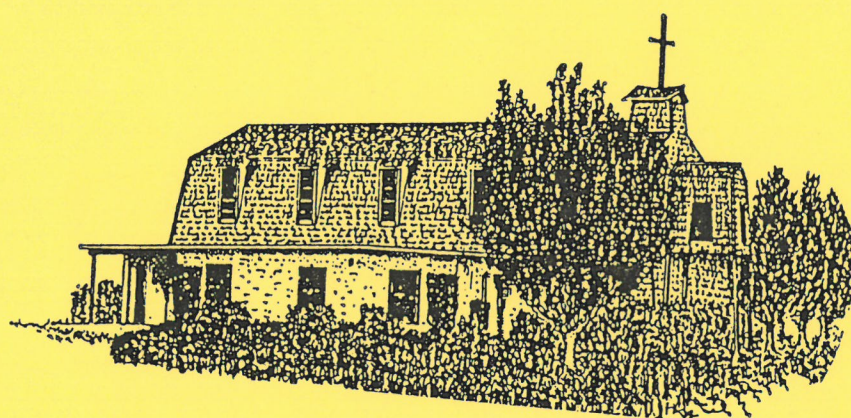


"75 YEARS OF GOD WITH US"  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1914 - 1989



75th ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET  
JUNE 11, 1989

"75 YEARS OF GOD WITH US"

+ + +

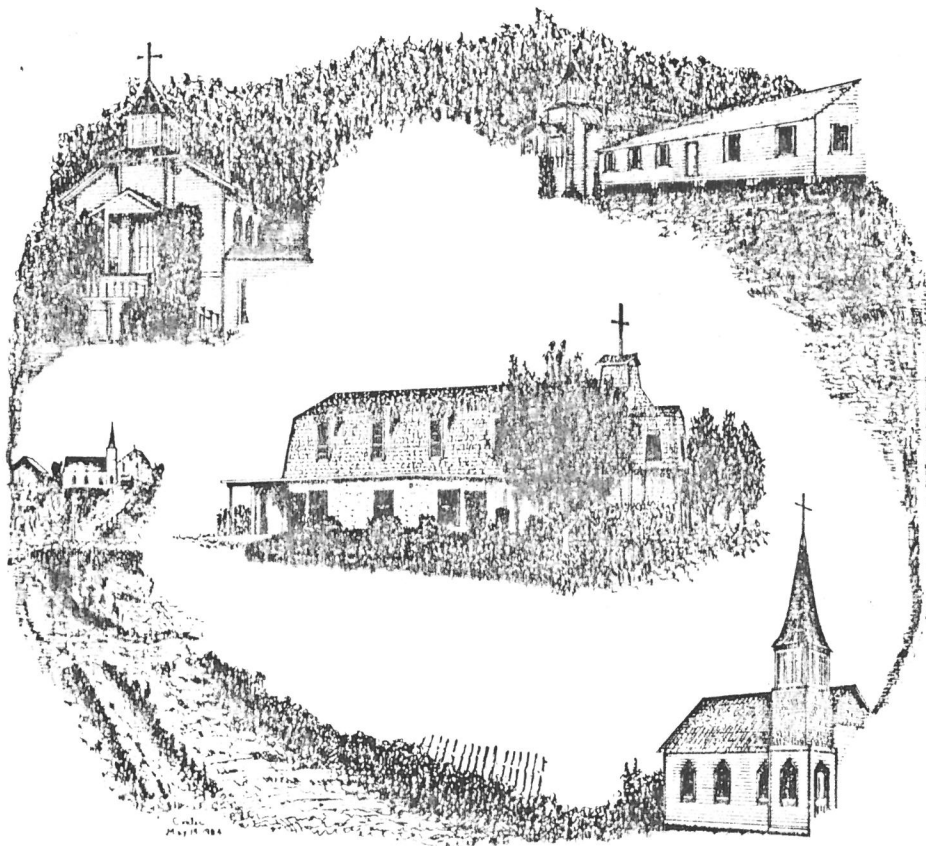
THE ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET  
of  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 11, 1989

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Letter	Page 2
The History of Immanuel Lutheran Church	Page 3
The Charter Members	Page 7
Members Honored for 50 Years of Service	Page 7
The Pastors	Page 8
The Church Buildings	Page 20
Important Dates	Page 23



Lower right and left side:  
Methodist Church in Knappa, Oregon  
Dismantled and moved to Brownsmead in 1922.

Upper left:  
Became Brownsmead Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1925.

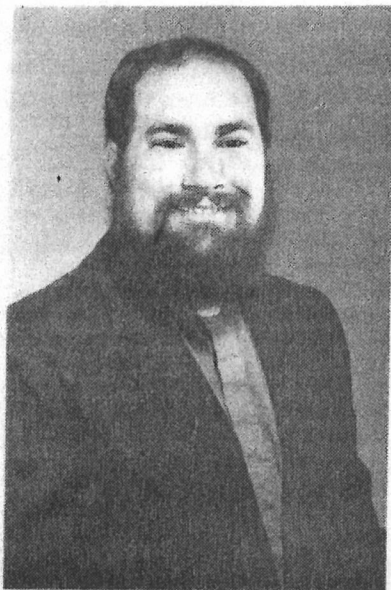
Upper right:  
Educational unit added to church building in 1956.

Center:  
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Knappa, Oregon, built in 1968.



