



ILHS Graduation



Graduation season is coming up and this year, Immanuel has eight seniors graduating. All of these seniors have been featured over the course of this year's Senior Spotlights.

The graduation service's primary focus is to honor the graduating senior class. However, in 2023 a new tradition was added that will continue this year.

There is now a kindergarten graduation and an 8th grade graduation- that we used to do back in the 90's. Having these added graduations helps draw people into the service, and can help the kindergarteners and 8th graders feel proud of achieving their milestone.



Banquet/ Graduation 60th Anniversary

This year was the 60th Anniversary of ILHS's Banquet tradition, and the 60th Anniversary of our graduation ceremony! There are so many wonderful long lasting traditions that our student body enjoys, but Banquet is high on the list. During the Banquet there are numerous awards that are given out to the students, some of these are in the name of past students and loved ones of our congregation. Most notably the Lee Doring & Larry Doring and Jone Doring awards.

Fact for those who don't know, Lee Doring was a member of the very first Junior class given the task to put on Banquet for the Seniors. He tragically passed away the summer after that school year, blessed be his memory. There are so many people tied into the history of banquet that have served our congregation and school. We thank them all for their efforts and work!

Come Honor the Seniors! We are Thankful for Them!

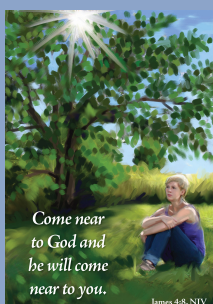
The graduation service will be done by Pastor Naumann and the speaker on behalf of the seniors is teacher Benjamin Hanel. The senior speaker is Jacob Olmanson.

One senior girl says that she's, "Excited but scared because I'm leaving the school that I've been at for 12 years, where I know everyone and everything. Everything will be different, but it's also exciting because everything will be different." I can imagine that most of the seniors feel the same way.

Even while being nervous, I'm sure that all the seniors will do very well as they move on and graduate from Immanuel Lutheran. Proverbs 3: 5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and learn not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

The graduation services are on May 17 at 6:00 P.M. in Immanuel's sanctuary. All are invited! Come support the seniors, kindergarteners and the 8th graders as they move on to a new chapter in their lives!

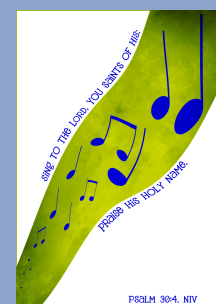
By: Rebekah Busch



SUMMER CHRISTIAN FAITHFULNESS
As summer begins, how do we prevent taking a vacation from our faith walk?



SENIOR CLASS TRIP
Our Senior Class went on their class trip in April!



SPRING CONCERT
Our band, choirs and handbells performed this spring!

Senior Spotlight Ginny Strand



Throughout high school Ginny has had many adventures and experiences, but the memories that she holds closest to her heart are from sports and Whitewater. Ginny enjoyed playing sports because she liked *“being around each other (teammates) and being in an uplifting environment, especially as I got better in the sports, and people would help build me up instead of trying to tear me down. When people lifted me up, that always felt good.”* At Whitewater, Ginny enjoyed *“just getting to hike with everyone, getting to know new people from Eau Claire, reconnecting with some old friends, and just getting to hang out with everyone.”*

One of Ginny’s biggest achievements during her time in highschool was finding out what she wanted to do with her life. *“For the longest time I didn’t know what I wanted to do or where I wanted to go.”*

From her own experience, Ginny’s advice to younger students would be to *“take your ACT and start PSEO by the time you’re a junior. As a senior, I wish I did PSEO and I didn’t.”* Along the same lines, the biggest life lesson that Ginny has learned at Immanuel is *“don’t stress the little things. If you get a bad grade, shake it off. Just focus harder on the next assignment or the next test.”*

What Ginny will miss most from Immanuel after she graduates are her friends that she’s made over the years. She’ll also miss the teachers--especially Mr. Hanel and his history classes. *“It was always the easiest and the most fun class.”* Even though graduation is almost here, Ginny’s goals for the rest of the school year are to finish preparing everything that she needs for college and to *“have fun before leaving.”*

Another thing Ginny has a passion for is camp. She worked at a Lutheran summer camp all of summer 2023, and *“it was the best summer ever.”* She would recommend it to others because you can *“grow, reach out, and work at different camps. It looks good on resumes, you can work on your leadership skills, and you can grow in your faith.”* Ginny also has been a 4 H ambassador for Blue Earth County. She has made great friendships throughout 4 H and is going to work at a week-long summer camp for them.

