



HEART OF ILLINOIS LUTHERAN PARISH



Newsletter

First Lutheran

July 2019

Immanuel Lutheran

Pastor Play Date: A Day at the Park (July 12th)

It's summer – time to get out and enjoy the outdoors. Pastor Jeff is creating "play dates" so that we can enjoy summer together.

You're invited to join him for the July play date as he spends the day at Franklin Creek State Natural Area and Nachusa Grasslands. Join him for any or all parts of the day.

The day will begin with a demonstration of the Grist Mill at Franklin Creek and a chance to take in the second floor woodland exhibit. This will be followed by a hearty lunch served on the third floor of the mill.

After lunch we hope to head to the Nachusa Grasslands for a tour and possibly an up-close look at the Buffalo herd.

The day will conclude with Pastor Jeff leading a hike at Franklin Creek and then a cookout.

The day is appropriate for people of all ages. If you're not able to make it for every part of the day, feel free to come when you are able. Sign-up sheets will be available at each congregation, otherwise please call Debbie at the Immanuel office. Costs for lunch and any cost for tours will be posted on the sign-up sheets. The cookout will be provided by Pastor Jeff with a free will offering designated to Franklin Creek Conservation Association.

A Day at the Park

Schedule (tentative)

10:00 a.m.

Depart from Immanuel

11:00 a.m.

Mill Demonstration & Exhibit

12:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Nachusa Grassland Tour

3:30 p.m.

Franklin Creek Hike

5:30 p.m.

Cookout

Immanuel Lutheran

invites you to their....

Ice Cream Social

Saturday, August 3

4:30-6:30 p.m.



Menu

Pulled pork, barbecue, macaroni & cheese, baked beans, desserts, ice cream & beverage

**Free will donations
Everyone is welcome!**

Name that Newsletter

For now, this newsletter is simply called the HOILP Newsletter. Pretty generic, right?

Well, we'd like to give it a snazzier name. So, think about it this summer. This fall we hope to put the best ideas before the parish team and/or the congregation to choose a favorite. Simply jot down your idea for a name on a slip of paper and give it to either Debbie Reholz at Immanuel or Deb Poterek at First. Please include your name also as we'd like to offer special recognition to the person who chooses the winning name.

Jeff's Jottings: Vacation as Worship

My vacation was one long worship service.

As many of you know, my family just returned from vacation. All five of us packed into the van and went to Theodore Roosevelt National Park in far western North Dakota. In a very real sense, I worshiped throughout our vacation. Let me explain:

Call to Worship – I'm not sure why, but when we travel, I'm unable to sleep-in while the rest of my family loves to take their sweet ol' time waking up and then getting ready for the day. Over the years I've learned to use this early morning time as reflective time. So while they all slept, I would wake up with the sun and head off to the park and watch and listen as the world woke up. I enjoyed bluebirds, meadowlarks and buntings singing away, magpies squawking and scavenging for food, deer meandering through the sages, and of course prairie dogs scurrying around grooming the earth. And this all happened in a most beautiful open-air chapel: the hills and rocks and canyons of the North Dakota Badlands. Indeed – "This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24



Confession – I love American bison. This huge grazing animal is an American icon. Of course we can see them nearby at Nachusa Grasslands. But it is different when you see them at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. On more than one occasion, our van was literally in the midst of a herd of 300 or so buffalo. One of my kids commented as we inched along with these magnificent creatures right outside our windows, "It's like we're one with them." But whenever I see buffalo, I have a sense of remorse regarding the plight of this large beloved creature of God. Once not all that long ago (relative to history, not our individual lives) one could witness much larger herds all the way from Ohio to the Rocky Mountains. There were millions and millions of them. By the time Theodore Roosevelt was president, the entire population of wild buffalo was reduced to dozens rather than millions. Buffalo always cause me to wonder, "Good Lord, what have we done?"



