

May/June 2021



The Parish Voice

A NEWSLETTER OF HEART OF ILLINOIS LUTHERAN

First Lutheran Church
240 W. Hardanger Gate
Lee, IL 60530
815.824.2356

Immanuel Lutheran Church
398 Church Road
Compton, IL 61318
815.539.6567

And We're Back - Mostly

Finally, a full fourteen and a half months after suspending in-person worship due to the Coronavirus, Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish will be resuming its regular worship schedule.

Beginning in June, weekly worship will be held at Immanuel at 8:30 a.m. each Sunday and at First at 10:30 a.m. each Sunday.

"It's been so long," said Pastor Jeff, "and we've been very vigilant about making the right decisions for one another's safety. Now with the vaccine – I've even been fully vaccinated – we can still be safe and still gather."

The decision did not turn out to be a difficult one to make as it seems like the natural time to make the transition. The two-word comment of one council member as the worship team and council leadership were discussing it last Monday (May 3rd) pretty much sums up their feelings: "It's time."

The one major concern was maintaining the online worship videos. There are still many, and for very good reasons, who do not yet feel comfortable

returning to large or even small groups just yet. So **continuing our online presence is important and will continue.** Yet producing those videos is time consuming for Pastor Jeff, and for Sarah and Ron. Adding in-person worship would begin to stretch them too far. The compromise is to continue online videos using what PJ calls "devotional services." They will still be well done and produced, include scripture and preaching and music, but will be designed so that pastor and the musicians can be quite efficient with the time they put in them.

HOILP Summer Worship Schedule

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

In-person worship will not quite be back to normal. Masks will be required. Limits on the number of people gathering will remain in place. Things such as singing will happen (or not) according to adherence with CDC recommendations. But we will be able to gather. We will be able to commune together. We will be able to stand around outside before and after worship and share our lives with one another. And as time goes and more and more people are vaccinated, these other restrictions will drop by the wayside as well.

...continued on page 2

Summer Worship at Immanuel: Let's Go Outside

In order to create the safest environment at which the greatest number of people can be present, Immanuel plans on making outdoor worship its practice for the summer. This will also allow for singing.

The first outdoor worship will be on May 23rd at the 9:30 joint service. This will be a great service that includes a baptism and the presentation of a Bible to our third grade member. All are welcome, and because it will be outside, there is no concern regarding the number of people present.

Outdoor worship will then continue during the summer months as HOILP returns to its regular worship schedule.

The outdoor worship will be on the west green

...continued on page 2

Communion, Home Communion, and Pastoral Visits

by Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

It's taken sometime but we've finally, over the last six to eight months, come to a point where communion is available to all of our members on a regular basis. One of the things that has made that possible is the use of fellowship cups. We will be using them for the foreseeable future as they provide a very sanitary means of communing. They are a bit spendy, so if any of you'd like to make a special offering to cover the costs, it'd be much appreciated.

Let me comment on a few other things I've received questions about as well:

...continued on page 2

We're back, continued from page 1...

There is one requirement we will be dropping that many will be happy to see go. ***Beginning in June, we will no longer ask you to call in the week before worship.*** Even though there are still capacity restrictions in place, there's a number of reasons we feel things will be fine without "reservations." One of the reasons is that we haven't really come close to broaching the limit yet – with 37 being the largest number of in-person

worshippers we've had to date. On top of that, between spreading our worshippers between two services, and Immanuel planning to make outdoor worship their summer worship format (see article on page 1), the call-in practice seemed unnecessary. If we find at a later time we need to reinstate it, that will be a positive comment on our worship attendance.

Outdoor Worship, continued from page 1...

space across from the building and will be BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair [blankets are ok also]). We hope to have a rather large tent available for those who wish to set up out of the sun.

Should there be inclement weather, the service will simply be moved across the street indoors. This could result in a capacity issue, but with creative use of the overflow space, Immanuel can effectively expand to 70-75 people while still maintaining safety precautions.

