



### Enjoying God’s Creation: *Leaf Peeping*

Pastor’s final “play date” of the year is a wonderful follow-up for the season of creation. Join him for a day of “leaf peeping” on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Don’t worry – there is no hiking needed to enjoy this trip.

The day will begin bright and early (7:30 a.m.) with a meandering trip through the rolling hills and roads of Lee and Ogle counties, including a few stops at pull-offs and at a lovely little bakery for a morning snack.

We will then make our way to Mississippi Palisades State Park just north of Savannah

for the gorgeous views of the great river.

After a stop in Savannah for lunch, we’ll head south along the Mississippi, stopping whenever



we come upon a worthwhile vista. When we reach Port Byron, we will turn back east and journey along the Rock River with potential drives/stops through Prophetstown State Park and Lawrence Park in Rock Falls.

The plans are to return to Immanuel at 4:00 p.m. The schedule will remain

flexible throughout the day so that we all have a chance to relax and take in the fall beauty.

Bring cameras and be ready to take a lot of pictures. If it all works out, we’ll put together a slide show to share on a Sunday morning and include a shot or two in next month’s newsletter.

The plan is to travel in one van so all of us can share the experience together. Please sign up by October 7<sup>th</sup> so Pastor Jeff can arrange a rental if necessary. Otherwise he will be driving his van.



### **Rethinking Sunday School 2**

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Rethinking Sunday Process:*

**Wednesday, October 2, 2019**

**7:00 pm**

**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

The task force met, sought input and is now ready to make recommendations as to how we might put a new face to faith formation as we move forward. Please come and join us.

### ***Name that Newsletter***

*Please get your creative juices flowing and come up with a suggestion for the name of this newsletter. This is the final month that we will ask for suggestions.*

*Next month you will find the finalists for the name here, as well as an explanation as to how you can vote for your favorite.*

*Don’t wait. Get your name ideas in now for the HOILP Newsletter.*

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## Jeff's Jottings

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Last week, I was at the annual Professional Leaders Conference that the synod puts on for pastors, worship leaders and other professionals in the church. It is a time for refreshment and renewal. Each year, there is a key note speaker who provides an educational component; a music leader who both highlights music from our tradition and introduces us to new songs; and there are fellowship opportunities over meals and afternoon activities. It is an event that most of the leaders of the synod look forward to each year.



Our keynote speaker this year was a seminary classmate of mine. It makes me feel a bit “seasoned” to realize that my immediate peers are now the ones offering expert advice to pastors. It doesn’t surprise me, however, that the Rev. Dr. Shauna Hannan has become a sought-after speaker. Even in seminary, we recognized her gifts as a deep thinker, a great communicator and a dynamic preacher. Now a professor of homiletics (that’s a fancy way of saying a preaching professor), the ELCA is fortunate to have her mentoring and guiding our future pastors.

A fellow pastor, who holds a Doctorate of Ministry in preaching himself, commented to me that she did not really share anything new with us. While he may be correct, the way she presented it and put it together renewed and inspired many of us (myself included) to rethink and reform our preaching. “We can never talk about and work on our preaching enough,” I told my colleague, to which he wholeheartedly agreed.

One of my greatest take-aways from Dr. Hannan’s presentations was a reminder of how I have always understood preaching – that a sermon is conversational, not a lecture. In other words, a sermon is not a scholastic activity in which the Bible text is deciphered and explained. That is a lecture. Rather, a sermon is designed to help people encounter God through the words of these ancient texts that we call scripture. There may be some deciphering and explaining that has to take place in order to foster experiencing God through the text, but understanding is not the goal. Hearing the good news, growing in faith, being moved to further discussion and action – those are the goals of preaching.

Dr. Hannan argued convincingly, that the work of preaching is actually a ministry of the whole congregation, not just the pastor. She didn’t mean that every person should be prepared to take a turn in the pulpit, but emphasized that the sermon “process” should include our lay people, both before and after the actual preaching of the sermon. She introduced us to a number of exercises that we can use to do just that. I’m inclined to use many of those suggestions.