Ginny is a strong willed person who has bright things coming in her future. She is a hard worker, and I know she will achieve her goals. God bless you, Ginny, and we will certainly miss you!

By: Rebekah Busch

HELP IS NEEDED FOR CLEAN UP DAY! IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE PLEASE COME OUT TO HELP OUT ON SATURDAY!

Senior Class Trip

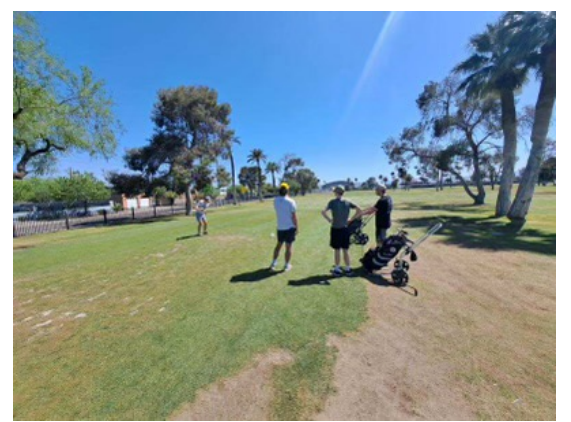
Every year at Immanuel, the Seniors take a class trip. The class plans the trip together, picks anywhere in the forty-eight contiguous United States, and pays for it by fundraising throughout their Freshman through Senior year. For example, the freshmen have the Freshman Carnival, Sophomores the Sophomore 5k, Juniors have the Banquet, and the Seniors choose and do any additional fundraisers they need. The class of 2024 decided to go to Arizona and were gone from April 8th - 12th.

The Seniors went to the Phoenix area and did many fun activities like hiking, visiting the Grand Canyon, hiking Camelback, and golfing. I got the chance to talk to a few of them about their experiences, and any advice they had for younger classes going on their trip. Addi Miller and Lydia Schmid told me that the best part of the trip was the Grand Canyon or Camelback Mountain. And the most memorable thing they did was try on dresses at Macy’s with their classmate Ginny for an hour or so. Senior Munya Kovagoa said his favorite part was sleeping. In my opinion, both sound like a great time. When asked if they’d change anything about their trip the girls said, *“The flight was delayed, but that’s not anything we could control. Our flight got delayed from 9 am to 5 pm.”*

These seniors gave me additional advice too. *“Get money,”* was Addi’s advice. Lydia said, *“Go someplace you want to go and pick activities you genuinely want to do and are excited about. Don’t just do something because you feel like you have to.”*

We’re very thankful that the Seniors had the opportunity to go on this trip and make some great memories; and that their travels, though delayed, were safe. Now as they journey on into greater travels and adventures, we pray that the Lord will continue to bless and keep them, wherever they end up.

By: Rebecca Heinze





Senior Spotlight- Jaxon Libby



One of three of our seniors featured for a spotlight article this month is Jaxon Libby. Jaxon has attended Immanuel since kindergarten. Jaxon has played varsity basketball since freshman year and scored his 1,000 points by his Junior year! He recalls that his favorite memory from here at Immanuel is winning the CAL tournament his junior year.

His plans for after high school to go to Ridge Water College for welding and to play baseball.

The most difficult part of senior year for Jaxon has been waiting for the year to be over. Seems like he is stricken with 'Senioritus.'

His advice for new high schoolers is to make memories and have fun. Those are the things you will take with you. Jaxon's favorite subject during his four years here was history with Mr. Hanel, who he also noted is his favorite teacher.

