as an international student. Because of the school’s support and Mr. Klenz’s efforts, we can host so many cultural events like the Lunar New Year celebration, learning to make dumplings and boba, having Chinese food at cafeteria ... these sound like small things but it really, really warms the heart of the international students. Finally, I will say I love that the school gives equal and various opportunities for international students. At Faith, I can participate in student council, applied Christianity, orchestra, and other international students they join student senate, lacrosse, VISA, Model UN ... these all left big impacts on our character development and future career interest. Because of these activities, we become more and more socialized and quickly adapted to the new environment.”

Faith Lutheran is proud and blessed to have international students on our campus and looks forward to welcoming them on campus for years to come.
The amount of MS courses offered gives those students the mission we seek to prepare students for their next level. If students get to choose courses based on their own interests, it would make sense that they would find them more enjoyable for them to complete. Also, students report and appear to be having fun within our specialty courses. If students get to choose courses to explore those gifts and interests and determine if they want to pursue a particular field as a major or profession. We also believe that the combination of courses, experiences, and internships in the same field creates a very attractive graduate profile for college admissions time.

Middle school principal Sarah Harper concurred. “In our mission we seek to prepare students for their next level. The amount of MS courses offered gives those students opportunities to make choices and consider their God-given talents and interests in making those choices.”

Many course offerings are driven by faculty who have a passion in a certain area. Jose Diaz teaches Cyber Security classes to both MS and HS students. “I have always been fascinated with the topic since I was a kid. It has just been interesting to me to see how the world has changed; to take something that was hidden and frowned upon to be out in the open and encouraged amongst our kids. Who wouldn’t want to be a part of that? It has been an awesome experience teaching and guiding middle school and high school students the defensive and offensive cyber skills critical to today’s business and financial infrastructure.”

Math teacher Ben Phelps teaches three sections of a class he developed called Mathematical Analysis of Sports, largely a sabermetrics class. “My motivation for starting the class was driven first and foremost with a desire to serve our students. In any mathematics class I teach, I want students to see how math connects to the real world. What I love about this class is that our students are working with statistics that are used daily. Whether it be the interpretation of an advanced statistic that you see displayed during a Major League Baseball broadcast or using the SQL database to calculate those statistics, students are able to see the math they are using in the classroom brought to life. Being able to teach students about statistics and share my lifelong love of sports makes this class unique and extremely enjoyable to teach.”

Among the business classes taught by Patrick Connolly is Entrepreneurship. He stated, “Entrepreneurship is a unique class where students get the opportunity to learn about the process of entrepreneurship and then are given the chance to put that knowledge into practice by creating their own enterprises. The class was created to help students to pursue their entrepreneurial dreams and to hear from some of the most influential business owners in the Las Vegas Valley. By the end of the course, students can file the paperwork they have prepared with the Nevada Chamber of Commerce, and they choose could formally operate their own business. I love seeing the creative ideas that students generate and seeing them go on to do amazing things as they progress with their business or their careers.”

Many seniors have taken advantage of the wide variety of classes offered in their careers, and high school students get to take 32 of the 186 in their careers. So many choices, so little time! Beyond the required courses in social science, English, math, physical education, science, foreign language, computer science, fine arts, and theology, middle school students can choose electives like Computer Game Programming, Guitar, Cyber Defense, Greenhouse Agriculture, Musical Theater, Spanish 1, Competitive Robotics as well as courses typically reserved for high school students like Spanish 1 and Honors Geometry. Annually, more than 80 percent of middle school students choose to continue their high school education at Faith in part due to the vast academic offerings.

Newly launched courses for high school students this year include Electronic Music Production, Social Media Journalism, Principles of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Show Choir, Entrepreneurs in Electronic Music Production, Mathematics Analysis of Sports, Service Leadership and Missions, Chamber Singers, Visual Art and Graphic Design 2, Athletes PE - Boys Lacrosse, and Japanese 2. These were added to other unique offerings including Entrepreneurship, Computer Aided Design, Ballet, Ballroom Dance, Tap Dance, Performance and Sport Psychology, 3D Animation and Visual Effects, Criminal Justice, Mixed Martial Arts, Molecular Genetics, and 20 different Advanced Placement (AP) classes. Some of the specialized courses are found in the Conservatory of the Fine Arts, Christ Academy, the WCG Academy of Business & Entrepreneurship, the Academy Film & Broadcasting, the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism, the STEM Academy, and the Justice & Advocacy Academy. However, students do not need to be a member of an academy to take classes that are offered through that academy.

