

Pastor Arvo Korhonen served during 1922 and 1923, and it was during this time that the Methodist church building in Knappa was purchased for \$125.00 from Miss Keene. The building was dismantled at Knappa and Jalmer Gerttula hauled it by truck loads to the Brownsmead site. The land was donated by Elias Michelson. Some new materials were added and with much labor and much faith, the church was completed. One spring Sunday in 1925, the new church was dedicated and the name was changed to the Brownsmead Evangelical Lutheran Church. Even a representative from Hancock Michigan came for the dedication.

Through the years, the once a month service continued. Pastor Evert Torkko of Astoria served the small congregation in the fall of 1932 to 1941. The summer of 1942 Pastor Uura Sarnivaara served.

Pastor F. W. Kaaskinen served from 1942 to 1947, while he was pastor at Zion Lutheran in Astoria.

A new era was entered during this period!! One of the members, John Polso, passed away and while Pastor Kaaskinen was conducting the service, he noted that many of those attending did not understand the Finnish language. So he used both English and Finnish.

This was the time when I began attending services and I remember falling asleep during the Finnish part of the service!

In 1946 Joyce Gerttula and Verne Vinson were married, the first wedding held at the church.

Pastor Melvin Hagelberg served from 1948 to 1949, and then Pastor Kaaskinen returned.

In the spring of 1944, the first regular Sunday School was started. Fred Hirn and Mrs. Hilda Leino were the first promoters. -- I'm told that Mr. Hirn was so anxious to get the Sunday school started, that he bought pop for all the kids on opening day. When the word got around about this treat, the teachers were not lacking for students.....

Some of the early Sunday school teachers were: Esther Keister, Eve Hedges, Dora Bersagel, Hilma Lumijarvi.....and a lady who was not only a Sunday school teacher, but a decorator, youth supporter, senior citizen friend, newsletter editor and many, many more things over the years.....Virginia Estoos.

I have to tell you that Virginia was such an effective Sunday school teacher, that when I arrived at a Christmas program one year.....a little late.....with my two little girls.....the youngest spotted Virginia clear across the hall and yelled out....."Look, Mom, there's Jesus!"

Leonard Allen was the first Sunday School Superintendent. And there was a lady who came with him who has always been around when we need her. Her many years of service have not gone unnoticed. Jean Allen Brown.....

In 1948, the church acquired a Sunday school bus, which 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. But the Sunday School enrollment climbed to 150 children in 1955. Great productions were held in the Brownsmead Hall at Christmas time.

In September 1944, 12 women met to organize the "Ladies Aid". Buying equipment for the church kitchen and helping the Sunday School were their first projects. Several years' efforts went into the purchase of the electric organ. Bazaars, dinners, food sales, mother-daughter dinners and much more were held. Pie socials were very popular, involving the whole community. They also served at the Lutheran Service Center in Astoria for the servicemen.

The first bazaar the "Ladies Aid" held was in the fall of 1944, and the same lady who coordinates the rummage sales today, was the first president then.....Anna Sarkie.

Anna and Joel have given loyal support for a lot of years! And I would especially like to thank Anna at this time for her contribution to compiling the history of Immanuel. We have put together a notebook for display which we hope will be a permanent part of Immanuel's records. Anyone wishing to contribute to it, may leave their things with me or Pastor Coates, or just put them in the book.

In one of the minutes of the "Ladies Aid" I noted that the group enjoyed going to Bradwood to Mabel Ahlf's for the December meeting. Mabel.....

In 1946 the church was redecored and was renamed Immanuel Lutheran Church of Brownsmead. In November that year, Pastor Kaaskinen held instruction classes and a group of adults joined the church. Some of those in the class were:

In 1951 the first confirmation services were held. Some of those people you will remember.....Jim Allen, Melvin Lampi, Eleanor and Louise Olson, Larry and Jimmy Tufts, and that Barendse girl.

