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Prof. Brenner

## A History of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church: 1939-1989

### **A Humble Beginning**

“It is not the aim or intention of this church body to proselyte, to gain members from other church bodies, but its purpose is to win the unchurched for Christ and to hold its members within its own church by preaching the Gospel of Salvation through faith in Christ.”<sup>1</sup> This was the goal of a group of Christians that began to meet in early 1939. They were members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jenera, Ohio, and they were researching the possibility of opening a mission station in Findlay, Ohio. What they found was that 70 conservative Lutherans were already living in Findlay and of that number 40 of them had come from Jenera and surrounding townships.<sup>2</sup>

While Jenera was (and still is) a farming community settled by a large number of German Lutherans many years before; Findlay was a growing industrial town twelve miles away and certainly had a magnetic draw to many. Already in 1939, there were three liberal Lutheran churches in Findlay; therefore the members of Jenera and the mission board were convinced that a conservative Lutheran church body would also do well there.

R.A. Gensmer, a former tutor and assistant professor at Northwestern College, was installed on October 22, 1939 as the first WELS pastor in Findlay. He officiated at the first service with 43 in attendance on October 29 of that same year. In January 7, 1940 a church constitution was drawn up and the congregation voted that they would be known as Immanuel

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<sup>1</sup> John, Gauss Rev. The Republican Courier 28 Oct. 1939. He was the Pastor of Trinity in 1939.

<sup>2</sup> The Republican Courier 28 Oct. 1939.

Evangelical Lutheran Church. The church started with 39 baptized souls and 30 communicates.<sup>3</sup> Worship was held in a leased store front at 318 N. Main Street for which they paid rent of \$30.00 a month.<sup>4</sup> It was a relatively small worship space with theater seating and could seat around 70 people.

### **Building Woes**

It was the hope of the congregation to build its own chapel by the fall of 1941, but that did not take place. The congregation had purchased a parcel of land on South Blanchard Street for \$450.00, between Sandusky Ave. and East Main Cross. However, due to the war effort, government building restrictions made it impossible to build there.<sup>5</sup> This was around the time when the Nazi army was fighting in the streets of Moscow, and Japan was bombing Pearl Harbor. The war certainly caused the building effort to be delayed and the consensus was to wait and try again in the spring of 1942.

In May 1942, Pastor Gensmer accepted a call and delivered his farewell sermon on July 5, "I commend you to God and the Word of His grace."<sup>6</sup> The congregation was then assigned a candidate for the ministry, Raymond Frey, a tutor from Northwestern Lutheran Academy in Mobridge, South Dakota, who was installed on July 26, 1942. By this time the congregation had grown to 75 baptized members and 50 communicates. During this summer the congregation made another attempt at building, but again the wartime restrictions made it impossible to complete.<sup>7</sup> However, a second hand pump reed organ was purchased in Vanlue, Ohio for \$100.00 to beatify the worship service.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 12 Sept. 1964.

<sup>4</sup> Gallert R.A. History of Immanuel 1950.

<sup>5</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 12 Sept. 1964.

<sup>6</sup> Gallert R.A. History of Immanuel 1950.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Gallert R.A. History of Immanuel 1950.

In the summer of 1943 the congregation once again pursued a building, but to no avail. This time, the blueprints and specifications were finalized, but the War Production Board (WPB) could not guarantee that their building would be a priority and receive the necessary materials.<sup>9</sup> While this was a frustrating time for Immanuel, they made the best of their blessings and chose to refurbish their rented facility. A pulpit, baptismal font, lectern, crucifix, and new altar, donated by a congregation in Detroit were used for many years.<sup>10,11</sup>

In 1944 the congregation celebrated its fifth anniversary having grown to 89 baptized members. In 1945 pastor Frey accepted a call and Pastor Fred Schroeder was installed on January 13, 1946. The rented parsonage was too small for his large family so the congregation purchased a parsonage on 714 Cherry Street.<sup>12</sup>

