



THE TROJAN TIMES

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Christmas Reflection



Advent and the Christmas season are once again here! If you are like me then you're probably super excited to once again decorate your house, listen to Christmas music, see your family, eat amazing food, and most importantly celebrate Jesus coming down to earth as a little baby.

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. Period. However, while I'm looking forward to this amazing holiday season, I couldn't help wondering how these traditions and things that I love and associate with Christmas started.

So I did what anyone in 2023 would do. I googled it. As it turns out, a ton of the traditions we do have some sort of meaning pointing back to Christ. For example, we use evergreens to decorate inside and outside our homes, these represent how Jesus brought life to a dark dead world and gave us life. We put up Christmas lights to represent how Jesus is the light of the world. (*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.* John 8:12)

We also give gifts representing the amazing gift God gave us by sending His Son to deliver us from our sins. (John 3:16 - *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.*) We go to Christmas concerts, carol and join in song with others to hear and spread the gospel message with music.

While all these things are super fun, let's take the time to remember the meaning behind the traditions and reason for Christmas. Jesus! Merry Christmas from the ILHS Newspaper Club!

By: Rebecca Heinze Sub Editor

Worship Opportunities this Season

Weekend Worship Services Saturdays @ 6pm

Weekend Services Sundays @ 10am

Midweek Advent Services
Wednesdays Dec 6, 13, & 20th

Christmas Eve Worship @ 6pm

Christmas Day Worship @10am

Come, let us adore him!



Chili Feed

Come join your Immanuel Church family for a Chili Feed prior to the first 6:00 PM Advent service on Dec. 6 at 5:00 PM.

We all know Lutherans love a good potluck, and what better way to kick off the Advent Season then with a warm bowl of chili and fun times with loved ones?

Bring your own chili and invite your family! You may also bring a side dish of your choice.

The church would love to see you there! It will be a good opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to a church service. The Lord always welcomes those seeking Him.

By: Wyatt Lien



DRAMA CLUB
PUT ON IT'S
2023 DINNER
THEATER!



BASKETBALL
SEASON
BEGINS



ENJOY A
CHILI FEED
WITH US!

Dinner Theater & Fall Drama

“The Day the Internet Died” was the play that the Immanuel Drama club presented this year. The play was performed over the course of three days. Friday, the 17th, there was a dinner theater where Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, vegetables, and salad were served. On Saturday, the 18th, there was a Dessert Performance, where the audience could buy desserts to eat before the play. The final performance was on Sunday, the 19th. The plot of this comedy focused on a



town, called Westchester, whose internet went down. The effect of the internet blackout was that the whole town descended into chaos. Some examples of the characters who went crazy were Nina, who forced people to physically and vocally ‘like’ her photos; Betty, who had a tantrum when ‘shopping in real life,’; Sandra, who was forced to endure a week of not Tweeting; and Shelly, who led a support group for people who were mourning the loss of their precious app, TikTok, during the outage. Towards the end of the play, the characters slowly started to realize that their lives were more than just the internet. Although they learned this valuable lesson, it didn't last very long.

The play ended with the internet returning, and the whole cast went back to their normal use of the internet within seconds. The whole point of the play was to poke fun at people who are addicted to the internet. The

play mocked the made up characters in it as well as even poking fun at the audience.

Drama featured a large cast, including grades seven through twelve. The vast number of actors made for a good variety of characters. It was the inaugural performance for Mr. Heller in his first year directing the drama club at Immanuel, and he did a great job!

The cast, crew, and director will miss the seniors, Munya Kuvaoga and Ginny Strand, however they are all very pleased with the play and are looking forward to next year!

By: Rebekah Busch

Basketball Season Begins

A new season begins for the Immanuel Lutheran Trojans basketball teams and this year they are hopeful for success. Practices for both boys and girls teams started on Monday, November 20th, and their game schedules start on Tuesday, November 28th in a non-league home game against Fourth Baptist School.

Last year the Trojans performed very well in the CAL (Christian Athletic League) tournament. The boys team won the championship in a close game against Community Christian, and the girls team won 3rd place in a tough battle against St. Cloud Christian School. We look forward to seeing how these teams will grow throughout the year.