Hymn of Praise – There was much joy for the family on vacation. We enjoyed many a meal together. Our daily hikes were marvelous. Even the 2500+ miles crammed together in the van was enjoyable. But there are two events that caused us to "sing praises." The first happened immediately as we entered the national park. Our first pull off was at a prairie dog village. What a joy to watch these little critters! Our favorite of their "moves" was when they would pop upright on their two hind legs, raise their front paws high in the air, and give a joyous high-pitched squawk. Kimberly has a great video of Theresa imitating them. I'm hoping she'll post that to Facebook soon so I can share it with you. The second event also happened on our first day in the park. We stopped to take a short hike with dark clouds bubbling in the distance. "The storms will stay off to the south," I said, and off we went. Was I ever wrong. The skies opened up right before we arrived at the abandoned building that marked the turn-around



point of the hike. We ended up hanging around under the eaves of the little stone building trying to stay dry. When the rain finally stopped, we saw one of the brightest rainbows we've ever witnessed. Between the rain and it's bow, this 1.07 mile hike took us nearly an hour to complete, but boy were we full of joy afterwards. "O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!" Psalm 96:1

Sacrament – To receive the bread and wine in communion is an awe-inspiring moment for me. To touch and feel and taste the grace of God, wow! It is at this point in worship that I fully feel unity with the entire divine human reality of the God incarnate. Awesome. On our final day in North Dakota, before packing up and heading back east, Kim and Sam got up at the crack of dawn with me for one last hike. We hiked painted canyon, which was beautiful. But one of our reasons for taking this hike was to witness wildlife up close. The log book as you entered the canyon showed many who had done just that. We hiked in two miles and back two miles and saw nothing except an occasional bird. At the log book, we added a comment that

continued on page 5

Bible Gems

In 2018 during Bible Blitz month at Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish, individuals were asked to share favorite Bible verses, stories or characters during a short temple talk in worship. These were called "Bible Gems." This column shares those gems in writings. If you have your own Bible Gem and are willing to share it, talk to Pastor Jeff. He would love to create space in worship for you to share and/or you can be included in this column.



Trusting God's Plan by Emily Ross (shared 11-25-18 at Immanuel Lutheran)

Jeremiah 29:11- "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This is my favorite bible verse because it shows that we can trust that God has a purposeful plan for each of our lives. This has been especially important for me to remember as I am in going through college and trying out "adulting", for the first time. Through all of the unknowns, I can trust that I will end up where God wants me.

Fellowship

Night on the Town - 2019

At the February Night on the Town we compiled a list of restaurants for 2019 NOTT events. Below is schedule through the end of the year.

All are invited join us when you are able as we explore good food and share uplifting conversation. Please sign up Sunday's at church so that we can give accurate counts to the restaurants.

- **July 13** – Maples Supper Club – Peru
- **August 10** – Fatty's Pub & Grill – DeKalb
- **September 14** – Uptown Grill – LaSalle
- **October 12** – That Place on Palmyra – Dixon
- **November 9** – St. Mary's Soup Supper – West Brooklyn
- **December 14** – Elwood Steak & Fish House – DeKalb

Night on the Town

July 13 - 6:00 p.m.

Maples Supper Club

1401 Shooting Park Rd. - Peru

Sign up at either church or
call/text Sarah Pfeifer

815.627.2640

Introducing: Pastor Play Days

From May through October, Pastor Jeff is going to host a monthly "play day." These days are designed for people to get out and enjoy each other's company as a fellow member of Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish. As with everything we do, guests are always welcome as well – so invite your friends and neighbors along. There are a variety of offerings designed for people of all ages. Sign up for any and all that interest you.

The tentative schedule below is still being put together. If you are willing and able to offer help in leading any of these events, please let Pastor Jeff know.

Play Day Schedule*

- July 12 - A Day at the Park (see front page)
- August 10 - Hike the Day Away
- September 22 - The Scrambled Golf Scramble
- October 17 - Leaf Peepers

*Dates subject to change

Service

“Hey HOILP - Plan‘t’ a Bountiful Garden”

HOILP is asking its members to plan to plant a **Bountiful Garden** to provide fresh produce this summer to families in need.



We ask you to dedicate either a portion of your garden or excess in your current garden to the **Bountiful Garden** program.

Don't have a garden? NO PROBLEM. On collection days, bring canned or dry goods to the cause.

Anticipated collection dates are July 28, August 25 and September 29. More specifics to follow as they become available.

