



Illinois Lutheran High School, Junior High and Elementary

Illinois Lutheran Schools provide quality, Christian education to students of the Church and community and the world, nurturing and reaching souls for time and eternity.

Building on the Rock

On Saturday, October 21, Illinois Lutheran held its "Building on the Rock" Capital Campaign Pledge Dinner. This dinner was intended to raise awareness of the ongoing capital campaign to fund building projects for both the elementary and high school campuses. These improvements will help us offer a greater variety of co-curricular programs but what is of greater importance is the impact that these projects will have on our students' lives.

The highlight of the evening were four videos from ILHS graduates, Eric Dorn (2013), now a high school teacher, Lisa Becker O'Donnell (2001) a lieutenant colonel in the army, Luke Latzke (2023) a first year college student and Stephen Apt(2007) , a WELS pastor. Each of them expressed the value and importance of co-curricular activities in the development of their Christian character and at the same time instilling these values into their everyday lives. These videos are posted on our school's YouTube channel (ILS TV). They serve as a testimony to Illinois Lutheran's impact on our students' future.

The "Building on the Rock Capital Campaign" is a four-year fund raising program designed to raise \$3,000,000 for the completion of the grade school campus remodeling and the building of the I.M.A.C. (Illinois Lutheran Multipurpose Activities Center). This much needed structure will allow us to accommodate the wide variety of co-curricular

activities in both the grade school and high school which we currently find difficult to do. This clear span building will accommodate sports, music, drama and allow for large gatherings for concerts, church activities and community events. It will be a one of a kind structure in our community.

If you were unable to attend the dinner and would like to find out more about our Capital Campaign and how you can still get involved in our mission, give us a call at 708-672-3262 or reach out to our web page at ilhs.org/building-on-the-rock.

Building on the Rock
Ephesians 2:20



Thankful for the past,
building for the future.

Daily we thank God for all the prayers and support that you give to our school's ministry. Together we can effectively continue to train young souls. We thank you for considering how you might personally help us to better prepare our students for time and eternity.

Again, if you have any additional questions, please don't hesitate to call or email.

In His service,

Joe E. Archer
Senior Administrator
Jr High & High School Principal



Watch the alumni video!

B Team Girls Basketball

Coach: Greg Wallace

The season was a wonderful success. It was a pleasure to work with the young girls, to get to know them and to see them grow as young Christians. They always worked hard at practice while having fun and at the same time they helped each other become better players.

The most rewarding aspect was seeing them grow in their understanding of how to play the game. It was not about running plays but allowing them to play naturally, to see the openings in the opponent's defense, to exploit weaknesses while also understanding how to play proper team defense. It is sad to see the season come to an end. However, I look forward to seeing their progression as they move through the various levels of the game and wish them God's blessings in their journey.



High School Golf

Head Coach: Tim Cantu

Assistant Coach: Gary Flaig

The Charger Golf Team's 23-24 season was a huge success. Thank you for the exciting season for our girls and boys teams. The girls team consisted of senior Ashley Schmidt, junior Maddy Rodrigues, sophomore Julia Karl and freshman Margaret Italiano. The boys team included senior Tristan Biesterfeld, juniors Aiden Bozorov, Derek Diehl, Nick Flaig, and Daniel Atherton, sophomore Joe Brooks, and freshman Eli Potmepa.

We had three Sectional qualifiers, Julia Karl, Tristan Biesterfeld, and Aiden Bozorov. Julia and Tristan advanced to the 1A State Finals and made the Friday cut to play in Saturday's final round. Tristan finished his senior year as the 45th ranked player in the state. Julia finished her sophomore year as the 65th ranked player in the state.

Our teams are very motivated to improve on this year's results and with graduating seniors, Ashley and Tristan, we will be looking to add more boys and girls to our teams for next season. We need more players, regardless of experience, as we prepare for our 24-25 season and beyond.



Above: Boys Golf Team

Right: Girls Golf Team

Bottom Left: Tristan Biesterfeld

Bottom Right: Julia Karl



Charger Booster Association

President: Elizabeth Oestmann

Secretary: Victoria Chilo

Treasurer: Missy Reposa

Elementary Representative: Beth Youngberg

Junior High/High School Representative: Cindy Gunderson

After a brief absence, CBA is back! The Charger Booster Association is a group of parents and individuals who support the mission of Illinois Lutheran Schools through fundraising, and by providing fellowship activities for students, families and faculty. We have started the 2023-2024 school year with great success.



CBA hosted our first ever Fall Mums Sale in partnership with Woldhuis Farms Sunrise Greenhouse. Thanks to the families of our school, churches and community, we sold over 525 mums! It was a great

success. We look forward to making this an annual sale for the Charger Booster Association.

