

# GREAT PLAINS LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATION SUNDAY

September 29, 2019

## Worship Service Format / Ideas

1. Distinct worship service - including a Christian Education sermon by pastor - materials supplied by Pastor Ken Brokmeier and his Spiritual Committee Team
2. Distinct litany
3. Special prayer for Christian education
4. Post-service agenda
  - a. Remarks by the congregation's presenter (2 minutes)
  - b. Showing the DVD / video (5 minutes)
  - c. Testimony by church member (3 minutes)
  - d. "Ask" by presenter (1 minute)
  - e. Encouraging remarks and dismissal by pastor (2 minutes)
5. During all worship services two weeks after the Celebration Worship Service, the presenter stands and shares the following:
  - a. Thank you for responding generously to the Great Plains Lutheran High School giving opportunity. It is greatly appreciated!
  - b. If you have not returned a gift, please consider doing so.
  - c. If more brochures are needed or you did not receive one, they're located \_\_\_\_\_ . The ushers are also handing them out today.
  - d. Encouraging remarks by pastor.

It is suggested to disseminate the GPL brochures by: 1) inserting in service bulletins; 2) placing in mailboxes; 3) handing out at each entrance as people enter the sanctuary for worship; 4) handing out at each exit as people leave the sanctuary.

The following words are a suggested framework for the presenter. Please feel free to modify and adjust the following to best fit your style and tone. Or, if you wish, you may read the following word for word (please know your content well before presenting this). The main point is to convey respect and a thankfulness for the special partnership between your congregation and the Great Plains Lutheran High School Association.

### **Presenter Opening Remarks**

1) Partners are important. Those of us who are married know how much we rely on one another in our married lives. For others, a partner in business is vital to our work and success. Or, we may view some of our special friendships as a partnership when we hunt, fish, participate in sports, or choir, or shop, or just when we sit down and talk about life. Yes, I think we can say that connecting with partners is a good thing in our lives.

It's also a good thing for our congregation. [name of congregation] Lutheran Church has partnered with 43 other WELS congregations to own and operate Great Plains Lutheran High School. This is our school. This partnership has given our parents the opportunity to send their children to a Christian high school where faith has grown and been blessed. Many graduates of Great Plains Lutheran High School are now in our congregations and serving as leaders and active members. Others have gone into the teaching and preaching ministries. It can certainly be said that this partnership has been a wonderful blessing for our congregation and area.

Today, we have a short presentation sharing an opportunity with Great Plains Lutheran High School. GPL has some unique ways to touch the hearts of the youth, and we wish to make you aware of them. To begin, I'd like to play a DVD explaining more about our school and its current plans.

2) PLAY DVD

3) TESTIMONY #3 by parent, graduate, or member

### **Presenter "Ask"**

4) I began by talking about partnerships. We certainly do have a special partnership with Great Plains Lutheran High School. What a blessing! You've heard about the unique needs of GPL. We have an opportunity to meet those needs. That's why I'm asking all of you to carefully consider one question: "Will you please think about and offer a special gift to Great Plains Lutheran High School?" [**PAUSE for about 5 seconds while you scan the congregation, stopping briefly to make gentle, loving eye contact with a good number of people**]. A brochure and an envelope are (*in mailboxes / in bulletin / handed out as leave sanctuary / handed out as came in today*).

Returning a gift and/or a commitment yet this week is one way to respond with urgency. Thank you for considering this needs-meeting, special giving opportunity and for your time!

## Testimonial Talk #3

### Presentation - Celebration Sunday - a Cong. GPL Student / Parent / Grandparent

These talking points are for speakers giving a testimonial of a positive impact that GPL had on their life. It is intended for use with churches on Celebration Sunday. Feel free to modify and adjust these points to best fit your voice and situation.

SPEAKER: \_\_\_\_\_

At the conclusion of the DVD video, the Testimonial Talk speaker is introduced by presenter / pastor, speaker stands and shares the following points:

- Today is important for our ministry and that of Great Plains Lutheran High School. GPL is one of [name of church] ministries and has been a blessing to many. By God's grace, GPL has been ministering to high school students for over 22 years!
- *(Offer a testimony of the benefits-blessings of your attendance at GPL or that of a family member attending GPL. Focus on the Christian environment and friends; include the most important thing - faith increased because of the hearing of God's Word. GPL has been a blessing for hundreds of students and families from our area/region!)*
- God is offering all of us a giving opportunity. GPLHS hasn't conducted a major building project in over 10 years. The space needs are real and much needed. You now have an opportunity to be part of something very special. I encourage you to prayerfully consider this ministry and invest in the *United in Praise* campaign.