



Immanuel Lutheran Parade



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By Chris Winslow



A few years ago, Earl Lewis got Gateway GTO starting participating in the annual parade at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles. Our role has been to provide cars for the parade to transport veterans and also church officials from the church over to church picnic at Blanchette Park.

We had a great turnout with Marty Howard, Tom Oxler, Frank Chapman, Terry Schott, and Earl. I was also there, but in the Trans Am since it is closer to being a convertible than my GTO.

Unfortunately, as the years have gone by, there have been fewer and fewer veterans to transport. For this year there was one veteran and Marty took him and his wife in his convertible for the parade. The rest of us that were there took other dignitaries from the church.

The parade itself was much more like they used to be pre-covid. We were once again able to toss candy and trinkets to the folks lining the streets to see the parade. This is something that we were not able to do in 2020 or 2021. And, the crowds at the church, along the route, and at Blanchette park were all at or above pre-pandemic levels. There was some assistance on that front by mother nature as the weather was absolutely perfect for the event.

This year Frank led us out as he had the pastor in his convertible. The rest of us fell in behind. For those of us driving sticks, it was a challenging trip trying not to overheat the clutches. The nice weather helped with that a bit. It also helped keep any of the GTO's from getting too hot during the parade. (Not that GTO's ever have problems with overheating!!!)

After the parade our sponsor from Immanuel Lutheran had provided us with vouchers for hotdogs, sodas and beer so we all hung around for a while at the event for lunch.

This event is always a lot of fun. Hopefully they will invite us back again next year.

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