



May 2026



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

# The Parish Voice

A Newsletter of Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
398 Church Road  
Compton, IL 61318  
815.539.6567

## Family Vacation Bible Camp Coming to Immanuel

The final weekend of June will be Vacation Bible Camp weekend at Immanuel. Under the name of "Galaxy: Launching Kids on a Mission of God's Love," lift off is scheduled for Friday evening June 26<sup>th</sup>. We return with touch down during worship on Sunday morning June 28<sup>th</sup>. Food, fun, and learning will be part of the entire experience.

This camp is for all ages, so whether three or eighty-three, don't be afraid to launch with us into the marvelous universe of God's love.

A flier is included with this newsletter that includes details on the many ways you can participate. Please don't hesitate to contact the Immanuel office (815.539.6567 – [immanuel.lutheran.compton@live.com](mailto:immanuel.lutheran.compton@live.com)) or mission control leader Kathy Ross (815.866.2751) with any questions.

### Vacation Bible Camp



Friday & Saturday, June 26-27, 2026

5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

*dinner included*

Sunday, June 28, 2026

8:30 a.m.

*goodies and fellowship following worship*

### In-Kind Offering for Synod Assembly

Each year, a special offering of actual supplies is received to support a worthwhile ministry. In the past we've collected items such as school backpacks, canned goods, and cleaning supplies. This year, the Synod Assembly In-Kind Offering is gift cards to support the vital work of **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)**.

LSSI served over 62,000 people last year alone! They provide critical programs for Illinois residents each year, including:

- foster care,
- mental health services,
- alcohol and drug treatment,
- affordable senior housing,
- services for people with developmental disabilities,
- home care for seniors,
- and services that help families who have been impacted by incarceration.

Congregations are invited to participate by donating \$25 gift cards from grocery stores, gas stations, and restaurants which your voting members will bring to the Assembly. Your generosity directly equips this life-changing work.

The following stores have locations in NIS which LSSI staff and clients use most frequently:

**Retail/Grocery:** Walmart, Target, Amazon, Walgreens, CVS, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Aldi, Hy-Vee, Jewel-Osco

**Gas Stations:** Casey's General Store, Shell, Mobil, BP

**Restaurants:** McDonald's, Subway, Burger King, Wendy's, Culver's

Please consider contributing to this in-kind offering. At Immanuel please give the gift cards to Debbie or deposit them in the box in her office. Look in announcements for details on who to take them to at First. Please bring them in by June 7<sup>th</sup>.

# The Resurrection Flower Wall

It's not too late to bring in pictures for our resurrection flower garden. We'll let it bloom right on through May and maybe even well into the summer.

Remember, that just as the flowers come out again every year, arising from the dormant state, we get to continue proclaiming throughout the Easter season and even beyond that...

Christ is risen!

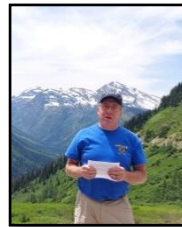
**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**



## Worship

### Reading on the Road 2

Last summer we used videos of people reading the scripture lessons from all over the world. We invited people to let us know when they were going to be traveling near or far, sent them with a scripture lesson or two, and had them use their phone to read the lesson somewhere "on the road."



That was a popular addition to our worship so we will be doing that again this year. But in order to take advantage of the winter trips you all take, we are introducing it much earlier. If you are able to help with this project, just sign up at church or call the Immanuel office.

We already have a set of lessons heading to New Zealand. But you need not be traveling somewhere so far away or as exotic. Reading from somewhere nearby like Starved Rock State Park, Navy Pier in Chicago, or among the rolling hills outside Galena, IL would be just as effective. As PJ says, "'Down the road' counts as 'on the road.' Either way, we are reminded that the word of God goes with us wherever we may be."

### Sunday Fellowship

Please consider providing simple little treats for fellowship time following worship at Immanuel or before worship at First. Sign up today!

### LENT & EASTER NOISY OFFERING

Will Continue through May 17<sup>th</sup>  
Designated to ELCA World Hunger.

### 2026 Worship Team Schedule

- January 8, 2026 ✓
- February 5, 2026 ✓
- March 5, 2026 ✓
- April 9, 2026 – *if needed*
  - May 7, 2026
  - June 4, 2026
- July 2, 2026 – *if necessary*
  - August 6, 2026
  - September 3, 2026
  - October 1, 2026
  - November 5, 2026
- December 3, 2026 - *if necessary*

### May 4<sup>th</sup> Week Filming

Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

10:30 a.m. Readers

6:00 p.m. Singers

(if weather permits, we'll be singing outside)

### Ways to Share HOILP Worship

- Share our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/@hoilp](http://www.youtube.com/@hoilp)
- Ask people to subscribe to YouTube channel
- Share and like the weekly Facebook post to worship
- Forward weekly email about worship to others.  
*And most importantly...*
- Invite people to worship with you on Sunday morning

Don't forget to **Share the Link to the HOILP Video service each week.** The simple click of the share button on FaceBook or posting the link to your other social media is a great way to share the gospel with our friends and neighbors.

