

Christopher Field Softball Field Dedication & Opening Prayer

By Rev. Alan Kretschmar

May 4, 2023

The apostle Paul must have enjoyed athletics. He uses the concept as an illustration of living our Christian life with the faith God has given us.

Here is an example from 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27: "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 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."

While his illustration sounds more like a track meet, anyone who knows softball understands that you must run the bases well to avoid being tagged out. Athletics, like academics, are viewed as a blessing from our God here at Sheboygan Lutheran High. And so, we go to our God thanking Him for this blessing and dedicating this fastpitch softball field in service to His student in this place.

We pray:

Heavenly Father, thank You that in Your Son Jesus Christ, You have reclaimed us from sin and death to be Your people. You also bless us in many other ways. Today, we thank You for the blessing of athletic competition for physical development, life lessons and fun. We praise You also for the vision and efforts of those who helped make this field a reality, including those whose generous gifts made this possible. We pray Your watchful eye over all competitors on this field that there never be serious injuries and that all will compete graciously with the physical gifts You have given them. Continue to bless this institution and all her endeavors in the task of *Preparing Christian Leaders – One Student at a Time*. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Having heard God's Word and praying for our heavenly Father's blessing, I now dedicate the Jay Christopher Fastpitch Softball Field in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.