## Pastor's Letter

"And his name shall be called Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'" Matthew 1:23



In 1948, this congregation decided to change its name for the third time. The name they chose was "Immanuel Lutheran Church." That was the name that stuck. Immanuel means "God with us." I do not know why they chose this name from all other names, but I think that this is a fine name. The name is an appropriate one for this family of faith. In our very name we realize what we are about as Christians: God has promised to be present with us in our daily lives wherever we may be. Our very name also tells us what type of God we experience through the Word and the Sacraments: not an abstract or detached god but an intimate God who is involved in his creation.

One of the interesting aspects of the name Immanuel is that there is no verb included in the Hebrew meaning of the name. Immanuel can mean "God has been with us." Often by remembering our past, we can see how God has worked in our lives. I believe that this is also true with our congregation. Immanuel can also mean "God is with us." In our present community of faith, God is still as active as ever. "God will be with us" is yet another meaning. Through Jesus Christ, we have no fear of the future. We can have a certain hope in God's future care and concern for us.

Special thanks should be given to those histories of the church which were an important part of this history. Anna Sakie's history, written in 1964, was most helpful. Eileen Cheuvront also had written a history for the 70th Anniversary which was also helpful. Thanks should be given to Eileen and Karen Schneider for their proofreading at the last minute. Thanks is also in store for the many members who over the years have written articles in Church Newsletters and Annual Reports; and for The Daily Astorian. Finally, thanks to all the friends and members of Immanuel, without whom this history would not have been written.

I have learned much about you as a congregation from working on this history booklet. And I hope that you too -- whether you are an old-time member, a newer member, a friend, or a visitor -- will learn still more about this community of faith from the following pages.

God be with you!

Lou Schneider, Pastor



THE HISTORY  
of  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The history of Immanuel Lutheran Church has been quite interesting. It all began on March 30, 1914, when at the home of Henry and Hanna Lahti, 25 people of Finnish descent signed the charter to form the "Blind Slough Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church." Among those elected to the first church board were: Jalmer Gerttula, secretary, and Lucy Carlson (Gerttula), treasurer. Because there was no church building, the congregation met in the homes of the members for the first ten years. The first pastor, the Rev. D. J. Elm, an Astoria minister, came by boat to lead worship services once a month. These services were held in Finnish. In these beginning years, the pastor came by train or boat from Astoria. From its start in 1916 to its first resident pastor, the congregation had seven different pastors: Rev. D. J. Elm (1916-1919), Rev. Frans Kava (1919-1922), Rev. Arvo Korhonen (1922-1923), Rev. Evert Torkko (1932-1941), Rev. Uura Sarnivaara (1942), Rev. F. W. Kaaskinen (1942-1947), Rev. Melvin Hagelberg (1948-1949).

The congregation became a member of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church, Suomi Synod in 1917. In 1923 the Knappa Methodist Church building was brought and moved to a site in Brownsmead. The congregation finally had a church building. During these early years, there were few expenses, except to pay the pastor. It is recorded that the funds on hand at the 1924 annual meeting were \$1637.19. (More than what is presently in the checking account!)

For a long time the services were held only in Finnish. About 1944 a new era for the congregation began when worship services were said in English as well as Finnish. This came about when one of the members, John Polso, passed away. While Pastor Kaskinen was conducting the service, he noted that many of those attending did not understand Finnish. So he used both English and Finnish. Rev. Kaskinen would be the last pastor to speak Finnish at Immanuel. None of the resident pastors spoke the language.

In the spring of 1944 Immanuel's first regular Sunday School was started by Mr. Fred Hirn and Mrs. Hilda Heino. So anxious was Mr. Hirn on the first day of Sunday School, it is said that he bought soda pop for the entire Sunday School on opening day. It is also said that when the word got around about this treat, the teachers were not lacking for students. Leonard Allen was the first Sunday School Superintendent. Among the early Sunday School teachers were: Esther Keister, Eve Hedges, Dora Bersagel, Hilma Lumijarvi, and Virginia Estoos.

During the years, the "Finnish Ladies' Aid" was very active. The "Ladies' Aid" began with 12 members in September of 1944. Anna Sarkie was chosen to be its first president. Their first bazaar was held in the late fall. Buying equipment for the

church kitchen and helping the Sunday School were their first projects. Through the years the women's group has had several names: the "Ladies' Aid," the "Immanuel Guild," the "Lutheran Church Women," and the "Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America." Through their efforts much has been accomplished for Immanuel. Bazaars, dinners, food sales, mother-daughter dinners and much more have been held. Pie socials, which included the whole community, were also very popular. The women's group also served in service projects like that of the Lutheran Service Center in Astoria for the servicemen.

In 1946, the church was redecorated and renamed "Immanuel Lutheran Church of Brownsmead." The church acquired a Sunday School bus in 1948. Howard Keister and Donald Bartlett drove about the country each Sunday morning gathering children for Sunday School. The bus soon developed many ills, so it was sold. Nevertheless the Sunday School continued to grow.

The first wedding held in the church was in 1946 when Joyce Gerttula and Vernon Vinson were married by Rev. Kaskinen.

In 1951, the first confirmation services were held. Among these first confirmands were Jim Allen, Melvin Lampi, Eleanor and Louise Olson, Larry and Jimmy Tuffy, and Eileen Barendse.

During the early fifties, there were two English services a month and one Finnish service. The utmost desire of many in the congregation was to have a resident pastor of their very own. One woman in the congregation, who had some money of her own, would have used it to guarantee the support of one. As it turned out she didn't have to use her money, because the money needed to call Immanuel's first resident pastor was placed in the church treasury by the Immanuel Guild (the Church Women's Group at that time). On May 1, 1952, Immanuel Lutheran Church no longer had to depend on pastors coming from Astoria. The Rev. Marvin Pekkala became Immanuel's first resident pastor. At the time, Immanuel, which had 40 members and 55 Sunday School students, was the only church in the community. Members of other denominations, however, did attend. Immanuel began to grow.

