



Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin was organized in 1978 to provide a musical marching experience for the students of three Lutheran high schools located in eastern Wisconsin. The first year saw a band of 95 students. In the thirty seasons since that time, Lutheran Vanguard has had an average enrollment of 85 - 110 students from eight Lutheran high schools. The Wisconsin cities represented include Appleton, Jackson, Onalaska, Watertown, Manitowoc, Wausau, Somers and Fond du Lac. Three students and the director from West Lutheran HS in Plymouth, MN have also joined the band this year.

Lutheran Vanguard marches in twelve or more parades each year, with additional standstill performances along the way. Vanguard works to continue its reputation as an outstanding parade marching unit by competing against the finest marching bands in Midwestern, national and international competitions. The band has earned Grand Champion awards in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Calgary, Alberta; St. Louis, Missouri; Windsor, Ontario; and ten times in Traverse City, Michigan.

The program for the 2008 Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin consists of "An American Fanfare" by Rick Kirby. This selection uses the familiar melody "My Country 'Tis of Thee" as its main theme. LVW is also paying tribute to our Lutheran heritage with "Clouds that Sail in Heaven," which is a powerful arrangement of "All Creatures of Our God and King." The band will also be playing the familiar "Strike Up the Band," by George and Ira Gershwin. Rounding out the band's musical selections this year is the band's chorale, "Salvation is Created", by Tschesnokoff.

LVW is entering its 31st season in 2008. Wisconsin appearances this year include the Action in Jackson Parade, the Brillion Electric Parade; the Appleton Flag Day Parade; the Miss Wisconsin Pageant Parade in Oshkosh; the Oregon Summerfest Parade; Independence Day parades in Menomonee Falls, Racine, Brown Deer and Hales Corners; and the Sun Prairie Flags of Freedom Band Rally. The band will be taking a trip to the state of Minnesota for two parades, in Brooklyn Center and Osseo. This year's appearance at the National Cherry Festival in Traverse City, Michigan, will mark the band's thirteenth trip to that famous festival. The band will be participating in the Junior Royale Parade as well as the Cherry Royale Parade.

Directors and staff for the 90 - member LVW in 2008 include Co-Executive Directors James Neujahr and Randall Kramer; Music - Randall Kramer, Sarah Schaub, and James Groth; Percussion - Wes Schmandt; Color Guard - Tierney Arndt and Bob Glasheen; Marching – Keith Wordell, Matt Reichardt, Jennifer Seeger and Kevin Ehlke; Head Chaperone Tom Dietzler; Uniforms and equipment staff - Kathy Krahn, Ted Jarvais and Karl Hartwig; and Drum Majors Tanya Wilsmann and Brian Hildebrandt.

More information is available at the band's website – www.lutheranvanguard.org.

More important than retaining its reputation in competitive arenas, Vanguard members hold fast to its true purpose, to serve the Lord in all they do - on and off the street. We hope you enjoy the 2008 Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin.

James Neujahr – Executive Director
5300 N Meade Street
Appleton, WI 54913
920-739-4441 x2160
jneujahr@fvlhs.org