



July/August 2025



# The Parish Voice

A NEWSLETTER OF HEART OF ILLINOIS LUTHERAN

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

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
398 Church Road  
Compton, IL 61318  
815.539.6567

## Worshipping with the Community

In 2024 HOILP hosted a community worship in Compton on 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and then participated in the Lee Community worship in conjunction with the village's 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary celebration. This year, those roles are reversed. Lee community worship will be around the Independence Day celebration on July 6<sup>th</sup> and Compton community worship will take place July 20<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with Compton's sesquicentennial. These will be the HOILP worship services on those days.

In addition, we will also be participating in the Mendota Area Community worship and the Paw Paw Community worship on August 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> respectively. Those are both during their community celebrations.

These are important opportunities, not just for the congregations of Heart of Illinois Lutheran, but for all the churches involved. In a time when the role of the Church in society continues to be minimized, these community gatherings are a way in which we can visibly show the world that God is among us and comes to us through Jesus. Please, if you are in town on those weekends, make a point of joining with your brothers and sisters in Christ from around the community for worship.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday on 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday?

Summer is a time to mix things up. Last month we declared the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday to be on a Tuesday. In July, we are declaring it on a Sunday. Fourth Thursday filming in July will take place on Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:00 p.m.

There is a method to PJ's madness with this idea. This month we will be traveling to outdoor locations as we film the readings and liturgy for Season of Creation. We will embark from First Lutheran and then follow

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Filming  
Goes on the Road  
Sunday, July 27 – 3 p.m.  
departing from First

a preplanned route with stops for filming, for ice cream, and for pizza.

## Summer Special Worship

### Lee Community Worship

Sunday, July 6, 2025

10 a.m. at Lee Fire Barn

### Compton Community Worship

Sunday, July 20, 2025

10 a.m. in Compton Park

### Mendota Community Worship

Sunday, August 10, 2025

9:30 a.m. at Immanuel

### Paw Paw Community Worship

Sunday, August 31, 2025

9:30 a.m. at Paw Paw Band Shelter

## We Missed One

Last month when we listed the graduates, we inadvertently missed Stephanie Ganz. Stephanie graduated with her Physicians Assistant degree from Northwestern Medical School/Chicago. Congratulations Stephanie!

"It will be like a merger of 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday filming, Night on the Town, and my field trips," said PJ when asked about it. "During June, July, and August we celebrating beautiful spots all over the country and even all over the world with 'Reading on the Road.' During Season of Creation we will celebrate the beauty of God's marvelous Creation that is in our own backyards."

Normally there is not a sign-up sheet for 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Filming, but due to the nature of this one, we will have one so that we don't leave without you. If you would like to join in the midst of it and/or join us for dinner, talk to PJ and we will figure out how to make that happen.

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## Outreach

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### How to Multiply Your Offerings...

For years, Lutherans have known to be on the forefront fighting hunger in the world. ELCA World Hunger Appeal has been a huge and effective battle in those efforts. Well, this summer, at Immanuel, you have a unique opportunity to multiply your efforts four times over.

At the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly, it was announced that a very generous donor has agreed to match the first \$100,000 given by congregations of the NIS through September. In response, Immanuel's council is doubling down on that challenge by agreeing to use money from designated discretionary funds of the council to match the first \$1000 given at Immanuel.

This all means that if you give just \$10 it will instantly become \$40: with the match from Immanuel it will be \$20, and then when that is sent on to the ELCA it is matched again becoming \$40.

There are two ways you can easily give to this campaign. One is by putting a check in the August

### Noisy Offering

The noisy offering will start up again at Immanuel and will be designated to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. So let's change the world by bringing our change to church.

benevolence envelope which is designated to the World Hunger Appeal. The second is by bringing your change on Sunday's and putting it in the noisy offering.

As of the printing of this newsletter, First Lutheran has not had an opportunity to discuss this project. PJ says he plans on encouraging the council at First to engage in a similar project.

Let's work together to make sure all people have the basic food they need for everyday life.

