

July 2020



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

The Parish Voice

A Newsletter of Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

Immanuel Lutheran Church
398 Church Road
Compton, IL 61318
815.539.6567

Finally! HOILP Worships In-Person Again

Beginning July 5th, Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish will gather for in-person worship once again. But they will do so with some key restrictions and changes to maintain the safest possible environment. Instead of holding worship at both congregations each week, it will alternate between congregations on a weekly basis (see schedule on page 4). Worshippers are asked to call or email Debbie at the Immanuel office to indicate what service they will be attending so that we can maintain a crowd of 50 or less at each service. In addition, there will be specific instructions for entering and exiting the building and many changes from the norm during the worship service. These things will be strange and awkward – especially in the beginning – but they are done out of concern for the well-being of one another. The good news is that we will be able to gather once again.

Here are the basic procedures for people attending worship at Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish:

Coming to In-Person Worship During time of Coronavirus

Call (815.539.6567) or email (immanuelutherancompton@live.com) Debbie during the week and let her know how many are coming and which service you will be attending (8:30 or 10:30).

Please wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose.



Entering the Building

An usher will open the door for you as you enter the building so there are not multiple people touching the door handle.

- Hand sanitizer will be available at all entrances. Please utilize this as you enter.
- *At Immanuel* – enter the doors according to where you plan to sit:
 - South doors if you plan to sit in the south pews
 - West doors if you plan to sit in the north pews
- *At First* – enter the north doors (of course)
- Aisle traffic:
 - Enter via the center aisle if you intend to sit on the inside of pew
 - Enter via the side aisle if you intend to sit on the outside of pew



Seating

- Please sit only in designated areas. (Pews are marked with blue painter's tape. The areas without the tape - on the inside and outsides of the pews - are the designated seating area.)
- If a family unit "spills over" to the taped off area we would ask that there be cooperation with nearby worshippers so that families can sit together and proper social distance is still maintained.

Exit

- At the conclusion of the service, Pastor will move down the center aisle and dismiss congregants pew by pew.
- Offering plates are placed by the hand sanitizer at exit. If you do not take advantage of online giving, this is the appropriate time to place your offering in the plates.
- Aisle traffic:
 - Those seated on the outside of pews are asked to exit via the outside aisle.
 - Those seated on the inside of the pews are asked to exit via the center aisle.
- All worshippers are asked to exit via the door they entered.

Fellowship

- Visiting with your fellow parishioners is encouraged - that, after all, is one of the reasons we gather together in-person. But for safety sake, we ask that all fellowship time take place outdoors where it is much safer to carry on conversations. Please continue to keep proper social distance and wear masks when appropriate.

Jeff's Jottings: Worshipping In-Person, Ugh!

As I type this, all the things that have to be considered and put in place regarding worship this weekend are swirling around in my head. I don't think I've been this apprehensive about leading worship since I was first ordained. There are times that this whole pandemic situation keeps me awake at night. Let me share some of my concerns.

- *Will we be setting all the proper procedures?* We can make seating arrangements, mask requirements, eliminate singing, refrain from passing the peace, etc. But will it be enough? With the occasional exceptions during bad flu years, I've never had to worry about worshipers' health so much.
- *Will concern for health procedures adversely affect the worship experience?* I'm pretty sure this will be the case for me. I frequently have my sense of worshipfulness inhibited because, as the leader, I'm concerned about details of the service. I'm sure this will be heightened with all these new things to worry about. But now my fear is that the same thing will happen to all of you - that you will be so concerned about your masks, where you can sit, etc. that you won't fully experience that worshipful mood that comes when God's people gather together in God's presence.
- *As your pastor, do I need to be overly careful in my contact with people during the week?* I am the one that will come closest to all of you on Sunday mornings and the one that will be at both services. I don't want to be the conduit that carries the virus from one group to another, and definitely don't want to bring it from the outside in. So, do I need to be extra careful on Monday through Saturday regarding how many people and who I come into contact with? And do I need to put the same expectations on my family since they live under the same roof as me?
- *Will people show up?* What if we go to all this work and there are only 20 or 30 people show up? You know, we did not do a survey of y'all to see whether you would come if resumed in-person worship. I know of some congregations that have done that and based on the results, have chosen not to gather for in-person worship until phase 5 of the Restore Illinois plan. I guess our survey will be happening the next few Sundays. You will let us know by your presence and absence whether you feel safe gathering. We are ready to add a third worship time if needed should we find it necessary. At the same time, we will be flexible enough to go to just one worship service if it seems appropriate. I can say this, I would not fault anyone for continuing to avoid groups of people for health concerns and thus choosing not to attend. There's good reason we will continue to produce the worship videos.
- On the other end of the spectrum – *will people show up who should not?* I get the desire to come together for worship. Human beings are communal creatures. We have a desire to gather. And that is good. But there are those in our faith communities who have health concerns for which this virus would be devastating. I've been very clear in all I've said and written, that those people should not be joining us for in-person worship. Though I also desire to be together with them, my concern for their well-being compels me to ask them to remain safe at home and take advantage of the worship videos.
- *Will we have to suspend in-person worship again?* I want our return worships of 50 or less to be a step to our return to unrestricted worship experiences. But I am concerned that either due to a spike in cases of coronavirus in the county and/or state (we are seeing increases right now across the country) or, maybe even worse, because we have a case emerge amongst our worshipers, we will have to suspend in-person worship once again. My concern is not just with the frustration this might bring, but more about the fear that may result. People should not be afraid to come to worship, it should be a safe place.

