

April 2022



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

The Parish Voice

A NEWSLETTER OF HEART OF ILLINOIS LUTHERAN

Immanuel Lutheran Church
398 Church Road
Compton, IL 61318
815.539.6567

He's Back and So Are We!!!!!!

For the first time since 2019, the congregations of Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish will be holding Easter Sunday worship services in their sanctuaries. "As we celebrate the resurrection we are also resurrecting our worship services," said Pastor Jeff.

Easter services will follow the regular Sunday morning schedule: 8:30 a.m. at Immanuel and 10:30 a.m. at First.

Typically Immanuel holds a sunrise service with their Easter breakfast to follow while First hosts their Easter breakfast prior to worship. But since the councils chose to hold off a bit longer before hosting full community meals, Immanuel chose to maintain their normal worship time for this year.

In 2020 when the shutdown happened in the midst of Lent, we all thought we'd be back together by

Easter. When that did not occur, Pastor Jeff promised to hold Easter services when we were back. He feels bad that he never fulfilled that promise. "In my defense," he said, "we never really came back fully – not without restrictions anyway.

Still today we're transitioning back to prepandemic practices."

He teased the councils that he has three years of Easter sermons bottled up inside him. They responded by saying that they would instruct Sarah and Ron to begin playing at the 15 minute mark.

There will be a video service for Easter as well. But all who are healthy are encouraged to join us in person to celebrate the resurrection.

Easter Worship

April 17, 2022

8:30 Immanuel

10:30 First

Grungy Sunday Coming to First

First Lutheran will be having "Grungy Sunday" on May 15, 2022.

What is Grungy Sunday? It's the day you come to worship dressed in your grungy clothes.

Why have a grungy Sunday? Because we're going to stay after worship to do spring cleaning for the church and for the parsonage.



Please plan on staying following worship on that day as we haven't had a spring cleaning and there are a number of tasks that need to be done. Lunch will be provided, so you need not worry about going away hungry.

If you know of any jobs that need to be completed, please contact Alex or Jim Johnson who are compiling the list and prioritizing the jobs.

Benevolence Box at First

You may have note the wooden box that says "Amazing Grace" in the narthex at First Lutheran. That is the benevolence box.

The First Lutheran council recommended and it was approved at the annual meeting that in 2022 traditional benevolence gifts would be funded through retiring offerings rather than via the budget. This does relieve some pressure on the budget, but also allows a chance to make our gifts we make for the good of the world more personal. So on a bimonthly basis, a new recipient of our gifts will be named and worshipers will be invited to contribute.

In March and April, the offering is designated to aid Ukrainian refugees through Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). LDR is the arm of the ELCA through which we respond to all sorts of crises throughout the world. They are partnering with Lutheran World Relief and Church World Service to most effectively get the aid where it is needed.

Transitioning with the Pandemic

The following guidelines were endorsed by at the March 12 joint HOILP council meeting regarding continued transitions as the pandemic dissipates. They are simply guidelines and will be altered as needed.

Mask Requirements

- Masks are no longer required at worship.
- Be prepared to reinstate mask requirement should spikes and/or state or local mandates take place

Worship

- Communion
 - Begin coming forward communion rather than remain at seats.
 - No assistants initially. Pastor (masked) will administer both bread and wine
 - If infection rates continue to decrease, then begin including communion assistants Easter Sunday and going forward
- Offering
 - Continue to collect at the door and bring it forward at the time of offering
 - Going forward – consider whether we want to reintroduce passing of the plates or make the baskets at the door our norm
- Sharing of the Peace
 - Continue sharing the peace in place as we have been
 - If infection rates continue to decrease, begin a more traditional sharing of the peace after Easter Sunday
- Online Worship
 - Strive to maintain an online presence. For now – continue as we have been the last 9 months – a more brief service published weekly
 - Going forward – explore options to record Sunday morning services and either broadcast live or release the video following the service sometime
 - This option would...
 - ...relieve time pressure of recording sessions prior to service.
 - ...require investing in video recording equipment for one or both of the sanctuaries.
 - ...require people other than pastor doing video tasks.

Other Activities and Building Usage

- Allow various organizations such as WELCA, Youth, etc. to freely meet and set their own expectations regarding masks, etc. (in many ways this is already happening)
- Education
 - Confirmation – already meeting, will follow procedure of bullet above
 - BLAST – set a goal of relaunching in the Fall
- Building Usage for Meals
 - Prior to Easter - Allow private parties to use basements for meals with a reasonable size limit determined individually by each congregation
 - On and/or after Easter Sunday – begin to enjoy coffee and fellowship before/after worship (in overflow at Immanuel, upstairs at First, perhaps outside weather permitting)
 - After Easter – if infection rates continue to decline, begin to offer funeral meals sponsored by the congregation again.
 - After Memorial Day – again, assuming there is continual improvement, allow public meals such as potlucks, Ice Cream Social, fundraiser meals, etc.