Under Pastor Pekkala's leadership, a senior and junior choir were active. Vacation Bible School began. The Sunday School grew. At the annual meeting of January 1954, the Building Fund for a Sunday School addition and restrooms was begun with several donations from the congregation. The restrooms were especially looked forward to because some of the members still didn't have such luxuries in their homes.

During Pastor Pekkala's ministry at Immanuel, Luther League also was started. It is said that at the first Luther League meeting, parents insisted that their reluctant teenagers attend at least the first meeting. They soon found that these same teenagers could not have been kept home from a meeting. The word spread that there was fun and fellowship with Christian friends to be found in Luther League. Social events became standing room only affairs and many young people who had known ministers only as necessary props for weddings and funerals, found that a



pastor can be a real friend and a regular person. It also was said that Pastor Marvin would wear his swim suit under his clerics so that he could go directly to the Autics to water ski after church.

Introduced during the services of Pastor Pekkala was Immanuel's first church paper called, "Chapel Notes." The newsletter was a way which the pastor, members, and church organizations could let the congregation know what was happening in the life of the church. Over the years the name of the newsletter was changed to the "Informer," to the "Church Mouse," to simply the "Immanuel Newsletter and Calendar." This month in honor of the 75th Anniversary, and of our prayer that God will be always with us, the newsletter will once again have a name; "The Presence."

To the church building was added a bunk house for Sunday School (1956). At the annual meeting of January 1956, it was decided that the church would purchase the Fowser home for a parsonage. The congregation was able to pay the mortgage off in five years. The parsonage was later sold in 1965.

Pastor Pekkala resigned in August 1956, and relinquished his office October 1, 1956. After he left, the congregation was served by other pastors of the area and by pre-theological students from Pacific Lutheran College. Calls to pastors were sent, and in the spring of 1957 Pastor Donald Koponen accepted the call. Shortly after the arrival of Pastor Koponen, one of the rooms in Sunday School chapel was made into the pastor's study with a telephone installed.

Mr. Earl Edmonds, teacher of music at Knappa High School, became choir director and held the position until he left Knappa for another position. The Service Book and Hymnal (the Old Red Book) was ordered. The new Lutheran service was introduced in May of 1958. Two services were held on Sunday now, one at the Sunday School hour and the other at 11:15 a.m.

In 1961, Immanuel Lutheran Church voted unanimously to participate in the merger of the Suomi Synod with three other Lutheran bodies in the United States to become the Lutheran Church in America. This merger became a reality on January 1, 1963.

In June 1964, there was a 50th Anniversary celebration, with dinner and special services. Four charter members were present: Jalmer and Lucy Gerttula, Art Erickson and Mrs. Hanna Raitanen. Other long time members honored at the time were Mary Wiinikka, Fanny Kangas, and Sophia Saranpaa. There was 159 confirmed members at that time.

In 1968 the congregation dedicated its present building. In 1970, Pastor Brooks began his ministry at Immanuel. Pastor Brooks had the longest ministry at Immanuel of any pastor so far. When Pastor Brooks first came he served both Immanuel Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church in Clatskanie. By 1973, both Immanuel and Faith had pastors of their own. In the area of worship, Immanuel began a new era when it began using

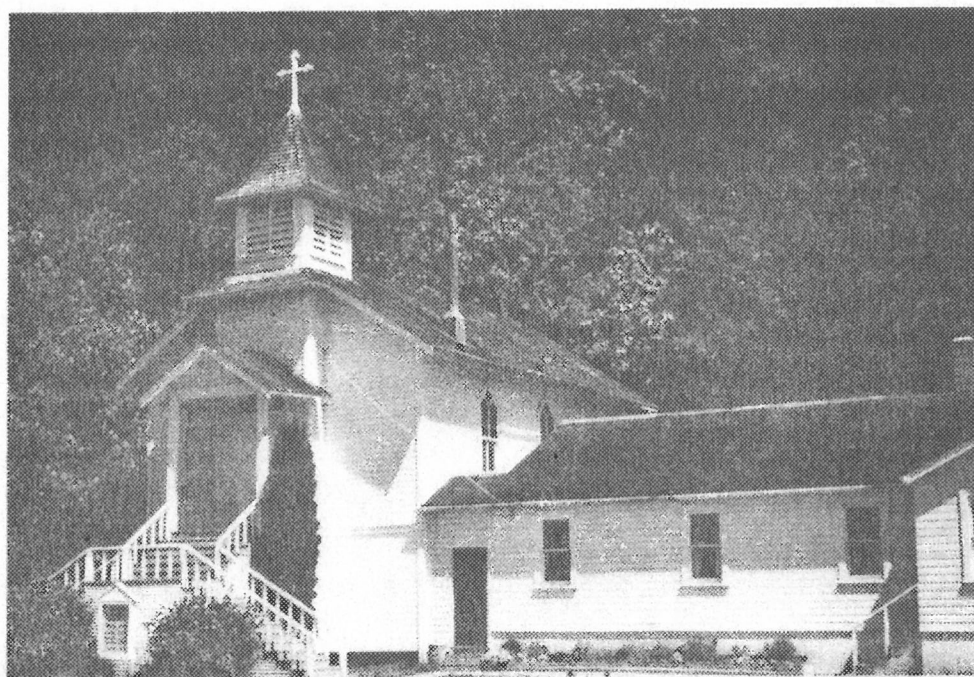
the Lutheran Book of Worship (the Green Book) on April 29, 1979.

