



Built on Faith

History of Immanuel Lutheran Church Whitewood, South Dakota 1921 - 2021



***O God,
you have promised through your Son
to be with your Church forever.
We give you thanks for those who founded
this community of believers
and for the signs of your presence in our congregation.
Increase in us the spirit of faith and love,
and make us worthy of our heritage.
Knit us together in the communion of saints,
and make our fellowship an example
to all believers and to all nations.
We pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.***

From Lutheran Book of Worship (1978)



Written and compiled by Pastor David James Baer.
Centennial Committee Members: Linda Beulke, Doris Richter, Kim Ridley and Alona Westberg.
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Pastors of Immanuel

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Pastor A. H. Trygstad | 1921 - 1922 |
| Pastor M. E. Hauge | 1923 - 1925 |
| Pastor R. O. Aga | 1925 - 1927 |
| Pastor O. G. Malmin | 1927 - 1928 |
| Pastor Irvin A. Suby | 1928 - 1933 |
| Pastor Orlando M. Skindrud | 1933 - 1940 |
| Pastor Ralph L. Okland | 1940 - 1946 |
| Pastor E. Melvin Bremer | 1947 - 1953 |
| Pastor Verlyn O. Smith | 1954 - 1955 |
| Pastor Harvey A. Grote | 1956 - 1960 |
| Pastor Lloyd Ziebarth | 1960 - 1965 |
| Pastor H. W. Reinke | 1965 - 1966 |
| Pastor Roy Gilbertson | 1966 - 1967 |
| Pastor Jack H. Hill | 1967 - 1989 |
| Pastor Kenneth Dugan | 1989 - 1990 |
| Pastor William A. Behrend | 1990 - 1994 |
| Pastor Lloyd L. Miller | 1993 - 2001 |
| Pastor David J. Baer | 1994 - present |



Christmas 2020

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O Lord of hosts!

Blessed are those who dwell in your house,

ever singing your praise!

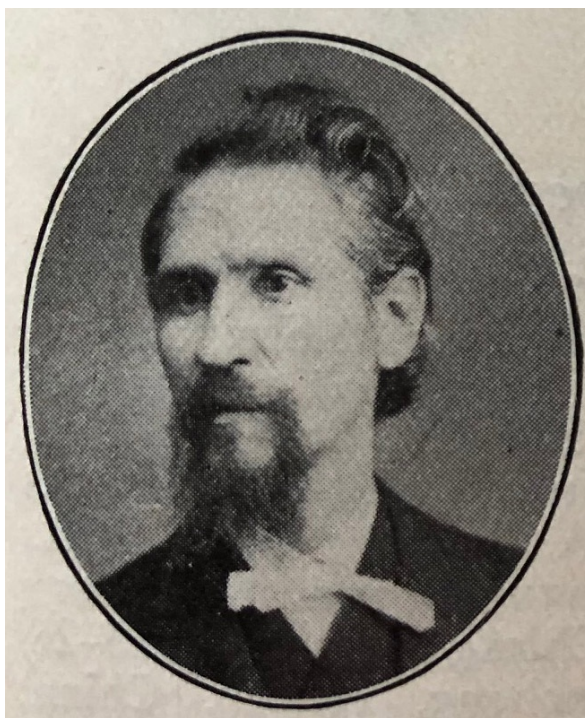
Psalm 84:1, 4

Early Lutheranism in the Northern Black Hills of South Dakota

Attempts were made to start Lutheran congregations in the Whitewood area as early as 1887. The Rev. Iver Tellefsen, a pastor of Hauge's Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Synod in America (commonly known as the Hauge Synod) arrived in the Whitewood area of Dakota Territory in 1887. The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dry Creek was organized June 12, 1887. The congregation met in the stone Asbury Schoolhouse and in homes before building a church in 1889 on land between Whitewood and St. Onge that had been consecrated as a cemetery in 1887. The church they built is known today as The Little Dane Church.

According to a pastoral directory from The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, Pastor Tellefsen was born September 22, 1833, at Kinservik, Hardanger, Norway. He married Aase Olsen in 1856. He worked as a tailor in Kristiansand, Norway, from 1850 to 1871 when he immigrated to the United States. He was ordained in 1877 in the Hauge Synod. He served as a pastor in Michigan City, Indiana, from 1877 to 1885. He organized a congregation in Portland, Oregon, in 1885, but the congregation dissolved in 1886.

Pastor Tellefsen and his wife, Aase, and their two sons, Oscar and Theodore, settled on land five miles southeast of St. Onge and four miles northwest of Whitewood in 1887. They built a two-room stone house. Pastor Tellefsen became the resident minister for the community. The first name of Aase Tellefsen (1856-1916) is listed as Aase in Norwegian church records. A history of The Little Dane Church lists her name as Isa. The "Isa" spelling may reflect an Americanization of her name.



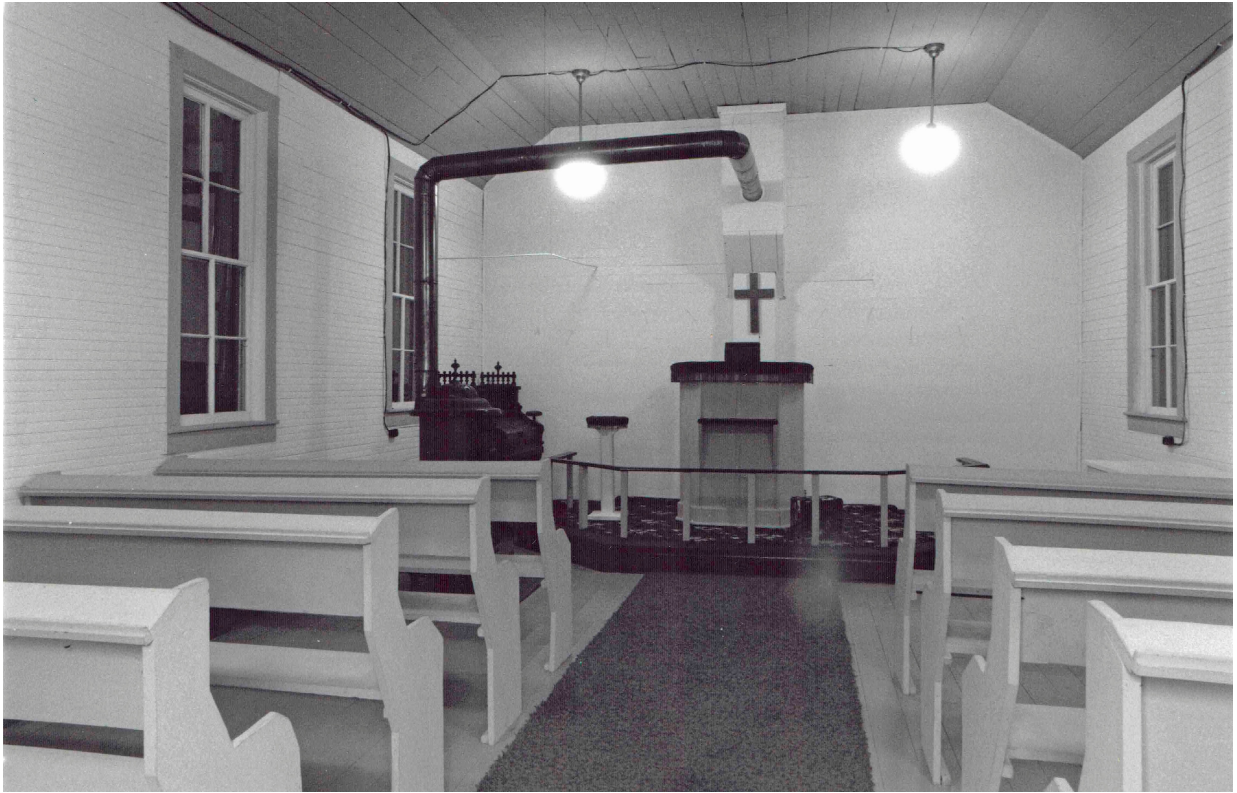
*Pastor Iver Tellefsen
1833-1917*

According to a national church record, Pastor Tellefsen served the Scandinavian Dry Creek congregation and other congregations in our area until 1905.

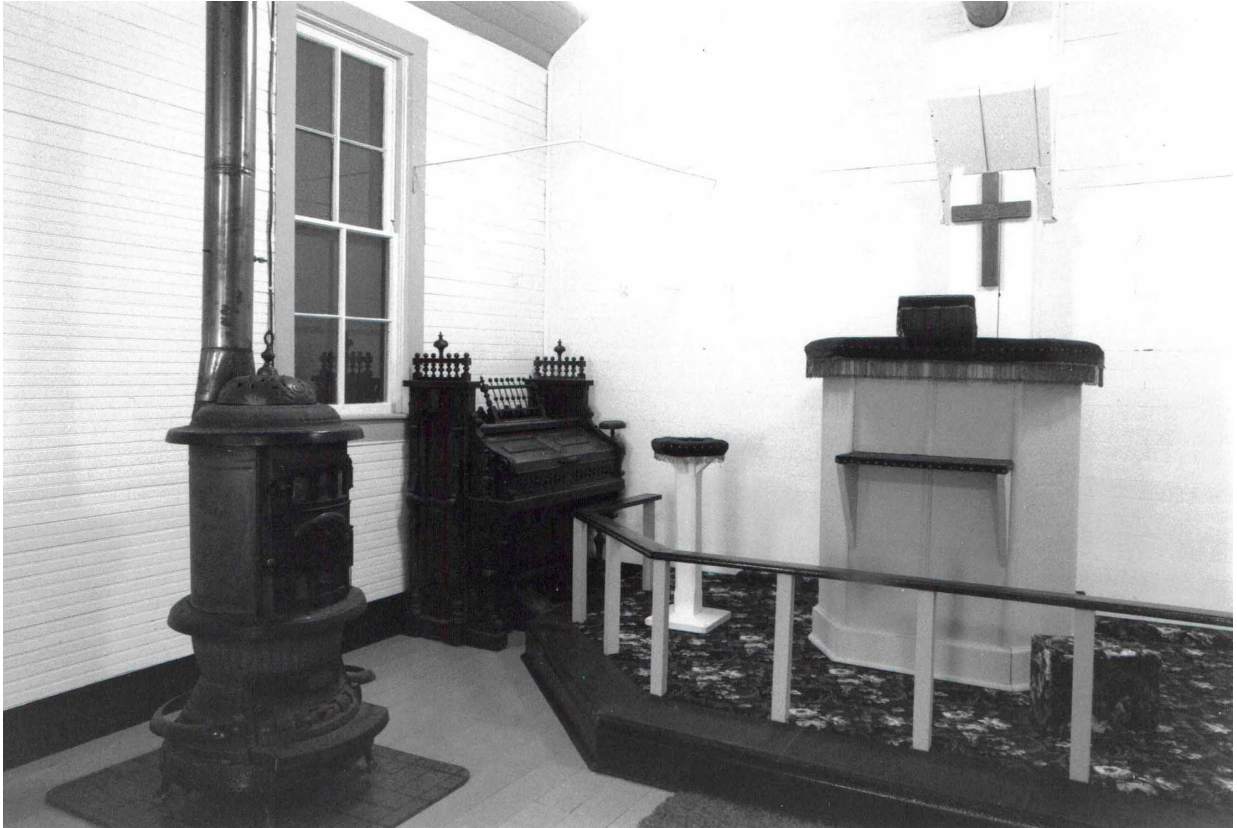
According to a history of early Lutheranism in the Black Hills by the Rev. James B. Olson, Pastor Tellefsen organized several congregations in the area — Scandinavian Dry Creek, east of St. Onge (organized in 1887); Bethlehem, Lead (organized in 1887, closed in 1900?); Our Savior's, north of Whitewood (organized in 1887, closed about 1894); Trinity, north of Whitewood (organized in 1888, closed in 1905); and St. Peter's, south of Belle Fourche



The members of Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dry Creek posed for a group photo on the day of the dedication of their church building in 1889. Among those in the photo are Rasmus Anderson, Peder Barsboll, Margrethe Thybo Barsboll, Christian Calleson, Christina Calleson, Nels Calleson, George Fabricius, Mary Fabricius, Peter Fabricius, Willie Lundine, Fred Lundine, Nis Sorensen, Jensine "Sine" Sorensen, Fanny Sorensen, Hans Sorensen, Marie Sorensen, Celia Sorensen, Peter Sorensen, Soren Sorensen, Anders Jacobson, Karen Jacobson, Charles Thompson, Catherine Thompson, Marie Thybo, Andrew Thybo, Chris Thybo, James Thybo, Kjerstine Wolfsberg, Andreas Wolfsberg, Jakobine Wolfsberg, Sena Wolfsberg, Grandpa Peter Weisman, Chris Weisman, Peter Weisman, Edward Weisman, Pastor Iver Tellefson, Aasa Tellefson, Oscar Tellefson. Their church building is now known as The Little Dane Church.