During the ministry of Pastor Schroeder, in March 1947, Immanuel decided to change direction in their attempt to gather in a new church home and made efforts to purchase an existing church facility. The first church they attempted to purchase, the Church of God was sold to the higher bidding Calvary Church of Findlay for \$37,100.<sup>13</sup> Then, in May, Calvary put its old worship facility up for sale.<sup>14</sup> Immanuel bid \$22,000; however, again they were outbid, this time by an Assembly of God congregation. It was then in July that the congregation resolved to sell the two lots it owned on Blanchard St., purchased in 1942, because “they were not satisfied with them.”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Gallert R.A. History of Immanuel 1950.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Until 1994, when the current facility was built this altar and pulpit were used. The current altar and pulpit were built by Bill Rose, a member from Arlington. The refurbishment of the rented facility was a must at this time, because the new pulpit and lectern were a “white elephant” in that space.

<sup>12</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 12 Sept. 1964.

<sup>13</sup> This was on the corner of W. Front St. and S. Cory St.

<sup>14</sup> This was on Ash Ave.

<sup>15</sup> Gallert R.A. History of Immanuel 1950.

### A New Building Plan

In November of 1947, Immanuel went back to their original plans for a new home and with the consent of the Mission Board, purchased land on North Main Street and desired to build right away, but yet again was dealt with a setback. The lot on North Main was purchased for \$3,000 with the help of the Church Extension Fund; however, the proposed building plans did not meet the Synod's minimum requirements for building. In the late '40s Findlay was a post-war growing town and despite Immanuel's setbacks in building a larger facility, the membership continued to grow at their rented storefront. In 1949 Immanuel had 156 baptized and 101 communicant members.<sup>16</sup> In November 1949, Pastor Schroeder accepted a call and preached his farewell sermon.

On December 4, 1949, Pastor A. R. Gallert from the Missouri Synod was installed. He came to Immanuel from Alamo, Texas where he had organized a new mission into a self-supporting congregation. Also while in Texas, he was instrumental in organizing and establishing a Christian day school with two teachers.<sup>17</sup>

By this time, Immanuel was in great need for space and the congregation decided to proceed immediately with their plans to build. With the war over and Pastor Gallert at the helm, they would not be denied. On February 26, 1950, Immanuel began to build their long hoped for church on the corner of North Main Street and Allen Avenue. Rev. A. R. Gallert and Ray Bladow, chairman of the congregation, ceremonially spaded the ground, finally getting the building started. Rev. A.C. Walker, the chairman of the Michigan District Mission Board, preached the dedication sermon.<sup>18</sup> While Immanuel in the past seemed to be waffling between pastors and building projects, now the church had set their own course and found much desired

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> The Republican Courier

<sup>18</sup> The Republican Courier 26 Feb. 1950.

leadership coming from a seasoned pastor; he had helped his former church in Texas do something much similar and his experience was a great boast of confidence for the members.

In March, of 1950, Immanuel also began a new form of ministry – radio ministry. The Lutheran Men’s Form Club sponsored the broadcast of the worship service and it aired on WFIN, Findlay. Mail responses showed that the broadcast was heard from as far away as 85 miles.<sup>19</sup> It proved to be a fruitful new ministry, with a few couples who had listened becoming members of the congregation.<sup>20</sup>

On May 7, 1950 the cornerstone for the new church was laid and sealed. Placed in the cornerstone were a number of keepsakes: a Bible, hymnal, congregational history, names of church officers and council members, and copies of *The Republican Courier*, Findlay’s local newspaper. At this time the construction was progressing “somewhat ahead of schedule.”<sup>21</sup>

#### **Immanuel Lutheran on North Main**

The church was of a gothic design and incorporated the pulpit, chairs and other furniture from the rented facility. Behind the altar was painted the depiction of a Good Friday scene by Edward Meyer.<sup>22</sup> A balcony was added during the latter stages of construction.<sup>23</sup> A new Hammond organ was donated to the church and the church was completed at a cost of \$19,378.00.

On October 8, 1950 the new worship facility, eleven years in the making, was dedicated to the Triune God. The day of dedication was not just one service, but three services. More than that, it was also a day of celebration and fellowship for the members of Immanuel. Three of their

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<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Panhalegon, Marge. Telephone interview. 18 Nov. 2008.