What better way to show the benefits of a rural country community parish whose members KNOW how to produce. So as spring comes upon us . . .

Remember to **Plan‘t’ a Bountiful Garden!**

N.I.C.E. COLLECTION

During July N.I.C.E. requests donations of school supplies to be distributed to our food pantry families. Last year over 3000 supplies were given to around 115 children who attend schools in our serving area. Please remember to pick up a few supplies when shopping and leave items in the N.I.C.E. box in the room next to the office at Immanuel or in the basket in the back of the church at First. Copies of the school supply list can be found at both churches.

We will be collecting these supplies now and **through Sunday, August 11th.**

Introducing an Easter Season Contest

The 40 Days of Photo Give Away *And the winners are...*

1st Prize – A photo book with all 40 photos and reflections

Sarah Pfeifer

2nd Prize – A matted framed 8x10 of photo of your choice

Kim Schlesinger

3rd Prize – A complete set of all 40 photos

Olin Simpson

4th Prize – A complete set of all 40 photos

Norm Hanson

5th – 10th Prizes – A matted and magnetized photo of your choice for hanging on fridge, filing cabinet or other metal surface

Names will be drawn and remaining photos given away until all photos are claimed

Theresa Schlesinger

Sarah Pfeifer

The Simpson Family

Norm Hanson

Olin Simpson

Winners who have not received their prize please see PJ

Thanks to everyone who participated!

N.I.C.E. Walk

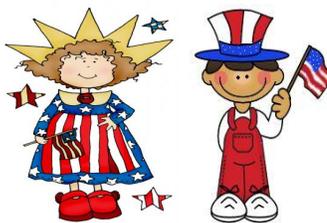
The 2019 N.I.C.E. Center Walk will be held on Saturday, September 21 at 10:30 a.m. We will be stepping-off at Water Tower Park in Shabbona and we will walk along the Shabbona Pathway. The health fair will also be held at the Water Tower Park during the same time. N.I.C.E. was organized in 1987 to provide free food and clothing to individuals and families in need of temporary assistance.

This year we are honoring the founders of the N.I.C.E. Center. We have been so fortunate to have had so many great individuals involved with N.I.C.E. from the beginning. We will also be honoring Leona Thompson, who raised \$1,000 many times over the nearly 20 years that she participated in the N.I.C.E. Walk. She had many sponsors whose generosity helped to contribute to this great contribution. We are always grateful for the community's continued support.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact your church representative.

Education

Sunday School July 2019



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED WITH
VACATION BIBLE CAMP THIS YEAR AND
TO EVERYONE WHO BROUGHT THEIR CHILDREN AS WELL!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

The Sunday School program is in need of a superintendent to begin by the end of July.

Volunteers for the 2019--2020 school year are also needed.

Areas include session leader, session assistant, music leader, craft leader,
activity leader and snack provider.

Please contact Christina Barnickel or Pastor Jeff if you are interested in helping in any of these areas
or would like more information regarding what the opportunities entail.

HOPE EVERYONE IS ENJOYING THEIR SUMMER--STAY SAFE!

Jeff's Jottings, continued from page 2...



there were no buffalo present. We left there and 20 yards later, as we were coming up out of the canyon, there stood a huge bull buffalo blocking our exit. Never have we been so close to a buffalo without being inside a car, or without a fence between us. We slowly back tracked and added "just kidding" to the log book. Returning up the trail, the buffalo was still there – with a friend! We ended up "bush whacking" through the woods and coming out of the canyon a ways down from the buffalo. We then had to take a wide circle in the prairie above in

order to circumvent the buffalo before getting back to the trail. The experience was scary, and thrilling, and joyous, all at once. It was awesome! We felt gifted to have had such an intimate experience with one of these magnificent creatures.

Yes indeed, my vacation was worshipful. In fact, when you think about it, that's exactly what vacation is supposed to be. On the seventh day, God finished God's work and rested - took a sabbath – took a vacation. Vacation is a rest from our labors – a sabbath.

