

THE HISTORY OF IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Kewaunee, WI.

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When one first sits down to study the history of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kewaunee, Wisconsin, the first thing that one notices is that there is no record of the very earliest beginnings of this church. If there were any records, they have been lost or destroyed long ago. Actually, there may have been no records kept at all, for there was no mention of such records even in the 75th Anniversary booklet printed by the congregation in 1940. Since no records are available of the earliest beginnings of Immanuel, we must rely on the records that are left, and guess at the rest of the story.

Perhaps the first question that comes to mind is "When was the first sermon preached in Kewaunee?" This question is especially important to us because tradition has it that pastors came to Kewaunee as early as 1860. These pastors were not of the Lutheran faith. Sometimes a Protestant minister, then again a Catholic priest came, and whoever wanted to were serviced by these roving ministers.

The first reliable records show that a Rev. P. Koehler, who served the congregations at Manitowoc and Two Rivers, made missionary journeys through what is now Kewaunee and Door County, in the company of J. Bading, as early as 1862. Whether or not they preached in Kewaunee the records do not state.

In 1862, Rev. J.H. Brockman was stationed at Algoma. He also served Rankin and Kohlberg. The records of our sister church in Algoma show that he was permitted by them to serve the Kewaunee group of Lutherans once every three months. How long this agreement went on the records don't say. In those early days, pastors were few and far between, and it was difficult to obtain a permanent pastor. Many men who in reality weren't pastors took advantage of these circumstances, and often conned unsuspecting congregations into calling them as their shepherd. Such a man may have been the first pastor of the Immanuel congregation at Kewaunee. He was Rev. Gustof Bachmann.

The oldest documents we have are the original articles of incorporation, filed on August 3, 1865. Lyman Walker, the Notary Public, witnessed these articles, and Charles Deda, Registrar, duly recorded them. These articles were presented by Rev. Bachmann and the president of the congregation, Frederick Johannes.

Up until this time, the congregation had no church of its own, but held its meetings in the public school. Whether or not the congregation built a church and parsonage during Bachmann's pastorate can't be determined. However, the first church was built in 1867 for \$900.00, and the baptismal records show that Rev. Bachmann's ministry to the Immanuel congregation terminated during that same year.

The next resident pastor was Pastor L. Nietmann. During his ministry the records show the congregation having a church and a parsonage. Possibly the first activity which might be construed as being something of a school was a Bible study group led by Heinrich Nietmann, a son of Pastor Nietmann, who would later on become a missionsry in Japan. This gathering occurred in 1875. Pastor Nietmann's daughters, Lydia and Christine, taught a more

formal grouping in the late 1870's. At this time Heinrich, Lydia and Christine were only teen-agers. While Christine settled in Twon Wilson, Sheboygan County as a married woman, her sister Lydia married Anton Hoffmann and for years played the organ at the Rankin church. Several of her descendants are members of Immanuel Lutheran.

Little else is known of the ministry of Rev. Nietmann beyond the fact that the congregation grew steadily in membership due to the influx of new emigrants from abroad and people from other parts of the United States. He served the congregation up to the year 1877 when mention is made in the minutes of a meeting of November 5, 1876 that the congregation terminated his service. No reason is given why they did this. No one knows when Pastor Nietmann left Kewaunee or what ever became of him. Perhaps this information may be uncovered at a later date.

The year 1877 brought about a turning point in the course of the Immanuel congregation, for it was during this year that they turned to the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods for advice and suggestions in the calling of a new minister. This momentous event occurred during the meeting of January 28, 1877. The congregation at this time sent a letter to the above-mentioned Synods, asking if it was possible to obtain a minister who was a member of those Synods.

The records show no answer, but an answer must have come, for the minutes of a meeting held on March 21, 1877 show that Rev. Vollmar was now the pastor and chairman of the congregation. During the ministry of Rev. Vollmar the congregation grew steadily. A meeting on May 18, 1879 gives the information that a peaceful release was granted to Rev. Vollmar so he might accept a call to another congregation, but the records don't tell us who that congregation was.

During that meeting, a call was made out and sent to August Pieper, who graduated as a candidate of Theology that year from the Seminary. He accepted the call and arrived in Kewaunee during the summer of 1879.

