

December 2020 / January 2021



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

Immanuel Lutheran Church
398 Church Road
Compton, IL 61318
815.539.6567

The Parish Voice

A NEWSLETTER OF HEART OF ILLINOIS LUTHERAN

Advent and Christmas at HOILP

Advent

Worship

As we turn the page on another church year and begin our season of waiting and preparation for Christ's arrival, we still find ourselves enmeshed in the teeth of the Corona virus pandemic. Thus, we continue to worship remotely.

"Perhaps our Advent sense of longing and waiting will be greater than ever this year," said Pastor Jeff, "as we long for a return to our sanctuaries where we can celebrate in-person."

The worship team wants to make this season as special as possible for you, so during Advent, there will be two worship opportunities each week.



Sunday worship videos will include lighting of the Advent wreath as we mark the time until Christ's birth, the liturgy of responsive prayer, and a medley of Christmas songs to conclude the service.

In addition, there will be an Advent Vespers video service available each Wednesday night. All are invited to watch it together at 7:00 pm as it premieres on Facebook. If we are on Facebook at the same time then we can interact with one another via the comments area. After the premiere the vespers service will be available to view anytime either via Facebook or YouTube.

Sharing Your Decorations

All are invited to share pictures of the Nativity sets and Advent wreaths with which you decorate your homes. We can't be together during these days, but we can still share a piece of ourselves with one another. These pictures will be shown during the Christmas song medly at the end of each service.



The first week of Advent was mainly the Sarah Pfeifer and Theresa Schlesinger show of nativity sets. "I see mine every year," said Sarah, "I want to see what other people have." So as you put your decorations out this year, grab your phone or camera, snap a picture and send it off to PJ.

Christmas

Worship

Special care is being put forth to produce an inspirational video for Christmas. "I know the tradition for many families is to come to Christmas Eve worship then head home for their Christmas celebration," said a member of the worship team. "Since we can't gather in our holy meeting places, let's take those places into peoples' homes." The Christmas worship video will be available beginning at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

In addition to the Christmas worship video, there will also be an opportunity for communion. On Christmas Eve there will be numerous opportunities for what PJ calls "expanded drive-up communion." Gathering on the west side of church at Immanuel and in the parking lot at First, it will be broadcast over an FM frequency so you can listen in the comfort of your cars. But in addition to the brief communion liturgy, the Christmas story will be read, we hope to have live music, and even plan on singing Silent Night complete with candles to conclude the service. It will only be about 15 minutes long but it will provide an opportunity to be at their church on this holy night and at least be in the vicinity of their siblings in Christ.

Drive Up Christmas Communion Schedule

Immanuel Lutheran

4:00 pm 4:30 pm

6:00 pm 6:30 pm

First Lutheran

8:00 pm 8:30 pm

Sharing A Christmas Greeting

When you put up your Christmas tree, you're invited to stand in front of it with your family and offer a video greeting to HOILP. Then just send that video to PJ and we will use those throughout our Christmas worship video.

Don't usually put a Christmas tree up? Just do a greeting in front of or by some other Christmas decoration. Don't really do much decorating for the holiday? Find a public tree somewhere and film the greeting there. The important thing is that we reach out to one another with a Christmas blessing.

Worship

HOILP Readers through Epiphany

| | <i>First Lesson</i> | <i>Psalm</i> | <i>Second Lesson</i> |
|--------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>December 6, 2020</i> | Ashley Clayton | Karla & Harlan Eames | Melissa Blum |
| <i>December 13, 2020</i> | Jill Ross | Theresa & Sam Schlesinger | Larry Aska |
| <i>December 20, 2020</i> | Kristen Edecker | Kathy & Emily Ross | Sarah Pfeifer |
| <i>December 27, 2020</i> | - | - | - |
| <i>January 3, 2021</i> | PJ | PJ & Theresa | PJ |
| <i>January 10, 2021</i> | The McCormick Family | | |
| <i>January 17, 2021</i> | Kim Menzel | Julie Lovett & Jill Hoelzer | Lexy Rebholz |
| <i>January 24, 2021</i> | Sue Montgomery | John and Stanley Hoelzer | Alex Johnson |
| <i>January 31, 2021</i> | The Kirk Ross Family | | |
| <i>February 7, 2021</i> | The Simpson Family | | |
| <i>February 14, 2021</i> | Emily Betz | Rita Thompson & Emily Lovett | Christa Edwards |

Parish Hymn Sing

The next parish hymn sing will be for January 31st of 2021. The hymns have not been chosen as of the printing of this newsletter. Look at the weekly email announcements and the announcements on the worship videos for future details.



NIS Service of Lessons and Carols

The Northern Illinois Synod is producing a special worship video for the Christmas season for congregations to use. They have sought contributors from throughout the 130+ congregations of the Synod. Not only will HOILP use it for worship on December 27, but one of our members has contributed a song to the project. Make sure you tune in on Sunday the 27th to share worship not just with your fellow parishioners, but with fellow Lutherans from the western suburbs to the Mississippi River.

