

August 2024



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

## Neither Rain, nor Thunder, nor Wind Could Stop HOILP from Holding Outdoor Worship

July worship life at Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish was highlighted by a pair of outdoor community services. The services, both of which were threatened by weather phenomena, were well received by all.

On July 7, Immanuel hosted a community service in the park at Compton. The weather was nice that morning, but due to storms in prior days, it was discovered shortly before the service that the electricity would be out for some maintenance. But congregational president Kirk Ross threw his cape on, jumped in his Luther Mobile (our version of the bat mobile) and returned seemingly seconds later with a generator to power our outdoor sound system. The service went off without a hitch.



But



The following week, July 14, we joined with St. James Catholic Parish and Calvary Lutheran Church to provide a community worship service as

part of the village of Lee's sesquicentennial celebration. Over night thunderstorms reeked havoc on the Lion's Club tents where the service was intended to be held. After much consternation on whether to move the service into the sanctuary at Lee or not, the painfully obvious solution came forth: move it inside the Fire Barn. It worked perfect and a full house participated in the service led by Pastor Martha Nelson, Father Bonaventure Okoro, and Pastor Jeff. It was so full that people were even seated in the very front row!



The worship committee is already planning on exploring the opportunity of community services in 2025. Compton will be celebrating its sesquicentennial next year, so perhaps it will end up just flipped: 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend at Lee and 150<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration at Compton.

## ELCA Youth Gathering



Check out the video of the 2024 youth gathering participants in the August 4<sup>th</sup> worship video on our YouTube channel (see page 4 for channel link, direct link to service not available at the time of publication).

Also, there is a compelling video of past gathering participants that was part of the July 21<sup>st</sup> service. Check that out as well if you have not had a chance to see it: <https://youtu.be/-7s47xpRsM0?si=qviMRObc5upsCdxl>.

**Immanuel Rally Day**  
**Sunday, September 8**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Let's Celebrate the Start of Sunday School!**

# Creation Care "Corner"

## Humans in Nature

### A Quote

To damage the earth is to damage your children.

-Wendell Berry, farmer & poet

### From My Perspective

Try to get in sync with the seasons. Seasons exist for a reason. To ignore the cyclical up time & down time militates against nature. As a farmer I have learned to enjoy the different seasons each comes with its own joys & challenges.

-Robert Kromm



Pictures submitted by Kim Ganz, Margaret Ross, Sam Schlesinger, and Theresa Schlesinger. (you'll have to ask them whose picture is whose)

## "Good Images" - Monthly Categories

January: Furry Friends  
February: Winter Scene  
March: Earth Scenes\*  
April: Spring has sprung  
May: Mountains and Hills\*  
June: Flowers

July: Sky\*  
August: Humans in Nature\*  
September: Wild Critters  
October: Fall Colors  
November: Harvest  
December: Sunrise/Sunset

\*These categories are the 2024 Season of Creation themes. Images will be utilized for SOC power points and videos.



Coming to the Congregations of HOILP

# Season of Creation

September 8 to October 6

## WELCA

### WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

- **LWR Personal Care Kits:** light or medium weight dark color bath towels, 4-5 oz. size bars of bath soap in wrappers.

We will fill school bags & work on health care kits after church on **Sunday, August 4.**

*ALL donations go in LWR totes in the room next to the office. **Thank you!***

- Quilting continues. Check weekly announcements for dates.

## Discipleship & Fellowship

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

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – BBQ sauce, pickles, relish, bar soap. **School Supplies** (lists are at both churches).
- **Immanuel** is looking for a **board member** for N.I.C.E. Contact Cyndie Prodzenski at 815-999-9247.
- **September** will be the month that Immanuel & First volunteer on Saturdays from 8-11 a.m. Sign up if you are able to help or just show up.

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# NIS Synod Report

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The 2024 Northern Illinois Synod (ELCA) Assembly was held at Augustana College in Rock Island, IL June 14-15. Pr. Jeff Schlesinger and Greta Bates represented Immanuel at the event. The assembly heard reports from committees and mission partners, and the Keynote speaker was Pr. Miguel Gomez-Acosta, the ELCA Senior Director of New Ministry Development and Evangelism who challenged participants to find new ways to spread the message of God by meeting people where they already gather. A Friday evening Ministry Fair gave participants to learn about other programs within the ELCA.

The assembly approved the Synod budget for FY 2026 (Feb. 1, 2025-Jan. 31, 2026) which is a balanced budget representing an overall reduction of 2% from the preceding year. There are two significant modifications from the previous year. 1) As a result of the financial health of LSSI, Synod support for LSSI was reduced significantly, and the equivalent funds were diverted to programs: Seminaries, Campus Ministry, LOMC, Regional Ministries, and Congregational Life. 2) A strategy has been implemented which will replenish a shortage in the Synod endowment so that in future years, the income on the endowment will be available to support ministries.

The assembly elected members of the Synod Council, committee members, and representatives to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly, and elected the incumbent Synod Treasurer to a full term.

Three resolutions were on the Assembly Agenda, and all three resolutions were approved.