An outdoor worship crew is being formed to attend to set up and takedown for these services. The goal is to have 8-12 people on this crew so that the same people don't have to do the work every week. If you're able to help with this, please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Home Communion, continued from page 1...

Communion Delivery

I'm planning to continue this practice. Just call Debbie during the week and it will be delivered to you. And if you are vaccinated, maybe you can invite the person who is delivering communion to sit and share communion with you? It's not the whole congregation but at least a small part of it.

Pastoral Visits

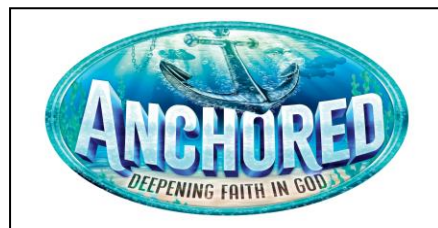
I'm fully vaccinated now. Which means I am able to make home visits. I will be contacting our homebound members to set up visits. But if you would like me to come see you, I'd be happy to. These visits will most often include communion. To be on the cautious side, initially I'll only be doing a single visit each day so as to avoid carrying anything from one location to another.

Vacation Bible Camp

Sunday, June 13 – Wednesday, June 16

6:00-8:30 p.m. Dinner: 5:30 p.m.

We are in desperate need of volunteers for the Openings & Closings and Bible Adventures!! If these spots are not filled by May 17, we will unfortunately have to cancel VBC! Please call Debbie at Immanuel if you are interested (815-539-6567)!



WELCA

WELCA Events have been cancelled for this month. Please watch for updates.

JUSTICE (Mission Action) - Charlene Zimmerman

2021 WELCA BAKELESS BAKE SALE

The 2021 **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, or place it in the designated box marked "Bakeless Bake Sale". Thank you for your consideration.

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

We have nothing scheduled at the present time.

Joys and Concerns

May Birthdays

1 – Kristen Edecker, Katie Kessen
2 – Sharon Kellen, Carson Walzer
3 – Don Rebholz, Emily Lovett
6 – Brian Walzer
7 – Leesa Fitch, Diane Musgrove
8 – Kim Ganz
9 – Chuck Sellers
12 – Trisha Walzer, Nick Bittner
13 – William L. Bittner, Ed Benner
15 – Conrad Fassig
17 – Kevin Swope, James Sensenbrenner
18 – Flo Wasserfort
19 – Beth Post
22 – Alexis Kay Knoblauch
23 – Duane Bettner, Eddie Hardison
24 – Santiago Delgado
25 – Julie Lovett
26 – Eric Musgrove, Shayne Prodzenski
27 – Aaron Sester
29 – Austyn Rebholz
31 – Theodore Wm. Spickerman

June Birthdays

4 – Connie Schlesinger
5 – Rosina Bittner
7 – Dan Walzer, Zach Giberson, Chloe Walzer
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 VanDrew
21 – Dick Bettner, Sandra Heiman,
Devin Post Huffman
22 – Larry Schlesinger, Aiden Znaniecki
23 – Matt Fassig
24 – Kayla McCormick
26 – Greta Bates
28 – Margaret Ross, Connie Williams
29 – Gay Sellers, Mike Davis
30 – Mike Fassig

May Anniversaries

5 – Craig & Connie Ganz
7 – Don & Debbie Rebholz
9 – Don & Gay Sellers
15 – Ron & Melissa Blum
20 – Mike & Theresa Taylor
31 – Paul & Sandra Heiman

June Anniversaries

1 – Marty & Tracy Ganz
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 – Joan Benner, Harold Schlesinger, Arlene Archer,
Gene Williams, Marilyn Ward, Phyllis Larsen

Monthly Requests – Sharon Kellen, Whitley Clayton, Gary
Holle, Ed & Joan Benner

Newly Baptized – Masyn Jaymes Rebholz (4/25)

Affirmed in Baptism - (11/22) Emily Lovett,
Julie Lovett (*Reaffirmation*)

Marriage – Chad Albers & Susan Hager (August 8, 2020)