In June of 1983, when the Brooks' left, Immanuel would be again without a pastor. Lois Aho, the Church Vice-President at the time, wrote in the Church Council Report of the 1983 Annual:

We received word in May that our application to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary for an intern had been processed, and we would be assigned a fourth-year student, Henry Coates, for one year under Pastor Clark's sponsorship..... With much anticipation, and some apprehension, we welcomed the Coates family to Immanuel in July. Intern-pastor Coates told the council that he would depend on our support for the church [Internship] program...

Intern-pastor Coates did so well that in 1984, 'Bud' Coates was installed as the pastor of Immanuel. In 1988, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was formed and Immanuel Lutheran Church became a member. In August of 1988, Pastor Bud and his family left for Klamath Falls.

On February 5, 1989, Pastor Lou Schneider was installed. This brings us to the present. What will God have in store for us in the days and months ahead? Although no one quite knows what the future has in store for us, we know that through either the good times or tough times, the good Lord has promised to be our Immanuel, God with us. If God is with us, what can stand against us?





THE  
CHARTER MEMBERS  
of  
"BLIND SLOUGH FINNISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH"

Betta Carlson	Hanna Lahti
John Carlson	Henry Lahti
Lucy Carlson (Gerttula)	Maria Harma
Hilma Erickson	Hanna Keranen (Raitanen)
Sophia Heikkila	Alexandria Erickson
Sara Hillstrom	Andrew Juntilla
Axel Hillstrom	Jack Hendrickson
Albert Hillstrom	John Johnson
Mrs. John Takalo	Justina Takalo
Amanda Gerttula	Maria Takalo
John Gerttula	Niku Jylkka
John Gerttula, Jr.	E. M. Gerttula
J. H. Gerttula	Arthur Erickson

Of these 25 Charter Members, only Mrs. Lucy Gerttula is still with us. Lucy was 18 years old when she signed the church charter. Her name was Lucy Carlson at the time of the signing. At the time of the signing Lucy was the treasurer and the man who was to become her husband, Jalmer Gerttula was the first secretary of the church.

In 1954, Mrs. Lucy Gerttula with her husband Jalmer were voted lifetime honorary members of the church council of Immanuel Lutheran Church. On this 75th Anniversary, Lucy will be among those we honor for her service in our church community.

+ + +

PEOPLE HONORED FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

During this 75th Anniversary, the church wishes to thank all people for their service through the years. Special thanks is given for those folks who have been a part of this family of God for 50 years and over:

Lucy Gerttula	Lila Raihala
Jean Brown	Joyce Smith
Roy & Siv Salmi	Eileen Cheuvront
Fanni Lampi	Jim Allen
Ginny Shepherd	Buddy Vinson

Thank you. We look forward to 50 more!

THE FORMER PASTORS  
of  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Through the past 75 years Immanuel has had a long line of pastors. In the beginning of Immanuel's history, the church was served by pastors from Astoria. These pastors spoke Finnish and conducted the services once a month.

The Rev. D. J. Elm  
(1914-1919)



Pastor and Mrs. D.J. Elm

The Rev. D.J. Elm was the first pastor to serve our congregation. Coming to hold worship services once a month, Rev. Elm, a pastor in Astoria, would travel by boat to do so.



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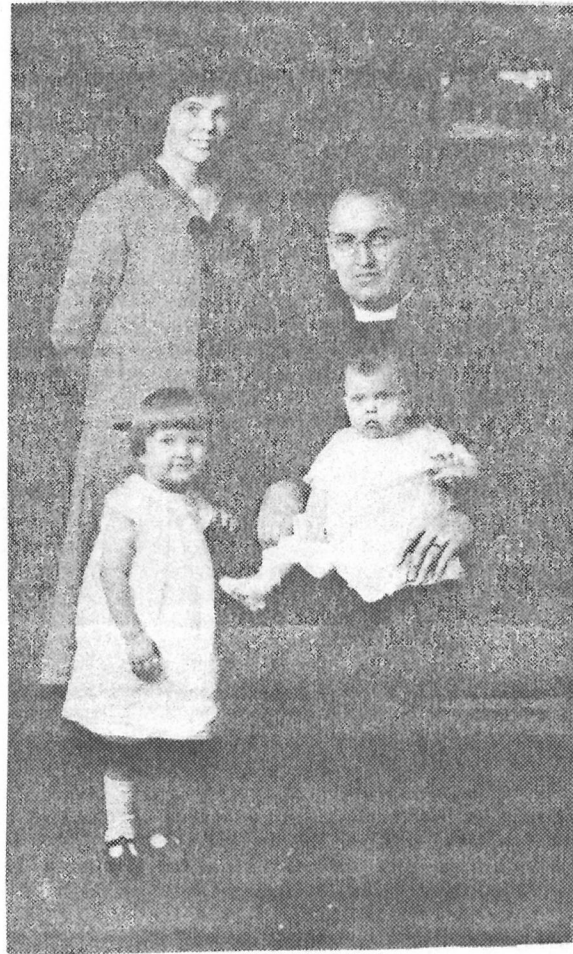
The Rev. Frans Kava  
(1919-1922)



Pastor Franz Kava & Family

Pastor Frans Kava served the congregation from Fall 1919 to 1922. At that time there were but a few expenses, except to pay the pastor.

