



December 2025/January 2026



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

The Parish Voice

A Newsletter of Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

Immanuel Lutheran Church
398 Church Road
Compton, IL 61318
815.539.6567

Christmas at HOILP

The Christmas schedule at Heart of Illinois Lutheran has become quite familiar. The tradition will continue this year.

On Christmas Eve, each congregation will host service that includes the familiar candle lighting: 7:00 p.m. at Immanuel and 9:00 p.m. at First.

An informal and joyous Christmas Day celebration will take place at Immanuel the next morning at 10:00 a.m.

Then on Sunday, December 28th, we will celebrate with a joint Service of Lessons and Carols at First at 10:30 a.m.

Please join us for any all of these worship opportunities as we celebrate the birth of our Lord.

Christmas Worship Schedule

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

7:00 p.m. – Immanuel Lutheran

9:00 p.m. First Lutheran

Christmas Day Worship

10:00 a.m. – Immanuel Lutheran

1st Sunday of Christmas

10:30 a.m. – First Lutheran

(only one service on December 28th)

HOILP Restructuring

The meeting at First Lutheran regarding the new structure of HOILP took place on November 14th with the congregation voting to approve going forward as a preaching point of HOILP. Immanuel's congregational meeting will occur on December 7th following worship.

For more information regarding the new structure regarding the plan and what will occur at the meeting, Immanuel members are referred to last month's Parish Voice and/or the letter that was sent out via mail in early November. It goes without saying that Immanuel members are strongly encouraged to attend the meeting on the seventh.

Congregation Meeting

to discuss HOILP 2026

Immanuel Lutheran

December 7, 2025

following worship



Coming soon to a church near you...

Bingo Blitz 2026

Back by popular demand!
Coming in January or February!
Details in future announcements/newsletters.

HOILP on the Internet

First

www.flcinlee.com

www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee

Immanuel

www.ilccompton.org

www.facebook.com/ilccompton

HOILP YouTube

www.youtube.com/@hoilp

Remembering HOILP Saints

At Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish there is an annual tradition on All Saints Sunday. Each year on the first Sunday of November, we set aside a portion of the worship service to remember the “saints” who have died in the last year. On November 4th, we named each of the members who have passed away since All Saints Sunday last year as we lit a candle and tolled the bell in their memory. We also opened it up for members to name other family and friends who have died whom they wanted to remember, inviting them to name them before the congregation and our loving Lord.

Below are the members of First and Immanuel Lutheran who passed away during this last year...



Ronald Edwin Lilja
Born: January 15, 1942 - *Caribou Township, MN*
Baptized & Confirmed: Jan 25, 1981
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Compton, IL
Died: October 30, 2024 - *Minocqua, WI*



Edward Jerome Benner
Born: May 13, 1931 - *Rochelle, IL*
Baptized: August 9, 1931
First Lutheran Church - Lee, IL
Confirmed: June 24, 1945
First Lutheran Church - Lee, IL
Died: November 13, 2024 - *DeKalb, IL*



Harold LeRoy Schlesinger
Born: July 2, 1937 - *Mendota, IL*
Baptized: August 3, 1951
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Confirmed: August 5, 1951
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Died: Dec 10, 2024 - *Franklin Grove, IL*



Julia Ann Wade
Born: February 28, 1948 - *Mendota, IL*
Baptized: June 6, 1948
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Confirmed: August 5, 1962
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Died: December 21, 2024 - *Rockford, IL*



Diane Marie Musgrove
Born: May 7, 1946 - *Mendota, IL*
Baptized: August 25, 1946
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Confirmed: August 4, 1960
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Died: January 1, 2025 - *Mendota, IL*

Marilyn Gayle Ward
Born: June 8, 1938 - *Baraboo, WI*
Baptized & Confirmed: 1952
Died: January 14, 2025 - *DeKalb, IL*



Timothy Michael Kromm
Born: October 18, 1954 - *Mendota, IL*
Baptized: December 19, 1954
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Confirmed: July 28, 1968
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Died: January 29, 2025 - *Mendota, IL*



Laurel Ann Berg
Born: October 12, 1948 - *DeKalb, IL*
Baptized: December 12, 1948
First Lutheran Church - Lee, IL
Confirmed: May 20, 1962
First Lutheran Church - Lee, IL
Died: February 16, 2025 - *DeKalb, IL*



Colleen Zelma Zinke
Born: September 24, 1928 - *Jefferson County, IL*
Baptized: March 27, 1950
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Confirmed: March 29, 1950
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Compton, IL
Died: March 30, 2025 - *Mendota, IL*



Worship

2026 Worship Team Schedule

Worship team is and will remain a joint team between Immanuel and First. They work hard on planning and preparing relevant worship experiences for Sunday mornings and high quality worship videos online. All are welcome to come and join in this important work.