High school principal Scott Fogo enjoys all the academic options presented to the students. “I believe that God created every person with a unique set of gifts and interests. I think MS & HS is the perfect time for students to explore those gifts and interests and determine if they want to pursue a particular field as a major or profession. We also believe that the combination of courses, experiences, and internships in the same field creates a very attractive graduate profile for college admissions time. Also, students report and appear to be having fun within our specialty courses. If students get to choose courses based on their own interests, it would make sense that they would be more enjoyable for them to complete.”

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Ronnie Lee, CEO of Studio DMI, presents the Electronic Music Production UN, robotics, drones, science fair, Cyber Patriot, bioengineering, and app development. It is a beautiful activities, service events, pep assemblies, 6th grade trip to Pali, DECA, Mock Trial, We the People, Model since we have a new greenhouse at our school."

my ability to pursue different interests. I would never want to fully commit to a single activity and miss out on other Psychology. When taking this class, expect to talk about things like what would happen if children are abandoned at birth or human brain. If you are interested in the way humans think and how certain conditions affect us you should consider taking people who need more than just hugs. Psychology, taught by coach Nathaniel Knight is about taking a deep look into the bright and bubbly faces. I feel great knowing that I can help make lives better as a mentor by watching and caring for others. Every Gold day, when I walk into the Mark 10:14 room as a mentor, I’m consistently delighted to see all of the kids and the best aspects of Faith Lutheran. It shows that we as a community can come together to help those who are most in need.

Playwriting with Erik Ball has easily been my favorite class of all time. Mr. Ball teaches you how to construct a complex storyline throughout the course right now, but it has been very interesting and unorthodox in terms of standard schooling. We do things like the practice of dissecting individuals to suit up in hazmat suits to deal with bio-evidence. Mr. Cannito also brings in guest speakers such as Air Force pilots and FBI evidence teams to tell the class what it’s like being in the field. Playwriting with Erik Ball has easily been my favorite class of all time. Mr. Ball teaches you how to act in the most colorful way possible. Everything in the class was so full of energy and fun that I would groan whenever we would watch a movie because I’d rather be giving an exaggerated Mike Tyson impression instead. Mr. Ball also excels at constructing class chemistry; by the end of the year, everyone in that class will be your best friend. Mark 10:14 is one of the best aspects of Faith Lutheran. It shows that we as a community can come together to help those who are most in need.

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At Faith Lutheran, learning extends far beyond the classroom on field trips, mission trips, athletic games (682 for high school and 413 for middle school this year), 39 plays/recitals/concerts, adjudicated arts competitions, club activities, service events, pep assemblies, 6th grade trip to Pali, DECA, Mock Trial, We the People, Model UN, robotics, drones, science fair, Cyber Patriot, bioengineering, and app development. It is a beautiful thing to watch the passion and talents of so many students and adults come together to make learning come alive at Faith Lutheran.
THE GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM
accomplished something that no other Faith Lutheran athletic team has ever done. While their state championship is the 9th team state championship won by Faith Lutheran in the NIAA, it is the school’s first competing in the 4A. Even more impressive, the girls finished ranked no. 8 in the nation by USA Today in its final poll this fall. The team’s incredible run to the 4A state championship was one of complete domination as they went 23-0-1 and outscored their opponents 125-3 along the way.

Head Coach Bob Chinn reflected, “This is a very special group of young ladies. They came together from different clubs and backgrounds in early August and had to quickly come together as a program and as a team. They proved that a team will beat a group of individuals. We had several players step up and fill whatever role we asked of them that a team will beat a group of individuals. We had several players step up and fill whatever role we asked of them without any complaints. That is not something you see on a players step up and fill whatever role we asked of them that a team will beat a group of individuals. We had several players step up and fill whatever role we asked of them without any complaints. That is not something you see on a players step up and fill whatever role we asked of them that a team will beat a group of individuals. We had several players step up and fill whatever role we asked of them without any complaints. That is not something you see on a players step up and fill whatever role we asked of them without any complaints. That is not something you see on a

Raymond Millero
Senior, 4A state boys cross country champion

Last year as a junior in a varsity Faith Lutheran soccer game, Raymond Millero suffered a complete tear of his ACL and partial tear of his meniscus. After reconstructive surgery, Millero was cleared to begin playing sports again in June. Rather than going back to soccer which requires stopping, starting and cutting, he turned to cross country for his senior year. He spent the summer running in individual or unattached races in AAU or USATF track meets in Nevada and California. Five short months later, he ran his way to the state 4A cross country title in Reno. The boys team finished an impressive fourth in the state as a team - the first time a Faith boys cross country team has even qualified for the state meet in 4A.

Head coach Jeff Edwards stated, “Raymond was all about helping the team get better and qualify for state. Without him this wouldn’t have been possible.”