Interior of Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dry Creek. This church building is now known as The Little Dane Church.



(organized in 1891, closed in 1897). None of the congregations in our area survived, but the faith he proclaimed certainly did.

Pastor Tellefsen also organized the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church of Capitol, Montana, in 1889 and served it until 1893, while living in the Whitewood area. That congregation is now the Little Missouri Lutheran Church.

Pastor Tellefsen left in 1905 to accept a call to serve St. Johannes (St. John) Lutheran Church in Chetek, Wisconsin. He served that congregation until it closed in 1906. He then served St. Olaf Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in Thorsby, Alabama. That congregation was formed in 1897. It dissolved in 1911 “because there were

too many Norwegian Lutheran congregations there,” according to a historical record of Norwegian Lutheran congregations. Following the Alabama congregation, official church records state that Pastor Tellefsen was in ill health. He then moved to Santa Rosa, California. He died on May 25, 1917, at the age of 83.

Two congregations in Lead, South Dakota, play significant roles in the story of Immanuel.

Bethel Lutheran Church was founded in 1895 as the Scandinavian Lutheran Church of Lead. It was a member of the Synod for the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church



The first building of the Scandinavian Lutheran Church of Lead (later called Bethel Lutheran Church) on the corner of Wall and Addie Streets in Lead.



Bethel Lutheran Church built a new church building on the corner of Main and Julius Streets in Lead in 1955.

in America (commonly known as the Norwegian Synod). The congregation changed its name to Bethel Lutheran Church in 1918.

The Scandinavian Dry Creek congregation shared a pastor with the Scandinavian Lutheran Church in Lead after Pastor Tellefsen's 1905 departure. A history of Bethel Lutheran Church reports that "Dry Creek was part of Lead's parish as early as 1905 and until the spring of 1920." The *Ministerialbog* (ministerial record book) of the Lead church records baptisms at the Dry Creek congregation between 1912 and 1918. It also shows a five-member confirmation class at Dry Creek in 1916. It is unknown whether the pastor from Lead continued to serve the Dry Creek congregation until 1929, when the Dry Creek congregation disbanded, or whether the congregation obtained pastoral care from another pastor.

The Dry Creek congregation closed in 1929. The church building sustained significant damage in a hailstorm that year, and there were no funds to repair the building because of the Great Depression. The building fell into disrepair until the late 1960s when a decision was made to restore the building. The newly-restored building was rededicated in 1969. An annual Memorial Day service has been held at The Little Dane Church building since then.

Immanuel traces its roots to outreach efforts by the Rev. A. H. Trygstad, pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church in Lead. Bethel Lutheran was encouraged by The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America to minister to the surrounding communities. Worship services began in Sturgis on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 1920 — about six months before they began in Whitewood. A decision to organize a congregation in Sturgis was made on June 27, 1920. That congregation was Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis, which shared a pastor with Immanuel off and on until the 1960s. Immanuel Lutheran Church of Whitewood was formally organized on Sunday, April 3, 1921.



First Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lead City in 1919.

The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America was formed in 1917 as a merger of the Hauge Synod, the Norwegian Synod, and the United Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America changed its name to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1946. It merged with churches of German and Danish backgrounds to form The American Lutheran Church (ALC) in 1960.

Lead was also the home of a Finnish Lutheran congregation that would play a significant role in the future of Immanuel starting in 1967, when their pastor would begin serving Immanuel. The First Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lead City (later called First Lutheran Church) was organized in 1889.

First Lutheran joined the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (commonly known as the Suomi Synod). The Suomi Synod merged with church bodies of Danish, German, Swedish, Slovak and Icelandic backgrounds to form the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) in 1962.



First Lutheran Church in Lead built a new church building in 1961. The location is now a part of the open cut. The church building was moved to Spearfish and is now the Solid Rock Church.

The pastor of a Finnish Lutheran congregation in Lake Norden, South Dakota (south of Watertown), also served First Lutheran Church from 1913 to 1917. Pastors during that time traveled between the two congregations by train.

The pastor of First Lutheran Church also served the Cave Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church north of Buffalo, South Dakota. The Cave Hills congregation was organized in 1918 by Finnish mining families from Lead who homesteaded north of Buffalo. The Cave Hills church shared a pastor with First Lutheran in Lead for its entire history. The Cave Hills congregation ended its ministry in 2002.

Immanuel joined with First Lutheran Church in Lead and Cave Hills Lutheran Church when Pastor Jack Hill began serving Immanuel in 1967. The congregations became a parish in 1968 when Immanuel called Pastor Hill as its pastor and joined the Lutheran Church in America (LCA).

First Lutheran Church and Bethel Lutheran Church merged in 1992 to form Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Immanuel continued to share a pastor with Shepherd of the Hills until 2003.



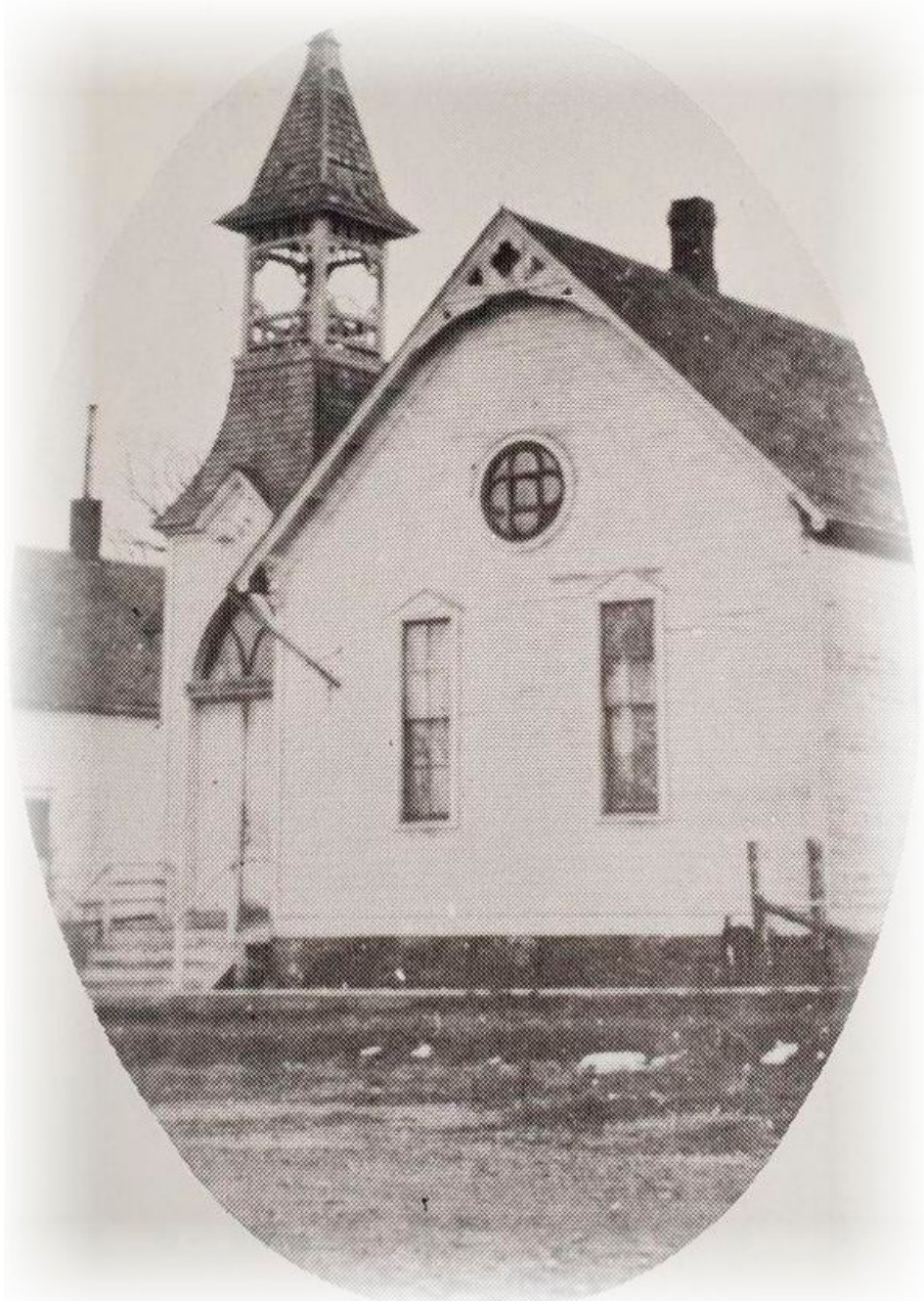
Cave Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church, north of Buffalo, South Dakota, shared a pastor with First Lutheran Church in Lead for its entire history. Immanuel was in a parish relationship with the two congregations starting in 1967.

Immanuel's First Church Building

The Methodist Episcopal Church building that became Immanuel's first building was originally in Crook City, South Dakota. The Rev. Ira Wakefield, a significant Methodist pioneer preacher in the Black Hills, organized the church at Crook City in 1879, according to a history of the Methodist Episcopal Church in South Dakota by G. T. Notson, published in *History of South Dakota, Vol. I* (1904) by Doane Robinson.

Early Methodist evangelism efforts in Crook City and Deadwood are well known through the ministry of the Rev. Henry Weston Smith, an ordained minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who went into the Black Hills to minister to prospectors and settlers. "Preacher Smith" arrived in Deadwood on May 27, 1876. On Sunday, August 20, 1876, he attempted to walk to Crook City to hold services. He had proceeded only a few miles from Deadwood when he was murdered. The body of the martyred preacher was found lying where he fell, his hands folded across his breast, clasping his Bible and hymn book.

According to records from the United Methodist Church archives, the church building in



The former Methodist Episcopal Church in Whitewood became the home of Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Crook City was built in 1880-81 at a cost of \$1,000. The church was moved to Whitewood in 1889.

Minutes of the 1888 meeting of the Black Hills Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church included this report of their work in Whitewood:

Whitewood — This is the present terminus of the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley railroad, and is in the midst of a fine agricultural and grazing district. The town was laid out in November, 1887, and promises to be a place of considerable importance. We have here a flourishing society and a church ready for dedication. During the summer a camp-meeting was held on the charge, resulting in the conversion of seventy-five souls. Crook City charge is consolidated with this work.

The 1890 minutes of the Black Hills Mission Conference included this report:

For several years, Crook City was the home of one of our strongest Methodist societies, organized in 1879 by Ira Wakefield. Whitewood, springing up on the railroad nearby, absorbed both the business and the church of Crook City. Whitewood was laid out in November, 1887, and in 1888 a good Methodist church was built there. It is in a good agricultural district and has a railroad junction.

The last Methodist pastor assigned to the Whitewood congregation finished his ministry in 1904. However, the Methodist congregation continued in ministry with assistance from pastors in neighboring communities until the mid 1920s.

Records of Immanuel's founding report that the Rev. A. H. Trygstad of Bethel Lutheran Church in Lead began holding services in the former Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitewood on Sunday, Dec. 5, 1920. Regular worship services were offered on the first and third Sundays each month after that. On Sunday, February 20, 1921, a short business meeting was held to create a temporary organization. Immanuel English Evangelical Lutheran Church was formally constituted on Sunday, April 3, 1921. The congregation voted to purchase the former Methodist Episcopal Church building two weeks later.

