

September 2021



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 Begins this Month

HOILP's annual celebration of "Season of Creation" begins on September 5th and will continue through the 1st Sunday of October. During this time we take a break from the regular lectionary (the cycle of scripture readings that dictate the themes of our service) and utilize a short set of readings that focus on God the Creator and the wonders of Creation itself.

We begin this year with a service of lessons, carols and reflections – a service that Pastor Jeff has formed that introduces all four themes of the season. The season continues with the four themed Sundays of this year. Here is the schedule:

- September 5th – Lessons, Carols, and Reflections
- September 12th – Planet Earth Sunday
- September 19th – Humanity Sunday
- September 26th – Sky Sunday
- October 3rd – Mountain and Hill Sunday

Pastor Jeff says we may add an additional Sunday on the tenth.

All are reminded that this is the time to scour through your pictures on your phone and cameras in order to share them with PJ. Part of our online videos and our in-person power points include

images of the themes for each day. So send your photos to PJ either by email or text so he can utilize the places you've been. *(One note – for Humanity Sunday please submit photos of humans interacting with Creation.)*

Don't Forget!



Send in those photos for the powerpoints and online videos

In addition, the worship team is trying to add a new aspect to each week of the season this year and you're invited to participate in them. Here's what they have planned:

Planet Earth Sunday

Do you have a globe at home? Could you loan it to us for a month or so? Beginning 9/12/21 we'd like make the overflow at Immanuel and the narthex

at First into a "globe gallery." Contact Jill Ross (815.866.6889 or rossranch92@gmail.com) if you can loan us a globe for a month or so.

Humanity Sunday

On this day we celebrate our part in creation as human beings. You are asked to bring in a picture (4x6 or smaller please) of you and/or your family to include on a special collage we'll be creating during worship. Aren't comfortable coming to in-person worship yet? Just send it to the office at Immanuel and we'll make sure it gets included in the collage. For questions about this activity contact Sarah Goetz (815.343.7810 or ivory88sq@hotmail.com).

Sky Sunday

This is story Sunday at HOILP. We are going to be utilizing illustrated stories during worship and possibly creating some story videos to share online. Connie Avery will be our master story teller for worship.

Mountain and Hill Sunday

This activity is not set in stone yet so look for details in Sunday morning announcements. But the vision of the worship team is to host a paint party the week prior to October 3rd in which an artist leads us through painting a mountain scene. We would then display those paintings on Sunday for the enjoyment of the whole congregation.

Confirmation to Begin Again

The pandemic resulted in a year without confirmation. PJ is excited to get it started up again. There will be an organizing meeting for parents and confirmands on Thursday, September 16th at 7:30 p.m. at Immanuel.

Young people in grades 6-8 are invited to participate in confirmation. Parents and students should receive an invitation to the meeting next week. If you don't receive one, please contact the Immanuel office.

Jeff's Jottings (or it may be ramblings)

I have a whole variety of things on my mind this month that I want to share with all of you, so this column may seem a bit varied. I'll try to categorize things to keep at least some semblance of organization.

Church Life

As we move into September and I look back at what has happened here at HOILP, I'm amazed at the many different things we have gone through. From fully online worship to hybrid services to outdoor services to returning to full in-person services (first with masks, then a couple weeks without masks, and now back with masks again). Wow! We've gone through a lot of transitions. Thank you so much for your flexibility during this time.

I have to say, too, that I'm pretty proud to be part of this parish and what we have done. The participation on your part at every step of this wild and crazy pandemic journey has both kept cohesiveness among ourselves and assured the gospel is being proclaimed well. For when we weren't able to be next to each other in the pews, we could see one another (or at least hear each other) through our online videos. And because so many of you read, and sang, and prayed, on our videos, there was an incredible sincerity and integrity to the message we put out each week.