Now I know that when you do continuing education, you must begin utilizing the new ideas you learned within the first two weeks or they often go by the wayside for good. I actually started using one of her suggestions the very next Sunday. You may or may not have noticed that for the last two weeks, there has not been a sermon title on the screen. That’s because Dr. Hannan suggested that we don’t do sermon titles anymore. Why? In order to engage people in the sermon activity, a good exercise is to ask other people to give a title to your sermon. By doing so, people wrestle and struggle with the Biblical text and words of the preacher, and the preacher can receive a great deal of feedback about what people are hearing. So, from this point forward, I will not name my sermons. Instead, I invite you to do so. Beginning in October, there will be slips of paper in the pews. One side of the paper will invite you to offer a name for the sermon. Simply fill it out and place it in the offering plate, or if you wish, hand it to me on your way out.

Another suggestion Dr. Hannan made is to have adults respond to the sermon in the same way that you expect of your confirmation students. I have invited all of you to feel free to fill out a worship report, but no one has taken me up on it. I do want the conversation of the sermon to carry on after I say “Amen” at the end of the sermon. So, on the opposite side of this paper will be another question which invites you to be part of the conversation.

I have other ideas about how to initiate Dr. Hanna’s suggestions that I hope to begin as the calendar turns over. But for now, please join me in the faith conversation we call a sermon. Let’s make preaching the same as all of the other ministries of our parish – a ministry of the whole congregation.

See you in worship on Sunday!

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## Bible Gems

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In 2018, during Bible Blitz month at Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish, individuals were asked to share favorite Bible verses, stories or characters during a short temple talk in worship. These were called "Bible Gems." This column continues that exercise by inviting individuals to share their Biblical favorites in writing. We would love to have you share them during worship also.

"I am not alone, because the Father is with me." ~ John 16:32 by Sarah Pfeifer

Several months before my sister died, I had a dream. My sister was telling me good-bye. I told her that I was not ready for her to leave, but she replied that she was ready to go. I told her I did not want her to be alone and she told me she wasn't. Now my sister lives alone, so you know where this is going. The next day, I was anxious until I could talk to my sister and be sure she had not left us during the night. I didn't think much more about this dream until early December when she did pass away. I remembered that she told me she was not alone, so I know that Jesus was there to take her home. Whenever I miss my sister, which is often, I think of this verse and I feel a little less depressed that she is gone. It will be 8 years this December that Jesus took her home. I miss her every day, but I am comforted by this verse.



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## COUNCIL

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### Immanuel Council Meeting Highlights September 12, 2019

- General Treasury ending balance August 31, 2019 was \$3,965
- **A CONCERN:** \$5,000 was moved from the Amdex savings account to the General Treasury in August for a total of \$13,000 transferred since January, leaving only \$13,389 in the Amdex savings account.
- Contribution to Compton Fire Department
- Congregation Vitality Survey will be in early October
- Drew name for 2020 farm lease from among 8 applicants
- CPR/AED training & first aid class to begin in February
- Joint service at Immanuel, Sunday, November 24 at 10:30 a.m. Old fashioned potluck to follow.
- The next Council meeting will be on October 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

### Parish Team Meeting Highlights September 11, 2019

- Final recommendations for updates to the Parish Covenant were completed and will be given to the HOILP joint councils for the November meeting.
- Get HOILP known in our communities - do 3 parades in 2020 (Lee/Shabbona (July), Mendota (Aug.), Paw Paw (Sept.))
- Joint Worship at 10:30 a.m., Nov. 24 at Immanuel with potluck meal to follow.
- Mission sub-groups reported on their work.
- Next Parish Team meeting will be on Nov. 6, 2019 at First in Lee at 6:00 p.m.
- Sarah Pfeifer will do devotions.

### First Council Meeting Highlights September 15, 2019

- Constitution - a Congregational meeting is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 3, 2019, to present and discuss the change of minimum number of Council members from nine to five
- Property & Management - the Council agreed to hire a firm to identify the location of underground piping near the church
- Church Front Door - installation is scheduled for October
- Storm Windows - this project is complete
- Water Heater - rather than repair the existing water heater, a new water heater was purchased and installed in the kitchen
- Next Council Meeting - next meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, Nov. 17

Keep up with what's happening in the ELCA by subscribing to our Synod online newsletters:

**Walking Together:** A weekly newsletter delivered to email about upcoming events

**Making Christ Known:** A monthly e-newsletter with articles about what has happened, as well as announcements about upcoming events

Subscribe by going to <https://nisynod.org> and clicking on "publications"

## Serving Our Neighbors

### “Hey HOILP - Plan‘t’ a Bountiful Garden”

Eleven bags of food were provided for families of Paw Paw students through our September bountiful garden collection. Thanks to all who brought fresh and canned produce. Look for information on next year’s Bountiful Garden in March, 2020.