Now please don't think that I'm suggesting we can go out into nature and worship in lieu of coming to church on Sundays. In fact, my suggestion is quite the opposite. I've been repeating over and over in the last months that "we practice on Sunday mornings how we live our lives during the week." Without getting together with you all each week, "my vacation as worship" is reduced to just "my vacation." It is because of my regular Sunday morning practice of confession and forgiveness, singing praises, hearing and proclaiming God's word, and receiving God's real presence in the sacrament that I can have these same experiences outside our church doors.



That said, I'll see you in worship on Sunday!

PS

Education

Vacation Bible Camp
June 9-12, 2019

It has been a pleasure to have each of you here with us at **YEE HAW! Celebrating God's Greatest Gift!** We learned one simple but powerful truth, God gives good gifts YEE HAW!

We would like to THANK...

Site Leaders: Bible Adventures: *Pastor Jeff Schlesinger*

Moo-sic & More: *Kathy Ross*

Giddy-Up Crafts: *Jennifer Crumpton, Connie Schlesinger*

Saddle-Up Sports: *Kim Menzel, Shayne Prodzenski*

Crew Leaders: Purple Group: *Sarah Goetz (Sunday & Monday)*

Theresa Schlesinger (Tuesday & Wednesday)

Blue Group: *Marie Barnickel*

Red Group: *Kayla McCormick (Sunday & Monday)*

Shayne Prodzenski (Tuesday & Wednesday)

Green Group: *Diane Reppin*

Orange Group: *Emily Ross*

Brown Group: *Luke Ross*

Openings & Closings: *Kathy Ross, Olivia Ross, Rachel McCormick*

Chuck Wagon Cafe: *Cyndie Prodzenski, Pat Ruppert, Pam Wohlrabe, Daphne Oman*

Other helpers: *Caytlin Prodzenski, Jovana Eames*

Decorating: *Shelly Rod, Debbie & Don Rebholz* **Coordinator:** *Debbie Rebholz*

CAMPERS

Raelynn Albers

Brad Betz

Brianna Betz

Farah Collins

Griffin Collins

Caleb Crumpton

Liam Crumpton

Aliya Eames

Eliana Eames

Michael Eames

Katrina Hilt

Kate Hoffer

Nick Hoffer

Soo-ahn Kim

Kennedy McCollum

Lukas Nelson

Sammi Nelson

Spencer Nelson

Cole Nosalik

Layla O'Brien

Jocelyn Oman

Addy Rebholz

Austyn Rebholz

Kenna Rebholz

Natalie Rebholz

Connor Reppin

Kaylee Rod

Madison Rod

Dorothy Steele

Beau Treadway

Education

THANK YOU to Lexy Rebholz for taking pictures and making the slide show. Thanks also for designing the t-shirt logo and to Sports-n-Stuff for making them at a reasonable price.

THANK YOU to Minor Avery and Pastor Jeff for being the VBC A/V guys! The opening and closing programs would not be the same without you!

THANK YOU to those who donated food and snacks for our Chuck Wagon Cafe. Your donations were greatly appreciated!

THANK YOU to campers & families for donating canned food items to fill our "Covered Wagon" to be given to Neighbors In Christ Ecumenical (N.I.C.E.) food pantry in Lee, IL



WELCA

JULY EVENTS:

July Bible Study: THE BOOK OF ESTHER - A 3 session Bible study by Rev. Kay Ward, a bishop in the Moravian Church and author of *Gather's* popular Bible study "In good company: Stories of biblical women." We will learn how God is calling us to find and use our voices "for such a time as this."

Bible Study - "For just such a time as this - Helping our voices bloom"

Theme Verse - Esther 4:14

Wednesday, July 3 at 9:00 a.m. - WELCA Bible Study

Leader: Irene Hanson

Hostess: Christa Edwards

Wednesday, July 10 at 6:00 p.m. Ladies Night Out at El Zarape, Mendota

Hostess: Rosina Bittner

Program: Linda Eggers Dombrowski and her daughter, Michele Faletti, will share mission trip stories

Sign up in the overflow if you are able to join us.

JUSTICE (MISSION ACTION) - Charlene Zimmerman

What does the Lord require of you but to do *justice*, love kindness and walk humbly with your God.
(*Micah 6:8*)

If you haven't yet returned your Baby Bottles for Abigail Women's Center fundraiser, please do so now. There is a basket in the overflow for them.

