

March 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

Lent & Holy Week & Easter

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent as we take a trip through the book of Jonah. Worship is casual – come as you are. A light meal will be served before each service. All are welcome!

Plan ahead for Holy Week and Easter which come at the very beginning of April this year. Check out the schedules to the right for details.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm & Passion Sunday, April 2nd

8:30 a.m. – Immanuel Lutheran

10:30 a.m. – First Lutheran

Maundy Thursday, April 6th

7:00 p.m. – Immanuel Lutheran

Good Friday, April 7th

7:00 p.m. – First Lutheran

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 22

7:00 p.m. First

Lenten Wednesdays

Light Supper – 5:30 p.m. Worship - 6:30 p.m.

March 1 – Immanuel

March 8 – First

March 15 – Immanuel

March 22 – First

March 29 – Immanuel

Easter Schedule – Sunday, April 9th

Easter Sunrise Service

7:30 a.m. – Immanuel Lutheran

Easter Breakfasts

8:30 a.m. – Immanuel Lutheran

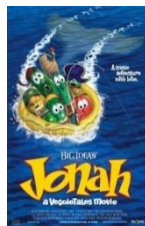
9:30 a.m. – First Lutheran

Easter Resurrection Celebration

10:30 a.m. – First Lutheran

Sunday School Movie and Popcorn Day

We will be showing the movie, Jonah, starring the VeggieTales on Sunday, March 12th, after the church service. Since the Lenten Services this year are about Jonah, we thought it would be a great way to help kids understand this story better. The movie is 1 hour and 23 minutes long, so Sunday School will last longer on that day.



Video Worship Task Force

The video worship task force is exploring options going forward to continue with providing quality worship videos while relieving the time pressure on the pastor as the editor and producer of the videos. A survey has been formed to seek input from those who utilize our videos. If that is you, please fill out the online version of it or call John Hoelzer (815.440.3358) to take it over the phone.

Rally The Talents!

Do you have talents to share with the Parish?

- We need persons to lead worship, particularly during the summer months.
- We need visitors in areas from Mendota to DeKalb to bring cheer and Holy Communion to our homebound.
- We need musicians for chime choir; no specific experience necessary.
- We need persons with internet/social media skills to post worship for our remote worshipers.
- We need persons with basic Power Point knowledge to prepare worship displays; specific training provided.

If you can help in any of these ways, or you have other ideas for enriching Parish life and worship, contact Jill Ross 815-539-6889, rossranch92@yahoo.com or Alex Johnson 815-762-1987, alexanderjohnson87@gmail.com.

HOILP Field Trip

March 16, 2023

Join Pastor Jeff on a journey to discover migrating snow geese, swans and many other birds. The trip will include stops at:

Emiquon National Wildlife Area
Dickson Mounds Museum
Banner Marsh



Devotions and lunch will also be part of the day.
Sign up in narthex/overflow or call office.
Cost = \$20 to cover transportation

Night on the Town (NOTT)

We're reviving Night on the Town and seeking hosts. What's a host do? Three simple things – pick a date and location for the month's gathering*, put out a sign-up sheet, make reservations. Here's the schedule:

March 25 – Uptown Grill, LaSalle
Host – Theresa Schlesinger

April 22 – Cookout, Chief Shabbona Forest Preserve
Host – Pastor Jeff

May
Need a host

June
Need a host

July
Need a host

August 26 – Location TBA
Host – Pastor Jeff (will share stories from travels)

September through December
Hosts needed

*Hosts can choose any day of the month with Fridays and Saturdays being the preferred days. Contact Theresa Schlesinger if you are willing to host.

Learning About the Bible with PJ

Who?

3rd – 5th Graders

What?

PJ will help young people learn about and how to use the Bible that has been presented to them

When?

PJ will meet with parents following worship at Immanuel on March 12 to choose the best dates and times

Where?

Immanuel Lutheran

Some Notes on Sabbatical

For the first time in the History of HOILP (as well as both congregations of the parish), the pastor is being offered a sabbatical leave. So that the congregation might better understand the reasoning behind this, Greta Bates, a member from Immanuel who serves on the Parish Team and the newly formed Sabbatical team, has composed a three-part article that will be published in this and the next two Parish Voices. Pastor Jeff will include a short note of comment for each of the articles.

