

February/March 2021



First Lutheran Church
240 W. Hardanger Gate
Lee, IL 60530
815.824.2356

The Parish Voice

A Newsletter of Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

Immanuel Lutheran Church
398 Church Road
Compton, IL 61318
815.539.6567

Worship Team Sets In-Person Worship Plan

At its February 1st meeting, the HOILP Worship Team set a plan to transition back to in-person worship. It is essentially a two part plan.

The first part of the plan has us gathering in our sanctuaries during the month of March using the same procedures we used last July and August before we had to suspend worship again. Recall that those procedures include the following:

- We will limit worship to 50 people or less
- You must call ahead of time to let us know you're coming so we can keep it to 50 or less
- Seating will be socially distanced as indicated by tape on the pews
- There will not be singing, physical sharing of the peace (handshakes, hugs, etc.), offering plates will not be passed
- Pre or post service visiting shall be outside, not indoors

There are other procedures, but these are the basic ones and are all used to maintain the safest environment for all present. Communion will be served at each of the services in March. Here is what the schedule will look like:

- March 7, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. @ Immanuel
- March 14, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. @ First
- March 21, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. @ Immanuel
- March 28, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. @ First

Though by the numbers, it is feasible to return to in-person worship anytime, the worship team decided that waiting will allow us to make sure the great numbers we're experiencing in the area continue and for more people to get vaccinated. And hopefully, by waiting, we will assure that we don't fall into the situation in which we begin to gather in-person but then need to suspend worship again. When we begin to gather again, we're hoping to do so permanently.

The second part of the plan will begin on Easter Sunday (April 4th) and will continue through the summer and early fall, or when pandemic restrictions are lifted, whichever comes first. This phase makes outdoor worship our primary in-person gathering.

Easter Sunday will include a sunrise service at Immanuel and a 10:30 service at Lee. And then after that we would alternate back and forth between the congregations for 9:30 a.m. outdoor worship each Sunday morning.

The idea behind emphasizing outdoor worship is that it is tremendously safer outside; we would not face a limit of 50 people and thus wouldn't have to bother with calling in to reserve a spot for worship; with proper procedures, we could do things outside like having lectors and singing together; and it will be much more conducive to visit with each other. Of course, there is potential for inclement weather. But in that situation we could either rely on our worship videos or remain in our cars and use the FM transmitter to broadcast our service.

We are exploring necessary investments and practices to make sure we can do outdoor worship well which require investing in appropriate equipment. Pastor Jeff and both congregational presidents fully endorse this plan of action and the worship team will be working closely with the councils to move us forward.

Worship

Lent 2021 – LWR Season of Hope

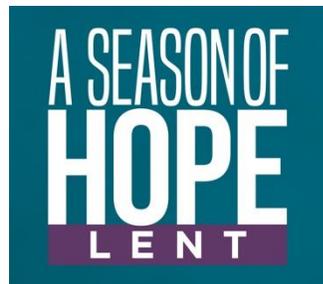
It was just a week or two into Lent last year that worship was suspended on account of the Corona virus. We had hoped to be back in our sanctuaries by Easter. Amazingly, that isn't even going to happen by Easter of 2021! Yet, the church still moves forward. And we still worship.

Our tradition in Lent is to have midweek Lenten worship. That got abbreviated last year. This year it won't be abbreviated, but it will be taking place on-line. As we did with our Advent services, each Wednesday during Lent, a devotional service, probably 20-30 minutes in length, will be broadcast on Facebook at 7 p.m. so that those present can experience together. Then after it is completed, it will be available to watch anytime.

The Lenten services will revolve around a series provided by Lutheran World Relief called "Season of Hope." Along with these devotional services, each family will be encouraged to put together one or more personal care kits which LWR uses both domestically and abroad. Pastor Jeff and Sarah Pfeifer will guide us through the pieces of these kits week by week.

Here's the schedule for Wednesdays in Lent:

- February 17, 2021 – Ash Wednesday: full worship video will be put out
- February 24, 2021 – Touching Hope
- March 3, 2021 – Hearing Hope
- March 10, 2021 – Seeing Hope
- March 17, 2021 – Smelling Hope
- March 24, 2021 – Tasting Hope



HOILP Readers

	<i>First Lesson</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>Second Lesson</i>
February 7, 2021	The Simpson Family		
February 14, 2021	Emily Betz	Rita Thompson & Emily Lovett	Christa Edwards
February 21, 2021	Sarah Pfeifer	Holly Phalen & Melissa Blum	Jill Ross
February 28, 2021	Connie Avery	Larry Aska & Mike Davis	Ashley Clayton
March 7, 2021	The Goetz Family		
March 14, 2021	Tom Menzel	Randy Schlesinger & Brad Ehlers	Kristen Edecker
March 21, 2021	Brooke Heiman	Craig & Connie Ganz	Trysta Foster
March 28, 2021	TBD	TBD	TBD

This and That

Immanuel Council Highlights

December 17, 2020

- General Treasury ending balance November 30, 2020 is \$3,116.73
- Christmas season video preparation and Christmas Eve drive-up communion
- Plans for Epiphany video services
- Plans to open VENMO account on hold
- Upcoming baptism of Masyn Rebholz, Eric & Lexy Rebholz's adopted son
- Pastor at Synod Season of Creation retreat January 18-21 by remote
- Plans for Annual Meeting by ZOOM on January 31, at 10:00 a.m.

