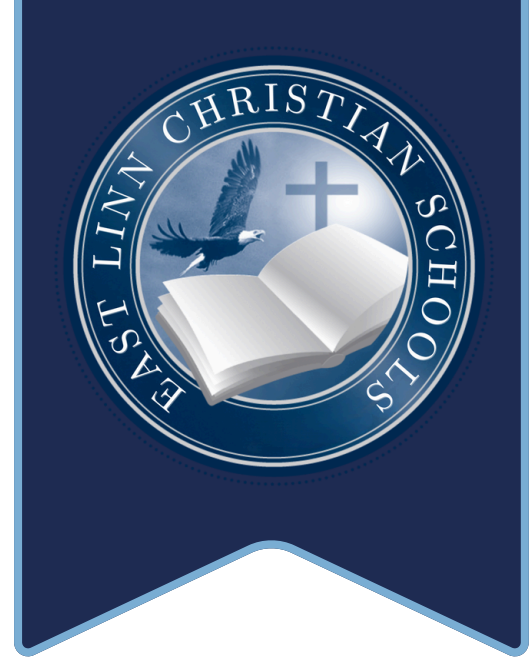


FEBRUARY 2025

# EAGLE NEWS

EAST LINN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Monthly Newsletter



## QUICK LINKS:

- [2024-2025 Student Handbook](#)
- [East Linn Christian Website](#)
- [2024-2025 School Calendar](#)
- [Senior Newsletter](#)
- [2025-2026 Enrollment Guide](#)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- 2025 School Auction
- Chaplain's Corner
- School Safety & Security
- Teaching for Transformation Spotlight

We are in the heart of our High School basketball season & I want to take a moment to recognize the accomplishments of our student-athletes:

- Our girls team currently sits in a tie for 1st place in the Valley Coast Conference. They are ranked #5 in overall OSAA rankings.
- Our boys team currently sits in 2nd place in the Valley Coast Conference. They are ranked #11 in overall OSAA rankings.

If the season were to end today both teams would qualify for the first round of the state tournament. While there is a lot of basketball still to play before everything is finalized, they are enjoying some great success on the hardwood.

While winning can become contagious, it also brings out the most competitive nature in all of us. What makes our Eagle crowd amazing is we are unashamed supporters of our teams & we show up to games making a great crowd for our student-athletes. As the games become more meaningful & intense, I want to remind everyone that cheering at a game isn't just about making noise or sharing your play by play opinions. It is about lifting up your team, creating positive energy, & creating a supportive atmosphere that propels the student-athletes to try their very best.

When we attend games as parents, we are representing God first & foremost. Our witness to other schools matters immensely during an athletic event. Secondly, whether you have an East Linn Christian shirt on or not, by cheering for our team and sitting in our fan section you are representing our school. Third, you are representing the student-athletes on the court. When controversial moments arise it is human nature to react. For competitive individuals, unjust moments bring out an immediate response. We want to protect our team! However, I can assure you that 100% of the time when we react & verbalize that "protection" we not only hurt our witness, but the situation on the court typically will get worse. Whether that be a ref continuing to make controversial calls or our student-athletes feeling even more pressure.

[\(Read More Here\)](#)



**Robby Gilliam**

**Athletic Director  
MS/HS Principal**

SWING FOR THE FENCES...  
GEAR UP FOR  
BASEBALL SEASON!

SUPPORT THE  
EAGLES BASEBALL TEAM  
SHOP THE TEAM STORE

EAST LINN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

**SHOP FOR BASEBALL GEAR  
HERE**

## JANUARY ATHLETES OF THE MONTH



**HENRY BRANHAM BASKETBALL**



**JOSIE GRUNERUD - BASKETBALL**



**BLAKE KNUROWSKI - BASKETBALL**

# COUNT THE STARS - 2025 AUCTION

FEB 2025

Our largest fundraising event of the year is quickly approaching! We would like to take this opportunity to let you know that our 40th Annual Benefit Auction will be held on Apr 4, 2025 in the school Activity Resource Building (Gym). This event is an evening to rejoice with each other over what God has done in, through and for our school, as well as raise funds to continue our mission.

As auction time approaches, we need help from our families!

How can you help?

We are currently seeking donations of items for both our live and silent auction as well as auction sponsorships.

Questions about our auction? Please reach out to Julie Lara, Auction Chairman, [jlara@eastlinnchristian.org](mailto:jlara@eastlinnchristian.org).

