



June 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

Summer Worship

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

Regular Services

June 4, 18, 25
July 2, 16, 23, 30
August 6

Communion Services

June 11 – Pastor Hank Milner
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.

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 28th. Come on out and meet her.

Night on the Town

Friday, June 9, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Wild Carrot food truck

228 West Lincoln, Waterman

Hosted by Steven & Cheryl Simpson

Sign up at Immanuel & First if you can join us! Chef Josh has picnic tables, but feel free to bring lawn chairs. If it rains, we can dine at First Lutheran in Lee.

Come and Enjoy! A Pancake Breakfast and

Kickball Game at Immanuel on June 11th after Church All are welcome!



Can you host a Night on the Town?

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

Open Months – July, September - December

Interested? Contact Theresa Schlesinger

tschlesinger@comcast.net

815.878.8372

The kickball game is for all ages. If you're not interested in playing, we also need some fans. So, bring your lawn chair to watch this entertaining game.

A basket for a freewill offering will be available for the breakfast.

Sabbatical Notes

Spring is really here, and the breezes bring hints of the coming summer.

Likewise at Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish, spring planning has been preparing us for Pastor Jeff's summer sabbatical, and now that time is here. The Sabbatical Team wants to thank the many volunteers who have stepped forward to assist in the tasks which prepare for worship each week and for carrying on Parish life and sharing the Good News of Christ. At this writing, the first sabbatical worship has not yet been held, but the preparations at both sites are complete. Supply pastors have been retained for monthly communion services and for any emergencies that might arise. Lay worship leaders have prepared to guide the assemblies. The video team will be sending out online worship services, and a team of visitors will take communion to our shut-ins each of the 4 weeks that we have a presiding pastor. The altar committees and musicians have scrambled to adjust to the changes of liturgical seasons that will occur during the summer months and the changes in worship settings. The screen displays are in preparation, as are the worship bulletins. The planning is complete. What follows is likely to be filled with lessons learned, but I believe that it will also be filled with the spiritual growth that comes from the rallying together to continue worship and fellowship as our separate congregations and as a Parish.

It is a wonderful thing that we have been able to send our pastor on a journey with time for personal and family renewal. As he visits other ministry sites like ours, with multiple congregations making up a cooperating parish, he will carry news of our accomplishments and will learn about additional ways that we might use our strength in Christ to meet the needs of our surrounding community.

Summer is the season of blossoming and fruiting. HOILP will be blossoming this summer, and the fruits of our efforts will be a strengthening of the Holy Spirit in all of us.

I look forward to seeing all of you at worship and at our fellowship events in the coming months. ---Greta

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 – Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo, BBQ Sauce, Salad Dressing, Coffee, Cake Frosting.
- 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.

Immanuel's Scholarship Fund

Applications for Immanuel's Scholarship Fund for higher education are now available. Contact Debbie in the church office if you are interested in filling out an application. **Deadline is June 15.**

Benevolence Offering

Immanuel: June – Local Outreach (Food Pantries). Please use the envelope found in this newsletter.

First: June – Lutherdale. Please use the benevolence box at church or designate it on the memo line of your check.

HOILP on the Internet

Websites & Facebook

First – www.fcinlee.com

www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee

Immanuel – www.ilccompton.org

www.facebook.com/ilccompton

HOILP YouTube - www.youtube.com/@hoilp

Immanuel Council Highlights

May 18, 2023

- Pastor Joy Alsop attended the council meeting. She will also be attending the June & July council meetings while Pastor Jeff is on sabbatical.
- As of May 16, \$61,256.12 has been received for the Raise the Roof campaign.
- The ending balance in the General Treasury on April 30 was \$291.31. To cover expenses for April, \$3,000.00 had to be transferred from the AMDEX account. An additional \$6,000.00 has been transferred from the AMDEX account into the General Treasury since May began. Information will be shared with the congregation regarding the current financial situation.
- As a financial plan of action, the council approved a motion to allow Harlan Eames to borrow up to \$10,000 from the Capital Improvement Fund and move it into the General Treasury to cover operating expenses, if necessary.
- Copies of the Sabbatical policy and the Communion policy are posted on the bulletin board in the overflow.

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.

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: immanuelutherancompton@live.com.

WELCA

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

We continue to collect items for **LWR Personal Care Kits**: light or medium weight dark color bath towels, 4-5 oz. size bars of bath soap in wrappers. Please put your donations in appropriate totes in the room next to the office.

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.

HOILP Graduates

High School:

Rachel McCormick - Indian Creek High School, Shabbona

College:

Alyssa McCormick – Bachelor's Degree in Accounting & Information Systems, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (December 2022)

Olin Simpson – Master's Degree, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb (December 2022)

Sam Schlesinger – Master's Degree, University of Illinois, Champaign (May 2023)

Kayla McCormick – Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Iowa State University, Ames (May 2023)

Julia Hoelzer – Master's Degree in Higher Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb (May 2023)

Bethany Simpson – AAS Degree, Kishwaukee College, Malta (May 2023)

Congratulations!



Quilt Presentation on May 14 to Rachel McCormick, our graduating senior, for her participation in LYO for the last 4 years.

Left to right: Pastor Jeff, Rachel McCormick, Rhonda McCormick

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.

Thank You's from First

First Lutheran would like to extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped move the office furniture and records to set up our new office in the former cry room. It was a big job, especially moving the very heavy fireproof file cabinet, so your help was appreciated! Thanks especially to: Mike Davis, Don & Justin Post, Deb & Kevin Poterek, Steve & Cheryl Simpson, and Jim, Chris, & Alex Johnson. Also thank you to Charles & Joyce Thorsen for donating the nice new desk!

MISSING: As we were going through the historical records in the office move, we noticed a couple of scrapbooks were missing. Mary Ellen Prestegaard dedicated a large amount of time to make a scrapbook of all church events and members for 60+ years. We have every one except the years of Pastor Einersen and Pastor Woita. They are typically black with a white label on the front. Have you seen them? If so, please contact Alex Johnson. 815-762-1987.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with the Sabbatical. Especially thank you to Deb Poterek and Kristen Edecker who are working above & beyond to ensure the slides and handouts are ready to go. Also, thanks to Mike Davis for an excellent start to the Sabbatical worship leaders!

**We had a Family Fun Day for the last day of Sunday School on Sunday, May 21.
Sunday School will resume in the fall.**



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

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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

June 4 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

June 11 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Pastor Hank Milner – Holy Communion

June 18 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

June 25 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

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Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

E-mail: photo.pastor1965@gmail.com

You can also check us out on Facebook!