



The Olympics and the Church

This week got me thinking; what do the Olympics and the Church have in common?

They are both made up of many different kinds of people, from many different places, who speak many different languages, who have various skills and abilities, yet who are united by a common thread. Olympians are united by a desire to compete at the peak of human performance. The church is united by a common faith in the One who restores His people to complete and perfect humanity.

The Church is made up of all those who share a faith in Christ, regardless of where, or when, they live. Believers now are connected with believers of all times and all places when we gather to hear God's Word, sing His praises, and especially, as we join together to receive the same nourishment in the Lord's Supper. All too often we experience our faith as a "me and God" only thing; when, in reality, our shared faith connects us to one another in profound ways whether we are aware of it or not.

That's part of what Paul is getting at when he talks about there being "neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female"(Galatians 3:28) or similarly "here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free" (Colossians 3:11). In effect, he is saying that there is no 'us vs. them' among God's people. Though there may be dramatic differences between us, the unity we have in Christ supersedes them all.

We will celebrate that unity in diversity this Sunday morning at 9:30, as we hold our regular worship service in the City Hall Tent of the Great Lakes Folk Festival. We will sing songs and hymns from a variety of cultures and eras, and will be joined by people of various nationalities. I hope you will join us for worship this Sunday morning (or this Sunday evening), as we remember the great cloud of witnesses that surround us and encourage us to live out our faith every day.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Curt

Youth Group Lock-In

Saturday, August 13th, starting 5:30pm: All youth lock-in at Martin Luther Chapel. Our youth will join the youth from Germany for dinner, movie (in English!), and German games in the church basement. We plan on going all night, but bring a blanket or sleeping bag if you don't think you can stay up! Friends are welcome!

We could also use a couple adults willing to help out for the night (or a portion thereof). E-mail Pastor Curt (dwyerc@martinlutherchapel.org) if you can help.

The lock-in will conclude after the 9:30 AM worship service on Sunday morning.

Great Lakes Folk Festival Parking Notes

During the Great Lakes Folk Festival this weekend, the City Hall parking lot will NOT be available. This Sunday the best parking options are:

- on streets around the Church (Elizabeth St., Park Ln, or Grove St.; permits not necessary on Sunday)
- the Grove street parking garage (just around the corner from Church; free until Noon, pay-to-park after Noon)
- the lawyer's lot at the corner of Fern St. and Abbot Rd
- the spaces next to Valley Court Park (pay-to-park).

The six spaces at Martin Luther Chapel will be available for those with special needs.

Please also be aware that during the week, Monday through Thursday from 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM, and all day on Sunday, there is NO CHARGE to park in the City Hall lot (despite what the signs say). Additionally, there is NO CHARGE on SUNDAY to park in the City Hall lot, the lot next to the AT&T building, the lot next to Dublin Square, or the Grove Street Parking Ramp. The combination of these lots, and on-street parking in the neighborhood, gives us well over 200 available parking spaces for Sunday morning and evening.