Another event CBA was involved with was the ILS Trunk or Treat and Chili Crawl. More than 20 people decorated vehicles, and 15 chilis were made for the Chili Crawl. We were also blessed with donations from school and church families,



Chili Crawl Champion: Huante Family (photo above)

as well as local community supporters, including Crete Lions Club, Bambino's Restaurant and Beal Family Salsa. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to our winners!

We are looking for more parents and supporters who are interested in being a part of this vital organization. If you are interested, Charger Booster Association meetings are held at Illinois Lutheran High School (1610 Main Street in Crete, IL) the second Tuesday of every other month at 6:30 PM. For more details visit <https://ilhs.org/charger-booster-association>.



Trunk or Treat Winners:

1st - Boren Family (photo above)

2nd - Flamini Family

3rd - Diehl/Wyatt Family

27th Annual Golf Outing - Save the Date!



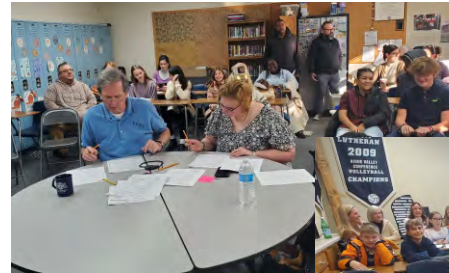
The Illinois Lutheran School 2024 Golf Outing will be held at Lincoln Oaks Golf Course in Crete, IL on Saturday, June 1, 2024. This is a very fun day of fellowship for everyone, golfers and volunteers included. Please watch for more information to come in the spring. Start talking to your golf friends about getting a team of four to participate, or consider a donation or sponsorship. We hope to see you there!

Grade School & Junior High Forensics



The CALAC Forensics tournament was hosted on our Junior High/High School campus on Saturday, November 4. We welcomed participants from four different schools: Resurrection Lutheran School in Aurora, Jerusalem Lutheran School in Morton Grove, Good Shepherd Lutheran Academy in Downers Grove, and our very own students from both the elementary and junior high campus of Illinois Lutheran Schools in Crete. To participate in forensics, the students had to choose from one of the six available categories: group drama, declamation, prose and poetry reading, humorous, original oratory, and storytelling. Some categories also required the participant(s) to memorize the pieces they had chosen to perform. The morning was filled with a wide variety of performances, from poetry by Edgar Allen Poe to a story about an elephant who just HAD to sneeze.

In total, there were about 60 participants between the four schools. Students worked very hard to prepare their pieces over the weeks prior to the tournament. A highlight from the ILS team



was 7th grader Melody Italiano, who earned a 1st place ribbon in

prose and poetry reading. The day also saw stellar performances by 6th grader Molly Hamrin who performed "The Real Story of the 3 Little Pigs" in storytelling, 6th grader Lucy Wallace who read "My Mom" in prose and poetry reading, and 6th grader Noelle Bushey who read "The Tell Tale Heart" in prose and poetry reading. It was a fantastic day of seeing these young people practice their public speaking and developing their skills. Well done to all of our students who participated!

Joey Boswell, 6th grade, Prose & Poetry, 1st Place
Mikayla Griffith, 5th grade, Prose & Poetry, Participant
Noelle Bushey, 6th grade, Prose & Poetry, 1st Place
Abigail Henning, 5th grade, Prose & Poetry, 3rd Place
Lucy Wallace, 6th grade, Prose & Poetry, 3rd Place
Bronwynn Oldenburg, 6th grade, Prose & Poetry, 3rd Place
Lyla Boomsma, 6th grade, Prose & Poetry, 3rd Place
Molly Hamrin, 6th grade, Prose & Poetry, 1st Place
Jonah Newport, 6th grade, Storytelling, 2nd Place
Darien Mitchell, 6th grade, Humorous, 4th Place
Melody Italiano, 7th Grade - Prose & Poetry, 1st Place

Elementary & Junior High Soccer

Head Coach:

Jacob Lash

Assistant Coach:

Megan Deenik

The elementary and junior high Charger soccer team enjoyed a very successful season during the fall of 2023. This team of 5th-8th graders was composed of a strong group of junior high and elementary school athletes who worked extremely hard over the course of the season. The team played both conference and non-conference teams, ending their season with a record of 8 wins and 2 losses.



ILS took charge in most games, scoring more goals than they allowed. The Chargers also had 5 wins and 0 losses in conference games, which earned us the regular season championship. The Chargers also ended the season on another high note, winning the tournament championship! It was awesome to have so much success on the field during the season.

All of the athletes improved in their own individual skills, passion for the game, and grew into playing new positions. Their teamwork grew throughout the season, and by the tournament, they were playing extremely well together. It was a wonderful season for the elementary and junior high Charger soccer team. It was a privilege to be a part of it! We look forward to working with the athletes and watching them grow again next year!