- January 8, 2026 – Lent Planning
- February 5, 2026 – Holy Week & Easter Sunday Planning
- March 5, 2026 – Easter Season Planning
- April 9, 2026 – *Week after Easter, only meet if needed*
- May 7, 2026 – Summer 1 & 2 Planning
- June 4, 2026 – Season of Creation Planning
- July 2, 2026 – *only meet if necessary*
- August 6, 2026 – Autumn & 2027 (Year B) Preplanning
- Thursday, September 3, 2026 – Finalize 2027 Liturgies & Christmas Planning
- Thursday, October 1, 2026 – Finish Christmas & Begin Epiphany planning
- Thursday, November 5, 2026 – Finish Epiphany & begin Lent
- Thursday, December 3, 2026 - *only meet if necessary*

Ways to Share HOILP Worship

- Share our YouTube channel:
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

Sunday Fellowship

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

2026 4th Thursday Filming Schedule

Designating one day a month has proven to be an effective and efficient way produce the HOILP worship videos. Filming this year will take place at Immanuel. Times will vary, so check out future newsletters and weekly bulletins for that information. All are welcome, come and help us make this a vital ministry to reach out to new folks and at the same time to stay connected with those unable to be with us on Sunday mornings.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Readers</i>	<i>Singers</i>
1/22/26	Lent Liturgy & Readings	Lent Liturgy & Songs
2/26/26	Passion Sunday & Holy Week	Passion Sunday & Holy Week
3/26/26	Easter Season Liturgy & Readings	Easter Season Liturgy & Songs
4/23/26	Do Not Meet	Do Not Meet
5/21/26	Summer 1 Liturgy & Readings	Summer 1 Liturgy & Songs
6/25/26	Summer 2 Liturgy & Readings	Summer 2 Liturgy & Songs
7/23/26	Season of Creation Liturgy & Readings	Season of Creation Liturgy & Songs
8/27/26	Autumn Liturgy & Readings	Autumn Liturgy & Songs
9/17/26	Advent Liturgy & Readings	Advent Liturgy & Songs
10/22/26	Christmas Liturgy & Readings	Christmas Liturgy & Songs
12/3/26	Epiphany Liturgy & Readings	Epiphany Liturgy & Songs

Worship Liturgies

Year A (2025-2026)

ADVENT

“Come to Me”

EPIPHANY

ELW Setting 10

LENT

Spoken Liturgy

EASTER

ELW Setting 6

PENTECOST – SUMMER 1

“Amazing Grace”

PENTECOST – SUMMER 2

ELW Setting 8

PENTECOST – SEPT/OCT

Season of Creation

PENTECOST – AUTUMN

ELW Setting 3

Discipleship & Fellowship



Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish joined with the other 138 congregations of the Northern Illinois

Synod in a special fundraiser for the ELCA World Hunger Fund. The total raise was \$326,612!!! That is incredible. You all were part of that. Great job!

WELCA

From the President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

- Still available are Immanuel's Cookbooks - old (125th anniversary) & new (2007) - \$5.00 each and Immanuel's 150th Anniversary Christmas Ornament - \$2.00. They make great Christmas gifts! (see Debbie in the church office)
- Quilting continues. Check weekly announcements for dates.

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- **Food/Miscellaneous Items:** Boxed Potatoes, Canned Meat, Canned Vegetables, Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mixes, Denture Cleaning Tablets, Hygiene Products.
- Used children's coats, hats, mittens & boots. Pajamas for all sizes. Walmart, Target, Dollar General gift cards.
- Copies of the 2025 **N.I.C.E. Christmas Room** needs list is available at both churches. Items may be left at either church by mid-December.

Immanuel's Altar Committee is looking for new members for 2026. Contact Holly Phalen at 815/414-0847 for more information if you are interested.

Around the Parish

Immanuel

Council Highlights – November 20, 2025

- The October 31, 2025 General Treasury ending balance was \$1,073.65. There was a net loss for the month of (\$3,529.43).
- The council approved releasing Rita Lilja from membership at Immanuel.
- The total amount raised by the Northern Illinois Synod for World Hunger was \$326,612.00.
- The council reviewed the compensation package for Pastor Jeff Schlesinger for 2026. Theresa Schlesinger will switch her health care insurance to that being offered by her employer, which will save Immanuel approximately \$14,441.00.
- The council began to review the 2026 annual budget.

Immanuel General Treasury – October 2025

	Month	YTD
Receipts for October	\$14,241.53	
Expenses for October	\$17,770.96	
Receipts YTD		\$155,833.44
Expenses YTD		\$193,194.05
Net/(Loss)	(\$3,529.43)	(\$37,360.61)

Weekly need for budget: \$3991.00

October average weekly offering: \$2734.00

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

Respectfully submitted – Harlan G. Eames

Immanuel Lutheran Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 25th following worship

First

Council Highlights - November 23, 2025

- Transition items for 2026 were discussed.
- Treasurer will send the preliminary 2026 budget to Council members for review. Budget will be finalized at the January Council meeting.
- Prairie Crossing reached out about potential worship and special music at their facility in Shabbona. Alex J. will respond to them to get more information.
- Benevolence for January/February 2026 will go to the Lee Lions Club.

First Lutheran Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 8th following worship

Please submit **Annual Reports** ASAP. At Immanuel please send them to the office. At First please submit them to Kristen Edecker. Thank you.

Church Office Hours

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

email: immanuelutherancompton@live.com

Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

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

(First Lutheran – 240 Hardanger Gate – Lee, IL 60530)

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Compton, Illinois
Permit No. 1

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 7 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
December 14 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
December 21 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

December 24

Christmas Eve Services with Holy Communion

7:00 p.m. Immanuel 9:00 p.m. First

December 25

Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. at Immanuel

December 28 – Joint Service at First (10:30)

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

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

You can also check us out on Facebook!