



November 2025



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

HOILP Restructuring

Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish (HOILP) was voted into existence on June 11, 2017 by First Lutheran and then on June 25, 2017 by Immanuel Lutheran. Since that time, the two congregations have walked together faithfully, praying with and for each other, cooperating and occasionally joining together on worship, sharing in various mission projects, and developing new ministries such as our video worship. Formally it has been nearly 8 ½ years as HOILP, but if you add the time prior to June of 2017 when we were sharing Pastor Jeff and dreaming, discussing, then creating HOILP, we have been journeying together for over 10 years. It is safe to say, together we have made one another better.

In 2024, First Lutheran came to the conclusion that they could no longer stay viable with their dwindling resources. The gift of HOILP has indeed helped sustain the congregation and keep our Lutheran voices active in the midst of Lee. But the expenses of a 100+ year old building in addition to their share of the HOILP expenses was draining the First Lutheran tills faster than they could be refilled. The First Lutheran council shared their concerns with Immanuel's council and over the last 16 or so months, the two councils have discerned and discussed and imagined and formulated various ways to move forward that would keep First Lutheran a viable worshipping community while not creating a financial drain on Immanuel's resources.

The plan that emerged is somewhat of a restructuring of First's relationship with the Parish. The recommendation is that beginning in 2026, First Lutheran will cease to be a full member HOILP. Immanuel will be responsible for the call to Pastor Jeff and will spend 2026 both seeking other ministry partners to join HOILP and considering the best uses of their resources going forward.

First Lutheran, however, would not be left to fend for themselves. They would become a "preaching and pastoral care point" of the parish. What that means is that Pastor Jeff would essentially serve as their permanent supply preacher and on-call pastor, continuing to lead worship and preach at First, as well as being available for hospital visits, funerals, weddings, and other pastoral duties. This would provide consistency in their worship life and relieves First of suddenly being overburdened with the many ministry tasks that currently are performed by Pastor Jeff should they be completely dissociated from HOILP. First, in turn, would provide monthly compensation to Immanuel for the pastoral services. What First would be sacrificing is pastoral presence at council and committee meetings as well as pastoral involvement and leadership in ministry activities outside of worship or in the community.

There will be a special congregational meeting at each congregation to provide more details, discuss, and approve this new structure going forward. Please make a point of attending your congregation's meeting.

Congregation Meetings

to discuss HOILP 2026

First Lutheran

November 9, 2025

following worship

Immanuel Lutheran

December 7, 2025

following worship

November Happenings at Heart of Illinois Lutheran

November 2, 2025

All Saints Sunday

see page 3

November 2, 2025

NIS World Hunger Fundraising
Celebration

see page 4

November 23, 2025

HOILP Joint Worship

see page 3

November 23, 2025

Thanksgiving Community
Service

see page 3

November 30, 2025

Hanging of the Greens

see page 3

Five Young-Adults Confirmed at Immanuel

On October 26, 2025 the following five young people became confirmed members of Immanuel Lutheran as they affirmed their baptism during worship.



Brianna Connie Betz

Baptized – November 6, 2011



Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

Jacob Boyd Nelson

Baptized – January 30, 2010



1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Kendall Delaney Znaniecki

Baptized – November 2, 2010



Jeremiah 29:11

“For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”

Addyson Aynn Rebholz

Baptized – October 31, 2010



Proverbs 31:26

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Natalie Jayne Rebholz

Baptized – February 12, 2012



Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Worship

All Saints Sunday

November 2, 2025

November 1st is All Saints Day, so on the first Sunday of November each year, we celebrate All Saints Sunday. At worship there will be a special time of remembrance for the HOILP saints who have died in the last year and you will be invited to light a candle in memory of loved ones who have gone before you. Next month's newsletter will have a page dedicated to remembering our HOILP saints.

Worship Team

November 6, 2025

6:30 p.m. at Immanuel

All are welcome!

Hanging of the Greens

Help prepare our sanctuaries for the Advent and Christmas season by joining in the "Hanging of the Greens." Trees will be erected and decorated, wreaths, garland and other decorations will be spread throughout the congregations, nativity sets will be put up. And in keeping with all good Lutheran events – there will be food to follow.



First Lutheran

November 30, 2025 – following worship

We will gather at Shabbona Café afterwards

Immanuel Lutheran

November 30, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.

Soup/Chili Supper will take place upon completion

4th Thursday Filming

December 4, 2025 @ Immanuel

Readers – 6 p.m. Singers – 7:15 p.m.

All are welcome to come for one or both as we prepare for this important ministry.

HOILP Joint Worship Christ the King Sunday

November 23, 2025 – 10:30 a.m.