At this time there were now twice monthly services in English and only one single one in Finnish.

To have our very own resident pastor was the utmost desire of many. One lady 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. It was the money Immanuel Guild (the old "Ladies Aid") placed in the church treasury that made it possible for calling our first pastor. There were 40 members and 55 Sunday school students. Immanuel was blooming.

Our first resident pastor arrived on May 1, 1952!! Under the direction of Marvin Pekkala, a junior and senior choir was active, Vacation Bible School was held, Luther League began, the Sunday School grew and a building fund was started.

The first project to come out of the building fund was the restrooms! How nice that was, especially for those of us who still didn't have the inside luxury at home!

*Marvin was paid 100 @ month
& room & board at Esters house.
He drove school bus, also.*

Then in 1956 a bunkhouse which was on piling in the Columbia River, used for seining crews, was bought. Local fishermen donated their boats and labor to tow the building up to the Fishermen's Warehouse and then it was moved with a house-moving truck to the church site.

Many hours of labor and donations of money were given to completely clean, repair, paint the building inside and out. Estoos, Allen, Raihala, Barendse, Keister, Lampi, Fish, Tufts, Kallstrom, Vinson, McEntire, Palmrose, Lumijarvi, Lahti and many more were the people who gave. And among those were a couple who were always there when things needed to be done.....robes for choir, flowers for the alter, painting to be done, voices in the choir and one and on.....Howard and Helen Fowser.....

Also introduced during the services of Pastor Pekkala was the church paper, then called the "Cahpel Notes", and later the "Informer".

At the annual meeting in January, 1956, it was decided to purchase the Fowser home for a parsonage. The congregation paid that mortgage off in five years. And in 1965 it was sold.

How Immanuel has been blessed with young folks!!

Some will remember Marvin Pekkala's first Luther League meeting..... a few parents insisted that reluctant teenagers attend at least the first meeting! They soon found that these same teenagers could not have been kept home from a meeting. Faster than they'd passed around the measles and chicken pox a few years earlier, word spread that there was fun and fellowship with Christian friends to be found in Luther League. Socail events became standing room only affairs and many young people who had known ministers only as necessary props for wedding or funerals, found that a pastor can be a real friend and a regular guy. It was an easy thing for Pastor Marvin to join in.....it is said that he wore his swim suit under his clerics, so that he could go directly to Autios to water ski after church.

Some of the young folks came only for the fun of course, but in three years time, more than 50 of these young people became confirmed members of Immanuel.

Pastor Pekkala resigned in August 1956. And for those of you who may not know.....he died in 1980 of a liver disease.

During the next several months after Marvin left, the congregation was served by other local pastors and pre-theological students from PLC.

December 1956, an item in the Chapel Notes talked about an every-member canvas to plan the future of Immanuel. It was noted that \$5,000.00 would need to be raised each year to pay a minister the minimum salary of \$300.00 a month, keep up the building, finish paying for the parsonage and pay our Synod obligations.Just thought I'd mention that little item, so that Pastor Coates would know what a good deal we are offering his this year!

In July 1956, Pastor Donald Koponen arrived with his family. Shortly after his arrival, one of the Sunday School rooms was made into a pastor's study and a telephone was installed.

There was talk at this time of buying property on the highway, more centrally located, but nothing further was done.

Two services were held on Sunday now. One during the Sunday School hour and another at 11:15.

Earl Edmonds, teacher of music at Knappa High School became choir director.....and coupled with the beautiful voice of Pastor Koponen, music was a strong part of the ministry at Immanuel.

Some of you may know that Pastor Koponen made a record while at Newport, Rhode Island. -- During one of my recent visits with Lee Lahti, he said he thought his mother had bought one of those records. He found it and is sharing it with us....."How Great Thou Art" by Pastor Don Koponen.....

We received a letter from the Koponens yesterday, which I'd like to read to you at this time.....

