

Trojan Highlights

Senior Spotlight-Leah

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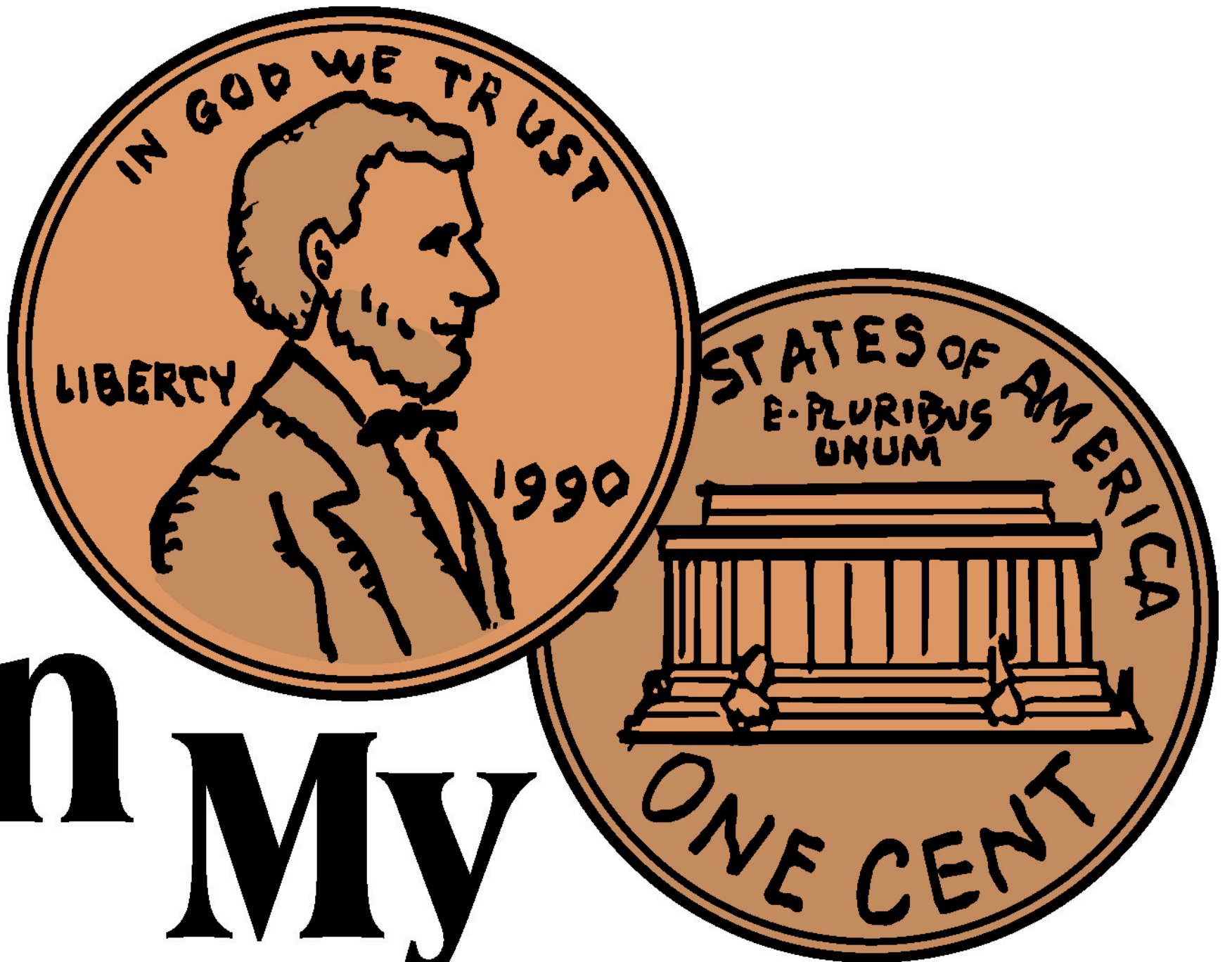
Dick

Maze

Whitewater 2026

Trojan Honor Op-Ed

Photos



In My Opinion

ILHS has a new reward system called Trojan Honor. What are some thoughts from our student body about this?