January 14, 2021

- General Treasury ending balance December 31, 2020 is \$14,213.96
- Two potential baptisms coming up
- Online attendance for Sunday services for 2020 is 262 persons
- Thank you letters received from Illinois Valley PADS and Kreider Industries
- Changes made in Protocol for In-Service attendance
- Recommendations for distribution of Farm Account funds
- Budget for 2021 approved

First Council Highlights

December 20, 2021

- Went over worship attendance with Pastor
- Approved recommendation for Pastor's compensation
- Approved initial draft of 2021 budget
- Finalized date and time of Annual meeting: February 14th – 10:30 a.m. via Zoom

Immanuel Church Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Church office: 815-539-6567

Debbie will be working from home in the afternoons. If you need anything, call or text: 815-866-6690 or email:

immanuellutherancompton@live.com.

Parish Hymn Sing

The next parish hymn sing will be for February 28th of 2021 and then again for Easter Sunday on April 4th. Hymns and instructions will be sent out via email. You can either record yourself or call PJ and he will record you. Please, lend us your voice – the more the merrier!



Tuesday Tea Time – 3:00 p.m.

via **computer or smartphone** use this link:
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82956300588>.
via **phone**: dial **(312) 626-6799** then when prompted enter meeting ID: **829 5630 0588**

HOILP on the Internet

Websites & Facebook

First – www.flcinlee.com

www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee

Immanuel – www.ilccompton.org

www.facebook.com/ilccompton



www.youtube.com/channel/UChxbzUMEEeE1C2SIsP-YI65A

Praying for One Another

You may have noticed that we don't name people when we do the prayers on the worship videos. Due to how public our videos are and the fact that many we pray for have sensitive health information we refrain from naming names in this format. But, we continue to lift each other up in our prayers. Please stay attuned to those requesting our prayers by reading the weekly email announcements and checking out the prayer corner in this newsletter. We also have an electronic prayer chain. If you'd like to be part of that, send your email to charlzimm@aol.com

OFFERINGS

N.I.C.E. Center Update

We want to thank so many of you who generously gave money for the shopping of gifts to be put in the Christmas room. They were able to spend \$1,200 on useful and beautiful gifts. Thank you to the shoppers and everyone who really came through with money for them to shop. They delivered the gifts on 11/22/20 and were able to see the Christmas room filled with a wonderful array of gifts for all ages. Many thanks to Kauffman Turkey Farm for donating turkeys for the families during this holiday season. They have been generous supporters of N.I.C.E. for many years.

May God continue to bless you and yours in 2021.

- **Food Items Needed** – N.I.C.E is currently accepting donations of ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, packaged cookies, and family-size bags of chips

Congregation Contributions

Thank you for your continued support of the mission of our congregations. Your faithfulness of mailing or using electronic means to submit your offerings is very much appreciated.

The 2021 offering envelopes are available. They can be picked up at Immanuel during the week and at First the day of the November drive-up communion.

Scan codes below to give electronically:



First
Lutheran



Immanuel
Lutheran

***2021 Offering Envelopes** are ready at both congregations. Contact Deb Poterek at First or Debbie Rebholz at Immanuel if you have not received yours yet.*

WELCA

WELCA Events have been cancelled for this month. Please watch for updates.

JUSTICE (Mission Action) - Charlene Zimmerman

When you are shopping, continue to think of the people who have to use PADS in these cold winter months. **Items needed are:** All paper products, all cleaning supplies, all personal care items-new, not used, bottle water, sack lunch items, drink mixes. Also new socks, underwear and cold weather gear.

Please put your donations in the PADS totes in the room next to the office. Thank you!

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

The month of March is our Saturdays to work at N.I.C.E. We are able to sort items and need to wear masks. If anyone has helped with the food area, they need help any Saturday.

Copies of the 2021 Committee Yearbook, WELCA Bible Study, and Church Directory are now available. Please pick one up for yourself or someone you know who would like one.

Also, pick up your 2021 Weekly Offering Envelopes, calendars and Annual Reports.