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

Put these items in the LWR tote in the room next to the office.

Thank you for your participation in all these projects.

WELCA PRESIDENT'S DESK - Sarah Pfeifer

Ladies Night Out will be Wednesday, July 10, 6:00 p.m. at El Zarape, Mendota. Rosina Bittner will be hostess and the program will be from Linda Eggers Dombrowski and she will share stories about her mission trips. There is a sign-up sheet in the overflow. This is also our quarterly business meeting. Vacation Bible Camp was a wonderful success. Thanks to Debbie Rebholz for all of her hard work. Also thanks to all the workers for making camp a great time for the children. Usually in July school supplies go on sale (I know school just got out for summer...), so remember the LWR school kits as you shop. Pens, pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, scissors, rulers, crayons and spiral notebooks will be needed. Fill one bag, or provide supplies for many bags. There is a tote on the shelves in the overflow where you will find empty bags in need of being filled. We will have a fill the bag event after church in early August. Have you noticed the completed landscaping around the church? It looks very nice, check it out. Even though it may be hot outside, it is cool in the church, in more ways than temperature. See you there.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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 - Zac Clayton
21 - Minor Avery, Duane Kaiser
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
8 - David & Jessica Craig
10 - Earl & Brenda Barnickel
14 - Bob & LuAnn Kromm
15 - Chris & Janell Happ
29 - Dennis & Pat Weiler
31 - Minor & Connie Avery,
John & Jill Hoelzer

Prayer Corner

Homebound

Donna Albers
Joan Benner
Dorothy Burkart
Harold Schlesinger
Arlene Archer
Keith Eich
Nathan Eich
Gene Williams
Marilyn Ward

Baptizees

Maddox Adrian Craig (July 15)
Lauretta Grace Collins (November 25)
Karina Noelle Ganz (February 10)
Harper Elizabeth Ganz (February 10)
Whitley Grace Clayton (April 14)

Mourning Families

Millie Zinke Family (July 6)
Claremont Mathesius Family (July 26)
June Schlesinger Family (September 11)
Doris Erickson Family (September 20)
John Didlinger Family (October 23)
Courtney Edwards Family (November 10)
Donald Schmidt Family (December 24)
Eunice Rogers Family (January 5)
Marlin Hoelzer Family (March 13)
Schaller Family (Greta Bates Mother - March)
Sarah Fassig Family (June 22)

Monthly Requests

Karla Eames
Gary Holle
Jim Eich
Rita Lilja
Diane Englehart
Margaret Schlesinger

Affirmation of Baptism (Oct 28)

Olivia Ross, Rachel McCormick
Aiden Znaniecki, Kody Hoadley
Bethany Simpson

Pray for

NIS Bishop Jeffrey Clement
ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
HOILP Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

This and That

The capital improvement landscape project at Immanuel is now complete. A special thank you to Ekana Nursery (at the direction of Sue Montgomery from First!) for their professional removal of the existing shrubbery and installation of the new landscape during a time of less than favorable weather conditions. We would also like to thank Kenny Otterbach for the donation of black dirt to assist in the completion of the landscape project. Cleaning and tuck-pointing of the foundation will be completed in the near future.



Book Club is Back!

Book club revived on June 30 with a lively discussion on "A Wrinkle in Time!" At the time of press, the information was not available regarding the next book or meeting date. Look for information on the power point and in bulletins at church. Come when you can or when there is a book you're interested in. All are welcome.



"Season of Creation" is just around the corner. Please start taking and/or collecting your photos for the following topics:

Oceans and Lakes

Fauna (animals and critters)

Storms

Cosmos

You may begin submitting them to Debbie (at Immanuel), Deb (at First) or PJ (either place) anytime. Digital copies are preferred, but we can scan prints if you'd like to share them.

Friday Morning Bible Study

Come join us for...

...coffee

...conversation

...Bible Study

What better way to start your day than digging into the upcoming Sunday scripture lessons? Coffee and conversation begin at 9 a.m. Study commences around 9:30 a.m. Come join us!

