

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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August 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This August as the olympics dominate much of the news, I encourage you to consider what it means to be God's athlete. We talk a lot about being God's children, how God loves and cares for us. He instructs and trains us in His will and ways. But St Paul in his letter to the Corinthians compares our lives as God's children to the lives of athletes. In 1 Corinthians chapter 9, we read,

"Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." - 1 Cor. 9:25-27

St Paul encourages us to exercise self control like an athlete. Athletes train rigorously. Listening to one person explain their training routine for swim activities, there was what they called "dry training" working on training the body in strength and endurance, and then there was the actual water training where they would work on swimming and technique. I almost wonder if there was an olympic competition going on as St Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians, encouraging them to consider the effort the athletes put in to their training.

We as God's athletes ought to put this same level of discipline, self-control, and effort into living our lives for Him. St Paul tells us we should train our bodies in the same way. We strengthen our faith that we might resist temptation when it comes our way. We strengthen our self control that we might do the things we know we should even as we avoid the things we know we shouldn't do.

St Paul talks even of himself when it comes to the discipline and training that we ought to go through in our Christian lives. His concern is that though he is an adamant preacher of the gospel, he might lose out due to the ever present pull of the devil, the world,

and our sinful nature. So St Paul stays vigilantly on guard.

But what does this training look like? How can we train ourselves in this way. Often training starts with the fuel we take in. Athletes often have rather specific diets to ensure that they are getting the nutrition they need in order to compete at their best. And we are no different. As God's children we ought to watch what we take in. We should make sure that we are being fed appropriately. St Peter addresses this in 1 Peter chapter 2:

"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation." - 1 Pet. 2:2

The psalmist recognized how important what we take in is to our lives as God's children as well. In Psalm 101 we hear, "I will not set before my eyes anything that is worthless." - Ps. 101:3a We need the proper fuel to be able to live our lives as God's athletes competing and resisting sin in our everyday lives.

Finally, the writer of Hebrews encourages us to endure. Hebrews 12 is a passage I'm sure many a runner keeps in mind as they train and work up toward their longer distance runs. There we hear,

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us," - Heb. 12:1

Run with endurance. This is our call as God's athletes. That we would endure to the end. As the road we travel through life gets long, we endure, not because we are perfect athletes but because God Himself gives us the strength to endure. Jesus promised us that he would never leave us nor forsake us. And even gives us the promised Holy Spirit that we might endure. So this month as you enjoy watching the olympians compete remember that you too are God's athlete.

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch

141 GARAGE SALE

The youth are collecting donations of clothing and household items to sell at the Hwy 141 garage sale in August. Any donation can be dropped off in the room across from the secretaries office. If you would like to help with the 141 Garage sale there is a sign up sheet on the back table. We need help with the set up, pricing items, and during the sale on Friday and Saturday.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

On Tuesday, August 6th, Elder's Meeting will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 13th, the Council Meeting will meet at 7:00 p.m.

CATECHISM

Catechism students and parents there will be a catechism information meeting on Wednesday, August 28th at 6:00 p.m.

SUPPORT OUR CATECHISM FAMILIES

We need volunteers to provide a simple meal every Wednesday for our Catechism students from 5:30-6:00 pm. Sign-up sheet is on the back table. Catechism starts September 4.

LCW

The LCW meetings will be Thursday, August 1st at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall. The meeting is only up to an hour long.

UTE FUN DAYS FLOAT

There is a sign-up sheet on the back table for anyone that would like to be in the Ute Fun Days parade with the St. Paul's church float.

USHERS

We are looking for anyone that would like to help with ushering. Please let the office or elder know.

RALLY SUNDAY

Sunday School classes will start on September 15 at 9:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Board of Education is looking for volunteers for Sunday School teachers/helpers. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table. Please put your name and phone number down and one of the Board of Ed will contact you.



SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING

This year our special mission is Lutheran Braille Workers. For this year, we have an anonymous donor that is willing to match \$1 to \$1 for the first \$1500. Our goal is \$3,000, help us raise this for the Lutheran Braille Workers

Here is the website to find more information
<https://www.lbwloveworks.org>

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

The newsletter this month is sponsored in honor of cancer patients & their families. Please contact the office if you'd like to sponsor the newsletter. The cost is \$40 to sponsor a newsletter.

