



Band, Choir & Handbell Concert Recap



Pictures by: Addi Miller

On December 11, Immanuel Lutheran had its Christmas Concert. The concert had a range of grades from fifth grade to twelfth grade and the students all worked hard preparing for the concert. The high school choir, handbells, and chorus are all directed by Mrs. Colleen Kranz. The Varsity and Jr Varsity bands are directed by Mrs. Debbie Schreyer Owens.

The fifth grade band was a small group of three students who played “Jingle Bells” and “Good King Wenceslas.” Although they had a small group, their music filled the church and they sounded great! The fifth and sixth grade handbells performed “Low How a Rose E’er Blooming” and “Go Tell it on the Mountain.”

The sixth grade band, also with three students, played “We Wish you a Merry Christmas.” Again, although they had small numbers, they were very impressive.

The fifth through eighth grade chorus has been a new addition in the last couple of years. The chorus is a group of students who enjoy singing, volunteer to sing in this group, and enjoy performing more complex choral compositions than the grade school normally sings. Chorus had been a part of Immanuel's music program in the past when Mrs. Karla Olmanson had taught music, but it had ceased operating until last year when Mrs. Colleen Kranz brought it back! They have about seventeen students, and they sang “Angels We Have Heard on High.”

The seventh and eighth grade handbells played “Good King Wenceslas,” and then, the seventh and eighth grade girls who are in handbells also played “What Child is This.” It was a very nice arrangement, and they used cool techniques to make the handbells sound very nice, and their sound radiated through the church.

The high school choir sang “Holden Evening Pray: The Annunciation and The Magnificat,” “Advent Processional,” and with the grade school chorus, they sang “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt.” The high school choir has grown in numbers in recent years and as a spectator, I would also report that not only their volume, but also their confidence and skill has grown.

To finish off the concert, the varsity band played “On a Winter’s Eve,” a jazz version of “Feliz Navidad,” and “And Bless Us Everyone.” The varsity band has eleven musicians in it, and even with small numbers, they still find a way to play songs made for a full band.

The concert had an amazing turnout, with the church almost full! It is also very nice to see that many of the different groups of music programs have grown in the last few years. I hope to see the music program at Immanuel, as well as the individual musicians, continue to expand and develop their music. Most of all, I hope to see them continue to use their talents to praise the Lord!

By: Rebekah Busch



2024 IS HERE! HOW SHOULD WE VIEW OUR UNCERTAINTY WITH THE NEW YEAR?



OUR VARSITY BOYS PARTICIPATED IN A HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT OVER BREAK AND TOOK SECOND! CONGRATS!

Thoughts on Curfew- Opinion Article

One topic that is regularly debated in society- particularly in my age demographic, is the curfew.

Whether it's given to you by your parents/guardians or if it's given to you by your government the mandated curfew is usually looked down on by those it is given to. But before we can debate personal opinions, we have to ask, what is a curfew? A curfew is a designated time where you have to return home, and it is usually given to you by a person in authority. So sometimes the curfew

given by your parents is 9 o'clock, meaning you need to be home from a friend's or from an event by that time.

Sometimes the curfew is given by the government. Example, in the state of Minnesota individuals under the age of 16 can't loiter, or stay idle in a public place after 10 pm. Most people don't enjoy curfews, but they're not meant for you to enjoy. Curfews are usually given to you to keep you safe or prevent you from doing things you're not supposed to do.



The curfew given to you by a parent or guardian is so that they know you'll be safe and under their roof by a certain time of night. A curfew given by the government is more than likely so they don't have to deal with a bunch of kids doing silly things when the city is trying to sleep. In my belief, a curfew is very essential and should be used by all parents. If a child is out away from home all night, who knows what the child has done or what could happen to them. While it puts a damper on things as it limits time you could have with friends or others, all in all I think curfews should be enforced even if at the time I dislike them.

By: William Lien

What to Expect When Taking Your Drivers Test

Around this time of year, many kids are getting ready to take their driver's test. As someone who's been driving for 11 whole months, I'm going to give you some solid advice. My first piece of advice is to schedule your test as far ahead of time as possible if there is a specific day you want to take your test. Different places have different rules, but scheduling your test at least a month ahead of time is ideal. The next thing you need to do is have all of your documents ready THE DAY BEFORE. It's not helping anyone if you scramble to get all your documents the morning of your test. Most places require you to have your permit, proof of insurance, social security number, payment, and your white card from driving six hours with an instructor. Now, some solid advice from someone who's made this mistake: don't forget your white card (or anything else) the morning of the test. Not only will you be stressed, but imagine the mood of your parent taking you to the test when you realize you forgot your white card and have to go all the way back home. As you can guess, it's not fun. The night before your test, make sure you have ALL of your documents and information in a spot where you will remember to bring them.



