

July/August 2021



The Parish Voice

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

A NEWSLETTER OF HEART OF ILLINOIS LUTHERAN

Worship Update

The transition back to in-person worship is going relatively smoothly at HOILP. All are invited to join us as soon as you feel comfortable to be around other people. We will continue to do everything in our power to create the safest possible environment.

Immanuel will continue to utilize outdoor worship through July 4th. The council will discuss returning indoors for worship at their July meeting with an eye on July 11th being the first Sunday indoors. Thus far, however, the outdoor venue has worked well and the weather has been very cooperative. So grab a chair and join us Sundays at 8:30.

First has been meeting indoors and will continue to do so. The pews at First are no longer marked for social distancing. We had intended to keep them marked, but as we were removing the tape to put the pew cushions back, there were spots on the pews where the finish was coming off. Thus we decided not to replace the tape. So if you are worshipping at First, please maintain appropriate distance from other folks.

When we are indoors at either congregation for worship, we will continue to require masks. This follows the CDC recommendations when people are congregated together indoors for a period of time greater than 15 minutes. But more importantly, it is for our fellow worshipers. Wearing the mask is a courtesy for others as people don't know who has or has not been vaccinated. If we can make our neighbor feel safe simply by wearing a mask, there is no reason we shouldn't do so.

Our next step in the transition will be to sing while we're indoors. Pastor Jeff is hoping that will happen in July. He has been waiting for official recommendations regarding singing. Thus far both the CDC and the IDPH recommendations written guidance says that singing should be avoided. But that has not been updated with the recent lowering of restrictions. "When we do begin singing again," he says, "it will undoubtedly be with masks on, at least for the first couple of months or so."

Season of Creation

Fall will be here before we know it. And with fall comes our annual celebration of Season of Creation. Beginning on Labor Day weekend, we'll be celebrating Season of Creation through the first week of October.

As always, you're invited to submit photographs (digital please) to enhance our worship. So please start shooting, or consider which ones you already have, that you'd like to share this year. The four Sundays are *Mountain and Hill Sunday*, *Humanity Sunday*, *Sky Sunday*, and *Earth Sunday*. Just email your photos to Pastor Jeff at photo.pastor1965@gmail.com

Summer Worship at Immanuel: Let's Go Outside

In order to create the safest environment at which the greatest number of people can be present, Immanuel plans on making outdoor worship its practice for the summer. This will also allow for singing.

Outdoor worship will continue during the summer months as HOILP returns to its regular worship schedule.

The outdoor worship will be on the west green space across from the building and will be BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair [blankets are ok also]). We will have a large tent available for those who wish to set up out of the sun.

Should there be inclement weather, the service will simply be moved across the street indoors. This could result in a capacity issue, but with creative use of the overflow space, Immanuel can effectively expand to 70-75 people while still maintaining safety precautions.

An outdoor worship crew has been formed to set up and take down for these services. The goal is to have 8-12 people on this crew so that the same people don't have to do the work every week. If you're able to help with this, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Communion, Home Communion, and Pastoral Visits

by Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

It's taken sometime but we've finally, over the last six to eight months, come to a point where communion is available to all of our members on a regular basis. One of the things that has made that possible is the use of fellowship cups. We will be using them for the foreseeable future as they provide a very sanitary means of communing. They are a bit spendy, so if any of you'd like to make a special offering to cover the costs, it'd be much appreciated.

Let me comment on a few other things I've received questions about as well:

Communion Delivery

I'm planning to continue this practice. Just call Debbie during the week and it will be delivered to you. And if you are vaccinated, maybe you can invite the person who is delivering communion to sit and share communion with you? It's not the whole congregation but at least a small part of it.

Pastoral Visits

I'm fully vaccinated now. Which means I am able to make home visits. I will be contacting our homebound members to set up visits. But if you would like me to come see you, I'd be happy to. These visits will most often include communion. To be on the cautious side, initially I'll only be doing a single visit each day so as to avoid carrying anything from one location to another.

WELCA

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

JUSTICE (Mission Action) – Charlene Zimmerman

We are collecting school supplies for the LWR back packs.

Each school bag is to contain the following:

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

All items are on sale now. Please put items in the LWR tote in the room next to the office. THANK YOU!!

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

We are looking for a WELCA representative for the NIS Convention which will be held virtually this year. Contact me if you are interested. We will be assembling school bags for LWR after worship in early August.

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

August Birthdays

- 1 – Kim Delhotal, Nathan Lovett
- 2 – Nick Ganz, Sarah Sensenbrenner
- 4 – Jim Eich, Damon Musgrove
- 5 – Farrah Collins
- 6 – Sherri Heiman, Becky Jarman
- 7 – Bill Giberson, Gary Holle
- 8 – Pearl Taylor
- 9 – Cortnee Jones
- 10 – Glen Fagerman
- 11 – Derek Sellers, Nancy Walzer, Taryn Schmidt-Sarver
- 12 – Jacob Eich
- 15 – Jill Hoelzer, Rick Gladd
- 16 – Roger Grinka, Velma Schmidt
- 17 – David Heiman, Ben Neal
- 19 – Kim Kofoid, Randy Schlesinger
- 20 – Christa Edwards, Kaitlynn Frazer, Nathan Giberson, Joan Benner
- 21 – Ann LeRette, Olin Simpson
- 22 – Lauren Collins, Kody Hoadley, Mackenzie Jayne Knoblauch
- 23 – Doug Bettner