The Rev. Arvo Korhonen  
(1922-1923)



Pastor Korhonen & Family

The Rev. Evert Torkko  
(1932-1941)

The Rev. Evert Torkko of Astoria served in the fall of 1932 to 1941.

The Rev. Uuras Sarnivaara  
(Summer, 1942)

The Rev. Uuras Sarnivaara served the congregation in the summer of 1942.



The Rev. F. W. Kaskinen  
(1942-1947, 1949-1953)



Pastor & Mrs. F. W. Kaskinen

The Rev. F. W. Kaskinen of Zion Lutheran in Astoria also served our congregation from 1942 to 1947 and again from 1949 to 1953. Rev. Kaskinen was the first to have English services along with Finnish services.

The Rev. Melvin Hagelberg  
(1948-1949)

Pastor Melvin Hagelberg served from 1948 to 1949.

The following were the resident pastors that have served Immanuel.

The Rev. Marvin Pekkala,  
(June, 1953- October, 1956)



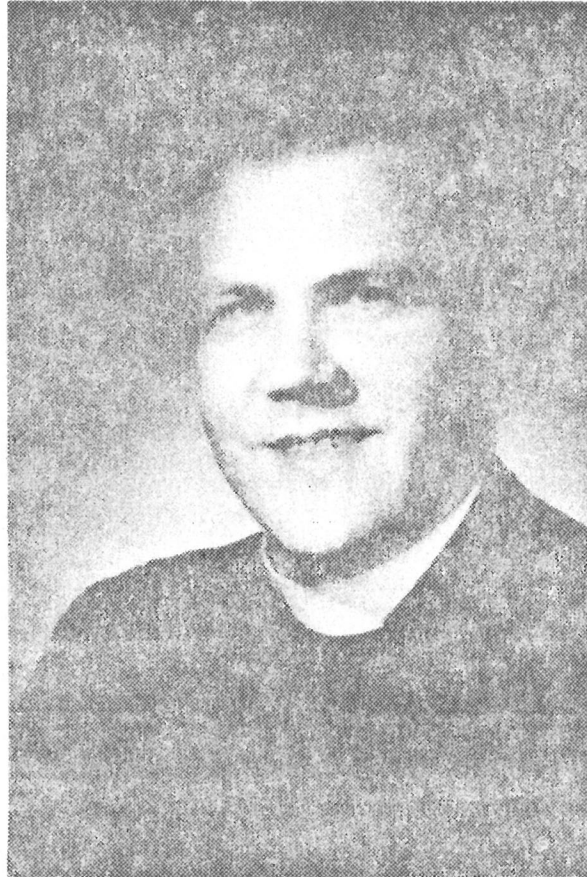
The Rev. Marvin Pekkala was Immanuel's first resident pastor. At the age of 25, Rev. Pekkala was installed on May 10, 1953. In the church newsletter, "Chapel Notes" of Christmas 1956, it is said of Rev. Pekkala, "And God surely smiled upon Immanuel as He sent to us this young man with missionary zeal!"

Before coming to Immanuel, Rev. Pekkala served as a student pastor in Wing, N.D. in 1951. After his ordination in 1952, he was assistant Pastor in Fairport Harbor, Oregon from September 1, 1952 to April 1953. He also had served a year in the army, five months of which time was spent in Japan.

While Rev. Pekkala served Immanuel he was paid \$100 a month plus room and board. He also drove a school bus to make ends meet.

Pastor Pekkala resigned in August 1956, and relinquished his office October 1, 1956. In 1980, Pastor Pekkala died from a liver disease.

The Rev. Donald Eugene Koponen  
(July, 1957- June, 1959)



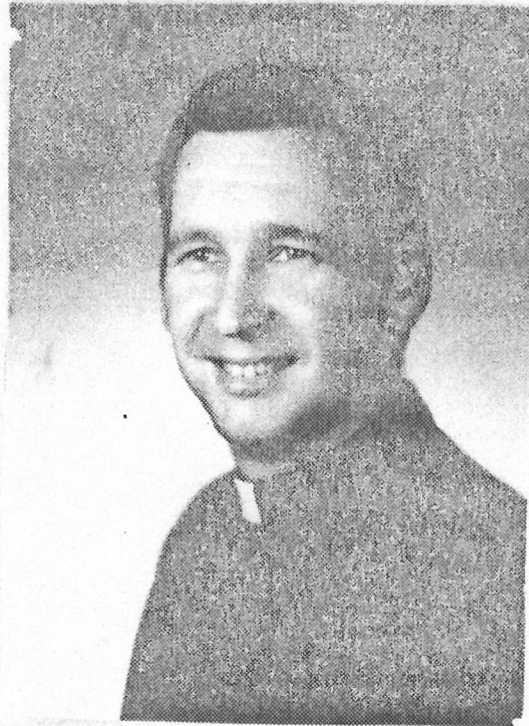
Rev. Koponen was born on November 19, 1932. In 1954, he married Joy Diane Johnson. Before his call to Immanuel, Rev. Koponen attended Wayne State University in Detroit, where he received his B.A. degree. In Chicago Theological Seminary in Maywood, IL, Rev. Koponen received his B.D. degree. At Andover Newton Theological in Newton Centre, MA, Rev. Koponen received his M.Div. degree. In 1957, he was ordained in the Suomi Synod.

In the spring of 1957, Rev. Koponen accepted the call, arriving with his family in July 1957.

Pastor Koponen resigned and ended his service at Immanuel on June 30, 1959. After his time at Immanuel, Rev. Koponen has served Messiah Lutheran Church in Portland, and St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newport, RI. Presently, Rev. Koponen is serving Immanuel Lutheran Church in Holden, MA.



