

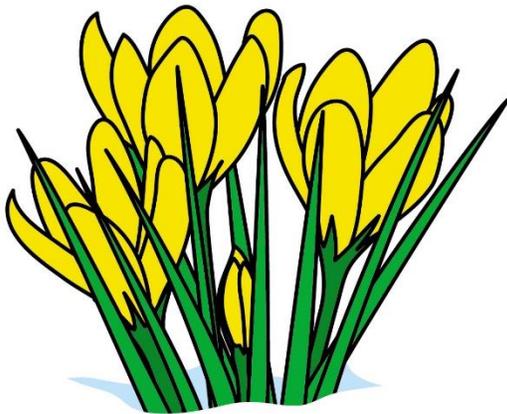
**Bethany Lutheran Church**

**25430 Bison Road**

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**March 2022**



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# Run In Such A Way That You May Win It

*<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. <sup>25</sup> Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable garland, but we an imperishable one. <sup>26</sup> So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; <sup>27</sup> but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified.*

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

I found myself in awe this February as I watched the Winter Olympics. The beauty of the ice skating programs, the fearlessness of the downhill skiers, the teamwork of the hockey teams, each filled my mind, body, and soul with amazement at the athletic abilities shown at the various venues. But it also enlisted within me a reverence for the many hours of work put in by so many of the Olympians as they trained to accomplish their events.

It was during the Men's slopestyle skiing that I thought about the amazing words that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, for it brought to my mind an image of the various Olympians competing for a prize. During the various runs by the slopestyle skiers, I could see that some had set their goal to win a medal and set records. Others raced to achieve a personal best. And for others, it was simply a chance to represent a nation as an Olympian and compete against the world's best.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthian text, I'm thinking that Paul was probably not an athlete. Rather, he saw himself in a different kind of race, and he is in it to win it. He tells us earlier in chapter 9 that he is 'forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.' He is focused on the finish line and presses on "toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

But what is his race? What is his goal? To answer this, we must go deeper into the text, where we find that the Apostle has given up everything in order to gain Christ and his righteousness, to know the power of his resurrection, and to share in his suffering and resurrection. Then he invites us to join him, by imitating him in pursuit of this goal. And it's then that we gain an understanding that the prize is not earthly—rather, it is heavenly.

The Season of Lent is a time for each of us to reflect on our kingdom calling. What is it we are striving for? What is the goal we are straining to reach? Is it "the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" or something for our own glory? Are we looking behind or striving toward the prize? Lent gives us a chance to enter the race. And the tools that will help us train so that we can run in such a way as to win are found in Luther's Small Catechism.

Starting on March 9<sup>th</sup> we will begin the first of five Mid-Week Lenten services which will take us through the Small Catechism. We will spend time hearing about Luther's understanding of the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Baptism, and Holy Communion. And each week we will hear about the catechist tools that will help us to run the race so that we too can claim the prize.

I hope to see you at the Mid-Week Lenten Services  
Pastor Carl



Baptism of Frida Carol Larson on February 13, 2022

## March 2022

**Team Bushinger:** Darren & Lynn Bushinger, Leone Johnson, Norma Pantzke, Florence Jones, Darline Molde, Irene Oldenburg. Mark & Mary Schlangen

## April 2022

**Team Richmond:** Wendy Richmond, Mike LuConic, Chuck & Char Stockman, Randy & Janet Beinhorn, Joanie Miller, Steve Ahlrich & Barb Anderson, Bob Miller & Becky Wetch, Dorothy Radke



Mar 29<sup>th</sup> Wade & Kayla Sandbakken

Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Randy Beinhorn
Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup>	David Peterson
Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	Kim Schultz
Mar 10 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Shorter
Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Addison Miller
Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rachel Hansen
Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	Gary Kratzke
Mar 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ashley Statema
Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	Augustus Hendrickson
Mar 25 <sup>th</sup>	Ethan Olson
Mar 27 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Dalquist
Mar 31 <sup>st</sup>	Riley Scherping

**Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:**

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Harvey Bloom 320-749-2929

Bethany's Church Council would like to remind people of the electronic giving option. Just as many of us already use direct deposit and online automatic payments for our household bills, this service allows our intended weekly and monthly offerings to get where they need to be to allow our church to continue to operate. Best of all, once your automatic deduction is made, the financial secretary and treasurer record it for you – you don't have to do anything else! If an online option just isn't right for you, that's okay too. You can mail in your regular offering to PO Box 37, Cushing, MN 56443. Thank you for supporting Bethany and the community we've all worked so hard to nurture. Vanco is the provider behind our church's eGiving app and they recently changed to Vanco Mobile. This easy-to-use app replaces the GivePlus Mobile app we were currently using to make our donations. Download the free Vanco Mobile app in the Google Play store or the Apple App store. Find our organization by searching Bethany Lutheran Church or by its invite code, GVDK73. If you have any problems or questions, please call Wendy Richmond at 320-360-1981.

In case you missed it, or want to do it again, Mike LuConic is doing another Pierogi Making Day on Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Pierogies are a filled dumpling of Eastern European origin. We will be assembling them in the kitchen with a variety of fillings. You only need to show up. The dough and fillings will be provided. Following assembly, we will cook and consume some of what we created! You can probably take some home for later. Please give Mike a call at 651-249-9540, or 218-575-2954 if you have questions. If you have a favorite filling or dough recipe, please feel free to bring it along.

