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Immanuel hosted its first ever Open House!

# NEWS & EVENTS



On March 20, 2026, Immanuel Lutheran School hosted their first ever Open House event for families who were interested in learning more about our school. Our kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Erika Hart, was the main planner for the event and all the details that went along with it. Post cards were sent out to neighborhoods; posters were posted on public bulletin boards and online community calendars. On the day, the families that attended were given tours around the school, had opportunities to meet the staff and ask questions, and were given a glimpse of what a typical school day looks like at Immanuel.

They toured the grade school classrooms, met the high school teachers, and saw a bit of what morning classes look like here. The gymnasium was set up with tables that displayed some of the art projects and other activities that are offered at Immanuel.

Our current students were excited to see who would come join us for the day and the place buzzed with anticipation and excitement. The open house concluded with a K-12 chapel, in which all the students are divided into groups with high school students leading, to study the theme for the year. This year's theme has been "To live is Christ."

Another Open House is likely to happen again next year! Keep your eyes peeled for more information later on. However, if you would like a chance to see what Immanuel is like, you can contact the principal, Mr. Mariner, at [rick.mariner@immanuelmankato.org](mailto:rick.mariner@immanuelmankato.org) to schedule your own private tour or student shadow for a day!

By: Rebecca Heinze

## How Should Christians View Nation Leaders?

Scripture teaches that all governing authority is established by God, with leaders serving as instruments for the common good, regardless of their personal faith. Two key verses describing this come from Romans 13:1: *"Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God,"* which shows that all authorities have been instituted by God. And John 19:11 *"Jesus answered, 'You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore, the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin,'* states that all authority is granted from above. Therefore the authority on earth is only here under His providence.

Matthew 22:21 is a great example for us as we search for this answer. This account was when the Pharisees were planning to trap Jesus in His words. They had asked Him: *'Is it right to pay the Imperial tax to Caesar or not?'* Jesus asked whose face was on the coin. In verse 21, *'Caesar's,'* they replied. Then he said to them, *'So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's.'* Jesus, being perfect, was the one who told them this. Jesus, from God to Man, who had come to redeem us back from Satan, Jesus had submitted to those earthly leaders. So should we. We as Christians are called to be respectful, law-abiding citizens who pray for and submit to those in power.

Paul in 1 Timothy tells us, *"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority—that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* Paul is saying that we should be praying for our government and national leaders to carry out duties and tasks that will ultimately accomplish peaceful and quiet lives. We should pray and support our leaders so that our lives can be made better and for godly changes to be made in our country. That change should be to help further God's Word, to spread it throughout the world.

While respect for our authorities is expected, ultimate loyalty belongs to God. When human laws start to conflict with divine commands, Christians are to practice civil disobedience. As the classic Sunday school stories flow back, two that came to my mind are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in Daniel 3 in the fiery furnace, as well as Daniel in the lions' den later in chapter 6

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## CLC Grade School Tournament

Each year, our brothers and sisters in Christ at Immanuel Lutheran, Eau Claire, Wisconsin host a basketball tournament for 5th- to 8th-grade students from our synod schools around the country. This year our synod's tournament was held on March 13-14th.

The main purpose for these tournaments is to see old friends and meet new ones who share the same values and beliefs as we do. The schools combine band members also! So over the course of the weekend, the musical kids from each elementary school form one large band to perform for everyone on Saturday.

Out of our 5-8th we had fourteen families split up into two teams and make the trek to ILC. Initially, there were a few hiccups with the tournament this year on our side. First of all, we went from three teams to two because of the few kids we had and a few injuries. Second, coaching staff changed hands due to the combination of teams. Thankfully, it all turned out well and worked smoothly!

In addition to the basketball competitions throughout the weekend, there is a small contest to design the year's T-shirts given to the participants in the tournament. This year, our very own seventh grader Lukas Alvarez won the competition and designed a very nice-looking T-shirt for each player to wear and keep.

The CLC Grade Tournament of 2026 was a success!

By: Lucy Stratton

### Senior Spotlight- Mark Mayhew

One of our Senior Spotlights for this month is Mark Mayhew. Mark attended Immanuel Lutheran High School in Eau Claire, WI for his freshman and sophomore years, but after his dad (Pastor Nathanael Mayhew) accepted the call to serve here at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Mankato, he is finishing high school here with us!

Mark has participated in a variety of extracurricular activities at both high schools. Most notably he ran cross country for three years, and played basketball for two. One thing interesting thing about his cross country experience here at Immanuel Mankato is that he was able to participate in a co-op with MVL. When I talked to Mark about this opportunity he said, *"I got to know a group of people most people here at Immanuel don't."*

In his spare time, Mark enjoys board games, video games, and running. But he finds just about anything with his family enjoyable.