Another pre-test tip I have applies to those getting their license in the winter. Put the car you're taking your test in in your garage the night before, so that in the morning the windshield won't be icy. You can also scrape it off in the morning, but, speaking again from experience, it usually just works out that if you don't plan or remember to go out early to scrape it off, it will be covered with the type of ice that's almost impossible to scrape off. I'm not sure why it works that way, but it always seems to! Again, imagine the mood of the parent who's taking you to the test when the car is full of ice that just won't scrape off. Not fun.

Now, once you arrive at the DMV, with ALL your documents, you will most likely be nervous. My biggest trick with nerves is to be confident. At this point in your driving career, you've (hopefully) driven for a total of fifty hours and practiced all the parking skills. If you've truly done all this, you have no reason to be nervous and you should trust yourself.

The first thing you do at the DMV is check in and give them all your documents. For me, once they got everything sorted, they told me to go sit in my car. Eventually, your tester will come out. The first thing that I did for my test was all the stuff to show that I could operate the car. The tester stood outside of the car and told me to do things like use the blinkers, turn on the lights, turn on the high beams, and use the horn. After this, the tester will get in the car. This could be different for different testers, but I started with the parking. First, I backed out of the parking spot and drove over to a different part of the lot where I did the parallel park and the 90 degree back parking. After that, the instructor told me where to go. During my test, I mostly went through roundabouts and residential areas. At the end of the test, I went back into the DMV parking lot and parked in a spot. At this point, I was worried because I had made a couple mistakes, but the tester told me the things that I did wrong or needed to work on and he told me I passed.

Another tip I have is that after your test, on your way to school or wherever you're going after, you should grab something fun to celebrate. For example, I stopped at a coffee shop and got a coffee.

Finally, these are my last pieces of advice as someone who's driving experience spans a whole 11 months: First, trust yourself- you know what you're doing if you've done all the training and hours to complete your permit. Second, don't freak out over one mistake, because we all make mistakes. Instead, learn from your mistakes. Third, if you don't pass, don't be embarrassed, just focus on the things you need to work on and don't be afraid to try again. Last, even if you don't feel confident about driving after passing the test, I can tell you from my own experience that your driving skills keep improving even after getting your license.

This is what you can expect when taking your drivers test, and to those of you taking it soon, good luck!

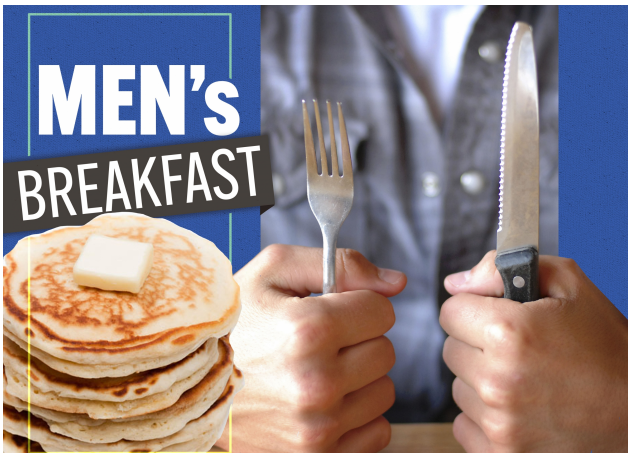


Ambassadors

GROUP

JOIN US

EVERY SUNDAY @ 9AM



FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 6:30AM

Outdoor Adventure Day

SLEDDING EVENT

Join Us

Come out, bring a sled and enjoy the day!

Sunday, January 14th from 12:-2:30pm
Sibley Park Sledding Hill (by shelter # 3)
Any questions can be directed to Hilary Lien