First Lutheran Church

Fellowship Meal to Follow

The recent tradition at HOILP has been to share worship at Immanuel Lutheran on Pentecost Sunday, and at First Lutheran on Christ the King Sunday. This year we will be gathering at First on November 23rd for our annual Christ the King Sunday. Come hungry as there will be a fellowship meal after worship.

HOILP Thanksgiving worship will be a community service with the congregations in the Lee area:



Discipleship & Fellowship



Leaf Peeping 2025

The skies were blue for a while in the morning, but the wind picked up and began to howl as the gray clouds rolled in. The weather was not perfect, but the ride was enjoyable, the lunch was delicious, and most importantly, the company was fantastic.

Leaf peeping 2025 took us through the backroads of Lee, Bureau, Henry, and a bit of Whiteside counties. The pinnacle of the trip was the round barn and drive around the lake at Johnson Sauk Trail State Park.

Where will PJ take us on next year's outing? Keep an eye out for the 2026 trip.



N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items: Canned Pumpkin, Canned Yams, Canned Pie Mixes, Cranberry Sauce, Baking Soda, Baking Powder, Vanilla Extract, Cocoa Powder, Canned Vegetables, Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mixes, Bar Soap, Toothbrushes, Dental Floss.

Sunday Fellowship

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

Northern Illinois Synod ELCA World Hunger Giving Campaign and Celebration



Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish joined with the other 138 congregations of the Northern Illinois synod in a special fundraiser for the ELCA World Hunger Fund. There was a special \$100,000 match of what was raised in the synod. You are invited to join the rest of the synod to celebrate the results of this project...

Sunday, November 2, 2005

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church, Rochelle

Includes Worship & Dinner

All are Welcome

Around the Parish

Immanuel

Council Highlights – October 16, 2025

- The General Treasury ending balance on September 30, 2025 was \$4,603.08. There was a net loss of (\$1,270.35) in September.
- \$5,000.00 was borrowed from the Capital Improvement Fund in September to cover operating expenses.
- The total raised for ELCA World Hunger between the Noisy Offering, the Council matching the Noisy Offering and Benevolence offering envelopes was \$1,365.20
- Kim Menzel took care of the batteries in the defibrillator. (Thank you, Kim!)
- A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7, to discuss the future of the Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish.

Immanuel General Treasury – September 2025

	Month	YTD
Receipts for Sept.	\$15,715.03	
Expenses for Sept.	\$16,985.38	
Receipts YTD		\$141,591.91
Expenses YTD		\$175,423.09
Net/(Loss)	(\$1,270.35)	(\$33,831.18)

Weekly need for budget: \$3991.00

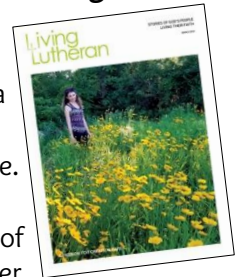
September average weekly offering: \$2098.00

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

Respectfully submitted – Harlan G. Eames

Living Lutheran – The ELCA News Magazine

Many of you may have received a copy of Living Lutheran in the mail recently, and then shortly thereafter, a notice that your subscription is about to run out. Confused? You're not alone.



Here's why this has occurred. The Living Lutheran is the news magazine of the ELCA. Essentially it is the newsletter of our national body. A few years ago, they discontinued the print version of the Living Lutheran and only made it available electronically. As it turns out, that was not a good decision.

Now, they have restarted the print edition and sent the initial copy out to every address that had previously subscribed to it. If you don't remember having subscribed, it was probably because the congregation did for you using special bulk prices for congregations. This first issue is free, but subsequent issues should you desire a print version, require a subscription.

Electronic version of all the content is still available and you can sign up for free to have that emailed to you. The print version is \$19.95 per year. All that said, Pastor Jeff recommends that everyone sign up for one of the versions. "It is the best way to stay in tuned to what your Church is doing in the world," he said.

WELCA

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

- **Thankofferings** will be collected during November. We have many things to be thankful for. These offerings are given to support the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Please use the Thankoffering envelope in this newsletter and return it to church.
- Quilting continues. Check weekly announcements for dates.

WELCA Quilt Auction



Tickets: \$5 Each or 3 for \$10

Drawing on November 30th

Immanuel's 2026 Weekly Offering Envelopes, calendars, and church directory are now available for you to pick up!

Church Office Hours

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

email: immanuelutherancompton@live.com

November Benevolence Offerings

Immanuel – Northern Illinois Synod
First – Lee Fire Department

HOILP on the Internet

First

www.flcinlee.com

www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee

Immanuel

www.ilccompton.org

www.facebook.com/ilccompton

HOILP YouTube

www.youtube.com/@hoilp

Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

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

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

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**November 2 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**
**November 9 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**
**November 16 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**
November 23 – Joint Service at First (10:30)
**November 30 – Immanuel (8:30)
First (10:30)**

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You can also check us out on Facebook!