

July 2023



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

## Pastoral Coverage During Sabbatical

Pastor Joy Alsop from Faith Lutheran in Rochelle has agreed to be on call for pastoral needs while Pastor Jeff is on sabbatical. If you are in need of a pastor, she can be contacted via the Immanuel Office (Debbie Rebholz – 815/539-6567) during business hours or your congregational president (*Immanuel*: Kirk Ross – 815/866-4160; *First*: Mike Davis – 815/970-2563) after hours. Pastor Joy will be leading worship at the joint service on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Come on out and meet her.

## Summer Worship

Immanuel – 8:30 a.m. First – 10:30 a.m.

### Regular Services

July 2, 16, 23, 30  
August 6

### Communion Services

July 9 – Pastor Hank Milner  
August 13 – Pastor Hank Milner  
August 20, 27 – Pastor Jeff

## Members of the Sabbatical Team

Greta Bates, Sarah Goetz, Alex Johnson, Julie Lovett, Deb Poterek, and Jill Ross, send their **thanks** to the many members and friends of HOILP who have agreed to assist in worship preparations and the other ministries that will continue throughout the sabbatical.

## Night on the Town

Friday, July 21 – 5:30 p.m.

**Rosati's**

**801 6<sup>th</sup> St., Mendota**

**Hosted by Greta Bates**

Sign up at Immanuel & First if you can join us!

## Can you host a Night on the Town?

Responsibilities: Choose a Friday or Saturday, location, sign-up sheet, make reservations

Open Months – September - December

Interested? Contact Theresa Schlesinger

[tschlesinger@comcast.net](mailto:tschlesinger@comcast.net)

815.878.8372



## Night On The Town – June 9 Wild Carrot Food Truck in Waterman

---

## Sabbatical Notes

---

Greetings,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer. It is hard to believe that we are already half way through the calendar year. As I am writing this, I am reflecting on how we are doing on our goals as a church for 2023. In January, we challenged ourselves to raise \$40,000 to put towards a new roof, and an additional \$12,000 to help with another congregation's building project. We have had tremendous support for the Raise the Roof Fund Drive. Our donations have exceeded \$65,000! Thank you for your generous giving. We expect that we will see our new roof installed by late summer.

The other major goal that we had for this year was providing our pastor the opportunity to take a sabbatical. We are already one-third of the way through his time away. I am very appreciative of the members who have stepped up in so many different ways to make this possible. While I am sure that we are all missing Pastor Jeff, I think that the variety of worship leaders we have had this summer gives us a chance to gain some new perspective, too.

And lastly, our regular church budget. Expenses seem to be trending higher, as inflation continues to push our normal operating expenses higher. Our regular giving is running a little behind last year, so higher expenses and smaller offerings equal a very tight general account. If you are able to give a little extra, it would greatly be appreciated.

As we head in to the second half of the year, please consider what you would like from your church the rest of the year, and how you might help accomplish those goals. It is always nice trying new things and having fresh ideas. We hope to be able to continue to offer a variety of activities that meet our members goals while sharing the Good News with our community.      –Kirk Ross, Immanuel's Council President

### Worship Video

The leadership of Heart of Illinois Lutheran has identified video ministry as something that we ought to continue. It was a wonderful way to keep all of us connected while we were in and out of lock down a few years ago. But beyond that, it provides a worship experience for those staying home due to Covid symptoms or other illness. It offers our homebound members access to our worship life. We have friends, former members, and even existing members who live far away tuning in on a regular basis. There are even some folks watching simply because they found us on the web.

A video worship task force was created to explore the best ways to go forward with this ministry, and they have come up with a recommendation that has been endorsed by HOILP Leadership. That recommendation is to film the Sunday morning worship service and use that for our weekly worship video. If we are able to do it effectively, that may include a live stream of the service as well.

To bring this about and do it well, we need people to film during the service, and we need equipment that will be able to maintain the quality of production to which we have become accustomed.

There are many congregations and other organizations that use this type of system and it can work great for us **if... and only if...** we have the people to run it. The task force has recommended that a video team of 3-5 people be established that will operate the system on Sunday mornings. Olin Simpson, member at First and part of the task force, will head up the team. But we need 3-4 additional people to join him. The members would set up a schedule for who would run the system each week. You don't have to know much about videos, video editing, or computers to be part of this, you just have to be willing to learn. Members of the team would be committing to learning the system and being part of the schedule for at least a year or two as we recruit and train other interested and willing volunteers. If you would like to be part of this team, please let me know.

