

April 2023



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 is Risen!**

## **Easter Schedule – Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>**

*Easter Sunrise Service*

7:30 a.m. – Immanuel Lutheran

*Easter Breakfasts*

8:30 a.m. – Easter Breakfast @ Immanuel

9:30 a.m. – Coffee Fellowship @ First

*Easter Resurrection Celebration*

10:30 a.m. – First Lutheran

## **Night on the Town**

**April 22 – Cookout**

***Chief Shabbona Forest  
Preserve***

*Come anytime after 4:00 p.m.*

*Dinner @ 6:00 pm.*

*Cost – PJ will provide meat; bring a dish to share, your own table service and drinks.*

**Can host a  
Night on the Town?**

Contact Theresa Schlesinger regarding open months.

[tschlesinger@comcast.net](mailto:tschlesinger@comcast.net)

815.878.8372

## **Rally The Talents!**

Do you have talents to share with the Parish?

- We need persons to lead worship, particularly during the summer months.
- We need visitors in areas from Mendota to DeKalb to bring cheer and Holy Communion to our homebound.
- We need musicians for chime choir; no specific experience necessary.
- We need persons with internet/social media skills to post worship for our remote worshippers.
- We need persons with basic Power Point knowledge to prepare worship displays; specific training provided.

If you can help in any of these ways, or you have other ideas for enriching Parish life and worship, contact Jill Ross 815-539-6889,

[rossranch92@yahoo.com](mailto:rossranch92@yahoo.com) or Alex Johnson 815-762-1987, [alexanderjohnson87@gmail.com](mailto:alexanderjohnson87@gmail.com).

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## Some Notes on Sabbatical

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*For the first time in the History of HOILP (as well as both congregations of the parish), the pastor is being offered a sabbatical leave. So that the congregation might better understand the reasoning behind this, Greta Bates, a member from Immanuel who serves on the Parish Team and the newly formed Sabbatical team, has composed a three-part article that will be published in this and the next two Parish Voices. Pastor Jeff will include a short note of comment for each of the articles.*

### **Rostered Minister Sabbatical** by Greta Bates

From an article from the May 16, 2013 issue of Living Lutheran, *A Passport to Good Health*: “The idea of a sabbatical has biblical origins. The very root of the word is the same as that of ‘Sabbath’. Throughout the Old Testament, God instructs people to work six days and rest on the seventh. In Leviticus, God instructs people to allow the land to rest every seventh year – meaning no farming, no planting, no harvesting.” Along the same lines, a clergy sabbatical of 3 to 6 months is suggested by the compensation guidelines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Northern Illinois Synod (NIS) to sustain clergy health and promote renewal through a break in routine. The sabbatical is defined as a period in which the pastor has no contact with the congregation, and the congregation operates independently of the pastor for the duration of the defined period.

### **Family Aspects**

ELCA and NIS-ELCA guidelines outline that clergy sabbatical include time for personal reflection, family renewal, and congregation self-examination. Sabbatical time can be used to re-connect with family, to re-define family relationships, and re-define vocation within the family. During the sabbatical, the congregation has the opportunity to keep the pastor and family in prayer.

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### *A Note From Pastor Jeff...*

An 80 mile hike on a primitive island in the middle of lake superior, hiking the hills of New Hampshire and the sidewalks of Beantown, trout fishing and theater in the driftless region of Minnesota, and a trek west to glaciers and an old mining town will be the means by which I connect with my family over the coming months. It has been a joy to plan ways to spend large chunks of time with my family rather than simply steal a weekend here and there.

I used to think that when my kids were grown and out of the house, the pressure on my schedule would be lessened. I was wrong. Because I still like my kids and want to be part of their lives, and because apparently they still like me and want their dad to be part of their lives, we have to work hard to find time together. It is especially challenging when one lives 306 miles away, one lives 1067 miles away, and the other won't stay put, literally living from coast to coast over the last five years.

So the very first thing I scheduled as I planned my sabbatical was time with my family. At the very beginning, to celebrate his graduating with his Masters and to kick off my sabbatical, Sam and I will be hiking Isle Royale from one end to the other and back again. This is a trip we've been trying to plan for quite a few years.

