

December 2019



# The Parish Voice

**First Lutheran Church**  
240 W. Hardanger Gate  
Lee, IL 60530  
815.824.2729

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
398 Church Road  
Compton, IL 61318  
815.539.6567

A Newsletter of Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

## Christmas 2019 – Let’s Celebrate Together!

A new church year is upon us once again. It happens in conjunction with the change of the calendar this year as December 1<sup>st</sup> is the first Sunday of Lent. It’s time to dust off the advent wreaths and repeat our annual period of waiting.



This period of waiting is marked by hope, which is why the liturgical color of the season is blue – the color of hope. The hope, of course, is for the arrival of the savior. And each year, we gather at the end of this period for marvelous celebrations. This year is no different – check out what is coming up:

### Christmas Eve

There will be a Christmas Eve service at each congregation: **7 p.m. at Immanuel** and **9 p.m. at First**. As always, it will include closing with the

lighting of the candles. If you’d like to share special music on Christmas Eve, please let Pastor or Sarah or Ron know.

### Christmas Day

Christmas Day Services will be at **Immanuel at 10 a.m.** Come join us for plenty of hymn singing and a joyous start to your day.



### 1st Sunday of Christmas – Brunch Service

The Schlesinger family will again be hosting the Christmas brunch. As was the case last year, we will be eating while we worship. It’s a rather unique experience, you won’t want to miss this. This service will be at **10:30 a.m. in the First Fellowship Hall** (aka the basement).

## **BLAST** is coming to a church near you!

Sunday Night Blast is coming to HOILP this January! “What is Sunday Night Blast?” you ask. Well, it is a monthly multigenerational gathering at the congregations of HOILP which will include worship, faith formation activities and fellowship. The word BLAST is an acronym of **B**elieving, **L**earning and **S**erving **T**ogether.

The concept of Sunday Night Blast came from the “rethinking Sunday School” task force. But it is important to point out that this will not be Sunday School simply moved to Sunday evenings. This is a wholly different and new type of event.

The key to it is that it is for all ages. Together young and old will learn and grow in faith. Together people of all ages will reach out and serve the world. Together, we’ll begin each BLAST event with a new and unique worship experience.

If people ask if there is Sunday School at Immanuel or First, our answer will be, “No, we don’t have Sunday School. But we have Sunday Night Blast each month which is for everyone. Come and join us.”

Each BLAST event will begin with worship complete with communion. The worship service will be about 30 minutes in length and will be designed to engage people of all ages throughout the service.

Following worship, the group will head downstairs for a learning activity and/or a service opportunity. Though families are encouraged to attend BLAST together, they may be asked to divide up for the activities as we strive to expand and grow our relationships among one another.

*...continued on page 3*

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## Jeff's Jottings

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I love the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving is not a “church holiday.” That is to say it is not part of our liturgical calendar as is Christmas, Easter or All Saints Day – or even of lesser known holidays like “St. Michaels and All Angels Day” (which is on September 29<sup>th</sup> for those of you who are curious). Thanksgiving is a national holiday, remembering an occasion in our nation’s past. But as it calls the nation to act in a way that Christians claim as central to our piety (giving thanks), and since it commemorates an occasion which revolves around the spirituality of two groups of people (the Christian piety of the Puritans and the Native American Spirituality of the indigenous people), it is most appropriate that we incorporate this national holiday into our normal life as a faith community. And so we do.

But back to where I began: I love the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday. The fourth Thursday of November could not be a more ideal time to fit this holiday in our liturgical cycle. You see, Thanksgiving almost always falls on the Thursday between the final day of one Liturgical year -Christ the King Sunday - and the first day of the next Church year - the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent (at least this happens six out of every seven years which is what I define as “almost always”). This means that we end and begin our church year by giving thanks. How awesome is that?!?

At our Thanksgiving Eve service, I talked about this. And when I did, I introduced the “Thanksgiving Tree.” (At least I think I did - I’m actually writing this column prior to the Thanksgiving service so I’m not sure how things went or if I pulled it off.) I invited people to bring three photos representing what they are thankful for this year. For those who forgot to bring photos, I provided cards so they could write or draw things for which they are thankful. As part of the service, we offered thanks for these things and hung them on our “Thanksgiving Tree.” If you were unable to make it to the Thanksgiving Eve service, you are welcome to bring a picture or two in anytime and hang it on the tree. It will remain up through the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent.

