



Dear Parents, Students of LVW member schools, and other potential members,

Welcome to the 2010 season of **Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin!** 2009 was a memorable summer. LVW continued its tradition of excellence in performance. The staff and members had many opportunities for fun and fellowship. Thanks in large part to the attitude, work ethic, and determination of the marching members, the year was very successful! LVW celebrated its 32nd anniversary in 2009! It is easy to look back over the past 32 seasons to see how the Lord has so richly blessed our efforts. LVW has provided a great summer activity within which several thousand youth have enjoyed each other's Christian fellowship. Not only that, but the performance level that LVW has been able to reach every single year is a testament to the wonderful character of the students involved, as well as the staff and other parent volunteers. LVW has also remained one of the premier marching units in the entire Midwest, while at the same time keeping focused on doing all to God's glory.

This year will see the band travel to the East Coast, with stops in Ohio, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts, as well as several parades in Wisconsin. Always a highlight for the members and adults, the band will again finish the year at the Cherry Festival in Traverse City. We will also be marching in Oregon, WI. This parade will give us an opportunity to compete against other competitive marching bands. Other Wisconsin parades will include Brillion and Appleton (for the 33rd consecutive year!). When the season is completed, the band will have marched in approximately eight or nine parades and performed several standstill concerts in five states. Several of the parades are competitive parades or give out awards.

LVW will also be entering field competition for 2010! That's right, we will be performing a field show. LVW has for years been a member of MACBDA (Mid-American Competing Band Director's Association) as a parade-only band. This year, we will be entering the field competition in the Novice class, which will be a wonderful class for us to transition to the field. Needless to say, the staff and returning students are very excited about this possibility!

For those who are unfamiliar with our group, **Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin** is a competitive marching band made up of students from nine WELS high schools:

Fox Valley LHS - Appleton	Manitowoc LHS - Manitowoc
Kettle Moraine LHS - Jackson	Northland LHS - Wausau
Luther HS - Onalaska	Shoreland LHS - Somers
Luther Preparatory School - Watertown	Winnebago Lutheran Academy - Fond du Lac

LVW functions to provide a Christ-centered activity within which you can experience growth, both as an individual and as a member of a group. In the process, you will improve your musical skills, work hard, and have a very enjoyable summer.

Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin has always been one of the finest parade marching bands in the Midwest, and has displayed its excellence on the street with many award-winning performances:

Sun Prairie, WI	1 st Place	1990-1996, 2001, 2008
Oregon, WI	1 st Place	1990- 1996, 2001, 2004, 2008
National Cherry Festival, Traverse City, MI	Grand Champion	1990, 1991, 1993, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001,2004, 2005, 2006, 2008
Calgary Stampede	Grand Champion	1992

VP Fair, St. Louis, MO	1 st Place	1994
Windsor, Ontario	1 st Place	1995
	Grand Champion	
Pittsfield, MA	1 st Place	1995, 2001
	Grand Champion, Best Color Guard, Best Drum Majors	
Fort Wayne, IN	1 st Place	1995
Aquatennial Parade, Minneapolis, MN	1 st Place	1995
	Grand Champion, Best Color Guard, Best Percussion	
Northbrook, IL	1 st Place	1996
Casper, WY	1 st Place	1998
St. Cloud, MN	Grand Champion	1998
	Best Color Guard, Best Percussion, Best Drum Majors	
Litchfield, MN	1 st Place	1998
South Bend, IN	Grand Champion	2000, 2002
	Best Musical Unit, Color Guard, Percussion, Drum Majors	
Fairfax, VA and Severna Park MD July 4	Best Unit in Parade, 1 st Place Marching Band	2004
Racine, WI Fourth of July Parade	Best Unit in Parade,	2008, 2009

The **tentative** performance and highlight schedule for the 2010 season can be found on the June/July Calendar. There are several shows listed as “MACBDA Show #1” etc. The locations of these shows have not been set as of this writing. They will be updated on the calendar as soon as they are scheduled. Possible locations include Janesville, Whitewater, and Fort Atkinson, WI.

Please note that some times for the performances may change slightly, since this information is coming out before all of the field shows and festivals have sent their materials for 2010. The complete finalized schedule will be sent out after January. The “flavor” of the season will remain the same, as will the cost.

Over the past thirty-two years, **LVW** has performed or appeared in Wisconsin, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, D.C., Wyoming, Alberta, and Ontario. All our success, however, is governed by one basic philosophy:

All that we do is done to the glory of God!

The following pages contain a brief overview of **LVW** and a tentative calendar for the upcoming 2010 season. The Board of Directors knows you will find the events challenging, exciting, and a whole lot of fun! Please read this material carefully, and then share it with your parents.

We invite you to share the experience and be a part of the 2010 edition of **LVW**. Is it worth the effort and the expense? The best way is to ask the people who have marched with **LVW**! Ask the parents who have chaperoned. You will no doubt get a variety of answers. However, one thing is certain. All of them will tell you that there are many ways in which young people like you can "Let your light shine!"