The Methodist Episcopal Church building purchased by Immanuel was on the south side of Custer Street between the Presbyterian Church and the old Whitewood School — near the southeast corner of Pine and Custer Streets.

The Presbyterian congregation in Whitewood was organized in 1888. The Presbyterian Church building was built in 1889 and is still in its original location.

Methodist Church records indicate that the sale of their church in Whitewood to Immanuel was to benefit the Methodist Episcopal Church in Lead. Mortgage records indicate that Immanuel's debt was transferred from the Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitewood to the Lead Methodist Church in May of 1923.

History of Immanuel Lutheran Church Whitewood, South Dakota



Immanuel Lutheran Church building from 1921 to 1960

*One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts.
I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty,
And on Your wondrous works.*

Psalm 145:4-5

Setting the Scene - The 1920s

Immanuel Lutheran Church was founded in 1921. The 1920s was a decade of change — often called the “Roaring Twenties” or the “Jazz Age.” Here are some facts and events to help set the stage for the beginning of Immanuel’s story:

World War I ended on November 11, 1918. The official end of the war was the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on June 28, 1919. However, the United States Senate did not ratify the treaty until July 2, 1921.

The 1918 influenza pandemic — the Spanish flu — infected 500 million people — about a third of the world’s population at the time – killing about 50 million people (675,000 in the United States) over two years. It was one of the deadliest pandemics in world history.

Prohibition became the law of the land in January of 1920 when the 18th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified. South Dakota voters approved an amendment prohibiting the sale of alcohol in 1916. Prohibition was repealed by the 21st amendment in 1933.

Women gained the right to vote nationwide when the 19th amendment was ratified in August of 1920. Women in South Dakota gained the right to vote in 1918.

Republican Warren G. Harding was elected president in the 1920 election. He defeated James M. Cox. President Harding took office on March 4, 1921. He died in office on August 2, 1923, and was succeeded by Vice President Calvin Coolidge.

Governor Peter Norbeck was elected U.S. Senator from South Dakota in 1920. He would continue in that office until his death on December 20, 1936. Norbeck played a great role in the development of tourism in the Black Hills including the creation of Mount Rushmore.

Cars were becoming more common. The mass-produced Ford Model T built between 1908 and 1928 was an affordable automobile for most people. The cost of a Model T was about \$400 in 1920 (equal to about \$5,000 today).

Movies were popular in the 1920s, but the movies were still silent. The first talking motion picture was released in 1927. Deadwood had an opera house that opened in 1885 and became a movie theater. The Elks Theater in Rapid City opened in 1912. The Homestake Opera House in Lead began operations in 1914.

The U.S. population in 1920 was 106,021,537. The population of South Dakota was 636,547. The population of Lawrence County in the 1920 census was 13,029 — a third lower than its population of 19,694 in 1910. The population of Whitewood was 339.

Life expectancy in the United States had risen to 54 years in 1920 from 49 years in 1901.

The Stock Market Crash of 1929 marked the beginning of the Great Depression.

Pastor A. H. Trygstad 1921 - 1922

Immanuel English Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Whitewood, South Dakota, was formally organized on Sunday, April 3, 1921. The Rev. Aksel Haldor Trygstad was the congregation's founding pastor. There were 42 charter members.

Pastor Trygstad was born November 15, 1875, in Steinkjar, Norway. He immigrated to the United States in 1882. He was a graduate of Red Wing Seminary, the seminary of the Hauge Synod, in Red Wing, Minnesota. He was ordained in 1904 in the Hauge Synod. He served congregations in Lisbon, Velva and Minot, North Dakota; Creston, Montana; Chicago, Illinois; Sidney, Nebraska, and Lennox, South Dakota, before being called to serve Bethel Lutheran Church in Lead, South Dakota, in 1919. He married Anna G. Broe in 1901.

Pastor Trygstad and Bethel Lutheran Church in Lead were encouraged by The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America to minister to the surrounding communities.

Pastor Trygstad held a worship service in Sturgis on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 1920, in the Sturgis City Hall. He led worship in Sturgis again on June 13 and June 27. Those attending voted to organize Grace Lutheran Church on June 27, 1920. They decided to have worship services in Sturgis on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. The Sturgis congregation continued to worship at City Hall until 1928.



**Pastor A. H. Trygstad
1875-1932**

Pastor Trygstad began holding worship services in Whitewood on the Second Sunday of Advent, December 5, 1920.

Pastor Trygstad wrote an account of his ministry in Lead, Dry Creek, Sturgis and Whitewood in the *Dagsregister* (daily register) of the *Ministerialbog* (ministerial record book) for the Lead church. This record book included all of the pastoral acts of the parish.

Began my work in Bethel Lutheran Church of Lead, S.D., Sunday, October 12, 1919. Held service every third Sunday and every third Wednesday evening monthly, coming from Spearfish; until January 1, 1920, when we moved to Lead, S.D. A parsonage had been secured by the aid of the Home Mission Committee who furnished \$1,200 collected by Rev. (Chris) Findahl, predecessor.

Oct. 12th 1919 — 1920
ANNO 18

Dagsregister

A. H. Nyquist

Began my work in Bethel Luth. Church of Lead, S. D., Sun. Oct. 12, 1919. Held service every 3rd Sunday, and every 3rd Wednesday ev. monthly, coming from Swedish; - until January 1st 1920, when we moved to Lead, S. D. A passage had been secured by the aid of the Home Mission Committee who furnished \$12.00 - collected by Rev. Hindal, predecessor.

Regular services were held every alternate Sundays, as I yet had Belle Fourche, Newell, Arpan, Swedish and Dry Creek, also every alternate Wednesday Evening, until the spring of 1920, when we were released from all except Lead and Dry Creek. From now on one Sunday each month was given Dry Creek and all the rest, Lead. On Jan. 4th 1920, at the annual meeting of Bethel Lutheran, a motion was passed that only American language should be used for 6 months to try it out, to see how it would work. At the semiannual meeting in July, 1920, it was decided to leave the language question in the hands of the pastor to use his own discretion as to what language to use, and owing to the most audience, the American language was used continuously.

Pentecost Sunday (May 23, 1920), I began churchwork in Sturgis, S. D., county seat of Meade county, which was continued regularly the 2nd and 4th Sunday monthly 10:30 a.m., until Oct. 23 - at a Harvest Festival, when Grace Lutheran Church of Sturgis was organized and I was called to serve 2 and 4th Sunday of each month as usual.

On Sunday Dec. 5th 1920, services were held in an empty M. E. Church of Whitewood, S. D.

when it was decided to hold regular services the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month 10:30 a. m. (was later changed to 11 a. m.). This gave us time hold regular service every Sunday evening, at Lead.

In the Spring of 1921, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Whitewood was organized, to hold services as begun. I was called as the pastor. In the fall (1921) the old M. E. Church was purchased and renovated (next summer).

Both Sturgis and Whitewood used only American, as they were composed of several nationalities. Ladies Aid Societies were organized in both places. These two places should be an asset to the Lead call, as they can be reached nicely by train as well as auto, and served at a time when no services can be held in Lead.

Rev. A. H. Trygstad closed his pastorate in Lead and vicinity on Sunday Dec. 17th 1923 having served 3 years 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ months.

Pastor A. H. Trygstad's handwritten account of his ministry including his ministry at Bethel Lutheran Church in Lead and at the Dry Creek church. It also includes his account of starting Grace Lutheran Church of Sturgis and Immanuel Lutheran Church of Whitewood.

Regular services were held every alternate Sundays, as I yet had Belle Fourche, Newell, Arpan, Spearfish and Dry Creek, also every alternate Wednesday evening, until the spring of 1920, when we were released from all except Lead and Dry Creek. From now on one Sunday each month was given Dry Creek and all the rest, Lead. On January 7, 1920, at the annual meeting of Bethel Lutheran, a motion was passed that only American language should be used for 6 months to try it out, to see how it would work. At the semiannual meeting in July 1920, it was decided to leave the language question in the hands of the pastor to use his own discretion as to what language to use, and owing to the mixed audiences, the American language was used continuously.

Pentecost Sunday (May 23, 1920), I began church work in Sturgis, S.D., county seat of Meade County, which was continued regularly the second and fourth Sunday monthly at 10:30 a.m., until October 23 — at a Harvest Festival, when Grace Lutheran Church of Sturgis was organized, and I was called to serve second and fourth Sunday of each month as usual.

On Sunday, December 5, 1920, services were held in an empty M. E. (Methodist Episcopal) of Whitewood, S.D., where it was decided to hold regular services the first and third Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m. (Was later changed to 11 a.m.) This gave us time to hold regular service every Sunday evening at Lead.

In the Spring of 1920, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Whitewood was organized, to hold services as begun. I was called as the pastor. In the fall (1921) the old M. E. Church was purchased and renovated (next summer).

Both Sturgis and Whitewood used only American, as they were composed of several nationalities. Ladies Aid societies were organized in both places. These two places should be an asset to the Lead call, as they can be reached nicely by train as well as auto, and served at a time when no services can be held in Lead.

The official record book of Immanuel opens with this brief history of the founding of the congregation:

Rev. A. H. Trygstad of Lead, S.D., began holding services in the former M. E. (Methodist Episcopal) church of Whitewood, S.D., on Sunday, Dec. 5, 1920. He has had regular services every first and third Sunday each month since then, at 10:30 a.m. On Sunday, Feb. 20, after the service, a short business meeting was held to effect a temporary organization.

The following had signed up wishing to organize an American Lutheran Church of Whitewood, S.D.: Mr. & Mrs. Nels Olson and family; Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Fager and family; Mrs. Marie Fabricius; Mr. & Mrs. William Blomberg; Mrs. W. R. Le Master; Mr. & Mrs. Hans Carstensen; Chris Paulson; Chris Petersen; J. A. Johnson and Mrs. J. A. J.; Mrs. Olive Hansen; Jacob Olson and family; Mrs. Marie Loose; Fred Loose; John Keto; Mrs. Dunn and children; and Mrs. Black; J. P. Jensen and family; Jack Hansen and Ernest Gutsche.

Minutes, or Reports of Meetings 17

Sunday Dec. 5th 1920, to Feb. 20th 1921.

Rev. A. H. Trygstad of Lead, S. D., began holding services in the former M. E. Church of Whitewood, S. D., on Sunday Dec. 5th 1920. He has had regular services every 1st and 3rd Sunday each month since then, at 10:30 a. m. On Sunday, Feb. 20th after the service, a short business meeting was held to effect a temporary organization. The following had signed up wishing to organize an American Lutheran Church of Whitewood, S. D.: Mr. & Mrs. Nels Olson & family; Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Fager & family; Mrs. Marie Fabricius; Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Bloomberg; Mrs. W. R. Le Mosker; Mr. & Mrs. Hans Carstensen, Chris Paulson, Chris Petersen; J. A. Johnson & Mrs. J. A. J.; Mrs. Aline Hansen; Jacob Olson & family; Mrs. Marie Loos; Fred Loos; John Keto; Mrs. Dunn & children & Mrs. Black; J. P. Jensen & family; Jack Hansen and Ernest Gutsche.

A motion was passed that we organize an American Lutheran Church of Whitewood, S. D.

The following officers were elected:
Rev. A. H. Trygstad Chairman - Ex-officio -
Wm. Bloomberg Secretary, Hans Carstensen
Treasurer. A Constitution Committee
was appointed consisting of Fred Loos;
A. W. Fager, Nels Olson, Chris Petersen, Ernest
Gutsche. Rev. Trygstad, Chairman Ex-officio.
Meeting adjourned to meet at a later date. Wm. Bloomberg
Sec'y.

Early history of Immanuel Lutheran Church as it was written in the official record book. It is signed William Blomberg, secretary, but it appears to be in the handwriting of Pastor Trygstad.