Am I worrying too much? Perhaps. But these are the thoughts going through your pastor's head as we prepare to gather together again.

We will continue to go forward, making the best decisions we can to keep you safe and to provide meaningful worship experiences for you. I don't know what the right means of worship is for you at this time and place in our history. But I do know that whether you worship at First or Immanuel, or in your living room or den in front of a screen, God will be there and the gospel will hold true: Christ is risen; your sins are forgiven; you have new life; salvation is yours.

Peace be with you all!



WORSHIP

Even as we return to in-person worship, Pastor Jeff and crew will continue to work hard at producing quality worship videos. The reason for this is two-fold. First, there are many who will not feel safe being in crowds yet and some who, due to various health conditions, should not be amongst other people in this time of pandemic. The worship videos will offer these folks an opportunity to join us in worship. Second, portions of the worship video will be incorporated into the in-person worship services. For instance, we will not be singing hymns during worship as that is one of the most potent ways of spreading germs. But, we can enjoy the music of our song leaders or our congregational hymn sings we put together by projecting it on the screen.

“Drive By” Passing the Peace

In June, we enjoyed hearing from one another as PJ drove around and shared the peace from a socially safe distance. He will continue that practice in July and August.

“I may not have as many each week,” he says, “maybe four or five. But we will use it both on the worship video and to share the peace in worship.”

Shaking hands as we share the peace is definitely prohibited during this time of pandemic. In fact, sharing the peace will be limited to standing at your place and waving to others. But, if we’ve heard some of our faith family share the peace with us over the sound system, and watched them wave or gesture on the screen, that experience will be enhanced.

Peace!



So if you get a call from Pastor Jeff and he asks you to come on outside and share the peace, please be ready.

Readers

Part of the safety measures during in-person worship is to limit the movement of people and thus limit the potential contact with others. Thus, we won’t be having people come forward to read the lessons, but will use the clips of the people reading in our worship video. So we will continue to ask three or four people each week to record the scripture lessons. Thank you to all who have been willing to read. July readers are listed on the next page. If you have not had the opportunity to do so yet and would like to, please contact Debbie Rebholz at Immanuel or Kristen Edecker at First.



On a related note, PJ sometimes recruits small groups of two or three people to be voices for the liturgy. If you’re willing to help with that please pop him a text.

Congregational Hymns

Experts tell us that singing and playing of musical instruments (the wind variety) are sure fire ways to spread germs. So it is highly recommended that we refrain from singing during our worship services.

But we don’t have to let that stop us from singing. We can, and will, continue our practice of recording congregational hymns for worship and putting the voices together on the computer.



July 12th will be our next set of congregational hymns and they will be “Amazing Grace” and “Sent Fourth by God’s Blessings.” Email instructions will go out by email around July 1st and are also available by calling Debbie at the Immanuel office.

There has been a number of earphones donated for the purpose of recording these. So, if it is easier for you to have PJ record you, just pop him a text or email.

The more voices the merrier!

Worship Videos



We will continue to use videos as one of our means of worship as we navigate through this corona virus pandemic. The video goes live each week at 5:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. Here are the ways to access it:

- Subscribe to the Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish YouTube channel
- Click on the link on the Facebook page of either First or Immanuel
- Use the link sent by email or text message
- Contact PJ or Debbie or Kristen to get on the list to receive a DVD

It is technology, so occasionally there are snafus. Please just text PJ and be patient. Things can usually be fixed rather quickly.