Rostered Minister Sabbatical by Greta Bates

From an article from the May 16, 2013 issue of Living Lutheran, *A Passport to Good Health*: “The idea of a sabbatical has biblical origins. The very root of the word is the same as that of ‘Sabbath’. Throughout the Old Testament, God instructs people to work six days and rest on the seventh. In Leviticus, God instructs people to allow the land to rest every seventh year – meaning no farming, no planting, no harvesting.” Along the same lines, a clergy sabbatical of 3 to 6 months is suggested by the compensation guidelines of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Northern Illinois Synod (NIS) to sustain clergy health and promote renewal through a break in routine. The sabbatical is defined as a period in which the pastor has no contact with the congregation, and the congregation operates independently of the pastor for the duration of the defined period.

Personal Aspects of a Sabbatical

As suggested by the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA, Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish (HOILP) has adopted in the rostered ministers’ compensation package provision for a sabbatical that is designed to sustain clergy health by providing time for renewal. The clergy sabbatical affords a pastor with time for reflection without the responsibilities of regular service and provides a break in routine. Time for personal reflection adds to holistic health, and the period of no contact allows for clear and fresh perspective upon return to the congregation.

While the sabbatical is intended primarily for rest and renewal, achieving renewal of the body, mind and spirit, the pastor may also engage in activities of personal growth which may be connected to in-depth study of 1 or 2 topics directly related to the pastor’s call. If the pastor chooses to do a special ministry task, it is recommended that it be done in a minimal time period and low stress.

A Note From Pastor Jeff...

Typically when I am gone from the congregation for a week, I spend the first two or three days thinking and wondering if I’ve got everything done before I left. And then the final two days or so, I’m usually thinking of all the tasks I need to jump into when I return home. And when I worship during my vacations, I am evaluating the service and deciding what aspects I will incorporate back at home. That is both the blessing and the curse of the job of pastor, which literally means being a member of a loving community of people.

I would expect that while I’m on sabbatical the wind down time at the beginning and the rewind time at the end may be protracted, but I look forward to an extended period of being free of ministry duties as an opportunity to refresh and renew my joy of being your pastor.

Now don’t mistake my absence during my sabbatical as being away from the Church. I will be worshiping, just with our siblings in Christ all over the country. I look forward to those Sundays when I don’t have to worry about unlocking the doors, checking the power point, putting last minute touches on my sermon, but just get to go to a church for worship – to come into the presence of God, having my faith fed, sharing in the sacrament, hearing the word proclaimed, receiving the forgiveness of my sins, in fellowship with other believers. In other words, I look forward to going to worship for the same reasons you do.

Now some of the churches I will be visiting will be much like HOILP. I’m working on a project that is being supported by Wartburg Seminary that seeks the best practices in shared ministry sites. So I’ll be visiting parishes like ours throughout the country and asking the pastor(s) and lay people to share some of their joys in ministry with me.

As you probably know, my renewal comes from getting outside, from hiking and photography, chasing waterfalls, and birds, and mountains, and critters. I will be doing plenty of that. In fact, you may have seen a little teardrop camper in my driveway recently. Affectionately named “Little Yellow,” that little camper will be my cabin on wheels this summer as I travel to places all across the country. But make no mistake, you will be with me in my heart wherever I am, because you are a part of me. And rest assured, “Little Yellow” will return to the driveway and I’ll be ready and rarin’ to go wherever HOILP’s future takes us.

This and That

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – spaghetti's, salad dressings, pudding, deodorant
- 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.

March is the month for Immanuel AND First to volunteer at the NICE Center in Lee.

Volunteers are needed to help carry on the mission of feeding our neighbors and helping to meet their other needs.

Saturday mornings, volunteers are needed from 8 am to 11 am. In the pantry area, volunteers escort clients through the aisles to select their groceries and re-stock shelves. In the domestics area, volunteers sort incoming donations of housewares and clothing and monitor the shopping rooms.

