



# Salt Lake Lutheran High School

## Salt Lake City, UT

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### Project Summary

My project is the preparation and planning for the celebration of the 25 years that God has blessed the Salt Lake Valley with the ministry of Lutheran High School. Our school is owned and operated by an association of seven local Lutheran congregations. The student body is made up of about 50% Lutheran students, 40% from other Christian denominations, and 10% international students including China, Germany, Korea, and Vietnam. The three acre campus is physically located just a few miles from the Mormon Temple Square in Salt Lake City. The current school population is 77 students in grades 9 – 12 and historically, the enrollment has remained between 50 and 100 students.

The goals of the project include: a) growing and strengthening our "Active" donor base; b) generating excitement for and connectedness with Lutheran High School in the larger Lutheran/Christian community; c) purposefully engaging our 300+ alumni in becoming and staying involved with Lutheran High events, programs, and celebrations; d) using the year's events as a way to get our "story" out to the greater public and grow our enrollment; and e) publicly celebrating the 25 years of service provided by Ms. Sheila Dewey in her role as administrative assistant since the school opened. Essentially, we want to integrate an advancement plan with the celebration events to grow "friends" and "funds" for the ministry of Lutheran High School and to propel the school into its next twenty-five years with significant momentum.

Certainly the celebration of such a milestone anniversary is significant for our school. It shows the immediate and larger community that God has blessed our ministry these many years and wants it to thrive in spite of the difficulties and obstacles encountered along the way.

The process of the project included planning and scheduling the celebration events and arranging for the guest speakers and activities involved. Another major component that I wanted to include was the formulation of a relatively detailed written history for our school. Both of these areas included a lot more work than I originally had planned.



### Project Results

This project is a little unique in that the actual events of the project haven't happened yet and the results won't be known until June 2009 (and beyond). I am very grateful for having started the preparation and planning for this celebration as early as I did! In fact, in going through some of the planning, I wished someone had started the groundwork even earlier because of the amount of time involved.

The steps included: a) determining *why* we wanted to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Lutheran High School; b) deciding *how* we wanted to celebrate this milestone; and c) putting the details of the *what*, *who*, *when*, and *where* of the events and activities together.

The *why* was relatively simple. We wanted to celebrate this anniversary to advance the ministry of Lutheran High. The other components were much more difficult. Besides myself, the other planners of the events were my office staff, the head of my parents' group, and one parent who volunteered in a limited capacity. After some discussion, we concluded that we would have three major events to celebrate the anniversary year. These included the kickoff event in August, the recognition event for Ms. Dewey in the winter, and a culminating event at the end of the year.

The opening worship and kickoff event took shape rather quickly. Our LCMS District president will preach at the service. We scheduled it a week later than usual to accommodate his schedule. The actual service liturgy was put together by the host pastor of Christ Lutheran Church. The service will be followed by a dinner and another short program. Following this, we will recognize the Founders of the school to conclude the evening.

The winter event has become *The Grand Reunion*. Former administrators, staff, and students are invited to the weekend celebration events on February 6 - 7, 2009 including basketball games on Friday, a Saturday alumni brunch, and an evening reception and recognition program for Ms. Dewey. Guests will be invited to speak on their memories at Lutheran High and how Ms. Dewey is tied into those memories. We will use the Saturday brunch as the main event by which to form a alumni association complete with officers and planning.

The culminating event is set for May 17, 2009. Dr. Ross Stueber, executive director of the Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools will speak. We will also use this event to thank all of our volunteers throughout the year and to kickoff a new capital campaign to propel Lutheran High into its next twenty-five years.

Additionally, the written history of the school is completed and we will have copies available throughout the year along with several anniversary mementos as gifts to individuals or for purchase.



### What We Have Learned

Again, I won't know the actual results of this project until the events start to occur. I am excited for the year to begin and am confident that God will bless our efforts. In looking back at the project, the planning for the three events – though complex, went relatively smoothly. The ideas were put together quickly and the slow down came as we decided on the details of the events. Fortunately, I had an energetic and creative person to help me in this.

The second major component of the project was the formulation of the written history. I knew it was a good idea on a couple of levels, but I didn't anticipate the amount of work involved. There were six file cabinets in my office that I knew contained not just old information, but also a lot of unnecessary information. I needed to clean out these files in order for them to be a benefit to me. This turned out to be a much more labor-intensive project than I had originally thought. Over several months, I gathered more than six boxes of records that could be shredded. I *strongly encourage* any head of school to be diligent about clearing file cabinets of "disposable" information in a timely manner. There were precious nuggets of information and history discovered. I added them to the appropriate year in an outline form and started a history file that was organized by year including a file labeled "Pre-1984". This group of files was essential in the writing of the history and I pray that those who follow me as head of school will maintain it.

Perhaps my biggest disappointment in the project was the lack of interest to participate in the planning and execution of the anniversary events. The leader of our parents' group and I were basically the only ones who did the work in getting things together. A few other people took minor roles but if I were to do something like this again, I would have to figure out a way to assemble a much more substantial and segmented committee to help with the project.

