



Illinois Lutheran High School, Junior High, Elementary and Preschool

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

Thankful for the Light at ILS

Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. The Lord is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever. Psalm 28:6-9

Praise be to the Lord for ILS. Through ILS, I and thousands of others have learned that the Lord is our light, strength and shield. My heart leaps for joy when I consider the great things our God has done at ILS. Thank you for the role you and your families have played so that I and thousands of others would know their Savior and shepherd for life and eternity. Our Lord has done great things at ILS because Jesus is shared, connections are made and learning is unlocked. For that I am so thankful.

It's such a blessing that hope and truth continue to be shared. ILS is a ministry that shares Jesus. We are a Christian ministry dedicated to sharing Jesus with every child and family we serve. Rooted in God's Word, our school partners with parents and churches to nurture faith, character, and purpose. Biblical truth shapes the hearts of all ILS Family members and guides our decisions, preparing us to live in light to impact the lives of others for time and eternity. Together, we strengthen the vital bond between home, church, and school so that every student is nurtured, supported and equipped to shine in this world of darkness and for eternity. One ILS family shared, "I am grateful for the genuine care every teacher and administrator shows each child, not just academically, but more importantly, in their walk with the Lord."

I (Jesus) have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. John 12:46

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2

I am grateful for the ILS Family. ILS is a community that celebrates connection. On our campuses, students build friendships across grade levels, and families connect through shared experiences. In our diverse environment, we celebrate the God-given strengths and stories that each student brings, while fostering unity and belonging. These connections shape Chargers who are ready to collaborate with others and make an impact. Together we live as one ILS family, united in Jesus and committed to one another. As one new ILS parent discovered, "I am most grateful for the kindness and positive environment. . . . Since her transition into ILHS I feel I have my daughter back. She is rebuilding herself, and I am truly grateful."

My (The Apostle Paul's) goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossian 2:2-3

The impactful lessons taught in our PreK3-12 classrooms have an impact for life and for eternity. ILS is a school that unlocks learning. We provide an excellent education that helps students grow from one grade to the next and thrive beyond graduation. Learning is unlocked through individualized instruction that helps all students develop essential skills: critical thinking, clear communication, and creative problem-solving. With high expectations and strong support, students excel academically and graduate ready to lead, serve, and contribute wherever God leads them. One ILS parent noted, "(ILS) has provided him (my son) with a wonderful environment to grow in leadership. ILS has given him a space to be stretched and grow in cooperative learning and we are truly grateful."

Thank God for the good, lasting gifts that He provides through Jesus, the shepherd that carries us forever. Thank God that the ILS Family unites to sing his praises in churches, classrooms, athletic courts, communities and careers. Thanks be to our God, our light, strength and shield, who unlocks learning for each ILS student.

Principal Matt Moeller

National Honor Society Induction



Advisor: Katty Van Arnold
Assistant Advisor: Jacob Lash

Illinois Lutheran High School started its first ever chapter of National Honor Society this fall. National Honor Society is a service organization run at high schools around the country that encourages students to continue pursuing scholarship, leadership, service, and character during high school and beyond. Juniors and seniors are eligible to participate based on meeting academic, service, and leadership criteria. We inducted our very first group of students in early October in a ceremony well attended by families and friends. There have already been a few events that NHS has put on to serve those in our community and school including the Charger Stampede 5k, blood drives, and a Veterans Day breakfast. We have more events upcoming as we continue to plan based on needs we see in our community and what we as a group feel passionate about. National Honor Society hopes to have at least one service event a month, striving to serve our Savior as well as our school and community.



National Honor Society Members:

Joseph Brooks (12)
 Grace Chilo (12)
 Jeffery Churchill Jr. (11)
 Jace Danzy (12)
 Bailey Fairchild (12)
 Abigail Gebbia (12)
 Ashley Gunderson (12)
 Jordan Hoffman (12)
 Tyler Mooney (11)
 Lola Spada (11)
 Olivia Zuniga (12)

Illinois Lutheran Chapter Advisors:

Mrs. Katty Van Arnold
 Mr. Jacob Lash

Illinois Lutheran Faculty Council Members:

Mr. Conor Kopp
 Mr. Caleb Paul
 Miss Chloe Robbert
 Mr. Tim Rimpel
 Miss Beth Schuppe
 Mr. Matt Moeller - Principal

5th - 8th Soccer

Head Coach: Jacob Lash
Assistant Coach: Megan Deenik

The grade school/junior high Charger soccer team enjoyed a very fun and successful season in the fall of 2025. This co-ed team of 5th-8th graders was the largest that it has been in quite a few years with 22 athletes. It was amazing to have so many young athletes interested in the sport and excited to play!

