



HEART OF ILLINOIS LUTHERAN PARISH



Newsletter

First Lutheran

June 2019

Immanuel Lutheran

Parish Worship and Picnic – June 9th

On June 9th both congregations will gather at First Lutheran for worship at 10:30 followed by a cookout/picnic. The main dish



(burgers and dogs) and drinks will be provided, please bring a

non-cooked item (chips, salad, dessert, etc. – something that does not need to be heated or plugged in) to share. Also please bring your own table service.

Following eating, stay to enjoy outdoor activities. Between the church yard, parsonage yard and green space, there is plenty of

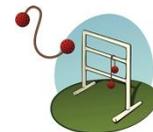
space to spread out and enjoy ourselves. We are asking people who have the following outdoor activities to bring them:

- Bags sets
- Ladder Toss
- Children's Outdoor games
- Boce Ball (lawn bowling)
- Crouquet
- Other Outdoor Games

If you can provide any of these, please contact Deb Poterek (debpoterek@aol.com).

Some of you may be thinking, "June 9th is not a fifth Sunday." You are right. The Parish Team

has decided to discontinue the 5th Sunday joint worship concept in favor of doing one special joint service at each congregation. So this year that will be June 9th at First and November 24th at Immanuel. Each will include a fellowship meal afterwards (picnic in June and still to be determined for November). Please mark these two dates on your calendar so you can be sure to head over to and host your neighbors for worship.



Your First Ever HOILP Newsletter

Welcome to the joint newsletter of First and Immanuel Lutheran Churches. We have been functioning as a parish since Pastor Jeff arrived in October of 2015 and "officially" since July of 2017. The next step in the growing relationship between the two congregations in this parish is to share a newsletter.

There are a number of reasons why sharing a newsletter makes sense. Many of those reasons have to do with stewardship. It is good stewardship of time. Rather than have two secretaries make two distinct newsletters, there will be significant time savings if those same two secretaries contribute jointly to one newsletter. It is good stewardship of resources. There will be cost savings on both postage and paper. And it is good stewardship of the earth. Between sharing the newsletter and making some style changes, we anticipate using significantly less paper, toner and power to run our copy machines.



Good stewardship alone is perhaps enough reason to move towards a parish newsletter. But perhaps the most important reason to do so is to strengthen our relationship as congregations that are part of HOILP. Now, members of both congregations will see what has happened and what is coming up at each congregation.

This much better foster cross participation, new friendships as well as mutual concerns. For instance, you may see an activity at the other congregation that interests you and choose to participate. Or you may see a name on the birthday list you don't recognize, quickly look them up in the directory, and when you are at the next joint worship make a new friend as you wish them happy birthday. Or you may see a concern the other congregation is dealing with and offer up prayers for them as they deal with it. All this strengthens our relationship. So enjoy this first of what should be many HOILP newsletters.

Check inside for information on...

- ...Bountiful Garden (p. 4)
- ...Vacation Bible Camp (p. 6-7)
- ...Bible Gem (p. 3)
- ...Graduates! (p. 8)
- ...and much more!

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 Rebholz 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

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.



Ruth and Naomi by Rita Thompson (shared 11-25-18 at First Lutheran)

My favorite verse has always been Ruth 1:16-17, "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee. For whither thou goest I will go and where thou lodgest I will lodge. Thy people shall be my people to me and thy God my God". This version is from the King James Bible and is the version read at our wedding March 14, 1964. This is the story of Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth. After the death of Naomi's husband and sons in the country of Moab, Naomi plans to move back to her homeland of Bethlehem in Judah. Naomi tries to convince Ruth to stay in her homeland of Moab. But the verse is Ruth's response.

I know that the verse relates to Ruth and Naomi, but I have always thought it could also pertain to husbands and wives. Along with repeating vows and becoming one with your husband or wife, you each become part of another family.

My dad was one of 11 kids so there were always aunts, uncles and cousins around. Tom grew up in the same close family and 55 years later family is still a very important part of our lives, although the names and numbers have changed. This same sentiment applies to our Church family - still important although names and numbers change. God is faithful!