Here are the three things I gave thanks for this year:

### Travel

It has been three years since I have been on a major vacation with my wife or my family. But this year, due to the situations of my children, I was able to enjoy not one, not two, but three different vacations! This is above and beyond and I’m truly grateful they were able to happen. Those trips included California, North Dakota and New England. Coast to coast - what a blessing! If you want to hear tales of my travels and see pictures, just let me know.



*California Coast*

### Serendipity

Sometimes when I head out with my camera, I’m usually on a quest for something specific to shoot. But so often, if I keep my eyes open and am flexible in my schedule, the unexpected will occur. I’ve shared a couple of those things right here in this column - my encounters with the elephant seals on the California coast and the snow geese flocks in Central Illinois. When Theresa and I were in New England at Acadia National Park, on our last morning I got up early to do one last hike. It was to be a little over three miles on easy paths, I figured I’d be back in an hour or less. But three hours later, after an enjoyable photo session with a deer, stumbling upon a beautiful waterfall and being surprised by what was perhaps the most serene and colorful setting we’d seen, I’d set back our days travel significantly. But was it worth it! How’s the song go? “For the beauty of the earth... Christ, our God, to you we raise, this our sacrifice of praise.”



*Acadia National Park - Maine*

### Family

I’m not the only one who included this one. Many of us have deep gratitude for those we call family. I am grateful for my wife, my children, my parents, my siblings and in-laws. I give thanks for the newest members of our household – two kittens named Clark and Addison. I give praise for being blessed with community of faith that I can call family. I pray that Immanuel and First will be family for those who experience disfunction and brokenness within their biological families so that God’s love may come to them as God intends for all.



*Teddy Roosevelt National Park – North Dakota*

I have to say, I feel overly blessed with what I have been able to experience this year. Not all years are like this. But every year, all of us share the biggest thing for which we give thanks - the love of God that comes to us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

See you in worship on Sunday where we will continue to offer thanks!

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# Advent

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## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Instead of opening a window in an Advent calendar and receiving a message or treat, how about giving something on Advent. Here's a suggestion: each day add an item to a box. On, or before, Christmas Eve donate the contents to NICE Center or Mendota Area Food Pantry.

Day 1: box of cereal	Day 9: bottle of shampoo	Day 17: small bag of sugar
Day 2: canned baked beans	Day 10: bag of rice	Day 18: bottle of hand soap
Day 3: peanut butter	Day 11: box of pasta	Day 19: jar of applesauce
Day 4: stuffing mix	Day 12: canned tuna	Day 20: box of crackers
Day 5: boxed potatoes	Day 13: canned tomatoes	Day 21: spaghetti sauce
Day 6: pack of toilet paper	Day 14: canned spaghetti in tomato sauce	Day 22: chicken noodle soup
Day 7: canned potatoes	Day 15: canned peas	Day 23: tomato soup
Day 8: spray bottle of kitchen cleaner	Day 16: three bars of soap	Day 24: bag of eclairs

*Everybody deserves a sweet treat at Christmas, right?*

*What did you put in your "Advent Calendar"? Please let us know your suggestions and we will update the list for next year. (It was suggested that if your box began to be filled mid-November, a family could receive the donation prior to Christmas.)*

## A Couple Sometimes Forgotten Advent Holidays...

### St. Nicholas Day – December 6

*The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God's giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves.*

**-Nicholas**

On December 6 the church commemorates Nicholas, bishop of Myra, or as he is more commonly called, St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas was a fourth-century bishop, serving for twenty-five years in a city that is now in Turkey. Stories of his care for children led to his being named the protector of children and eventually to his evolution into Santa Claus. In some northern European places, December 6, Nicholas's death day, is the day of winter gift giving.

### Blue Christmas – December 21

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

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### **BLAST, continued from page 1...**

BLAST will take place on the third Sunday of the month beginning January 19, 2020. It'll start at 4:00 p.m. and go for about an hour and half. January's Sunday Night Blast will be at Immanuel while February will be at First with the intention of alternating from that point. The schedule through May can be seen on the right.