Up to this time it appears that no distinct Lutheran confession was imperative to membership in the congregation. Lutheran practice was virtually unheard of. Apparently anyone who was German or desired to join the church was allowed to do so. Truly it was a church for all German-speaking people.

Many Lutheran families living in and around Kewaunee had so far refused to become members of Immanuel because of the laxness of its confessional practice, and also because the congregation had many lodge members on its rolls. This was the sad condition of the congregation which August Pieper was now about to serve.

August Pieper was a man of sound Lutheran principles. He was a fearless servant of the Lord, preaching the law and gospel in all truth and purity, and administering sound Lutheran practice. So states the 75th Anniversary booklet, and we have no reason to doubt its word, as his life clearly attests to this fact.

I'm sure a bitter lodge-fight was fought in the congregation shortly after his arrival, but the victory was given to those Lutherans in the congregation who were faithful to the Word of God.

Because of this fight, many familiar names disappeared from the roster of the congregation, but many who had so far refused to join because of the loose practices of the congregation now came in. In a short time mention is made that the congregation contained 77 families. A discussion that seemed to be on the minds of many at this time concerned the buying of property for a church cemetery. No resolution was ever passed in regard to this discussion, so to this day Immanuel congregation doesn't have a cemetery to call its own. Most, if not all members are buried in Riverview Cemetery, owned and operated by the Town of Kewaunee, located on River Road.

In the year 1879 the resolution was passed to permit the pastor to serve the St. Peter's Congregation at Carlton. In 1880 a foundation was placed under the parsonage and a cistern built. In the same year it was resolved to serve St. John's Congregation at Sandy Bay also.

1880 was a memorable year for Immanuel Congregation. In that year a new floor was laid in the school and the resolution accepted to organize a regular Christian Day School. So far the school had been but a part-time school given chiefly to instruction in German and religion. Previously a part-time school had been taught by Rev. Nietmann with the assistance of his daughters Christine and Lydia.

In 1881 a call was extended to the pastor from the congregation at Two Rivers, but the congregation refused to let its pastor go.

In 1882 it was decided to conduct the business meetings on Sunday. On February 4th it was decided to build a new school, to place a steeple on the old church and to add an altar recess to the church. This resolution was never carried out.

February 18th, 1882 brings the resolution to build a new church of brick; the edifice to be 36x60 feet with spire. The old church was now converted into a school house. The resolution to build a new church was accepted and the following building committee appointed: H. Pautz, J. Streu, J. Tess, J. Kuehl, C. Boettcher and W. Oestreich.

Mention is made in the Kewaunee Enterprise that a contract was given to one Joachim Kuehl to build a church for \$2,254.69. A Frank Hildeman built the foundation. From information in the cornerstone the total cost was not to exceed \$4,000.00. No mention is made as to when it was completed or dedicated nor is any mention made as to who preached the dedicatory sermon, but a meeting of November 20th represents the church as finished and equipped.

In the midst of the rejoicing at the completion of the church there came a call to the pastor from the congregation at Green Bay. But again the congregation refused to let its pastor go.

In 1884 the first teacher was called to teach the parochial school. So far the pastor had been obliged to do the teaching. Since 1884 the pastor has not been called upon for that duty. From that time on the congregation has engaged teachers for the school, giving the pastor more time for his particular work in the congregation.

On December 21st, 1884 a call arrived in Kewaunee for the

pastor from the congregation of Menomonie, Wisconsin. The congregation decided to permit its shepherd to accept the call, and at the same time extended his call to the Rev. P. Kleinlein of Menomonie. This is one facet of the history of Immanuel Church that has always intrigued me. It seems as if the two pastors simply swapped calls. I could find no information on this transaction with which to find a reason for such an arrangement. The Rev. P. Kleinlein came to Kewaunee in the beginning of the year 1885. On February 1, 1885 it was decided to make the daughter of Rev. Kleinlein the teacher of the parochial school. Incidentally she was the first regularly called teacher.

1885 also saw the building of an addition to the parsonage. The paragraph in the congregation's constitution regarding the congregation's stand toward lodge membership was accepted in 1887.

The first English instruction in the school was permitted in 1887. On April 25th, 1889 Rev. Kleinlein asked for and received his peaceful dismissal. The records make no mention of where he went.