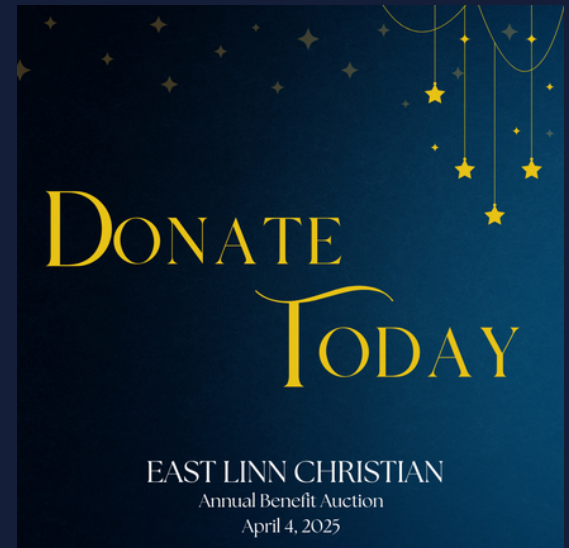
Here's some helpful links for more info:

[2025 Auction Website](#)

[Auction Sponsorship Opportunities](#)

[2025 Donation Request Letter](#)

[Procurement Form](#)



## HS SADIE HAWKINS 2025

We look forward to seeing you at Sadie's this year! It will take place on February 8th, at 7-10 pm in the Cafeteria and gym. There will be laser tag, pizzas, and video games, including a Wii and a Switch. Admission is \$15 and can be purchased at the door.

ELC PRESENTS

# THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW

By C.S. Lewis, Dramatized by Aurand Harris.

FREE- DONATIONS ACCEPTED  
FEBRUARY 14TH - 7 PM  
FEBRUARY 15TH - 2 PM & 7 PM  
VALLEY LIFE CHURCH  
90 E VINE ST. LEBANON

Produced by special arrangement with THE DRAMATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY of Woodstock, Illinois

[Order a Theater Club Show T-Shirt Here!](#)

## THANK YOU! 2025 Yearbook Advertisers

DJ Excavation and Land Management

Lifetime Gutters

Hazella

Windy Productions

Midway Plumbing

Three's Company

Ma's Restaurant

Devlin Auto Detail

Axios

Hair by Teresa

WCIS LCC

Pure Therapy

Aldrich CPA's + Advisors LLP

All-Star Pizza

Bryan Rehnberg Premiere Property Group

3 Potato More

Thank you to everyone who bought an ad and supported the HS 2025 Yearbook so far! The ads will be in the back of about 80 yearbooks and are \$50 each. If anyone is interested in buying an ad, email [jdavis@eastlinnchristian.org](mailto:jdavis@eastlinnchristian.org)

# TEACHING FOR TRANSFORMATION SPOTLIGHT

## ELEMENTARY SPANISH - “LAS POSADAS”



For the last three years our elementary students have taken part in a tradition known as Las Posadas. This is a tradition commonly celebrated in Hispanic and Latino communities around the world that commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. As part of the tradition each grade is responsible for representing a different part of the celebration. Kindergarteners create little lanterns that light the way for Mary and Joseph. First graders create special gifts to lay at the feet of baby Jesus. Second and third graders dress up as angels and read scripture from the book of Luke to announce the birth of Jesus in both Spanish and English. Fifth graders dress as Mary, Joseph, and innkeepers as they reenact the journey from long ago going class to class asking for shelter. Fourth graders welcome them in at the final location offering them shelter in a stable. Once each class has done their part we complete the celebration with traditional games and yummy treats. The goal of the project is to explore different ways of celebrating culture in hopes that we might see more clearly that our true belonging is in God's Kingdom with all of His children that He has uniquely created in His image.

## 9TH - 12TH LEADERSHIP - “BE A BETTER LOBSTER”

The 9-12 Leadership class is made up of our ASB and Student Council. They serve the student body by finding ways to build community and make space for the belonging of others. One of the ways we've done that this year is writing a card to a member of our school community and delivering it as a class in person every Friday. Students nominate someone at school who is kind, could use encouragement, or as a way to tell someone they're appreciated. When we deliver the card, someone tells the recipient why they're awesome and that we are glad they're at East Linn Christian, and then take a picture of the whole class with that person right as the bell rings for the weekend.



## 11TH CAREER EDUCATION- “IN GOD’S PRESENCE, WE CAN BE PRESENT”



Students were determined to go out into the world to make a difference. The Career Education students chose to take on 5 weeks of tasks including writing 10 encouraging notes a week. We all agreed that people tend to be more depressed when they spend a lot of money on groceries, so we gave them nice encouraging notes to uplift their moods. We handed out an estimated 200 out of 550 notes.