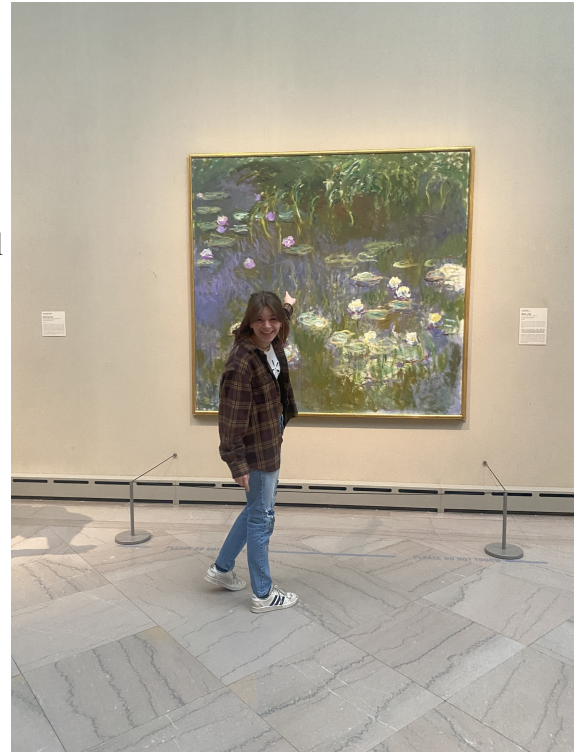


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New Staff- Miss Holly Harris

As we all know now, the Radichel family has left for Eau Claire because Pastor accepted his call there. We all indeed miss them, and since Mrs. Radichel left, there was an opening for an art teacher here at Immanuel School. Ms. Holly Harris has stepped up and accepted the position. Ms. Harris is an Immanuel alum, she attended Immanuel school since kindergarten and graduated in 2020. She attended Bethany Lutheran College where she recently graduated this past December. Congratulations to her! Over Christmas break I was able to ask her a few questions to help The Trojan Times readers get to know her a bit better.

What is your art background? How long have you been interested in art? *'I've been creating art all my life, it was one of my first real interests as a kid and it's only grown as the years have gone on. Before entering college, my knowledge in art was self taught, mainly just learning through trial and error and observation. Upon entering college, I was able to study under very knowledgeable professors and mentors that helped me to sharpen my skills even more. I graduated Bethany Lutheran College with a Theatre major and a Studio Art minor.'* Who inspired you to pursue art in your studies? *'My Art professors at Bethany and my mother, Mrs. Amanda Harris.'* How did you hear about Immanuel needing a new Art Teacher? *'My mother, upon hearing that the Radichels would be relocating over Christmas break, encouraged me to reach out to Mr. Heinze [Immanuel's principal] and the Board of Education about filling Mrs. Radichel's position. This would be perfect timing for both Immanuel and me as I was set to graduate in December of 2023.'* What are some of your goals with this position? *'Following directions is important, but I also want to teach my students how to tap into their own creativity. Although it comes more naturally to some people, creativity is a skill that can be taught and sharpened just like any other skill'* Why do you think Art is a necessary part of a well rounded education for the students at Immanuel? *'I believe exposure to all areas of academic or extracurricular activities is important in the development of children and students of all age. Even if most of my students never grow up to be proficient artists (although I sincerely pray some do), the appreciation of art and a basic understanding of it can apply to so many other areas of life. Creativity is a vital skill in our world; without it new ideas and inventions would cease to be developed. Art also ties us to our own Creator, maker of heaven and earth, who has built the capability of creation in each of us, and has called us to our own special purpose in His kingdom.'* How have you been preparing for this role? *'Before Christmas break, I had been shadowing Mrs. Radichel in her daily duties. This helped introduce me to the students themselves and the curriculum and routine I would be taking over. Over Christmas break, I have spent some time brainstorming new ideas for art class and reviewing the schedule for my classes.'*



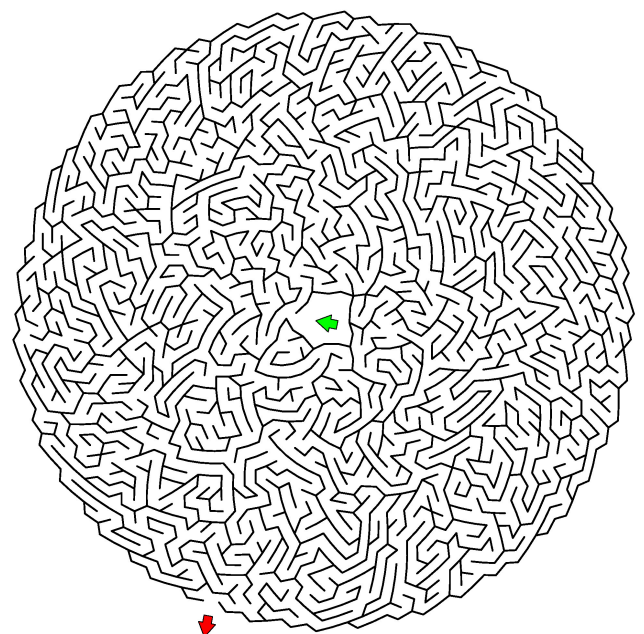
We all are very excited to have Ms. Harris! As a perk, we have all had a preview of her talent on display for the last few years. Ms. Holly Harris's mother is our school secretary, Mrs. Amanda Harris. Ms. Harris has been gifting her mother pieces of art here and there, and it has amassed into a large collection of sketches, paintings and bits of comics in the school office, so we know she's a good artist! We are blessed to have her with us. Make sure to say hi to Ms. Harris when you see her!