Perhaps the perfect example of your flexibility and commitment to our mission was our online Easter service this year. If you haven't seen it or you're not remembering it, go onto YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yUW-S4yUEDc&t=276s>) and watch it again. The amount of people who participated in that service and the quality of worship is exemplary of what you all have done throughout this pandemic. Which actually leads me into the next category...



Kim in front of the Mayflower

Personal Life

After Easter this year, I was more exhausted than at any point in my ministry – actually more exhausted than any point in my life. Not only was it incredibly time consuming to coordinate all the moving parts of filming, recording, and editing, I put an incredible amount of pressure on myself to make sure everything was as top notch as possible. For I grieved the fact that we for the second straight year we could not be in our sanctuaries for worship so I expected, as your pastor, to make sure you had the best possible online experience possible. I was bushed.

Which is why it has been incredibly cathartic to be able to take some vacation since that time (especially considering I was only able to manage to take 9 of 36 vacation days last year). My time away this year, which the attached pictures illustrate, has included:

- A trip to Boston, MA to see Kim with a stop at the “waterfall mecca” – Ricketts Glen State Park in central PA.
- An extended weekend to enjoy Alex's graduation from Luther College and help him move into his first apartment.
- A trip to Oregon to join Sam hiking the Pacific Crest Trail (I did 60 miles of it, he did all 2650 miles from Mexico to Canada) followed by a quick trip to the U.P. to see Theresa's family.
- A long weekend Lutherock Bible Camp in North Carolina to take part in the wedding of my Godson Oliver to Thor, the love of his life. On the way home I hiked four miles of the Appalachian Trail so that I can say I hiked both the PCT and AT this summer.



One of the 22 water falls at Ricketts Glen



Proud parents of our 3rd College Grad

Corner me over a cup of coffee or some iced tea sometime and I'll gladly share stories about any or all of these trips.

I'd be remiss if I didn't share the most recent news in our personal life. We've had a loss of employment looming over us this year as Theresa's position at the hospital in Princeton is eventually being eliminated due to the merger with OSF. The good news is that she just began a new job (yesterday in fact) at Rochelle Hospital.

The World

Just a few months ago I was hopeful that this fall things would be pretty much normal and we would be fully back together in worship and some normalcy again. We were not only transitioning back to normal at church, but as a family we were going out to eat more, going without masks in stores, etc. But then the Delta variant raised its ugly head. Along with vaccine resistance and mask rebellion, things have now taken a turn in the wrong direction.

The Church has always embraced medicine and public health care as God's work in the world and has partnered with them in seeking health and wholeness in society. I'm as weary of wearing a mask as anyone. But reality says we have to remain persistent in the things we can do to continue to deter the spread of this virus. The two things we can do as individuals are wear masks and get vaccinated. As your



Sam and I on the Pacific Crest Trail

continued on page 4...

WELCA

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

JUSTICE (Mission Action) – Charlene Zimmerman

The Illinois Valley PADS in Peru is open as of August 15 for their 30th year. From 8/15/2020 to 7/31/2021 they served 32,956 meals, clients stayed in a bed 10,895 times, 116 new jobs were obtained, 41 children were served and 38 new homes were found. As you can see PADS is a great service to the community.

At this time their greatest needs are: bottled water, drink mixes, individually packaged snacks, cookies, granola bars, cleaning supplies, all paper products, and gift cards. Please put these items in the totes in the room next to the office.

WELCA President's Desk – Sarah Pfeifer

Christa Edwards will be our delegate to the NIS Convention on Sept. 18. Contact Sarah Pfeifer if you would like to "attend" on-line for details. September is our month to work at N.I.C.E. People can help in the food distribution part or back in the clothes sorting area. On Sunday, August 1 after worship we assembled 101 school back packs for LWR. Thank you to all who helped!

