

February 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

## Lent 2024 - Seeds and Soil

The theme for Lent this year will be "Seeds and Soil." Revolving around Jesus' Parable of the Sower, Pastor Jeff will lead us as we look at the gospel of Mark with this parable as our guide.

Each Sunday during Lent, a theme will be introduced using one episode from the gospel of Mark. Then at the Wednesday evening Lenten services, the message will be a Bible study format and Pastor Jeff will expound upon how that theme plays out in the gospel, all the time looking at it through the "lens" of the Parable of the Sower.

The themes for the weeks will be Exorcising our Troubles, Healing our Divisions, Calming the Storms, Feeding our Neighbors, and Perceiving the Good News. We will experience turbulent waters, mercy seeking beggars, walking paralytics, and men who live in the graveyard.

Sunday services will follow the regular schedule while Wednesday evenings will take place at 6:30 p.m. alternating between the HOILP congregations. There will be a light meal prior to the Wednesday services. Elsewhere in the newsletter you can find info on how to help with those meals.

### Lent 2024

Ash Wednesday  
February 14, 2024

Worship - 6:30 p.m. @ Immanuel  
*Includes imposition of ashes and communion*

### Wednesdays in Lent

5:30 p.m. - Light Supper 6:30 p.m. - Worship

February 21 – Immanuel

February 28 – First

March 6 – Immanuel

March 13 – First

March 20 - Immanuel

## Just for Fun

### HOILP Confirmation Hosts Bingo Blitz

The confirmation class was challenged by Pastor Jeff to plan a fellowship event for Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish. With great enthusiasm they invite you to join them for their "Bingo Blitz." Why? Just to have fun together.



Originally scheduled for January 27, the weather interrupted the opportunity to let everyone know about it, so they rescheduled for February 17. A perfect date as football has finished, March Madness is still weeks away, and the weather won't be calling you to yard work just yet.

Come on down to Immanuel. Bring a friend. And have fun at the HOILP Bingo Blitz!

See page 2 for the flier for this event.

## Congregational Meetings

- **January 28<sup>th</sup>** – Immanuel Lutheran Annual Meeting; 9:45 a.m. *(see page 5 for meeting highlights)*
- **February 11<sup>th</sup>** – First Lutheran Annual Meeting; 11:45 a.m.

### 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)

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



# FEBRUARY BINGO BLITZ

HOSTED BY THE HOILP CONFIRMATION CLASS

SATURDAY, FEB. 17, 2024

STOP BY ANY TIME 11:00-2:00

At Immanuel Lutheran Church

398 Church Rd. Compton, IL 61318

DONATE A PRIZE | BRING A N.I.C.E. DONATION

FREEWILL OFFERING WELCOME

Help us plan ahead!  
Sign up at church or scan our QR code

Lunch to be Served:  
Sloppy Joes, Hot Dogs, Chips





# Creation Care "Corner"

## Creation Care Corp

*Weather curtailed the organization meeting of CCC not once but twice in January. It has been rescheduled and is occurring while this newsletter is going in the mail. Here is the article that appeared last month introducing it.*

The CCC is coming to HOILP. Not to be confused with or similar to the Civilian Conservation Corp of the Depression Era, nor confused with but somewhat similar to the Creation Care Committee of the synod, HOILP's Creation Care Corp will do its best to help us to love our neighbor Earth as we love ourselves.



The CCC will initially be led by Pastor Jeff and its first task will be to define the Creation Care Corner of the newsletter. This month, as it is introduced, it is pretty much turning into a whole page, but in the future the intention is for it to take up just the bottom third to half of a page. The full contents of the Creation Care Corner will be determined as the CCC forms, the one set piece being the picture of the month as described at the right.

The Creation Care Corp is not intended to be a standing committee of either congregation or the parish. There will not be a requirement or expectation of a certain amount of members. Anyone who loves the world God has given us is welcome to attend any or all meetings of the group.

Neither will the tasks and business of the CCC be put upon the group. The group will determine its own activities and programs based on what they are reasonably able to accomplish. **The objective of all they do will be to foster concern for and care for God's good Creation at Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish.**

So who can be on the CCC? You can. Or any member or friend of HOILP who loves Creation. The organizing meeting will be Tuesday, ~~January 9~~ January 30, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at Immanuel.

In the meantime, grab your camera (which today for many is your phone) and capture some photos of Creation to share in the It is "Good Images" project (see article on the right).

*God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.*

*-Genesis 1:31*

## It is "Good Images"

According to the first chapter of Genesis, at the end of each day of creative activity, God looked at what God had created and said, "It is good." We have the ability at our fingertips to create images of that goodness.

The image above is the top one from January's "Good Images." Each month the Creation Care Corner of the newsletter will contain an image that captures the goodness of Creation.

You are invited to participate in the "It is Good" Images project by submitting photos around the topics below. The favorite image submitted each month will be displayed in the Creation Corner while all submissions will be included in a slide show that will be shared during worship.

The hope is that pictures submitted are recent, the idea being to encourage you to get out and appreciate Creation. So we ask that you submit photos you've captured in 2024 (can be late 2023 for Jan and Feb), preferably no more than 90 days old. Please submit your Winter Scene photos by February 25<sup>th</sup>.



Top "Fury Friend" Image submitted by Kendal Znaniacki

### "Good Images" - Monthly Categories

January  
Furry Friends (pets)

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.

# Worship

## Fourth Thursday Filming

Join us to record the readings, liturgy, and music for our online worship videos. Details about the times are available in weekly announcements.