Millero credits his team and coach, “The team is absolutely important because they push you and set the standard. Each person chases the one in front of them. I’m really proud of our team because we came a long way. Everyone’s times improved throughout the season. Coach pushed us with intervals and long distance running, but in the end it paid off and if it wasn’t for him we wouldn’t have been as good.”

What sets him apart from your average runner is that his work ethic is awesome,” noted Edwards. “Raymond is a quick learner. He learned a lot from his teammate and close friend Aidan Baughan, who helped Raymond realize the benefit of how to handle hills. This helped him to win the state meet because after the two-mile mark there was a big hill. This hill exhausted the top four to five runners, and that is when Raymond started to make his move and gradually worked his way up and took over the lead with about 600 meters to go. I wish we would have him for more years.”

“I think my story shows that even if you have an injury that seems to be the end of you, it really isn’t. You can bounce back and come back stronger as was the case for me,” Millero summarized. Millero hopes to run in college, but is more focused on his career. Initially, he wanted to go into engineering, but his recent surgery has inspired him to pursue orthopedics. With his 4.21 GPA and work ethic, everyone knows that Millero will run that educational race and complete it with distinction.

RAYMOND MILLERO
Senior, 4A state boys cross country champion

Girls soccer team and senior cross country athlete Raymond Millero win state 4A titles

TALK ABOUT TURNING LEMONS INTO LEMONADE.
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I RECENTLY HAD COFFEE WITH A FAITH PARENT, WHICH I LOVE TO DO BECAUSE IT AFFORDS ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET TO KNOW PEOPLE ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL. SOME OF YOU KNOW THAT I SERVED FULL-TIME AS A PASTOR AT CANYON RIDGE, AND BEFORE THAT WORKED AT AND RAN A LARGE ADVERTISING/PR AND MARKETING FIRM FOR 25 YEARS. I REALLY LOVE PEOPLE, AND WHILE MY POSITION AT FAITH INVOLVES FUNDRAISING, I LIKE TO THINK THAT I'M MUCH MORE INCLINED TO “FRIENDRAISE” AND DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS THAT ARE LASTING AND EVEN NURTURING.

The coffee meeting was typical, which is to say it was awesome. It was awesome because never once did I ask this parent to consider a gift to Faith (Don't get me wrong: If you're reading this and you're being led to give a gift to the school, please do!), but I did ask what drives that parent's passion. Of course, this wasn’t my only question; it was actually a series of questions, comments, stories, heartfelt sharing, and a few jokes. It was being vulnerable, which allowed for the parent to relate in a more trusting manner. And this trust led to a revealing of the person's true passion.

When it comes to giving at Faith, our Advancement team is all about matching your passion with the needs of the school. And the needs are many! We have a beautiful campus, with facilities to build, renovate and maintain. We have programs that give our students a leg up – involving areas of study such as law, business, multimedia, hospitality, fine arts, technology, theology, and honors – to prepare them for college and life. We have people whose lives we directly impact, whether parents on tuition assistance or students seeking God’s truth through Chapel, missions and Bible-based classes. We have sports teams that mold character and sportsmanship.

When you read this list, one or more of those items elicits passion in you. You may have a love of robotics but couldn't care less about athletics, or a love of theater but would rather stay home than travel. We're all different and unique!

And so were the men and women who were around during the first century. There may not have been a Faith Lutheran, but there were parents and friends who had children and families and had needs to fulfill. What did they do? “And all the believers lived in wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need was met” (Acts 2:44-45, The Message).

All different, all unique, all with their own passions – and yet a common desire to do what it took to meet the needs of the whole. By the way, I'm not advising you to sell whatever you own and give it to Faith! No, but I am advising you to match your passion to what excites you – at Faith, in your church, throughout greater Las Vegas – and direct your resources to something that fulfills greater need. As 2019 comes to an end, please consider a gift of any amount to Faith Lutheran that represents your passion – and like the early church, watch that gift impact lives for now and eternity!
For more on everything happening at Faith Lutheran, READ OUR BLOG!
BLOG.FAITHLUTHERANLV.ORG

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LIVING FAITH
A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF FAITH LUTHERAN MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL WINTER 2019

CLIENT SERVICES

- Estate Planning
- Wealth Preservation
- Corporate & Business Transactions
- Probate
- Tax Planning
- Business Succession Planning
- VIP Membership Program

COMPLIMENTARY TRUST ADMINISTRATION GUIDE

Trust administration can be overwhelming for a successor trustee or family member. Download your complimentary Trust Administration Guide from our website at klinglawoffices.com

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