On September 15th, 1889 the call was extended to Rev. Wm. Bergholz, who accepted and soon arrived in Kewaunee. In the same year a student of theology was engaged to teach the school. About this time the final payment was made on the church.

On January 25th, 1891, a resolution was passed to buy two bells for the church. It had often been discussed to join the Wisconsin Synod, but no resolution was ever passed to that effect until May, 1891 when the congregation asked for and was granted membership in the Synod of Wisconsin.

In February 1892 a resolution was passed to sell the old organ, and to buy a new one, the price not to exceed seven to eight hundred dollars. A rebuilt pipe organ was purchased from the Hinners Organ Co. of Pekin, Ill., and served the congregation till 1940. The money to pay for the organ was raised by voluntary contributions.

In 1893 the hymn book of the Wisconsin Synod was introduced.

The first permanent call for a male teacher was issued on 1896, but the records do not state who was called. The first school board was elected in 1897, the members being Fred Dejen and Helmuth Aude.

Up to this time the annual Mission Festival was conducted out of doors, chiefly on the courthouse lawn.

A few items of interest might be that in 1901 in May a constitution was adopted that met the approval of the Wisconsin Synod. It was also decided to conduct the annual business meeting on the first Sunday in the new year. In April, 1902 it was decided to buy new pews and to decorate the church.

About this time (1902), a local branch of the Aid Association for Lutherans was organized.

Forty years had now elapsed since the congregation had first come together, and so it was decided to celebrate the fortieth anniversary and also the incorporation of the congregation.

At this time the members began to realize that the old parsonage was in need of repairs. A committee was elected to investigate how much would be needed to put the old house in order. It appears that the investigating committee found the old

house in such shape that they did not recommend repairs, but suggested to the congregation a better plan was to build a new house. So we find the resolution accepted in the meeting of April 30th to sell the old house and to build a new one the price of which is not to exceed the sum of \$2,000. A building committee was elected consisting of W. W. Kuehl, J.F. C. Kuehl, Carl Struch, F. J. Kuehl, and F. J. Waterstreet.

The new parsonage was built during the summer and October, 1905 marks the time of its dedication. Another memorable event is that at this dedication of the new parsonage, mention is made for the first time of an English service being held.

In November, 1907 twenty-five years had passed since the building of the new church. To commemorate this event a special service was held on November 17th, 1907.

In 1908 the church was equipped with electric lights by the Ladies Aid. 1914 marks the 50th anniversary of the congregation. A special service was held in which the former Pastor A. Pieper, Rev. C. Doehler and Rev. K. Bergholz preached. At this time the parsonage was equipped with electric lights.

In the year 1917, the first English hymn book was introduced, and the church was redecorated. The Ladies Aid paid for the redcoration. In the same year the art glass windows were purchased from Wm. Weerts for the price of \$300. The old stoves in the Church were replaced by a furnace in the year 1919. IN 1920 an electric blower for the organ was installed.

On February 24th, 1924, fire broke out in the school and damaged the interior badly. Realizing the value of its school the congregation immediately went to work to rebuild and repair the damage. Extensive improvements to the school were now made and it was equipped with modern aids.

The Rev. Bergholz had now served the congregation faithfully and well for a period of 34 years. Illness and the frailties incident to advanced years caused him to come before the congregation in its meeting of April 27th, 1924 and tender his resignation, which after due consideration was accepted. So ended another faithful pastorate and another servant of the Lord was permitted to take a much needed and deserved rest. The Rev. Bergholz moved to Green Bay where he died in the year 1935 and was buried in Riverview cemetery, Kewaunee, Wisconsin where his mortal remains now rest awaiting the Master's call to a joyful resurrection.

A call was extended to the Rev. L. Baganz of Elroy, Wisconsin. He accepted the call and came to Kewaunee in the summer of 1924.

During the vacancy the congregation made extensive repairs on the church, school, parsonage and built the garage.

With the coming of the Rev. L. Baganz a blessed time in its history developed for this congregation. So far the services had been conducted in the German language only. The parochial school was on the wane. Being a young man and well qualified to preach in English, the Rev. Baganz was willing to serve in both languages. So it was decided to have services alternate, English one Sunday, German the next.

We shall not give dates and figures just when certain improvements were made, but write them merely as occurring during

the ministry of the Rev. Baganz.