Each BLAST event will have its own leadership team of four people, usually led by Pastor Jeff. If you are able to sign up to help just one or two of the months during the year, that'd be a great help. To volunteer for any of the leadership teams or if you have any questions regarding BLAST, please talk to any of the task force members: Emily Betz, Jennifer Crumpton, Connie Schlesinger or Pastor Jeff.

### **2020 Winter/Spring Blast Schedule**

**January 19, 2020 – Immanuel**  
*New Birth (Baptism)*

**February 16, 2020 – First**  
*Loving God, Serving Neighbor*  
*(Commandments)*

**March 15, 2020 – Immanuel**  
*Lip Service (Creed)*

**April 19, 2020 – First**  
*JC on Prayer (Lord's Prayer)*

**May 17, 2020 – Immanuel**  
*Lamb of God (Communion)*

## Serving Our Neighbor

### Event for N.I.C.E. Center!

We are collecting, new and gently used items that the residents of Prairie Crossing, of Shabbona, might like to “select” when they make their next “Christmas Shopping visit” (usually early December) to the N.I.C.E. Center. Suggestions for women or men: scarf, hat, caps, purses, perfume, lotion, jewelry, small gifts, something for them and/or their home (room). Please bring gifts to church, and they’ll be taken to the N.I.C.E. Center, for “shopping day”.

#### Helping hands at N.I.C.E. Center

Truck deliveries: 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays, 8:15 a.m.,  
and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, at, 11:30 a.m.

#### **Can you help unload this month?**

Friday, 12/6 and Tuesday 12/17

**NURTURE KITCHEN** at First in Lee, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month (except for December).  
Come help us make and serve meals to the N.I.C.E. Center. Help us make and serve breads, rolls, cakes, roll silverware, etc. Cooking begins at

### **No Nurture Kitchen in December**

#### **Immanuel's Ark**

Need a lift to church? Your normal ride unavailable? Then, float on in with IMMANUEL's ARK. Text/Call John Hoelzer at 815.440.3358 by 8 p.m. the day before the church service. If a driver is secured, you will receive a text/call from John. He'll tell you who your driver will be and when you will be picked up. Don't let the lack of transportation keep you from worshipping with your church family.

#### **N.I.C.E. Christmas Room**

Our “N.I.C.E. Christmas Room” serves all ages of children of our food pantry families. Please bring your donations to church and we will deliver them weekly to the N.I.C.E. Center. Games, toys, clothes, as always underwear and socks are needed, hats, gloves, scarves, etc. Also gently used items are welcome. Thank you for your continued generosity.

## Christmas Meal Appeal

The Christmas Angel Tree for the Roma families of the Point of Hope in Tarneveni, Romania will begin November 10 and run through Sunday, December 8. Ornaments on the trees in each of our churches will represent the families we are sponsoring in this Christmas dinner project. Take an ornament and place your \$14 donation to cover the cost of a family's Christmas meal in one of the envelopes provided. The funds will be transferred to Romania through Another Child Foundation, and the Christmas meal bags will be distributed through the Point of Hope ministry in Romania. At home, hang the ornament where it will remind you to pray for the Roma families who will be receiving these Christmas meals. **Let's clear the tree!**



Imagine..it's Christmas, and you're trying hard to make a special family meal from a couple items you've managed to buy from the grocery store. You spent all your money on a couple potatoes and chicken scraps that were going to be thrown out. Now you have the task of distributing your already thin meal for one person between your six children and hopefully yourself. Providing food on a very limited income is a challenge that many of our children's families face daily. For many of our Roma children Christmas, without your help, will be a long cold night with an empty belly!

**Today you can help a family - or multiple families - by providing a Christmas meal for only \$14!** We are looking for generous people like you to help provide the many meals needed during this Christmas season for the families we serve. Your support of a delicious Christmas meal for a needy family is a Christmas dream come true! The benefits of a simple meal mean much more than just a full belly for one day. This GIFT let's these families know that they ARE NOT FORGOTTEN during this season of JOY!



The cost of fresh food in Romania is surprisingly inexpensive, so your \$14 goes a LONG WAY. \$14 provides a full grocery bag of food. Each bag will contain a whole chicken, potatoes, rice, bread, flour, margarine, oil, and other items these families struggle to buy for themselves.