Praying for One Another

You may have noticed that we don't name people when we do the prayers on the worship videos. Due to how public our videos are and the fact that many we pray for have sensitive health information we refrain from naming names in this format. But, we continue to lift each other up in our prayers. Please stay attuned to those requesting our prayers by reading the weekly email announcements and checking out the prayer corner in this newsletter. We also have an electronic prayer chain. If you'd like to be part of that, send your email to charlizzimm@aol.com

July Anniversaries

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

August Anniversaries

- 1 – Eric & Lexy Rebholz
- 2 – Bill & Marianne Bittner
- 5 – Joel & Jean Johnson
- 12 – Pastor Jeff & Theresa
- 15 – Rick & Sue Beckstrom
- 22 – Mike & Sandy Davis
- 23 – Kevin & Kim Ganz
- 30 – Earl & Marion Barnickel

Prayer Corner

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

Monthly Requests – Sharon Kellen, Whitley Clayton, Gary Holle, Ed & Joan Benner

Newly Baptized – Masyn Jaymes Rebholz (4/25)
Tucker Slade Olson (5/23)

Affirmed in Baptism - (11/22) Emily Lovett, Julie Lovett (*Reaffirmation*)

Marriage – Chad Albers & Susan Hager (August 8, 2020)

Mourning Families - Cliff Schlesinger Family (9/16), Ron Rebholz Family (9/20) Jessica Albert Family (1/23), Cindy Schlesinger Family (1/23), Nathan Eich Family (1/27), Dennis Weiler Family (2/2), Bud Archer Family (3/25)

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

This and That

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – N.I.C.E. is currently accepting donations of ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, and pickles.
- N.I.C.E. does NOT need plastic bags or egg cartons at this time. They appreciate the generous donations that have recently been received of these items and they currently have a good supply.

Congregation Contributions

Thank you for your continued support of the mission of our congregations. Your faithfulness of mailing or using electronic means to submit your offerings is very much appreciated.

Benevolence Offerings

Immanuel's benevolence offering for July is for Northern Illinois Synod. For August it's for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC). Please use the envelopes found in the newsletter.

A New Way to Give at HOILP: Venmo

For those who desire a means of giving on the spot electronically via smart phones, Heart of Illinois now accepts donations via **Venmo**. We can be found at

First Lutheran @FirstLutheranLeeIL.

It is labeled this way as the money passes through First Lutherans treasury. When making a donation, please note how it is to be designated. Undesignated donations will be divided proportionally within the parish.

Those of you unfamiliar with Venmo need not worry about this. Your regular means of giving - whether it be mail, electronically by other means, or by delivering it in person – will remain in place. This is simply a convenient way for those who desire a cash-free, immediate opportunity to make an offering.

HOILP on the Internet

Websites & Facebook

First – www.flcinlee.com

www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee

Immanuel – www.ilccompton.org

www.facebook.com/ilccompton



www.youtube.com/channel/UCxhbzUM EeE1C2SIsP-YI65A

Immanuel Council Highlights

May 13, 2021

- General Treasury ending balance April 30, 2021 is \$7,434.13
- Tucker Olson baptism in May. Brock & Katie Olson accepted as baptized members
- Plans for Outdoor Worship Crew and Ushers for summer months
- Plan to effectively and efficiently conduct both online and in-person worship
- Thank you letters from N.I.C.E. and Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry for donations
- Bible Camp will be cancelled if not enough volunteers by May 15

June 10, 2021

- General Treasury ending balance May 31, 2021 is \$3,841.23
- Tucker Olson baptism in May. Brock & Katie Olson accepted as baptized members
- Plan to effectively and efficiently conduct both online and in-person worship
- Discussion on outdoor services and return to indoor worship services
- Thank you letter from Randy's Music for purchase of electronic keyboard system

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: immanuel@live.com.

Calendar

July

Sunday, July 4

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel)
10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Tuesday, July 6

Tea Time - 3 pm

Thursday, July 8

Immanuel Council – 5:30 pm
at the parsonage

Sunday, July 11

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel)
10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Tuesday, July 13

Tea Time - 3 pm

Sunday, July 18

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel)
10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Tuesday, July 20

Tea Time - 3 pm

Sunday, July 25

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel)
10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Tuesday, July 27

Tea Time – 3 pm

August

Sunday, August 1

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel)
10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Tuesday, August 3

Tea Time - 3 pm

Worship Team – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 8

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)
10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, August 10

Tea Time – 3 pm

Sunday, August 15

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)
10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, August 17

Tea Time – 3 pm

Sunday, August 22

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)
10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, August 24

Tea Time – 3 pm

Sunday, August 29

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)
10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, August 31

Tea Time – 3 pm

Friday Morning Bible Study is back and will be held every Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the overflow at Immanuel. We will discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Come as you are and bring a friend!

**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish
Immanuel Lutheran Church
398 Church Rd. - Compton, IL 61318**

(First Lutheran - 240 W. Hardanger Gate - Lee, IL 60530)

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**July 4 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
July 11 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
July 18 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
July 25 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**

**August 1 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
August 8 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
August 15 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
August 22 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
August 29 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**

Worship will be outside at Immanuel. If it rains it will be inside. You will not have to sign-up ahead of time.

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www.ilccompton.org**

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**Pastor Jeff Schlesinger
(Cell) 815/878-4503
E-mail: photo.pastor1965@gmail.com**

You can also check us out on Facebook!