

## SCHOOL NEWS

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Christmas 2025 Concert

## EVENT SCHEDULE

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## STUDENT CORNER

Senior Spotlight  
Youth Group



*Jabba the Hut in ILHS  
Fall Drama 2025*

This year's ILS fall play was titled "A Strange Thing Happened on the Way to the Death Star." The production featured students from 6th through 12th grades, with some roles also filled by 5th graders. The entire cast consisted of 32 talented actors.

The play was co-directed by Mr. Bob Heller and Mrs. Donnell Olmanson, who dedicated over three months to its preparation. Their efforts included developing the script, creating props, designing the backdrop, and managing numerous behind-the-scenes tasks. Many volunteers from our congregation also contributed significantly by assisting with scenery, costumes, and other production elements. Their hard work and dedication played a vital role in bringing the play to life, and they are sincerely thanked for their invaluable contributions.

# SCHOOL NEWS



## Fall Drama Concludes

Speaking with Mr. Bob Heller gave me some insights from his perspective as co-director. He expressed his pride in the team’s hard work and overall success of the performance, *“I am extremely proud of each person who stepped up whether in acting or behind the scenes. Usually when these plays are put on, there are a significantly less number of male students who participate; meanwhile, this year, many were brave to stand under those light in front of the huge audience that we had. Ultimately, I think that each young actor still had fun, while still accomplishing by the deadline.”*

Overall, the event was a resounding success. Congratulations to everyone involved for their dedication and effort in making this production a memorable experience for all.

*By: Lucy Stratton*



 Photo Credit: Mr. Bob Heller

## Christmas 2025 Concert

Our ILS Christmas Concert is coming up! It is on December 17, from 7:30 to 8:30pm. This concert features our high school choir, handbells, and a variety of songs from the band. Our students work diligently throughout the first semester to prepare for this big musical evening. It's a joy for the musicians to perform, and it is even more exciting when there is a substantial audience to share their music with!

I asked our K-12 music teacher, Mrs. Jackie Friedrichs, why the Christmas concert is important, and why it’s important for people to come, and she said, *“We are called to praise and worship God! Our students have worked diligently to learn these songs, of voice and instruments, using their gifts and abilities that the Lord has blessed them with. As members of God's family, we need to show up for each other to show our support, particularly for our young students. We expect our family members to come. But to see other members of the congregation show up to see what our students have learned and share that experience with them, that speaks volumes and truly defines what it means to be brothers and sisters within the body of Christ.”*

So, if you have a friend or relative in the concert, come and support them! And if you don’t, I encourage you to come hear God’s praises and be there for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

*By: Heidi Dick*



# Basketball Season Begins

Well, it's that time of year again, basketball season. Immanuel has a super busy schedule with six basketball teams this year: 5-7th-grade girls, 5-6th-grade boys, 7-8th-grade boys, Boys JV, Girls Varsity, and Boys Varsity.

This year's Boys Varsity is coached again by Mr. Eric Libby and their line up has five seniors; Austin Hart, Andrew Clobes, William Lien, Kaden Kruse, and Cade Libby. All of which are captains of the team. Upon being asked how they are feeling this season, Senior Cade Libby said, *"We're at rock bottom right now, so all we can go is up!"* So far this season they are 0-2, but they seem to be hopeful to continue to play and get better as the season progresses. The Boy's JV team has a new coach Lee Becker. The JV team is 0-1.

The Girl's Varsity team is coached by Mr. Brandan Heinze, and Principal Rick Mariner. The girls team has one Senior this year Rebecca Heinze. The captains of the girls varsity team this year is Junior Maddie Libby, and Senior Rebecca Heinze. The team hopes to finish in the "top 3 teams of the league" this year according to their coach Brandan Heinze. For context the ILHS Girl's Varsity finished *forth* in the MCAC League last year. Coach Mariner said that he, *"Has very high expectations for the girl's team and is excited for what the future may hold."* He is *"looking forward to see the growth and development of the players, and see how the practice pays off on the court. As we always say in practice, 'Practice makes permanent'"*. The younger players on the team also had their first JV game on Monday and won.

The grade school teams are also off to a start, with the grade school girls won their first game, while the 5th -6th grade school boys team lost their first game. The 7-8th boys team is 1-1, and according to 7th grader Noah Mayhew, *"We're gonna cook. We're going to lock in."*

So check your calendars and come support your Trojan Athletes!