<sup>21</sup> *The Republican Courier* 8 May 1950.

<sup>22</sup> This painting of Calvary behind the altar was soon covered up with a curtain. Pastor Wagner (1954) remarked that he never saw it. There is a picture in the *Republican Courier* marked Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>, 1950 that shows this painting. Pastor Seim had it painted over because he said, “We worship a living Lord, not a dead one.”

<sup>23</sup> *Immanuel Lutheran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin* 22 Oct. 1989.

former pastors came back to preach at Immanuel: R.A. Gensmer in the morning service, Raymond Frey in the afternoon, and Fred Schroeder in the evening.

The total worship attendance for the day was 824 and the church was filled to the brim. There was a large procession of all the worshipers into the church to begin the dedication celebration. Due to the large amount of people, the small narthex and the basement served as overflow for each service. The church was built with the capacity to seat 164 in the nave and another 34 people in the choir loft, but that was hardly enough room.

In 1952 the congregation declared itself to be self-supporting.<sup>24</sup> In 1953, Pastor Gallert accepted a call and preached his farewell sermon on September 6. About pastor Gallert it was said, "He could light a fire under people."<sup>25</sup> "He was very much liked."<sup>26</sup> One of pastor Gallert's frustrations during his last years with Immanuel was that he wished to start a Christian day school, similar to the one he had started in Texas; however, the congregation was not ready to take this step. The room he wished to start the school in was rather small, even by 1950's standards. Nevertheless, he certainly was the right man at the right time, a blessing for Immanuel during this important time of transition.

From 1954 until April 21, 1957, Immanuel was served by Pastor Wernor E. Wagner.<sup>27</sup> The church, during this time, was facing a large debt from both the church and parsonage, yet it was able to pay off the parsonage in 1955. The congregation now stood at 200 baptized

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<sup>24</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 12 Sept. 1964.

<sup>25</sup> Tritch, Rosemary. Telephone interview. 16 Nov. 2008.

<sup>26</sup> Panhalegon, Marge. Telephone interview. 18 Nov. 2008.

<sup>27</sup> He is now 83 years old and serves as a retired assistant at St. John in Milton, WI. He preaches once a month and visits shut-ins.

members and 145 communicantes.<sup>28</sup> He remembers Immanuel as a solid congregation, interested in the pure Word of God.<sup>29</sup>

### Internal Struggle

In 1957 Pastor A. H. Maaske accepted a call to serve Immanuel. During his ministry the congregation grew, until a controversy arose over the issue of religious education in the Findlay Public Schools. An organization called *Council for Weekday Religious Education* was having success in introducing religion classes into the school day. These classes then would be conducted, with willing children, in a non-denominational setting.<sup>30</sup>

“The Religion in the schools was not what we taught. There was one member who had a young girl in school who got an upset stomach (anxiety) by not attending those classes, at Jefferson elementary. The father wanted Rev. Maaske to allow the girl to attend, but he did not agree with the father. So, the man got a number of people excited and they left the church.”<sup>31</sup>

The situation was tense, not only for the pastor but also for a member who worked for the school system as a Janitor. “One of the members was a custodian for the public schools and he was nearing retirement, and he was worried about the situation. People were asking him why his church opposed this.”<sup>32</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 12 Sept. 1964.

<sup>29</sup> Wagner, Wernor. Telephone interview 15 Nov. 2008.

<sup>30</sup> This group focused on teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders. In 1985, the lawsuit - Ford vs. Findlay Board of Education put an end to the practice of renting classroom space to this interdenominational group. U.S. District Judge John Potter held that children can be misled into thinking the state supports a particular religion when religious instruction is offered in their school at a time when school personnel are still working. He added that such programs were permissible at times when teachers and students would not otherwise be present at school.

<sup>31</sup> Panhalegon, Marge. Telephone interview. 18 Nov. 2008.

<sup>32</sup> Tritch, Rosemary. Telephone interview. 16 Nov. 2008.