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# Immanuel News

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## The Uplift & Outreach Team Reboot

The Uplift & Outreach Team (formerly committee) was approved by the Immanuel Lutheran council at the March meeting. Jill Hoelzer, council sponsor, is seeking new team members who are interested in creating activities dedicated to reaching out to the community and providing uplifting experiences for our congregation members. The team's first Outreach project will be to rebrand the church's website and social media presence in the community, hoping to make it more modern and accessible to our congregation and those outside the church. We will consider how new community members learn about Immanuel Lutheran and how we might better reach out to them. The team will then bring their suggestion to the council before executing change. The team's second project will be to brainstorm and plan a new uplifting activity of their design for our congregation to happen this year.

## Northern Illinois Synod Assembly

### June 12-13, 2026 at Augustana College

We The 130+ congregations of the Northern Illinois Synod (ELCA) gather annually to do the work of the larger Church. Each congregation gets to send at least one female and one male voting member plus their pastor/rostered leader. We are still in need of a male voting member as well as alternates. The deadline to register is May 12. Contact any council member or Pastor Jeff if you are able and interested.

## Immanuel Cemetery

East of the flag pole are bricks from the old school house down the road where the first Church service was and until this Church was built. If anyone is interested in a brick or all of them please take them, otherwise they will probably be disposed of. Thank you. - Cemetery Board

### Council Highlights – April 16, 2026

- The General Treasury ending balance on March 31, 2026 was \$2,539.25. Net loss for the month: **(\$4,373.57)**.
- \$5000.00 was moved from the Amdex account to the General Treasury in March to help pay operating expenses, including the LP bill from January and February.
- In March, the New Building Fund CD was cashed in and \$22,144.59 was deposited in the Amdex account.
- Council approved Kathy Ross's request to host a Weekend Family Vacation Bible Camp with the theme, "Galaxy-Launching Kids on a mission of God's Love." Camp will be June 26-28 here at church. Registration will begin May 1st.
- LYO received \$459.83 in free-will donations at the Easter Breakfast that will be used towards registrations for the youth wishing to attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN in the summer 2027. Future fund-raisers will continue throughout the year to help them attend the Gathering.

### Immanuel General Treasury – March 2026

	Month	YTD
Receipts for March	\$14,653.13	
Expenses for March	\$19,026.70	
Receipts YTD		\$44,105.96
Expenses YTD		\$58,957.17
Net/(Loss)	<b>(\$4,373.57)</b>	<b>(\$14,851.21)</b>

*Weekly need for budget: \$4611.00*

*March average weekly offering: \$2666.00*

Let's keep up the good work! Thank you for your continued support.

*Respectfully submitted – Harlan G. Eames*

### Church Office Hours

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

email: [immanuelutherancompton@live.com](mailto:immanuelutherancompton@live.com)

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# First News

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### Council Highlights - May 3, 2026

- Lee Community Worship Service will be held on July 5 at the Fire Barn. Council continues to work through the details for this event.
- The parsonage tenant signed another one-year contract.
- Council approved the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner for the church.
- Benevolence for July/August will go to LSSI.

Please remember that the **BENEVOLENCE BOX** is located at the back of the church sanctuary. Check the display next to the box to see which organization, family, or individual is the current recipient. Donations are collected over a two-month period and then given to the designated recipient. A new recipient is then chosen for the next two-month period. Ask any council member if you have questions and thank you for your support and generosity!

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# Discipleship

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## WELCA

### From the President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

- **LWR Personal Care Kits:** light-medium weight dark color bath towels, 4-5 oz. size bar of bath soap. Place items in LWR tote in room next to the office. **Thank you!**
- **2026 Bakeless Bake Sale!** Please make your check payable to WELCA and place it in the enclosed envelope & return it to church with your offering, mail it to Immanuel, or place it in the designated box marked "Bakeless Bake Sale". Your donations will help World Hunger, LWR, N.I.C.E., Horizon House, LSSI, etc. Thanks you!
- Quilting continues. Check weekly announcements for dates.

## N.I.C.E. Center Update

Food/Miscellaneous Items: Dried pasta, canned mushrooms, coffee (regular or instant), condiments (mayo, mustard, ketchup, etc.)

Don't forget – even though it is not our month to serve as congregations, you can volunteer at N.I.C.E. anytime. Just show up any **Saturday from 8 a.m. – 11a.m.** and they'll put you to work.

**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church  
398 Church Rd. – Compton, IL 61318**

(First Lutheran – 240 Hardanger Gate – Lee, IL 60530)

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Compton, Illinois  
Permit No. 1

**Return Service Requested**

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**May 3 – Immanuel (8:30)  
First (10:30)**  
**May 10 – Immanuel (8:30)  
First (10:30)**  
**May 17 – Immanuel (8:30)  
First (10:30)**  
**May 24 – Immanuel (8:30)  
First (10:30)**  
**May 31 – Immanuel (8:30)  
First (10:30)**

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(Cell) 815/878-4503  
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You can also check us out on Facebook!