



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Run the Race, Church!
ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Weekly Video Message
Aug. 6, 2021

Like many of you, I've been watching the Olympics these past days. And I'm so impressed and excited by the strength, the speed, the skill of the athletes. But none of them made it to the Olympics by themselves. Each one of them had a whole host of people, surrounding them and encouraging them—family, colleagues, teams, coaches. And now at the Olympics, it seems like from afar that whole countries are rooting for them.

We are also running a race, a race that's been set before us, which leads to the cross and to the resurrection. And we don't run this race by ourselves. We, too, are surrounded by family, friends, colleagues who encourage us, and also help us to understand the closeness that we have with each other and with Jesus.

St. Paul puts it this way, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."

Run like the wind. Be well, dear church.