



May 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

Outside Joint Worship

Sunday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m.
on the south side of Immanuel

Worship with holy communion will be led by Pastor Joy Alsop, pastor at Faith Lutheran, Rochelle, and our on-call pastor for the sabbatical period.

A meal will also be served. Immanuel's council is cooking out and providing all the food along with table service.

Please bring your lawn chairs!

Night on the Town

Saturday, May 20 – 5:30 p.m.
at the Beaver Den in Paw Paw
Hosted by Sarah Pfeifer

Friday, June 9 – 5:30 p.m.
at the Wild Carrot food truck in
Waterman

Hosted by Steven & Cheryl Simpson

Sign up at Immanuel & First if you are able to join us!

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 worshippers.
- 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.

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

Jeff's Jottings

Scattered across my desk are checklists for the liturgical pieces that make up our worship videos. I've been using these to keep myself organized for over three years now.

I make them by the liturgical season. It is an incredibly rewarding feeling to mark the final box of the season and have the entire checklist completed. I've kept all these checklists - mostly as mementos for what the last three years have been like. I have stacks of them in a pile on my desk at church. I need to get those organized. (Perhaps I should create a checklist to make sure I have all of them?) I never dreamed that after three years I would still be creating these checklists.



And now the leadership of Heart of Illinois Lutheran has correctly identified video ministry as something that we ought to continue. It was indeed 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 has had some benefits we feel we need to continue. 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's even some folks watching simply because they found us on the web.

One of the quandaries in continuing our video ministry, however, is that it is time intensive for your pastor (me). Between the prerecording and editing, a huge part of my week is eaten up. In addition, it has been virtually all my equipment being utilized.

So 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, there are two key resources we need to have in place. First, we need people. Obviously, I can't film while I'm leading worship. Second, we need appropriate equipment that will be able to maintain the quality of production to which we have become accustomed. Let me talk about these things in reverse order.

The task force is recommending that a two camera PTZ system be purchased and utilized. That went over many of your heads, I know. In short, it is two small high-quality cameras that can zoom in and out, turn 270°, can tilt up and down, and are controlled from a computer. The cameras would be mounted in spots where they would practically be unnoticeable. The resulting video would require only a fraction of the editing that I now have to do (I estimate only 5-10% of what I do).

There are many congregations and other organizations that use this type of system and I know it will 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 timely. We can expand to include equipment and filming at First in the future as we see the need.

The hope was we might have this up and running prior to my sabbatical. But the timing and some of the logistical aspects have not allowed that to happen. In order to be off and running when I return, I'll work with the property committee to see what logistical pieces can be put in place and hope to hear from some of you so we can have a video team in place raring to go come August.

And finally – the worship videos for this summer will be encore productions using liturgical pieces and services from our now 3+ year old library of worship videos. (That checklist is on the right above.)

See you in worship on Sunday!

PS

This and That

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- **Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed** – Soup (Cream of Chicken/Mushroom-no tomato), Condiments, Coffee, Pickles/Relish, Spices (any kind), Hamburger/Tuna Helper, Boxed Potatoes, Shake 'n Bake
- 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 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: May – Immanuel's Scholarship Fund. Please use the envelope found in this newsletter.

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

First Council Highlights

April 30, 2023

(Highlights were not available at printing time. Look for them in the June newsletter.)

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 Council Highlights

April 20, 2023

- The ending balance in the General Treasury on March 31 was \$7,663.51.
- Pastor Jeff Schlesinger provided an overview of the project he will be working on during his sabbatical. He will be spending time at several long established shared ministry (multi-point) parishes across the US to create a video and develop an inventory of best practices.
- The council agreed to adopt a continuing resolution on communion practices that Pastor Jeff presented.
- As of April 18, \$60,366.12 has been received for the Raise the Roof campaign.
- Gray was the winner in the vote for the color of the new shingles. The project is estimated to start late summer or early fall, unless they have an opening sooner.

First Council Highlights

March 19, 2023

- Easter Breakfast will consist of coffee and donuts.
- Moving forward, coffee and treats will be provided before Sunday worship, if people are willing to do so on a regular basis.
- The May/June benevolence will go to Lutherdale.

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.*

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*)

2023 WELCA BAKELESS BAKE SALE

The 2023 **WELCA Bakeless Bake Sale** is here. Your donations would be appreciated to help WELCA with their year-end benevolences such as: World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, N.I.C.E., Horizon House, Lutheran Social Services and others.

Please put your check payable to WELCA in the enclosed envelope and return it to church with your regular offering, mail it to Immanuel, or place it in the designated box marked “Bakeless Bake Sale”. Thank you for your consideration.

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. Announcements will be made on Sundays.

Worship Team

Summer Worship

There will be worship services at both congregations throughout the summer.

Pastor Hank Milner will preside over communion services at both congregations on June 11, July 9, and August 13.

Help Wanted

Singers & Instrumentalists
to provide
Special Music

We’d like to enhance our worship with special music pieces. If you 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.

Thank You!

The First Lutheran Council would like to thank everyone who helped clean up the church grounds and cemetery after the violent wind storms a few weeks ago. We appreciate those who brought their own equipment to help with the clean-up.

Thank you to Bryan Edecker for helping clean up the cemetery.

Thank you to Don and Justin Post, and Jim Johnson for helping clean up around the church.

Thank you to Laurie Kryder for helping at both locations.

Celebrate Good Times

We will have a Family Fun Day for the last day of Sunday School on Sunday, May 21 after 8:30 AM worship. All activities will be outside (weather permitting). Please dress casually and comfortably. All are welcome to be participants or spectators.



Relay Races

Sidewalk Art

Bubble Blowing

Water games

Ice Cream treats



Sunday School will resume in the Fall.

*Kim Menzel and Kathy Ross are reviving the **Education Team**. Please contact them if you would like to be a part of the team.*

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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

**May 7 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**

**May 14 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Sunday School (9:30) Immanuel**

**May 21 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Last day of Sunday School Celebration
(9:30) Immanuel**

**May 28 – 10:30 Outside Joint Worship Service
at Immanuel - Fellowship Meal to follow**

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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!