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.

- **June 1** – South Moon BBQ – Hinckley
- **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

June Night on the Town
South Moon Barbecue
100 E Lincoln Ave – Hinckley
*Sign up at either church or
call/text Theresa Schlesinger
815.878.8372*

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 first one is designed for our more mature members and will take place in May (see details below). The tentative schedule, which is still being put together appears on the right. 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
- August 10 - Hike the Day Away
- September 22 - The Scrambled Golf Scramble
- October 17 - Leaf Peepers

*Dates subject to change

Serving Our Neighbors

“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.

Current plans are to have collection Sundays the latter parts of July, August and September. 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 June N.I.C.E. requests donations of laundry soap and cleaning supplies. Please 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. They are also in need of clean, plastic bags (from Walmart, etc.).

VBC Collection

During Vacation Bible Camp this year at Immanuel the campers are asked to bring in food items for N.I.C.E. We would also like to invite the congregation to donate any of these items during VBC week (June 9-12):

- Canned pie filling (no pumpkin)
- Ketchup, mustard, mayo (plastic container only)
- Tub of frosting
- Ranch dressing (or any other flavor – plastic container only)

Please drop items off at Immanuel anytime from Sunday, June 9 through Wednesday, June 12.

Thank you!

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.

Introducing an Easter Season Contest

The 40 Days of Photo Give Away

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

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

3rd Prize – A complete set of all 40 photos

4th Prize – A complete set of all 40 photos

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

To Enter:

- Place a donation in the jar (any amount between 25¢ and \$100) located in front of the window by Pastor's office at Immanuel or on the table in back at First.
- Write your name on the designated slip of paper and place it in the box next to the jar.
- Please only enter once per day.

Drawing to take place after services on Pentecost Sunday.

All proceeds will go to revive and preserve Pastor Jeff's current favorite endangered animal, the prairie chicken, through the efforts of the George Miksch Sutton Avian Research Center.

Sunday School June 2019



Our last day of Sunday School for the 2018--2019 school year was held on May 19. Grades Pre-K through Seventh met and had a great time shopping on Amazon for items to benefit the children helped by Another Child Foundation.

Our donations for the year were approximately \$300, so we were able to purchase many items. Items included a Melissa & Doug Giant Fire Truck Floor Puzzle, LEGO Classic Large Creative Brick Box, Jarrby Montessori Toys for Toddlers and Melissa & Doug Farm Friends Puzzle.

After "shopping," we reviewed our year together;
it was nice to have Pastor as our special guest for the morning.

The High School students then joined us for breakfast which included
biscuits & gravy, sausage, breakfast pizza and fruit.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the morning!

As part of our morning together the following recognitions were presented:

Superior Award: 75-100% attendance

Kate Hoffer
Nick Hoffer
Rachel McCormick
Luke Ross

Award of Excellence: 50-74% attendance

Brad Betz
Brianna Betz
Caleb Crumpton
Kayla McCormick
Caytlin Prodzenski
Shayne Prodzenski
Connor Reppin
Olivia Ross

Participation Certificate: attended one time up to 49% attendance

Ryan Gibertini
Jacob Nelson
Addyson Rebholz
Austyn Rebholz
Natalie Rebholz
Aiden Znaniacki
Kendall Znaniacki





Vacation Bible Camp

"Yee-Haw Celebrating God's Greatest Gift"

Sunday, June 9 - Wednesday, June 12

5:30 p.m. Dinner served in the basement

6:00 p.m. Bible Camp begins in overflow

8:30 p.m. Dismissal

Program/Family Fun: The parents/grandparents are asked to join the fun on Wednesday, June 12th at 7:30 p.m. All will enjoy a rip-roarin' closing celebration!

There is still time to register!!!

Call the church office 815-539-6567 or stop by the church and pick up a registration form. You will receive a free music CD. Don't forget to go to Sports & Stuff in Mendota to get your iron-on transfer. You can purchase a shirt there for \$5.00 or take in one of your own.