Throughout the season, this team played a wide variety of teams, however, without a conference in place, the number of games played was smaller than usual. Still, the Chargers took charge in most games, scoring a total of 40 goals with 23 assists while only allowing 16 goals. The Chargers ended the season with 6 wins, 1 draw, and 1 loss. There was no tournament this year, so the season ended quicker than we are accustomed to.



Left to right (back row): Assistant Coach Megan Deenik, Jimmy Molek, Nicholas Conterato, Lani Abayomi, Jackson Hopkins, Emmett McKinney, Robby Deenik, Joshua Collins, Coach Jacob Lash. Middle row: Ryan Seeger, Gabriel Salami, John Skirmont, Elias Storch, Jonah Newport, JJ Seeger, Dominic Clas, Patrick Wallace. Front row: Zeus Espinoza, Heidi Deenik, Stephen Bennett, Blake Budlove, Danilo Perez, Juliana Molek, Ashton Parks.

High School Golf

Head Coach: Tim Cantu

Assistant Coach: Anthony Kernagis

The ILHS golf season went very well this year. We had a relatively young team with three sophomore and three freshmen. We are in a great position with our golfers because with such a young team our players are already competitive. If we can keep our players practicing and playing throughout the off season we believe they will come back very strong next year.



This team will be together for two to three more years. The way they challenge each other is the one thing that changes an average team into an amazing one and we're really looking forward to next season!



Left to right (back row): Coach Tim Cantu, Max Sobek, Angelo Propst, Elijah Kendrick, Assistant Coach Anthony Kernagis. Front row: Brayden Van Es, Julia Jacobucci, Demond Harrison.

Elementary Grandparents' Day



Coordinator: Megan Deenik

It was another great Grandparents' Day this year! We were able to welcome around 160 grandparents to spend the morning with their grandchildren. They attended chapel together, played bingo or board games, made a craft, and played some carnival games in the gym. At chapel, the children sang *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* for the grandparents. This could not have been done without the help and support of many volunteers and the other teachers. A special thank you to the Charger Booster Association, who provided donuts to the grandparents! We had so many great comments after the event, and we are looking forward to doing it all again next year!



Charger Stampede



The Diehl, Lash and Rick families walk the course with their little ones.

Coordinator: Katty Van Arnold

The Charger Stampede 5k made its fall debut this year! The beautiful autumn colors and cool temperatures at Goodenow Grove made it a wonderful event. We had over 60 runners and walkers participate, with top three finishers awarded the race's first set of medals. Students and families of the Illinois Lutheran community had a great day of exercise and friendship. The high school's chapter of National Honor Society

volunteered as timers and cheerleaders along the course. This year's event was a fundraiser for tuition assistance at ILS. We raised over \$5,000, with the top fundraisers as Lyla Boomsma (\$1,000), Principal Matt Moeller (\$950), and Zeus Espinoza and Charlotte Siefert (\$500 each). Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy the day and support Illinois Lutheran School!



Medal Winners (left to right): Jorge Luna, Ryan, standing in for his dad Zach Seeger, Noah Van Arnold, Noelle Bushey, Julia Jacobucci, Lucy Wallace.

Faith Is Strengthened Here (F.I.S.H.)

My name is Derek Storch and I am the leader of F.I.S.H. and have been a member at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crete since 2016. What is FISH? FISH stands for Faith - Is - Strengthened - Here. FISH is a faith based youth group open to 7th and 8th grades students and is located at Trinity Lutheran Church. So far this year, FISH has had four events! In August we hosted Game Night. In September we hosted an archery event, and in October we participated in ILS Trunk-or-Treat, greeting nearly 400 people! This past November, we hosted a bowling night.

