CENTRAL NEBRASKA LUTHERAN SCHOOL

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." -Ephesians 2:10

October 2026

Grand Island Lutheran High School

3900 W. Husker Hwy
Grand Island, NE 68803
308-385-3900
cnlutheran.org

CENTRAL NEBRASKA
LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Trinity Lutheran School

208 W. 13th St.
Grand Island, NE 68801
308-382-5274
cnlutheran.org

Where did October go? It was a busy month here at CNLS with parent teacher conferences, field trips, fall break, and teacher trainings. While time with students seems fleeting, it's a great reminder to take time and pause, reflecting on the privilege we have serving students and families. With Halloween quickly approaching, it is especially beneficial to reflect back a few hundred years to Martin Luther and other reformers who helped shape the educational opportunities our students experience today, both in the public and private sector.

In our Lutheran, and other Protestant traditions, we celebrate "Reformation Day" on October 31st to mark the start of the reformation period which changed the world forever. While most of us are familiar with the theological contributions of the reformation, the educational impact was just as meaningful. Luther and his colleagues championed universal education that was to be accessible to both boys and girls in hopes for all children to become literate and able to read scripture. These contributions are still felt today from elementary to university level education.

At CNLS, we are thankful for the daily opportunity to instruct students in God's Creation and His promises for their lives. Standing on the shoulders of those before us, we do so boldly in a world which oftentimes encourages us to stray from His truth and follow down a path of destruction. I give thanks for our families, staff, students, and local pastors who join together in guiding our youth and equipping them for lives of faithful service to God and others.

-Andy Rathe, Head of Schools

LIGHTNING news

It's hard to believe that October has already come and gone! Time flies when you're having fun, and the Lord is certainly at work here at Grand Island Lutheran High School. October was filled with awesome performances, fun opportunities, and so many reasons to celebrate our students and their accomplishments.

Our fall sports seasons came to an end last week, and our kids represented GILH with pride throughout their seasons. From a school-record performance at State Cross Country, to a football season we can be very proud of, and a volleyball season filled with so many great memories, our teams all seemed to peak at the right time. We experienced plenty of wins and losses along the way, but what stood out to me most was seeing our student-athletes give praise to Jesus Christ at the conclusion of their competitions. What a great reminder during this Reformation season that our identity is not found in wins and losses, but in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

I also want to recognize our Cheer and Dance teams for the energy, school spirit, and excitement they brought to our fall activities. Their hard work and dedication are appreciated, and they play such an important role in making GILH a special place!

I would like to thank all of our coaches, families, and supporters for an incredible fall season. The time, energy, and commitment you pour into our students do not go unnoticed, and we are blessed to have you as part of our school community.

October also provided some awesome opportunities for our students outside of the classroom. Experiences like Manufacturing Day allowed our kids to explore potential career paths, connect with local businesses, and see firsthand the opportunities available right here in our community.

As we enter the month of Thanksgiving, my family and I are reminded of how blessed we are to be part of this community. Every day, I have the privilege of watching our students grow academically, socially, and spiritually, surrounded by teachers, coaches, and families who genuinely care about them. What a blessing it is to serve in a school where Christ is at the center of everything we do!

-Jeremiah Slough, Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS AT CNLS:

- 11/2- K-6 Concert at TLS @ 7PM
- 11/6- No School
- 11/25-11/27- Thanksgiving Break
- 12/1- 5-6 Band/Handbell Concert at TLS @ 7PM
- 12/1- Blood Drive at GILH
- 12/7- 7-12 Concert at GILH at 7PM
- 12/14- K-2 and 3-6 Advent Services at GILH

CLICK THE LINK BELOW AND SUBSCRIBE TO LIGHTNING BUZZ, OUR BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER, AND STAY CONNECTED AND UP TO DATE ON GILH ACTIVITIES!

LIGHTNING BUZZ



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2026 HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN, SETH REYNOLDS AND ABBY VAN BIBBER!

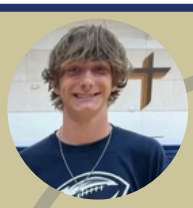
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SOPHOMORE CLASS, 2026 HOMECOMING CHAMPIONS!