Do you want to donate to Yee-Haw?

Check the VBC board in the overflow for items we still need.

Education



Welcome!

June 2019!



<p style="text-align: center;">N.I.C.E. Neighbors In Christ Ecumenical</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Vacation Bible Camp begins! <u>Come early to check-in & review contact info!</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Fill the Covered Wagon” for N.I.C.E. Campers are asked to bring a food items listed below each day to put in the covered wagon. Participation optional.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">What’s for Dinner?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 9</p> <p>Dinner: 5:30 p.m. VBC: 6:00-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Jesus is Born</u> <i>Jesus is God’s gift to the world/God came to earth</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Canned Pie Filling Day (no pumpkin)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ham & Turkey Roll-Ups</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Monday 10</p> <p>Dinner: 5:30 p.m. VBC: 6:00-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Birth of John the Baptist</u> <i>Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, we have to do that as well.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo Day (<u>plastic</u> container only)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sloppy Joe & Spaghetti Dish</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday 11</p> <p>Dinner: 5:30 p.m. VBC: 6:00-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Jesus Dies and Rises</u> <i>Death of Jesus lifts the weight of sin off of us.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tub of Frosting Day</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Beefy Hashbrowns</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday 12</p> <p>Dinner: 5:30 p.m. VBC: 6:00-8:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Resurrection Stories</u> <i>(Road to Emmaus, Doubting Thomas, On the Beach)</i> <i>We have new life because of the resurrection.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ranch Dressing Day (<u>plastic</u> container only)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mac & Cheese with Hot Dogs</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">John 3:16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.</p>	

Youth

Graduate Recognition Sunday – June 2, 2019

On Sunday June 2nd we will be recognizing our graduates. There will be a special blessing during the service as we send these folks off to their next chapter in life. If you know of any other members of the HOILP that have graduated from this year, please let us know so that we can recognize them. Please keep all of these folks in your prayers.

High School:

- **Zachary Clayton** - Paw Paw High School
- **Kayla McCormick** - Indian Creek High School
- **Pearl Taylor** - Mendota High School

Advanced Degrees:

- **John Hoelzer** - Iowa State University, Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering
- **Ben Ross** - Northern Illinois University, Bachelor's Degree in Applied Manufacturing Technology
- **Zach Ross** - Joliet Junior College, Associates Degree in Agricultural Business
- **Kim Schlesinger** – Wartburg College, Bachelor's Degree in Music Therapy
- **Winston Simpson** – ask Deb to get details, Bachelor's Degree in Political Science (?)

APPLICATIONS for Immanuel's Scholarship Fund are due June 15! ALL graduating high school seniors and those already in college are encouraged to fill out an application. See Debbie in the Immanuel office if you would like an application.

Keep an eye out for announcements regarding the LYO quilt presentation at Immanuel. It will either be in late June or early July.



4th Sunday Pancake
breakfasts at Immanuel
will resume this fall.
Thanks for your support!

WELCA

JUNE EVENTS:

June 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 - "Esther the queen - Voices in the king's court"

Theme Verse - Esther 1-3

Wednesday, June 5 at 9:00 a.m. - WELCA Bible Study

Leader: Christa Edwards Hostess: Margaret Ross

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

There are still some baby bottles remaining for the Abigail Women's Center fundraiser. If you haven't picked one up, please consider doing so. Use them for your own 'noisy offering' and then return them to church on Father's Day, June 16. There is also a jar in the overflow for your donations.

We are also in need of medium weight, dark colored bath towels and 4-5 oz. bars of bath soap for LWR Personal Care Kits.

Thank you for your support of these projects.

