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"September 10th, 2025, is now a day that will go down forever in history." Those were my first thoughts when I heard about the assassination of Charlie Kirk. Charlie Kirk was a political activist for the conservative side of politics. He focused on engaging in conversations and debates with people who held different views from his own. And I think that's why people respected him, even those who didn't agree with him. People often came away feeling like they were respected as a person, even though they may have had different opinions. I think he was popular because he truly cared about other people. Charlie Kirk wasn't a politician, but he was involved in politics. He actually seemed to care about the people.

SCHOOL NEWS & OP-ED



Charlie Kirk's Assassination

Charlie Kirk wasn't a politician, but he was involved in politics, and he actually seemed to care about the people. He chose to go and speak at public places like colleges, where he was vulnerable, with the possibility of putting himself in danger. He didn't speak behind barricades because he wanted people to come and feel comfortable asking questions and debating.

One of the reasons that I respect him so much, even though I don't necessarily agree with every single view this man had, is that the most important thing to him was his faith. In an interview he did before his murder, he was asked, *"How do you want to be remembered?"* And his response was, *"I want to be remembered for courage for my faith."* I think that will truly be his legacy too. Charlie was always very open about his faith and shared it with people whenever he could. I think he is a great example of how Christians should live their lives, boldly, not afraid of being "cancelled" or even killed, but truly living a life that glorifies God in whatever we decide to do.

One of my favorite Charlie Kirk quotes is, *"When people stop talking, that's when you get violence."* That's what happened to him. Someone decided that they didn't like his views and wanted to get him to 'stop talking' which is tragic. Free speech and dialogue are important, and Kirk was truly changing the game by emphasizing and encouraging that. Now it's our turn. Charlie Kirk's organization is called Turning Point USA with one of its goals being a place for conservatives to voice their opinions and create places for respectful discourse. It's up to us to make sure that talking and free speech are continued. We should find a way to plug into organizations like TPUSA, or make our own! If we continue speaking out about our faith and our beliefs in a respectful, compassionate, and conversational way, we can help prevent violence. I remember talking with someone who mentioned something to the effect of, *"If America is to be destroyed, it will be our own doing."* I think that is very true; if we cannot have civil discussions with each other, our country will indeed fail.

"History is always in the making" is a quote I often hear, but don't truly realize all the time. To that point I deeply believe that Charlie Kirk was our generation's Martin Luther King, Jr, our Abraham Lincoln. History was in the making when he was assassinated. Charlie was our generation's great leader whose memory will hopefully inspire us to be better people and a better nation.

By: Rebecca Heinze Editor in Chief

Sophomore Pumpkin Search



This year, the Sophomores hosted the annual Sophomore event to raise money for their senior class trip in 2028. This year, they changed the theme to a Pumpkin Search, hiking the trails of Seven Mile Creek Park on Sunday. Participants enjoyed walking and running along the trails and painting pumpkins. There was also a special 'guest' at the Pumpkin Search that trail walkers would run into at certain spots along the way.

This year, the Sophomores added a few new activities for the participants to do. Participants enjoyed walking and running along the trails and painting pumpkins.

The pumpkin painting was a friendly contest! Once they had finished painting, the pumpkins were voted on. The contest had three winners, and each of them received a prize. Third place received one pack of candy, second place received two packs of candy, with three packs of candy for first place. This year's winners were ILS 7th grader Rebekah Enter for first place, ILHS Freshman Damian Busse for second place, and ILS 7th grader Harrison Stratton for third place. While talking to our first-place contestant, Rebekah Enter, she had said, *"It was really fun, seeing everyone's work on their pumpkins was fun to see, the Lorax costume was an amazing twist to what is usually put on, hiking outside and painting pumpkins was fun too. It was a nice spot to join friends to do these things."*

Including a special guest in their event added some suspicion about who would be coming. The special guest that they had invited was The Lorax, from Dr. Seuss! Maycee Schaefer, one of the students in the Sophomore class, dressed up as The Lorax, to add a little twist to the hike.

I had the opportunity to speak with the Sophomores' class advisor, Mrs. Beth Greve, asking about the progress from the beginning to the end, and how it overall turned out. Mrs. Greve, class advisor, said,

"Overall, I think it turned out nicely. We were a little slow getting started, so then rushed towards the end. Thanks to all the parents who helped, and thanks to everyone who came. I think it turned out great!" I also got the chance to talk to a few of the students in the Sophomore class. Cloe Busse said, *"It seemed like people were having fun. And it was a well-rounded event enjoyed by all ages that participated"*. Norah Wakefield said, *"A lot of people had fun and were excited about the special guest."*

It seems like this has been another successful event, put on by the class of 2028.

By: Lucy Stratton



Washington Tour

The Class of 2027's DC tour has concluded. Being one of the juniors that went this year, I can say that it was an incredible experience, and I am very grateful I got the opportunity to go. We were blessed to stay in an extremely conveniently located hotel that was only a few blocks from the metro and was surrounded by restaurant options.