Your support of supplying Christmas meals is needed NOW! There are still many families to help. WE hope to get the money to ACF by **December 10<sup>th</sup>**, so get your ornaments early.

# LYO

## COLLEGE BOUND

If your son or daughter is going off to college this fall, please contact Debbie in the church office with their mailing address so we can keep in touch with them.

Next LYO meeting  
**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 at 1:00 p.m.  
 Pizza & Steal a Gift

## Pancake Breakfast at Immanuel Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>

after worship  
 Join us for food, friends, and fellowship!  
 All donations will go towards the LYO.



## In the News

Is there something you haven't told us Daryl? Should Pastor Jeff be worried?



**LEFT:** Immanuel Lutheran Church in Compton had its annual soup supper Nov. 9, sponsored by West Brooklyn American Legion Post 657. Legion Cmdr. Dennis Weiler (left) presents a check to the Rev. Daryl Rosenkraus for the Lutheran Youth Organization. The money will be used to help send kids to a 2021 convention in Minneapolis. Submitted by Lynda Norton.  
**RIGHT:** Paul Lahman serves soup at the supper. The dinner was held at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Compton.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### Prayer Corner

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

Monthly Requests – Whitley Clayton, Gary Holle, Ron Rebholz, Ed & Joan Benner

Newly Baptized – Karina Noelle Ganz (2/10), Harper Elizabeth Ganz (2/10), Whitley Grace Clayton (4/14)

Affirmed in Baptism - (November 24, 2019) Cyndie Prodzenski, Caytlin Prodzenski, Shayne Prodzenski

Mourning Families - Donald Schmidt Family (12/24), Eunice Rogers Family (1/5), Marlin Hoelzer Family (3/13), Schaller Family (Greta Bates Mother- 3/2019), Sarah Fassig Family (6/22), Christy Lilja Family (8/3), Marilyn Goetz Family (8/5), Keith Eich Family (8/31), Jean Albert Family (9/9), Dorothy Burkart Family (9/13), Donna Albers Family (9/22), Lucy Nicholson Family (10/14)

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

### December Birthdays

- 2 – Chris Sester, Justin Post
- 3 – Mark Heiman
- 4 – Stephanie Ganz, Ashley Van Drew, Ed Giberson
- 7 – Arlene Archer
- 10 – Brittany Menzel, Steve Kofoid, Joe Spickerman
- 11 – Alyssa McCormick, Traci Jones
- 12 – Thomas Decker
- 13 – Brian Eich, Peter Poterek
- 14 – Kirk Ross
- 16 – Amanda Wilczynski, John Montgomery
- 17 – Karla Eames, Madelyn Jones, Kristen Spickerman
- 18 – Neal Rogers
- 20 – Larry Aska
- 21 – David Albers
- 24 – Brandon Schlesinger
- 25 – Mary Ellen Schroeder
- 26 – Danielle Gladd, Ashley Delhotal
- 27 – Josh Bittner
- 28 – Winston Simpson
- 31 – Linda Grinka, Jerroll Swope, Kristen Fagerman, Mary Wackerlin

### December Anniversaries

- 9 – Chris & Rayanne Sester
- 12 – Terry & Kris Neal
- 21 – Tim & Linda Hahn
- 23 – Mark & Erin Heiman
- 25 – Gale & Jeanne Schlesinger
- 27 – Adam & Emily Betz

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# WELCA

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## DECEMBER EVENTS:

### **Bible Study: "Watch, wait, create" – A creative Advent devotional with Isaiah**

Theme Verses: Isaiah 2:1-5, 11:1-10, 35:1-10, 7:10-16

**Wednesday, December 4 at 1:30 p.m. – WELCA Bible Study** (Leader: Christa Edwards;  
Hostess: Charlene Zimmerman)

**Tuesday, December 17 at 12:30 p.m. – Sewing & Tying Quilts** (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month)

*Copies of the 2020 Committee and Bible Study booklets and Directory are now available in the overflow. Pick one up for yourself and for someone you know who would like any of these booklets.*

### **JUSTICE (MISSION ACTION) - Charlene Zimmerman**

*What does the Lord require of you but to do **justice**, love kindness and walk humbly with your God?*

**Micah 6:8**

Christmas is quickly coming, ready or not! Let us remember those who are less fortunate than we are. As you shop all the sales there are several opportunities for us to help:

- N.I.C.E. is asking for winter items: hats, gloves, scarves, etc. Also children's gifts.
- P.A.D.S. homeless shelter is asking for some 'Christmas Comfort' items for the adults and children they are sheltering. Items are pajamas, socks, gloves, scarves, hats.
- Also see the Christmas Angel Tree in the overflow for Romania families.

