



October 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

## Season of Creation Continues

“Season of Creation” continues into October at Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish. There are two exciting Sundays left, you don’t want to miss them.

### Season of Creation

- September 10 – Season Overview ✓
- September 17 – Forest Sunday ✓
- September 24 – Land & Prairie Sunday ✓
- October 1 – Wilderness Sunday
- October 8 – River & Stream Sunday

### Photo Offering

It’s not too late to get photos in for the final two weeks of Season of Creation. Send in your Wilderness and your River & Stream photos to be used as part of our worship powerpoints and videos. The best way to send them is via email – please send them directly to PJ. For alternate means of getting them to him, contact PJ directly.

## Enjoy a Great Friday 13<sup>th</sup>!

### Leaf Peeping & Mississippi River Museum

Join us on Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> for a marvelous field trip. We will wander through the backroads of northern Illinois seeking Autumn colors on our way to Dubuque, Iowa. Once in Dubuque, we will spend a few hours exploring the National Mississippi River Museum. On the return trip, we will stop in beautiful Galena, IL for a late lunch/early supper before heading back home. Sign up at church or call the church office to be part of this excursion.

#### Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. – Depart from Immanuel
- 10:00 ish a.m. – Stop for midmorning snack compliments of PJ
- 11:30 a.m. – Arrive at museum
- 3:00 p.m. – Lunch in Galena
- 6:30 p.m. – Return to Immanuel

#### Cost:

- \$20-\$25 for transportation (depending on # of participants)
- Cost of museum ticket and meal

## Night on the Town

Saturday, October 14, 2023  
5:30 p.m.

LaFiesta Restaurant, Sublette

Host – Theresa Schlesinger

Sign up at Immanuel & First if you can join us!

## Can you host a NOTT?

Responsibilities: Choose a Friday or Saturday, location, sign-up sheet, make reservations

Open Months – November & December

Interested? Contact Theresa Schlesinger:  
[tk Schlesinger@comcast.net](mailto:tk Schlesinger@comcast.net) or 815.878.8372

## Fourth Thursday Filming

On the fourth Thursday of each month, we will be recording the readings and music for worship videos in the upcoming month. All are welcome to participate. Songs are intended to be a “mini congregation” to encourage people to sing along when watching at home. You need not be a regular reader at in-person worship if you are willing to read to a camera. Please come and join us as we continue this important ministry that has helped meet the needs of our current members as well as reach out to others.

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday Dates: October 26  
November 30  
December 28

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## Jeff's Jottings

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As I've prepared for the first two theme Sundays of Season of Creation, I have been amazed how essential and life giving both our forests/trees and our land/soil are. It's not that I did not know they were important before this, but that understanding was reinforced and deepened considerably.

Every time you eat an apple or orange, a peach or pear or plum, thank a tree for its fruitful bounty. Every time you sit at a table or go inside a house, thank a tree for giving its life. Every time you take a breath of fresh air, thank a tree for cleaning that air and making it suitable for your lungs. It is not an exaggeration to say that without trees on this planet, there would not be life – at least not most animal life.



Which brings us to the land. Speaking of life producing! It is out of the land that the trees and all plants, for that matter, are given life and grow. Just like it is fair to say there would be no life without trees, we can say the same thing of the soil. But animals don't emerge from the soil you may argue. That is true, but ultimately, everything we use for nourishment somehow goes back to the life that emerges from the soil. For even when we eat meat, we are consuming something that relied on plant life for its nutrients.

And as I made the point last Sunday in my message, the land doesn't only give life, but it also receives life. For all living things – plants or animals - ultimately decompose and decay and are returned to the soil, making it rich and able to produce life in the future. Our soil is the penultimate recycler!

And of course there is this symbiotic relationship between the trees and land (each is dependent on and strengthened by the other). As we anticipate the changing colors of Autumn, we should remember that we are watching this relationship play out before our very eyes. For as the leaves fall from the trees, they are literally feeding the soil. Over the winter and early spring, those leaves will dry and decay and quickly become part of the soil. That soil, in turn, will become nutrient rich and feed those very trees from which the leaves fell. Trees depend on good soil to remain healthy, while soil depends on trees to remain healthy.



If Season of Creation gives you nothing else but a deep sense of appreciation for the God who built in incredible intricacies and interconnectedness throughout this world, then it is a worthwhile liturgical season. But I would hope this would also give you cause to ponder humanity's part in Creation as well. Humans, too, are interconnected with Creation.

Interestingly, however, whereas there are many natural symbiotic relations within Creation, I'm not sure that is the case for humanity. Humanity is incredibly dependent on many parts of Creation, namely things like trees and soil (as well as air and water and a whole lot of other things). But I have a tough time coming up with something in Creation that is dependent on humanity. There are many parts of Creation that have been drastically altered by humanity's actions, but are there any nonhuman animals or plants or other aspects of Creation that depend on us for their health and growth?



If I am right about this, the question of how we as humanity should relate to Creation is a pertinent one. If we are dependent upon Creation for so much, which really can't be in question, then we should make sure we are not guilty of "biting the hand that feeds us." The implications of that idiom may be able to inform us in our actions. For "biting the hand that feeds you" is a metaphor referring to a dog that bites its master. We feed dogs with the expectation that they respond with love and affection for us, and maybe protection as well. So if Creation provides so much for us and we are dependent on it, how ought we respond? Well, with love and affection is a start. Doing our best to protect it would follow.