Along with the letter was a box of colored slides they had taken while at Brownsmead and after Joyce and I viewed them through the kitchen window, we decided we just had to show them.....

Pastor Koponen resigned in June, 1959.

Pastor C. Thomas Kangas accepted the call to Immanuel in October 1959.

In 1961, Immanuel Lutheran 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.

And here is a letter from the Kangas', that we received yesterday, too.

Pastor Kangas resigned in November 1961.

Pastor Wilton Anderson came in July 1962. He also served Peace Lutheran Church in Rainier. There were anxious moments when the roads were bad in the winter. Someone would stand on the porch and wait till they saw the car come around the corner, then give the signal to begin services/

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 at the time were Mary Wiinikka, Fanny Kangas, Sophia Saranpaa. -- There were 159 confirmed members at that time.

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, contriubted by Francis Bagley and myself, was very suitable for a new church building.

Pastor Anderson resigned in the spring of 1965 and Pastor Marlyn Larson was called.

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 lots of clergy present.

On May 19, 1968, just 16 years ago today, this building was dedicated. More than 200 persons attended that dedication. To commemorate this building and our small picturesque church in Brownsmead and the building it was in Knappa, our talented Pastor Coates has drawn some sketches which you may buy as you wander through the narthex this evening.

Many of you know that a lot of volunteer work went into this building. Pastor Larson did a lot of the physical work himself, along with Mr. & Mrs. Jalmer Gertula, Mrs. Hilda Lahti, Mr & Mrs Hans Larson, Mr. & Mrs. Eric Quist and scores of others.

Pastor Larson left in 1965 and then came the man who stayed with us the longest.....When he came, he and Wanda and Craig rented A. C. Dale's duplex and then decided they liked us so well, they built a home and became a permanent resident..... Pastor William I. Brooks.....

In the summer of 1981 when Pastor and Wanda took a leave to go to Lucerne, we had with us Pastor George Samuelson and Karen. And here is a letter from them.....and you will note that they have changed their last name to Sonray.

There is one other lady I would like to introduce. She has been our financial secretary for many years, she has put flowers on our alter for those same many years, and has given personal influence to many of us.....Buddie Vinson....

And the very up-to-date news is that we recently called Pastor Bud Coates who has graciously accepted our call. There are a few details to work out before he is officially ordained next month, but we have confidence that things will be just fine. In fact you may have noticed that I am practicing today to call him Pastor Coates, instead of Bud.

1914 to 1984.....70 years.....a lifetime.....and yet only a bat of an eye in the time of our Lord. We.....Immanuel..... have grown.....and sometimes stayed the same.....we have sometimes been high.....and sometimes low.....and yet the work of the Lord always goes on.

Let's listen to the choir as they inspire us for the days,.... years ahead.....

"On our way rejoicing", by the choir.

Before we close, just let me take a moment to thank the "Ladies Aid" (LCW as it is now called) for giving up their annual Mother-Day Luncheon to help with today's celebration. Especially to Joyce for the decorations, Marion Van Osdol for telephoning, Mary Allen for baking the hams, Lee Lahti for his picture display, Lucille Schuyler for buying the hams, Sarkie's for the flowers

and the many others who helped serve today.

And did everyone get enough pictures or do we want to group the "old timers" for more pictures?

And now Pastor Coates would you please come forward and lead us in a closing prayer.the future of Immanuel is in your hands!!

Prayer by Pastor Coates.

(Alternative prayer, not used)

Thank you Lord, for this opportunity to share our heritage. Let us not forget, Lord, the folks who worked so hard these 70 years to keep your work moving. Even though a lot of the names we heard today have been called to You, may we always rejoice in the works they performed in your name. And as the generations before us rise, give us strength to continue to spread the Good News of forgiveness of sin through your Son, Jesus Christ. Let us truly go on our way, rejoicing /.....in your name we pray. AMEN

Narration by Eileen Cheuvront
May 19, 1984