The Rev. Carl Thomas Kangas  
(September, 1959- November, 1961)

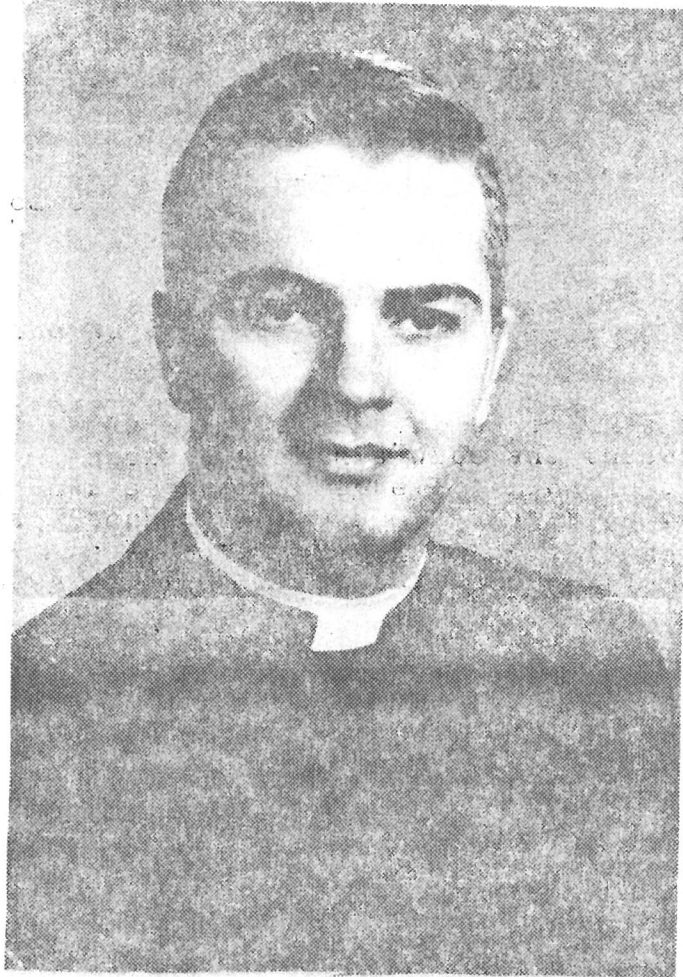


Rev. Kangas was born in Ishpeming, MI. In 1953, he married Jane Marie Kauramaki. At Suomi College in Hancock, MI, Rev. Kangas received his Certificate (1951). At Suomi Theological Seminary in the same town, he received his Diploma (1954). Rev. Kangas received his B.A. degree at North Dakota State University in Fargo, ND (1954). He was ordained into the Suomi Synod in 1954. His first parish was at St. John Lutheran Church in Sudbury, MA. Rev. Kangas served St. John from July 1954 to August 1954.

The Rev. C. Thomas Kangas accepted the call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in May of 1959, arriving with his family and beginning his service on September, 1959.

Pastor Kangas relinquished his office as pastor of Immanuel on November 26, 1961. From Immanuel, Rev. Kangas left for St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in New York Mills, Minn. Rev. Kangas has also served Herby Lutheran Church, Harwood, ND; St. Mark Lutheran Church, Anchorage, AK. Rev. Kangas is presently serving a congregation in Powers Lake, ND.

The Rev. Wilton Harold Anderson  
(July, 1962 - September, 1964)

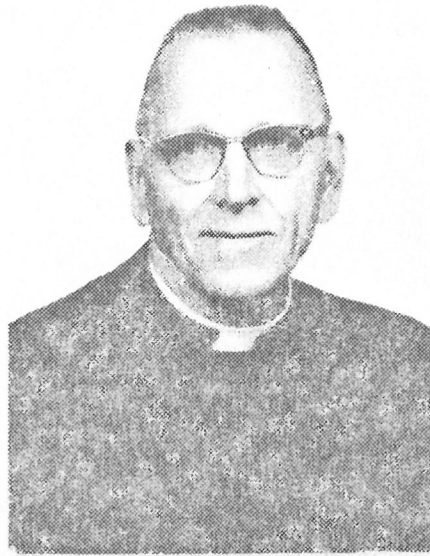


Rev. Anderson was born on April 3, 1933 in Merrill, WI. Before Rev. Anderson came to Immanuel, he went to school at Augustana College in Rock Island where he received his AB degree in 1952. Then Rev. Anderson attended Augustana Theological Seminary, Rock Island, IL., where he received his BD degree. In 1962 He was ordained into the Augustana Synod in Detroit, MI.

On July 29, 1962, the Rev. Wilton A. Anderson was installed at Immanuel as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church and Peace Lutheran Church in Rainer, Washington. When Rev. Anderson came to Brownsmead, he arrived with his wife and three children.

Pastor Anderson resigned in September 1964 to become a Pastor Developer of St. Stephen, Antioch, IL. Later he became a Pastor Developer of BAM in Federal Way, WA. At the present time, Rev. Anderson is the pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Federal Way, WA.

The Rev. Marlyn Larson  
(April, 1965-1970)



Pastor Marlyn V. Larson served the congregation from April 1965 to 1970.

Pastor Larson was the pastor at the time of the dedication of the present church building. He helped to raise monies to do so. It is said that Pastor Larson did much of the physical labor of building the present church.