Sunday April 3-21

The Lutherans of Whitewood and vicinity held services in the former M. C. Church the above date.

After services a business meeting was held. The Committee on Constitution reported from Rev. A. H. Trygstad.

The Model Constitution printed by The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America for the English Congregation was adopted, with the needed changes for the community.

Ed Weissman and Langley joined the church. A motion to make the temporary organization permanent was adopted, making the same officers serve for one year.

Nels Olson, A. W. Fager, Paul Loose were elected trustees for one year.

A subscription list was started with the understanding that if \$600 could be subscribed we should buy the M. C. Church.

W. C. Blomberg
Sec'y

Minutes of the April 3, 1921, meeting establishing Immanuel Lutheran Church of Whitewood and adopting its first constitution. The minutes were written and signed by William Blomberg, the first secretary of the congregation.

A motion was passed that we organize an American Lutheran Church of Whitewood, S.D.

The following officers were elected: Rev. A. H. Trygstad, chairman ex officio; William Blomberg, Secretary; Hans Carstensen, Treasurer. A Constitution Committee was appointed consisting of Fred Loose, A. W. Fager, Nels Olson, Chris Petersen, Ernest Gutsche. Rev. Trygstad, chairman ex officio.

Sunday, April 3, 1921. *The Lutherans of Whitewood and vicinity held services in the former M. E. Church the above date.*

After services a business meeting was held. The committee on constitution reported through Rev. A. H. Trygstad. The Model Constitution printed by The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America for the English Congregation was adopted with the needed changes for the community.



Nels Olson (1859-1932) and Olena Olson (1863-1950) were charter members. Nels served on the constitution committee. He also served as president in 1922 and as a trustee for 10 years 1921-1932.



Adolph W. Fager (1864-1942) and Hanna Fager (1874-1943) were charter members. A. W. Fager served on the constitution committee. He also served as congregational secretary and treasurer 1929-1938 and as a trustee for 10 years 1921-1928, 1936-1941. Hanna Fager was active in the Ladies Aid, serving as president in 1923, vice president in 1922 and treasurer 1928-1938.

Ed Weisman and family joined the church.

A motion to make the temporary organization permanent was adopted, making the same officers serve for one year. Nels Olson, A. W. Fager, and Fred Loose were elected trustees for one year.

A subscription list was started with the understanding that if \$600 could be subscribed we should buy the M. E. church.

Building fund records show that significant gifts were made by several families toward the new church building. Nine families each gave \$50 toward the building — a lot of money at that time (equal to roughly \$750 today). A. W. Fager, Nels Olson, Ed Weisman, Olive Hansen, Fred Loose, J. P. Jensen, Jack Hansen, Benjamin Kayrasvopio and Mrs. C. Dachtler each donated \$50. O. W. Wells donated \$35. The Bank of Whitewood donated \$25. Chris Paulsen and Alfred Smith each donated \$10. John A. Johnson, George Johnson, J. M. Hammond, William Bomberg, R. Anderson, E. M. Jokander, Alfred Smith, A. Lehto, and H. Niva each donated \$5. Gifts listed as “unknown” were \$9.80. Total gifts were \$584.80.



Hans Carstensen (1865-1940) and Mary Carstensen (1870-1962) were charter members. Mr. Carstensen served as the congregation's first treasurer.



Ernest Gutsche (1868-1932) was a charter member and a member of the constitution committee.

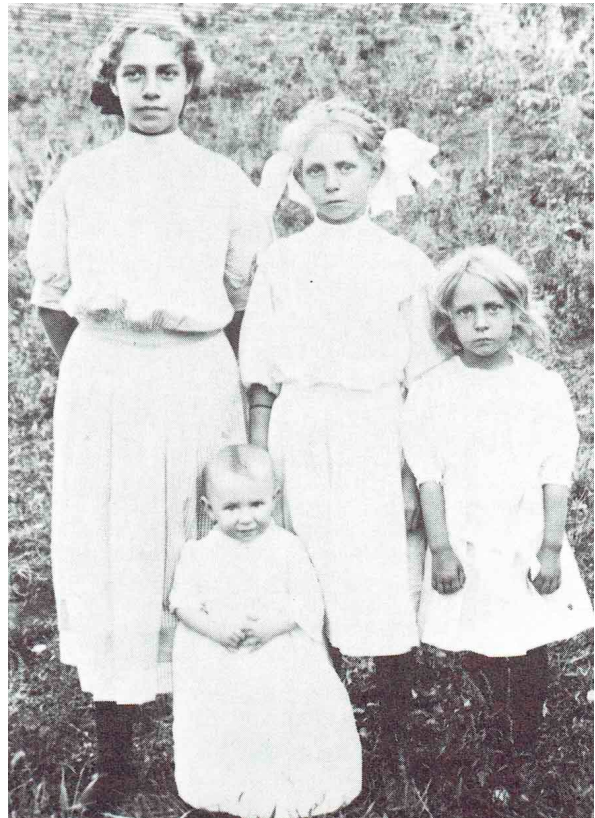
Sunday, April 17, 1921. *On the above date, a brief business meeting was held in the church by the Lutheran Congregation. Rev. A. H. Trygstad reported that the deal for buying the church was closed for \$1,250 and that he had paid the proper party \$25 a personal check to bind the bargain. Moved, seconded, and carried that the congregation O.K. this deal.*

At a meeting on May 25, 1921, it was reported “that \$577.80 had been subscribed on the subscription list, lacking \$22.70 on \$600.” It appears that the subscription list was a list of pledges by church members to provide a certain amount of support. The congregation voted to apply for a 10-year loan for \$650 at 2 percent interest to cover the balance of the cost of buying the church building. Mr. Le Master reported that he wanted to buy “20 feet of Lot 8 when we got the legal right to the church and two lots.” The congregation authorized the trustees to sell that portion of the property to him for \$100.

At that same meeting, the congregation authorized the trustees to legally incorporate and to apply for membership in the English Conference of The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. The English Conference included



Edward P. Weisman (1871-1954) was a charter member. He served as president of the congregation 1942-1944 and as a trustee for 20 years 1929-1935 and 1942-1954. His original name was Ingward Peter Weisman. His wife Johanna (1876-1937) was also a charter member.



The daughters of Edward and Johanna Weisman, from left, Catherine, Gladys, Florence and Edna, were all charter members. Catherine (1898-1986) married Jens Peter (J. P.) Jensen (1888-1963) in 1917. They were both charter members. Florence (1900-1985) married Gilbert Grenfell in 1924. He died in 1928. She married Ralph Courtney in 1932. He died in 1956. She married Hervey Somers in 1967. He died in 1973. Edna (1907-2000) married Donald James Telford. Gladys Weisman (1910-1923) died young.

congregations that used the English language, rather than Norwegian, for worship and business meetings.

The constitution approved by the new congregation states the name of the congregation as “Immanuel English Evangelical Lutheran Congregation at Whitewood, S.D.” The constitution included this Confession of Faith that has sustained Immanuel throughout its history:

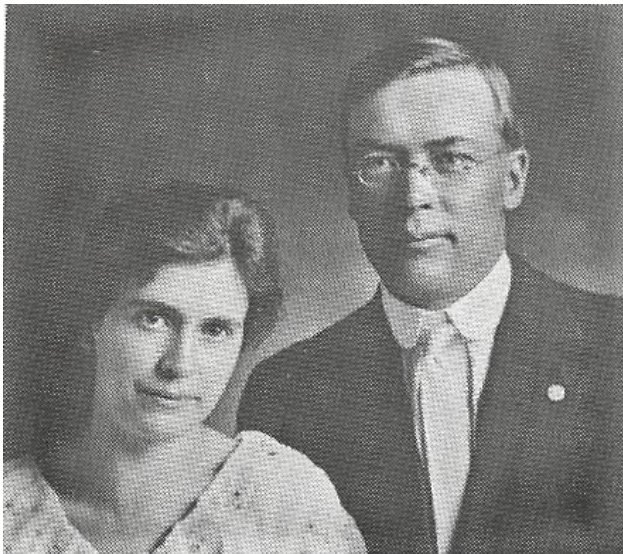
This congregation believes and confesses that the Holy Scriptures, the canonical books of the Old and the New Testament, are the Word of God, revealed for the salvation of man, and therefore the only source and rule of faith, doctrine and life.

This congregation receives and holds the Apostolical, the Nicene and the Athanasian Creeds, and also the unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther’s Small Catechism; and nothing contrary to these confessions shall be taught in the congregation, either in sermons or in the instruction of the young.

The constitution also included information about the order for worship to be used in the congregation and the purpose of the congregation:



Catherine “Katrina” Weisman Jensen (1898-1986) and Jens Peter (J. P.) “Pete” Jensen (1888-1963) were charter members. This photo is from their marriage in 1917. J. P. Jensen was congregational secretary 1922-1924; trustee 1924-1936; president 1939-1941; and treasurer 1949-1963. Katrina Jensen was very active in the Ladies Aid. She was president for 12 years, vice president for nine years, treasurer for seven years and secretary for five years.



Jacob Olson (1887-1978) and Vera Olson (1895-1986) were charter members. Vera was the first president of the Ladies Aid.

Constitution

3

In Jesus' Name.

Inasmuch as the Word of God, 1 Cor. 14:40; Col. 2:5, teaches in every congregation all things shall be done decently and in order, we, American Lutherans in this community, have adopted the following constitution, in accordance with which the internal and external affairs of the congregation shall be administered and decided.

Article I.

Name of Congregation.

The name of this congregation shall be Immanuel English Evangelical Lutheran congregation at Whitewood, S. D.

Article II.

Confession.

1. This congregation believes and confesses that the Holy Scriptures, the canonical books of the Old and the New Testament, are the Word of God, revealed for the salvation of man, and therefore the only source and rule of faith doctrine and life.

2. This congregation receives and holds the Apostolical, the Nicene and the Athanasian creed, and also the unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism; and nothing contrary to these confessions shall be taught in the congregation, either in sermons or in the instruction of the young.

The first page of the handwritten constitution for Immanuel English Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Charter Members and
Membership List. April 3rd, 1921.

13

Nels Olson; Mrs. Nels Olson, Samuel Olson, Martin Olson
Gladys Olson;
A. W. Fager, Mrs. A. W. Fager; William Fager, Selmer Fager;
Mrs. Marie Fabricius (now Mrs. Jack Hansen)
x Wm. Bloomberg, Mrs. Wm. Bloomberg;
x Mrs. W. R. LeMaster;
Hans Carstensen, Mrs. Hans Carstensen;
x Chris Paulsen;
x Chris Petersen;
x John A. Johnson, Mrs. J. A. Johnson;
x Mrs. Aline Hansen;
x Jacob Olson, Mrs. J. Olson (and 2 children)
x Mrs. Marie Loose, Fred Loose
x John Keto;
x Mrs. Dunn (and 2 children)
x Mrs. Black.
J. P. Jensen, Mrs. J. P. Jensen, Edna Jensen
x Jack Hansen;
x Ernest Gutsche,
Ed. Weisman, Mrs. E. Weisman,
Edna Weisman, Gladys Weisman, Florence
Weisman.
x Ben Mollerud

List of charter members of Immanuel Lutheran Church as it was written in the official record book.

Charter Members and Membership List April 3, 1921

Nels Olson, Mrs. Nels (*Olena*) Olson, Samuel Olson, Martin Olson, Gladys Olson
A. W. (*Adolph*) Fager, Mrs. A. W. (*Hannah*) Fager, William Fager, Selmer Fager
Mrs. Marie Fabricius (now Mrs. Jack Hansen)
Wm. Blomberg, Mrs. Wm. Blomberg
Mrs. W. R. (*Mary*) LeMaster
Hans Carstensen, Mrs. Hans (*Mary*) Carstensen
Chris Paulson
Chris Petersen
John A. Johnson, Mrs. J. A. (*Nettie*) Johnson
Mrs. Olive Hansen
Jacob Olson, Mrs. (*Vera*) J. Olson (and 2 children) (*Willard and Bernice*)
Mrs. Marie Loose, Fred Loose
John Keto
Mrs. (*Marjore?*) Dunn (and 2 children)
Mrs. Black
J. P. (*Jens Peter*) Jensen, Mrs. J. P. (*Catherine*) Jensen, Edna Jensen
Jack (*Jacob*) Hansen (*spelled Hanson on his tombstone*)
Ernest Gutsche
Ed Weisman, Mrs. E. (*Johanna*) Weisman,
Edna Weisman, Gladys Weisman, Florence Weisman
Ben Mollerud

Names in italics were added for information but were not listed in record book.