In June, I'll be heading east where Kim and I will spend time in the mountains of New Hampshire and then she'll show me around the historic city of Boston – her new hometown. (Though she says she's a Red Sox fan now, so that might put a strain on our relationship. Schlesingers are Cubs fans! ☺) In early July I'll be heading to southern Minnesota to see Alex on stage and to stand in some streams with them in pursuit of brook trout.

And then at the end of July and into August, Theresa and I will be heading west to check off some destinations that have been on our bucket list since before the movie that made bucket lists a thing even came out. We'll be heading to Glacier National Park in Montana and to Holden Village in Washington. Those of you not familiar with Holden Village, it is a remote Lutheran Retreat Center in the Cascade Mountains that was originally a mining village.

You all will get to see Theresa occasionally over the summer, though she will be gone many weekends as she will be joining me when I'm within driving distance. Feel free to ask her where in the world her husband is and which kid he is visiting.

# This and That

## **N.I.C.E. Center Update**

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, pickles
- We need help for food pickups in DeKalb on Friday mornings (leave N.I.C.E. at 7:20 a.m.) and/or help sort produce and other food items at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call Dave Koroscik at 815-751-0401.

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



### **Holy Baptism** **March 19**

*Left to Right –  
Farrah Collins,  
Deona Collins,  
Luca Collins,  
Pastor Jeff,  
Griffin Collins,  
Lauren Collins*



***Congratulations  
to our 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>  
graders who  
received their  
Bibles on  
Sunday, March  
12. Jocelyn  
Oman & Austyn  
Rebholz***

## **Education Team**

Kathy Ross and Kim Menzel are reviving the Education Team. Please contact them if you would like to be a part of that team.

## **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](mailto:immanuellutherancompton@live.com).*

## **Immanuel Council Highlights**

**March 23, 2023**

- As of March 21, \$55,605.00 has been received for the Raise the Roof campaign.
- The ending balance in the General Treasury on February 28 was \$10,453.51.
- Thank you notes were received from Lincoln School for the donation to their Backpack Blessings program and from Another Child Foundation for the money they received from Immanuel.
- The contract for the roof project has been signed.

## **Joint Council Highlights**

**March 23, 2023**

- Attendance is up a tick from this point last year and is more consistent.
- Pastor Joy Alsop of Faith, Rochelle, has agreed to be the on-call pastor for emergency hospital calls, funerals, etc., during Pastor Jeff's sabbatical. She will also be leading worship at the joint church service at Immanuel on May 28.
- Lay members are being recruited to be worship leaders, visit shut-ins and create the power points during the sabbatical.
- The Video Task Force recommends we begin using the Sunday morning worship services as the basis for our online video worship. A team of 4-5 people will be needed to run the cameras and post the video.
- The joint council approved moving forward with the planning to start recording the Sunday morning worship service as well as a budget of \$7,000.00 for purchasing a couple of cameras and a dedicated laptop.

## **First Council Highlights**

**March 19, 2023**

- Easter Breakfast will consist of coffee and donuts.
- Moving forward, coffee and treats will be provided before Sunday worship, if people are willing to do so on a regular basis.
- The May/June benevolence will go to Lutherdale.
- The new furnace and air conditioning units have been installed and are running fine.

## **HOILP on the Internet**

### **Websites & Facebook**

First – [www.flcinlee.com](http://www.flcinlee.com)

[www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee](https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee)

Immanuel – [www.ilccompton.org](http://www.ilccompton.org)

[www.facebook.com/ilccompton](https://www.facebook.com/ilccompton)



[www.youtube.com/@hoilp](https://www.youtube.com/@hoilp)

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# WELCA

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## **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, 4-5 oz. size bars of bath soap in wrappers.

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

## **WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer**

NIS Women of the ELCA 2023 Retreat, April 29, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, 1834 S. IL Rt. 2, Oregon, IL. "Women At The Well" – John 4:11b. Cost: \$25.00 made payable to "NISWO" (coffee, snacks, lunch, materials). Bible Study & Worship Leader: The Rev. Makayla Dahleen, Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sterling, IL.