The Rev. William Irvin Brooks  
(September 1970 - June, 1983)

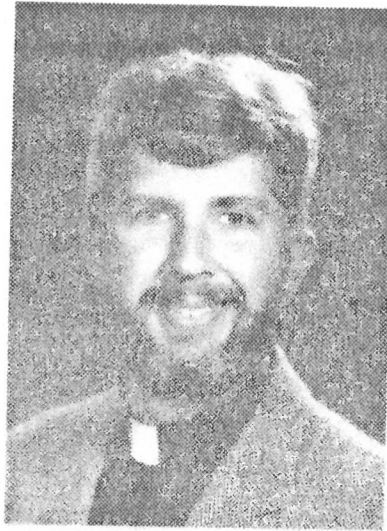


Rev. Brooks was born on May 28, 1925. In 1947, he married Wanda M. Ramage. At the University of Oregon in Eugene he received his BA degree in 1957. In 1961, he received his M. Div. at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary at Berkeley, CA. In 1961, Rev. Brooks was ordained into the ULCA. Before coming to Immanuel, Rev. Brooks served as a Pastor Developer at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Goldendale, WA. He had also served St. Mark in Seattle, WA before arriving at Immanuel.

The Rev. William I. Brooks was installed March 4, 1970 as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Clatskanie and Immanuel Lutheran Church. At the time of his installation, Rev. Brooks and his wife Wanda had three children, Mike, Craig and Patricia Riches, and one grandchild.

Rev. Brooks now serves Trinity Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, WA.

The Rev. Henry Behrens "Bud" Coates, Jr.  
(July, 1984 - August, 1988)



Rev. Coates was born June 27, 1948. In 1970, Rev. Coates married Denise Rouene Loth. Rev. Coates received his B.A. degree from the University of Washington in Seattle, WA in 1980. In 1984, Rev. Coates received his M.Div. degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. He was ordained into the LCA in 1984.

The Rev. Henry B. Coates or "Bud" first came to Immanuel as an intern pastor under the sponsorship of Rev. Clark of Peace Lutheran Church in Astoria. In 1984, Immanuel enjoyed Bud's ministry so much that he was called to be pastor. With Rev. Coates, Immanuel enjoyed Denise and their three children: Brandon, Kendra and Trevor.

Rev. Coates is now serving Klamath Lutheran Church in Klamath Falls, OR.

The Rev. Louis John Schneider  
(February, 1989- )



Rev. Schneider was born on April 22, 1961. In 1984, he married Karen Patricia Skinner. Rev. Schneider received his BA degree from California State University Northridge in 1984. In 1988, he received his M.Div. degree from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Rev. Schneider was ordained into the ELCA in January 1989.

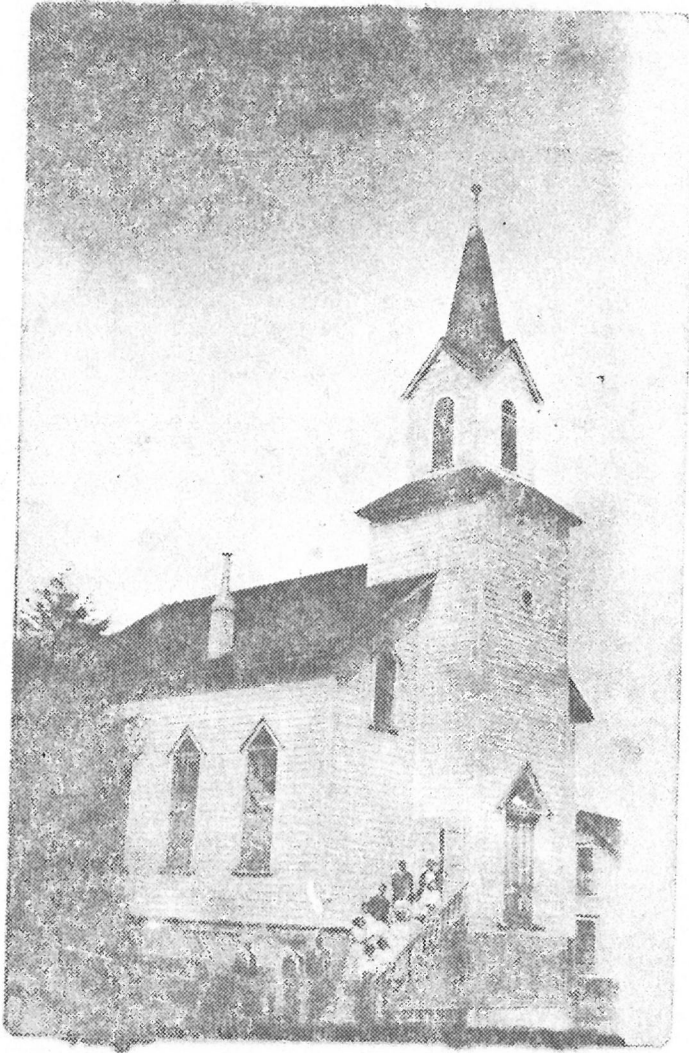
On February 5, 1989, Pastor Lou was installed as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church. His first impression of the church happened on the way to the interview. After being picked up at the airport by Ron Smith and Roy Hammond, their car ran out of gas on the top of the Lewis and Clark Bridge in Longview. It was truly a moment of faith! In these few short months there have been a number of these moments of faith.



THE CHURCH BUILDINGS  
of  
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

For the first 10 years, the congregation met in the homes of its members.