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

### **WELCA PRESIDENT'S DESK - Sarah Pfeifer**

Is it December already? Where did this year go? Advent and Christmas happen this month. There are plenty of opportunities for giving back this month. Check out the Advent Tree which benefits Another Child Foundation. Please check out the calendar and plan your month accordingly. Thank you to everyone who has helped WELCA meet our goals for the year. We had a successful silent auction and I hope everyone is enjoying their items. Thank you for all who have signed up to host or lead events for next year. We still need a few people to help out. Please consider helping out once or twice this coming year. Call the church office if you are interested. Peace to all and see you in church.

### **Immanuel's Christmas Wish List**

Paper Towels	Facial Tissue
Toilet Paper	White Vinegar (gal.)
Soft Soap refill (32 oz.)	Dish Soap
The Works toilet bowl cleaner	
Bar Keeper's Friend	Baking Soda
Murphy's Oil Soap	Coffee (reg/decaf)
Small/Kitchen Trash Bags	
Large Heavy Duty Trash Bags	
Renuzit Solid Air Fresheners	
Batteries (AA, C, D)	
Magic Tape (1/2")	
White & Colored Paper (8 1/2" x 11")	
Small White Envelopes (6 1/2" x 3 1/2")	
(no window)	
Masking Tape, Shipping Tape, Duct Tape	
Ice Melt	
Walmart gift cards	

Please leave items in the tote marked "Immanuel's Wish List" in the room next to the office. Envelopes are also available if you wish to make a donation. Please bring the items to church anytime before Christmas.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

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# COUNCIL

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## Immanuel Council Highlights - November 14, 2019

- General Treasury ending balance October 31, 2019 was minus \$102.86.
- Issues with Exelon concerning underground cables north of Church.
- Expired New Building Fund CD \$18,500 has been put in Amdex savings account; \$5000 put in General Treasury.
- Sunday Blast (Believing, Learning and Serving Together) a multi-generational program replacing Sunday School will be held third Sunday evenings, 4:30-6:00 p.m. beginning in January.
- Endowment Fund allocations to M.A.S.S., PADS, Horizon House, and Kreider Services.
- Joint service between Immanuel and First on Sunday, November 24 at 10:30 p.m. Old fashioned potluck to follow.
- The next meeting will be December 12.

## Parish Team Highlights - November 6, 2019

- Met at First, Lee-Sarah Pfeifer led devotions.
- Share and Dream – Logos or Coat of Arms for our church.
- Approved Christmas, Lent/Easter Schedule.
- Parades for 2020 and other ideas to make HOILP known in our communities.
- Nov. 24 & Dec. 29 joint services and meals.
- Update on “Sunday Night BLAST”.
- Set meeting dates for 2020 which will be quarterly, but more dates if needed.

## First Council Highlights - November 17, 2019

- Constitution – motion passed at Congregational meeting held on Nov. 17 to reduce number of Council members from nine to five.
- Budget items – Budgeted mission support payments of \$1,870 were made in October.
- Church Front Door – unfortunately, this project has been delayed. It is in process again and an update will be available at the next Council meeting.
- Nurture Kitchen – no Nurture Kitchen in December because of the Christmas Room activity at N.I.C.E.
- Website – the website has been updated to include the Nov. 24 joint worship information. Current pictures are needed for the website. The website is: [www.flcinlee.com](http://www.flcinlee.com)
- Next Council Meeting - next meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020

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## This and That

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*Night on the Town*  
*December 14 - 6:00 p.m.*

### **Elwood's Steak House**

DeKalb, IL

*Sign up at either church or call/text*

*Theresa Schlesinger*

815.878.8372

### **Friday Morning Bible Study**

What better way to start your day than digging into the upcoming Sunday scripture lessons? Coffee and conversation begin at 9 a.m. Study commences around 9:30 a.m. Come join us!