I took some time and spoke with a player on the boys team. I wanted to know what they were looking forward to this season. Mason Hanel ('26) from the boys varsity team told me he was, ‘*looking forward to getting some wins, making memories with the team and in games, hopefully winning CAL, and hopefully beating some teams that are outside [the league] and better than the other CAL teams.*’

As a student body we are collectively very excited for the season to start. We hope that they can play to the glory of God, and we hope everything works together for a great season. Go Trojans!

By: William Lien



**Come Cheer on Your
Trojans!**

Boys JV Game 12/2 @ 11:00a in St Cloud
Girls Varsity Game 12/2 @12:30p in St Cloud
Boys Varsity Game 12/2 @ 2:00p in St Cloud

Girls Varsity Home Game 12/7 @6:30p
Boys Varsity Home Game 12/7 @ 8:00p

Boys JV Game 12/15 @5:00p in Rochester
Girls Varsity Game 12/15 @ 6:30p in Rochester
Boys Varsity Game 12/15 @ 8:00p in Rochester

Girls Varsity Home Game 12/16 @ 12:30p
Boys Varsity Home Game 12/16 @ 2:00p

Girls Varsity Game 12/18 @ 6:00p at Loyola
Boys Varsity Game 12/18 @ 7:30p at Loyola

Girls Varsity Game 12/21 @ 5:30p in Cleveland
Boys Varsity Game 12/21 @ 7:00p in Cleveland



Ambassadors

GROUP

JOIN US

EVERY SUNDAY @ 9AM

Does Immanuel Have a Sport Bias?- Opinion Article

During my time as a student at Immanuel Lutheran I have been privileged to participate in a wide variety of activities and events for both the school and the church. I have also been privy to conversations and discussions relating to said activities. Where extracurriculars happen, emotions and opinions run rampant. One theme of these discussions has been the theory that Immanuel as an institution seems to give athletics priority over other things. This article aims to pose the question in a more public way, does Immanuel Lutheran have a sports bias? This is a very sensitive topic to a lot of people. Many, including myself, love sports, they give us something to do and enjoy during the school year. However, it has appeared, at least to myself and others I have spoken with, that maybe sometimes sports are taken to another level.

There's no doubt that our school has big sports fans- particularly basketball fans, which is good. The athletes love the support we get when the stands are filled with people who love us and enjoy the camaraderie. That being said, are athletics the main focus of Immanuel? Or at the very least, could that impression be made inadvertently? There have been numerous instances where the church or school has had non-sport related events such as band and choir concerts, seminars and fellowship activities that have been published and advertised and very few school families or church members have paid attention or attended. Emails, bulletins, and posters are always widely distributed and no one seems to respond to them. If we showed half as much attention and support with our attendance to some of these other events as for sports, wouldn't we all have better fellowship with one another?

Every activity at Immanuel has parents, volunteers and generous donors that are the heartbeat of the programs and keep everything afloat. Athletics depends on the generosity of all of those sources to pay for refs, sometimes a spot for home field, bus fare and the like, and that comes with a big price tag. In my personal experience it seems that when sports has a need it's quickly addressed and taken care of yet other activities are put on the back burner; maybe even indefinitely. Drama Club is one example. Not many people know this, but drama club has to purchase plays to use, and they are not cheap. Our stage is in grave need of repairs, the curtains are being held together with safety pins and the lights could use some adjusting and tidying up. The Art program is always in need of supplies. It seems like needs for athletics get priority and moreover just get noticed and taken care of where other things are left with 'it's good enough' attitudes. I would argue that that behavior shows what Immanuel values.

Now, here's the part that really grinds my gears personally. You can tell a lot about the heart of a body of believers by how they prioritize their time. When members at Immanuel faithfully attend CAL tournaments and basketball games but don't attend church or Bible Study, that is a sign of a problem. Church attendance rates dropped after COVID-19 and haven't yet fully recovered, with many taking advantage of online services and choosing not to physically worship with their church family. It would be very beneficial for all of us if we focused on family worship before everything else. Another thing that I've seen is the Sunday Night Ball group has more people faithfully attend than Men's Breakfast or other devotions. I've told plenty of people about it and I receive the same excuse. "It's too early and I need to sleep." Or, "No one will take me". However, history has proven if there were sports at the same time as these, which every blue moon there are, people would go to them. Basketball has 6:00 AM practices on Wednesdays occasionally, and I see plenty of those sleep deprived people there.

