

October/November 2020



# The Parish Voice

**First Lutheran Church**  
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**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
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Compton, IL 61318  
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A Newsletter of Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish

## Worship, Drive Up Communion, and Other News

There was hope that come October, in-person worship would resume. But then region 1 in Illinois had a spike in Covid 19 cases and the entire area was put in mitigation, resulting in the entire area being subject to mitigation protocol. Because of this, the worship team and the councils decided that it is best not to resume in-person worship.

But Pastor Jeff has worked out a plan so that the sacrament of Holy Communion can be offered on a regular basis. "It has been too long since we have communed regularly," he said. "It is time to figure out something that we can do going forth, since it still could be quite some time before we can come together again."

HOILP did make a previous attempt to resume communion when it resumed worshipping in the sanctuaries in July and August. But it was only offered once before it was necessary to suspend in-person worship again.

Pastor Jeff's response is to instigate "drive-up" communion. "It's not drive through communion," he insisted. "We're not picking up a happy meal from McDonalds. We're receiving the most sacred meal...receiving the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ."

So on the Sundays designated as communion Sundays (2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays at Immanuel and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at First), you simply drive up to the appropriate church and park where the ushers direct you. On each quarter hour from the safety of their cars, everyone gathered will join in the communion liturgy, broadcast to an unused FM station. "Each group of cars will be like one table of people gathered at the communion rail," PJ said.



Pastor Jeff wants to keep communion like communion. That is, he wants it to be (1) open to the whole congregation, (2) be part of a gathering of the community, and (3) be a commonly shared meal. Though it is quite different than normal, he thinks that drive up communion keeps the integrity of these aspects of the sacrament. "It is even more so if people follow our suggestion to watch the worship video right before or after coming to drive up communion," he said.

The full details of drive up communion can be seen on a short video on the Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish YouTube channel, or simply typing the following address into your computer web browser:

[youtu.be/OwN5hqiGnNI](https://youtu.be/OwN5hqiGnNI).

The worship team is hard at work planning for Advent and Christmas and you can see some of the initial details in the next pages of this newsletter. They have no choice but to plan as if we won't be together in person for these times as the trends of the pandemic seem to be continuing to go in the wrong direction.

"I am pleased with the quality worship videos that we have been providing for the congregation," Pastor Jeff said, "and we will continue to do so as long as the health and safety of one another dictates that we not gather in large assemblies. But I am increasingly concerned that we are out of touch with one another. The chance to visit and greet one another is so essential to building community. So over the next few months I will be working on ways that we can be together – whether on the computer, via phones, or whatever."

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## Worship

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### Thanksgiving Prayer Service



We traditionally gather at Immanuel on the Eve of Thanksgiving. That won't be possible this year, so you're invited to gather on Facebook at 7:00 instead. There will be a watch party of a Thanksgiving prayer service. You'll be able to greet one another in the comments section and offer responses to the service in the same manner. This will also be a preview of how our Advent services will go (see below).

### Advent

A new church year is just around the corner as the season of Advent begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving - November 29<sup>th</sup>.

The worship team is planning a couple things so that we can connect with each other and celebrate this season in an appropriate way.

First, as you begin to decorate your house for the holiday season, you are invited to snap a picture of a nativity set (indoor or outdoor) and/or your Advent wreath. We will then incorporate these pictures into our Advent worship videos. Simply email or text the picture to PJ at [photo.pastor1965@gmail.com](mailto:photo.pastor1965@gmail.com) or 815.878.4503.

The second plan they are making is to offer a midweek worship opportunity. On Wednesday evenings there will be a video shown via a Facebook watch party of the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy. This beloved service is a perfect way to unwind and come before God as the day draws to a close.

The service, which will be unique each week, will probably only be 20 minutes long. It will be prerecorded and posted on YouTube like our Sunday services. But it won't go public until 7:00 on Wednesday evenings when it is viewed on Facebook. If you sign into the watch party on Facebook, you will be able to interact with other parishioners via the comments area. After it has been shown on Facebook, it will be available via YouTube for anyone to watch at their convenience.



