



# The Messenger

www.mnchristianschools.org    Volume XXXI, Issue 2    June 2024

## In this Issue ...

Fine Arts Festivals.....	2
MACS Scholarships.....	3
Basketball Tourney.....	4
MCAC Athletic Conference.....	8
Calendar.....	9

Minnesota Association of Christian Schools

## The Source of All Strength

It would have been easy for Paul to boast since he had received divine revelations directly from the Lord, was caught up to the third heaven, and heard inexpressible words which were not lawful for a man to utter (2 Corinthians 12:4). The apostle Paul speaks about his thorn in the flesh (v. 7) which seems to have been divinely permitted so that Paul would not become conceited over all that God was revealing to him.

The truth is that we don't really know exactly what Paul's thorn in the flesh was, but it may have been a type of eye malady as we trace what happened to him in Acts 9:1-9. Some believe that he had an eye condition called chronic myopia. This permanent condition leaves a person extremely near-sighted and can lead to possible blindness. Paul may have appeared to others as having bulging and weeping eyes.

The only other place where his malady is even referred to is possibly Galatians 6:11 which says, "See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!" We are not sure that the thorn in the flesh and the reference to Paul's eye issue are even connected. However, if this conclusion is correct, Paul seems to have come to a place where he accepted his weakness and we don't see him whining or complaining about it. Somehow, somehow, he has learned to live with it and function quite well.

Weakness may not just be a physical malady like an eye disease, cancer, a physical handicap, or some other illness. Other fleshly weaknesses may be worry, insecurity, or an inability to trust. The point is that Paul teaches us some valuable things about our fleshly weaknesses throughout his New Testament writings:

Do not despise your weakness, for it leads you to trust in God's strength.

"Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men and the weakness of God is stronger than men." 1 Corinthians 1:25

God may not take away your weakness, but He will wrap you in layers of grace so that your weakness is His strength.

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness.'" 2 Corinthians 12:9

You are only as strong as you are weak.

"Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Corinthians 12:10



Learning to trust God through your weakness will cause you to rest in the Lord. In tracing the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, we come to a place in the chapter (vs. 33-34) where the heroes in the Hall of Faith, through faith alone, "subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong..."

*(Source of Strength, continued on page 2)*

*(Source of Strength, continued from page 1)*

When it comes right down to it, it really doesn't matter what I am facing or what my weakness is. When I am walking with Christ and trusting Him through faith, my source of strength is found in my abiding walk with Christ. He will give me what is necessary in whatever situation I may face, and with any weakness I have, He is more than enough to provide the strength necessary to get me through.

While I may not be able to give you adequate advice on a specific decision you must make, the one thing I know to be true is that God is the source of the believer's strength and His strength is more than sufficient. Call upon your God, the very source of your strength. While we may be tired and weak, it is then that He will surely show Himself strong.

*~Pastor Alan Hodak*

## SH MACS Speech & Bible Festival

The annual MACS Speech and Bible Festival was held on Thursday, February 8th, at Woodcrest Baptist Academy. Students from seven MACS schools participated in a variety of events; including preaching, Bible teaching, puppets, acting, monologues, and group theater events. Public speaking can be a challenge for many people, but the students who participated this year did a fabulous job memorizing and presenting their selections. One highlight from the festival was a duet acting team from Fourth Baptist Christian school. They received first place in the festival and went on to Bob Jones for the AACS national competition in that category, where they made it into the finals.



Since the MACS organization is composed of Christian schools,

it is important that students have the opportunity to improve their communication skills so that they can be prepared to share their faith with others. While there is a Bible component to the competition, those who participate in the Bible events gain more than a rating or place. They are developing a love of studying the Scriptures and a confidence of sharing what they have learned with others. The day is always filled with fun and excitement; and we are always looking to increase the number of student participants next year.

*~ Teresa Herbert, Woodcrest*

## JH MACS Fine Arts Festival

The annual MACS Junior High Fine Arts Festival was held on Wednesday, March 1st. It was originally scheduled for Friday, February 24, but due to a snowstorm, it was postponed to the following week. The event was hosted by First Baptist School in Rosemount. We had seven schools and 269 students competing in 159 events including Art, Bible, Speech, as well as Vocal and Instrumental Music. The event ran from 9:00am—3:30pm.

The students did an amazing job! The following students earned a perfect score for their event: Rosie Misiura from St. Francis for her Bible Teaching, Levi Frost and Ty Hoskins from St. Francis for their Puppets, Payten Henderson and Rosa Thrun from Woodcrest for their Puppets, Ryan Reeise from First Baptist for his Snare Solo, and a Large Instrumental Ensemble from Fourth.