Sincerely,
James R. Neujahr, Randy Kramer
LVW Executive Directors

Jim Wilsmann
Chairman, LVW Board of Directors

Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin
5300 North Meade Street
Appleton, WI 54913

Additional Information

PARTICIPATION

Participation in **Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin** is open to any student who is regularly enrolled in the band program of one of our member schools. This would include seniors who would be graduating at the end of the school year. In addition, students at other WELS high schools or public high school students who are enrolled in band and are a member at one of our member school's federation congregations may also participate. Eighth grade students who are enrolled in one of our member school's grade school band programs may also participate with the approval of the high school band director.

PERCUSSION

Those students who are percussionists will be placed on an instrument that suits their ability. This will be determined at a placement audition at the first rehearsal. LVW does **not** prohibit anyone from participating in LVW. It simply ensures proper placement on the piece of equipment for which you are best suited. Students who wish to be a part of our "Front Ensemble" (Mallets and other auxiliary for the field show) need not be a member of their schools band program, but must comply with all other membership requirements as outlined above. Students who play piano and wish to play mallets must be taking private piano lessons to qualify for membership.

COLOR GUARD

Positions in the color guard of LVW are open to any female student who is regularly enrolled in one of our member schools, WELS high school students, public school students and eighth grade students as outlined above. This would include seniors who will be graduating at the end of this school year. These students need not be enrolled in the school's band program. All girls in the color guard will be Working Flags, with the possibility of handling other visual equipment as well.

At the first rehearsal in January, the guard members will learn the basics of handling flags and other equipment. Therefore it is not necessary to have prior experience to be a member of the LVW Color Guard.

DRUM MAJOR

The position of Drum Major is open to any student in grades 10-12 who is regularly enrolled in the band program of one of our member schools. The position of Drum Major is kept until the student chosen to fill it graduates out of our group. **We will be filling one Drum Major position for the 2010 season.** One of our current drum majors will be returning for the coming season. The date for auditions for the second Drum Major position will be announced in the near future. If you are interested, speak with your school's band director.

REHEARSALS

Full-band rehearsals will begin in January. The schedule for rehearsals during the school year will be as follows:

January 23-24 February 21 March 7(FVL) or 21(KML) April 17 (WLA) May 9

Most rehearsals will run from 1:00 - 5:00 PM and will be held at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. Your school arranges for transportation to and from these rehearsals. Please

note the special rehearsal weekend in January. The times will be 2 – 9 on Saturday, and 10 – 2 on Sunday. The band will stay overnight at FVL and worship together on Sunday morning.

FINANCES

The per-student cost for the 2010 LVW season is **\$895**. This fee includes:

1. All transportation costs (buses, vans, motor coaches, truck), beginning with the first rehearsal in January and extending through the final event in July.
2. All meals when the band eats together as a group (exceptions: free time; brown bag rehearsals; occasionally a few meals on a trip).
3. All expenses connected with Band Camp.
4. All entrance fees (with the exception of a few possible sightseeing opportunities).
5. All uniform expenses.
6. All instructional fees.
7. All housing costs.

As you can see, this fee covers virtually every cost connected with LVW's summer program except personal spending money. It should be noted that this per-student cost may be lower at your school due to contributions from a music support group and/or designated funding efforts. The director at your school will give you the exact cost for the students from your school. If the cost appears prohibitive for your family, a limited amount of financial assistance is also available through LVW. Please ask your director for more information.

DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION

All LVW information is available on our website. In an effort to save on expenses, we distribute all newsletters and other announcements via E-mail and the website. If some families do not have E-mail or internet, special arrangements can be made with that family's local director. Please indicate your E-mail address in the space provided on your registration form. Note that there is a space for student and parent E-mail. We will send it to both addresses. We will post all information on the band's website at www.lutheranvanguard.org. You can check that website at any time. Look under the "Weekly Updates/Blog" tab.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

Please fill out the Registration Form, Medical Form, Permission Form, **and** the Code of Conduct Form, and return all four to FVL no later than **(all forms are available on the band's website)**:

Wednesday, November 25. Please include a registration fee of \$100.

You may mail all forms and payment directly to the FVL business office to the attention of "LVW Registration". Payment of the remaining portion of the fee may be made in monthly installments beginning in December or January, with the balance being paid by Band Camp in June. You will receive monthly statements in the mail beginning prior to our first rehearsal in January. Monthly payments may also be sent directly to the FVL business office to the attention of "LVW Payment", or may be brought along to rehearsals. Please do not give payments to your school's director.

Please make checks payable to: Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin.

PLEASE NOTE: Should you decide to drop from LVW, **the registration fee is non-refundable.** The registration fee is included as part of the \$895 fee for the summer.

Send Registration forms and payments to:

Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin
5300 North Meade Street
Appleton, WI 54913