Joys and Concerns

September Birthdays

- 1 – Tucker Olson
- 2 – Bob Kromm
- 3 – Eli Milus
- 4 – Kelli Pomeroy, Lauretta Collins
Matt Jones
- 6 – Rita Lilja, Sarah Pfeifer, Justin Albers
Beth Wohlrabe
- 9 – Danika Mulcahy
- 10 – Hannah Crumpton, Tylar Foster,
Mason Hoadley, Dwight Bettner
- 12 – Brynn Honeycutt, Kendall Znaniecki,
Sophia Martinez, Carson Honeycutt
- 13 – Lisa Rosenkrans, William L. Poterek,
Kevin C. Poterek
- 15 – Ellwyn Parks, Deanne Phelps
- 16 – Daryl Rosenkrans, Donna Hodge
- 17 – Cash Joseph Spickerman
- 18 – Bethany Simpson
- 19 – Carol Kern, Laura Larabee, Kendyll Rebholz
- 20 – Jackson Herbert
- 22 – Linda Sellers
- 24 – Kerri Fanning, Colleen Zinke, Alex Dolister Fox
- 27 – Adam Betz, Greg Delhotal, Drew Winterton
- 29 – Jennifer Hoelzer
- 30 – Addyson Rebholz, Aubree Jones, Pastor Jeff,
Whitley Clayton, Steven Simpson

September Anniversaries

- 3 – Nick & Briana Ganz
- 10 – Gale & Christina
Barnickel
- 11 – Ed & Jamie Giberson
- 14 – Jim & Julia Wade
- 16 – David & Tammy Bittner
Glen & Tami Fagerman
- 18 – John & Jerrie Eich
- 19 – Kirk & Kathy Ross
- 21 – Tony & Tanya Milus,
Roger & Marla Sommerville
- 24 – David & Alicia Nelson
- 30 – Dan & Becky Sarver

Praying for One Another

You may have noticed that we don't name people when we do the prayers on the worship videos. Due to how public our videos are and the fact that many we pray for have sensitive health information we refrain from naming names in this format. But, we continue to lift each other up in our prayers. Please stay attuned to those requesting our prayers by reading the weekly email announcements and checking out the prayer corner in this newsletter. We also have an electronic prayer chain. If you'd like to be part of that, send your email to charlzimm@aol.com

Prayer Corner

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

Monthly Requests – Sharon Kellen, Whitley Clayton, Gary Holle, Ed
& Joan Benner, Judy Moller (Gary & Randy Holle's sister)

Newly Baptized – Masyn Jaymes Rebholz (4/25)
Tucker Slade Olson (5/23)

Affirmed in Baptism - (11/22) Emily Lovett, Julie Lovett (*Reaffirmation*)

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

Mourning Families - Cliff Schlesinger Family (9/16), Ron Rebholz
Family (9/20) Jessica Albert Family (1/23), Cindy Schlesinger
Family (1/23), Nathan Eich Family (1/27), Dennis Weiler Family
(2/2), Bud Archer Family (3/25)

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

A card shower is being planned for Colleen Zinke's 93rd birthday on September 24. Cards may be sent to her at 638 Church Rd., Compton, IL 61318.

This and That

N.I.C.E. Center Update

- Food/Miscellaneous Items Needed – strawberry jam, boxed potatoes, boxed pudding/Jell-O, salad dressing, deodorant
- The annual N.I.C.E. Walk will be Saturday, Sept. 18 at 10:30 a.m. from Water Tower Park along Shabbona Pathway. Contact Stanley Hoelzer for a sponsor sheet. Everyone is encouraged to make this a family event.
- September is Immanuel's month to work every Saturday at N.I.C.E. with food distribution or sorting clothes.

Congregation Contributions

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.

Benevolence Offerings

Immanuel's benevolence offering for September is for Back Pack Blessings. Please use the envelope found in the newsletter.

Jottings – continued from page 2...

pastor, I ask you to persevere in wearing masks when your in stores or public places. It may not be convenient, but for the sake of our neighbors, it's an inconvenience that we all ought bear. And please, please, if you have not been vaccinated, go on over to CVS or Walgreens and get your shot. Again, if you don't want to do it for yourself, do it for the sake of those around you. If you have been vaccinated, on behalf of the world thank you, and please encourage others to get vaccinated.

