

December 2024/January 2025



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

HOILP Christmas Season - 2024



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

7:00 p.m. – Immanuel Lutheran

9:00 p.m. – First Lutheran

Christmas Day Celebration Worship

10:00 a.m. – Immanuel Lutheran

First Sunday of Christmas

Lessons and Carols

10:30 a.m. First Lutheran



Christmas Decorations

Recently, people gathered at both congregations of HOILP to put up the trees and other decorations. You can see pictures of Immanuel's decorating on page four.

During the Christmas season, Pastor Jeff has some special plans to help us celebrate the season. Spoiler alert – they have to do with the twelve days of Christmas.

But to make them work, he needs your help. More specifically, he needs your pictures. And even more specifically, he needs pictures of your decorations.

Please snap pictures of your tree, your nativity sets, your Advent wreaths, your ornaments and send them to him via text or email. Close up, wide angle, it doesn't matter. Just flood his inboxes with your Christmas decoration pics.

Worship

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

4th Thursday Filming January 23

(watch for time & location to be announced)

Contact Pastor Jeff if you are interested in reading and/or singing. Please know that all are invited to help with this. Keep an eye on weekly announcements for updates on this.

Please plan on staying after worship on January 5th to help with the removal of the greens (undecorating).

Worship Team Schedule January 9, 2025

Sunday Fellowship

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

WELCA

WELCA 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)
- We will continue to have quilting days.

Discipleship & Fellowship

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – Sugar, sugar substitute, canned pie filling, baking supplies, cleaning wipes, children's toothpaste. Kleenex, kid's cereal, mayo, ketchup, soup (no tomato), coffee, kidney beans (canned).

Immanuel Altar Guild Recruitment

Please consider joining the Altar Guild for the New Year. We currently have 5 members: Holly Phalen, Rhonda McCormick, LuAnn Kromm, Sarah Pfeifer and Theresa Schlesinger.

A goal of 9 members is desired. The committee's main responsibility is the Sanctuary of the church and the Sacristy. A basic schedule consists of 3-4 months, two members each month and new committee members serve with one experienced member. Committee is also responsible for weddings, funerals, etc. during their month. All committee is invited to set up for Advent, Christmas, Holy Week, Easter and Harvest Sunday and cleaning dates. Substituting for a member may be necessary. The Altar Committee is able and willingly flexible for personal needs. Committee members for each month should be responsible and dependable. The church is God's house. All members should be seriously impressed with the importance and dignity of their work, and let it be done humbly to the greater glory of God.

Prayerfully consider this calling. Please contact a committee member as soon as possible to be included on a schedule for the coming year. -Respectfully submitted, Holly Phalen

Around the Parish

Immanuel

Council Highlights – November 21, 2024

The November Council meeting at Immanuel was canceled due to weather. There will be an update in the next newsletter.

Please submit **Annual Reports** from Immanuel's committees & organizations to the church office as soon as possible. **Immanuel's Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 26 at 9:40 a.m.**

Immanuel's 2025 Weekly Offering Envelopes, calendars, and church directory are now available! Please pick yours up!

Church Farm Work Day #2

The Farm Committee would like to once again thank all who helped with the second Work Day at the church farm. The wooded area is coming under control with many invasive and undesirable trees removed. Thank you to Earl, Keith, Mark, Walter and Ben. Thanks to Kim for the cookies. Special thanks to Gale and Brandon for bringing their equipment which was instrumental in an effective and efficient operation!

Committee members Brad, Kevin and Randy

A Friendly Reminder to remain active members of Immanuel you need to "receive communion & make a financial contribution of record" **before December 30, 2024.**

Contributions can be mailed or dropped off at church, or can be made through Immanuel's website: www.ilccompton.org

First

Council Highlights – Nov. 17, 2024

- Weekly offerings remain consistent. Mission support budgeted amount of \$3,740.00 will be sent to Synod.
- Treasurer will provide preliminary 2025 budget to Council in early January, to be reviewed before January regular meeting.
- Feedback from special congregational meeting on Nov. 3 was discussed.
- HOILP Joint Worship Service will be hosted by First Lutheran on Nov. 24. Fellowship lunch after service, followed by Joint Council meeting.
- January/February suggested benevolence recipient is the Indian Creek School District.

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

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:

immanuelutherancompton@live.com

Annual Meetings

Immanuel Lutheran

January 26, 2025

9:45 a.m.

(following worship)

First Lutheran

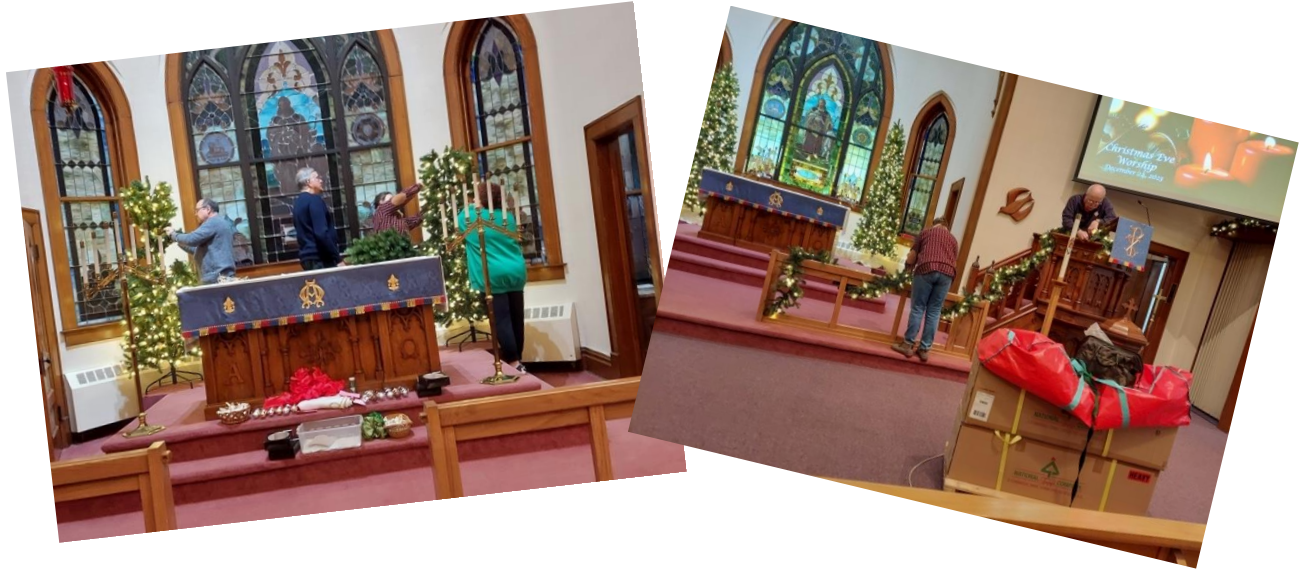
February 9, 2025

11:35 a.m.

(following worship)

Hangin' of the Greens

On the 1st Sunday of Advent, both congregations of HOILP gathered to hang the greens for the season. Here are some images from the gathering at Immanuel. Lunch at the Butterfly was enjoyed after the event at First, while Schlesinger Chili was consumed at Immanuel. A good time was had by all. Mark your calendars for November 30, 2025 so you don't miss out on the fun next year. And please plan on staying after worship for a while on January 5, 2025 as we remove the greens.



Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

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

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

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

December 1 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
December 8 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
December 15 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
December 22 – 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 29 – First (10:30) only 1 service

January 5 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
January 12 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
January 19 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
January 26 – 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!