Initially, the video equipment and recording will be exclusively at Immanuel. The 8:30 a.m. worship time allows the opportunity to get the video out more promptly. We can expand to include equipment and filming at First in the future as we see the need.

We hope to hear from some of you so we can have a video team in place raring to go come August.

# This and That

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

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – Plastic bags (desperately needed), Canned Pears, Tomato Soup, Jelly (NOT grape), Condiments.
- We need help for food pickups in DeKalb on Friday mornings (leave N.I.C.E. at 7:20 a.m.) and/or help sort produce and other food items at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call Dave Koroscik at 815-751-0401.

Thank you for your continued support for the N.I.C.E. Center.

## **Benevolence Offering**

**Immanuel:** July – Northern Illinois Synod. Please use the envelope found in this newsletter.

**First:** July – Shabbona Fire Department. Please use the benevolence box at church or designate it on the memo line of your check.

## **First Council Highlights** **April 30, 2023**

- By consensus, Alex Johnson was given approval to clean out the parsonage.
- Alex Johnson offered the Council a proposal for renting out the parsonage.
- A Communion Practices Continuing Resolution presented by the Pastor was approved.
- Deb Poterek, Mike Davis, and Jim Johnson were approved to be responsible for the financial signing process.

## **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)

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

## **Immanuel Council Highlights**

**June 15, 2023**

- General Treasury ending balance on May 31 was \$4,576.08. It was not necessary for Harlan Eames, as of Sunday, June 11, to transfer additional money from other accounts into the General Treasury. The financial plan of action approved last month remains open though, which allows him to borrow from the Capital Improvement Fund, if necessary, to cover operating expenses.
- The Scholarship Team will be meeting soon to review the applications received.
- The updated Gift and Memorial List provided by the Memorial Team was approved.
- A motion was approved to give \$212.50 from the Campership Benevolence Fund to Liam Crumpton to cover half of his cost to attend camp at LOMC in July.
- The next council meeting is Thursday, July 20 at 5:15 p.m.

## **HOILP Outdoor Joint Worship at Immanuel May 28**



## **Immanuel's "Raise the Roof"**

*Pledge forms and envelopes can be found on the table in the overflow.*

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

***Thank You!!***

# WELCA

## WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

We are collecting school supplies for the **School Back Packs:** For each School Kit we need:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 4 – 70 page 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 with eraser secured with a rubber band                        |
| 1 – box of 16 or 24 crayons        | 5 – black or blue ballpoint pens secured with a rubber band                           |
| 1 – 2-1/2" eraser                  | (no business advertising on them)   |

All these items will be going on sale now, so let's really support this project. Put these items in the LWR totes in the room next to the office. THANK YOU!

We will continue to have quilting days during the summer. Announcements will be made on Sundays.

Anyone interested in a Ladies Night Out this summer? Contact Sarah Pfeifer.

### Notes from First

**FOUND!** Thank you to those who helped track down our missing scrapbooks. Now these important historical records are complete again!

**AVOID TEMPTATION!** As we were cleaning up the new office, we had to remove 50+ sticky adhesives from the window, which took over three hours to remove. Please avoid the temptation to affix anything sticky to the windows or the walls of the church, so we can keep our building looking beautiful.

### Pancake Breakfast at Immanuel - June 11

Thanks to Kim Menzel, Kirk Ross, Luke Ross,  
Daryl Rosenkrans, Brad Ehlers  
And to all those that came and ate pancakes &  
sausage!



### Notes from Immanuel Council

#### Helping Hands Benevolence Fund

A reminder that this generous gift (in the form of Visa gift cards) has been made to Immanuel for the purpose of offering assistance to those who find themselves in need. These funds are intended to be a source of assistance for members of Immanuel, including inactive and homebound members, as well as non-members. In short, the needs of anyone will be considered and addressed as much as possible. Cards are distributed to anyone in need after directly contacting the pastor with reasonable requests.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, please place your contribution in the offering plate marked "Helping Hands Fund".

#### Benevolence Notes of Thanks

We have these posted on the bulletin board outside of the south door to Debbie's office. Please feel free to read the expressions of thanks from our Benevolence recipients.