“Pastor Maaske (and many members) opposed such instruction, but his stand on the matter and his approach to the problem was not shared by all the members.<sup>33</sup> The Church split and an opposition church formed named, Concordia Lutheran Church.<sup>34</sup> Although “decimated”, Immanuel clung to sound Lutheran doctrine and the remaining members loyally shouldered their heavier (financial) burden.<sup>35</sup>

During this difficult time the congregation was forced to return to mission status and again receive financial help from the synod. It would be more than five years until Immanuel would again be self-supporting. As of December 31, 1960 there were 182 baptized and 98 communicate members.<sup>36</sup>

### The '60s

In the early '60s, there were many improvements to the outside and inside of the worship facility and a generous contribution made it possible to wipe out a debt that had accumulated in the general fund.<sup>37</sup>

In 1961, Pastor Masske accepted a call to serve in Detroit, Michigan. Immanuel next called Pastor Kenneth Seim and he was installed September 10, 1961. His time with the church was rather brief. He was single and loved to work with young people. Being a single clergyman in a family-oriented town and church may have factored in to his departure on July 7, 1963.<sup>38</sup> His ministry would continue as a missionary in Hong Kong.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Marge Panhalegon said that, “One factor that may have complicated communication (and certainly did not help matters) was that pastor Maaske had some hearing problems.

<sup>34</sup> This was one year before the Wisconsin Synod broke fellowship with the Missouri Synod (1961).

<sup>35</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 22 Oct. 1989.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>37</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 12 Sept. 1964.

<sup>38</sup> Panhalegon, Marge. Telephone interview 18 Nov. 2008.

<sup>39</sup> While the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary bulletin says that this mission was not in fellowship with the WELS, at the time of his call, the mission station was in our fellowship. He did end up marrying a woman from China, but that didn't end happily ever after, sad to say. I could not locate Pastor Seim; he is most likely in heaven.



Pastor Carlton Palenske was installed as Immanuel's eighth pastor on September 15, 1963. He grew up in Toledo, Ohio.<sup>40</sup> At his arrival, Immanuel had 185 baptized souls and 103 communicant members.<sup>41</sup> The next year, Immanuel celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the date chosen for the celebration was September 12, 1964. Pastor Gensmer, who was serving in Saginaw, came back to Immanuel and led a special afternoon service. *During* Of his time in Findlay, Pastor Palenske made a number of good friends, but his time was not without the pressures of the ministry.<sup>42</sup> Pastor Palenske remained with the congregation until sometime in February 1966 and took a call to a church in Monroe, Michigan. He is still remembered today for his good sermons and his tall stature. He is 6'6".<sup>43</sup>

By May of 1966, Immanuel's members certainly had seen a number of challenges in just one decade. They had two pastors and their church had a rather large split which had made it difficult to operate without Synod help. It was then that members of Immanuel called Frederick Jungkuntz to be their pastor. He was installed on July 17, 1966. Not long after his arrival the congregation was able to once again be a self-supporting congregation.<sup>44</sup>

Pastor Jungkuntz was a second career man who became a pastor. He had spent some time in the marines before he became a pastor in the WELS. At one time, he presented a paper to the congregation about being a Christian in the Armed Forces.<sup>45</sup> Pastor Jungkuntz went from one camouflaged uniform to a liturgical alb and stole. Both came with their challenges. He was a pastor that held too many "high church" practices and a large number of members were not

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<sup>40</sup> Palenske, Carlton. Telephone interview 15 Nov. 2008; Panhalegon, Marge. Telephone interview 18 Nov. 2008.

<sup>41</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 22 Oct. 1989.

<sup>42</sup> Palenske, Carlton. Telephone interview 15 Nov. 2008.

<sup>43</sup> He is retired now and lives with his wife outside of Winona, MN. He is 77 years old.

<sup>44</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 22 Oct. 1989.