By: Wyatt Lien

Tough Mazes by KrazyDad, Book 1

Maze #1

**BORING STUDY HALL?
FRIENDS GONE FOR LUNCH
AND LEFT YOU BEHIND?
FINISHED YOUR WORK
EARLY? WANT AN EXCUSE
TO BE ANTI SOCIAL?
ENJOY THE MAZE. YOU'RE
WELCOME.**





Devotional

Reading: John 5:1-8 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 2 Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

This section of scripture takes place sometime during Jesus' ministry after the Wedding of Cana, and he's started to do more “public miracles.” Something that struck me was the question Jesus asked the man, “Do you want to be healed?” It hit me how strange of a question it would be to ask a man who was an invalid for thirty-eight years. It seems silly; why would the man not want to be healed? I started thinking about the man's response. He doesn't answer the question. Instead, he tells Jesus why he thinks he can't be healed. He didn't have people to help him get in the pool when the water was “stirred up,” and because he was an invalid he couldn't get there fast enough. For context, his pool was thought to be “stirred up” by an angel, and the first person to get to the water would be healed of whatever illness or disease they had. Why would the man answer this way? I think it could be because he was hoping Jesus could help him into the pool. Jesus had such a better way to change this man's life and it made this account so much cooler. Jesus definitely could've healed the man with the pool if he wanted to, I mean he is God he can do anything he wants to. That's not what would've been best for that man. Scripture tells us, *'And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose' (Romans 8:28)* Jesus heals him differently; he just simply says, *“Get up, take up your bed, and walk.”* It's not as “fancy” as some of his other miracles, but it reminds us again how powerful and life-changing God's word is. How crazy is it that Jesus just said, *“Get up..and walk,”* and immediately the man was healed and did what Jesus told him to. How often do we forget how powerful God is? How often do we forget that He can heal us Himself? I don't know about you, or what stuff you are going through right now, but I think that last year I forgot that Jesus heals. I forgot He cares about all the little stuff. *'Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows' (Matthew 10:29-31).* I forgot to cast all my cares on Him and was looking for healing in the wrong places. Just like the man at the pool. But just like how Jesus didn't give up on this man, He doesn't give up on us. Just like Jesus showed the man where he really could get help, and where his trust really should be, He shows us too. So this year, let's look to Jesus who heals, and not forget what He can do. Let's cast all our cares on Him, and find peace and rest in Him during this new year.

By: Rebecca Heinze

New Year



They say “Time waits for no one”, and boy does that feel true this year. It feels like 2023 went by so fast. This past year has been crazy, and a lot of historic events occurred. Russia invaded Ukraine and they are both still fighting a war even now. Hamas terrorists in the Gaza Strip declared war on Israel. Several natural disasters have wreaked havoc in Turkey, Syria, Morocco, and many other countries.

Whenever I think about these things I'm reminded of *Matthew 24:6-8 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.*

This verse explains that all these unfortunate events, caused by sin, are going to happen before the end of the world comes, and Jesus comes back.

I hope that whenever you hear about these events you feel the hope and peace I do. These things to me just mean the end of the world is nearer, and we can leave this sinful world. These things also show me how ugly our world is and how perfect and amazing heaven will be; which honestly just gets me more excited to go to heaven.

So as we go forward into the new year let's remember the hope we have, because Jesus died on the cross to save us, and whoever believes in him will have eternal life. And let's remember to trust God this year, no matter what happens in 2024.

Happy New Year!



Church Undecorating

Jan. 7th @ 11a

Early Release

Jan. 10th @ 1p

Outdoor Adventure Day-Sledding

Jan. 14th @ 12:30p

Immanuel Women Who Hike

Jan. 20th @ 12:30p

Whitewater Youth Camp

Jan. 26-28th

GV Home Game

Jan. 8th @ 7p

Boys JV & V Home Games

Jan. 11th @ 6p & 7:30p

Boys JV, GV & BV Home

Jan. 15 @ 4p, 5:30p & 7p

GV & BJV Home Games

Jan. 22nd @ 5p & 6:30p

BJV, GV & BV Home

Jan. 30th @ 4pm, 5:30p & 7p