The other huge world event on my mind is our country's recent withdraw from Afghanistan. With the withdraw, it sounds like there very well may be 100,000 new Afghan refugees to the U.S. – people who aided us in our efforts over the last 20 years. I'm not sure what opportunities will present themselves, but I think we ought to be open and ready to help welcome them to our land however we can. For Jesus himself implored us to welcome strangers (Matthew 25).

That's enough rambling for now. Hope to see you soon.

Peace be with you!

HOILP on the Internet

Websites & Facebook

- First – www.flcinlee.com
www.facebook.com/firstlutheranchurchlee
Immanuel – www.ilccompton.org
www.facebook.com/ilccompton



www.youtube.com/channel/UCxhbzUMEeE1C2SIsP-YI65A

Immanuel Council Highlights

July 15, 2021

- General Treasury ending balance June 30, 2021 is \$7, 979.65
- Plans for return to indoor services
- Looking into Conservation Reserve Program through USDA on Farm property
- Thanks to Gale Barnickel for grinding stump after tree removal
- Five scholarship applications approved for Trysta Foster, Brooke Heiman, Marie Barnickel, Brittany Menzel and Dan Menzel
- Discussion on new church signs

August 10, 2021

- General Treasury ending balance July 31, 2021 is \$2,309.39
- Plans for Confirmation this Fall.
- Plan to reconvene Parish Team and a joint Council meeting with First.
- Shelving Conservation Reserve Program through Farm property, Farm Manager, Keith Zoeller, will explain at annual meeting.
- Plans in progress to upgrade internet service at Church and Parsonage.
- Discussion on new church road signs.
- Decision made on disbursing Endowment Funds to local organizations.

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.

Calendar

September

Friday, September 3

9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (I)

Sunday, September 5

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Tuesday, September 7

Tea Time - 3 pm

Friday, September 10

9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (I)

Sunday, September 12

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel – Outside)

10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Council at First following worship

Tuesday, September 14

Tea Time - 3 pm

Thursday, September 16

4:30 p.m. Immanuel Council meets

7:30 p.m. Confirmation Organization Meeting

Friday, September 17

9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (I)

Sunday, September 19

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Tuesday, September 21

Tea Time - 3 pm

Friday, September 24

9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (I)

Sunday, September 26

Harvest/Quilt Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Tuesday, September 28

Tea Time – 3 pm

October

Friday, October 1

9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (I)

Sunday, October 3

8:30 a.m. Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 a.m. Worship (First)

Tuesday, October 5

Tea Time - 3 pm

Friday, October 8

9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (I)

Sunday, October 10

8:30 Worship (Immanuel – Outside)

10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, October 12

Tea Time – 3 pm

Thursday, October, 14

4:30 p.m. Immanuel Council

Friday, October 15

9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (I)

Sunday, October 17

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, October 19

Tea Time – 3 pm

Friday, October 22

9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (I)

Sunday, October 24

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 Worship (First)

Tuesday, October 26

Tea Time – 3 pm

Friday, October 29

9:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (I)

Sunday, October 31

8:30 Worship (Immanuel)

10:30 Worship (First)

Harvest/Quilt Sunday, September 26 at Immanuel

We are in need of home-grown fruits, vegetables, or flowers. Please bring items to church before 9:00 a.m. Friday, Sept. 24. Some of the quilts our ladies made this past year will also be on display.

Friday Morning Bible Study is back

and will be held every Friday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the overflow at Immanuel. We will discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday. Come as you are and bring a friend!

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

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

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Return Service Requested

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sept. 5 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

**Sept. 12 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)
Outdoor Worship at Immanuel
(weather permitting)**

Sept. 19 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

Sept. 26 – Immanuel (8:30) First (10:30)

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You can also check us out on Facebook!