## And the Votes Are In – It's “The Parish Voice”

Hopefully you noticed the new masthead of the newsletter. The new name for the HOILP newsletter was chosen at the November 24<sup>th</sup> joint worship service: “The Parish Voice.”

There were a number of suggestions submitted by members of both congregations. An initial pole of ten people was used to narrow the list down to five. Then on All Saints Sunday, worshippers were polled to narrow the list down to two. And finally on the 24<sup>th</sup> the winning name was elected.

The winning name was submitted by Jean Albert from Immanuel. This is a nice tribute to her. As many of you know, on September 8<sup>th</sup> Jean fell in the parking lot after worship and sustained a fatal head injury. She passed away the next day. But Jean loved her church and was a faithful member. The Parish Voice will now pay tribute to her each month.

*The Parish Voice*

## First Announcements

### ***At First on the First!***

Please plan to stay on Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, the first Sunday in Advent, after our 10:30 a.m. worship, to help with the “Hanging of the Greens”, our Christmas Season tree and sanctuary decorating.

At the November 17<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting, the ***proposed constitutional changes passed***. A ratifying vote and a vote on the associated by-laws changes will be taken at the annual meeting so that the changes can be instituted in 2020.

Please pick up your **2020 Weekly Offering Envelopes** after worship. They are in the back of the church.

### **First Lutheran Poinsettia Order Form – 2020**

Poinsettia Sponsors: We will have Poinsettias, in our sanctuary, for our Advent and Christmas Season.

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

-And/or-

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete this order form and return it with your \$15.00 payment to First Lutheran, per plant, and give it to Deb Poterek, by Sunday Dec. 22, 2019.

To mail your request, please send to:

**First Lutheran Church**  
Attn. Treasurer  
240 W Hardanger Gate  
Lee, IL 60530

*We are ordering 12 Poinsettia plants. Thank you, in advance, for your sponsorship.*

## Immanuel Announcements

### **Updated Constitution**

At the annual meeting in January, Immanuel will be voting to adopt an updated constitution. The new constitution will bring Immanuel in alignment with the ELCA model constitution and fix some constitutional inconsistencies with current practices. Copies of the updated constitution will be available to pick up at church in mid-December.

**2020 Weekly Offering Envelopes** are now available. Please pick yours up! Also pick up a 2020 calendar.

### **December Benevolence**

*The benevolence offering this month is for **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)**. Please use the enclosed envelope.*

## Poinsettia Facts

- The Poinsettia was named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Ambassador to Mexico during the 1820s. Ambassador Poinsett imported the tropical plant to his greenhouses in South Carolina, where he began to breed and distribute them.
- Poinsettias are the number one potted plant sold in the USA today, exceeding annual sales of all other potted plants combined!
- Poinsettias are not toxic to children or humans but they should not be eaten. A child would have to consume more than 500 leaves in order to reach an unsafe level. They are mildly poisonous to cats and dogs, so it's best to keep them out of their reach.
- Poinsettias come in many colors. From the traditional red to shades of white, peach, pink, and yellow, they are now available in marbled, striped and spotted tones. A seasonal variety, “Jingle Bells” with its red bracts and pink flecks, is sure to gain popularity this holiday.



# Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish December 2019

Immanuel Lutheran, Compton  
 E-mail: immanuellutherancompton@live.com  
 Ph. 815/539-6567 Website: www.ilccompton.org (NEW)  
**Benevolence (I): Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)**

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

First Lutheran, Lee  
 Ph. 815/824-2356  
 Website: www.flcinlee.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 1st Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 Worship (I) 10:30 Worship (F) "Hanging of the Greens" after worship Collect unwrapped gifts for N.I.C.E. Christmas Room	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 1:30 WELCA Bible Study (I)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 Bible Study (I)	<b>7</b>
<b>8 2nd Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 Worship (I) 10:30 Worship (F) Collect unwrapped gifts for N.I.C.E. Christmas Room	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 CHURCH COUNCIL (I)	<b>13</b> 9:00 Bible Study (I)	<b>14</b> 6:00 NOTT meets at Elwood Steak House; DeKalb
<b>15 3rd Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 Worship (I) 10:30 Worship (F)	<b>16</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>17</b> 12:30 Sewing & Tying Quilts (I)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 Bible Study (I)	<b>21</b>
<b>22 4th Sunday in Advent</b> 8:30 Worship (I) 10:30 Worship (F)	<b>23</b>	<b>24 Christmas Eve</b> <u>Candlelight Services</u> 7:00 Immanuel/Comm. 9:00 First, Lee/Comm.	<b>25 Christmas Day</b> 10:00 Worship with Holy Communion (I)	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 Bible Study (I)	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> <b>10:30 Joint Worship at            First, Lee</b> Pastor Jeff's Brunch during worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31 New Year's Eve</b>	January 1 New Year's Day	January 2	January 3 9:00 Bible Study (I)	January 4