The public worship of the congregation shall be conducted in conformity with the ritual contained in the Lutheran Hymnary, modified, however, according to circumstances, as the congregation may deem advisable.

The object of this congregation shall be by the means of the Word of God and the Sacraments to work for the establishment and extension of the Kingdom of God.

The congregation seeks to attain this end by the private use of the Word of God, public services and congregational meetings.

Questions of doctrine and conscience cannot be decided by a majority of votes, but only according to the Word of God and the symbolical books of our Church.

It is also worth noting that the new congregation gave voting rights to both women and men. The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified in 1920, granting women the right to vote in public elections. The language in Immanuel's constitution reflects the recent vote granted to women: "The voting members of the congregation shall be male members 21 years old or over, as well as female members of the same age."

The meeting also approved expenditures of \$2.75 for a secretary's book and \$1.50 for a treasurer's book. That first secretary's book contains the minutes from 1921 through 1972.



Florence Grenfell Courtney Somers (1900-1985) (left) and Catherine "Katrina" Jensen (1898-1986) were charter members with their parents Ed Weisman (1871-1954) and Johanna Weisman (1876-1937). This photo is from Immanuel's 1980 church directory. A photo of them as children is on Page 25.



William Fager (1904-1986) was a charter member of the congregation. He served as treasurer, secretary and trustee 1945-1949. He again served as trustee 1961-1963. He married Helen Lehto (1908-2003) in 1935. Helen was involved in Ladies Aid and served as president for two years. This photo is from Immanuel's 1970 church directory.

Immanuel English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Whitewood was incorporated in 1921. The certificate of incorporation is dated June 16, 1921. Church officers listed on the certificate of incorporation are Nels Olson, A. W. Fager and Fred Loose.

The church building purchased by Immanuel was on the south side of Custer Street between the Presbyterian Church and the old Whitewood School — near the southeast corner of Pine and Custer Streets.

The warranty deeds transferring the church and land to Immanuel reflect the two different congregations that comprised the Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitewood at the time: “Lot numbered Eight in Block numbered Thirty Four, in the Town of Whitewood, South Dakota” was transferred to Immanuel by “Ellen Holmes, Chas. L. Torpin, Chas. C. Montgomery and L. W. Stillwell, Trustees of the Crook City Methodist Episcopal Church of Crook City, South Dakota.” “The north 100 feet of Lot numbered One in Block numbered Five, in the First Addition to the Town of Whitewood, South Dakota” was transferred to Immanuel by the same people listed as “Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitewood, South Dakota.” Both deeds were dated August 17, 1921.

Resolutions from the two different Methodist congregations authorized the sales. According to the resolutions kept in Immanuel’s records, the Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitewood sold its property to Immanuel for \$250. The Crook City Methodist Episcopal Church of Crook City sold its property to Immanuel for \$750.

W. R. LeMaster had purchased Lot 1, Block 5, in the First Addition to the Town of Whitewood for taxes in 1908. He sold or donated (records say \$1) the north 100 feet of



Lena Hansen was the first honorary member of Immanuel’s Ladies Aid.



Nettie Johnson (1896-1986) and her husband John A. Johnson (1890-1956) were charter members. Nettie was elected the first vice president of Immanuel’s the Ladies Aid in 1921. She was elected president in 1922 and secretary in 1925.

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA



DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Nels Olson, A. W. Fager, Fred Loose,

and others, have filed in this office a certificate of declaration in writing, as provided by law, setting forth all the facts required to be stated, and have in all respects complied with the requirements of the law governing the formation of private corporations as contained in the Statutes of this State.

Notw Therefore, J. C. A. Burkhardt, Secretary of State of the State of South Dakota, in virtue and by authority of law, do hereby certify that said parties, their associates and successors have become a body politic and corporate, under the corporate name of IMMANUEL ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF WHITEWOOD,

and by said name have a right to sue and be sued, purchase, hold and convey real and personal property, and to have and enjoy all the rights and privileges granted to a private corporation under the laws of this State, subject to their Articles of Incorporation, and all legal restrictions and liabilities in relation thereto.



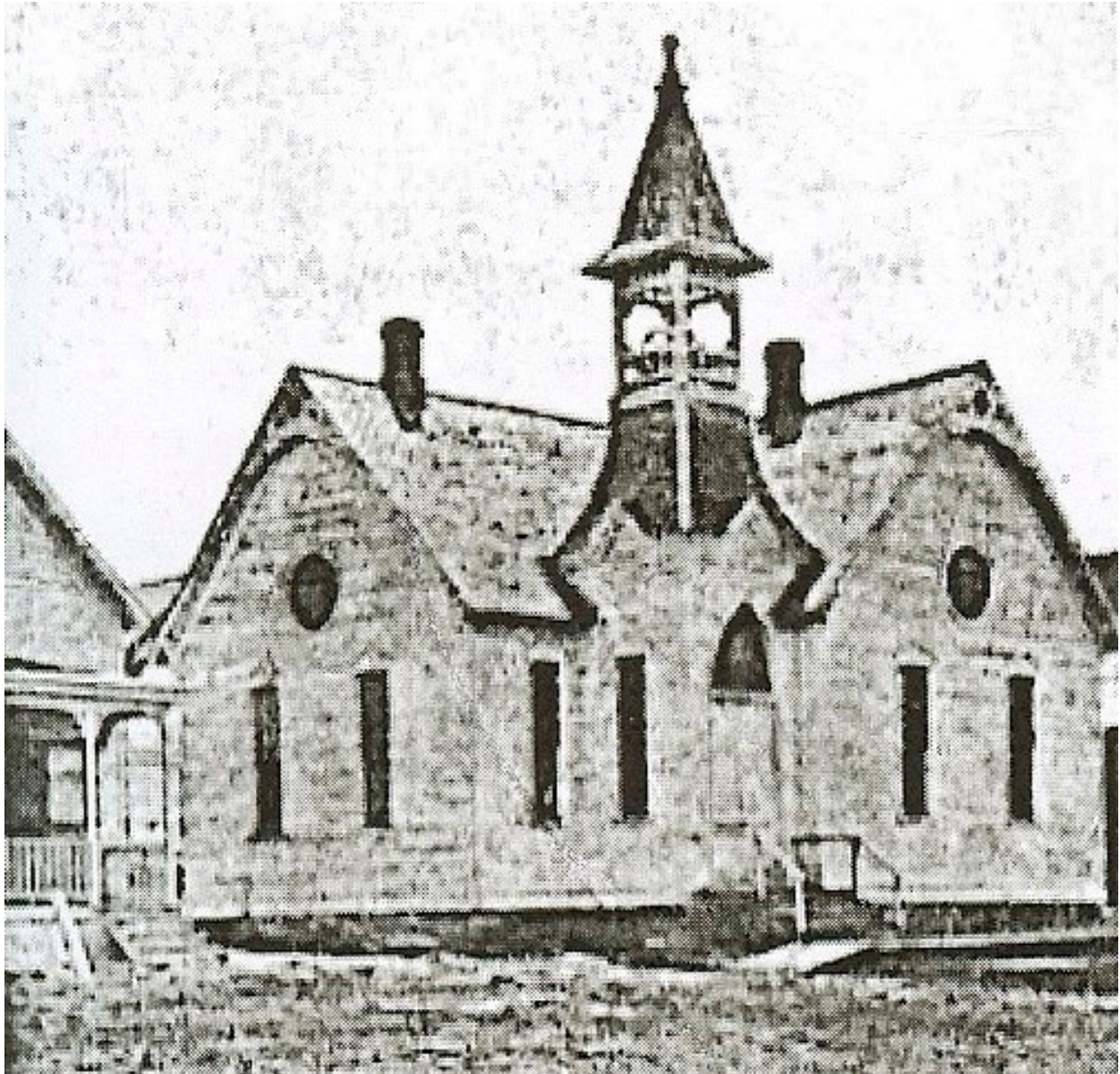
In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota. Done at the City of Pierre this 16th day of June, A. D. 19 21.

J. C. A. Burkhardt Secretary of State.

By Assistant Secretary of State.

No. A 1057





The former Methodist Episcopal Church in Whitewood became the first Immanuel Lutheran Church building.

that property to the Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitewood on March 6, 1909. It is worth noting that Mrs. W. R. (Mary) LeMaster is listed among the charter members of Immanuel. Mary LeMaster (1869-1930) and William R. LeMaster (1866-1931) are both buried in the Whitewood Cemetery.

Immanuel's Ladies Aid was organized on March 5, 1921, at the home of Mrs. Marie Fabricius with the guidance of Pastor Trygstad. Sixteen women were present. Ten women became members: Mrs. William Blomberg, Mrs. Hans Carstenson, Mrs. D. C. Davis, Mrs. Jake Olson, Mrs. Nels Olson, Mrs. A. W. Fager, Mrs. John Johnson, Mrs. Robert Smith, Mrs. Marie Fabricius and Mrs. Alena Hansen (honorary member). A history of that time, written by Katrina Jensen is reprinted on Pages 62-64.

On September 1, 1921, a mortgage loan of \$650 was secured from the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitewood at 6 percent interest. The note was signed by trustees Nels Olson, A. W. Fager and Fred Loose. The mortgage was satisfied on May 15, 1925, when Immanuel obtained a mortgage from The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America.

On September 20, 1921, the congregation decided that “a stove be bought from the church at Lead for \$8.00 and a new grate be bought and put in.” They also approved a motion “that the church be calsmined in different shades.” The congregation also appointed committees “to do the inside repairing of the church” and “to repair the church outside.”

The congregation voted to pay the pastor a salary of \$150 per year for the year beginning October 1, 1921, to be paid on a quarterly basis. Worship services were to be held at 11 a.m. during the winter months. Mr. Sev Terry was thanked for playing for worship services and asked to continue for the coming year. Mr. Terry became a member of the congregation the next year. It is not known whether he played the piano or the organ.

The treasurer’s report for the year 1921, showed income of \$767.38 and expenses of \$764.20 and a balance on hand of \$3.18. The first payment on the pastor’s salary was \$37.50 on December 26, 1921. In addition to the \$8.00 purchase of a stove from Bethel Lutheran Church, other expenses for the year 1921 included \$22.75 for shingles; \$25.65 for lumber; \$5.25 for nails; \$4.65 for song books; and \$26.00 for insurance.

A 1921 Pocket Directory of Whitewood gives a glimpse of Whitewood in 1921. The folded flier highlighting Whitewood was produced by local businessmen. It was found in the Homestake Adams Research and Cultural Center in Deadwood (*Deadwood History, Inc., Adams Museum Collection, Deadwood - A-97-13-3*) and is reprinted on the next two pages. The document included this description of the community:

Whitewood, situated on the line of the C. & N. W. Railway and on the Custer Battlefield Hiway is a Live, Thriving, Growing, Industrious Town.

Whitewood is a town of pleasant homes, clean cut and industrious citizens and honorable and forward-looking business men.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES — Whitewood is proud of its schools from the standpoint of teaching staff and equipment, which ranks second to none in this section. As a whole the people of Whitewood are a church-going and church-loving people, the leading denominations are represented and their places of worship liberally supported.

THE FAR-FAMED DEVIL’S TOWER, a national monument of imposing and remarkable grandeur, is seventy miles away on the Custer Battlefield Hiway. Altogether speaking, Whitewood is a progressive town that is marching on to success, and the business men advertising in this folder will be glad to show you the opportunities and business possibilities of Whitewood and the country around it.