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## Discipleship & Fellowship

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**Congratulations to our 3<sup>rd</sup> grader, Kendyll Rebholz, who received her Bible on Sunday, June 15.**

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

- **Food/Miscellaneous Items:** Cake, Cookie, Brownie Mixes, Frosting (always needed). **July** - School Supplies (lists available at both churches), Kleenex, Hand Sanitizer, Jelly or Jam, Jello and pudding mixes. **August** – Spaghetti O's, Chili, Hamburger Helper, Chicken Helper, Tuna Helper.
- **September** will be the month that Immanuel & First volunteer on Saturdays from 8-11 a.m.

### Looking ahead...

- **Youth confirmation** will begin again this fall. Look for an organizational meeting in August.
- Youth who will be confirmed this fall will be meeting with Pastor in September
- **Adult Confirmation** – Pastor is still seeking dates that will work for this
- **Sunday School** – Rally Day, Sunday, September 7, 9:30 a.m.

# Worship

## **4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Filming**

**July 24, 2025**

Singers – 6:30 p.m. @ First

**July 27, 2025**

Readers – Meet at First, 3 p.m.

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

## **Worship Team**

*No meeting in July*

**August 14, 2025**

6:30 p.m. at Immanuel

All are welcome!

## **Ways to Share HOILP Worship**

- Share our YouTube channel:  
[www.youtube.com/@hoilp](http://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

## **HOILP on the Internet**

*First*

[www.ficinlee.com](http://www.ficinlee.com)

[www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee](http://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee)

*Immanuel!*

[www.ilccompton.org](http://www.ilccompton.org)

[www.facebook.com/ilccompton](http://www.facebook.com/ilccompton)

*HOILP YouTube*

[www.youtube.com/@hoilp](http://www.youtube.com/@hoilp)

## **Church Office Hours**

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Church office: 815-539-6567

email: [immanuellutherancompton@live.com](mailto:immanuellutherancompton@live.com)

## **Sunday Fellowship**

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

## **RALLY DAY!**

Sunday, September 7  
9:30 a.m. at Immanuel  
(after 8:30 a.m. worship)

Let's Celebrate the Start of  
Sunday School!  
Come meet your teachers, play  
games, have a snack.

We can't wait to see you!

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

We will be looking for volunteers to help set up and take down at our various community worship services this summer. Please keep this in mind as we ask for your help.

# Around the Parish

## Immanuel

## First

### Council Highlights – May 15, 2025

- The General Treasury ending balance on April 30, 2025 was \$1,014.46. There was a net loss of (\$998.59) in April.
- Three new members were baptized on May 4 – Dasie Newkirk, Miles Wade and Rylin Wade.
- The Building & Grounds Team reported that the parking lot has been sealed and re-striped. This was paid for by an anonymous donor.
- Thank you notes were received from Lincoln School in Mendota for the donation to their Backpack Blessings Fund and from Horizon House for the donation to their Road to Independence Campaign.

### June 19, 2025

- The General Treasury ending balance on May 31, 2025 was \$197.57. There was a net loss of (\$5,516.89) in May.
- \$4,700.00 was transferred from the AMDEX Account to the General Treasury to pay the insurance bill that was due in May.
- The council voted to seek to raise \$1,000.00 above regular giving for the ELCA World Hunger appeal. The amount raised will be matched up to \$1,000.00 by the Council Discretionary Fund. The N. Ill. Synod has received \$100,000.00 to match the amount congregations give toward the ELCA World Hunger appeal.
- The carpets have been cleaned at the church and parsonage.
- Rachel McCormick was the only applicant for a college scholarship this year. She was awarded \$1,000.00.

### Immanuel General Treasury – May 2025

	Month	YTD
Receipts for May	\$13,926.17	
Expenses for May	\$19,443.06	
Receipts YTD		\$ 80,788.47
Expenses YTD		\$100,525.16
Net/(Loss)	(\$5,516.89)	(\$ 19,736.69)

*Weekly need for budget: \$3991.00*

*May average weekly offering: \$2618.00*

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

*Respectfully submitted – Harlan G. Eames*

### Council Highlights – May 18, 2025

- Due to increased insurance costs, the Treasurer will research reducing church building coverage from replacement cost to a lesser amount.
- Possibility of several special community worship services this summer.
- The water heater in the church kitchen was repaired.
- July/August benevolence recipient is Local Humanitarian Aid.