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Dates: February 22  
March 21\*  
April 25



\*3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday in March due to Maundy Thursday

## Worship Team

All are welcome to participate on the HOILP Worship Team as it strives to plan meaningful and inspirational worship experiences. Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, here is the tentative schedule through 2024:

- January 4, 2024 ✓
- February 1, 2024
- March 7, 2024
- April 4, 2024 – *if necessary*
- May 2, 2024
- June 6, 2024
- July 4, 2024 – *do not meet*
- August 1, 2024
- September 5, 2024
- October 3, 2024
- November 7, 2024
- December 5, 2024 – *if necessary*

## Soup & Sandwich Supper 5:30 p.m. Wednesday's before Lenten Services

(set up, serve, clean up)

February 21 (Immanuel)  
February 28 (First)  
March 6 (Immanuel)  
March 13 (First)  
March 20 (Immanuel)

Sign up at Immanuel & First if you would like to provide the meal.

## Readers at Immanuel & First

Have you ever thought about being a reader for our Sunday worship services?

***New readers are always welcome!***

Contact Debbie at Immanuel or Kristen at First if you are interested.

## Bell Choir

The HOILP Bell Choir prepares a piece for Easter and Christmas as well as for joint worship services when possible. All are welcome – no experience needed, Ron is a great teacher. Look for future announcements for opportunities to participate in this fun musical ministry.

## After Worship Fellowship

Please consider providing simple little treats to enhance the fellowship time following worship. Sign up at Immanuel, and at First, or just bring them!

## WELCA

### WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

**Items needed for PADS:** All paper products, all cleaning supplies, all personal care items (new, not used), bottled water, sack lunch snack items, drink mixes. Place donations in the PADS totes in the room next to the office. **Thank you!**

During Lent we are collecting items for LWR Personal Care Kits: light or medium weight dark color bath towels, sturdy combs (not fine tooth or picks), 4-5 oz. size bars of bath soap in wrappers, nail clippers, toothbrushes. 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 – canned tuna, canned chicken, jelly (NOT grape), ketchup, mustard, mayo, any kind of salad dressing.

**Thank you** to the congregation for the birthday & Christmas cards. Also thanks to the confirmation students for the pine cone turkey. I have it sitting on my window sill.

- Stanley Hoelzer

# Immanuel News

## Immanuel's General Treasury for Dec. 2023

	Month	YTD
Receipts for Dec	\$23,276.51	
Expenses for Dec.	\$17,667.76	
Receipts YTD		\$188,950.54
Expenses YTD		\$217,365.94
Net/(Loss)	\$5,608.75	(\$28,415.40)

To meet our budget for 2023 our goal is \$3965.00 a week, we had 5 weekly offerings of \$4337.00 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  
December - 43

### **Immanuel's New Roof is Complete!**

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

**Thank You to all who donated to the Raise the Roof Campaign!**

## First News

### **First Council Highlights**

**January 28, 2023**

- A 2024 recommended budget was approved based on a proposed budget by Treasurer Deb Poterek with only a couple approved modifications.
- An agenda for the 2023 Annual Meeting was reviewed, modified, and approved for use at the annual meeting.
- Recipients for the Jan.-Feb. (Tails Humane Society), Mar.-Apr. (LSSI), and May-June (LOMC and Lutherdale) Benevolence Offering Box was approved by the Council.

### **Immanuel Church Office Hours**

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

*Debbie will be available in the afternoons. If you need anything, call or text: 815-866-6690 or email: [immanuelutherancompton@live.com](mailto:immanuelutherancompton@live.com).*

## **Immanuel Council Highlights**

**December 21, 2023**

- Nov 30 General Treasury balance = \$4,353.88.
- Expenditures in November exceeded income by \$3,389.57.
- Weather permitting, the roof should be completed within the next week.
- The church has been sued for \$2,500 for an issue regarding the farm and a neighboring farm.
- Kim Menzel completes her council term in January, so a new council member is being recruited.

**January 18, 2024**

- Ending balance of the General Treasury on Dec. 31, 2023 = \$2,962.63.
- The net loss for the month = (\$1,391.25).
- General Treasury returned \$7,000.00 of the \$14,000.00 borrowed from the Capital Improvement Fund.
- Average 2023 Sunday attendance at Immanuel = 45.3 per Sunday, up slightly from 2022.
- February 14 is the small claims court trial date for farm property issue.
- The net farm income for 2023 was \$49,270.73. Recommended disbursement will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

## **Immanuel Annual Meeting Highlights**

**January 28, 2023**

- Pastor Jeff showed a video he made of the travel highlights during his sabbatical.
- In 2023, the General Treasury had a net loss of \$28,415.40. To offset the shortfall in offering and be able to pay general operating expenses, \$15,000.00 was transferred to the General Treasury from the Amdex account and \$14,000.00 was borrowed from the Capital Improvement fund.
- The \$100,000.00 received in 2010 from the Blum family that was turned into an Endowment Fund is now depleted. Over the last 14 years, half of the money was given away outside of the church.
- The net income from the farm in 2023 was \$49,270.73. The congregation approved distributing it as follows: \$9,854.15 (20%) to the Capital Improvement fund, \$18,000.00 towards our 2023 N. IL Synod commitment, \$9,000.00 to the Amdex account, \$7,000.00 to the Capital Improvement fund (to repay the balance borrowed for the General Treasury), \$1,000.00 to be divided between MASS, PADS & the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry, the remaining \$4,416.58 to the Scholarship Fund (since the Blum Endowment Fund is now depleted).
- With the roof project completed, the Building & Grounds team is researching replacing the blacktop. The weight of the equipment from the roof project added to existing issues & repair is needed, so it's not a liability issue.
- Carol Kern volunteered to join council. Kim Menzel completed her council term.

**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
398 Church Rd. - Compton, IL 61318**

(First Lutheran - 240 W. Hardanger Gate - Lee, IL 60530)

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### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

### **Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish**

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You can also check us out on Facebook!