NURTURE KITCHEN at First, Lee is the 2nd Saturday of every month from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Come join us as we provide a pancake breakfast for our neighbors who gather at N.I.C.E. center. Help us make and serve pancakes, roll silverware, etc. Cooking begins at 8:00 a.m.

Council

Minutes to Highlights

Immanuel is accustomed to having their council minutes published in the newsletter. With the brand new newsletter, that will change. Rather than printing the approved minutes which are a month and a half old, highlights from the most recent minutes will be published in the newsletter. In order to keep them available to the members, minutes, once they are approved, will be posted on a council bulletin board outside the conference room as well as the binder where they have always been available.

First Lutheran will also include council highlights from their meetings in the newsletter after their bi-monthly meeting.

Immanuel's Benevolence Offering Northern Illinois Synod

You may notice an offering envelope in this newsletter. It's a longstanding practice that Immanuel has a monthly benevolence offering and they distribute the envelopes via the newsletter. That practice will continue.

July's benevolence will go to the Northern Illinois Synod.

The Synod helps to support seminaries and various social and church-wide programs. The Synod supports & aids in getting new pastors. Our own service groups receive support in the way of lay education and seminars and program materials. Please consider giving generously to it by using the enclosed envelope.

Immanuel Council Meeting Highlights June 13, 2019

- Campership Requests
- Video by Northern Illinois Synod on Special Offering
- Shining Star Children's Advocacy Center Appreciation
- Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry thank you letter
- Finance Committee member survey
- The next meeting will be July 11, 2019.

First Council Meeting Highlights May 19, 2019

- Church Front Door - the Council agreed to accept the lowest bid of the two quotes received for front door replacement.
- Storm Windows - Mike Nelson will complete the work on the church windows when the weather clears.
- Joint Worship & Picnic - First & Immanuel will have a joint worship service on Sunday, June 9, at First Lutheran. Service will start at 10:30 a.m. and a picnic will immediately follow. Details coming soon.
- Next Council Meeting - next meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, July 21.

Parish Team Meeting Highlights May 8, 2019

- Devotions by Deb P.
- Much discussion and planning for Joint Service and Picnic at First on Sunday, June 9 (see separate article in this newsletter for details).
- Update on Bountiful Garden to start this summer-look for story boards at each church for details.
- Another Child Foundation - we may do Advent Tree earlier to reach goal of 100 families.
- Joint newsletter will begin in June, hoping for feedback from both congregations.
- First Solo Pastor Sunday is May 19 at Immanuel, so Pastor can be at last Sunday School event. Pastor Hank Milner will be at Lee.
- Review of Parish covenant will continue.
- Next meeting is July 9 on the patio at Immanuel's parsonage, 6:00 p.m. with a meal.

Synod & ELCA

Synod Assembly June 14 & 15

The Northern Illinois Synod Assembly took place at Augustana College on June 14th and 15th. Rita and Tom Thompson were voting members from First while Sarah Goetz and Brad Ehlers served the same capacity for Immanuel.

They will be offering a report at the upcoming council meetings and to the congregation following a worship service soon. In the meantime, if you'd like to get a sense of the business that took place check out www.assembly.nisynod.org.



Pentecost Offering

Remember on June 9th at our joint worship when we took up a special offering in response to the challenge from Bishop Jeff Clements? Well here's the report of how that challenge went:

Bishop's Challenge

The assembly offering for "Making All Things New: The Campaign for the ELCA" surpassed Bishop's goal of \$10,000. As of 6/19/2019, we have received \$22,642.07 and more pledges have come in. Thank you! (copied from assembly highlights from NI Synod website.)

Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish provided \$1017 of that total: \$339 from the Sunday offering which was matched by both First Lutheran and Immanuel Lutheran from various discretionary funds. Well done folks!

To see the video of the challenge and/or to make a contribution (it's not too late) go online to <https://nisynod.org/bishops-challenge-for-assembly-offering/>

To keep up with what's happening in the ELCA subscribe to one or both of our synod online newsletters:

Walking Together

A weekly newsletter delivered to email about upcoming events

Making Christ Known

A monthly e-newsletter with articles about what has happened as well as announcements about upcoming events

Subscribe by going to <https://nisynod.org> and clicking on the "publications" tab.