Op-Ed & News

Opposing View

I understand and appreciate that the teachers are trying to change school culture for the better, but is being rewarded for doing the right thing a good thing? Or is doing the right thing what we should already be doing? During Jesus' time, the Pharisees were doing the "right" things, such as following the laws, fasting, and praying. However, for them, it became a show of how "righteous" they were. They focused on the outward appearance and doing the right thing for their glory instead of from their hearts. Don't get me wrong, good 'works' should flow from

the body of Christ. Galatians 5:22-23 talks about things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control that should be produced by the Holy Spirit in our lives when we have faith. However, Matthew 6:1-4 warns us about "practicing righteousness to be seen by others. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven." If we practice righteousness on earth so that we look good to others, that will be our reward. It's a warning to really consider our motives. Are we doing the right things to glorify ourselves, or are we doing it out of love for our Savior and to follow His commands? Jesus also tells us in verse 3 of Matthew 6, to "Not let your right hand know what your left hand is doing," again reinforcing the idea that our good works should be between God and ourselves. I don't know about you, but I don't want to lose sight of the reward waiting for us in heaven. I want to be like the servant in Matthew 25:21, and I want to hear my Father in heaven say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." This isn't to say those who are rewarded won't hear this, but a warning that our motivation and our hearts should be checked to see if they are God-pleasing.

The second point I want to make is that rewarding good behavior can teach people that they **will be** rewarded for doing good or doing the right thing. However, life doesn't usually work that way, and seeking earthly glory and reward won't usually come from not conforming to the world. We are blessed to live in America, but in many other countries, Christians are persecuted or even put to death for their faith. Our reward as Christians doesn't come from the world, so teaching kids that they will be rewarded for doing the right thing has the danger of raising kids to think they will be rewarded, and has the possibility of leaving them unprepared for what the real world is actually like. This, of course, can be solved by ensuring that kids are prepared and equipped to go out into the world after they leave.

By: Trojan Times Journalist

Trojan Honor System Pro- Con Op-Ed

Many people at Immanuel have different opinions on the Trojan Honor. The Trojan Honor is used to acknowledge students who display good deeds, and it aims to instill good behavior in a range of young children to upper classmen. The younger students see the older students behaving in a good and God-pleasing way and can learn from them. Yes, as we get older we should know to be kind, do good, and be respectful. But we are all sinners and it is beneficial to be recognized, and it helps remind you and others to follow through with those actions. Rewarding good behavior can be a good way to create positive, helpful habits in students that can be useful later in life. These habits can set reminders of how to treat others and act as Christians. It can help students feel appreciated and valued because they are being acknowledged for their good works.

I interviewed some of the staff; one of them was our Principal, Mr. Mariner. He said "Trojan Honor is not only for the students but also for the staff as well, the teachers can acknowledge when students are showing Trojan Honor characteristics. The overall point is to invoke a positive culture shift here at Immanuel Lutheran." The intentions are to help the students being recognized so they feel that what they are doing is showing positive cultural change, while at the same time glorifying God. I also interviewed our Vice Principal, Mr. Wheaton, "We have Trojan Honors with the goal it would invoke kindness around school and create strong Christian leaders. Students earning the Trojan Honor allows other students to see the recognition and are influenced to do the right thing. Some people will love it and others will think it's foolish, but if you get down to the reason why it was implemented, you would understand we're following the Word of God and encouraging all to be good Christian leaders."

1 Timothy 6:18 says, "Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share." This tells us what we are commanded to do, and the Trojan Honor brings in the recognition of the good works. 1 Peter 1:12, "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us." Seeing others do the right thing that glorifies God can lead and encourage others to do the same.

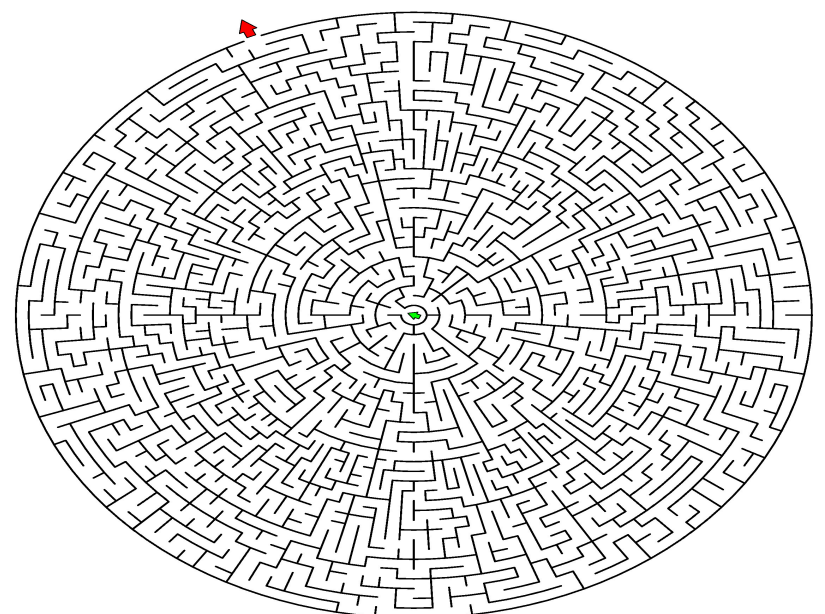
By: Trojan Times Journalist

Tough Mazes by CrazyDad, Book 1

Maze #4

Bored? Try a maze!