Business meetings were now conducted in English, and the constitution of the congregation written in both German and English. When the Rev. Baganz came the school had but a small attendance, but soon grew to such proportions that it was necessary to buy more seats and employ two instead of one teacher. The enrollment during this time grew to 52 scholars.

A Lutheran band was organized and for a period of time enjoyed the distinction of being a first class organization much in demand.

Many who so far had no affiliation with the church because they could not understand German, but could now have regular English services came and joined the congregation. Soon it became apparent, that the congregation would be obliged to provide more room to accommodate its members. About this time the congregation purchased a parcel of ground in the southwest quarter of the city. This ground has become the present church home of the congregation.

Now again the question arose: Shall we build a new church, build an addition to the old one, or enlarge the balcony?

The resolution that was finally accepted was to enlarge the balcony and so provide the much needed room.

In 1927 a Junior Ladies Aid and a Young Peoples Society were organized. Various improvements were made from time to time, such as placing a pump and pressure tank into the basement of the parsonage, reroofing the church and cleaning the interior. All single members who were of age, were asked to contribute to the expense of the congregation.

In November, 1928 the Rev. Baganz received a call from the congregation at Burlington, Wisconsin. He informed the congregation and expressed his desire to accept this call. A peaceful dismissal was granted to him on November 24th, 1928.

The call was now extended to Rev. W. A. Kuether, who was the pastor of the Zion Ev. Lutheran congregation at Louis Corners near Kiel, Wisconsin.

The Rev. Kuether received the call in December, 1928 and arrived in Kewaunee, Wisconsin in January, 1929.

So far the congregation at Carlton and Sandy Bay had been served by the pastor of the Kewaunee congregation, but in the last years the congregation in Kewaunee had grown to such an extent, that the fact was apparent that it would be expedient to have the new pastor serve Kewaunee only.

However, Carlton and Sandy Bay were not able to support their own pastor, hence permission was granted the pastor to serve them until a solution could be found. In 1932 Sandy Bay was switched to Two Rivers. Carlton is no longer served by Kewaunee.

In 1932 it was 50 years since the church was built. To rightly commemorate this event a special service of thanksgiving was held. The former pastors of the congregation namely Pieper, Baganz and Bergholz were invited and preached the sermons.

The year 1932 shows the largest enrollment our school ever had up until then-56 pupils. A second teacher was now engaged. The following year brought a decided change. It became clear that the school house was inadequate to have so many pupils.

Then also the depression made itself keenly felt and the congregation accepted the inevitable, to have one teacher and take pupils only in grades 4 to 8.

During the next years various improvements were made from time to time such as the introduction of the larger English hymn book and the originating of a sinking fund, which was later discontinued and an improvement fund started instead.

Repairs were again made on the school, church and parsonage. An oil burning furnace was installed in the school, the church decorated in oil painting by the Senior Ladies Aid. New altar covers, runner in the aisle, statue of Christ on the altar and the bulletin board were donated by the Ladies' Aids, and the Young Peoples Society.

Sums of money were willed to the congregation by two faithful Christian members. There donations were spent in part for altar candelabra, communion ware, plaque depicting the Last Supper, and a chancel chair was donated by the Senior Ladies' Aid.

A safe was purchased by the congregation to preserve its records. the Junior Ladies' Aid bought and donated to the congregation two lots adjoining its property on the hill.

So far the Ladies' Aids had met in the homes of the various members. But having grown steadily from year to year this became quite difficult. The young peoples Society found it most inconvenient to meet at the school. And as members of the congregation realized the dangers connected with having our organizations meet on public places the question arose: Could we not provide a place of our own? At one time a community hall was spoken of, but so far no special place had been provided for our social functions.

The Men's Club now proposed to make some changes in the school so it could be used for social gatherings. The congregation gave its consent and with the assistance of the Ladies Aids and Young Peoples Society, they equipped the school with kitchen facilities.

Up to the year 1934 all contributions were raised by the old tax system which often caused resentment, as some members were in arrears. Since 1934 all contributions are raised voluntarily and every communicant member is requested to contribute. And God has blessed us. Voting members are all male members who have attained the age of 21 years, were confirmed here and attend our serbices and commine with us regularly. All others are accepted by a vote of the congregation. The things that are praiseworthy are the congregation's faithful attendance at divine worship and Holy Communion, strict Lutheran practice and the maintenance of the parochial school.