#### **N.I.C.E. Center could use some helping hands:**

Every month, our truck deliveries are the first Friday at 8:15 a.m. and the third Tuesday, at or about 11:30 a.m.

**Please check your calendars to come help and ask your church volunteers to come help** as often as possible.

First Fridays: 10/4, 11/1 and 12/6

Third Tuesdays: 10/15, 11/19, 12/17

**NURTURE KITCHEN** at First in Lee, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month from 8:00-11:00 a.m. Come join us as we provide a pancake breakfast for our neighbors who gather at N.I.C.E. center. Help us make and serve pancakes, roll silverware, etc. Cooking begins at 8:00 a.m.



#### **Immanuel’s Ark**

Need a lift to church? Your normal ride unavailable? Then, float on in with IMMANUEL’s ARK. Text/Call John Hoelzer at 815.440.3358 by 8 p.m. the day before the church service. If a driver is secured, you will receive a text/call from John. He’ll tell you who your driver will be and when you will be picked up. Don’t let the lack of transportation keep you from worshipping with your church family.

**Two by Two they came to church.**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### **Prayer Corner**

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

**Monthly Requests** – Gary Holle, Margaret Schlesinger, Ron Rebholz, David Schlesinger, Lucy Nicholson

**Newly Baptized** – Lauretta Grace Collins (11/25), Karina Noelle Ganz (2/10), Harper Elizabeth Ganz (2/10), Whitley Grace Clayton (4/14)

**Affirmed in Baptism** - (October 28, 2019) – Kody Hoadley, Olivia Ross, Rachel McCormick, Bethany Simpson, Aiden Znaniecki

**Mourning Families** - John Didlinger Family (10/23), Courtney Edwards Family (11/10), Donald Schmidt Family (12/24), Eunice Rogers Family (1/5), Marlin Hoelzer Family (3/13), Schaller Family (Greta Bates Mother- 3/2019), Sarah Fassig Family (6/22), Christy Lilja Family (8/3), Marilyn Goetz Family (8/5), Keith Eich Family (8/31), Jean Albert Family (9/9), Dorothy Burkart Family (9/13), Donna Albers Family (9/22)

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

### **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 – Ashley Clayton, Kim Schlesinger, 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

### **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

Our apologies for inadvertently missing birthdays of Deanne Phelps (9/15) and Drew Winterton (9/27) in the last newsletter.

**Happy belated birthday!**

# LYO

## COLLEGE BOUND

If your son or daughter is going off to college this fall, please contact Debbie in the church office with their mailing address so we can keep in touch with them.

LYO breakfast meeting, Sunday, October 13 after 8:30 worship. Halloween excursion towards end of month. TBD

## Upcoming Pancake Breakfasts at Immanuel

Sunday, October 20, November 17, December 22 at 9:30 a.m. after worship. Please join us for food, friends, and fellowship! All donations will go towards the LYO.



## This and That

### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Readers Sunday, October 27 at Immanuel Parsonage

We will be reading "House Rules" by Jodi Picoult and comparing it to the Jacob cycle in Genesis 25-36. Sign up if you would like to join us. Please let us know if you would like a copy of the book.

*Night on the Town*  
October 12 - 6:00 p.m.

### That Place on Palmyra

628 Palmyra Rd., Dixon  
Sign up at either church or call/text  
Theresa Schlesinger  
815.878.8372

### Upcoming Night on the Town Events

- **November 9** – St. Mary's Soup Supper – West Brooklyn
- **December 14** – Elwood Steak & Fish House – DeKalb

### Friday Morning Bible Study

What better way to start your day than digging into the upcoming Sunday scripture lessons? Coffee and conversation begin at 9 a.m. Study commences around 9:30 a.m. Come join us!

## Some Immanuel Announcements

### October 6<sup>th</sup> is Survey Sunday!

- Please make it a point to be in worship on this Sunday to participate in the Vitality Survey (*see last month's newsletter for details*).
- This survey will gauge the vitality of Immanuel's ministry and will help set future paths.
- Pastor Jeff is bribing us with a short worship service and food so that we show up (*see last month's newsletter for details*).
- Should you need to be absent on that Sunday, you can come into the office between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday, to participate (*but no guarantee that any food will remain from Sunday*).