We look forward to the JH Fine Arts Festival next year on Friday, March 14, 2024 again at First Baptist School of Rosemount, and we hope that many students will plan to participate again next year.

*~ Savannah Bungert, Rosemount*



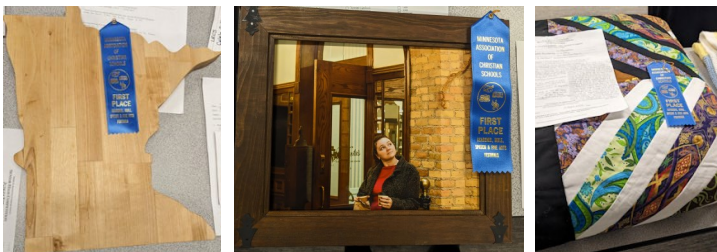
## SH MACS Fine Arts Festival

FBCS hosted our annual SH MACS Fine Arts Festival on Friday, April 12. The goal of the festival is to help to further develop our students God-given talents and abilities as they perform for God's glory. There were seven schools and over 300 students participating in the Festival in areas of music, photography, art, home-ec, science fair, and academic testing.

A fantastic group of judges helped us that day to listen and evaluate each performance. Students were given verbal feedback from the judges as well as written feedback on the judging forms. Much learning was gained from the valuable insights of the judges that day and we are so thankful for their help.

We enjoy seeing our students learn and grow in their musical and creative abilities from year to year. We always challenge the students to be faithful to their churches and use their God-given gifts and talents to be a blessing and to minister to others, as the goal is to give glory to God. The full festival results can be found online at: <https://www.mnchristianschools.org/fine-arts/>.

~ Levi Kolwinska, Fourth Baptist



## MACS Academic Scholarship 2024 Recipients

Each year, MACS gives out a limited number of \$500 academic scholarships to students who are high academic achievers, have a strong Christian testimony, and a desire to attend a Christian college.

### Eligibility

- High school senior that has met all academic graduation requirements
- Full-time student at a MACS school
- Plans to attend a four (4) year Bible college of like faith (College must agree with the doctrinal statement of MACS)
- Has a minimum high school GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Student must include any of the following test scores for determination of final award: PSAT, SAT, ACT

The student's application, testimony of salvation and desire to further their education at a Christian college, pastoral letter of recommendation, copy of high school transcript and testing scores must be included by the deadline on the application.

### ***These eight students were awarded scholarships this year:***

1. *Annalis Benson, Lake Region Christian School, Faith Baptist Bible College*
2. *Cofy Chaleunsak, Granite City Baptist Academy, Pensacola Christian College*
3. *Nathan French, Fourth Baptist Christian School, Bob Jones University*
4. *Sage McQueary, Fourth Baptist Christian School, Bob Jones University*
5. *Stella Multerer, St. Francis Christian School, University of Northwestern*
6. *Jefferson Schoonover, Woodcrest Baptist Academy, Pensacola Christian College*
7. *Lauren Smith, Lake Region Christian School, Faith Baptist Bible College*
8. *Emma Wynja, First Baptist School, Rosemount, Covenant Christian College*



**MACS**  
MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

# 2024 STATE VARSITY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

## AWARDS SUMMARY:



### BOYS:

**Champions – Rosemount Crusaders**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – St. Francis Patriots

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Fourth Baptist Warriors

5<sup>th</sup> Place (Consolation) – Woodcrest Warriors



### GIRLS:

**Champions – Fourth Baptist Lady Warriors**

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Woodcrest Lady Warriors

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Rosemount Lady Crusaders

5<sup>th</sup> Place (Consolation) – Chisago Lady Patriots



### Boys All-Tournament Team:

1. John Wusu – Woodcrest
2. Carlos Flodstrom – Fourth Baptist
3. Deacon Brahs – St. Francis
4. Levi Borner – Rosemount
5. Owen Nelson – Rosemount
6. Zaden Kloeckner – St. Francis
7. MVP – Josh Anderson – Rosemount

### Girls All-Tournament Team:

1. Becca Cave – Chisago
2. Maya McKinney – Rosemount
3. Keira Wynja – Rosemount
4. Julia Ureke – Woodcrest
5. Lois Huston – Woodcrest
6. JoJo Rieschl – Fourth Baptist
7. MVP – Clara Rieschl – Fourth Baptist