By: Editor in Chief Rebecca Heinze

## ILHS Basketball Schedule

**Girls Varsity 12/13 1:30pm @ Faith Christian School Rochester MN**

**Boys Varsity 12/13 3:00pm @ Faith Christian School, Rochester MN**

**Girls Varsity 12/16 5:00pm @ Home**

**Boys Varsity 12/16 6:30pm @ Home**

**Girls Varsity 12/18 6:00pm @ St Francis Christian School, St Francis MN**

**Boys Varsity 12/18 7:15pm @ St Francis Christian School, St Francis, MN**

**Boys JV 12/22 5:00pm @ Home**

**Girls Varsity 12/22 6:30pm @ Home**

**Boys Varsity 12/22 8:00pm @ Home**



In today's world, it's easy for teens to become busy, stressed, and maybe even disconnected from those close to us. Between homework, social obligations and sports pressures, it can be hard to find a place where you feel understood and seen. Youth Group is a program at church that is specifically meant to minister to 9-12th grade students. Youth group

programs give the youth of our generation the opportunity to grow and connect with others in the faith. One of the biggest blessings youth groups can provide to one is a sense of belonging. Youth groups allow you to surround yourself with people who have similar interests, beliefs, and goals as you. Youth Groups help to remind us that we're not alone and teach us where to go when we are anxious or verging on depressed. It gives us a sense of community and fosters a love for the Scriptures. On top of all that, statistics have shown that those who participate in groups, such as a youth group, often develop stronger social skills. If you are in the 9-12th grade age group and find yourself needing a ministry meant for you, please join Immanuel Lutheran Church's Youth Group! We meet monthly on Wednesday nights! You do not need to be a member to come! Check out our church calendar for dates and times. Or call the church at 507-345-3027 for more information. *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* (Matthew 18:20)

By: Colleen Olmanson

## Kiwanis Lights- Immanuel Night

It's that wonderful time of year again when Sibley Park hosts their annual Kiwanis Christmas lights event! As many of you Mankato residents already know, the Kiwanis Holiday lights is an event running from the day after Thanksgiving to December 31st. A bunch of Christmas lights and more. It also raises funds and collects food donations to give to those in need during the Christmas season. This impressive display of Christmas lights and decorations takes weeks of set up and loads of volunteer man-power to make possible.

Immanuel church and school has been numbered amongst those volunteers for many years! Mrs. Sarah Kruse used to be the coordinator for generating volunteers in years past, but this year's endeavor sees a new captain leading the charge! Mrs. Deidre Macias has taken over the reins for 2025. We are grateful to her for helping Immanuel's community inspire volunteers to help keep Kiwanis going and also to generate funds for our Athletic program!

On a certain night of the Kiwanis season, an organization can take the lead and help run traffic, man concessions, and help out in other ways. To say thank you to those volunteers and as an incentive to help out, Kiwanis donates money that is received via free will donation that evening to the organization that is leading the efforts. Everyone is invited to come enjoy the display of lights together as a school on **Sunday, December 14th on Immanuel's night to host!**


This is the perfect chance to come and celebrate with others during the Christmas season, as we await the day our Savior was born.

By: Leah Dick




# Student Corner

Preparing Pheobes and Teaching Timothy's presents:



5<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
December 20<sup>th</sup>, 3-6pm  
At Immanuel Lutheran Church on North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Wear your Christmas PJ's!!

**SIGN UP HERE!!** → 

ATTENTION IMMANUEL LADIES!



**Christmas Party**

**THE UGLIEST SWEATER WINS A PRIZE!**

DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 AT 3PM  
Immanuel Church Basement

Ladies of Immanuel! Join us and bring a dish to pass! There will be games, prizes and fun! At the end we will fill the Christmas Eve bags for the children's program!

Want *your* ad or flyer here next month? Contact the ILHS Newspaper Club for details!

## Senior Spotlight- Rebecca Heinze



This month's Senior Spotlight is on Rebecca Heinze, who we affectionately call Becca. Becca has been part of Immanuel Lutheran since second grade. Before that, she went to Comfrey Public School. Becca shared some of the people who have made the biggest impact on her. She said, "My dad, Mr. Heinze, before he left. Now I would say Mr. Mariner, Mr. Schrader, and Mrs. Lien. All the teachers have influenced me in little ways." It seems like Immanuel was blessed with a staff that helped shape Rebecca in her time here. Becca has been playing volleyball and basketball since she was a little girl, and sports have always been a huge part of her life. Over the years, she's grown into a strong leader, earning the captain positions in both sports, something she definitely deserves. She works hard and always finds a way to lift up her teammates. Becca has also loved being involved in drama. Whether it's during a practice, a game, or a rehearsal, she's able to encourage everyone, keeping spirits high and making people smile. After graduation, Becca is heading to Bethany Lutheran College to get her BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing). Nursing definitely fits her; she's caring, hardworking, and always ready to help out. Before she graduates, she had a few words of advice for the underclassmen. "Just because you're older doesn't mean you're wiser. Don't procrastinate, just do it." Becca, we're going to miss having you around, but we're excited to see where God's plan takes you next.

By: Norah Wakefield