I asked him which of his educators has had a big influence on him. Mark said, *"Mr. Schrader has been a huge mentor to me the last two years. He's a great teacher and spiritual leader. A lot can*

*be learned from him."* If Mark was able to give his freshman self some advice he would say,

*"Get out and do things with others. And learn to spend your time doing more beneficial things."* Mark's message to underclassmen is, *"Trust in the Lord and do not worry about things that are out of our control. He is with you and everything will work out if you trust in Him."*

After high school Mark plans to attend ILC to become a pastor. He has a long term goal of becoming more patient. During his high school career Mark says, *"I've learned that I need to trust in the Lord no matter what. I can't spend time worrying about things I can't control, and I need to trust in His plan."* We will miss you around here next year, Mark! But we are excited to see what God has in store for you!

By: Colleen Olmanson



## How Should Christians View and Treat Our Nation's Leaders?

*Continued from page 2*

...of Daniel. These are great and easy stories to explain when it says that you are to be in the world and but not of the world. It's important to remember the hierarchy of our obedience. In Acts 5:29, Paul flat-out lays it down for us, *"But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men.'"* We get straight to the point with this verse. Our actions are to show our faith and love God as we are called to do.

In conclusion, while we are called to be the best possible citizens of our earthly nations, praying for those in authority and rendering to the state that which it's due, our deepest identity is not found in any political party. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, *"our citizenship is in Heaven"* (Philippians 3:20), and it is from there that we await our true King. By recognizing that all human authority is temporal and established by God (Romans 13:1), we can respect our leaders without idolizing them and disagree with them without losing our hope. In a world of shifting political tides, we Christians stand firm on an unshakable Kingdom, serving as ambassadors of Christ's peace until He returns to make all things new.

By: Lucy Stratton

Further your study with more passages on this topic!:

1 Peter 2:13-17

Matthew 22

Titus 3:1-2

Romans 13:1

John 19:11

Proverbs 21:1

# Student Corner

Vacation Bible School  
Immanuel Lutheran Church & School  
July 27-31st, 2026  
8:30-11:30am  
Grades PreK-6th Grade

**YOUTH GROUP**

VS

TEAM ONE vs TEAM TWO

**STREET HOCKEY  
GAME & STUDY**

9-12th Graders  
**SATURDAY, MAY 9 2026**  
7-9pm

at Immanuel Lutheran Church

Made with PosterMyWall.com

You are invited to join us for

**MUFFINS**

with

**MOM**

MAY: After church  
10: FELLOWSHIP HALL

Want your advertisement or flyer here? Contact the ILHS Newspaper Club!

## Senior Spotlight- Jeremy Hanel

One of the senior spotlights for the month of April is Jeremy Hanel. Jeremy is the youngest with two older brothers. He has been attending Immanuel since kindergarten, and is also a member of the church.

I asked Jeremy what teacher has had the biggest impact on him and he said, "Mr. Schrader, because he is fun, and he teaches well. He also is constantly trying to help students, and understand their point of view."

Jeremy currently works at HyVee in the meat department, and says he gets along well with his coworkers and his boss. He is looking forward to getting a good paying job after high school, and he plans to go straight to work. One option Jeremy is considering is Kato Engineering.

One of Jeremy's fondest memories from high school was the Washington DC trip. He said he had a bunch of fun and learned a lot. Some advice Jeremy would give to the younger classes is "Make sure you do all your work on time, and don't leave it to the last minute. Also study for your tests, and don't expect them to be easy." To end, I asked Jeremy how Immanuel has helped him grow as a person, and he said, "It has taught me good morals, and Christian values. And how to act and treat others around me as a Christian." We will miss you and be keeping you in our prayers as you take this next step in your life!

By: Heidi Dick



# EVENTS

## Arts Camp

This year for Arts Camp, the kids had many fun and interesting activities. These consisted of glazed tile art, hula hoop rings, stamp craving, candy making, leather cuffs, theater warm ups, bucket drumming, small choir, acting kazoos, ukulele, dance, bread making, woodburning, glow show, drawing, clay creations, chunky blanket making.

There were 64 kids this year! I interviewed quite a few people, the first person was sophomore Emma Heinze. I asked her if she would be a counselor again, this is what Emma had to say as a first time counselor, *“Yes, even though I haven’t been doing it for a long time, the atmosphere was very positive. Although it gets tiring, it was still fun for both the campers and counselors. My favorite memory was free time with all the campers, being able to play games like basketball and that sort of stuff with them.”*

I then talked to Miss Amber Casto, who runs Arts Camp! She said, *“On Saturday, we have breakfast, devotion, and then sessions! We do two 1 hour sessions and then a 1 hour break. We finish off the last two sessions by 5:30 P.M. After that we start dress rehearsal for the show! The show is 7:20-8:30 P.M. After the show the parents look at the art in the basement and then go home! Campers have free time until about 11:00 P.M. then it’s lights out. Scheduling the sessions is the hardest part, but the most enjoyable part is walking around to the sessions and helping out where I can and being with the kids.”*

By: Norah Wakefield



### Upcoming Events

- ILHS Banquet- May 2nd 5:30pm**
- Banquet Play Encore- May 3rd 11:30am**
- Banquet Clean Up Day- May 4th**
- K-2nd Musical- May 6th 2pm**
- Last Day of School- May 15th**
- Graduation - May 15th 6pm**