### Christmas

It's only October, but the worship team is already making plans for Christmas. They haven't completely figured out what Christmas service will look like yet and are open to ideas. Feel free to share your thoughts with Sarah Goetz, Ron Duval, Deb Poterek, Jill Ross, Connie Avery, Christa Edwards or Pastor Jeff. They'd love to hear your ideas.

There is much uncertainty around what Christmas will be like and whether we'll be able to do anything inside our buildings. But one thing we do know is that we will be putting together a video presence online as we have done for the last seven+ months.

The one thing the worship team knows they want is to offer a means for people to share Christmas greetings with one another. So when you put up your Christmas tree, you're invited to stand in front of it with your family and offer a video greeting to HOILP. Then just send that video to PJ and we will use those throughout our Christmas video.

Don't usually put a Christmas tree up? Just do a greeting in front of or by some other Christmas decoration. Don't really do much decorating for the holiday? Find a public tree somewhere and film the greeting there. The important thing is that we reach out to one another with a Christmas blessing.

We may not be able to gather in our sanctuaries for Christmas service, but we can still greet one another. So please, begin thinking now how you want to offer Christmas greetings to your brothers and sisters in Christ at Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish.



#### *Special services coming up...*

- October 25<sup>th</sup> – Reformation Sunday
- November 1<sup>st</sup> – All Saints Sunday
- November 8<sup>th</sup> – Drive Up Communion at Immanuel
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Confirmation & Drive Up Communion at First

# WORSHIP

## HOILP Readers for November & December

	<i>First Lesson</i>	<i>Psalm</i>	<i>Second Lesson</i>
<b>November 1, 2020</b>	Christa Edwards	Fran Sellers & Carol Kern	Trysta Foster
<b>November 8, 2020</b>	Sandra Heiman	John & Jill Hoelzer	Sue Montgomery
<b>November 15, 2020</b>	Aiden Znaniiecki	Bethany Simpson & Brooke Heiman	Emily Lovett
<b>November 22, 2020</b>	Mike Davis	Becky Jarmen & Deb Poterek	Rita Thompson
<b>November 29, 2020</b>	Marie Barnickel	Brittany Menzel & Luke Ross	Olin Simpson
<b>December 6, 2020</b>	Ashley Clayton	Karla & Harlan Eames	Melissa Blum
<b>December 13, 2020</b>	Jill Ross	Theresa & Sam Schlesinger	Larry Aska
<b>December 20, 2020</b>	Kristen Edecker	Kathy & Emily Ross	Sarah Pfeifer
<b>December 27, 2020</b>	-	-	-

## Parish Hymn Sing

You're invited to join in the Parish Hymn Sing for the October 25<sup>th</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup> worship services. We're not able to sing when we gather together, but no one can stop us from singing when we're alone and combing our voices on the computer to sound like we're together!

- October 25<sup>th</sup> Songs: "A Mighty Fortress" (ELW 504) and "Borning Cry" (ELW 732)
- November 29<sup>th</sup> Songs: "Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn" (ELW 242) and "Joy to the World" (ELW 267)

If it is easier for you to have PJ record you, just pop him a text or email.

The more voices the merrier!



## COMMUNICATION

Much of our communication during these times is electronically (emails and texts as well as via social media). Please make sure your email and cell number are current by contacting Debbie (Immanuel) or Kristen (First) to update them.

### HOILP on the Internet

#### Websites & Facebook

- First – [www.flcinlee.com](http://www.flcinlee.com)  
[www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee](https://www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee)
- Immanuel – [www.ilccompton.org](http://www.ilccompton.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ilccompton](https://www.facebook.com/ilccompton)



[www.youtube.com/channel/UChxbzUMEE1C2SIsP-YI65A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChxbzUMEE1C2SIsP-YI65A)

## OFFERINGS

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.

The 2021 offering envelopes are available. They can be picked up at Immanuel during the week and at First the day of the November drive-up communion.

