

March 2024



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 2024 - Seeds and Soil

The theme for Lent this year will be "Seeds and Soil." Revolving around Jesus' Parable of the Sower, Pastor Jeff will lead us as we look at the gospel of Mark with this parable as our guide.

Each Sunday during Lent, a theme will be introduced using one episode from the gospel of Mark. Then at the Wednesday evening Lenten services, the message will be a Bible study format and Pastor Jeff will expound upon how that theme plays out in the gospel, all the time looking at it through the "lens" of the Parable of the Sower.

The themes for the weeks will be Exorcising our Troubles, Healing our Divisions, Calming the Storms, Feeding our Neighbors, and Perceiving the Good News. We will experience turbulent waters, mercy seeking beggars, walking paralytics, and men who live in the graveyard.

Sunday services will follow the regular schedule while Wednesday evenings will take place at 6:30 p.m. alternating between the HOILP congregations. There will be a light meal prior to the Wednesday services. Elsewhere in the newsletter you can find info on how to help with those meals.

Lent 2024

Wednesdays in Lent

5:30 p.m. - Light Supper 6:30 p.m. - Worship
February 21 – Immanuel
February 28 – First
March 6 – Immanuel
March 13 – First
March 20 – Immanuel

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday, March 28 – Immanuel 7p.m.
Good Friday, March 29 – First 7 p.m.

Easter 2024

Come join us Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We'll follow what has become the traditional Easter Sunday schedule at HOILP:

Sunrise Service

7:30 a.m. @ Immanuel

Immanuel Easter Breakfast

8:30 a.m. @ Immanuel

First Easter Breakfast

9:30 a.m. @ First

Resurrection Service

10:30 a.m. @ First

Final Chance to Order Easter Flowers

Easter Lilies & Tulips

*Help Decorate our
Sanctuaries for Easter*

Lilies & Tulips - \$13 each

*Give them in memory, in gratitude,
or just for the glory of God.*

**Order by March 5th. Sign up at
church or call the office.**

Immanuel Makes Final Endowment Distribution

In 2010, Immanuel Lutheran was presented with \$100,000 from the Blum Estate. It was decided at that time to distribute that money over time rather than use it all at once. In addition, the congregation chose to send the bulk of the money to organizations outside of the congregation. The distribution strategy has been to distribute \$10,000 of the bequest each year, with 25% of the funds being used for capital improvement at Immanuel, 25% utilized by the Immanuel Scholarship Fund, and the remaining 50% distributed to local charities as designated by the council.

“It has been a joy to be part of this,” said Pastor Jeff. “Each year I get to deliver checks to organizations that are truly partners with us in the gospel: organizations that do the very things we are called to do but are unable to do as a rural congregation. On top of that,” he added, “we get to support our young people as they seek to live out their callings in life. And in so doing, we send the spirit of Immanuel with them as they live out their careers in various parts of the state, the country, and even throughout the world.”

This year marked the final distribution of this bequest, as 14 years later all the money has been utilized. This year’s local charities receiving support were Mendota Area Senior Services (MASS), Illinois Valley PADS, and the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry. Other organizations benefiting from these funds in previous years have included Horizon House in Peru, Kreider Services in Dixon, and LSSI/Nachuska Home, Mendota Community Hospital, NICE, Mendota Lutheran Home, LOMC, ADV/SAS domestic violence services.

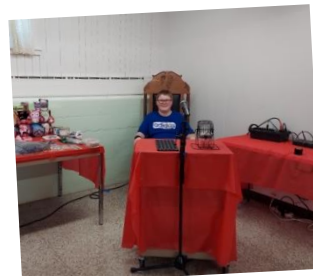
“Jesus tells a parable about a rich farmer who hoarded all his crops to himself, building large barns to store it, but then died before he could use it,” Pastor Jeff commented. “The point was to use the gifts that you are given. I am thrilled to be part of a congregation who does just that.”



Pastor Jeff presents checks from this year’s Blume distribution to (clockwise from top left) Rayanne Sester of MASS, Carol Alcorn of Illinois Valley PADS, and Tracy Williams-Cooper of the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry.

Confirmation Hosts Bingo Blitz

On February 17, the HOILP Confirmation students and families hosted a “Bingo Blitz” at Immanuel. A good time was had by all. Three bins of food and \$325 were raised for the NICE Center. Well done confirmation folk, you showed us a great time and helped our neighbors in need.



Additional News at HOILP

Easter Breakfasts

The Easter breakfast at **Immanuel** will be led by the Youth heading to the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. Details for the breakfast are still being worked out at the time of printing. Keep an eye on weekly announcements for further details.

The Easter breakfast at **First** is at the juncture, details are still being worked out at the time of publication. But plans are being made.

Whichever congregation you plan on worshipping with on Easter Sunday, please plan to stay after (Immanuel) or come early (First) to enjoy some fellowship on this most glorious day. The Easter breakfast has been a long tradition in Lutheran Churches across America.

Holy Baptism – February 25 Tate Edward Olson

Left to right: Nathan Rogers, Braxx Olson, Brock Olson, Pastor Jeff, Tate Olson, Katie Olson, Rilee Rogers



Youth Heading to New Orleans

Two youth from Immanuel – Caleb and Liam Crumpton – will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer. They will be accompanied by Pastor Jeff and Jennifer Crumpton. Stay tuned to future newsletters for more news on their travels.

Creation Care “Corner”

Did you Know...

...that there were 21 species declared extinct last fall by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? Most of them were birds and mussels. These are beloved creatures of God that are no more.

A prayer:

Dear God, we grieve the loss of all your creatures that have suffered extinction. We give thanks for their existence and pray that their loss may move us to love, and nurture, and treat as beloved neighbors, all your precious creatures.

