



August 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

Pastoral Coverage During Sabbatical

Pastor Joy Alsop from Faith Lutheran in Rochelle has agreed to be on call for pastoral needs while Pastor Jeff is on sabbatical. If you are in need of a pastor, she can be contacted via the Immanuel Office (Debbie Rebholz – 815/539-6567) during business hours or your congregational president (*Immanuel*: Kirk Ross – 815/866-4160; *First*: Mike Davis – 815/970-2563) after hours. Pastor Joy will be leading worship at the joint service on May 28th. Come on out and meet her.

Summer Worship

Immanuel – 8:30 a.m. First – 10:30 a.m.

Regular Services
August 6

Communion Services
August 13 – Pastor Hank Milner
August 20, 27 – Pastor Jeff

Members of the Sabbatical Team

Greta Bates, Sarah Goetz, Alex Johnson, Julie Lovett, Deb Poterek, and Jill Ross, send their **thanks** to the many members and friends of HOILP who have agreed to assist in worship preparations and the other ministries that will continue throughout the sabbatical.

Night on the Town

Saturday, August 19 – 6:00 p.m.
at Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve

Host – Pastor Jeff
(will share stories from travels)

Meat will be provided. Bring a dish to share, your own table service, drinks, lawn chairs.

Sign up at Immanuel & First if you can join us!

Can you host a Night on the Town?

Responsibilities: Choose a Friday or Saturday, location, sign-up sheet, make reservations

Open Months – October - December

Interested? Contact Theresa Schlesinger

tschlesinger@comcast.net

815.878.8372

Sunday, July 30 is “CHRISTMAS IN JULY”!
at HOILP

Wear red & green, etc. to worship that day as we sing Christmas songs!

Sabbatical Notes

Hello all from the desk of the President:

I would like to start by saying how grateful we all are about getting much needed nourishing rains over the last two weeks. Thanks to God for answering our prayers.

Here at First, we are getting our parsonage ready for rental. It has sat empty for at least ten years. Alex and the rest of the Johnson family have worked tirelessly to clean and get it ready. Thank you to them for their hard work.

As always, thank you's go out to all who help with worship services, especially during Pastor Jeff's sabbatical.

Thank you,

Mike Davis, First Lutheran Council President

P.S. My desk is pretty messy!!

Worship Video

The leadership of Heart of Illinois Lutheran has identified video ministry as something that we ought to continue. It was a wonderful way to keep all of us connected while we were in and out of lock down a few years ago. But beyond that, it provides a worship experience for those staying home due to Covid symptoms or other illness. It offers our homebound members access to our worship life. We have friends, former members, and even existing members who live far away tuning in on a regular basis. There are even some folks watching simply because they found us on the web.

A video worship task force was created to explore the best ways to go forward with this ministry, and they have come up with a recommendation that has been endorsed by HOILP Leadership. That recommendation is to film the Sunday morning worship service and use that for our weekly worship video. If we are able to do it effectively, that may include a live stream of the service as well.

To bring this about and do it well, we need people to film during the service, and we need equipment that will be able to maintain the quality of production to which we have become accustomed.

There are many congregations and other organizations that use this type of system and it can work great for us **if... and only if...** we have the people to run it. The task force has recommended that a video team of 3-5 people be established that will operate the system on Sunday mornings. Olin Simpson, member at First and part of the task force, will head up the team. But we need 3-4 additional people to join him. The members would set up a schedule for who would run the system each week. You don't have to know much about videos, video editing, or computers to be part of this, you just have to be willing to learn. Members of the team would be committing to learning the system and being part of the schedule for at least a year or two as we recruit and train other interested and willing volunteers. If you would like to be part of this team, please let me know.

Initially, the video equipment and recording will be exclusively at Immanuel. The 8:30 a.m. worship time allows the opportunity to get the video out more promptly. We can expand to include equipment and filming at First in the future as we see the need.

We hope to hear from some of you so we can have a video team in place raring to go come August.

This and That

Immanuel's General Treasury for June 2023

	Month	YTD
Receipts for June	\$11,870.47	
Expenses for June	\$14,194.22	
Receipts YTD		\$88,962.41
Expenses YTD		\$116,409.67
Net/(Loss)	(\$2,323.75)	(\$27,447.26)

To meet our budget for 2023 our goal is \$3965.00 a week, we had 4 weekly offerings of \$2968.00 this month.

Let keep up the good works here at Immanuel. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Harlan G. Eames
Financial Officer

Avg. Sunday
attendance in
June - 36

First Council Highlights

July 16, 2023

- Work on preparing parsonage for being rented continues. Painting, new flooring in kitchen and bath, and window repairs complete.
- Repair of March 30 wind damage to church and parsonage is defined, but may not be on the schedule to be done for two months.
- Work on 2024 budget was requested to begin this summer. Too many important decisions are needed that cannot wait until the budget recommendation is made during the January Council meeting.

Notes from First

AVOID TEMPTATION! As we were cleaning up the new office, we had to remove 50+ sticky adhesives from the window, which took over three hours to remove. Please avoid the temptation to affix anything sticky to the windows or the walls of the church, so we can keep our building looking beautiful.