The folder describes Whitewood's "business enterprises."

Whitewood has two churches, one well-organized bank, one flour mill and elevator, one creamery, two lumber yards, a first class hotel (The Lane), one restaurant, two drug stores, one hardware and furniture, one barber shop, one of the finest garages in the Black Hills district, two general stores, two pool halls and soft drink establishments, a prosperous newspaper, "Whitewood Plaindealer," and many other prosperous businesses, including professional men, representing the various professions.

One of the businesses listed appears to have been owned by Chris Paulsen, a charter member of Immanuel. The folder advertises "Whitewood's Popular Place of Amusement" with the name Chris Paulson — a "Pool Hall and Soft Drink Establishment — Cigars, Tobaccos, Etc." It is likely this is the same person listed as Chris Paulsen in our records. A search for graves in the area finds a gravestone for Chris Paulsen (1872-1948) at The Little Dane Church Cemetery. It is possible that he used both spellings for his last name or that the flier contained an error.

The folder shows the times for the trains from Whitewood. You could travel to Deadwood at 12:10 p.m. and 8:10 p.m. There was a train that left for Newell at 12:20 p.m. and one to Belle Fourche at 6:10 p.m. Trains for points south and east including Rapid City and Chicago left at 5:50 p.m.

Railroad fares from Whitewood are also listed. A trip to Sturgis or St. Onge was 28 cents. Deadwood was 33 cents and Lead 54 cents. Belle Fourche was 75 cents and Newell was \$1.34. A trip to Rapid City was \$1.39 and Hot Springs was \$3.81. An excursion to Sioux City was \$21.25 and Omaha was \$22.83. A trip to Minneapolis was \$25.23. A trip to Chicago was \$41.19 and Milwaukee was \$45.50.

Times for the Stage Line between Whitewood and Spearfish are also listed. One wonders if it was a stage coach with horses or a bus of some sort. An advertisement for the Whitewood-Spearfish Stage Line highlights "Closed Cars" and "Careful Drivers." Travel time between Whitewood and Spearfish was one hour. There appear to have been two trips a day between the two towns — one leaving Whitewood at 12:30 p.m. and arriving in Spearfish at 1:30 p.m.; another leaving Spearfish at 3:30 p.m. and arriving in Whitewood at 4:30 p.m.

The cover of the flier includes this poem about Whitewood:

*It does not take a prophet
Or a good person of renown,
To see good fortune smiling
On this live, progressive town.
So rouse yourself from slumber
It's no time to take a nap;
Be on your way to Whitewood
The best town on the map.*

Closed Cars Careful Drivers
WHITEWOOD - SPEARFISH
STAGE LINE
 F. L. Fast, Prop.
 Any Time, Any Where—Our Motto:
 Service and Satisfaction
 Phones, Whitewood, 12, Spearfish 39

TIME TABLE
CHICAGO & NORTHWESTERN RY.

Trains for Deadwood
 12:10 p. m. 8:10 p. m.

Trains for Newell
 12:20 p. m.

For Belle Fourche Only
 6:10 p. m.

Trains South For
 Rapid City and Chicago
 5:50 p. m.

WHITEWOOD - SPEARFISH
Stage Line

Leave Whitewood 12:30 p. m.
 Arrive Spearfish 1:30 p. m.
 Leave Spearfish 3:30 p. m.
 Arrive Whitewood 4:30 p. m.

Pool, Soft Drinks, Cigars, Candles
 and Cigarettes

B. H. SHOOP

We Handle the
 FAMOUS "BUDWEISER BEER"

Whitewood's Up-To-Date Store
JONES GROCERY COMPANY
 Tauck & Jones, Prop.
 Everything the Best at Reasonable
 Prices
 Phone No. 2

ALTITUDES

of the Principle Points of Interest
 in and about the Black Hills

| | Feet |
|-------------------|-------|
| Rochford | 5,209 |
| Mystic | 4,865 |
| Rapid City | 3,228 |
| Harney Peak | 8,200 |
| Sundance | 4,750 |
| Whitewood | 3,590 |
| Sturgis | 3,400 |
| Fort Meade | 3,400 |
| Sylvan Lake | 6,400 |
| Hill City | 4,976 |
| Custer City | 5,316 |
| Keystone | 4,340 |
| Hot Springs | 3,500 |
| Buffalo Gap | 3,258 |
| Edgemont | 3,449 |
| Lead | 5,280 |
| Deadwood | 4,630 |
| Spearfish | 3,800 |

"The Store That Always Pleases"

JAMES' HARDWARE

Everything In
 Hardware and Farm Machinery

Fill Your Gas Tank At The
CUSTER HIWAY GARAGE
 Prothero Bros., Prop.
 General Repairing on all Makes of
 Cars—Tires, Tubes and Accessories

Distances From
WHITEWOOD

| Towns | Miles |
|---------------------|-------|
| Sturgis | 8 |
| Tiltford | 18 |
| Piedmont | 22 |
| Rapid City | 37 |
| Spearfish | 12 |
| Devil's Tower | 70 |
| Sundance | 45 |
| Deadwood | 12 |
| Belle Fourche | 22 |
| St. Onge | 10 |
| Vale | 22 |
| Newell | 30 |
| Hot Springs | 95 |
| Fruitdale | 18 |
| Nisland | 22 |
| Crystal Cave | 18 |

GOOD CLEAN ROOMS

Lane Hotel

on "The Custer Battlefield Hiway"
 MEALS at all HOURS

Harry Wentzy T. O. Mitchell
 President Vice. Pres.
WHITEWOOD BANKING
COMPANY
 Bank Established 1888
 A. B. Wentzy Ashley F. Lanphere
 Cashier Asst. Cashier

1921
Pocket Directory
 — of —

WHITEWOOD
 SOUTH DAKOTA

'The Progressive Town'

It does not take a prophet
 Or a person of renown,
 To see good fortune smiling
 On this live, progressive town.
 So rouse yourself from slumber
 It's no time to take a nap;
 Be on your way to Whitewood
 The best town on the map.

Compliments of
THE BUSINESS MEN
 of Whitewood

Whitewood!—The Home of
"DAKOTA'S BEST FLOUR"

Made by the
 Whitewood Milling Company
 Wholesale dealers in Flour, Feed,
 Grain and By-Products

A-97-13-3

"Whitewood's Popular Place of Amusement"

CHRIS PAULSON

Pool Hall and Soft Drink Establishment

CIGARS, TOBACCOS, ETC.

Whitewood Business Enterprises

Whitewood has two churches, one well-organized bank, one flour mill and elevator, one creamery, two lumber yards, a first class hotel (The Lane) one restaurant, two drug stores, one hardware and furniture, one barber shop, one of the finest garages in the Black Hills district, two general stores, two pool halls and soft drink establishments, a prosperous newspaper, "Whitewood Plaindealer," and many other prosperous businesses, including professional men, representing the various professions.

WHITEWOOD PLAINDEALER

The Paper with Spice and Pep and

Boosters For Whitewood

George F. Johnson, Publisher

THE DANISH-AMERICAN CREAMERY

FRANK E. CHRISTENSON, Proprietor

Manufacturers of

High Grade Butter and Ice Cream

Phone 17

Whitewood, S. D.

WHITEWOOD, SOUTH DAKOTA

*"On the Main Street of the World—Custer Battlefield Hiway—
Red and White Trail"*

Whitewood, situated on the line of the C. & N. W. Railway and on the Custer Battlefield Hiway, is a Live, Thriving, Growing, Industrious Town.

Whitewood is a town of pleasant homes, clean cut and industrious citizens and honorable and forward-looking business men.

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES—Whitewood is proud of its schools from the standpoint of teaching staff and equipment, which ranks second to none in this section. As a whole the people of Whitewood are a church-going and church-loving people, the leading denominations are represented and their places of worship liberally supported.

THE FAR-FAMED DEVIL'S TOWER, a national monument of imposing and remarkable grandeur, is seventy miles away on the Custer Battlefield Hiway. Altogether speaking, Whitewood is a progressive town that is marching on to success, and the business men advertising in this folder will be glad to show you the opportunities and business possibilities of Whitewood and the country around it.

Lumber, Shingles
Doors, Windows
Moulding, Lath
Roofing & Felt
Building Paper

The
Hammond Lumber Yard
R. A. Hammond, Manager
Phone 45

Coal and Cement
Lime and Plaster
Plaster Board
Farm Machinery
Hay Tools

THE GUSTINE PHARMACY
(Penslar Store)

Geo. E. Gustine, Proprietor

Try our Fountain for Everything in
Soft Drinks and Ice Cream

Agency for Ajax Tires and Tubes

Railroad Fares From Whitewood

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| St. Onge | \$.28 |
| Belle Fourche | .75 |
| Fruitdale | 1.08 |
| Nisland | 1.34 |
| Newell | 1.64 |
| Deadwood | .33 |
| Lead | .54 |
| Sturgis | .28 |
| Tiford | .65 |
| Rap'd City | 1.39 |
| Buffalo Gap | 3.28 |
| Hot Springs | 3.81 |
| Chadron, Nebr. | 5.46 |
| Omaha | 22.87 |
| St. Onz City | 21.25 |
| Minneapolis | 25.23 |
| Duluth | 30.64 |
| Milwaukee | 45.50 |
| Chicago | 41.19 |



The fact that the Whitewood folder highlights Devil's Tower rather than Mount Rushmore can be attributed to the fact that the famous carving did not yet exist. The carving of a monument in the Black Hills was approved by the federal and state governments in March of 1925, and Mount Rushmore was dedicated as a national monument in October of that same year. Drilling on Mount Rushmore was not started until 1927. The carving was completed in 1941.

The first baptisms at Immanuel were on Sunday, August 7, 1921. Martin Henry Rubbel (born June 2, 1917) and Arthur William Rubbel (born March 9, 1920), sons of George and Anna Rubbel. Pastor Trygstad notes that the family "belong in Vale, S.D. — baptized in Whitewood."

The first marriage took place the day before the founding of the congregation. Jacob (Jack) Hansen married Mrs. Marie Fabricius on April 2, 1921. Hans Hansen and Johanna Weisman were the attendants. It is unclear whether the last name is spelled Hansen or Hanson. A tombstone of Jacob Hanson (1864-1925) is in the Whitewood Cemetery.

Immanuel's treasurer's report for 1922, showed \$199.16 in income and \$202.23 in expenses with a bank balance of 11 cents in June of 1923. It showed payments to Pastor Trygstad totaling \$152.70 for salary and expense reimbursements. It also showed that in April they paid \$7.68 for sidewalk planks.

Ministerial acts for Immanuel were recorded in the ministerial log of Bethel Lutheran Church in Lead and noted as taking place in Whitewood.

Mr. and Mrs. William Blomberg, charter members of Immanuel, must have been considered friends and Christian role models by Pastor and Mrs. Trygstad as they chose them as baptismal sponsors for their newborn daughter, Pearl Adella Trygstad, who was born on January 25, 1922, and baptized on March 12, 1922.

The first confirmation class confirmed in Whitewood consisted of four young people from Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis. They were confirmed at Immanuel on August 27, 1922.

"Rev. A. H. Trygstad closed his pastorate in Lead and vicinity on Sunday, December 17, 1922," Pastor Trygstad wrote in the ministerial record book. He then served parishes in Williams, Iowa, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. He died on May 29, 1932, at the age of 56.

Pastor M. E. Hauge 1923 - 1925

The Rev. Melvin Enard Hauge, a new seminary graduate, was called to serve Bethel Lutheran Church in Lead, Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis and Immanuel. Pastor Hauge was born September 4, 1893, in Kandiyohi County, Minnesota. He was the first pastor of the congregation born in the United States. Pastor Hauge was a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained in 1923. He married Agnes Ruth Rorvik in 1921.

According to a handwritten account by Pastor Hauge in the ministerial record book of the Lead parish, Pastor Hauge arrived in Lead on July 15, 1923. He led his first service in Whitewood at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 22. He was formally installed as pastor of the parish that night by the Rev. Nils N. Boe, president of the South Dakota District of The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. The next day he presided at the funeral of a four-month-old baby, Martin James Winjurn, in Lead.