- 1) Resolution #1 celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger, encouraging congregations which already support ELCA World Hunger to increase this year's giving through an intentional giving moment.
- 2) Resolution #2 commits the Northern Illinois Synod to appoint a task force to begin a year-long process of exploring what it means to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Synod and to generate a Synod Welcome Statement to be presented for adoption to the 2025 Synod Assembly.
- 3) Resolution #3 rejects Christian Nationalism as "a cultural framework that...includes the beliefs that...Christianity should be a privileged religion in the U.S." In the resolution, the Synod "commits to upholding the principles of religious freedom and the separation of church and state". Congregations are encouraged to use the resources *We Are Christians Against Christian Nationalism*, available from the ELCA Advocacy Network, and the curriculum available for the study of the proposed Social Statement: "Civic Life and Faith".

Pr. Jeff Schlesinger served as the official photographer of the assembly.

*Respectfully submitted: Greta Bates*

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## Worship

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**X 5<sup>th</sup> Thursday Filming**  
**Thursday, August 29**  
Readers at 6:00 p.m.  
Singers at 7:30 p.m.  
(all at Immanuel)

Upcoming  
September 26  
October 24

### Worship Team Schedule

Sept 5, 2024  
Oct 3, 2024  
Nov 7, 2024  
Dec 5, 2024

### Sunday Fellowship

Please consider providing simple little treats for fellowship time following worship at Immanuel or before worship at First. Sign up today!

### Ways to Share HOILP Worship

- Share our YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/@hoilp](http://www.youtube.com/@hoilp)
- Ask people to subscribe to YouTube channel
- Share and like the weekly Facebook post to worship
- Forward weekly email about worship to others.  
*And most importantly...*
- Invite people to worship with you on Sunday morning

# Around the Parish

## Immanuel

### **Council Highlights** – June 20, 2024

- General Treasury ending balance on May 31, 2024 was \$1,497.00. The net loss for the month was (\$8,816.75).
- \$4,000.00 was transferred from the AMDEX account & \$2,000.00 borrowed from the Capital Improvement Fund to pay the operating expenses in May.
- Leveling the ramp is targeted to be completed in early July. Hornung Tiling will then be contacted so they can begin the parking lot.
- The council approved the Scholarship Team's recommendation to award scholarships to Luke Ross (\$1500 – first-time recipient), Brooke Heiman (\$750) and Trysta Foster (\$750) who are both previous recipients.
- The council approved the HOILP Care-for-Creation Covenant, as presented by the HOILP Creation Care Corp. The council at First will also be voting on the covenant.

### **Council Highlights** – July 18, 2024

- Ending balance in the General Treasury on June 30 was \$4,057.13. That was a net gain for the month of \$2,559.43.
- Greta Bates provided a report to the council of the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly she attended in June.
- The Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry sent a thank you note for the 61 lbs. of food Immanuel donated.
- Leveling of the handicap ramp has been completed and the parking lot work is anticipated to begin the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Aug.

### **Immanuel Farm Rental**

Letters will be going out in the next few weeks to potential church farm rental lessees. This notice is for anyone not on the current list or unaware of the process who would like to participate. Eligible lessees include all members of Immanuel Lutheran Church who are defined as active members. Basic active membership eligibility requires communing and making a contribution of record, i.e., an IDENTIFIABLE contribution by check, numbered envelope, PayPal, etc. Applicants must also be "operators" according to the FSA registry. If you meet the eligibility requirements and wish to participate in the lottery process, please contact the church office before September 10 if you have NOT received a letter. We will get you an application packet. Deadline for applications is September 14. The drawing will be at the September 19 council meeting. Eligibility of the winner of the drawing will be verified.

## First

### **Council Highlights** – July 21, 2024

- Annual premiums for property insurance have increased by \$3,000 in 2024
- Treasurer will look into closing the Sunday School Bond Fund CD and the Youth Group checking account. Balances in these accounts will be moved to the General Fund.
- September/October benevolence will go to the Campbell family in Rochelle

### Immanuel General Treasury - June 2024

	Month	YTD
Receipts for June	\$18,295.67	
Expenses for June	\$15,736.24	
Receipts YTD		\$96,014.77
Expenses YTD		\$113,167.69
Net/(Loss)	\$2,559.43	(\$17,152.92)

*Weekly need for budget: \$3,885.00*

*June average weekly offering: \$3,751.00*

Let keep up the good work! Thank you for your continued support.

*Respectfully submitted - Harlan G. Eames*

### **Church Office Hours**

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

*Debbie is available in the afternoons. If you need anything, call or text: 815-866-6690 or email:*

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

### **HOILP on the Internet**

*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)

*HOILP YouTube*

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



**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
398 Church Rd. - Compton, IL 61318**

(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**

**August 4 – Immanuel (8:30)  
First (10:30)**  
**August 11 – Immanuel (8:30)  
First (10:30)**  
**August 18 – Immanuel (8:30)  
First (10:30)**  
**August 25 – Immanuel (8:30)  
First (10:30)**

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You can also check us out on Facebook!