WELCA PRESIDENT'S DESK - Sarah Pfeifer

Goodness but the weather has been unusual this year. Hopefully as you read this the farmers and gardeners have been able to get planting started. Maybe the school year will be over, and hopefully Vacation Bible Camp has started on time. Summer is also vacation time, so do you think about visiting other churches while you are on vacation? I do and always try to attend, just to see what other Lutheran churches are doing. We had a nice time at Faith Lutheran Church for the Central Conference Spring Brunch on May 16 and another wonderful retreat at LOMC at the end of April. Our sewing group is taking the summer off, but will be working on school bags for LWR. There is heavy material in the room next to the office if anyone wants to make some bags for us this summer. Our quarterly meeting is on July 10 at El Zarape. Rosina Bittner will be the hostess and she has arranged for Linda Eggers Jones to tell us about her mission trips. Details and a sign-up sheet will be in the overflow after VBC is over. Have a great summer and see you in church, or at NOTT!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

June Birthdays

- 4 - Connie Schlesinger
- 5 - Rosina Bittner
- 6 - Dorothy Burkart
- 7 - Dan Walzer, Lori Rebholz, Chloe Walzer, Zachary Giberson
- 8 - Marilyn Ward
- 9 - Tammy Bittner, Kathy Kaiser
- 12 - Tony Brooks
- 13 - Vernon Pfeifer, Chase Sellers
- 15 - Jill Ross, Ethan Wade
- 16 - Walter Barnickel, Bonnie Childs
- 17 - Norm Fassig
- 18 - Allan Zimmerman
- 19 - Connor R. Bergeson
- 20 - Delores Heiman, Wyatt Van Drew
- 21 - Devin Post Huffman, Dick Bettner
- 22 - Larry Schlesinger, Aiden Znaniecki
- 23 - Matt Fassig
- 24 - Kayla McCormick
- 26 - Greta Bates
- 28 - Margaret Ross, Connie Williams
- 29 - Michael Davis, Gay Sellers
- 30 - Mike Fassig

June Anniversaries

- 9 - Wes & Diane Englehart
- 12 - Daryl & Lisa Rosenkrans
- 16 - Corey & Julie Iversen
- 17 - Ted & Janet Muncy, Bill & Alice Giberson
- 20 - Steve & Kim Kofoid
- 25 - Mark & Sheri Clayton
- 26 - Tom & Kim Menzel
- 30 - Ron & Rita Lilja, Erin & Marnie Wade

Prayer Corner

Homebound

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

Baptizees

Kendyll Danyel Rebholz (June 10)
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

Fountain Neal Family (June 28)
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)

Monthly Requests

Karla Rosenkrans
Gary Holle
Jim Eich

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

Pastoral Needs?

contact:

Pastor Jeff Schlesinger
text/call – 815.878.4503

email – photo.pastor1965@gmail.com

- or -

call office @ Immanuel
815.539.6567

This and That



Book Club is Back!

As chosen last year about this time, the next book for book club will be “A Wrinkle in Time.”



“A Wrinkle in Time” is a young adult novel written by American author Madeleine L’Engle. It has received numerous awards and will be a fun book to kick off the summer.

The story of a high-school girl who is transported on an adventure through time and space with her younger brother and a friend on a rescue mission of her missing father, “A Wrinkle in Time” was recently made into a movie starring (pun is intended) Oprah Winfrey and Reese Witherspoon. There are numerous religious undertones in this book.

We will order books in the beginning of June (cost about \$10) and plan on meeting June 30th for 4th 5th Sunday Book Club. Please join us.



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!

“**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.

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 Camperships

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.

June's benevolence offering will go to the campership fund which will provide assistance to our members who wish to attend a Lutheran camp.

This fund is an ongoing fund to which people can choose to give gifts at any time. Camperships will be awarded by the pastor in consultation with the council. Please consider giving generously to it by using the enclosed envelope.

Immanuel Council Meeting Highlights May 9, 2019

- A new website will be started, you will also be able to access it through our facebook page.
- Giving was up due to the letter that was sent.
- Joint worship will be June 9, 2019 at First in Lee with a picnic to follow.
- There was a discussion about offering a CPR class and purchasing a defibrillator for the Church.
- The next meeting will be June 13, 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.