Amen.

“Good Images” - Monthly Categories

January: Furry Friends
February: Winter Scene
March: Earth Scenes*
April: Spring has sprung
May: Mountains and Hills*
June: Flowers

July: Sky*
August: Humans in Nature*
September: Wild Critters
October: Fall Colors
November: Harvest
December: Sunrise/Sunset

*These categories are the 2024 Season of Creation themes. Images will be utilized for SOC power points and videos.



This month’s “It is Good” image submitted by Kevin and Kim Ganz. Shot early morning when it turned bitter cold after the big snowstorm.



Look for a meeting of the Creation Care Corp shortly after Easter. All are welcome.

Worship

Fourth Thursday Filming

The 4th Thursday this month is during Holy Week, so filming will take place at the following times:

- **Singers** – Sunday, March 17th following worship @ First
- **Liturgists & Readers** – 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 21 @ Immanuel

Upcoming months will return to 4th Thursday:

4th Thursday Dates: April 25
May 23



Worship Team

All are welcome to participate on the HOILP Worship Team as it strives to plan meaningful and inspirational worship experiences. Meeting on the 1st Thursday of the month, here is upcoming schedule through 2024:

- March 7, 2024
- April 4, 2024 – *if necessary*
- May 2, 2024
- June 6, 2024
- July 4, 2024 – *do not meet*
- August 1, 2024
- September 5, 2024
- October 3, 2024
- November 7, 2024
- December 5, 2024 – *if necessary*

Soup & Sandwich Supper 5:30 p.m. Wednesday's before Lenten Services

(set up, serve, clean up)

March 6 (Immanuel)

March 13 (First)

March 20 (Immanuel)

Sign up at Immanuel & First if you would like to provide the meal.

Readers at Immanuel & First

Have you ever thought about being a reader for our Sunday worship services?

New readers are always welcome!

Contact Debbie at Immanuel or Kristen at First if you are interested.

Bell Choir

Come be part of the HOILP bell choir as we prepare a piece for Easter worship. We'll be practicing and recording in one session:

March 13, 2024 – Following Lent Worship @ First
Learn, Practice, and Record at the direction of Ron Duval

After Worship Fellowship

Please consider providing simple little treats to enhance the fellowship time following worship. Sign up at Immanuel, and at First, or just bring them!

WELCA

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

Items needed for PADS: All paper products, all cleaning supplies, all personal care items (new, not used), bottled water, sack lunch snack items, drink mixes. Place donations in the PADS totes in the room next to the office. **Thank you!**

During Lent we are collecting 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. Donations go in LWR totes in the room next to the office. **Thank you!**

Quilting continues. Check weekly announcements for dates.

Discipleship & Fellowship

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – Side mixes (pasta, rice, potato), sugar, salt, pepper, seasoning, chunky-style soup, salad dressings, mayo.

Immanuel News

Immanuel's General Treasury for Jan. 2024

	Month	YTD
Receipts for January	\$18,070.22	
Expenses for January	\$21,366.34	
Receipts YTD		\$18,070.22
Expenses YTD		\$21,366.34
 Net/(Loss)	 (\$3,296.12)	 (\$3,296.12)

To meet our budget for 2024 our goal is \$3885.00 a week, we had 4 weekly offerings of \$3317.00 this month.

Let keep up the good works here at Immanuel. Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Harlan G. Eames
Financial Officer

Average Sunday
attendance in
January- 42

Immanuel Council Highlights February 15, 2024

- The ending balance in the General Treasury on January 31 was \$2,666.51.
- The church roof bill has been paid. The total was \$109,350.00.
- The lawsuit against the church resulted in the church being required to pay the plaintiff \$50.00 plus the reimbursement of his court costs, for a total of \$202.00.
- The checks to MASS, Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry and PADS, as approved at the annual meeting, have been delivered.
- Liam and Caleb Crumpton will be attending the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in New Orleans. Jennifer Crumpton and Pastor Jeff will be going with them.

Immanuel's New Roof is Complete!

Donations can still be made by mailing to Immanuel or place in the offering plate.
Thank You to all who donated to the Raise the Roof Campaign!

First News

First Annual Meeting Highlights February 11, 2023

- A revision to the main body of the Congregation's Constitution that moves the definition of a quorum of voting members for congregation meetings from the constitution's main body to the Constitution's Bylaws, passed unanimously.
- A revision to the Constitution's Bylaws that defines a quorum of voting members for congregation meetings as being 2 x the minimum number of congregation council members (defined elsewhere in the Bylaws) plus defining a process for dealing with any congregation meeting where a quorum is not achieved, all passed unanimously.
- Being unable to find a member who would fill one of the new spots on the Congregation Council, the Bylaws were revised to make the Council size a minimum of four members. This Bylaws revision passed unanimously and in doing so made the congregation meeting quorum size into a minimum of 8 voting members.

HOILP on the Internet

Websites & Facebook

- First – www.flcinlee.com
www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee
 Immanuel – www.ilccompton.org
www.facebook.com/ilccompton
 HOILP YouTube - www.youtube.com/@hoilp

Immanuel Church Office Hours

Monday to Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Church office: 815-539-6567

Debbie will is available in the afternoons. If you need anything, call or text: 815-866-6690 or email: immanuelutherancompton@live.com.

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

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

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**March 3 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**
**March 10 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**
**March 17 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**
**March 24 – Immanuel (8:30) (Palm Sunday)
First (10:30)**
**March 31 – Immanuel (7:30) (Easter)
Breakfast at Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)
Breakfast at First (9:30)**

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You can also check us out on Facebook!