#### Sabbatical Policy/Agreement

This is posted on the large bulletin board outside the storage room in the overflow. There have been questions asked to which the answers may be found by reading over the agreement. It is posted for your convenience.

#### Communion Practices Policy

This too is posted in the overflow for the convenience of Immanuel members.

Please make use of the above items in the spirit of transparency.

## Northern Illinois Synod Assembly

The annual Assembly of the Northern Illinois Synod was held in Rock Island, IL at Augustana College June 16 -17, 2023 under the theme Be The Body. Attending from HOILP were Olin Simpson, Deb Poterek, and Greta Bates. Below is a summary of the work and worship:

Two resolutions were considered by the Assembly.

R-1 called for additional support by congregations and the Synod for diakonia® program. The program is intended to increase faith formation for adults and prepare them for roles as lay SAMs (Synodically Authorized Ministers) who are allowed to preach and to celebrate communion. The program consists of 2 years of study at a cost of \$390 per year. Congregations are encouraged to designate one Sunday per year for diakonia® and to collect a special offering at that time. More information is available at [diakoniausa.org](http://diakoniausa.org). The resolution was passed by the Assembly.

R-2 memorialized to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly the need for an update of the 1991 Social Statement on Abortion with special emphasis on inclusion of women in the discussion and development of the new social statement. Bishop Stacie Fidlar commented that the development of a new social statement takes approximately 7 years. Consequently, the existing statement will be over 40 years old by the time a new one can be approved by the ELCA. The resolution was passed by the Assembly. The existing Social Statement on Abortion and the other social statements of the ELCA are available at [elca.org](http://elca.org). [Note: type Social Statements in the search box on the landing page.] In addition to the lengthy social statement, each has a brief summary ( 2 pages ) and an accompanying study guide.

The budget forum gave representatives the opportunity to discuss the Synod budget for 2024 and to hear from officers and staff about the changes in synod priorities which resulted in the proposed budget. Of note, the 2024 proposed budget is balanced at \$2,096,450, which is down from \$2,288,688 in 2023. The decrease in budget comes in two major parts. The 2024 budget reflects synod staff compensation for the actual synod staff, while the 2023 budget was calculated for a bishop not-yet elected and staff not-yet chosen. The 2024 budget also decreases the funding to agencies, (LSSI, LOMC, etc.) as those agencies are re-configured post-pandemic, and they are encouraged to do their own direct fund-raising. The outgoing synod treasurer, who is completing her 8-year term limit also remarked that the Synod had been reduced from 154 congregations to 137 during her term. The Generosity Project ([www.elca.org/generosityproject](http://www.elca.org/generosityproject)) was cited as a resource for congregations in addressing their own budgets and benevolences.

The Assembly elected new committee members and some officers. The newly-elected synod treasurer is a member of First Lutheran Church, Ohio, IL. The Rev. Joy Alsop was elected to Synod Council.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Dr. Charlene Rachuy Cox from St. Olaf College bringing a message about vocation within the church – what each of us is doing TODAY to address questions about struggles in the everyday world. She cited a recent study in which 70% of the overall population expressed a favorable opinion of Jesus Christ, while only 15% expressed a favorable opinion of the church. She emphasized that we have an image problem and that visibility of positive actions outside the church by the people of the church representing God's call to action could change the perception of the church. The actions in response to God's call constitute part of her definition of vocation in this context.

It was a pleasure and an honor to represent HOILP congregations at the 2023 NIS Assembly. All of the documents of the Assembly can be found on the synod website [NISynod.org](http://NISynod.org) under the heading Bulletin of Reports.

**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**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

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

**July 9 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
Pastor Hank Milner – Holy Communion

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

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

**July 30 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
(we will sing Christmas songs)

**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
398 Church Road – Compton, IL 61318  
Phone: 815/539-6567

E-mail: [immanuelutherancompton@live.com](mailto:immanuelutherancompton@live.com)  
[www.ilccompton.org](http://www.ilccompton.org)

First Lutheran Church  
240 W. Hardanger Gate – Lee, IL 60530  
Phone: 815/824-2356  
[www.flcinlee.com](http://www.flcinlee.com)

Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

E-mail: [photo.pastor1965@gmail.com](mailto:photo.pastor1965@gmail.com)

You can also check us out on Facebook!