CONGRATULATIONS TO MORGAN HOLLIDAY ON BEING SELECTED FOR THE UNK HEALTH ACADEMY!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS





LUKE OLSON WAS RECOGNIZED AS EPIC FOOTBALL CAMPS PLAYER OF THE WEEK! CARTER BROEKEMEIER WAS RECOGNIZED AS GO PHYSICAL THERAPY'S ATHLETE OF THE WEEK!



CROSS COUNTRY IS THE GOLDENROD CONFERENCE RUNNER UP FOR THE 2ND YEAR IN A ROW!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JR. HIGH VOLLEYBALL TEAM ON THEIR 1ST PLACE FINISH IN THE B DIVISION AT THE LINCOLN LUTHERAN TOURNAMENT!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ELLIE KEASLING ON SETTING THE NEW SCHOOL RECORD FOR THE MOST ASSISTS IN A SINGLE MATCH WITH 43 ASSISTS.











OLIVIA SALMON WAS SELECTED FOR 8TH GRADE ALL-STATE BAND

ARIELA MEIER-JUAREZ WAS SELECTED FOR 8TH GRADE ALL-STATE CHOIR

GRACE BADER AND ABBY VAN BIBBER WERE SELECTED FOR CONCORDIA HONOR CHOIR

DARIUS UDEN

STATE QUALIFIER



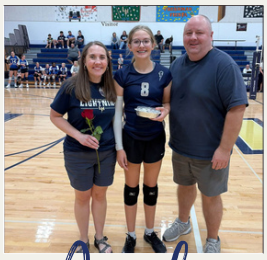
CROSS COUNTRY



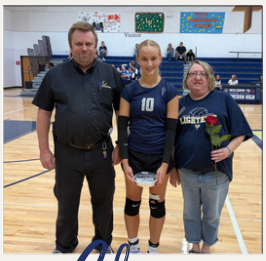
Olivia



Katelyn



Annika



Claire



Ariela



Avionni



Caleb



Graham



Jordan



Ryker



Aubrey



Abigail



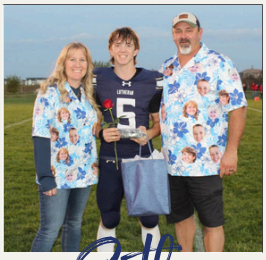
Abby



Madison



Daisy



Seth



Walker

SENIOR AND 8TH GRADE PARENT NIGHT

FOOTBALL & VOLLEYBALL

HONOR ROLL

JUNIOR HIGH
FIRST QUARTER

JUNIOR HIGH

- Evan Alvarado*
- Avery Bartels*
- Libby Buettner*
- Ephraim Ellison
- Asher Johnson*
- Olivia Lassonde
- Gavin Lemburg
- Keaton Malmstrom
- Elena Maurer*
- Nathan Meyer*
- Annika Morris*
- Addalynn Ortegren*
- Olivia Salmon*
- Jax Smith*
- Ryan Snoberger
- Yoselin Terraza-Gonzalez
- Logan Wasick
- Chloe Baker
- Ellinora Bazan*
- Colin Driewer*
- Jaxon Fosket
- Kelsey Kelm*
- Graham Laurent*
- Jordan Liess*
- Claire Manchester*
- Ariela Meier-Juarez
- Madison Mora*
- Evelyn Murdoch*
- Brenna Ruether
- Katelyn Sandoval
- Nathan Snoberger*
- Caleb Strong
- Ryker Thomas
- Bradyn Wattier

*denotes all As





LIGHTNING TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Kevin Liess

About Me

I was born and raised in Grand Island. Lutheran education has always been a part of my life and I'm blessed to be able to teach at two schools that not only had an incredible impact on my life, but much of my family's life as well. My wife Chelsey also teachers at Lutheran High and our three children, Skyler, Jordan, and Carson all attend Trinity and GI Lutheran.

My Favorites

Color:	Red-GO BIG RED!
Animal:	Mongoose (mainly becaue they kill snakes)
Hobbies:	Traveling and watching my kids' activities.
Food:	Cheeseburgers
Bible Verse:	Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. -1 Peter 5:7

Education

- Trinity Lutheran
- Heartland Lutheran
- UNK

GRAND ISLAND LUTHERAN HIGH LIGHTNING

meet our STUDENTS



Kassidy Kennard

Junior

ABOUT ME!