Pink Night

Each October for the past several years, the ILHS volleyball team hosts "Pink Night" for Breast Cancer Awareness month. Each year, the goal is to raise money to help someone who is currently battling breast cancer. The team and their parents always work hard at putting together a successful night of fundraising. This year, everyone went above and beyond to raise money for one of our own. Laura Biesterfeld, our third grade teacher, was a big part of our pink nights for the past 6 years as her daughters were on the volleyball team. It was our turn to give back to Laura, as she has been battling breast cancer for the past year.

All I can say is, "WOW!!" What a blessing to have so many people help to make such a successful night! We had 40 baskets to raffle, sold more t-shirts than we had in the past and had an awesome crowd! When everything was counted, we raised over \$6,100 for Laura!! What an amazing night!

There are so many people to thank. Elizabeth Oestmann and Jennifer Garret were in charge of running and organizing everything and did an amazing job! Thank you to all the volleyball players and families who helped set up, clean up, volunteered to work that night and



provided awesome baskets for the raffle or tasty treats for the bake sale. Thanks, also, to the many families and businesses who provided raffle baskets, bake sale items and the cost of the t-shirts. Thanks to the junior high volleyball team for the donation of their cotton candy sales and help at the different tables that night. Thanks to the concessions for the donation of the concession money and ticket sales. Thanks to EVERYONE who helped in any way, from purchasing a t-shirt or raffle tickets, paying for a dress-down day at school or just wearing pink to cheer on the Chargers in their awesome win against the 2nd place team in the conference! I am so thankful to have a team and school community who is willing to help in so many ways! Thank you all so much!!! Please keep Laura and all who are battling or have battled breast cancer in your prayers.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:16

Elementary Grandparents' Day

Coordinator: Megan Deenik

September 29th was another successful Grandparents' Day at Illinois Lutheran. We were privileged to have over 200 grandparents attend and participate in our scheduled events. The grandparents enjoyed time with their grandchildren while attending chapel, playing bingo, and carnival games, doing a craft, or playing board games. The children also performed their song from Christian Education Sunday for their grandparents.

Of course this fantastic day would not have been possible without the help of so many volunteers and donations. Thank you again to everyone who attended and helped out! Everyone had a great time!



High School Soccer



Varsity Head Coach: Andy Biesterfeld

Assistant Coach: David Kenyon

The 2023 Chargers soccer team was a young and inexperienced group that had their struggles, but also at times played well, which is to be expected. First year keeper Bailey Fairchild played most of the team's minutes in the net and made some outstanding saves throughout the season earning him Rookie of the Year honors. Sophomore Jace Danzy earned the Most Improved Player award and played some as the team's keeper, defensive back, midfielder, and attacking winger. Seniors Tristan

Biesterfeld and Jacob Mooney received Most Valuable Player and Coach's Choice honors respectively. The team finished with a 2-16 record, but made significant improvement throughout the season, especially during the second round matches against conference opponents. Staying focused for 80 minutes is a challenge for experienced players, but even more so for those inexperienced players.

Overall, the team performed well despite taking on teams with a significant upper-class presence and playing 5 of our 18 matches against teams that qualified for the Sectional Finals in their respective divisions. Next year's team will have plenty of opportunity for growth both individually and collectively.

Charger players receiving recognition include:

River Valley All-Conference:

Tristan Biesterfeld – 1st Team

Jacob Cullens – 2nd Team

Jacob Mooney – Honorable Mention

A Team Girls Basketball



Head Coach: Taryn Oldenburg

The Chargers junior high girls basketball team wrapped up an exciting season placing second in conference and a thrilling championship win in the end-of-season tournament!

Illinois Lutheran Junior High athletics joined the Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) which brought

about several changes to schedules, competition and rules. The 7th and 8th grade girls basketball team faced two significant changes, in that, our season switched from late winter to late summer/early fall. Our first practice started at the end of August instead of January. It sure was nice to walk outside after practice to sunshine instead of snow!



The second change was the opportunity to play in our first ever regional tournament! These Chargers were ranked second out of eight teams for regional play! We give all glory to God for our accomplishments and His protective hand over us this season. I do believe that JH girls basketball is a different level of play and one that, besides talent, requires intense physicality, determination and heart.

We will miss four of our starters next year due to graduation but we look forward to seeing these girls shine in whatever they do! Thank you for a truly memorable season with some truly fantastic girls!

High School Volleyball

Head Coach: Ruth Junker

Assistant Coach: Nicole Kennedy

This volleyball season, we welcomed three new players. Freshmen Lola Spada and Calleigh Garrett and sophomore Tami Olusola. With returning sophomore, Abby Gebbia, that meant only four players for JV. The juniors and seniors stepped up and, in groups of three, took turns playing on the JV team to help them have a season. The season was a success and they ended with a 16-3 record.