Future FISH dates!

December 17 - Advent Clean Up @ 4:30 - 6 PM
 January 24 - Family Dinner/Trivia Night @ 6 - 8 PM
 February 18 - Lent Dinner (with Pioneers)
 February 28 - Feed My Starving Children
 March 27 - Mario Kart Racing @ 6 - 8 PM
 April 19 - Community Clean Up @ 2 - 4 PM
 June 2 - Sky Zone
 June 14 - End of the year Recap mtg @ 12:30 - 1:30 PM

All 7th & 8th graders are welcome to join us for these events! Questions? Please contact Derek Storch at derekmstorch@gmail.com or Chloe Robbert at crobbert@ilhs.org.



5th - 8th Baseball



Left to right (back row): Assistant Coach Jeff Rick, Casey Pendergrass, JJ Seeger, Jimmy Molek, Robby Deenik, Elias Storch, John Skirmont, Coach John Van Es. Front row: Ashton Parks, Max Torres-Padilla, Danilo Perez, Cruz Perez, Ryan Seeger, Jonathan Hurst, Anthony Iozzo.

Head Coach: John Van Es

Assistant Coach: Jeff Rick

With head coach John Van Es and assistant coach Jeff Rick, the Illinois Lutheran Chargers junior high baseball team had an exciting fall season. We beat our tough conference rivals Momence and Donovan, while building strong team chemistry and long lasting bonds through our shared faith.

We are a young group that played hard for each other. The work ethic we have shown on and off the field, and the respect we have for the game and our opponents, is what makes up Illinois Lutheran baseball! Our two 8th graders, Jimmy and Robby, have taken huge steps in just one year. They are great leaders and are going to be great additions to our high school team this next season.



5th - 8th Softball

Head Coach: David Kenyon

Assistant Coach: Mike Siefert

After returning to ILS athletics during the 2024-25 school year, the junior high softball program made excellent progress this season.

Most memorably, the Chargers earned wins against Crete-Monee and St. Anne—both in walk-off fashion. All 15 members of the team, who largely were in their first or second year of the sport, showed tremendous improvement over the course of the season.

In addition to growing in the fundamentals of the game, the team focused on being mentally resilient. No matter the score, we focused on playing hard, learning and adapting.

The coaches are already making plans for 2026 and eager to watch our six eighth-graders move to the ILHS softball team!



Left to right (back row): Coach David Kenyon, Molly Loosemore, Noelle Bushey, Lucy Wallace, Lyla Boomsma, Krista Edwards, Heidi Deenik, Zuri Lambe, Assistant Coach Mike Siefert. Front row: Taylor Silcott, Lilly Karl, Brynn Ipema, Heidi Deenik, Charlotte Siefert, Juliana Molek, Abigail Henning, Lillian Mueller.

Hundreds Turn Out for Annual Trunk-or-Treat!

Recruitment Director: Colleen Webb

A crisp, sunny fall day, dozens of decked-out trunks, and hundreds of children made our annual Trunk-or-Treat on Sunday, October 26 a festive affair. More than 375 children and their families enjoyed trick-or-treating at nearly 30 different trunks, each with its own carefully selected theme, and high-spirited decor. Attendees enjoyed everything from Beetlejuice, Cubs Baseball, Scarecrows, whimsical garden, the Legend of Sleepy Hollow and everything in between, including an appearance by Charlie the Charger himself. New this year were community organizations who hosted trunks, including Old Plank Trail Community Bank, Crete Park District, Girl Scouts and more. The three top trunk winners were Deb and Dan Witte with the Legend of Sleepy Hollow Theme, the Diehl Family with a Paw Patrol Trunk, and the Crete Park District. Attendees also enjoyed a BBQ smoke-off and sampled pulled-pork sandwiches. Thank you to all those who volunteered, hosted a trunk and attended for making it the biggest and best Trunk-or-Treat yet.