Calendar

February

- 2/2/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm
First Lutheran Council – 7 pm
- 2/7/21 – Online Sunday Worship
- 2/9/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm
- 2/11/21 – Immanuel Council Meeting – 4:30 pm
- 2/14/21 – Online Sunday Worship
First Annual Meeting – 10:30 am
- 2/16/21 - Tea Time – 3 pm
- 2/17/21 – Ash Wednesday – Worship Video - 7 pm
- 2/21/21 – Online Sunday Worship
Drive-Up Communion
- 2/23/21 - Tea Time – 3 pm
- 2/24/21 – Lenten Service video - 7 pm
- 2/28/21 – Online Sunday Worship

March

- 3/2/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm
- 3/3/21 – Lenten Service video - 7 pm
- 3/7/21 – In-Person Sunday Worship - 9:30 am/Video
- 3/9/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm
- 3/10/21 – Lenten Service video - 7 pm
- 3/14/21 – In-Person Sunday Worship - 9:30 am/Video
- 3/16/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm
- 3/17/21 – Lenten Service video - 7 pm
- 3/21/21 – In-Person Sunday Worship - 9:30 am/Video
- 3/23/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm
- 3/24/21 – Lenten Service video - 7 pm
- 3/28/21 – In-Person Sunday Worship - 9:30 am/Video
- 3/30/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm

A silver lining with online worship during the pandemic: we won't have to worry about cancelling worship due to bad weather

Joys and Concerns

February Birthdays

- 1 – Tracy Ganz
- 4 – Savannah Wade
- 5 – Jacqueline Klauer
- 7 – Ben Ross
- 8 – Brady Johnson, Erin Johnson
- 12 – Jessica Gladd, Logan Sellers
- 14 – Jonathan Gladd, Sue Montgomery
- 15 – Mike Eames, Breanne Davis Bergerson
- 16 – Corey Kromm
- 17 – Kay Grinka, Paul Heiman, Sandy Davis, Devin Cole
- 18 – Connor Reppin
- 19 – Liam Crumpton
- 20 – Earl Barnickel, Brad Ehlers
- 22 – Scott Schlesinger, James A. Johnson
- 23 – Deona Collins
- 24 – Rick Beckstrom
- 25 – Penny Winterton
- 26 – Dave Koroscik
- 27 – Jean Johnson, Phyllis Larsen
- 28 – Julia Wade, Robyn Miller
- 29 – Alex Cole

March Birthdays

- 1 – Ariana Delgado
- 4 – Caleb Crumpton
- 5 – Harlan Eames
- 6 – Rhonda McCormick, Daniel Ganz, Moya Wade
- 7 – Jennifer Crumpton, Axel Cartwright
- 9 – Jacob Swope, Mike Miller
- 10 – Donna Heiman, Brooke Heiman
- 12 – Corrine Rosenkrans, Sandy Schlorff
- 13 – Tim Albers, Chad Sarver, Jeff Childs
- 14 – Christine Johnson
- 15 – Christina Barnickel
- 16 – Terry Neal
- 17 – Zach Ross
- 21 – Margaret Frick
- 24 – Marty Ganz, Joseph Corn
- 26 – Nick Knoblauch
- 27 – Pam Taylor
- 29 – Sheri Clayton
- 31 – Connie Ganz

Prayer Corner

Homebound – Joan Benner, Harold Schlesinger, Arlene Archer, Gene Williams, Marilyn Ward, Phyllis Larsen

Monthly Requests – Sharon Kellen, Whitley Clayton, Gary Holle, Ed & Joan Benner

Affirmed in Baptism - (November 22, 2020) Emily Lovett, Julie Lovett (Reaffirmation)

Marriage – Chad Albers & Susan Hager (August 8, 2020)

Mourning Families - Peter Poterek Family (6/12), Cliff Schlesinger Family (9/16), Ron Rebholz Family (9/20) Jessica Albert Family (1/23), Cindy Schlesinger Family (1/23), Nathan Eich Family (1/27), Dennis Weiler Family (2/2)

Our Leaders - ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements, HOILP Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

February Anniversaries

- 15 – Duane & Kathy Kaiser
- 17 – Jerry & Rhonda McCormick

March Anniversaries

- 1 – Allen & Leesa Fitch
- 2 – Gabe & Michelle Wade
- 11 – Roger & Carol Kern
- 23 – Jason & Dawn Foster
- 28 – Harlan & Karla Eames

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(First Lutheran - 240 W. Hardanger Gate - Lee, IL 60530)

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Compton, Illinois
Permit No. 1

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

February 7th – video only

February 14th – video only

February 21st – video only

February 28th – video only

9:30 a.m.

March 7th – In-person worship/video
(Immanuel)

March 14th – In-person worship/video
(First)

March 21st – In-person worship/ video
(Immanuel)

March 28th – In-person worship/video
(First)

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Phone: 815/824-2356
www.flcinlee.com

Pastor Jeff Schlesinger
(Cell) 815/878-4503
E-mail: photo.pastor1965@gmail.com

You can also check us out on Facebook!