*Scan codes below to give electronically:*



First  
Lutheran



Immanuel  
Lutheran

# CHURCH BUSINESS

## Immanuel Council Highlights

### **September 17, 2020**

- General Treasury ending balance August 31, 2020 is \$7,886.52
- Suspension of in person worship services will review monthly
- Church painting completed, some repairs still pending
- Allocation of Endowment Fund to PADS, MASS, Horizon House and Kreider
- Names drawn for farm rental- Paul Heiman, Brandon Heiman

### **October 15, 2020**

- General Treasury ending balance September 30, 2020 is \$10,057.25
- Suspension of in-person worship services, will review monthly
- Church painting completed, some repairs still pending
- A \$200 donation was made to Compton Fire

## Joint Council Meetings

### *September 17, 2020*

- Jill Ross was welcomed as a guest to present the worship team's recommendation to continue suspension of in-person worship. A main concern being the potential to fall into a pattern of resuming and suspending over and over.
- After much discussion, worship team's recommendation was adopted.
- Will meet on October 15 to review again.

### *October 15, 2020*

- Affirmed worship team's recommendation to continue suspension of in-person worship due to mitigation taking place in region 1.
- Received pastor's report which included information about drive-up communion, plans for Advent services, and ideas for Christmas season.

## Immanuel Church Office Hours

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

*Debbie will be working from home in the afternoons. If you need anything, call or text: 815-866-6690 or email: [immanuellutherancompton@live.com](mailto:immanuellutherancompton@live.com).*

## ***A Friendly Reminder***

Every year there are two things a member of Immanuel is required to do in order to remain an active, voting member:

*"Receive Holy Communion "of record" at least once. Make at least 1 financial contribution "of record" to the work of this congregation."*

If you have not met these responsibilities as a member for 2020, please do so by December 27, 2020.

## **Tuesday Tea Time – 3:00 p.m.**

via **computer or smartphone** use this link:  
- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82956300588>.  
via **phone**: dial **(312) 626-6799** then when prompted enter meeting ID: **829 5630 0588**

## **Serving Our Neighbors**

### **HOILP Bountiful Garden Team**



Thank you to all parish members who committed produce and goods to the bountiful garden program this year. Produce was taken to the Mendota Food Pantry

& the DeKalb Salvation Army. We look forward to a new growing season next year.

Happy Gardening; Faithful Giving

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

We continue to serve our needy each Saturday morning. We are well staffed and the parking lot distribution is very efficient.

Saturday mornings from 8:00-11:00 a.m. at N.I.C.E. would be a safe, social distancing, opportunity to drop-off our collected donations. Or, please notify Kristen Edecker or Debbie Rebholz if you have donations to be picked up and we will get our N.I.C.E. Board on it or leave them in the room next to the office at Immanuel.

# WELCA

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

## **JUSTICE (Mission Action)** - Charlene Zimmerman

We have completed our LWR quilts & kits for 2020. The tally is: 151 school kits, 56 health kits, and 52 quilts for LWR. We also did 2 quilts for LYO seniors and 6 quilts for display in church. St. John's in Ashton has generously picked up our boxes and will deliver them along with their own to the ingathering in Rockford. Thrivent Action Grants tremendously helped us acquire the items for the school and health kits. **Thank You** all for sewing the school bags and quilts and for your other donations. Considering the circumstances of this year we have done really well.

## **WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer**

We will not have our quarterly meeting at the beginning of this month, maybe later. If not, the officers will decide where to send our donations. The N.I.C.E. Center is now accepting fall or winter items. Clients are allowed inside to select clothing, etc. If weather is nice, items will be outside for anyone to select from. Continue to pray for our front line workers and firefighters out west. I miss seeing all of you in church, maybe we will be able to have services later this fall. Continue to watch our church service video. We are blessed to have such a tech savvy minister (and family). Stay healthy.

**THANKOFFERINGS** at Immanuel will be collected during November. In this strange year there are still many things to be thankful for. These offerings are given to support the ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together with thousands of congregations these offerings are used to help mobilize women throughout the world to boldly act on their faith. Please use the blue Thankoffering envelope in this newsletter and return it to church.

