

December 2021/January 2022



# The Parish Voice

**A NEWSLETTER OF HEART OF ILLINOIS LUTHERAN**

**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

## Tis the Season: Advent & Christmas are Upon Us



The churches are decorated. The ol' familiar hymns are being sung. It's time once again to celebrate the coming of Christ into our world in a manger so many years ago, the coming of Christ into our lives in so many ways in the here and now, and the fact that Christ will come again and again and again in the days, and weeks, and months, and years to come.

This year we have some special opportunities to mark the time of hopeful waiting in Advent including Wednesday evening Advent Vespers and daily devotions. In addition, we look forward to returning to our sanctuaries again for our Christmas services. You can see details about these below.

### Advent Vespers Services

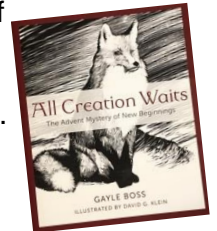
Last year, when we were not gathering in-person due to the pandemic, we introduced midweek Advent Vesper Services utilizing the popular Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. They are back by popular demand.

Join us each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on Immanuel's Facebook Page to view this service together. Each week will include a different leader of the liturgy and a short devotion.

Should you be unable to attend at that time, the service will be available via Facebook and YouTube to watch afterwards.

### Advent Devotions

The Creation Care Committee of the Northern Illinois Synod is pleased to be providing daily video devotions during the Advent season. Twenty-five leaders of the NIS will be sharing the twenty-five stories from the book *All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings*. Those leaders include Bishop Clements, former Immanuel pastor Rev. Gary Erickson, and current HOILP pastor Rev. Jeff Schlesinger.



Links will be put on our Facebook pages and websites so that it will be easy for you to find these video devotions.

### Christmas Worship Schedule

December 24, 2021  
**Christmas Eve**  
Immanuel – 7:00 p.m.  
First – 9:00 p.m.

December 25, 2021  
**Christmas Day**  
Immanuel – 10:00 a.m.

December 26, 2021  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**  
First – 10:30 a.m.

January 2, 2021  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas**  
Immanuel – 10:30 a.m.

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## Worship

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### Young Adult Service – January 2

In November we had our inaugural senior service at HOILP. Well, PJ is at it again. He wants to kick off 2022 with a young adult service.

“This is not really a new idea,” says PJ. “I often try to get returning college students to be readers on one of the Sundays after Christmas as they are often home on break.”

The senior service consisted of participants 70 and over. This service will cut that in half as PJ says he hopes to include participants between the ages of 18 and 35. If you fit that age category and are willing to film yourself reading a lesson or leading a prayer, please contact PJ.

### Worship in January and Beyond

We have been conducting “hybrid” worship for sometime now – that is providing both in-person and online opportunities for worship. Those attending in-person worship may note that we slowly reintroduce our “normal” worship practices. Yet we still wear masks, use fellowship cups for communion, and remain in place for the sharing of the peace.

For those worshipping online, you will note that the services are not quite as full as when we were solely worshipping online. Having what we have called “devotional” worship has provided a way to provide both in-person and online worship without overworking PJ.

With another new Covid variant emerging and the winter months approaching, we don’t anticipate things to change for some time. In the meantime, you are encouraged to worship in-person as soon as you feel comfortable doing so.

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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*)

See the N.I.C.E. update in this newsletter for items they need for their Christmas room.

P.A.D.S. shelter is almost full including lots of children. Since August 15 they have had over 80 clients. The poor economy, evictions and inflation will continue to result in this outcome. Their most immediate needs are: *laundry detergent, paper towels, paper coffee cups, napkins, Kleenex, Lysol wipes, toilet paper, 55 gallon garbage bags, coffee, sugar, powdered creamer, Jello and pudding cups, drink mixes.*

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

**Immanuel’s 2022 Church Directory is now available in the overflow. Please pick one up today and also a calendar.**

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## This and That

**2022 Offering Envelopes** are ready at both congregations to be picked up. Contact Kristen Edecker at First or Debbie Rebholz at Immanuel if you have not received yours yet.