<sup>45</sup> Tritch, Rosemary. Telephone interview. 16 Nov. 2008.

ready for this style of worship.<sup>46</sup> In 1969, the church celebrated its thirtieth anniversary with 178 baptized and 125 communicate members. In July of 1971, pastor Jungkuntz accepted a call to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.<sup>47</sup>

### The '70s

In October 1971, Immanuel installed its tenth pastor (in thirty-two years), Pastor Karl A. Fuhlbrigge. He, like Pastor Palenske, was originally from Toledo, Ohio and he served Immanuel for twelve years.<sup>48</sup> One member remembers him as “good at everything and a pleasant person.”<sup>49</sup> Because he desired to purchase his own home, the congregation sold the parsonage at 714 Cherry St. in September 1972, for \$18,600.<sup>50</sup>

During the '70s, Immanuel's church<sup>o n</sup> North Main St. saw a number of upgrades. In 1973 the church for the first time received air conditioning due to the generous gift of an older member. The member had wanted to use the money to buy some property east of town, because the N. Main location was a bit noisy with truck traffic. However, some members thought the location was still very suitable for ministry in the town and spoke with the giver about putting in air-conditioning. With a new unit, they said the windows could be shut and the noise from the street would be blocked. The man agreed to purchase the unit and it was a “win” for everyone involved.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Chanting the liturgy in worship was one practice that he held to firmly and that was hard for a number of members. As “some” still feel today, chanting should be left to the Catholics.

<sup>47</sup> In 1985, he became a pastor in the Missouri Synod.

<sup>48</sup> Pastor Mattek would serve the longest with 18 years (1982-1999). But that should not take away the fact that 11 years was a healthy amount of time for the congregation that was averaging a pastor almost every 3 years.

<sup>49</sup> Penhalegon, Marge. Telephone interview. 18 Nov. 2008.

<sup>50</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 22 Oct. 1989.

<sup>51</sup> Penhalegon, Marge. Telephone interview. 18 Nov. 2008.

In 1975, the church celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their facility on North Main and burned the church mortgage.<sup>52</sup> 1975 was also the year in which the parking lot was paved. In 1977 the church organ was replaced at a cost of \$6,294 and was dedicated on Thanksgiving Eve. In 1979, the membership of Immanuel was 138 baptized and 112 communicate members. By the year 1979 the membership of Immanuel was 138 baptized members and 112 communicants and the average attendance was 66.<sup>53</sup>

### The '80s

In early 1982, Pastor Fuhlbrigge accepted a call to Elizabeth, Illinois.<sup>54</sup> At this juncture, the congregation elected to receive their third candidate for the ministry from the seminary.<sup>55</sup> On July 18, 1982, James Mattek was assigned to Immanuel. He was a sharp and handsome pastor with a great deal of energy. "He was a great organizer and one would think that he already had years of experience under his belt when he was assigned."<sup>56</sup> His wife, Sue, was a great asset to his ministry and the worship life of Immanuel. She was a very skilled musician and put those talents to good use as the choir director. "The congregation just loved her."<sup>57</sup>

In the summer of 1983, the adult choir and the vacation Bible school program were revitalized. The congregation had rented a parsonage for Pastor Mattek at 212 Ellis Ave. for one

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<sup>52</sup> This is a Lutheran tradition that can be traced back to Luther burning the Papal Bull. (just kidding)

<sup>53</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 22 Oct. 1989.

<sup>54</sup> Due to some family issues, he was in Illinois for a very short time (a month). He would soon take a call to Monroe, MI and that is where he resides today. Also, he was colloquized into the Missouri Synod in 1983. He is 49 years old.

<sup>55</sup> Pastor Gensmer (1939) and Pastor Raymond Frey (1942) were the first two who came directly from the seminary.

<sup>56</sup> Penhalegon, Marge. Telephone interview. 18 Nov. 2008.

<sup>57</sup> Tritch, Rosemary. Telephone interview. 16 Nov. 2008.

year. It was too small for their growing family and so a parsonage was purchased at 1006 Fishlock Ave. for \$64,000.<sup>58</sup>

1984 was the year that Immanuel decided to expand its support of Christian education and voted to pay the tuition of members' children so that they could attend Trinity Lutheran School in Jenera.<sup>59,60</sup> It was also then that a Wednesday morning Bible study group began to meet and a nursery was established in the church basement.<sup>61</sup> In 1985, lights were installed to illuminate the front of the church and a pre-kindergarten class was added to the Sunday school curriculum.<sup>62</sup>