Mourning Families - Peter Poterek Family (6/12), Cliff
Schlesinger Family (9/16), Ron Rebholz Family (9/20)
Jessica Albert Family (1/23), Cindy Schlesinger Family (1/23),
Nathan Eich Family (1/27), Dennis Weiler Family (2/2), Bud
Archer Family (3/25)

Our Leaders - ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, NIS Bishop
Jeffrey Clements, HOILP Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

Praying for One Another

You may have noticed that we don't name people when we do the prayers on the worship videos. Due to how public our videos are and the fact that many we pray for have sensitive health information we refrain from naming names in this format. But, we continue to lift each other up in our prayers. Please stay attuned to those requesting our prayers by reading the weekly email announcements and checking out the prayer corner in this newsletter. We also have an electronic prayer chain. If you'd like to be part of that, send your email to charlzimm@aol.com

This and That

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – N.I.C.E. is currently accepting donations of ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, and pickles.
- N.I.C.E. does NOT need plastic bags or egg cartons at this time. They appreciate the generous donations that have recently been received of these items and they currently have a good supply.

Congregation Contributions

Thank you for your continued support of the mission of our congregations. Your faithfulness of mailing or using electronic means to submit your offerings is very much appreciated.

Benevolence Offerings

Immanuel's benevolence offering for May is for Immanuel's Scholarship Fund. For June it's for Local Outreach. Please use the envelopes found in the newsletter.

A New Way to Give at HOILP: *Venmo*

For those who desire a means of giving on the spot electronically via smart phones, Heart of Illinois now accepts donations via **Venmo**. We can be found at

First Lutheran @FirstLutheranLeeIL.

It is labeled this way as the money passes through First Lutherans treasury. When making a donation, please note how it is to be designated. Undesignated donations will be divided proportionally within the parish.

Those of you unfamiliar with Venmo need not worry about this. Your regular means of giving - whether it be mail, electronically by other means, or by delivering it in person – will remain in place. This is simply a convenient way for those who desire a cash-free, immediate opportunity to make an offering.

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/channel/UCxhzbzUMEeE1C2SIsP-YI65A

Immanuel Council Highlights

April 13, 2021

- General Treasury ending balance March 31, 2021 is \$9,063.45
- Three baptisms scheduled in April and May
- Earth Day Sunday Worship video April 25 by Lutherans Restoring Creation
- Discussion on beginning Outdoor Services
- Gas leak at church, new line will be installed and a tree will be removed in SW corner
- Discussion on Bible Camp in June; volunteers needed

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.

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: immanuel@lutherancompton.com.

Calendar

May

Tues, May 11

Tea Time- 3 pm

Thursday, May 13

Immanuel Council – 4:30 pm

Sunday, May 16

In-Person Worship-9:30 am
at First/Video

Tues, May 18,

Tea Time-3 pm

Sunday, May 23

In-Person Worship – 9:30 am
at Immanuel/Video

Tues., May 25,

Tea Time-3 pm

Sunday, May 30

In-Person Worship – 9:30 am
at First/Video

June

Tuesday, June 1

Tea Time-3 pm

Sunday, June 6

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, June 8

Tea Time – 3 pm

Sunday, June 13

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, June 15

Tea Time – 3 pm

Sunday, June 20

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, June 22

Tea Time – 3 pm

Sunday, June 27

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, June 29

Tea Time – 3 pm

Friday Morning Bible Study is back and will be held every Friday morning at 9:30 a.m.in the overflow at Immanuel. We will discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Come as you are and bring a friend!

**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish
Immanuel Lutheran Church
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(First Lutheran - 240 W. Hardanger Gate - Lee, IL 60530)

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Return Service Requested

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 a.m. Worship/Video

May 2 – First, Lee

May 9 – Immanuel

May 16 – First, Lee

May 23 – Immanuel (outdoor worship)

May 30 – First, Lee (outdoor worship)

June 6 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

June 13 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

June 20 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

June 27 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

Worship will be outside. If it rains it will be inside. You will not have to sign-up ahead of time.

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www.ilccompton.org

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You can also check us out on Facebook!