Methodist Church in Knappa, Oregon  
Dismantled and moved to Brownsmead in 1922



The Methodist Church building in Knappa was purchased for \$125.00 from Miss Keene. The building was dismantled and hauled by truck loads by Jalmer Gerttula to Aldrich Point Road, Brownsmead. The land was donated by Elias Michelson, who lived across the road from the church-site. New materials were added to the building. With much faith and labor, the church was completed. The name was changed to the Brownsmead Evangelical Lutheran Church when the dedication took place one spring Sunday of 1925. Many came from Astoria and surrounding communities for the dedication. Even a representative came from Hancock, Michigan.

Educational Unit  
Added to Church Building in 1956

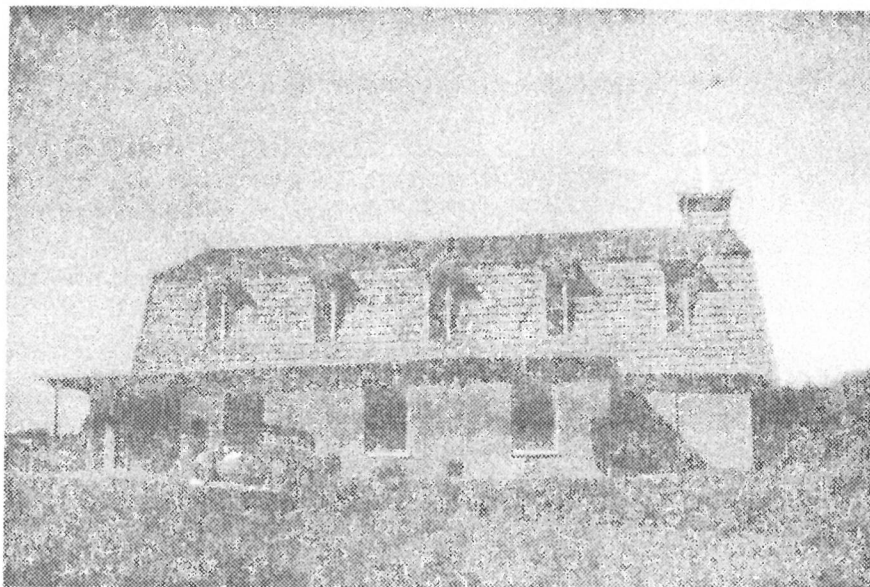


The Building Fund started with a few large and several smaller donations at the annual meeting of January 1954. In two Sundays the Building Fund raised almost \$2000.00. The main project of this fund was a Sunday School addition and restrooms. In 1956, the congregation was able to add to the church building a large wing to be used for its "Educational Unit". The addition had been used as a bunk house on pilings on the Columbia River for a crew of seining operation.

Local gillnet fishermen donated their boats and labor to tow the building up to the Fishermen's Warehouse near the church. From there, a house-moving truck brought it to Brownsmead. People of the communities served by Immanuel donated monies, and with the help of a loan, a Sunday School chapel came into being. Men and women of the church donated their labors to clean, repair and paint the building inside and out. Among those who helped were: Estoos, Allen, Raihala, Barendse, Reister, Lampi, Fish, Tufts, Kallstrom, Vinson, McEntire, Palmrose, Lumijarvi, Lahti, Fowser and many more.

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Knappa, Oregon  
built in 1968

MAY



The dream of having the church building closer to the highway began several years ago. In December 1956, the comment was made in the "Chapel Notes": "Will we, someday move the church out to the highway so that we might better serve our members and friends from Svensen, Knappa and Bradwood, as well as our Brownsmead folks? What is His plan for Immanuel?"

In the Fall of 1963, study committees were appointed to study the needs of Immanuel. In May 1964, a detailed report was presented to the congregation. It stated that the site on Highway 30 at Knappa, which was donated by Francis Bagley and Eileen Cheuvront, was very suitable for a new church building. The big decision to relocate was made.

The first spade of earth turned for the new building was on September 29, 1967. Ceremonies were held at the bulldozed site, with many clergy present. But this was just the beginning. Much volunteer work went into the building. Pastor Larsen did a lot of the physical work himself, along with Mr. & Mrs. Jalmer Gerttala, Mrs. Rilda Lahti, Mr. & Mrs. Hans Larson, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Quist and scores of others.

On May 19, 1968, the congregation dedicated its present building located on Highway 30 at Knappa. More than 200 people attended the service of dedication. Greetings were received from Ernest Brown, the architect, and Roy Duas, the contractor.



# IMPORTANT DATES OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

- March 30, 1914      The charter was signed to form "Blind Slough Evangelical Lutheran Church."
- 1917      The congregation becomes part of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Suomi Synod.
- 1922      The first building, Knappa Methodist church, was bought.
- 1944      Sunday School was started.
- 1944      Immanuel's first women's group started.
- 1946      The congregation renamed itself for a third time: "Immanuel Lutheran Church." This name stuck.
- 1946      Joyce Gerttula and Verne Vinson were the first couple married in the church.
- 1951      The first confirmation service was held.
- 1953      The Rev. Marvin Pekkala, Immanuel's first resident pastor, installed.
- 1953      Vacation Bible School was held for the first time.
- 1956      The educational wing was added to the church building.
- 1958      The Service Book and Hymnal (Red Book) was introduced.
- 1961      Immanuel Lutheran Church voted unanimously to participate in the merger of the Suomi Synod with three other Lutheran bodies to become Lutheran Church in America.
- 1968      The present church building is dedicated.
- 1979      The Lutheran Book of Worship (Green Book) was introduced.
- 1988      Evangelical Lutheran Church in America forms. Immanuel is one of its members.





