



HighLites

"Into the Light" 1 Peter 2:9-10

A Monthly Newsletter

May 2010



Not Your Ordinary Fundraiser

It's not your run-of-the-mill fundraising event. You walk in the doors and notice that almost everyone is wearing a dress or a coat and tie—they look really nice! Someone takes your coat. You get a booklet with, literally, hundreds of fabulous prizes and items to bid on with your bidder number. You see that the carpeted halls are filled with tables full of good stuff to bid on.

Next, you walk in the gymnasium, except, it does not look like a gym! The lights are dimmed. The stage is lit up. Numerous round tables with linen coverings and centerpieces dazzle the eyes. You smell the aroma of a catered meal. Gosh, I'm so hungry, you tell yourself. Thank goodness it's an all you can eat buffet!

You spot a cash bar in the corner of the gym. They are selling many different kinds of flavored beverages (by a pastor and his trusty spouse no less). These people have got to be wretched Lutherans! Well, many, but not all are Lutherans. In fact, you notice that there are a lot of people here, it must be over 400. They all look like they are having fun. Everywhere I look there is laughing, eating, and bidding, oh my!

Then an announcement rings out: "The tangerine room will be closing in five minutes." What kind of announcement is

that? I thought Lutheran High's Citrus Sale was over. In a flash, a few people almost stampede you trying to get out of the gym and to the tangerine room. "Oh, pardon me," one says to you. "I just gotta make sure I keep my bids alive! My Mom really wants that basket!"

The evening finally settles down. You sit at an assigned table with your loved ones, friends, and other distinguished guests. The silent auction has been completed. After the dessert bidding (these people think of everything), dessert has been served and enjoyed. And, as God has said, it was all very good.

You ask your spouse, "You know what the cool part of the evening has been? The fact that the kids are doing all the serving. These kids look you in the eye, they smile, they talk intelligently." You ask your table companions, "Are all the kids like this at this school?" Boy, it's so refreshing to see these kids in action and serving with humble hearts.

A prayer of thanksgiving is offered. God has blessed all of us with many good things, the speaker says. The greatest of these gifts, however, is His beloved Son—who has rescued us all from eternal damnation. Victory and salvation are ours thanks to Jesus Christ. Wow, you think. The kids that go to Lutheran High get to hear that kind of message reinforced each and every school day? This is a different kind of fundraising event, that is for sure.

The Live Auction commences. God is good. So many are generous. For kicks, and because you wanted to donate, you just had to get up and play that silly Heads and Tails game!

Next, they ask for donations to this year's special Fund-A-Cause. Apparently Lutheran High needs a fresh coat of paint

and a refurbished roof. Almost everyone present contributed! We raised \$22,000 to help replace the roof and get some paint! That was cool. God is really good.

Trips, tickets, cakes, televisions, ipads, puppies and so much more are auctioned off. Where do they get all this stuff?

One live auction item goes for \$3,100. Can you believe someone paid that much money to name the driveway/circle at Lutheran High? These people must be nuts. Or maybe they just care a lot about their school more than people know. Suddenly a mother of a Lutheran High student grabs the microphone. Her voice is cracking with emotion: "The Class of 2008 wanted to name the circle in honor of Emily Hughes, a Lutheran High alum who passed away last summer." Many in the room didn't know Emily. But you do notice that the entire audience rises and applauds Emily's memory, the spirit of giving, and the celebration of eternal life that Emily now has thanks to Jesus Christ. This isn't a normal fundraising event.

The evening is complete. Over \$115,000 has been raised on the night. To God be All Praise and Glory! You leave and pick up the items that you actually won in the bidder wars. You didn't get everything that you wanted. But there is always next year. You begin to wonder who you might want to invite next year. After all, this is not your ordinary fundraising event.

In Christ,
Jim Pingel

Executive Director