Worship

Holy Week & Easter Worship Schedule

Passion Sunday – April 10, 2022

Immanuel – 8:30 a.m.

First – 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 14, 2022

Immanuel – 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday – April 15, 2022

First – 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 17, 2022

Immanuel – 8:30 a.m.

First – 10:30 a.m.

A Look Way Ahead in Worship

Pastor Jeff just returned from the workshop for pastors and other leaders of the synod to develop resources for Season of Creation. He can't wait for its arrival, even though it won't be until September and October. But prior to that, two ways which you can help:

Volunteer for Season of Creation Task Force

PJ is putting together a task force to plan and make Season of Creation even better. Please let him know if you're willing to volunteer.

Start Taking Pictures

As always, we'll have slide shows for the Sunday themes. Here's the topics for you to start capturing pictures:

- Oceans and Lakes
- Animals
- Cosmos
- Storms and Weather

Attention Readers

We are trying out the practice of giving the intercessory prayers from your pew. This both eliminates the awkwardness of when to come forward and has the intercessory prayers truly coming from the midst of the people. When you arrive please get the handheld microphone from Minor at Immanuel or Kristen or PJ at First.

Wanted: Ushers at Immanuel

Soon, we will be reviving and redefining ushers at Immanuel. Volunteers are needed. Ushers can range in age from 12 to 100. It's a great thing to do as a couple or family. Please sign up on the table in the overflow.

WELCA

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*)

We continue to collect items for **LWR Personal Care Kits**: light or medium weight dark color bath towels, sturdy combs (not fine tooth or picks), 4-5 oz. size bars of bath soap in wrappers, nail clippers, toothbrushes.

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

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

WELCA Quarterly Meeting, Tuesday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m. (new time)

NIS-WELCA Retreat, Saturday, April 30, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. "Praising God with all that we are!". Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, 1834 S. IL Rt. 2, Oregon, IL.

WELCA QUILT RAFFLE – More info on the back of the calendar.

This and That

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – canned diced tomatoes, ketchup, boxed potatoes and large bag of chips.
- For Easter baskets they are looking for coloring books.
- N.I.C.E. is accepting plastic bags again but **DO NOT** need egg cartons at this time.

Thank you for your continued support for the N.I.C.E. Center.

First Lutheran Council Highlights

March 21, 2022

- Spring Cleanup Day at church/parsonage on Sunday, May 15
- Bid from Tip Top Roofing, Sycamore, was selected for new shingles on church roof
- Council contributed toward new laptop for Sunday videos/Powerpoints
- Back door and stair landing of church have been replaced
- Kitchen counter has been trimmed so stove can be placed properly
- Church or church member photos can be sent to Jim J. for use on the website
- Benevolence for March/April – Ukrainian refugees
- Benevolence for May/June – Lutherdale Bible Camp

April Benevolence Offerings

For Immanuel – World Mission. Please use the envelope found in this newsletter.

There is also a Free Will offering basket in the overflow for Ukrainian refugees

For First – Ukrainian refugees

Immanuel Council Highlights

March 10, 2022

- General Treasury ending balance February 28, 2022 is \$5,033.98
- Building & Grounds Committee report on upcoming repairs at church and parsonage
- Building & Grounds Committee report on replacing church roof
- Transfer Farm 2019 funds (formerly for Mendota Lutheran Home) of \$1,668.00 equally between LSSI and Helping Hands program
- Council members thanked for leading Transfiguration Sunday service, February 27

Immanuel Church Office Hours

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

*Debbie will be available from home in the afternoons.
If you need anything, call or text: 815-866-6690 or
email: immanuellutherancompton@live.com.*

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/UChxbzUM EeE1C2SIsP-YI65A

**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish
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(First Lutheran - 240 W. Hardanger Gate - Lee, IL 60530)

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Return Service Requested

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 3 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
April 10 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
April 17 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
April 24 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

LENT/HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 6 – 6:30 p.m. Lenten Service, Immanuel
April 14 (Maundy Thursday) – 7:00 p.m. at
Immanuel
April 15 (Good Friday) – 7:00 p.m. at First
April 17 (Easter) – 8:30 a.m. Immanuel
10:30 a.m. First
(no Easter Breakfasts this year, maybe next year)

Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

Immanuel Lutheran Church
398 Church Road – Compton, IL 61318
Phone: 815/539-6567

E-mail: immanuel.lutheran.compton@live.com
www.ilccompton.org

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