I personally have heard many things about sports and how they've taken over. I remember hearing it said in casual conversation that Immanuel is a "Basketball school" which is not the case in any kind of way. Our school is literally, "Immanuel Lutheran School," not "Immanuel Basketball school." Our goal at Immanuel is to share the word with one another, not sports. Sure sports are a part of us, but not the main part. It isn't bad to enjoy, participate and support our sports, but when it comes to being more important than our Christian life, we need to get back on track.

What I'm trying to say is, we need to start focusing on the Lord more than athletics. We all would be far better off going to Men's Breakfast or another Bible study, than focusing on all these sports. We need to support the arts just as readily and wholly as we support athletics. I hope all that read this will think and ponder in their own minds if Immanuel does have at least a bit of a sports bias. You don't have to agree, but just think about what I've written.

By: Wyatt Lien

Modern Day Hero- Brett Cooper



If you don't know Brett Cooper already, she is the host of one of the fastest growing Daily Wire podcast shows called "The Comments Section with Brett Cooper." She has gained a large following with her episodes that cover a wide variety of topics from common day controversies, to politics, to simple reaction to wholesome content.

Brett recently turned 22 and just got engaged! Brett was raised in Tennessee and she moved to Los Angeles, CA when she was ten to pursue an acting career. She switched gears about a year or two ago and shifted from acting to running her podcast. Her show is based on her opinion and comments on the aforementioned topics.

Despite giving up acting as her main focus, Brett has been busy with an upcoming live action film, *Snow White and the Evil Queen* based off the original fairy tale by the Grimms brothers where she will be starring as the lead, Snow White. As many know, Disney had recently announced it's decision to produce a live action Snow White film in the next few years. So you might be asking, why would Brett Cooper and the Daily Wire try to compete with Disney? After all, they are the biggest business in town when it comes to fairy tale content! The answer is simple. With everything going on in the world today, and with Disney pushing leftist agendas in children's shows in movies, like LGBTQ propaganda in preschool shows such as T.O.T.S, and radical feminist ideologies in princess movies, it's no shocker that what Disney is doing right now is rewriting the story of Snow White to be friendly to their social agendas and bashing all of the classic story lines we love and cherish. Values such as true love, kindness being true beauty, good winning over evil. Daily Wire and Brett Cooper believe that these values should be represented, that the original fan base of Disney needs an alternative source for entertainment that doesn't try to bash them over the head with ideologies they disagree with. This is why they entered the scene, and why they are willing to take on Disney in the fairy tale arena.

Daily Wire's live action version of Snow White aims to stay true to the original story line as much as possible. This is needed now more than ever, to give us a breath of fresh air and remind of us the timeless truths and to bring back the classic values we are missing in today's world. Brett had this to say about their version of the classic: *"We're not trying to turn Snow White into something it's not. We're not trying to turn Snow White into a MAGA conservative movie. We're just trying to represent the values that Snow White is based in. The timeless values that we all loved growing up that are sadly being forgotten in this new [Disney] adaptation."*

By: Leah Dick

High School Community Project

Immanuel Lutheran High School has added a community service project to its Christmas activities. After considering many ideas for community service projects, the ILHS student council decided to approve the idea to make bags for homeless people in our community. These bags will contain food, water, and other necessities along with notes of encouragement from scripture to spread the message of Christmas, that Jesus came to save us from our sins! We are also hoping to include an invitation to our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services on December 24th & 25th.

After the student body assembles the bags, we plan to drop the bags off at shelters and other places where they are needed. This is going to be a great opportunity for our school to help spread the gospel in our community, spread the joy we get from Christmas and from Christ Jesus humbling himself into a man and coming down to earth in the form of a baby to save us from our sins.

By: Rebecca Heinze Sub Editor