1st Place—Rosemount Crusaders



2nd Place—St. Francis Patriots



1st Place—Fourth Baptist Lady Warriors



2nd Place—Woodcrest Lady Warriors





# All-Conference Selections



## BOYS FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

1. John Wusu – Woodcrest
2. Shaun Larson – Fourth Baptist
3. Josh Anderson – Rosemount
4. Levi Borner – Rosemount
5. Zaden Kloeckner – St. Francis
6. Deacon Brahs – St. Francis

## GIRLS FIRST TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

1. Mariah Cave – Chisago
2. Moriah Brower – St. Francis
3. Lydia Wynja – Rosemount
4. Lois Huston – Woodcrest
5. JoJo Rieschl – Fourth Baptist
6. Clara Rieschl – Fourth Baptist

## BOYS SECOND TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

1. Joseph Bostrom – Lake Region
2. Ethan Markgraf – Fourth Baptist
3. Deacon Brahs – St. Francis
4. Kovii Boldt – St. Francis
5. Owen Nelson – Rosemount
6. Boston Johnson – Rosemount

## GIRLS SECOND TEAM ALL-CONFERENCE

1. Becca Cave – Chisago
2. Mirelli Fritz – Prior Lake
3. Keira Wynja – Rosemount
4. Anastasia Vlasyuk – St. Francis
5. Julia Ureke – Woodcrest
6. Alyssa Stephens – Fourth Baptist

## BOYS ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION

1. Parker Borden – Chisago
2. Cody Gustafson – Chisago
3. James Yarwood – Woodcrest
4. Noah Morgan – Prior Lake
5. Soren Benson – Lake Region
6. Grant Vikander – Fourth Baptist
7. Diezel Vagle – St. Francis
8. Charles Kuenster – Rosemount

## GIRLS ALL-CONFERENCE HONORABLE MENTION

1. Jada McKinney – Rosemount
2. Juliet Thrun – Woodcrest
3. Annalis Benson – Lake Region
4. Stella Multerer – St. Francis
5. Maya McKinney – Rosemount
6. Elliana Wolters – Prior Lake
7. Natalie Norman – Chisago
8. Sophia Morrell – Fourth Baptist

# ***Congratulations!***



*All-Conference First Team: Deacon Brahs, Zaden Kloeckner, Levi Borner, Josh Anderson, Shaun Larson, Jon Wusu*



*All-Tournament Team: Josh Anderson (MVP), Owen Nelson, Levi Borner, Carlos Flodstrom, John Wusu, Deacon Brahs, Zaden Kloeckner*



*All-Conference First Team: Clara Rieschl, JoJo Rieschl, Lois Huston, Lydia Wynja, Moriah Brower, Mariah Cave*



*All-Tournament Team: Clara Rieschl (MVP), JoJo Rieschl, Keira Wynja, Becca Cave, Julia Ureke, Lois Huston*

## Shot in the Dark Sports

MACS Basketball Tournament Action Shots may still be ordered on this website.

Go to: <https://shotinthedarksports.net/> and click on the March 2024 tab to view and order. Thanks to Mark Sherman and his crew for taking tournament photos for us all of these years!



# New Minnesota Christian Athletic Conference (MCAC) Formed

At our MACS Annual Meeting on April 12, our member schools voted unanimously to approve the creation of a new athletic league called the Minnesota Christian Athletic Conference (MCAC). This is the merging of two athletic conferences, MACS and the Christian Athletic League (CAL) into one larger athletic conference. The rationale regarding this merger is so that we can create a more competitive conference: smaller schools can play smaller schools with their own tournament at the season's end; and larger schools can play larger schools and have their own season-ending tourney as well.

The creation of a new conference will open up a lot of doors for our schools. New relationships will be forged between schools, a stronger base of support and strength will result, and we may be able to offer more activities for our students down the road.

This new venture is on a two-year trial basis and equal representation between CAL and MACS is working to formulate all the rules and guidelines for the upcoming season. The MCAC Committee has met three times and will be meeting again to finalize the policies it is currently working through.

## MCAC North Division

Cambridge Christian School—Cambridge  
Chisago Christian School—Chisago City  
Faith Christian School—Foreston  
Granite City Christian School—St. Cloud  
Heritage Christian School—Karlstad  
Lake Region Christian School—Baxter  
Lighthouse Christian School—Grand Rapids  
St. Cloud Christian School—St. Cloud  
St. Francis Christian School—St. Francis  
Woodcrest Baptist Academy—Fridley  
Good Shepherd Christian School—Elk River

What will happen to MACS? MACS itself will still stay as it currently is with its 17 member schools. All of the activities, outside of athletics, that MACS offers will still be in operation. Please note the following dates for tournaments.