I'm an 11th grade student here at GILH. Some of my favorite things to do are listen to music, watch TV, and play the piano. I absolutely love this school because it's a place where I can be myself, have fun, and spend time with some of my favorite people.

MY FAVORITES!

COLOR:	Red
SUBJECT:	Art
CANDY:	Watermelon Sourpatch
DRINK:	Pepsi
FOOD:	Panda Express
HOBBY:	Reading
BIBLE VERSE:	Galatians 4:7







Highlights



Lutheran High





LIGHTNING CORE VALUES

A-Accountability

We take responsibility for our actions, words, and growth.

B-Belief

We trust in God-and in the abilities He's given us.

C-Consistency

We show up with integrity and do our best every day.

D -Discipline

We stay focused, work hard, and grow through challenges.



TIGER TEACHER OF THE MONTH

Tami Chandler

About Me

I am the 5th grade teacher at Trinity. I grew up in Grand Island and attended Trinity Lutheran School, Grand Island Senior High, and then chose to attend Concordia University. I received a call to teach at Cross Lutheran in Yorkville, IL, where I met my husband. We have three children who have blessed us with eight grandchildren. In 2002 we came back to NE, where I have taught at Trinity for twenty years. I love spending my free time with grandkids or being outdoors.

My Favorites

Color: Purple

Animal: Polar Bear

Hobby: Spending time with grandkids/Outdoors

Food: Macaroni and Cheese

Bible Verse: Psalm 122:1

Education

- Trinity Lutheran School
- Grand Island Senior High
- Concordia University, Seward

TRINITY
Lutheran School

meet our STUDENTS



Faith Strong

3rd Grade

About Me!

I'm a 3rd grader at Trinity Lutheran School. I like to ride my horses and show bottle calves. My favorite sport is gymnastics. I'm good at helping friends in need. One of my favorite things to do is have friends over and ride horses.

My Favorites!

Color:	Blue
Subject:	Science
Candy:	Nerds
Drink:	Lemonade
Food:	Hamburgers
Hobby:	Riding horses
Bible Story:	Jonah and the Big Fish







Highlights



Trinity Lutheran





NEW FOR 2027!

YOUR TAX DOLLARS. THEIR BRIGHT FUTURE.

SUPPORT NEBRASKA STUDENTS THROUGH THE EDUCATION FREEDOM TAX CREDIT!

Starting January 1, 2027, you can direct a portion of your federal income tax liability to support Nebraska kids and families seeking K–12 private school scholarships. Keep your tax dollars in Nebraska, and give hope to local kids...

it's a no-brainer!



$1,700 SINGLE FILERS

$3,400 JOINT FILERS

1 HOW DOES THE EDUCATION FREEDOM TAX CREDIT WORK?

Using the Education Freedom Tax Credit, taxpayers can receive a credit of up to $3,400 for contributions made to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) that would otherwise have been owed to the government in federal income taxes. A tax credit reduces the amount of federal income tax owed dollar-for-dollar (unlike a deduction, which decreases taxable income).

2 WHO CAN CLAIM THE EDUCATION FREEDOM TAX CREDIT?

Any individual who is a citizen or resident of one of the fifty States or the District of Columbia may claim the credit if the individual makes a charitable contribution to an SGO such as OSN for that taxable year. OSN will then use contributions to fund scholarships for eligible students.

3 CAN I SUPPORT A PARTICULAR SCHOOL?

With OSN, you will be able to designate a portion of your contribution to benefit kids who choose the school that matters most to you. Taxpayers cannot, however, designate a specific beneficiary with their contribution.

4 WHICH STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS?

An eligible student who qualifies for a scholarship through the Education Freedom Tax Credit is one who can enroll in a public K–12 school and from a household with income not greater than 300% of the area's median gross income. Practically, that means most Nebraska K–12 students will be eligible to apply for an Education Freedom Scholarship.

Give Hope. Create Opportunities. Make a Difference.


PURPOSE 26-27 EPHESIANS 2:10
Central Nebraska Lutheran School