For some time it had been realized that the old Hinners organ, purchased in 1892 no more met the requirements of the congregation. It had been repaired several times, but again and again it failed to meet the demands. So when in the summer of 1939 the matter of celebrating our 75th anniversary came up for discussion, the question arose: "Would it not be good if we purchased a new organ to beautigy our services and give much needed assistance on our singing?" After duly considering the matter, the congregation decided to buy a new organ. A committee

consisting of C. A. Seifert, Orville Kuehl. and Arno F. Waterstreet was appointed to investigate and finally make recommendations to the congregation. This committee, in conjunction with other members of the congregation worked diligently and well. Due consideration was given to the purchase of an "Orgatron, Hammond Electric Organ and Pipe Organ." After thoroughly and conscientiously studying all angles, the committee came before the congregation in its meeting of February 18th, 1940 and recommended the purchase of an 11 stop Pipe Organ from the Wangerin Organ Co. of Milwaukee, Wis., for the price of \$2,500.00. The recommendation was accepted and the congregation voted almost unanimously to purchase the organ. The new organ was installed and ready for service by June 1st, 1940.

The dedicatory services were held on the third Sunday in June, 1940. Mr Brockman, the representative of the Wangerin Organ Co., presided at the organ. In the evening Mr. Brockmann also delivered an organ concert. We have an organ of which our congregation can well be proud. An organ whose beautiful tones shall resound among us to the praise and honor of God's Holy Name. The organ was paid for by voluntary donations.

During the deliberations concerning the purchase of the organ, the congregation had an opportunity to hear a set of chimes. The chimes so greatly appealed to the members of the congregation that the general consensus was: We want a set of chimes. But at the meeting of February 18th the congregation was informed that they would not be obliged to buy the chimes, as one of our members in his liberal, wholehearted manner donated the chimes to the congregation along with a loudspeaker system so that the organ and chimes could be broadcast from the church tower.

On July 28, 1940 the Almighty God in His graciousness permitted us to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of Immanuel's. Speakers at the celebration were: Rev. Paul Pieper, son of Prof. Aug. Pieper, who served this vongregation as its pastor from 1879 to 1884, Rev. H. Berkholz, a grandson of the former Rev. W. Bergholz, Rev. T. Baganz, son of the Rev. L. Banganz who served the congregation from 1924 to 1928 and Arden Stuebs, then a student of theology at our Seminary in Thiensville, who is a great-grandson of the Rev. L. Nietmann, pastor of the congregation frmo 1867 to 1876.

Here are a few statistics of our 75th year that may be of interest. Up to this time 1,456 were confirmed, 1020 were baptized, 277 couples were married and 526 were buried. How many persons were communed we are unable to state.

There were 212 voting members, 485 communicant members, 600 souls which constituted Immanuels at the time of the 75th anniversary.

In 1939, even before our 75th anniversary celebrations, the black clouds over Europe erupted into the gigantic holocaust of World War II. From that time until the end of the war, many of our younger people departed to help our country overcome its enemies. this was particularly true after Pearl Harbor forced the entry of the United States into the War in 1941.

Church attendance during this time dropped somewhat due to the stringent gas rationing policies in force. Then, as now, a

great proportion of our membership was drawn from the rural areas and together with the loss of our young people made a drop inevitable. Many of the young members that were so widely scattered never did return to take up life in Kewaunee, but settled elsewhere making our loss permanent.

In the Fall of 1943, Rev. Kuether resigned as pastor of Immanuel due to advancing age and the heavy duties of two congregations. He thereafter devoted his full services to St. Peter's of Carlton which he served until his death in October, 1956.

Rev. Zink accepted the call from Immanuel's leaving his charge at Dale, Wis., and assumed the pastorate in January of 1944.

In 1945, a second teacher was added to our school to take care of the increased enrollment when it was again expanded to cover all eight primary grades. An usher system was also started in this year and we still have this organization. They have done and presently still are doing a fine job.

Also in 1945, under Rev. Zink's guidance, the church constitution and by-laws were updated. Very few changes had been made up to that time, the last being in 1901, so many of the non-permanent by-laws were changed to meet the needs of the present congregation.