Immanuel Council Highlights

July 20, 2023

- General Treasury ending balance on June 30 was \$2,252.33 and the AMDEX Account ending balance on June 30 was \$2,861.95. Compared to 2022 at mid-year, expenses are almost identical, but offerings are behind by almost \$8,500.00. It is likely Harlan Eames will need to borrow from the Capital Improvement Fund to cover operating expenses. Kirk will share that things are tight during church on July 23 and the council agreed that monthly figures should start being included in the newsletter again, so the congregation is aware.
- The damage to the overflow roof from a large limb falling on it was minimal. Sterling Roofing, who will be doing the main roof, came and patched the few small holes at no expense. The council appreciates all who assisted with cleaning up the fallen limb.
- Sunday School will begin on September 10. There will be a pancake breakfast that day and since the date coordinates with God's Work Our Hands Sunday, the Sunday School will be making cards that day that can be sent to members.

Benevolence Offering

Immanuel: August – Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC). Please use the envelope found in this newsletter.

First: August – Shabbona Fire Department. Please use the benevolence box at church or designate it on the memo line of your check.

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: immanuel.lutheran.compton@live.com.

WELCA

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

We are collecting school supplies for the **School Back Packs**: For each School Kit we need:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 4 – 70 page spiral bound notebooks | 1 – 30 centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one edge and inches on the other |
| 1 – pencil sharpener | |
| 1 – blunt scissors | 5 – unsharpened pencils with eraser secured with a rubber band |
| 1 – box of 16 or 24 crayons | 5 – black or blue ballpoint pens secured with a rubber band |
| 1 – 2-1/2" eraser | (no business advertising on them) |

Put these items in the LWR totes in the room next to the office. THANK YOU!

After worship on Sunday, August 6 we will be filling the school bags for LWR at Immanuel. Please stay and help if you can.

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

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – Kleenex, condiments, cake, brownie, and cookie mixes, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, dish soap.
- N.I.C.E. School Supply list can be found at both churches. Saturday distribution days are: August 5, 12, 19.
- **September will be the month that Immanuel & First will volunteer on Saturdays from 8:00-11:00 a.m.** Sign up at both churches if you are able to help.

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

HOILP on the Internet

Websites & Facebook

- First – www.flcinlee.com
www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee
Immanuel – www.ilccompton.org
www.facebook.com/ilccompton
HOILP YouTube - www.youtube.com/@hoilp

Notes from Immanuel Council

Helping Hands Benevolence Fund

A reminder that this generous gift (in the form of Visa gift cards) has been made to Immanuel for the purpose of offering assistance to those who find themselves in need. These funds are intended to be a source of assistance for members of Immanuel, including inactive and homebound members, as well as non-members. In short, the needs of anyone will be considered and addressed as much as possible. Cards are distributed to anyone in need after directly contacting the pastor with reasonable requests.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please place your contribution in the offering plate marked "Helping Hands Fund".

Communion Practices Policy

Posted on the bulletin board in the overflow for the convenience of Immanuel members.

Please make use of the above items in the spirit of transparency.

Immanuel's "Raise the Roof"

Pledge forms and envelopes can be found on the table in the overflow.

Donations can still be made by mailing to Immanuel or place in the offering plate.

Thank You!!

This and That



Rally Day

Let's Celebrate the Start of Sunday School on September 10th after the 8:30 Church Service. A pancake breakfast will also be served. Watch for more details.

Immanuel Scholarship Fund Recipients for 2023

Rachel McCormick
Brooke Heiman
Trysta Foster

Fellowship Time returns!

Treats for fellowship time at Immanuel (after 8:30 worship) and First (before 10:30 worship) will begin again in September. Watch for sign up sheets in August if you would like to provide treats, juice/coffee.

Dear Friends at Immanuel & First, Lee,

Thank you for all of your cards and kind words of sympathy at the passing of my dad, Harry Schaller.

*Sincerely,
Greta Bates*

Affirmation of Baptism Presentation July 9 at Immanuel



Pastor Hank Milner,
Oscar Klauer-Ruddy,
Stefanie Klauer,
Ciara Ruddy,
Jacqueline Klauer

Lasagna for "Sunshine Meals"

We have 3 large pans of lasagna and garlic bread available to give to someone sick, returning home from the hospital or just need a "perk me up". Give Debbie a call at Immanuel and we can set you up.

The July Night On The Town (NOTT) was held at Rosati's in Mendota and was attended by 16 members of HOILP. A good time was had by all.

Want to thank Randy Schlesinger for reading and all the kitchen help for making Gene's "Celebration of Life" memorial and picnic luncheon at the Mendota Lake a memory we won't forget.

The Williams & Swope Families

Hi All!

I want to thank everyone involved in sending me the very delicious lasagna, garlic bread, and salad. I enjoyed it so much!

I am waiting to get knee surgery and in a lot of pain.

It was so easy to microwave my meals. (I got 4 nice meals from it!) You are all doing a wonderful thing!

Rich Scheffler

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

August 6 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

**August 13 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Pastor Hank Milner – Holy Communion**

**August 20 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Pastor Jeff – Holy Communion**

**August 27 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Pastor Jeff – Holy Communion**

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You can also check us out on Facebook!