ILHS Alumni Update

Alumni Coordinator: Jen Ovadenko

He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil—this is the gift of God. Ecclesiastes 3:11-13

This is my first autumn season in my role as Alumni Coordinator, and I never could have guessed the fun and exciting time that God would bless us with at Homecoming time! In the past month, I hosted an Alumni table at the Homecoming Volleyball game and collaborated with Jeff Rick to have an Alumni vs. Staff Volleyball game. This event had a great turnout and many alumni participated in the game. It was uplifting to hear the students cheering for their teachers and principal! I also had a fall raffle basket prize for those who updated their contact information, and we gave an ILHS Alumni T-shirt and Charger mug prize to a second winner.

Prior to Homecoming, the August Community Picnic at Zion was also a success. We had many children participating in the scavenger hunt based on the history of Illinois Lutheran School.

I have continued to share good news posts about the school and about our alumni (when they are publicly shared stories) on our social media, and post many photos and video clips of the Alumni Homecoming game and other recent events. I am open to receiving any good news recognitions regarding our alumni who are currently in college and post their success stories, as well as sharing any other exciting events in the lives of all alumni, such as engagements, weddings, growing families and career advancement. I encourage alumni to share stories on our Facebook page (ILHS Alumni Association) or email the information to me at jovadenko@ilhs.org.

Thank you for continuing to support me in this role as Alumni Coordinator.

Jen Ovadenko
jovadenko@ilhs.org



Left to right: Hannah Nagle (Class of 2022), Mia Jacobucci (Class of 2025), Maddie Peters (Class of 2020), Ryleigh Peters (Class of 2023), Matt Moeller (Class of 1991), Tonya Danielewicz (Class of 1990), Nicole Kennedy (Class of 2020).

Blood Drive

Coordinator: Chloe Robbert

Every year, ILS partners with Versiti Blood Centers of Illinois to host multiple community blood drives. Every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood products. Our blood drives help to sustain a supply of blood that can be used to save many lives. Students volunteer to help promote and run day-of needs of the blood drive. New donors are always needed and appreciated.

With our October blood drive, we were able to not only meet but EXCEED the goal of 15 units of blood by collecting a total of 19 units of blood! This was thanks in large part to many new donors that participated from the community. If you have any questions about donating or our blood drives, please reach out to Miss Chloe Robbert (crobbert@ilhs.org). The schedule for the rest of our blood drives for the school year are as follows:

- **Thursday, February 19 @ 12:30 - 4:30 PM**
- High school gym
- **Thursday, April 23 @ 12:30 - 4:30 PM**
- High school gym
- **Friday, June 19 @ 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**
- Mobile donation bus @ high school campus

Save the Date!

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, December 11 - High School Christmas Concert @ 7:00 PM (high school)
Sunday, December 14 - Elementary & Junior High Christmas Concert @ 2:00 PM (high school)
Wednesday, December 17 - FIRST SEMESTER HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS
- Junior High & High School EARLY RELEASE @ 12:30 PM
Thursday, December 18 - FIRST SEMESTER HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS
- Junior High & High School EARLY RELEASE @ 11:00 AM
Friday, December 19 - FIRST SEMESTER HIGH SCHOOL EXAMS
- EARLY RELEASE ALL GRADES
- 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 22 - Friday, January 2 - CHRISTMAS BREAK - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADES
Monday, January 5 - SCHOOL RESUMES
Tuesday, January 6 - Charger Booster Association Meeting @ 6:30 PM (high school)
Tuesday, January 6 - 5th - 8th Grade & High School Volleyball Parent Meeting @ 6:00 PM (high school)
Friday, January 16 - Elementary & Junior High Volleyball Photos @ 2:45 (high school)
Monday, January 19 - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADE LEVELS
Tuesday, February 3 - EARLY RELEASE ALL GRADE LEVELS
- Junior High & High School EARLY RELEASE @ 11:30 AM
- Kindergarten - 6th Grade EARLY RELEASE @ 11:15 AM
- Preschool EARLY RELEASE @ 11:30 AM
Monday, February 16 - PRESIDENTS DAY - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADE LEVELS
Friday, February 27 - TEACHERS CONFERENCE - NO SCHOOL ALL GRADE LEVELS

Check out our
new school
calendar!
Set up an
account
with EventLink
and download the app.



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