Friday mornings at 9 am, volunteers sort donations which have been collected from local grocers and prepare them for Saturday distribution. On the first Friday (March 3) and the third Tuesday of the month (March 21), volunteers are needed at 8 am to unload the pallets from the Northern Illinois Food Bank truck. These weekday events are usually completed in under 2 hours.

Please keep the NICE Center in mind when you have gently used clothing and housewares that can be of use to someone else. The donation doors at the Center allow donations to be accepted 24/7/365.

If you can help in any of the above ways, please come! All levels of ability and experience are valued! All training provided!

Immanuel Council Highlights

February 16, 2023

- General Treasury ending balance on January 31, 2023 is \$5,684.38.
- Minor Avery provided updates regarding the price of insurance for the church, parsonage and shed for 2023.
- The Video Task Force has met twice and will bring their recommendations to the next joint council meeting.
- Randy Schlesinger and Brad Ehlers agreed to join the Farm Committee.
- As of February 15, \$43,460.00 has been received for the new roof along with pledges for an additional \$3,600.00.
- \$1,000.00 from the Benevolence account will be given to Lincoln School in Mendota for their Backpack Blessings program.



Holy Baptism – February 19

Left to Right – Briana Ganz, Gloria Bauer, Nick Ganz (holding **Addison Ganz**), Troy Bauer, Anthony Dodaro (holding **Elijah Dodaro**), Aiden Znaniecki (holding **Hunter Dodaro**), Kendall Znaniecki, Pastor Jeff, Jodi Hampton, Tori Dodaro, Nick Dodaro.

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: immanuellutherancompton@live.com.

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/@hoilp

WELCA

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*)

We are starting to collect items for **LWR Personal Care Kits**: light or medium weight dark color bath towels, sturdy combs (not fine tooth or picks), 4-5 oz. size bars of bath soap in wrappers, nail clippers, toothbrushes.

Please put your donations in appropriate totes in the room next to the office. **Thank you.**

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

NIS Women of the ELCA 2023 Retreat, April 29, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, 1834 S. IL Rt. 2, Oregon, IL. "Women At The Well" – John 4:11b. Cost: \$25.00 made payable to "NISWO" (coffee, snacks, lunch, materials). Send form & check to: Kim Choin, 7400 East Oakwood Drive, Wonder Lake, IL 60097. Deadline: April 1. Bible Study & Worship Leader: The Rev. Makayla Dahleen, Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sterling, IL. Registration forms at Immanuel. Find out more at: nisynod.org/events.

We will continue to have quilting days. Announcements will be made on Sundays.

Worship Team

Treats After Worship

There is a sign-up sheet in the overflow at Immanuel for coffee fellowship. If you can provide a simple treat and put coffee and juice out, it will be much appreciated. It is time to return to sharing fellowship around your preferred beverage and sweet treat. It also helps provide fellowship for those families with Sunday School age children.

There is not a formal sign-up at First, but if anyone would like to offer a little bit of refreshments to enhance our post worship fellowship it would be most welcome. After all, there is nothing wrong with a little "appetizer" before heading off to lunch.

Chime Choir

Sunday, March 19
Practice after 10:30 a.m. worship
at First

Wednesday, March 22
Practice and record after the Lenten
Service at First
for Easter

Help Wanted

Singers & Instrumentalists
to provide
Special Music

We'd like to enhance our worship with special music pieces. If have play an instrument or sing, we'd love to incorporate you into worship. Can't be there in person? With the gift of video we can record you and still be blessed with your musical offering.

Upcoming Worship Team Meetings

March 7, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. @ Immanuel
May 4, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. @ parsonage
June 1, 2023 @ Immanuel
July 6, 2023 – if necessary
August 24, 2023 – 6:30 p.m. @ parsonage

Worship teams are open meetings. Please feel free to join us whenever you are able.

**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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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**March 5 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**
**March 12 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**
**March 19 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**
**March 26 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**

Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

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398 Church Road – Compton, IL 61318
Phone: 815/539-6567

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You can also check us out on Facebook!