Alvin Francis Jensen, the son of charter members Catherine “Katrina” (Weisman) and Jens Peter (J. P.) Jensen, was the first person baptized at Immanuel who became a member of the congregation. He was born on August 21, 1922, and baptized on August 5, 1923. His baptismal sponsors were Florence Weisman, Mr. and Mrs. William Blomberg, and Gilbert Grenfell. Alvin Jensen later served as president of Immanuel for eight years, as congregational secretary and as a trustee.



*Pastor M. E. Hauge
1893-1994*

Holy Communion was not celebrated very often during the early years of Immanuel’s history. The tradition of celebrating the Lord’s Supper infrequently was the norm among some Norwegian Lutheran immigrant traditions. When the Sacrament was offered, the pastors often recorded a list of communicants in the official record book. For example, Pastor Hauge recorded that Communion was offered on Sunday, November 18, 1923, and 14 people received the Sacrament: Mr. and Mrs. Nels Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Fager, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Weisman, Mr. Hans Hanson, Florence Weisman and Edna Weisman. Mrs. Mary Lucie and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hanson were listed as receiving private Communion. That is the only service of Holy Communion recorded for Immanuel in 1923. The Lord’s Supper was offered a week earlier in Lead and Sturgis, but no other celebrations of the Sacrament in the parish are listed for 1923.

It appears that Sunday, May 4, 1924, was the only time when Holy Communion was offered in Whitewood in 1924. Mr. and Mrs. Nels Olson are the only communicants listed. The Lord's Supper was again offered at Immanuel on Sunday, January 11, 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Nels Olson, Gladys Olson, Albert Möllerud and Marvin Möllerud were listed as receiving the Sacrament.

One could hope that there were more frequent celebrations of the Lord's Supper and that the pastor did not list all of them, but that is unlikely.

Pastor Hauge kept a detailed list of his pastoral actions in the *Dagsregister* (daily register) of the *Minsterialbog* (ministerial record book). He records that he organized the Sunday School at Whitewood on May 17, 1925. An example of his daily register is reprinted on the next page.

At the congregational meeting on September 5, 1923, the congregation asked several members to loan the church \$39 "for interest" and "a subscription list was started for the pastor's salary."

In 1923, the congregation received \$116.90 in income. \$189 of that total was received from individuals "monthly subscribed for salary and expenses." An additional \$94 was received for salary and expenses. Total Sunday collections were \$19.90 and an additional \$3 donation was noted. The report indicated that \$95 was "outstanding on salary and expenses." Pastor Hauge was paid \$37.50 in 1923. Other expenses included \$39 in interest due on the church loan, \$4.16 for coal and wood and \$5 for repairs to the church. \$24.50 was also given to the Lutheran Ladies Aid.

At the annual meeting on January 14, 1924, "the congregation extended a vote of thanks for what the Ladies Aid spent in fixing up the church and that the secretary should write a letter of thanks so that they may have it at their next meeting." They also approved a motion "that the congregation extended a vote of thanks to Mr. J. A. Johnson for his work in the church and that the secretary write him a letter of thanks also."

July 26, 1924, the congregation had a special meeting to approve a loan for the congregation. They were refinancing the mortgage on the church by obtaining a loan from The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. Four members were asked to loan the church \$100 "which should be paid as soon as the loan arrives." Perhaps the loans from members were to pay bills or to make the payments on the previous mortgage.

A five-year mortgage loan of \$650 was secured from The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America on September 15, 1924. The interest rate was 1 percent. The note was signed by trustees Nels Olson, Adolphe Fager and J. P. Jensen. These payments were made on the note: \$100 on September 15, 1925; \$100 on February 9, 1927; \$204.50 on December 31, 1927; and \$100 on September 24, 1928. The debt was paid in full on October 10, 1930.

Total income for 1924 was \$210.77. Total expenses were \$210.75. Pastor Hauge was paid \$170.75 that year. Interest on the loan was \$39.00. The only other expense noted that year was \$1 for two keys.

1923

- July 15 Arrived and entered upon my work in Lead and vicinity.
- July 22 Installation services at Lead by Pres. N. N. Roe, at 7:45 P. M.
- " Services at Whitewood 11:00 A.M.
- " Sunday School at Lead 10:30 A.M.
- July 23 Funeral of Martin James Wingum, 4 mo. old baby of Mr. & Mrs. M. J. Wingum.
- July 29 Services at Lead, 7:45 P. M.
- Aug. 5. S. S. at Lead 10:30 A.M.
Services at Whitewood at 11:00 A. M.
Baptism of Alvin Francis Jensen.
- " Sunday School at Lead, 10:30 A.M.
- " Services at Lead 7:45 P. M.
- Aug 8. Ladies Aid at Mrs. Noel of Sturgis.
- " 9. Reorganization meeting of L. A. in Lead at Church, 7:45 P. M.
- Aug. 12 Services at Sturgis, 10:30 A.M.
- " S. S. at " Lead 7:45 P. M.
Baptism of Irene Myrtle May.
- Aug. 19. Services at Whitewood 11:00 A.M.
- " " " Lead 7:45 A. M.
- " Sunday School at Lead at 10:30
- Aug. 22. Reorganization meeting of L. Aid of Whitewood at Mrs. Jake Hanson.
- Aug. 23 Ladies Aid of Lead at Parvage.
- Aug. 25 Congregational meeting at Sturgis. 3:00 P.M.
- Aug 26. Services at Sturgis at 10:30 A. M.
- " Sunday School at Lead - 10:30 A.M.
- " Services at Lead 7:45 P. M.
- Aug. 30 Ladies Aid of Lead at Miss Susie Jorgenson
- Sept. 2. Services at Whitewood at 11:00 A.M.
- " Sunday School at Lead - 10:30 A.M.
- " Services at Lead - 7:45 P.M.
- " Baptism of Kenneth Milton Johnson in Lead.
- Sept. 5 Ladies Aid of Whitewood in Church.
- " Congr. meeting of Whitewood in Church at 4:30 P.M.



Catherine “Katrina” (Weisman) and Jens Peter (J. P.) Jensen with their children, Edna and Alvin. Catherine, J. P. and Edna were charter members of Immanuel. Their son, Alvin Francis Jensen, was the first person baptized into membership at Immanuel. He was born on August 21, 1922, and baptized on August 5, 1923.

It appears that the new mortgage from the NLCA was used, at least in part, to pay the mortgage loan received from the Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitewood. The 1921 mortgage from the Methodist Episcopal Church of Whitewood was satisfied on May 15, 1925. The debt was released by the Lead Methodist Church, which had assumed the loan from the Methodist congregation in Whitewood.

Richard Albert De Yoe, the nine-year-old son of Mrs. Mable Alta DeYoe (1892-1931), was baptized at Immanuel on September 21, 1924. He was born on March 21, 1915. His baptismal sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. J. A. (John and Nettie) Johnson. Mable DeYoe was the daughter of Richard William Clark (1845-1930) — known as “Deadwood Dick,” one of the Wild West characters of Deadwood’s history. Her husband, Blaine DeYoe, died in 1921.

Pastor Hauge confirmed the first confirmation class on January 4, 1925. The class consisted of Albert Möllerud (born May 15, 1902) and Marvin Möllerud (born July 28, 1910), sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Möllerud, and Marin Olson (born August 10, 1908) and Gladys Olson (born September 1, 1910), children of Nels and Olena Olson. The quality of each child’s work is listed in the pastoral record book. The pastor used ratings such as “good” and “fair.”

“Having accepted a call from Dennison, Minnesota, I concluded my work in this pastorate on January 11, 1925,” Pastor Hauge wrote in the ministerial record book. He records that the Sunday before (January 4, 1925), he held confirmation services in Lead and Whitewood. A Communion service and farewell service was held in Whitewood on Sunday, January 11. Farewell services were also held in Sturgis and Lead on his last Sunday.

Pastor Hauge served other congregations in Minnesota before retiring in 1964. He died in November 1994 at the age of 101.

On the occasion of Immanuel’s 50th anniversary, Pastor Hauge sent a letter with the following recollections:

Congratulations to Immanuel Lutheran Church upon its Golden Anniversary. It will be 48 years now in July this summer since my wife and I drove our old Ford coupe into Whitewood for the first time. I wish I had kept a day book to remind me of events during those early days in my first parish experience. We lived in Lead and drove to Whitewood for the services and other activities. We enjoyed the beautiful scenery along the way. But there is one thing that I remember that I did not enjoy. Those hills were too steep for the old Ford and I had to drive it in low much of the way.

We met some fine and faithful people back in those days in the congregation. But my memory refuses to recall the names. I remember chicken dinners both in the town and in the country. There was one family, especially, in town that entertained us for meals and overnights. Can’t remember the name. I am sorry. I remember the old organist, a farmer living several miles from town who was so faithful. I remember one Sunday when we had a real blizzard. There were only four of us in church that bad day, but that faithful organist (Ben Mollerud) was there.

I don’t know how he got there. The audience was never large, but God was there and we sensed His presence. We remember God’s promise, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”

I am grateful to hear about the progress the congregation has made during the past fifty years and that you also have a new church.

May God bless your anniversary festivities to the glory of His name. May it be the beginning of even greater things in His service.

Greetings in Jesus’ name. My wife joins me in this greeting.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

First Mortgage

NOTE

SECURED BY

REAL ESTATE

NEGOTIATED BY

14550

24500

45000

NUMBER
[]

DOLLARS
\$650.00

September 15th, 19 24.

On the 15th day of September A.D. 19 24
for value received we promise to pay to the order of

THE NORWEGIAN LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA

at 425 Fourth Street South, Minneapolis, Minnesota

the principal sum of Six Hundred Fifty and No/100 (\$650.00)-----Dollars

with current rate of exchange on New York, with interest thereon at

the rate of one per cent per annum from date until maturity, pay-

able ---- annually according to the tenor of five interest notes,

annexed hereto and bearing over date herewith, both principal and interest

to be paid in gold coin of the United States of the present standard of

weight and fineness. It shall be made in the payment of any

interest note or any portion thereof at the time the same becomes

due and payable, then said principal and accrued interest shall,

at the option of the legal owners thereof, become at once due and

payable without further notice, with interest thereafter at the rate of

one per cent per annum until paid.

This note shall bear interest at one per cent per annum, after

maturity, until fully paid. This note and interest notes annexed

are secured by a First Mortgage Deed duly recorded in

Lawrence County State of South Dakota.

W. Johnson
George Johnson

THE IMMANUEL ENGLISH EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH.
By *Nels Olson*
By *Adolphe Fager*
By *J. Jensen*
Its Board of Trustees.

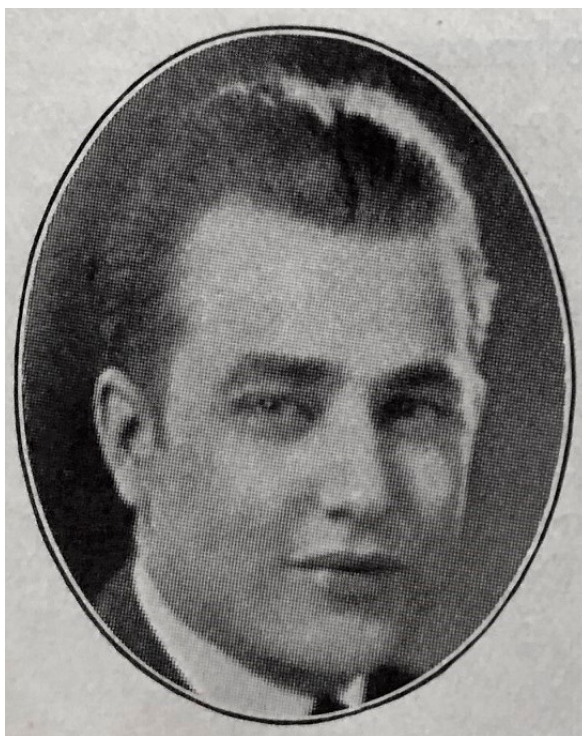
Pastor R. O. Aga 1925 - 1927

The Rev. Rhuben Oscar Aga was called to serve as pastor in 1925. Pastor Aga was a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained in 1923 and served a parish in Wynot, Nebraska, prior to his call to serve Bethel Lutheran Church in Lead, Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis, and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Whitewood. He married Irene Juell in 1923.