We will continue to have quilting days. Announcements will be made on Sundays.

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## Worship Team

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### **Treats After Worship**

There is a sign-up sheet in the overflow at Immanuel for coffee fellowship. If you can provide a simple treat and put coffee and juice out, it will be much appreciated. It is time to return to sharing fellowship around your preferred beverage and sweet treat. It also helps provide fellowship for those families with Sunday School age children.

There is not a formal sign-up at First, but if anyone would like to offer a little bit of refreshments to enhance our post worship fellowship it would be most welcome. After all, there is nothing wrong with a little "appetizer" before heading off to lunch.

### **Help Wanted**

#### ***Singers & Instrumentalists*** to provide ***Special Music***

We'd like to enhance our worship with special music pieces. If you play an instrument or sing, we'd love to incorporate you into worship. Can't be there in person? With the gift of video we can record you and still be blessed with your musical offering.

## Easter Lilies & Tulips

- Rosina Bittner – To the glory of God in memory of loved ones (2 tulips)*  
*Sarah Pfeifer – In memory of loved ones (1 of each)*  
*Holly Phalen – In memory of Elroy & Beverly Schlesinger and Mark Schlesinger (2 tulips)*  
*Kevin & Kim Ganz – In memory of loved ones (1 of each)*  
*Minor Avery – In memory of loved ones (1 of each)*  
*Dwight & Margaret Frick – In memory of loved ones (1 lily)*  
*Harlan & Karla Eames – In memory of loved ones (1 of each)*  
*Tom & Kim Menzel – In memory of loved ones (1 of each)*  
*Mary Ellen Schroeder – Family living in eternal life (1 lily)*  
*Roger & Carol Kern – In memory of loved ones (1 tulip)*  
*Kirk & Kathy Ross and family – In memory of loved ones (1 lily)*  
*Neal Rogers Family – In memory of loved ones (1 tulip)*  
*Sarah Goetz – To the glory of God (1 tulip)*  
*Velma Schmidt's Family – In memory of Donald O. Schmidt (1 tulip)*  
*Donna Ganz-Bauer – In memory of loved ones (1 lily)*  
*Ron & Rita Lilja – In memory of Christina Lilja (1 lily)*  
*Pastor Jeff & Theresa Schlesinger – In memory of our fathers, Norm Schlesinger and Tom Voyce (2 tulips)*  
*Julie Lovett – In memory of loved ones (1 tulip)*  
*Tom & Rita Thompson – In Honor of our Grandchildren (1 tulip)*  
*Becky Jarman – In memory of Parents (1 tulip)*  
*Mike Davis – In memory of loved ones (2 tulips)*  
*Laurie Kryder – In Honor of my Mother (2 tulips)*  
*Alex Johnson – In memory of Frank & Alvina Johnson (1 tulip)*  
*Jim Johnson – In memory of Mr. & Mrs. J. A. Butler (1 tulip)*  
*Dave & Janell Koroscik – In Celebration of Grandchildren (2 tulips)*  
*Simpson Family – (6 tulips, 2 lilies)*  
*In memory of: Alfred & Dena Winterton (Grandparents)*  
*Bill & Leona Smith (Parents)*  
*Olin & Betty Simpson (Parents)*  
*Randy Smith & Scott Simpson (Brothers)*  
*Ray Flanders (Uncle)*  
*Loved ones & friends no longer with us*  
*In honor of: Olin Simpson (M.S., Northern Ill. University Dec. '22)*  
*Bethany Simpson (AAS, Kishwaukee College May '23)*

*Please take your flowers home after Easter worship.*

**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
398 Church Rd. - Compton, IL 61318**

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

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Organization  
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**Return Service Requested**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**April 2 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)  
(Palm Sunday) Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**

**April 9 – Immanuel (7:30) First (10:30)  
(Easter) (no Sunday School)**

**April 16 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)  
Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**

**April 23 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)  
Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**

**April 30 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)  
Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**

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You can also check us out on Facebook!