We pray everything goes well for Jaxon in his future and thank God for his time here. I know I speak for the student body when I say we will miss him very much.

By: Leah Dick

Culture Tour

On Friday April 26th, Immanuel High School went on a Culture Tour. This annual trip is a destination selected by the high school faculty. This year the high school visited Fort Snelling- the historic base- and the St. Paul air reserve station. We visited the base and met with Lieutenants in the Air Force. There we got to see and go inside an AC-130 which is the main plane they operate and fly at the base. After that we proceeded on the tour and walked through the old historical base and the grounds. We learned about what went on there, such as different types of people that would have worked or lived there.

All of the students learned a lot from this experience and had a great time.

By: Leah Dick



Summer Activities & Opportunities

Although the school year is coming to a close, there are always many activities that continue throughout the summer. These activities and opportunities are a great way to stay connected with your brothers and sisters in Christ while simultaneously preventing you from being bored throughout the summer. First, there are many opportunities to grow your faith with summer camps! The first camp coming up this

summer is CLC Youth Camp in Eau Claire. It is in June on the week of the 9th. The campers are ages 5th grade to 8th grade. If you're too old to make that cut, you could volunteer to be a counselor. Counselors must be juniors in high school or older. Another camp available is Porkies (August 10-14). Porkies is a camping experience with "hard core" camping. It is for high school aged kids.

There are also a few sports camps. Immanuel usually hosts one basketball camp for grade schoolers and one for high school students. There haven't been any released dates for those, but keep an eye out for more information. Immanuel Eau Claire also hosts a basketball camp for highschool students, which is another great opportunity to better your skills while being around your extended Christian family. On the topic of sports, the high school girls basketball team is doing a summer league this summer. This means that they get to have basketball practices a couple times a week and play about two games a week. The Trojan boys basketball team also has a similar opportunity this summer where they get to compete in a summer league and practice. Ask Coach Hanel or Coach Heinze for more information and to sign up!

Vacation Bible Schools are looking for volunteers. Immanuel is hosting VBS on July 22-26. The students are ages PreK-6th grade and anyone in 7th grade or older is welcome to help! Another version of VBS that the CLC has is TVBS. TVBS is a traveling vacation bible school, and what that means is the teachers and staff travel from a larger congregation (like ours) to a smaller one to help fill in the gaps volunteer-wise. This assures that there will be enough hands for these smaller congregations to host VBS. Our sister congregation in Nebraska is where we are headed this summer. What a fun opportunity to meet new people, grow in your faith, and have adventures.

Immanuel as a congregation also has many needs this summer that could use able-bodied students and adults alike to help serve and participate in. For anyone in the musical sphere, Immanuel is always looking for special music and ensembles during our services in the summer. Please talk to Pastor Naumann if you are interested in this! Summer time means parades; there is a big need for 'parade walkers' to come and wear some Immanuel garb and walk in the St. Peter 4th of July parade and the North Mankato Fun Days Parade. It would be wonderful if we could get a large group to promote our church and school. You can see Mrs. Hilary Lien for more information on those! It may seem like everything is calming down for the summer, but think again! There are many opportunities within our CLC congregation to continue to grow in faith, sports, and new experiences. If any of these sound interesting to you, don't be afraid to sign up!

By: Rebekah Busch



Senior Spotlight- Alex Matzke

Alexander Matzke is the final senior to be covered for this issue of the Trojan Times. Alex has been attending Immanuel for the last thirteen years, starting in Kindergarten. Alex comes from a long line of ILHS graduates too. His father, Mark Matzke, attended our high school, and all of five of his siblings graduated from here as well. As a generational Immanuelite he had this to say about his experience, *'Immanuel was/is familiar to me. I was able to succeed in what I set out to do because of that familiarity aspect'*.

In my conversation with Alex, we talked about a few things that he participated in while he was enrolled here. He played soccer and basketball for nine years, played in band for eight, and sang with the choir for four. Out of all those extracurriculars he says basketball was the one he enjoyed the most. *'It's my favorite because its exciting'*. Looking back on his time both academically and socially, Alex noted that winning the winter CAL tournament his Junior year was a big accomplishment for him personally.