### 2020 COMMITTEE YEARBOOK & WELCA BIBLE STUDY

Sign-up sheets are on the table in the overflow. Please sign up where you would like to volunteer your help.

We are updating our **yearly directory**. If you have an address change/correction or a new phone number (or got rid of your landline), please contact the church office.

### Immanuel's October Benevolence Offering: World Hunger

The benevolence offering this month is for ELCA World Hunger. Please use the enclosed envelope.

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# WELCA

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## OCTOBER EVENTS:

**Bible Study: NO HARD FEELINGS?** By Anna Madsen. We will explore selections of Old Testament poetry from Job, Psalms and Lamentations. We will look for God in times of deep emotions, such as joy, anger, celebration, depression, misunderstanding and contentment, finding hope and grace along the way.

**October Bible Study: "The ache of grief"**

Theme Verses: Lamentations 2:10-22, 5:19-22, Psalm 77, Psalm 25:12-22, Psalm 126

**Tuesday, October 1 at 1:30 p.m. – WELCA Quarterly Meeting** (Hostess: Christa Edwards)

**Wednesday, October 2 at 1:30 p.m. – WELCA Bible Study** (Leader: Christa Edwards;

Hostess: Margaret Ross)

**Tuesday, October 15 at 12:30 p.m. – Sewing & Tying Quilts** - Anyone who can come to help for an hour or two would be welcomed. We can ALWAYS use extra hands. We meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month and have lots of fun. NO EXPERIENCE is necessary.

## JUSTICE (MISSION ACTION) - Charlene Zimmerman

What does the Lord require of you but to do **justice**, love kindness and walk humbly with your God?

**Micah 6:8**

The Illinois Valley PADS (Peru & Ottawa) is open for nine months, beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>. During the past nine months, ending May 31<sup>st</sup>, PADS served 338 individuals, including 70 children. This included **35,490 meals**, along with countless hours of case management. Clients work directly with a case manager to identify individual needs and develop a specific plan toward self-sufficiency. PADS staff teaches a variety of classes, including job seeking, basic computers, money management and life and parenting skills.

**The most needed items right now are paper plates, cups, bowls, paper towels, toilet tissue, dryer sheets, laundry soap and pump hand soap. Food items needed now are individual lunch items, like chicken and tuna packets and individual snack packets.**

There is always a need for volunteers in Peru for evening and overnight shifts, weekdays and weekends, in two to four-hour shifts. If you are interested, go online at [www.ivpads.com](http://www.ivpads.com).

## WELCA PRESIDENT'S DESK - Sarah Pfeifer

Wasn't the church more beautiful than normal on Sept. 22? All of the quilts that were completed this year, as well as produce from our gardens, were on display. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way. The quilts will be delivered to Rockford on Oct. 5 or 6. We have two events during the first week of October: Quarterly meeting on Tues., Oct. 1 at 1:30 p.m. and Bible Study on Wed., Oct. 2 at 1:30 p.m. Later on Tues., Oct. 15 is our monthly sewing day where we will start making more quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Fran Sellers and I attended the NIS WELCA Convention on Sat., Sept. 21 at Trinity Lutheran in Moline. Ask either of us about our day "out west". The Northern Highlights, our synod newsletter, is available via email. Let me know if you wish to receive this. I have been forwarding it to many of you whose email addresses I already have.

**Save the date:**

Joint Worship with First Lutheran of Lee will take place on Nov. 24 at Immanuel. The service will be at 10:30, with a potluck meal afterward. See you in church!