This year the trip's itinerary was a little different than others due to the government shutdown. There were a few places that we were unable to visit, such as Ford's Theater, the Archives, and the Smithsonian museums. Yet because of this we were able to go to some new places that are not normally on the agenda for the History Tour.

These new destinations were The Daughters of the American Revolution Museum, and the Pentagon Memorial. We also got to spend more time at the National Mall. My personal favorite parts of DC were the Bible Museum and all of the cool monuments and buildings. I also asked some fellow classmates about their thoughts and favorite parts of Washington DC, and they said, "DC was surprisingly very nice and clean, there were barely any homeless people, unlike what I was told to expect.", "I thought it was pretty neat to see all the historical things and places, and I enjoyed being able to look at all the cool monuments."

The Junior Class this year is significantly smaller than the average class, with only five students. Yet again this unusual circumstance of a smaller group allowed us to rent some bikes to get from place to place and also just to roam around on. We all had a lot of fun on them, and only a few minor incidents occurred.

Overall, being able to visit our nation's capitol was a wonderful opportunity. I was able to learn and see some American history. We made many new memories and the Class of 2027 is very grateful that we got to experience it all. My recommendation for future classes is to look forward to the DC tour and to go in with a positive attitude. You will get to learn and have lots of fun!

By: Heidi Dick



Soccer Alumni Day

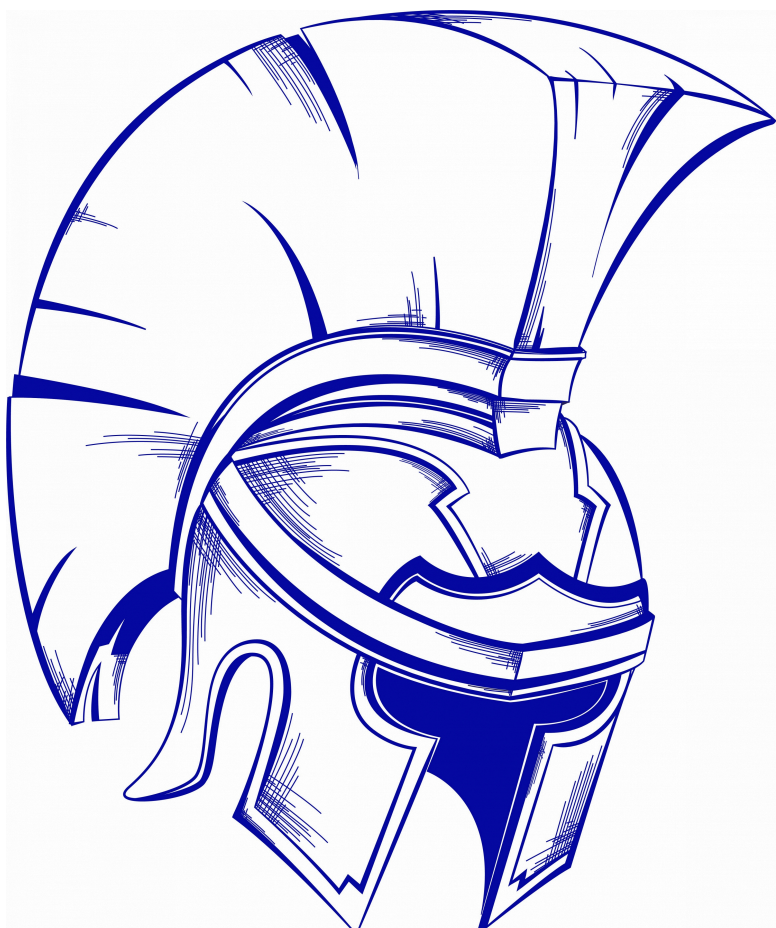
The annual alumni soccer game was held two weeks ago, on Sunday, October 26th. This event brought together our current 5th-8th grade co-ed team, some of our high school, parents, and alumni of ILHS.

Alumni Day organized by the student council had a decent turnout. A good amount of grade school and high school players, as well as some fans came out to enjoy the day together.

The teams were both a mix of 5th-8th, high schoolers, parents, and alumni. Although we did not have a boys soccer team this fall a few of the team members from last year who would usually play came out to play a few games.

Concessions were run by the student council and a couple of extra hands. Cookies, chips, hot cocoa, and baked goodies were provided. The weather was great, and made for a good day of soccer.

By: Colleen Olmanson



EVENTS

Fall Drama Underway

This year, the ILHS Drama Club is thrilled to present their musical 'A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Death Star!' The show is being directed by Mr. Bob Heller and Mrs. Donnell Olmanson.

There are thirty-two talented cast members in the musical, with the main characters including Princess Leia, Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, and Darth Vader. The story takes audiences on a journey of good versus evil!