Mission Central – Visiting Missionaries 2023

LCMS World Mission 40718 Highway E16 Mapleton, IA 51034 712-882-1029 Gary Thies (gary.thies@lcms.org) www.missioncentral.us

- Aug 3, 2024 – Barb Rebentisch – Taiwan – 1:00 pm
- Aug 10, 2024- Logston family – Belize – 1:00 pm
- Aug 10, 2024 – Melissa Pflug – Germany – 1:30 pm
- Aug 17, 2024 – Rev. Charles St. Onge and family – Canada – 1:00 pm
- Aug 31, 2024 – Ashley Lehr – Puerto Rico – 1:00 pm
- Aug 31, 2024 – Tirzah Krey – Dominican Republic – 1:30 pm

SERVICE IN THE PARK

Thank you to everyone that came to the service in the park on July 14. It was a great day for fellowship. Thank you to elders and trustees for making the burgers, the LCW for help set up the food and the water, and to Tammy Bramley for getting the dunk tank. A big thank you to pastor for going in the dunk tank. All proceeds go towards our special mission for this year, Lutheran Braille Workers.



BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR AUGUST

We are listing Baptismal birthdays to remember and celebrate the day we were adopted into the family of God through the washing of the Holy Spirit. Those having Baptismal birthdays are:

August Baptismal Birthdays:

Larry Meadows, Teddy Nutt	1
Ashley Ewoldt, Macie Rubida	3
Bill Creese	6
Ramona Pithan	7
Pastor Nathan Peitsch	8
Brock Nelson, Melissa Josephsen	10
Bryar Thies	13
Jeanette Urwiler	14
Shawn Goslar, Audrey Christophersen	15
Tadd Eneboe, Chris Thies	17
Jacquelin Marth, Joyce Mordhorst,	25
Harvey Thies, Henry Mohr	
Tanis Watke	26
Katie Schaffer	27
John Greder, Brynn Leitz	28
Karen Koch, Judy Meadows	29
Jerod Thies	30
Becky Mordhorst	31



SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

August 14 – Ella Fester (95 yrs old)
August 16 – Karen McCall (81 yrs old)
August 17 – Arlis Petersen (92 yrs old)

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

August 31 – Ray & Sharon Gosch (61 yrs)

MAIN STREET LIVING

Main Street Living is a television ministry of the Lutheran churches of Missouri-Synod and of the Iowa West District. The worship service is on Sundays at 10 am on channel 9 KCAU, the ABC Network from Sioux City.

“THY STRONG WORD”

Thy Strong Word is a 5 min. daily devotional message given by LC-MS pastors. It is aired at 6:25 a.m., Mon.-Sat. on KDSN, FM107.1

Aug 5-10	Rev. Ted Torreson Christ, Denison
Aug 12-17	Rev. Merle Mahnken Immanuel, Schwleswig
Aug 1-24	Rev. Chad Trunkhill Our Savior/Bethlehem
Aug 26-31	Rev. Richard Merrill Multi-Point, Charter Oak

GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR

This program is a ½ hour worship service heard on Sioux City, KSCJ, 1360 AM, at 8:00 am.

IDW CAMP/YOUTH GATHERING SCHOLARSHIP

Iowa District West Camp/Youth Gathering Scholarships Assistance for those who need financial aid is available from the district for youth attending camps at Camp Okobojo and for district youth gatherings. The application should be filled out by the pastor or church worker from the congregation of which the applicant is a member. Applications are then sent to the district office. Click on the link and select “Youth Events Financial Aid.” <http://idwlcms.org/forms-and-links.php>

Junior Youth Gathering

Date: October 19-20, 2024

Topic: Confession & Absolution

Theme: The Great Exchange

Bible Verse: Psalm 51

Location: Sheraton Hotel West Des Moines

Senior Youth Gathering at Camp Okobojo

Date: October 5-6, 2024

Theme: One In Christ

Bible Verse: Galatians 3:28

Cost: \$85 - October 5-6 - includes one night lodging, three meals, all programming and activities -or- \$115 - October 4-6 - includes two nights' lodging, four meals, all programming and activities