### Harvest/Quilt Sunday September 22



# Heart of Illinois Lutheran Parish October 2019

Immanuel Lutheran, Compton  
 E-mail: immanuelutherancompton@live.com  
 Ph. 815/539-6567 Website: www.ilccompton.org (NEW)  
**Benevolence (I): World Hunger**

Pastor Jeff Schlesinger Ph. 815/878-4503  
 E-mail: photo.pastor1965@gmail.com

First Lutheran, Lee  
 Ph. 815/824-2356

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 1:30 WELCA Quarterly Meeting (I) 6:30 Worship Team	<b>2</b> 1:30 WELCA Bible Study (I) 7:00 Rethinking Sunday School 2	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:00 Bible Study (I)	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 Worship (I) 10:30 Worship (F)	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30 CHURCH COUNCIL (I)	<b>11</b> 9:00 Bible Study (I)	<b>12</b> 8:00 Nurture Kitchen @ First, Lee 6:00 NOTT meets at That Place on Palmyra, Dixon
<b>13</b> 8:30 Worship (I) 9:30 LYO breakfast mtg. 10:30 Worship (F)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 12:30 Sewing & Tying Quilts (I)  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Pastor Jeff's final Play Date	<b>18</b> 9:00 Bible Study (I)	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 8:30 Worship (I) Pancake Breakfast (I) 10:30 Worship (F)	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 9:00 Bible Study (I)	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Reformation Sunday 8:30 Worship (I) Rite of Confirmation 10:30 Worship (F) 6:00 4th Sunday Readers @ Immanuel's parsonage	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Halloween	November 1 9:00 Bible Study (I)	November 2

# HOILP Lay Worship Volunteers – October 2019

	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETER(S)</u>	<u>ACOLYTE(S)</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMM ASSISTANT</u>	<u>ALTAR</u>	<u>TREATS</u>	
<b>OCT. 6</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>Need 2 people</b>	N/A	TBD	Randy Schlesinger	Rosina Bittner & Stanley Hoelzer	Connie Ganz & Karla Eames	Rosina Bittner
	<i>First</i>	Dave	Deb	N/A	Theresa	Becky, Kristen	Becky	N/A
<b>OCT. 13</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>Need 2 people</b>	N/A	TBD	Fran Sellers	Rhonda & Rachel McCormick	Connie Ganz & Karla Eames	Margaret Ross
	<i>First</i>	Dave	Janell	N/A	Kristen	Sue, Kristen	Becky	N/A
<b>OCT. 20</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>Need 2 people</b>	N/A	TBD	Jill Ross	Harlan & Karla Eames	Connie Ganz & Karla Eames	Christa E. & Cyndie P.
	<i>First</i>	Dave	Tom & Rita	N/A	Larry	Becky, Kristen	Becky	N/A
<b>OCT. 27</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>Need 2 people</b>	N/A	TBD	Sarah Pfeifer	Minor & Connie Avery	Connie Ganz & Karla Eames	Pancake Breakfast
	<i>First</i>	Dave	Sue	N/A	Julie	Becky, Sue	Becky	N/A
	<i>Immanuel</i>							
	<i>First</i>							

# HOILP Lay Worship Volunteers – November 2019

	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETER(S)</u>	<u>ACOLYTE(S)</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMM ASSISTANT</u>	<u>ALTAR</u>	<u>TREATS</u>	
<b>NOV. 3</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	Holly Phalen <b>Need 1 person</b>	N/A	TBD	Christa Edwards	Carol Kern & Fran Sellers	Rhonda M. & Carol Kern	Mary Ellen Schroeder
	<i>First</i>	Mike	Deb	N/A	Theresa	Kristen, Sue	Sue	N/A
<b>NOV. 10</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	Holly Phalen <b>Need 1 person</b>	N/A	TBD	Theresa Schlesinger	Rosina Bittner & Christa Edwards	Rhonda M. & Carol Kern	LuAnn Kromm
	<i>First</i>	Mike	Dave & Janell	N/A	Sue	Becky, Kristen	Sue	N/A
<b>NOV. 17</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>Need 2 people</b>	N/A	TBD	Jill Hoelzer	Rhonda & Rachel McCormick	Rhonda M. & Carol Kern	Rosina Bittner
	<i>First</i>	Mike	Rita	N/A	Rita	Janell, Becky	Sue	N/A
<b>NOV. 24</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	<b>Need 2 people</b>	N/A	TBD	Karla Eames	Harlan & Karla Eames	Connie Ganz & Karla Eames	<b>Potluck Meal</b>
	<b>Joint Service</b>	<b>10:30</b>						
<b>NOV. 27</b>	<i>Immanuel</i>	Holly Phalen Christa Edwards		TBD	John Hoelzer	Christa Edwards & Stanley Hoelzer	Connie Ganz & Karla Eames	N/A
	<i>(Thanks. Eve)</i>	<b>7:00</b>						