By 1986 the church was starting to feel restrictive. The one church service on Sunday morning was full as well as the rest of the church during Sunday school. Every inch of church was being used for something on Sunday morning. The basement, when not being used as a nursery, was rather loud during Sunday school with members teaching the various grades their lessons. The only sound barrier on Sunday morning in the basement was one large curtain and a few dividers between class "rooms." For these reasons, Chuck Haag, Chairman, appointed an expansion study team to plan Immanuel's future. The goal was adopted for the congregation to pay off the parsonage debt in one year, and a three-year "Reaching Out" fund drive of \$10,000 was set and met.<sup>63</sup> In 1987 the parsonage on Fishlock was paid off and times were generally good.

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<sup>58</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 22 Oct. 1989

<sup>59</sup> The Courier 20 Oct. 1989.

<sup>60</sup> Today the congregation helps with 50% of a child's tuition.

<sup>61</sup> The nursery was provided mainly to help adults with children attended Bible class. Also note, the church on North Main did have a cry room for mothers until the 80s, when the narthex was expanded.

<sup>62</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 22 Oct. 1989

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*

During the '80s, Immanuel grew a tremendous amount. "The average Sunday worship attendance grew to 204. The communicant strength was 175. Beginning in October 1989, two Sunday morning services were conducted instead of one."<sup>64</sup> There were mainly two reasons for this explosion of growth while James Mattek was pastor (on average, more than 149 people in church on a Sunday in ten years). The first is that God's Word worked. Pastor Mattek was a faithful shepherd who sought out Immanuel's straying sheep. When asked about Immanuel's impressive growth he said, "I did not have a class on how to do mission work like you do at the seminary today. I just had my membership roster and I went and visited those people who were not coming to church."<sup>65</sup> For example, he spoke of one man who was not very faithful in attending Bible study and said, "I just put him in charge of the coffee during that time and he kept coming back."<sup>66</sup> The second reason for Immanuel's growth in the '80s was a steady "exodus" from Concordia Lutheran in Findlay, a LCMS church. This church was originally founded by unhappy Immanuel members in the late '50s. While there were a couple of reasons people left Concordia, they left at different times. It was no secret as to where these Christians were going. The "born again" Immanuel members were sharing their thoughts with others at Concordia and the doors at Immanuel were welcoming new feet. One such person, Norm Roehrs, said this about his first impression of Immanuel, "We just loved Immanuel, there were wonderful sermons and nobody was fighting."<sup>67</sup> Like many, Norm said that "a local ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America) church was not an option for him."<sup>68</sup> So like many, he and his wife joined the fellowship of believers at Immanuel.

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<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> Mattek, James. Personal interview 2006.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Roehrs, Norm. Personal interview 19 Nov. 2008

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

In 1988, the congregation began its first of five services to celebrate Immanuel's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This year was also when the voters tried to pass a motion to purchase land for a new church location, but it did not pass. While the congregation was growing and financially healthy the purchase of this land seemed like a risk and the voters were not confident enough to buy at this time.<sup>69</sup> However, in 1989, another vote was taken on the purchase of land on the west side of town and it unanimously approved.<sup>70</sup> It was a five-acre parcel of land and it was purchased for \$32,500.<sup>71</sup> The congregation, by the grace of God, had been in existence for fifty years and a new generation of members was going to build a new house for their Lord. This building project certainly kept Pastor Mattek and the members very busy for some time.

While Immanuel was once a pious thought back in the 1930s, today the core beliefs of those people and their desire to share God's pure Word with the residents of Findlay continues. May God bless all who have served Immanuel over the years, and may God bless those who will continue to serve her in the future. May all her members keep the following truth before them:

The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heaven He came and sought her  
To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her,  
And for her life He died.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> Tritch, Rosemary. Telephone interview. 16 Nov. 2008.

<sup>70</sup> Immanuel's current location: 2300 Northridge Rd. Findlay, Ohio 45850.

<sup>71</sup> Immanuel Lutheran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bulletin 22 Oct. 1989

<sup>72</sup> The Lutheran Hymnal #473