WORSHIP

HOILP Readers for July

	<i>First Lesson</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>Second Lesson</i>
<i>July 5, 2020</i>	Fran Sellers	Kim & ? Menzel	Mike Davis
<i>July 12, 2020</i>	Lexy Rebholz	Jim & Alex Johnson	Bob Kromm
<i>July 19, 2020</i>	Sue Montgomery	Trysta Foster & Brooke Heiman	Kathy Ross
<i>July 26, 2020</i>	Melissa Blum	Christa Edwards & Stanley Hoelzer	Rhonda McCormick

HOILP Song Leaders for July

	<i>Leader(s)</i>	<i>Accompanist</i>
<i>July 5, 2020</i>	Kim Schlesinger	Sarah Goetz
<i>July 12, 2020</i>	Congregational Hymns	Ron Duval
<i>July 19, 2020</i>	Olivia Ross	Sarah Goetz
<i>July 26, 2020</i>	Jill Hoelzer	Ron Duval

THANK YOU to everyone who has sung, played, read or provided liturgy for the worship videos!!! If you have not had a chance to help yet and would like to, please contact PJ via text, email or good ol' phone call.

When watching the worship video, don't forget to hit the "share" button on Facebook and/or YouTube so that we can reach out to our friends and neighbors!

Zoom gatherings in July will occur once each week:

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**

July Worship Schedule

Sundays – 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

July 5th – Immanuel

July 12th – First

July 19th – Immanuel

July 26th - First

COMMUNICATION

Are you getting our emails about links to the worship video and other information? If not, we probably do not have your email or we have the wrong email for you. Please let either Debbie (Immanuel) or Kristen (First) know what your current email is.

What about text messages – are you getting them? That may be because we don't have your mobile number. Please consider sending that as well so we can use this means of communication also.

These means of communication become much more important now that we are unable to meet in person.

- Immanuel – immanuel@lutherancompton.com
- First – flicinlee.com

*****Please know that HOILP will not share your personal information with outside organizations or individuals*****

Our goal is to keep all communications lines open with you.



Please note that HOILP has its own YouTube channel. Worship videos will now be posted there rather than on PJ's channel. Please subscribe to this channel to stay up to date on our videos.

OFFERINGS

Thank you to all who have made a point of sending in their offerings during this shelter in place period. Even though we aren't gathering, our pastor and staff are still working hard, and there are still utility bills and upkeep expenses to take care of with the buildings.

If you are a bit behind in your offerings since we haven't gathered for worship, please consider sending them in via mail or using an electronic means to donate.

Both congregations now have donation buttons on their websites through which you can use your credit or debit card to make your donations. If you'd like to give this way, you can use the QR codes below or go to www.flicinlee.com or www.ilccompton.org.



First
Lutheran



Immanuel
Lutheran

Vacation Bible Camp at Immanuel is cancelled for this year. Plan on reviving it next June.

CHURCH BUSINESS

This month's benevolence offering is for the Northern Illinois Synod.

Immanuel Church Office

Starting May 1st Debbie will be in the church office from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Monday-Friday until we get back to a normal schedule. She will be working from home in the afternoon. If you need anything, call or text her at 815-866-6690 or email the church: www.immanuel@lutherancompton.com.

Immanuel Council Highlights – June 11, 2020

- General Treasury ending balance May 31, 2020 is \$9,612.77
- Scholarship Committee will meet in June to review applications.
- Church Painting will be done in July; Water issues being explored.
- Worship Committee submitted draft of Protocol for Returning to In-Person Worship during Pandemic.
- Next council meeting July 9, 2020 by internet.

First Council Highlights – June 15, 2020

- Approved "Return to In-Person Worship Protocol"
- Gladly accepted Kristen Edecker's offer to assume secretarial responsibilities for Deb Poterek on an interim basis
- Approved ordering flowers for the Peter Poterek funeral

SERVING OUR NEIGHBOR

N.I.C.E. Center Update

We continue to serve our needy each Saturday morning. We are well staffed and the parking lot distribution is very efficient. Our clients are extremely appreciative. We have had a few new families attend but our overall service remains at an average of 25 families each Saturday.

N.I.C.E. is in need of **jelly, packaged cookies, paper goods, canned veggies, tuna and canned chicken.**

Saturday mornings from 8:00-11:00 a.m. at N.I.C.E. would be a safe, social distancing, opportunity to drop-off our collected donations. Or, please notify Kristen Edecker or Debbie Rebholz if you have donations to be picked up and we will get our N.I.C.E. Board on it or leave them in the room next to the office at Immanuel.