When the property on the hill was purchased around 1927, a spark was struck and members talked and discussed the feasibility of a new church many times after. The depression that started in 1929 and World War II restrained any serious planning, but at the war's end the spark flamed anew. Under Rev. Zink's direction, this dream began to assume reality when plans were put into operation for the establishment of a building fund.

After much consideration, a Mr. Hugo Haeuser was engaged to draw up plans for a school and church building in 1945. He submitted a beautiful design which became the basic plan of our present building.

It took six more years of fund raising, discussion and planning and records show, ground was broken for the new church on April 22, of 1951. The cornerstone was laid on Aug. 27th of the same year. Work progressed more or less as the funds became available. Finally the church by resolution did finance part of the cost through the B. C. Ziegler Co. of West Bend, Wis. This enabled the congregation to at least complete the structure. These bonds were retired ahead of the 20 year schedule although some member loans are still necessary.

In 1951, members of St. John's Congregation of Sandy Bay voted to discontinue their church and members were to either join Immanuel's in Kewaunee or St. John's in Two Rivers. We have gained many new faithful members through this move and they have contributed greatly to our development.

During the war years due to the many restrictions, textbooks, equipment and the school building itself became hopelessly outmoded. Later, with the building program demanding the most attention and funds, we suddenly found ourselves conducting a school much below the standards of the day. The new building would take care of housing the school but there was another problem of indifference created by the pressure of the

building program.

It was felt a strong hand was needed and on 1953, a decision was made to call a male teacher on a permanent basis. Up until this time men teachers had been called under the terms of a lady teacher's contract. Mr. H. C. Rupprecht of Grace Congregation in Oshkosh was the Lord's choice and with the cooperation of the congregation, our school was elevated to a high plane.

The two bells of the old church purchased as recorded earlier in this history were moved to the new building and services were conducted without their sound for almost a year prior to the dedication of the new church. One of the first acts after Dedication Sunday was to toll for all those members who passed away during the time the bells were silent.

During discussion of the problem of moving our new Wangerin organ purchased in 1940 to the new site, questions were asked as to whether the organ had enough volume to fill the new church. It was recommended that a new violin stop be added to provide body to the great organ as it would be more feasible to do it then as the organ had to be built into its new chamber. The recommendation was accepted and the new stop was added at a cost of slightly over \$1,000.00.

During the building of the church the cornerstone of the old church was removed, opened to check its contents and resealed. It was then incorporated into the new church and can be seen inside the narthex by the doorway of the main entrance. This is a symbol portraying our link to the past.

On October 11, 1953, the dream became a reality and the present beautiful church and school were dedicated to the Triune God.

The services on Dedication Day were broadcast on radio station WOKW in place of St. Peter's of Sturgeon Bay's regular broadcast at 9:30 A.M. The dedicatory service was conducted by Rev. W. F. Zink, Prof. John P. Meyer of our Seminary at Thiensville, Wis., preached the sermon. During the afternoon service, our school was dedicated by Rev. W. F. Zink and the sermon was delivered by Pastor Arden Stuebs of Bangor, Wis., a son of our congregation and a great-grandson of a former pastor, Rev. L. Nietmann. In the evening, a service of organ and song was given by Organist Robert J. Theis of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Cleveland Ohio, along with the choir of Immanuel directed by H. C. Rupprecht, principal of our school.

On Tuesday, Oct. 13th, Rev. Theo. Boganz of St. Peter's, Sturgeon Bay, conducted a reunion service of all former confirmands of Immanuel. Rev. Boganz is the son of a former pastor, Rev. L. Boganz, and was a member of the 1927 confirmation class.

On Wednesday evening, Oct. 14th, the Boganz Trio gave a concert of sacred music to continue the joyful festivities.

The final event of Dedication Week took place on Thursday, October 15th, at a fellowship pot luck supper at which the main speaker was Rev. Hoge Bergholz of Center, WI. He is a grandson of former Wm. Bergholz.

The ceremonies of the week were witnessed and heard by thousands of people and climaxed many years of hard work and sacrifice by our membership. God was with us in Name and in

Spirit and we now were blessed with a beautiful and wonderful church and school. The cost of this unit was approximately \$300,000, and again it shows what a congregation can do when moved by the Holy Spirit.

From time to time since the dedication, additional projects were completed such as blacktopping school playground and parking area, adding a public address system, landscaping the church and school grounds and tilling of basement and gym.