### June 16, 2025

The Council authorized First Lutheran's President to meet with Immanuel's President to discuss the future.

*Thank you to Mike Davis for utilizing his electrical expertise to fix the light switch at the parsonage. It is greatly appreciated!*

## WELCA

### WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

- **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. Thanks!
  - **School Back Packs:**
    - 4 – 70 page spiral bound notebooks
    - 1 – pencil sharpener                      1 – blunt scissors
    - 1 – box of 16 or 24 crayons      1 – 2-1/2" eraser
    - 1 – 30 centimeter ruler or ruler with centimeters on one edge and inches on the other
    - 5 – unsharpened pencils with erasers secure w/rubber band
    - 5 – black/blue ballpoint pens secure w/rubber band (no ads)
- All donations go in LWR totes in the room next to the office.*
- Thank you!**
- **Sunday, August 3** we will fill school bags after church.

# Synod Assembly Report

*"I was pleased to serve as the Voting Member of the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly again this year. The experience was inspirational, as always." --Greta Bates*

## 2025 SYNOD ASSEMBLY HIGHLIGHTS

*"Each of you has a call and gifts for living Jesus' work in the world. And you are given opportunities every day to live that out, to be the body of Jesus to someone else and to grow as a disciple. Because you, Beloved Child of God, have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. God is with you in the questions."*  
- Bishop Stacie Fidler



### ACTIONS TAKEN

- Blessed new synod paraments, thanks to the 38 congregations who pieced together quilt blocks
- Heard from Deacon Jessica Noonan from LEAD Connects about learning from our neighbors
- Passed the Fiscal Year 2027 Northern Illinois Synod Budget
- Passed the 2026 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines
- Elected several members to serve on Synod Council and synod committees
- Heard from Bishop Fidler about discovering our why
- Heard from Ms. Becca Payne and Mrs. Rahel Mwitula Williams from the ELCA
- Blessed those who will be voting members at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly
- Celebrated our Rostered Minister ordination anniversaries and remembered our Rostered Ministers who died in the last year

### RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed by the assembly:

- **R-1: Resolution for National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding School**
- **R-2: Northern Illinois Synod to Be a Reconciling in Christ Synod**

### ELECTIONS

#### Synod Council

Trace Gallagher, Ms. Janice Forrest, Mr. Bill Wescott, The Rev. Shellie Knight, The Rev. Rob James

#### Congregational Life Committee

Mrs. Somar Bryson, Deacon Laura Gorton, The Rev. Tom Redig

#### Global Missions Committee

The Rev. Amy Michelson, The Rev. Ron Larson

#### Ministry Support Committee

Ms. Susan King, The Rev. Dr. Sharon Rogers

#### Outreach Committee

Ms. Courtney Breeden, Mr. Don Kinney, Mr. Dirk Hellinga, The Rev. Anthony Windau

#### Social Ministry Committee

Mrs. Kim Halper, The Rev. Frank Langholf

#### Committee on Discipline

Ms. Marcia Clausen, Mr. Shawn Wolfe, The Rev. Elise Rothfusz, The Rev. Joel VanderWal

#### Consultation Committee

Ms. Bev Lindsay, Mr. Ray Bergles, The Rev. Jill Flynn, The Rev. Bill Callister,



**Growing Disciples**  
Northern Illinois Synod 2025

**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**

**July 6 – Lee Community Worship (10:00)**  
**July 13 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**July 20 – Compton Community Worship (10:00)**  
**July 27 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**

**August 3 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**August 10 – Mendota Community Worship at  
Immanuel (9:30 a.m.)**  
**August 17 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**August 24 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**  
**August 31 – Paw Paw Community Worship (9:30)**

**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish**

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You can also check us out on Facebook!