## “LOVE MUST BE SINCERE”

In 2025 virtually all 365 days of the year have been adopted as a national day of sorts. Some are significant and others rather trivial. Since the national bicentennial year of 1976 February has been “Black History Month.” That sounds pretty important, but not all days have been. “Groundhog’s Day” has been celebrated on February 2nd since 1886. “Washington’s Birthday” (est.1879) was a national holiday celebrated on February 22nd until it was combined with Lincoln’s Birthday and broadened to “President’s Day” which was conveniently moved to the 3rd Monday of the month in 1971. The list of recognized days to celebrate has since reached a number that is truly absurd. But there is one day in February that is remembered by almost everyone and that is February 14th – “Valentine’s Day.”

Valentine’s Day was almost a holy day in public schools when I was a kid. There was a concerted effort to make sure that every child in the classroom got a card, a nice note, and sometimes a sweet treat from every other classmate. ELC holds similar traditions. In the elementary building classes have parties, and on the days preceding the 14th Mr. Bates recognizes “random acts of kindness” between students. At middle and high school where romantic affections are frowned upon, we play a game of stealing paper hearts students wear and must surrender if persuaded to talk to a peer of the opposite sex. All of this is done in order to accommodate the socio-cultural mythology of “St. Valentines’s Day. [\(Read More Here.\)](#)



**Jon Bartlow**

ELC Chaplain

## LEARNING TO WRITE IN PRESCHOOL



In preschool, learning to write letters, especially our name is an important goal. But learning to write isn't only for pencils and paper. We can learn to write in lots of different ways! We can learn to write using all kinds of creative things like liquid glue, turkey feathers, shaving cream, bark chips, q-tips, play dough, chalk, and paintbrushes! Preschool is about trying lots of new and different things and building those muscles in our hands so that it is easier to hold a pencil later on. There is not just one way to learn!

## JOYA WINNERS

**Isabella Stutzman**  
9th Grade



**Levi Puentes**  
7th Grade



**DeWayne Larsen**

**Safety & Security Director**

I am excited to share with you that starting February 1st, I will be taking on the role of Safety and Security Director in addition to my current role as Facilities Administrator. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure East Linn Christian Schools remains a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for students, staff, and visitors.

Over the coming weeks, I will be focusing on organizing safety documentation, refining protocols, enhancing training, and ensuring that everyone knows their roles and responsibilities when it comes to safety. I will also be looking into several new safety upgrades to the school as we continue to enhance our security measures. Your partnership is vital as we work together to ensure the safety of all.

I'm reminded of the verse from Psalm 127:1:

"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain."

This verse speaks to the importance of grounding our efforts in God's guidance.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding safety or facilities, please don't hesitate to reach out. Together, we can create an environment where everyone feels safe and empowered to thrive. Thank you for all you do to support East Linn Christian Schools.

**Mr. Miller = Network Administrator** (makes sure the internet works)

**Mrs. Dix = Technology Administrator** (makes sure your technology works)

Mr. Miller	Mrs. Dix
<b>Monday:</b> 9:00-10:15	<b>Monday:</b> 1:30-2:35
<b>Tuesday:</b> 8:00-8:45	<b>Tuesday:</b> 1:05-2:30
<b>W-F:</b> 8:00-9:40	<b>W-F:</b> 12:55-2:30

**REMINDER!** Chromebooks are to be used for school purposes ONLY! Please don't allow your student to use it for games or other non-school activities.

*Morning Video Announcements*

we've started a film editing class (the focus is diving deeper into the editing process of film). As part of the film editing curriculum, we will be gradually adding a component to the mshs morning announcements that are in a video rather than typed out (a typed out version will still be present and provided-this is just an alternative version).

**-New Happenings-**

we have been diligently working on updating our emergency alert notification on our phones so that they can be more effective campuswide.

6TH GRADE

JR SMITH

7TH GRADE

BOAZ ANGELLFORD

8TH GRADE

HADASSAH ALBERT

9TH GRADE

SAVANNAH BAKER

10TH GRADE

ERIN DAVEY

11TH GRADE

ALEXIS KAUFFMAN

12TH GRADE

KAMDEN BIERLY

## PREVIEW EVENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE NEW FAMILIES

Do you know a family that is interested in enrolling at East Linn Christian?

Our new Preview Events are designed for new families that are interesting in enrolling at East Linn Christian. In addition to a campus tour, attendees will hear the school's mission and values from Janelle Detweiler, our Superintendent, as well as have an opportunity to meet the Elementary and Secondary Principal, and Preschool Director. Families will learn about our curriculum, athletics, clubs, spiritual life, scholarships and more!

[Click here to share the event flyer!](#)