In October of 1957, the stained glass chancel window of the rising Christ was dedicated and more recently the church was redecorated and a new roof was placed on the church.

The Lord has continued to favor our school and we presently have six teachers--two men teachers on a permanent basis and four lady teachers. Mr. Vernon McClellan is the present principal and has headed the school since 1980. 1964 saw the congregation celebrate 20 years of faithful service by Rev. W. F. Zink and a full house turned out to honor our pastor. The Lord surely blessed both Rev. Zink's work and Immanuel Congregation during those twenty years as one can see from this history.

The year was also a year of sadness as Rev. Zink accepted a call to Coleman, WI. He left January 31, 1965, completing 21 eventful years in Kewaunee.

Pastor Floyd Mattek of Emanuel, Kohlberg, was appointed vacancy pastor. This is the second time that Pastor Mattek served our congregation. He previously served as a teacher and principal of our day school 1941-1947.

Stained glass windows ordered in 1964 at a cost exceeding \$12,000 as a thank offering for our centennial, arrived during the vacancy and were installed in April.

A generous member of our congregation willed his entire estate to our congregation except for certain bequests. With these funds available the congregation voted during the vacancy to build a five bedroom parsonage on the northeast corner of the church lot. This house is now a reality, and it is a beautiful ranch style house.

At this point mention must be made that our congregation received many other very fine and welcome gifts and bequests for which we are eternally grateful. The donors are reassured that they were used well to further the kingdom of our Savior.

In May of 1965, the Lord heard our prayers and Pastor A. W. Tiefel of Bethel in Menasha accepted our joint call with St. Peter's of Carlton.

Pastor Tiefel was installed June 27, 1965. His first year was a busy one as the dedication of the stained glass windows was held on Aug. 15, 1956 and both St. Peter's and Immanuel Congregations are celebrating the 100th anniversary of God's grace this year.

A few statistics of our 100th year may be of interest. We started 1965 with 204 voting members, 545 communicant members, and a total of 776 souls. The budget for our current year was set at \$44,850.00. Our Christian Day School enrollment contains the names of 99 students.

Pastor Tiefel served the congregation well for 10 years. During his service to the congregation of Immanuel, he led the

congregation to join the federation that supported Manitowoc Lutheran High School. Again, he thrust to the fore the idea that a Christian education was something that was truly needed. In 1974 a call was extended to him by St. Paul's Congregation of Saginaw Michigan. He accepted this call in the fall of 1974. At this time the members of the congregation extended a call to Pastor Joel Sauer, who was serving as Dean of Students at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, also located in Saginaw Michigan. Pastor Sauer accepted this call in the spring of 1975, and arrived in July of the same year. Pastor Sauer is at this time still serving the congregation. During his first few years at Immanuel, he instituted a radio broadcast so the Word of God could reach the shut-ins on Sunday mornings. One big project that is being considered at this time is the feasibility of building a new gymnasium. The old gym was constructed with half of its walls below ground level, and it also is not a standard size gym. Therefore, no grade school league basketball games could be played there. Fortunately, we have used the gym at Marquette Middle School in the past, and luckily it is just two blocks away. However, that school is getting old, and some feel it is just a matter of time before the Town of Kewaunee consolidates its schools on the high school campus just out of town.

Presently the church is wrestling with the problems of entering into the computer age. Much study is going on, with the intended result that Immanuel Congregation will soon have a computer to help it in serving God's kingdom.

In closing, perhaps a few statistics to show you how the church in Kewaunee is prospering. At the end of 1983, there were 859 souls, 650 communicants, and 265 voters in 378 homes. Average attendance per Sunday services was 391, representing 46% of all members. Average times communed was 4.3, and 7 baptisms and 22 confirmations were performed. Enrollment in the Christian Day School stood at 95, and 45 were enrolled in Sunday School. The budget for 1984 stood at \$194,815.25

The Lord has richly blessed Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church in the past, and it is my prayer that He will continue to bless it until He comes again.

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

75th Anniversary of the Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Congregation, July 28, 1940.

Dedication, October 11, 1953.

Dedication of Stained Glass Windows, August 15, 1965.

A Century in Christ, October 3, 1965.

Centennial Observance of Immanuel Lutheran School, October 18, 1980.

Annual Report of Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1983.

Various conversations with Pastor Joel Sauer over the last 9 years.