Each week we proclaim, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth." If that truly is the foundation of our faith, then it should not be surprising to hear that God calls us to care for and protect Creation. And the Church, and our denomination, as well as our congregations, should be leading the world in loving, nurturing, and protecting Creation.

So, as we proclaim in worship during this season, "Go in peace. Care for Creation. **Thanks be to God.**"

See you in worship on Sunday!

PS

## Discipleship & Worship

### Backpack Blessing, Pancake Breakfast & Sunday School on September 10



### Fellowship Time returns!

Treats for fellowship time at Immanuel (after 8:30 worship) and First (before 10:30 worship) have started. Sign up if you would like to provide treats, juice/coffee.

### Sunshine Meals

Our Heart of Illinois Parish will again be putting together pans of lasagna as part of God's Work, Our Hands. We will be assembling the lasagna on Sunday, October 22 at 5:00 p.m. in the Immanuel kitchen.

The meals will again be put in the freezer to be given to members of our congregations and communities who are sick, getting home from the hospital or just need a "perk me up".

People who received lasagna, salad and bread throughout the last year were very happy and appreciative to be recipients of this meal.

Please join us in this outreach project to put a ray of sunshine in someone's life.

### Online Bible Study

You may have noted that our schedule no longer includes Friday morning Bible Study. Do to dwindling and no attendance, it has been discontinued.

Pastor Jeff is exploring formats to use online video for Bible Study that will give more of the parish access to the study. Look for a soft introduction of that during September or early October with a more formal beginning of that in October or November.

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# WELCA

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

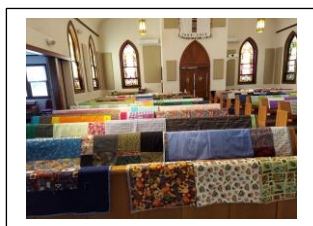
The Illinois Valley Pads in Peru is now open for the season.

Their most frequently needed items are: bottled water, sack lunch snack items, drink mixes, ALL paper products, cleaning products, gas cards. A complete Needs List is in the overflow hallway. Please put these items in the totes in the room next to the office. Thank you!

We will continue to have quilting days. Announcements will be made on Sundays.

NIS-WELCA Convention, Saturday, October 7 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2000 Luther Drive, Peru. "Be the Body of Hope". Registration Fee: \$40.00. Coffee & Registration: 8:00 a.m. Registration forms are on the table in the overflow with more details.

## **Harvest/Quilt Sunday – September 24**



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

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – Dressings (all kinds), BBQ sauce, strawberry jelly, chicken noodle soup, ketchup, mayo.

Thank you for your continued support for the N.I.C.E. Center.

## **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: [immanuelutherancompton@live.com](mailto:immanuelutherancompton@live.com).*

## **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)  
HOILP YouTube - [www.youtube.com/@hoilp](http://www.youtube.com/@hoilp)

## **Benevolence Offering**

**Immanuel:** October – World Hunger. Please use the envelope found in this newsletter.

**First:** October – Maui Relief. Please use the benevolence box at church or designate it on the memo line of your check.



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## Immanuel News

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### Immanuel's General Treasury for August 2023

	Month	YTD
Receipts for Aug.	\$10,623.81	
Expenses for Aug.	\$19,417.60	
Receipts YTD		\$117,779.30
Expenses YTD		\$153,492.70
<b>Net/(Loss)</b>	<b>(\$8,793.79)</b>	<b>(\$35,713.40)</b>

To meet our budget for 2023 our goal is \$3965.00 a week, we had 4 weekly offerings of \$1888.00 this month.

Let keep up the good works here at Immanuel.  
Thank you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Harlan G. Eames  
Financial Officer

Avg. Sunday  
attendance in  
August - 32

### **Immanuel's "Raise the Roof"**

*Pledge forms and envelopes can be found on  
the table in the overflow.*

*Donations can still be made by mailing to  
Immanuel or place in the offering plate.*

***Thank You!!***

### **Immanuel Council Highlights**

**September 21, 2023**

- General Treasury ending balance August 31, 2023 was (\$13.81)
- Sterling Commercial Roofing will start the new roof on or before October 17, 2023. It should take around two weeks to complete.
- Keith Zoeller, the farm manager, attended the Council Meeting. He stated that he sent out 22 notifications to participate in the farm lottery. Ten names were in the drawing. Brandon Heiman was drawn and Nick Ganz was the alternate.
- Confirmation classes have started. Parents are taking turns every Sunday morning with classes and Pastor Jeff will have a Wednesday evening class once a month.
- Rally Sunday was held on September 10<sup>th</sup> with a Blessing of Backpacks Service, pancake breakfast, and a God's Work Our Hands project.

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## First News

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### **First Council Highlights**

**September 17, 2023**

- Council approved a special checking account for handling rent income & repair cost items for leasing the parsonage.
- Church Mutual approved a funding shortage for replacing the church steeple cross & sent additional funding for that work.
- Landowner permission was received to remove the rusted church sign from along U.S. Highway 30.
- A Congregational Meeting was discussed to reduce the quorum requirements for such meetings & to get approval for studying and setting up a non-profit charitable organization that would provide long-term funding of church properties such as the cemetery. The Council will meet after a future worship to approve the date of such meeting.

**Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
398 Church Rd. - Compton, IL 61318**

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

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

**Return Service Requested**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**October 1 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**

**October 8 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**

**October 15 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**

**October 22 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**

**October 29 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)**

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You can also check us out on Facebook!