## HOILP Lay Worship Volunteers – December 2019

		<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETER(S)</u>	<u>ACOLYTE(S)</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMM ASSISTANT</u>	<u>ALTAR</u>	<u>TREATS</u>
<b>DEC. 1</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	Christa Edwards <b>Need 1 person</b>	N/A	TBD	Trysta Foster	Minor & Connie	Rhonda & Pam	Christa/Cyndie
	<i>First</i>	Larry	Sue & John	N/A	Kristen	Becky, Mike	Beth	N/A
<b>DEC. 8</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	Christa Edwards <b>Need 1 person</b>	N/A	TBD	Sarah Goetz	Theresa & Fran	Rhonda & Pam	LuAnn Kromm
	<i>First</i>	Larry	Deb	N/A	Larry	Sue, Kristen	Beth	N/A
<b>DEC. 15</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	Christa Edwards <b>Need 1 person</b>	N/A	TBD	Randy	Harlan & Karla	Rhonda & Pam	Cyndie P.
	<i>First</i>	Larry	Deb	N/A	Theresa	Becky, Kristen	Beth	N/A
<b>DEC. 22</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	Christa Edwards <b>Need 1 person</b>	N/A	TBD	Fran Sellers	Rhonda & Rachel McCormick	Rhonda & Pam	<b>Pancake Breakfast</b>
	<i>First</i>	Larry	Janell	N/A	Julie	Sue, Janell	Beth	N/A
<b>DEC. 24</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>Need 2 people</b>	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD	Rhonda & Pam	N/A
	<i>First</i>	Larry	TBD	N/A	Sue or ??	Becky, Kristen	Beth	N/A
<b>DEC. 25</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	Holly P./Christa	N/A	TBD	Jill Ross	Rosina & Stanley	Rhonda & Pam	N/A
		10:00						
<b>DEC. 29</b>	<i>Joint Service 10:30 @ First</i>	Larry	Sue	N/A	Rita	Becky, Sue	Beth	N/A

## HOILP Lay Worship Volunteers – January 2020

		<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETER(S)</u>	<u>ACOLYTE(S)</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMM ASSISTANT</u>	<u>ALTAR</u>	<u>TREATS</u>
<b>JAN. 5</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>2 volunteers</b>	N/A	TBD	Carol Kern	Theresa & Carol	LuAnn & Pam	Jill Ross
	<i>First</i>	Dave	Sue & John	N/A	Kristen	Janell, Mike	Rita	N/A
<b>JAN. 12</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>2 volunteers</b>	N/A	TBD	Karla Eames	Stanley & Cyndie	LuAnn & Pam	Christa & Cyndie
	<i>First</i>	Dave	Deb	N/A	Larry	Sue, Kristen	Rita	N/A
<b>JAN. 19</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>2 volunteers</b>	N/A	TBD	Christa Edwards	Minor & Connie	LuAnn & Pam	LuAnn Kromm
	<i>First</i>	Dave	TBD	N/A	Julie	Sue, Deb	Rita	N/A
<b>JAN. 26</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>2 volunteers</b>	N/A	TBD	Trysta Foster	Harlan & Karla	LuAnn & Pam	<b>Pancake Breakfast</b>
	<i>First</i>	Dave	Dave & Janell	N/A	Sue	Becky, Kristen	Rita	N/a
<b>FEB. 2</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>2 volunteers</b>	N/A	TBD	Connie Avery	Stanley & Christa	TBD	Holly Phalen
	<i>First</i>	Tom, Larry	Rita	N/A	Rita	Becky, Sue	Janell	N/a