The cast for A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Death Star consists of students from 7th through 12th grade. Practices are now happening, and the excitement is building as the production date quickly approaches! In my discussion with Mr. Heller, I asked what is challenging about bringing the script to life. He said, *“Well, the challenging part, is I know what a student has for talent and that's kind of like being a teacher, you have to bring it out of them.”*

Performance dates are November 21–22. The Dinner Theater performance will be held on Friday, November 21. Doors open at 5:00 p.m., dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m., and the show will follow. A second performance will take place on Saturday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for Friday’s Dinner Theater performance are \$25 per person, and tickets for Saturday night’s performance are \$5 per person (children ages five and under are free). RSVPs are due by November 16 for Friday’s performance. The cast is excited and hopes to see you there!

By: Norah Wakefield

Trojan's at Home Schedule

Alumni Day 11/9 1pm

Dinner Theater 11/21 5pm

Fall Play 11/22 7:30pm

Girls Varsity Basketball 12/4 5pm

Boys Varsity Basketball 12/4 6:30pm

Volleyball Alumni Day



Immanuel’s annual Volleyball Alumni Day is set to take place on Sunday, November 9th, from 1 to 4pm, in the school gymnasium. This tradition brings together current high school volleyball players and former players who have now graduated.

The varsity girls volleyball team just finished their season. The girls played some good games last weekend at the end-of-the season MCAC tournament. They are excited to see how the game against alumni goes this year, and are hoping for a win.

In addition to the alumni games, there will also be a parents vs. 5th-8th grade girls volleyball team game and an alumni vs. alumni game. The grade school vs. parents game will kick off the afternoon, with the others to follow.

Games start at 2, concessions will be open, and admissions are free! Hope to see you all there for a fun afternoon of volleyball!

By: Colleen Olmanson

Student Corner

Ads & Opportunities

Youth Group
FRIENDSGIVING
POTLUCK
 NOVEMBER 12 6:15 PM
DINNER . STUDY. FELLOWSHIP
THE FELLOWSHIP HALL
 Sign up in the church office with your dish to pass!
 Questions can be directed to Mrs. Lien

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Pumpkin Spice & Everything Nice

Thanksgiving
Pie Palooza
WEDNESDAY NOV 26 @ 7PM
 BRING A PIE OR TWO TO SHARE, AND JOIN YOUR CHURCH FAMILY FOR A 'PIE PALOOZA' IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT AFTER SERVICE!

The Third Book of Moses Called
Leviticus
 CHAPTER 1
 ND the LORD ^Rcalled unto Moses, and spake unto him ^Rout of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying, ^{Ex. 19:3 · Ex. 40:34} Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, ^RIf any one of you bring an offering of fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD, 10 And if his offering be of the flocks, namely, of the sheep, or of the goats, for a burnt sacrifice; he shall bring it a male without blemish. 11 ^RAnd he shall bring the offering unto the LORD, and shall offer it upon the altar, and shall burn it, and shall drink the blood thereof, and shall sprinkle it upon the altar.
A LADIES WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY
ALL LADIES WELCOME!
 THEME:
FINDING CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
FRIDAY NIGHTS @ 7 PM
CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
 CONTACT HILARY WITH QUESTIONS
 CHURCH@IMMANUELMANKATO.ORG

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Senior Spotlight

Cade Libby Class of 2026



This month's senior spotlight is none other than the infamous Cade Libby.

Cade is one of our seniors who went all the way through Immanuel's K-12th grade program so we have all been able to grow with him throughout the years.

During his time here he has participated in soccer and basketball.

I had a chance to interview Cade and ask him about his experience and his time here with us at Immanuel. He told me that his favorite part of high school was going on the Washington DC Tour his junior year.

Cade's favorite class overall was his 11th grade Statistics class and it was taught by one of his all time favorite instructors, Mr. Brandan Heinze.

Along with Mr. Heinze, Mr. Ben Hanel stood out to Cade as an influential teacher. He noted, *'Mr. Hanel always pushes us to think objectively about things.'*

Seeing as Cade enjoyed athletics during his time here I asked him how he felt about representing his school colors on the field or court. He said, *'It doesn't matter to me too much personally. There are a lot more important things (in life). That's just sports. I do think it is a cool thing to represent the school, just not super important in the long term.'*

Immanuel has been a big part of Cade's life so far. I asked him what his plans were after graduation and he informed me that, *'I plan to go into HVAC. I will be going into the program that South Central College has.'*

Cade will be dearly missed when he graduates. We all have great hopes for him as he will continue on to graduation and then into the world. We are excited to see him on the basketball court for one more season!

When we finished up the interview I closed by asking him for a farewell message to the underclassmen at ILHS. He simply said, *'Keep up with your school work.'*

May the LORD go with you to graduation and beyond, Cade Libby!

By: Leah Dick