HOILP Bountiful Gardens



Fellow Parish members: Bountiful garden collection dates are tentatively scheduled for July 26th, August 9th and 23rd, and Sept. 13th and are

subject to change based on worship schedule in an attempt to collect at both churches. During in-person services, collection will occur between the 8:30 and 10:30 services in an area to promote social distancing. If you are unable to provide produce, please donate dry and canned good items. During phase 4 and to reduce contact with donations/supplies, we will not create food bags for delivery to the schools and deliver direct to the food pantries in Mendota and Lee. However, if you know of a specific person/family in need to which we can safely do same day delivery, please provide the name and address to Pastor Jeff. Thank You for helping the community and watch future services/newsletters for any updates.

John S. Hoelzer, Rita Thompson, Melissa Blum

WELCA

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

JUSTICE (Mission Action) - Charlene Zimmerman

It's that time again to think about school supplies for LWR. These items should be going on sale soon, so please think about how you can help.

Each school bag is to contain the following:

- 4 – 70 sheet spiral bound notebooks
- 1 – 30 centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one edge and inches on the other
- 1 – pencil sharpener
- 1 – blunt scissors
- 5 – unsharpened pencils secured together with a rubber band
- 5 – black or blue ballpoint pens secured together with a rubber band (no gel ink)
- 1 – box of 16 or 24 crayons
- 1 – 2 ½" eraser

Please put these items in the LWR tote in the room next to the office.

Thank you for your participation in all these projects.

Headstone Cleaning

Brooklyn Township Lutheran Cemetery Association

For a limited time the cemetery association is offering headstone cleaning to remove moss and restore shine for stones located within the Brooklyn Township Lutheran Cemetery (adjacent to the church). The cost is \$10 for a single inscription stone, \$15 for a double inscription headstone and monuments are \$40.

A signup sheet is in the overflow or call Gale Barnickel at 815-497-3862. Lot number and stone inscriptions will be needed. Prepayment is required by July 19. Checks are to be made out to Brooklyn Township Cemetery Association and can be left at church in an envelope marked "Stone Cleaning" or mailed to 398 Church Rd., Compton, IL 61318.

Cleaning will occur sometime after July 19 to early August depending on the weather.

Any questions or to sign up, contact Gale Barnickel at 815-497-3862 or any other cemetery association member: David Bittner, Harlan Eames, Roger Grinka, Allan Zimmerman, Stanley Hoelzer.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer Corner

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

Monthly Requests – Whitley Clayton, Gary Holle, Ron Rebholz, Ed & Joan Benner

Affirmed in Baptism - (November 24, 2019) Cyndie Prodzenski, Caytlin Prodzenski, Shayne Prodzenski

Mourning Families - Christy Lilja Family (8/3), Marilyn Goetz Family (8/5), Keith Eich Family (8/31), Jean Albert Family (9/9), Dorothy Burkart Family (9/13), Donna Albers Family (9/22), Lucy Nicholson Family (10/14), Paul Albers Family (11/26), Paul Betz Family (12/11), Peter Poterek Family (6/12)

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

July Birthdays

- 2 – Gene Williams, Harold Schlesinger
- 5 – Fran Sellers, Joanna Montgomery
- 6 – Jim Wade, Jayde Schlesinger
- 8 – Gale Barnickel, Paula Johnson, Caytlin Prodzenski
- 9 – Matthew Davis
- 10 – Hollis Schlesinger
- 12 – Tony Menzel, Sue Beckstrom
- 13 – Olivia Ross
- 14 – Nicole Wagner, Rayanne Sester
- 15 – Adam Neal, John Eich
- 16 – Peyton Milus
- 20 – Zachary Clayton
- 21 – Duane Kaiser, Minor Avery
- 22 – Theresa Schlesinger
- 24 – Donna Ganz-Bauer, Roger Kern, Jacob Nelson
- 27 – Meghan Crumpton
- 29 – Jordan Albers
- 31 – Anabelle Schlesinger, Erin Fassig

July Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 2 – Mike & Robyn Miller | 14 – Bob & LuAnn Kromm |
| 8 – David & Jessica Craig | 15 – Chris & Janell Happ |
| 9 – Marc & Rebecca Bond | 29 – Dennis & Pat Weiler |
| 10 – Earl & Brenda Barnickel | 31 – Minor & Connie Avery
John & Jill Hoelzer |

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Return Service Requested

JULY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays – 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

July 5th - Immanuel

July 12th – First

July 19th – Immanuel

July 26th - First

OR watch our worship video at your
convenience.

Call Debbie at 815/539-6567 or email:

immanuelutherancompton@live.com

to sign up for which service you plan
to attend by 1:00 p.m. the Friday
before that Sunday.

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You can also check us out on Facebook!