Hymnals for Loan

With the pandemic wearing on, PJ encourages every family to “check out” a hymnal from church to use at home. Even if you don’t sing along with the hymns on the worship videos, there is value in following along with the words. In addition, much of the liturgy is directly from the hymnal and there are numerous prayer resources in the front that can be used at home. To borrow a hymnal, contact Debbie at Immanuel or either Kristen or PJ at First.

Praying for One Another

You may have noticed that we don’t name people when we do the prayers on the worship videos. Due to how public our videos are and the fact that many we pray for have sensitive health information we refrain from naming names in this format. But, we continue to lift each other up in our prayers. Please stay attuned to those requesting our prayers by reading the weekly email announcements and checking out the prayer corner in this newsletter. We also have an electronic prayer chain. If you’d like to be part of that, send your email to charlzimm@aol.com

This and That

Immanuel Council Highlights

November 12, 2020

- General Treasury ending balance October 31, 2020 is \$7,022.69
- Suspension of in person worship services as pandemic increases
- Church painting and utility shed painting completed
- Drive Up Communion offered Nov. 29 at Immanuel, Nov. 22 at First with Confirmation
- Plans for Wednesday night watch parties on Facebook during Advent
- Christmas season video preparation and Christmas Eve drive-up communion
- Plans to open VENMO account for cash contributions to HOILP
- Plans for Annual Meeting by ZOOM on January 31, at 10:00 a.m.

A Friendly Reminder

Every year there are two things a member of Immanuel is required to do in order to remain an active, voting member:

“Receive Holy Communion “of record” at least once. Make at least 1 financial contribution “of record” to the work of this congregation.”

If you have not met these responsibilities as a member for 2020, please do so by December 27, 2020.

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/UChxbzUMEE1C2SIsP-YI65A

First Lutheran Council

December 1, 2020

7:00 pm

via Zoom

Tuesday Tea Time – 3:00 p.m.

via **computer or smartphone** use this link:
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82956300588>.
via **phone**: dial **(312) 626-6799** then when prompted enter meeting ID: **829 5630 0588**

Immanuel Church Office Hours

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

Debbie will be working from home in the afternoons. If you need anything, call or text: 815-866-6690 or email:

immanuel.lutheran.compton@live.com.

First Lutheran Christmas Decorating

We need a few First Lutheran volunteers to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Even though there won't be in-person worship during the Christmas season, there will be videos being filmed, so Christmas decorations would look nice! Please contact Kristen Edecker at 815-761-0183, if you are able to help. We will plan to be safe and have small groups only (same households, if possible).



OFFERINGS

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Christmas Donations 2020 – the following items are needed for Christmas:
 - Boys Underwear (size 2-8)
 - Boys Undershirts (size 2-12)
 - Boys graphic t-shirts/shirts (size 2-8)
 - Men's Underwear (size XL)
 - Men's T-Shirts (size L)
 - Women's Underpants (size 6-12 and/or L and XL)
 - Anything for teens would be appreciated

Items can be dropped off at either church by December 5 or anytime that following week and they will be delivered to N.I.C.E.

- If you are not comfortable shopping in the midst of a pandemic, please know that monetary donations will also be accepted for Christmas items. The N.I.C.E board will purchase the items directly. Donations can be given to either congregational Treasurer, for disbursement to N.I.C.E.
- Food Items Needed – N.I.C.E is currently accepting donations of ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, packaged cookies, and family-size bags of chips

Congregation Contributions

Thank you for your continued support of the mission of our congregations. Your faithfulness of mailing or using electronic means to submit your offerings is very much appreciated.

The 2021 offering envelopes are available. They can be picked up at Immanuel during the week and at First the day of the November drive-up communion.

Scan codes below to give electronically:



First
Lutheran



Immanuel
Lutheran

***2021 Offering Envelopes** are ready at both congregations. Contact Deb Poterek at First or Debbie Rebholz at Immanuel if you have not received yours yet.*

WELCA

WELCA Events have been cancelled for this month. Please watch for updates.

JUSTICE (Mission Action) - Charlene Zimmerman

December: Christmas is quickly coming. Let us remember those who are less fortunate than we are. As you shop all the sales there are several opportunities for us to help. Both N.I.C.E. and P.A.D.S. can use winter items: hats, gloves, scarves. They can also use underwear – items that are prepackaged.

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

January: The Holiday rush with lots of food and get togethers are over. But homelessness hasn't magically disappeared. Items for ILLINOIS VALLEY PADS are needed. Put your donations in the tote in the room next to the office.

The most frequently needed items are:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Bottled water | All paper products |
| Sack lunch snack items | Cleaning supplies |
| Drink mixes | Gas cards |

Copies of the 2021 Committee Yearbook, WELCA Bible Study, and Church Directory are now available in the overflow. Please pick one up for yourself or someone you know who would like one.