He has grown up at Immanuel as a both a student and church member. Alex has interacted with many people that have come and gone from our midst these last thirteen years. I asked him who, past or present, was someone he admired from his time here. Alex said, *'It would be Mr. Schrader. We have similar interests, and I think a similar mindset. It's easy for me to relate to him and I admire that he speaks passionately about things he believes in and things he knows'*. Alex admitted that he will really miss the close knit relationships he has here when he graduates, and the feeling of home when it comes to being at Immanuel every day.

Looking towards the future, Alex informed me that he would be attending Bethany Lutheran College in the Fall with the goal of pursuing Mechanical Engineering. I asked him where he sees himself in ten years and he said, *'Hopefully with a decent job'*. I asked him what three goals he had for his future and he was quick to say, *'I want a family, I'd like to travel, and I want to own my own land'*.

We are all praying for you Alex Matzke! We are so thankful to have had you in our school family for long, and we look forward to having you in our church family for many more years to come. The LORD goes before you, Alex!



Summer Faithfulness

Summer is almost here! No more homework, and extra time to do crazy fun things right? The only downside is that without school, we won't be encouraged to spend time studying God's word as we do in chapel, religion classes, etc. So how can we be faithful this Summer?

To be completely honest with y'all, when I volunteered to write this article, I thought *"Oh, I'd be good at this, this is exactly what I'm working on,"* and here we are a few weeks later, and I've already been pretty bad at being faithful; I've completely failed. There's something I've heard that goes like, anyone can do anything for a day. This is true, I can spend time in God's word on Sundays and once or twice a week for about two weeks, but is that enough to say I'm 'faithful'?

Based on my experiences this past month, it isn't in the least bit. I felt so much more at peace, even during the most stressful part of this month, when I was in God's word daily.

While being purposeful about your study in God's word you notice so many changes. First, you create a close relationship with your Savior and your Heavenly Father, who loves and wants a relationship with you. The only way to get closer to your Father is to spend time with him. It takes work. There just isn't a way around that. Jesus even says in the first part of John 8:31, *"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples."* If you abide, this isn't a suggestion: it isn't optional it's necessary. Abiding in the Word means welcoming it, being in it continuously, and putting it to use in your life.

Secondly, if we want to be Jesus' disciples, then we have to spend time with Him. (You can't follow someone if you don't know them or what they are teaching.) We should want to be disciples of Jesus because 1) without being His disciple we cannot follow Him to heaven and 2) If we are disciples of Jesus we will know the Truth and the truth will set us free. (John 8:31 - *If you abide in my word you are my disciples indeed, and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.*) The Truth is Jesus. He sets us free from the slavery sin is. Sin is tricky because it doesn't look like slavery. It looks fun, because if it didn't it wouldn't be a temptation. We need Jesus to set us free from our sins because we sure aren't saving ourselves; we fail to meet the perfect standard miserably every single day rebelling against our Heavenly Father. We need the only person who perfectly obeys his Heavenly Father even to the point of death on the cross.

The need of being faithful to our reading and studying of God's word is obvious. So back to the question, how can we be faithful this summer? The answer is simple: Spend time with God. Look, I get it, we're all busy, and we all have these really fun things to do this summer, but God loves yo;, He wants to spend time with you; He wants you to truly know Him and to rely on Him. Please spend time with Him this summer. Whether it looks like spending time by yourself reading the bible, having a bible study with friends, or making a summer Christian music playlist instead of a secular one (I know that doesn't sound super fun, but a lot of Christian songs are REALLY good)so the things you are listening to even absent mindedly bring you back to Christ. Just find time, whether it's 10 minutes or even an hour, to spend time growing your relationship with your Savior this summer. Know that even when we fail to be faithful, He is faithful and forgives us even when we fail. (2 Timothy 2:13 - *if we are faithless, He remains faithful, He cannot deny himself.*)

By: Rebecca Heinze