



## The True Archer

This past Christmas, my youngest daughter received her first compound bow as a present. As I was helping her learn the proper techniques to becoming a great archer, I began to realize that, despite the best practices, there were still many things that were out of her control. It reminded me that life is much the same way. When we assume the role of archer in our lives, there is still so much that is completely out of our control. Though we may think we have mastered the sport, we are never truly “Masters of Our Own Destiny.”

This is a lie that Satan wants us to believe. And the arrows we tend to fling are often our own ill-formed, deformed weapons of destruction – arrows of anger, hurtful words, misplaced deeds, good intentions gone bad, deceit, jealousy and envy, or the fiery darts of greed or grabs for power often flung directly at others. More often than not, we aim at the wrong target altogether. We fool ourselves into believing that we are the archers who have mastered the game.

Here is the truth: Instead of striving to be an archer, we should consider ourselves the instrument of the Master Archer, who is the Lord. We must submit ourselves to become the willing bows and arrows in the hands of the Lord God Almighty. The Lord shapes us to be used in a place of power, but it is His power that achieves the target. We must submit to His will and trust Him, and allow ourselves to be tuned and stretched and used according to HIS will and purpose, even when we have no idea how or where we are being used.

Our lives are in the hands of God – like a bow and arrow in the hands of an archer. God is aiming at something we cannot see, and He stretches and

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## Education to the Highest Degree

The Valley Lutheran faculty is known for their passion in the classroom and their commitment to the pursuit of learning, both as teachers and as students themselves. That dedication to continuing education is evident with 95% of the faculty holding advanced graduate degrees. “Teachers take graduate classes to challenge themselves, update their content knowledge, learn new instructional strategies, and to model lifelong learning for their students,” notes

**Dr. Lisa Meyers**, Academic Dean. “The needs of students are changing. Through these continuing education degrees, Valley Lutheran remains at the forefront of delivering powerful and relevant learning.”

The latest advanced degree belongs to Valley’s Executive Director, **Julian Petzold**, who completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership from Concordia University Chicago in December 2020. As Dr. Petzold worked on his doctoral dissertation

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## Charger Volleyball Wins Quarterfinal



Valley Lutheran’s Varsity Volleyball team was allowed to return to the court as the paused state tournament continued January 12th with the Chargers’ quarterfinal match against Royal Oak Shrine Catholic. After an impressive 3-0 victory, the ladies were ready to return to Battle Creek for their second-consecutive appearance in the Final Four. Unfortunately their season ended prematurely because of COVID issues, but **Coach Jon Frank** framed the disappointment by focusing on the accomplishments of this team despite the challenges: “We’re winners. This team has proven over and over again that they know how to win. We’re not going to be the pity-seeking people...We had a blessed season.”

## Schoenmeyer Named DAR Good Citizen



VL senior **Ian Schoenmeyer** was nominated by his peers and chosen by the faculty to receive the **DAR Good Citizen Award** for demonstrating the following qualities:

- Dependability (truthfulness, loyalty, punctuality)
- Service (cooperation, courtesy, consideration of others)
- Leadership (personality, self-control, responsibility)
- Patriotism (unselfish interest in family, school, community, and nation)

As the DAR winner, he is invited to participate in a scholarship essay competition at the chapter, state and national level.

## Archer

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strains the bow (us). Every now and again, under the pressure of the strain, we might find ourselves saying, "I can't stand the strain any longer." God, having the target in sight, does not heed, He goes on stretching till His purpose is in sight, then He lets us fly. Trust yourself in God's hands. Rest assured, His aim is true!

~Paul Eschmann

## Title

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concerning school safety, he gained a great deal of knowledge related to law, research, public relations, collaboration, finance, strategic planning, and policy. While this specific knowledge has certainly helped him fill his new role this year, Petzold feels that, "the greatest benefit was to be challenged daily to consider how to impact the lives of students more effectively. Students and learning are always the end goals of education, and that is something that can be forgotten."

Congratulations to Dr. Petzold for this academic achievement! As Dr. Meyers notes: "A doctoral degree is a considerable commitment of time and energy that pays off in broader and deeper understanding of educational leadership. I know how hard he had to work to complete the degree and how much Valley Lutheran will benefit from his learning and experience."

Senior **David Jahnke**, a VL three-sport athlete, has been named one of 120 finalists for the **MHSAA's Scholar-Athlete Awards**.

Eligibility is determined by:

- cumulative GPA of at least 3.50
- earning a varsity letter in at least one sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament
- responses to a series of short essay questions
- two letters of recommendation
- 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics

Jahnke, who participates in track, football, and wrestling, will be considered for one of 32 \$1,000 scholarships.

## Jahnke Named Scholar-Athlete Finalist



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### Questions?

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