## MCAC Tournament Dates:

**Soccer and Volleyball Tournament** will be held at Lake Region Oct. 24-26. First round games will take place Mon./Tues., Oct. 21-22, at higher seed. For the tournament, Tier II games will be played Thurs./Fri., and Tier I games will be played Fri./Sat.

Mr. Jeff Bonkoski (athletic director of CAL) and Mr. Shawn McKinney (athletic director of MACS) are the two key players in this project as they will be serving the first year as co-chairs for the conference. Member schools from the new MCAC conference have met and scheduled games for the fall season already. Dates have been finalized for tournaments and definition of lengths of seasons. Much is happening as our group is working toward clear communication for the start of a smooth athletic season in the fall.

Our athletic offerings will not change. The athletic activities MACS has participated in will remain the same. The most noticeable difference will be that there will be different schools on the sports schedules. New schools will be traveled to and our students will have opportunities to forge new relationships, play different teams, and face different competition. We are excited about the possibilities of the new MCAC conference.

The following schools are now a part of MCAC and our new (and smaller) MACS schools (as well as CAL schools) will have the opportunity to participate as they are able. Initially, two divisions have been created, North and South. Here is the current makeup of those divisions:

## MCAC South Division

Community Christian School—Wilmar  
Grace Christian School—Mankato  
First Baptist School—Rosemount  
Fourth Baptist Christian School—Plymouth  
Immanuel Lutheran School—Mankato  
Liberty Christian School—Chippewa Falls  
Owatonna Christian School—Owatonna  
Prior Lake Christian School—Prior Lake  
Rochester Home School—Rochester  
Valley Christian School—Osceola

**Basketball:** Feb. 21-22 are the dates for the first round tournament games for all basketball teams played at higher seed. (Teams will be seeded 1—16 prior to tourney).

Losers of first round games play in the Tier II Tournament February 27—March 1 at Cambridge Christian School.

Winners of first round games play in the Tier I tournament March 6—8 at Fourth Baptist Christian School.

As we implement this new athletic league, we thank you in advance for your prayers, support, and help.

~ Alan Hodak, MACS Executive Director





# Minnesota Association of Christian Schools 2024-25 Events Calendar

**August 12, Monday**—Soccer/Volleyball preseason practices may begin

**August 16, Friday**—Rosemount Jamboree (Soccer & Volleyball) & MACS meeting at Rosemount

**September 13-14, Friday & Saturday**—MACS JH Soccer/Volleyball Tournament at Rosemount

**October 10-11, Thursday & Friday**—MN/WI Teachers' Convention in WI Dells

**October 15, Tuesday**—last scheduled conference game for Soccer/Volleyball

**October 18, Friday**—Play-in games for Soccer/Volleyball seeding at higher seed

**October 21-22, Monday & Tuesday**—MCAC Soccer & Volleyball first round tournament games at higher seed for ALL teams

**October 24-26, Thursday—Saturday**—MCAC State Soccer & Volleyball Tier I & II Tournament at Lake Region, Baxter (Tier I Thurs./Fri.; Tier II Fri./Sat.)

**November 8, Friday**—MACS Choir Festival at Fourth Baptist

**November 9, Saturday**—Schools may have Basketball tryouts

**November 11, Monday**—Basketball team practices may begin

**November 15-16, Friday & Saturday**—MACS JV Basketball Tournament at Chisago

**February 6, Thursday**—MACS Speech and Bible Festival at Woodcrest

**February 7-8, Friday & Saturday**—MACS JH Basketball Tournament at Rosemount

**February 14, Friday**—last scheduled conference game for Basketball seeding

**February 21-22, Friday & Saturday**—First round tournament games for ALL Basketball teams at higher seed. Losers go to Tier II Tourney at Cambridge Christian; Winners to Tier I Tourney at Fourth Baptist

**February 27—March 1, Thursday—Saturday**—MCAC Tier II Basketball Tournament at Cambridge Christian School

**March 6—8, Thursday—Saturday**—MCAC Tier I Basketball Tournament at Fourth Baptist Christian School

**March 7, Friday**—MACS JH Fine Arts Festival at Rosemount

**April 4, Friday**—MACS SH Fine Arts Festival at Fourth Baptist & MACS Annual Meeting at Fourth Baptist

**May 2, Friday**—Track Meet at Granite City Baptist Academy, St. Cloud