### **October Birthdays**

- 1 – Mark Ross, Kim Menzel, Julie Iversen
- 2 – Jeremy Rosenkrans, Erin Wade
- 3 – Amelia Pinter, Wyatt Pinter
- 5 – Brett Eames, Mike Taylor
- 6 – Ryan Gibertini
- 7 – Brooke Iversen, Brad Iversen, Shane Ganz
- 8 – Chelsi Flanagan
- 11 – Deb Poterek, Emerson Isabelle Post
- 12 – Rachel McCormick, Pete Sensenbrenner
- 13 – Diane Englehart
- 14 – Kim Schlesinger, Ashley Clayton, Allison Delgado
- 15 – Emily Ross
- 16 – John Hoelzer, Brian Barnickel
- 17 – Megan Corn
- 18 – Matt Ganz, Dolores Schmidt, Laen Neal, Tim Kromm, Ken Benner
- 19 – Marilyn Eich, Tanya Milus
- 20 – Beck E Koroscik
- 23 – Tera Frazer, David Kern
- 24 – Camden Milus
- 27 – Dillon Bodmer
- 29 – Emily Erickson-Betz

### **November Birthdays**

- 1 – Peter Taylor, Tom Thompson
- 2 – Becky Sarver, Justin Askins, Randy Dolister, Gail Zimmerman
- 3 – Jeff Eich
- 4 – Debbie Rebholz
- 5 – David Bittner, Brad Betz, Sam Schlesinger
- 7 – Lillian Joyce Corn
- 8 – Kevin Ganz, Erik Fagerman, Sam Knoblauch
- 9 – Jerry McCormick
- 10 – Sarah Goetz, Steve Kromm
- 11 – Connie Avery, Charlene Zimmerman, Suzanne Delhotal
- 14 – Randy Shaddick
- 15 – Mark Swope
- 18 – Ted Muncy, Harper Ganz
- 20 – Kathy Ross, Janell Happ, Cyndie Prodzenski
- 22 – Diane Reppin, David Kromm
- 23 – Danielle Krenz
- 24 – Chris Sarver, Domenic Richey
- 25 – Kris Neal
- 26 – Haylee Ganz, Alicia Nelson

### **October Anniversaries**

- 2 – Norm & Joyce Fassig
- 4 – Sonny & Karen Sterchi
- 15 – Chris & Jennifer Crumpton
- 20 – Mike & Toni Fassig
- 24 – Matt & Traci Jones
- 30 – Pete & Deb Sensenbrenner

### **November Anniversaries**

- 2 – Dave & Nancy Walzer
- 14 – Chuck & Linda Sellers
- 24 – Mike & Diane Reppin
- 30 – Dwight & Margaret Frick

### **Prayer Corner**

**Homebound** – Joan Benner, Harold Schlesinger, Arlene Archer, Nathan Eich, Gene Williams, Marilyn Ward, Phyllis Larsen

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

**Affirmed in Baptism** - (November 24, 2019) Cyndie Prodzenski, Caytlin Prodzenski, Shayne Prodzenski

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

**Mourning Families** - Lucy Nicholson Family (10/14), Paul Albers Family (11/26), Paul Betz Family (12/11), Peter Poterek Family (6/12), Cliff Schlesinger Family (9/16), Ron Rebholz Family (9/20)

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

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

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**Return Service Requested**

**NOVEMBER WORSHIP  
SCHEDULE**

November 1<sup>st</sup> – video only

November 8<sup>th</sup> – video only

*Drive Up communion (Immanuel)*

November 15<sup>th</sup> – video only

November 22<sup>nd</sup> – video only

*Drive Up communion (First)*

November 29<sup>th</sup> – video only

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Pastor Jeff Schlesinger

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E-mail: [photo.pastor1965@gmail.com](mailto:photo.pastor1965@gmail.com)

You can also check us out on Facebook!