The juniors, Anna Oestmann, Emma Nagle, Mia Jacobucci, Kimberly Danielewicz, Azaylia Sanchez and Madison Permenter and seniors, Kailey Van Es, Marisol Tafolla and Bianca Hurst, along with freshman Calleigh Garrett, also put tremendous effort into the varsity season.

After a close loss to Crete-Monee and a loss in a steaming hot gym at Momence to start the season, the girls played an awesome match at Heritage Christian. Playing in Indiana meant playing a best 3 of 5 match. The team won the first set 25-23 then lost the second 21-25. After winning the third set 25-21 they struggled in the fourth set and lost 14-25. Going into the fifth set, the girls battled and came away with a 15-13 win! The last win at Heritage Christian was in 2019, so this was a great win for the team.

The team also had some struggles along the way but had some quality wins against top teams. They beat Grace Christian (third in conference) in a hard fought, 3 set match and Momence (2nd in conference) in another hard fought, 3 set match on pink night. They, again, attended the highly competitive



tournament at Wisconsin Lutheran College and almost stunned Luther Prep in the last match of the day. The girls won the first set 25-20, lost the second set 22-25 and lost a heartbreaking third set 16-17. A win on senior night against Morgan Park Academy, who received the 2nd seed in the sub sectional for the post season, was another great win for the team. The season didn't end the way we thought it would, but the girls worked hard all season and all of them contributed to our successes.

I have to say, for me, the highlight of the season was Homecoming, when we had our "Points for Hudson fundraiser" to help our teacher (and past assistant coach) Jeff Rick and his family with medical expenses for their newborn son. The girls collected pledges and played an awesome game against Tri Point to, not only get the win on Homecoming, but to raise over \$6,200 for the Rick family! Thank you to all who contributed to make this fundraiser a success! Please continue to keep Jeff, Lisa, and Hudson in your prayers!

I would like to thank Nate Hinz for all he does to keep our season running smoothly. Also, a big thanks to Nicole Kennedy for stepping up to the JV coach role and all her help during the season. Thank you to Tonya Danielewicz as well for traveling to all our games to keep the scorebook.

Now for the individual player awards:

Kailey Van Es: River Valley Conference (RVC) First Team All-Conference, Illinois Volleyball Coaches Association (IVCA) All State Honorable Mention team, American Volleyball Coaches Association Best And Brightest award - 3rd team.

Anna Oestmann: RVC Second Team All-Conference; IVCA All State Honorable Mention team and All State All-Academic team.

Emma Nagle: RVC Second Team All-Conference, IVCA All State Honorable Mention team and All State All-Academic team, Wisconsin Lutheran College All Tournament team, Team Most Valuable Player and Best Teammate award.

Mia Jacobucci: RVC Special Mention All-conference team, IVCA All State All-Academic team.

Madison Permenter and Azaylia Sanchez: IVCA All State All-Academic team.

Calleigh Garrett: Manteno Tournament All-Tournament team and team Most Improved Player award.

We have to say goodbye to our seniors, but we pray for God to guide them in their next chapters after graduation.



Save the Date! Upcoming Events:

Saturday, December 2 - Blood Drive @ 10 am - 2 PM (elementary school)

Tuesday, December 5 - Kindergarten - 6th Grade EARLY RELEASE @ 11:15 AM
- Junior High & High School EARLY RELEASE @ 11:30 AM
- Preschool EARLY RELEASE @ 11:30 AM

Sunday, December 10 - Christmas Concert @ 7 PM (high school)

Sunday, December 17 - Elementary School Christmas Service @ 2 PM (high school)

Wednesday, December 20 - High School 1st Semester Exams
- Junior High & High School EARLY RELEASE @ 12:30 PM

Thursday, December 21 - High School 1st Semester Exams
- Junior High & High School EARLY RELEASE @ 11:00 AM

Friday, December 22 - High School 1st Semester Exams
- Junior High & High School EARLY RELEASE @ 11:00 AM
- Kindergarten - 6th Grade EARLY RELEASE @ 11:15 AM
- Preschool EARLY RELEASE @ 11:30 AM

Monday, December 25 - Tuesday, January 2 - Christmas Break

Wednesday, December 3 - School Resumes

Tuesday, December 9 - Charger Booster Association Meeting @ 6:30 PM (high school)

Monday, January 15 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day NO SCHOOL

Tuesday, January 30 - Kindergarten - 6th Grade EARLY RELEASE @ 11:15 AM
- Junior High & High School EARLY RELEASE @ 11:30 AM
- Preschool EARLY RELEASE @ 11:30 AM

Online School Calendar: ilhs.org/school-calendar/



Illinois Lutheran Schools

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