Calendar

December

- 12/1/20 – Tea Time – 3 pm
 First Lutheran Council – 7 pm
 12/2/20 – Advent Vespers – 7 pm
 12/6/20 – Online Sunday Worship
 12/8/20 – Tea Time – 3 pm
 12/9/20 – Advent Vespers – 7 pm
 12/13/20 – Online Sunday Worship
 12/15/20 - Tea Time – 3 pm
 12/16/20 – Advent Vespers – 7 pm
 12/17/20 – Council Meeting – 4:30 p.m.
 12/20/20 – Online Sunday Worship
 12/22/20 - Tea Time – 3 pm
 12/24/20 – Christmas Worship (*posted to YouTube at 4 pm*)
 Christmas Drive-Up Communion – 4:00,
 4:30, 6:00, 6:30, 8:00 and 8:30
 12/27/20 – Online Worship

Immanuel Office will be closed between Christmas and New Years. Messages will be checked regularly. Contact Pastor Jeff for immediate needs.

January

- 1/3/21 – Online Sunday Worship
 1/5/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm
 1/10/21 – Online Sunday Worship
 Drive-Up Communion at Immanuel
 1/12/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm
 1/14/21 – Immanuel Council – 4:30 pm
 1/17/21 – Online Sunday Worship
 Drive-Up Communion at First
 1/19/21 – ~~Tea Time – 3 pm~~ *PJ gone, no tea time*
 1/24/21 – Online Sunday Worship
 1/26/21 – Tea Time – 3 pm
 1/31/21 – Online Sunday Worship
 Immanuel Annual Meeting – 10 am

****A silver lining with online worship during the pandemic: we won't have to worry about cancelling worship due to bad weather****

Joys and Concerns

December Birthdays

- 2 – Chris Sester, Justin Post
 3 – Mark Heiman
 4 – Stephanie Ganz, Ashley VanDrew, Ed Giberson
 7 – Arlene Archer
 10 – Brittany Menzel, Steve Kofoid, Joe Spickerman
 11 – Alyssa McCormick, Traci Jones
 12 – Thomas Decker
 13 – Brian Eich,
 14 – Kirk Ross
 16 – Amanda Wilczynski, John Montgomery
 17 – Karla Eames, Madelyn Jones, Kristen Spickerman
 18 – Neal Rogers
 20 – Larry Aska
 21 – David Albers
 24 – Brandon Schlesinger
 25 – Mary Ellen Schroeder
 26 – Danielle Gladd, Ashley Delhotal
 27 – Josh Bittner
 28 – Winston Simpson
 31 – Linda Grinka, Jerroll Swope, Kristen Fagerman, Mary Wackerlin

January Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 – Luke Ross | 15 – Ron Lilja |
| 2 – Joe Mulcahy | 16 – Marion Barnickel, Rita Thompson |
| 3 – Chris Bittner, Katie Herbert | 18 – Brandon Heiman |
| 4 – Alice Giberson | 19 – Deb Sensenbrenner |
| 7 – Gabe Wade | 20 – Tony Milus |
| 8 – Stanley Hoelzer, Lexy Rebholz, Natalie Rebholz, Nick Hoffer, Kate Hoffer, Joel Johnson | 21 – Taryn Foster, Jacob Albers 23 – Janell Koroscik |
| 9 – Eric Rebholz, Alexander Johnson | 25 – Dan Sarver |
| 10 – Marie Barnickel, Griffin Collins, Gale Schlesinger, Don Post | 27 – Dawn Foster 28 – Jessica Albert, Luke Johnson, Neil Johnson |
| 12 – Tami Fagerman, Emma Englehart, Matt Englehart, Randy Holle | 29 – John Jeffrey Hoelzer |
| 13 – Jill Rebholz | 30 – Cayden & Corbin Herbert Joyce Dolister |

Prayer Corner

Homebound – Joan Benner, Harold Schlesinger, Arlene Archer, Nathan Eich, Gene Williams, Marilyn Ward, Phyllis Larsen

Monthly Requests – Sharon Kellen, Whitley Clayton, Gary Holle, Ed & Joan Benner

Affirmed in Baptism - (November 22, 2020) Emily Lovett, Julie Lovett (*Reaffirmation*)

Marriage – Chad Albers & Susan Hager (August 8, 2020)

Mourning Families - Paul Betz Family (12/11), Peter Poterek Family (6/12), Cliff Schlesinger Family (9/16), Ron Rebholz Family (9/20)

Our Leaders - ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clements, HOILP Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

December Anniversaries

- 9 – Chris & Rayanne Sester
 12 – Terry & Kris Neal
 21 – Tim & Linda Hahn
 23 – Mark & Erin Heiman
 25 – Gale & Jeanne Schlesinger
 27 – Adam & Emily Betz

January Anniversaries

- 15 – Roger & Linda Grinka
 24 – Gene & Connie Williams

**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
PAID
Compton, Illinois
Permit No. 1

Return Service Requested

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 6th – video only
December 13th – video only
December 20th – video only
December 24th – video & drive-up
communion (*see inside for schedule*)
December 27th – video only
January 3rd – video only
January 10th – video only
Drive Up communion (Immanuel)
January 17th – video only
Drive Up communion (First)
January 24th – video only
January 31st – video only

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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!