**A Friendly Reminder to members of Immanuel to “receive communion and make a financial contribution of record” before December 26, 2021.**

### **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: [immanuelutherancompton@live.com](mailto:immanuelutherancompton@live.com).*

### **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/channel/UChxbzUM EeE1C2SIsP-YI65A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChxbzUM EeE1C2SIsP-YI65A)

# This and That

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

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – canned corn, kidney/chili beans, diced tomatoes, sugar, ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, Ranch salad dressing, strawberry jam, pie filling, pudding mixes, instant potatoes, toothpaste, deodorant, dish soap
- **N.I.C.E. Christmas Room Needs:** Newborn-3 yrs: Toys, Sleepers (newborn-24 mo.), Snow Suits. Preteen/Teen: Gift Cards (\$5-25) from Hardee's, McDonald's, Wendy's, Casey's, Target, Walmart, Fidget Toys, LED lights, LEGO, Card Games, Board Games, Books, Make-Up, Perfume, Body Lotion, Shave Lotion. Socks & Underwear for ALL sizes (boys & girls), Pajamas & Sweatshirts for ALL sizes (boys & girls). THANK YOU!!
- The Christmas Room will be open Dec. 4, 11, 18. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 17.

## Immanuel Council Highlights

**November 11, 2021**

- General Treasury ending balance October 31, 2021 is \$3,800.11
- Letter from Bishop Jeffrey Clements concerning COVID protocol
- Thank you letters from Kreider, Horizon House and PADS for benevolence gifts
- Report on new format for Synod Assembly in June and election of a new Bishop
- Discussion on Farm property lines and rental recommendations
- Grosshans memorial check received to pay for rest of AED
- Three Council positions are open for 2022
- Immanuel Annual Meeting Jan. 30, 2022, 9:40 am

## **Benevolence Offerings**

Immanuel's benevolence offering for December-LSSI, January-Local Outreach. Please use the envelopes found in the newsletter.

# 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, Braxx Olson
- 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
- 2 – Joe Mulcahy
- 3 – Chris Bittner, Katie Herbert
- 4 – Alice Giberson
- 7 – Gabe Wade
- 8 – Joel Johnson, Stanley Hoelzer, 20 – Tony Milus
- 8 – Becky Delhotal, Lexy Rebholz, 21 – Taryn Foster, Jacob Albers
- Natalie Rebholz, Nick Hoffer, 23 – Janell Koroscik
- Kate Hoffer 25 – Dan Sarver
- 9 – Eric Rebholz, Alex Johnson 27 – Dawn Foster
- 10 – Marie Barnickel, Griffin Collins, 28 – Luke Johnson, Neil Johnson
- Gale Schlesinger, Don Post 29 – John J. Hoelzer
- 12 – Tami Fagerman, Emma Englehart, 30 – Cayden Herbert, Corbin
- Matt Englehart, Randy Holle Herbert, Joyce Dolister

## Anniversaries

- | <u>December</u>                | <u>January</u>              |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9 – Chris & Rayanne Sester     | 15 – Roger & Linda Grinka   |
| 12 – Terry & Kris Neal         | 24 – Gene & Connie Williams |
| 21 – Tim & Linda Hahn          |                             |
| 23 – Mark & Erin Heiman        |                             |
| 25 – Gale & Jeanne Schlesinger |                             |
| 27 – Adam & Emily Betz         |                             |

## Prayer Corner

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

Monthly Requests – Jim Eich, Sharon Kellen, Whitley Clayton, Gary Holle, Ed & Joan Benner, Judy Moller (Gary & Randy Holle's sister)

Newly Baptized – Masyn Jaymes Rebholz (4/25)  
Tucker Slade Olson (5/23)

Mourning Families - Jessica Albert Family (1/23), Cindy Schlesinger Family (1/23), Nathan Eich Family (1/27), Dennis Weiler Family (2/2), Bud Archer Family (3/25), Richard Bettner (9/8)

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

**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 5 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**December 12 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**December 19 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**December 26 – at First (10:30) (one service)**

**January 2 – at Immanuel (10:30) (one service)**  
**January 9 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**January 16 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**January 23 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**January 30 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**

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

You can also check us out on Facebook!