



March 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

Lenten Bible Study

Looking at Luke

Lent is often a season where we renew our faith with special practices. This year that comes to you via a Bible study opportunity.

Pastor Jeff will lead a Bible Study on the book of Luke. Beginning March 12th (the week after Ash Wednesday) and continuing all the way through April 16th, the Wednesday of Holy we will unravel the good news of our Lord as told to us by Luke.

You will have two opportunities to participate. For those of you who prefer not to come out at night, pack a sack lunch and head on over to Immanuel at noon as we enjoy "Lunch with Luke." Prefer to come after work or when you come in from the fields, come on over at 6:30 p.m. for "Luke after Dinner." You're even welcome to flip between the two.

Please sign up in the overflow at Immanuel, the narthex at First, or by calling Debbie at the office during the week. Jesus said where two or three are gathered, he would be there. Pastor Jeff is requesting that there must be at least three signed up per session to assure the Bible Study will go forward.

Lent - 2025

Ash Wednesday Worship

6:30 p.m. – March 5, 2025

Immanuel Lutheran

Lenten Wednesday Bible Study

Lunch with Luke

12:00 p.m.

Bring a sack lunch

Luke after Dinner

6:30 p.m.

Coffee & Tea provided

Please sign up in overflow/narthex

Maundy Thursday Worship

7:00 p.m. – April 17, 2025

Immanuel Lutheran

Good Friday Worship

7:00 p.m. – April 18, 2025

First Lutheran



We forgot to share these pictures last month.

Welcome to God's family!

Alice Barr Phelps

Baptized – January 12, 2025

First Lutheran Church

Worship

A Tough Decision

After much discernment by both councils of HOILP and by the worship team, the decision was made not to have Wednesday evening Lenten services this year. The primary reason is because very low attendance the last few years. The amount of interest did not seem to warrant the time and resources poured into the services.

There was a unanimous reluctance to discontinue these services that had been taking place for so long. But during the discussion, it was brought up that these services are not foundational part of our mission as is Sunday worship. In addition, if there is a desire to start them up again in future years, there is nothing preventing us from doing so.

With that said, Lent is a time to enter into special practices to draw us deeper into our faith. As a result, Pastor Jeff is providing a Lenten Bible study (*see page 1*) to help fill the void.

Worship Team Meeting

March 6, 2025

6:30 p.m. at Immanuel
All are welcome!

4th Thursday Filming

March 27

Readers – 6:00 p.m. at Immanuel
Singers – 7:15 p.m. at Immanuel

*All are welcome to come for one
or both as we prepare for this
important ministry.*

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

Discipleship & Fellowship

N.I.C.E. Center Volunteering

Saturdays – 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

March is HOILP's month to staff N.I.C.E.

Please choose a Saturday or two this month
(or all of them)
to volunteer

Adult Confirmation

Pastor Jeff is planning on conducting an adult confirmation course. This is a great opportunity for adults who have not had any formal instruction in the Lutheran understanding and practices of the faith, as well as an opportunity to long time Lutherans to renew the dive into Lutheranism.

There will be a sign up sheet at each congregation to indicate your interest. Once he has an idea of how many people there will be, Pastor Jeff will make suggestions for dates. He is hoping to provide child care for those who need it.

"life renewed"

Devotions for Lent 2025

are now available at both
Immanuel & First
Pick one up today!

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – Cake Mixes, Brownie Mixes, Body Wash, Toothbrushes, Bar Soap.
- March is the month that Immanuel & First volunteer at the NICE Center in Lee. Volunteers are needed on Saturday mornings from 8-11 a.m.

Sunday Fellowship

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

Around the Parish

Immanuel

Council Highlights – February 20, 2025

- The General Treasury ending balance on January 31, 2025 was \$517.58. There was a net loss for the month of (\$7,716.68).
- Pastor Jeff Schlesinger will be one of the keynote speakers at the Small Town and Rural Ministry Conference in March.
- The annual Synod Congregational Resourcing Event will be Saturday, March 22 at Sauk Valley Community College.
- A motion was approved to withdraw the allowed 10% from the Thrivent (Florschuetz) account and put the money in the General Fund. The last time a withdrawal was taken was February of 2019.
- The estimate to seal and restripe the parking lot is \$1,600.00. This was recommended by the company that did the parking lot and the Building & Grounds Team plan to have it completed this year.
- The next Farm Work Day is Saturday, March 1.

Church Farm Work Day #3

We are planning to have another work day Saturday, March 1 weather permitting (rain date March 8). Bring your chainsaws and any other equipment. We very much appreciate all the help we can get. Thank you!

Immanuel General Treasury – January 2025

	Month	YTD
Receipts for Dec.	\$24,226.53	
Expenses for Dec.	\$16,499.65	
Receipts YTD		\$195,387.16
Expenses YTD		\$222,707.94
Net/(Loss)	\$ 7,726.88	(\$ 27,320.79)

Weekly need for budget: \$3,885.00

Dec. average weekly offering: \$4845.00

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

Respectfully submitted – Harlan G. Eames

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.

First

Council Highlights – January 19, 2025

- 2024 offerings were better than prior year.
- Tenants in parsonage will be asked to renew for another year, as current rental lease will expire in April, 2025.
- Preliminary budget for 2025 was reviewed and discussed, for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- March/April benevolence recipient is Lutheran Disaster Response.

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!**
- **LWR Personal Care Kits**: light/medium weight dark color bath towels, 4-5 oz. size bar of bath soap. Place items in LWR tote in room next to the office. Thank you!
- Quilting continues. Check weekly announcements for dates.
- **"Storytelling with Jen Miller"**, Sat., April 12, 9:30 am-12:30 pm at First Lutheran Church, 324 N. 3rd St., DeKalb. Freewill offering.
- **"Walking the Ancient Path"**, **WELCA Spring Retreat**, Saturday, April 26, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at LOMC, Oregon, IL \$30.00 per person. Scholarships available. Deadline April 1st. Program & worship led by Pathways staff from Christ Lutheran Church, Belvidere, IL. Contact Sarah Pfeifer if interested.

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

Confirmation Hosts Bingo Blitz



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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Organization
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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**March 2 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**

**March 9 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**

**March 16 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**

**March 23 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**

**March 30 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**

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Phone: 815/824-2356
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Pastor Jeff Schlesinger
(Cell) 815/878-4503
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You can also check us out on Facebook!