You're welcome.



Student Corner

IMMANUEL WOMEN WHO HIKE

HIKING EVENT

Nerstrand State Park
JOIN US FOR HIKING, FELLOWSHIP & FUN!
WE WILL MEET AT CHURCH AND CAR POOL OR CARAVAN TO THE PARK!

Sunday, February 8 @ 12:30pm

ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS CAN BE DIRECTED TO HILARY LIEN



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Immanuel Lutheran Youth Group

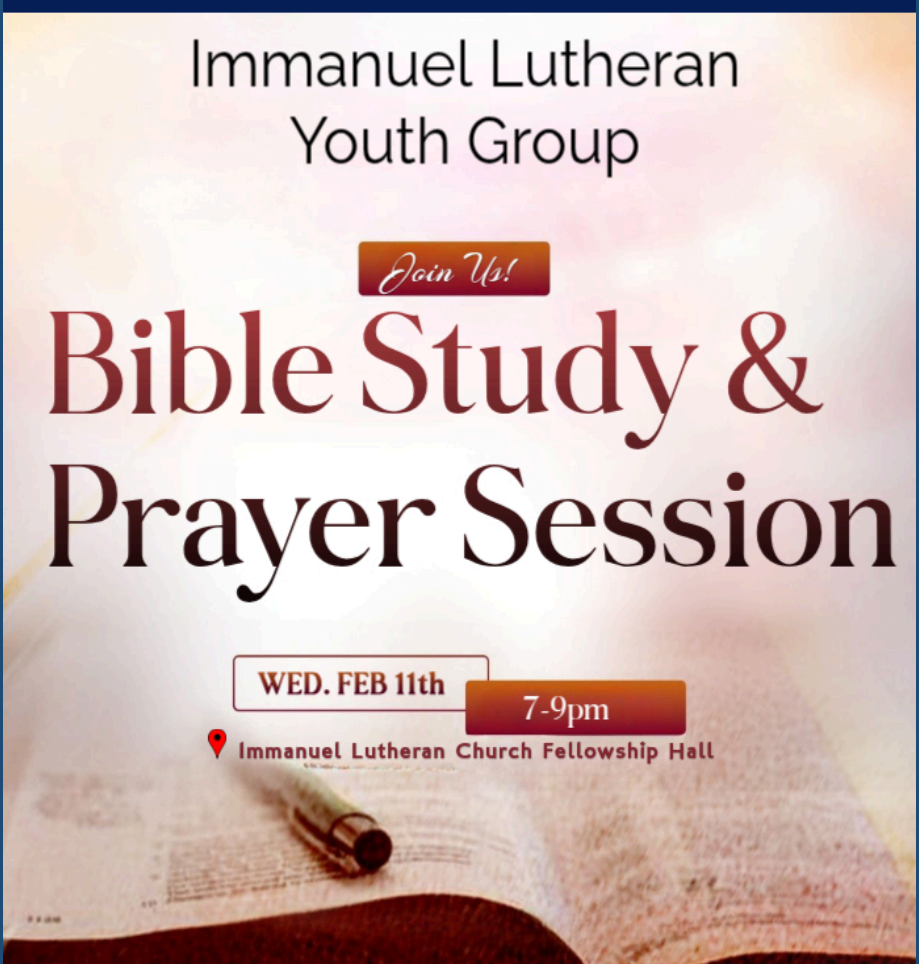
Join Us!

Bible Study & Prayer Session

WED. FEB 11th 7-9pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall


Study on the Four Loves in greek & prayer session. Games and fellowship time to follow!



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Immanuel Lutheran Church

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER



BRING SOUP. TRY SOUP
FELLOWSHIP. FUN. FOOD

FEB 18 AT 5PM IN BASEMENT

CONTACT HILARY LIEN WITH QUESTIONS

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Want to see *your* ad or flyer here? Contact the ILHS Newspaper Club for details!

Whitewater Youth Group Trip 2026



Whitewater Youth Group Weekend 2026 was a fun time for all attendees! We played games, made music together, and hiked in the frigid temps. Best of all, we studied the LORD's Word and enjoyed fellowship with other believers. Blessed be the LORD for such a fun time!

NEWS & SPORTS



Every season brings new challenges and opportunities, and student-athletes rise to meet them through dedication, discipline, and teamwork. This year, those qualities have defined the experience for many athletes whose commitment on and off the court continues to shape their teams and school communities.

I think taking the time to recognize our athletes who are able to balance both athletics and academics is important, and sometimes goes unnoticed. I had the chance to talk to two such players on our varsity teams this season, as well as their coaches, and asked them some questions. First is Esther Enter. Esther is a freshman on both the girls junior varsity, as well as varsity team. She is an overall outstanding player who has stepped up and is passionate about the game of basketball. Coach Rick Mariner said that *“one thing she has improved immensely on this season is her confidence.”* He says she is a 'coachable' athlete because of her willingness to learn, and to try new things. *“I do think she loves the game of basketball”* - Coach Mariner. Esther has dedication, and leaves it all out on the court. She is often faced with high expectations and pressure situations during games. These are just a few of the things that contribute to her being such a great athlete.

While I was talking with Esther she said that she feels her defense has improved the most this season so far. One thing she plans to work on is her ball handling skills.

Trojan Highlights

Esther says *“I have learned that I am more capable than what I sometimes think. When I push myself and stay focused, I can make a real impact on the game.”* One thing that stands out to me about Esther is how she prepares for a game. She gets ready with her teammates while listening to worship music. This helps to focus her mind on the abilities and opportunities God has blessed her with. One thing Esther loves about her team is the endless positivity. Whether a good game, or a bad game, her teammates are always there for each other.

The other player I had a chance to talk to was Andrew Clobes. As a senior on the boys varsity team Andrew said that one thing he feels he has improved most on this season is fronting a bigger player on defense. Andrew is planning to continue working on his mid-range jumpers. One way Andrew says he prepares for games is *“I try not to eat about two hours before the game. I always pray in the car before I go into the gym, and from there, it's hit or miss what I do.”*

Coach Eric Libby says *“Andrew responds well to setbacks, and is always positive. He has been blessed by God with a great disposition and handles all kinds of situations with a gracious, even keel.”* Coach Libby also says that *“Andrew is super coachable because he loves playing basketball, has a desire to always improve, and really thinks about and takes to heart what coaches are teaching. Many times I have seen Andrew put into practice in meaningful situations something we talked about earlier.”*

While writing this article, one thing that stands out about these two athletes to me is their relationship with God in their athletic talents and abilities. While keeping their main priorities in check, they are keeping their focus on what matters most.

By: Colleen Olmanson

Senior Spotlight- Leah Dick

This month our senior spotlight is on Leah Dick. Leah has been attending Immanuel since kindergarten, getting the full experience from start to finish here. Leah is the first child out of three in her family, not including her furry friends. She is also a life-long member of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

When talking with Leah, we discussed many things including some accomplishments she is proud of. She said, *“I'm probably the most proud of how far I've gotten with flying and the progress I've made in civil air patrol.”* While talking about her accomplishments, I asked her what are some of the ways that she has grown and changed in her time here at Immanuel, *“I've grown into the person I am, just through the past few years. I've grown to know myself, especially through Civil Air Patrol. I've grown a lot in my leadership capabilities.”* One other topic I had asked Leah about was who she admires. She said, *“My Dad, because he inspires me. I feel like I am who I am because of him; he has taught me a lot. One other one would include Amelia Earhart, because she was the first female pilot to fly across the Atlantic. I want to be at least half as good a pilot as she was.”* We went on to talking about graduation and her plans for after it. She told me, *“I plan to join the Air Force, and I want to be a part of a flight crew as a missions aviator or something along the lines of aircraft maintenance. Later on maybe get a job at Lockheed Martin or NASA.”*

To finish the interview, I asked Leah about some advice she has for those who are starting or in high school right now. She said *“Don't get to held up in school work. The relationships and time spent with others is gonna be the thing you will look back at and miss the most, but still try to do your best in school.”* One of Leah's favorite academic experience that she will be looking back to, she says is *“My DC trip will be one of my favorite memories, although we had an interesting experience there, I had a great time there, and I learned a lot!”* Thank you, Leah, for being a great role model throughout your years here at Immanuel. We will miss you next year!

By: Lucy Stratton