Total income for 1925 was \$1,230.47 (including the \$650 loan from the NLCA). Total expenses were \$1,205.34 (including the \$582.75 to pay off the previous loan and interest). It appears worship services were held almost every week that year. Sunday offerings were recorded weekly with offerings between \$1 and \$5 each week. Pastor Aga was paid \$27.50 per month.

On May 17, 1925, the congregation decided "to have the trustees of the other church of Whitewood to have a meeting of their own to find out if they could come to our church." Later in the meeting a motion was also approved "that we find out from the trustees and Ladies Aid of the other church if they are willing to help our church or not." This second reference may have referred to the Presbyterian Church in Whitewood or to another congregation in the parish. The congregation voted to pay "\$25 a month to Rev. Aga if we can raise the money." It was also decided to have Sunday School. They also decided to make "a subscription list to see how much money can be raised towards preacher's salary."

Pastor Aga began his ministry in our parish in May of 1925. In the daily register, he writes that on May 6, 1925, he "arrived at Whitewood for Ladies Aid and from there proceeded to Lead to enter upon my active ministry."



*Pastor R. O. Aga
1897-1979*

Pastor Aga appears to have presided at Immanuel's first funeral. The funeral service was on May 23, 1925, for 79-year-old Katherine Perry. Mrs. Perry was born February 3, 1846 in Denmark and died May 20, 1925. She appears to have been married three times. The last names of Anderson and Lane are also listed in her death record.

He also presided at the funeral of 82-year-old Fredericka Haslick on September 1, 1925. Mrs. Haslick was born January 14, 1843, in Germany and died on August 27, 1925.

Baptized by R. O. Aga

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. | June 14, 1924 | June 14, 25 | Robert George | Mr. + Mrs. Geo. Johnson |
| 2. | 2/28/24 | 6/28/25 | Clifford Eugene | Louie Carstensen + Frances |
| 3. | 5/16/17 | 6/28/25 | Albert Martin | Wm Sorenson + wife Edna |
| 3+ | | | Gertrude Louise | Hans + Mary Carstensen |
| 4. | 9/10/22 | 6/28/25 | Gertrude Louise | Wm Sorenson + wife Edna |
| 5. | 11/8/24 | 6/28/25 | Marvel LaVonne | Wm Sorenson + wife Edna |
| 6. | 2/19/17 | 7/12/25 | Gladys Vivian | Mr. + Mrs. Algine Ernst Schaffer |
| 7. | 11/22/20 | 7/12/25 | Howard Eugene | Mr. + Mrs. Andrew Anderson |
| 8. | 9/29/22 | 7/12/25 | Donald W. Stark | " " " " |
| 9. | 7/8/18 | 7/12/25 | Grace LaVonne | " " " " |
| 10. | | | | |
| 11. | 4/25/25 | 7/24/25 | Albert Winfield | Mr. + Mrs. Albert Spudis |
| 12. | 2/1/22 | 8/11/25 | Arnold Joseph | Ernst + Cora Bjelland |
| 13. | 4/11/25 | 8/1/25 | Myrdal Vidar | " " " " |

Pastor Aga recorded these baptisms from June, July and August of 1925 in the ministerial record book.

Jacob Hanson (born August 24, 1864), a charter member of Immanuel who had married Marie Fabricius at the time of Immanuel's founding in 1921, died on October 14, 1925. Pastor Aga presided at his funeral on October 18, 1925. He is buried in the Whitewood Cemetery.

Several baptisms occurred following Pastor Aga's arrival. There were 10 baptisms at Immanuel — several from the same families — in June and July of 1925. Pastor Aga's handwriting is a little difficult to decipher, but it appears these children were among those baptized at that time:

Robert George Johnson (born June 14, 1924), son of Mr. and Mrs. George Johnson was baptized on June 14, 1925. His sponsors were charter members Jack and Marie (Weisman Fabricius) Hansen.

Clifford Eugene Carstenson (born February 28, 1924), son of Louie (1897-1986) and Frances (1900-1994) Carstensen was baptized on Sunday, June 28, 1925. His sponsors were charter members Hans and Mary Carstensen. Clifford died on May 23, 1933, at the age of nine. He and his brother Myron (1930-1936) are both buried in the Whitewood Cemetery.

Also baptized on Sunday, June 28, 1925, were three children of William (1898-1970) and Edna (1903-1995) Sorenson: Albert Martin Sorenson (born May 16, 1917), Gertrude Louise (born September 19, 1922), and Marvel LaVonne (born November 8, 1924). Sponsors for all three children were Mr. and Mrs. C. Starkweather.

| | |
|---------|---|
| May 6 | Arrived at Whitewood for Ladies Aid and from here proceeded to Sead to enter upon my active ministry. |
| May 10 | Serviced at Whitewood + Sead |
| May 17 | Serviced at Whitewood and Sead |
| May 22 | Organized S.S. at Whitewood |
| May 22 | Special congregational meeting |
| May 23 | Parsonage Sead - Sead |
| May 23 | General of boys Pervyal Whitewood |
| May 24 | Serviced at Whitewood + Sead |
| May 31 | Serviced at Whitewood, no service in Sead on account of (Bassaulant Sun) |
| June 3 | Ladies Aid at Whitewood |
| June 7 | Serviced at Whitewood + Sead also S.S. |
| June 14 | Serviced + S.S. at Whitewood + Sead |

Pastor Aga's first entries in actions in the Dagsregister (daily register) of the Minsterialbog (ministerial record book).

There were four more baptisms on Sunday, July 12, 1925. Three of them were the children of Andrew and Marie Andersen:

Howard Eugene Andersen (born November 22, 1920). His sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. M. Anderson.

Donald Witland Andersen (born September 29, 1922). His sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. William Blomberg.

Grace LaVonne Andersen (born September 8, 1918). Her sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Carstensen.

Also baptized on Sunday, July 12, 1925, was Gladys Vivian Schaffer (born February 19, 1917), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Algie Ernest Schafer.

There were two adult baptisms on August 22, 1926. Grace Christine Jensen (born December 3, 1902) and Kathryn Jensen (born September 17, 1910). They are listed as the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Jensen (with no first names).

Infrequent celebrations of Holy Communion were also the reality during Pastor Aga's time. He records that Holy Communion was celebrated at Immanuel on Palm Sunday, March 28, 1926. Mrs. J. Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Weisman received the Lord's Supper. The only other Communion service for Whitewood during his pastorate was on May 10, 1927, with Mrs. H. Carstensen, Mr. and Mrs. Olson, Mrs. Fager, and John Aga listed as communicants.

Pastor Aga also kept a detailed list of his pastoral actions in the *Dagsregister* (daily register) of the *Ministerialbog* (ministerial record book). He records that he organized the Sunday School at Whitewood on May 17, 1925. An example of his daily register is reprinted on the next page.

The 1926 treasurer's report shows \$399.36 in income and \$388.60 in expenses. The only expenses were Pastor Aga's salary and a payment of \$50.22 to the Rev. H. O. Shuron, treasurer of The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, and \$4.88 to Augsburg Publishing House.

The 1927 financial report showed \$451.60 in income. It showed three deposits from the Ladies Aid totaling \$61.99, presumably to help support the congregation. Sunday collections were \$131.66 in 1927. There were also receipts from members of \$193.45 and from non-members of \$48.00.

Pastor Aga left our parish in November of 1927 to accept a call to serve a parish in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. He served congregations in Minnesota and California before retiring in 1968. He died on July 21, 1979, at the age of 81. His son, Rhuben Oscar Aga Jr., also served as a Lutheran pastor.

Pastor O. G. Malmin 1927 - 1928

Pastor E. H. Sihler 1928

The Rev. Olaf Gabriel Malmin was a graduate of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and Luther Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1927. He married Fernana Urberg in 1927.

His first call was to serve as pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Rapid City where he served from 1927 to 1932. St. John Lutheran Church in Rapid City was renamed Trinity Lutheran Church in 1942. One of the reasons for the name change was to avoid confusion with St. John's Hospital.

During the time he served in Rapid City, Pastor Malmin occasionally served a variety of congregations in the Black Hills area including Lead, Sturgis and Whitewood.

It appears from financial records that Pastor Malmin served Immanuel from November or December of 1927 to June of 1928. He may have been paid \$5 per service. He was paid \$15 on December 26, 1927. From January through June of 1928, Pastor Malmin may have alternated with Pastor Ernest G. W. Sihler in providing worship services for Immanuel. Pastor Malmin was paid \$5 once a month in the first half of the month. Pastor Sihler was paid \$5 a month in the second half of each month.

It is unclear how much Pastor Malmin served our congregation. It is unlikely that he was ever formally called as a pastor of Immanuel. The booklet created for Immanuel's 50th anniversary in 1971 lists Pastor Malmin as a former pastor of Immanuel serving 1927-1928. A history of the South Dakota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, produced in 1960 to mark the merger which formed The American Lutheran Church, listed Pastor Malmin as serving Immanuel 1927-1928. However, the booklet created for the dedication of Immanuel's new church building in 1961 did not include Pastor Malmin in the list of Immanuel's pastors.



***Pastor Olaf G. Malmin
1899-1973***

Pastor Malmin served Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis 1927-1928. He served Bethel Lutheran Church in Lead 1930-1932.

Pastor Malmin delivered the invocation at the dedication of Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the unveiling of the face of President George Washington on July 4, 1930.

Following his service in Rapid City, Pastor Malmin served East Side Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls and Zion Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. He was the editor of *The Lutheran Herald*, the official publication of The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America (Evangelical Lutheran Church) from 1939 to 1960. He was editor in chief for Augsburg Publishing House 1961-1967. He retired in 1967 and died on September 28, 1973.

Pastor Malmin played a significant role in the merger that created The American Lutheran Church in 1960. An article from *The Lutheran Standard* written on the occasion of his death in 1973 notes his significant role in the history of Lutheranism in the United States. The article is reprinted on the next page.

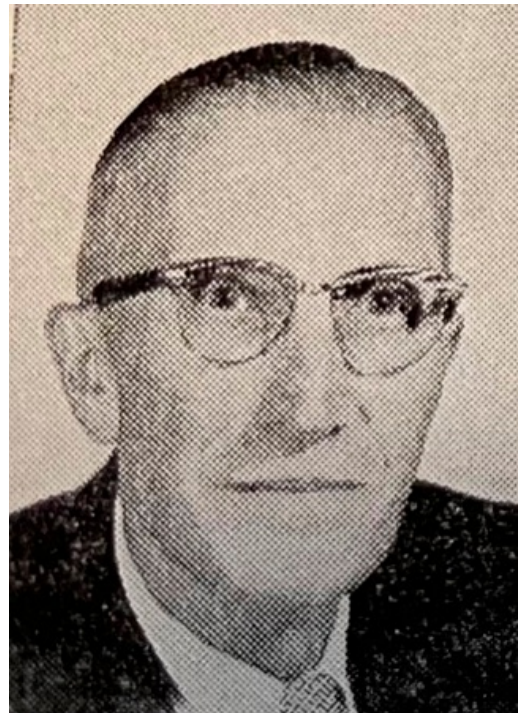
Pastor Ernest G. W. Sihler was a graduate of Luther College and Luther Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1926. He served as a pastor of First Lutheran Church in Newell, South Dakota, 1926-1928. He provided worship services for Immanuel from January to June of 1928.

Pastor Sihler served a call to Clearbrook, Minnesota, 1929-1935.

He married Mabel M. Wold in 1934.

Pastor Sihler served at Bethany Indian Mission in Wittenberg, Wisconsin, 1935-1955. He finished his ministry as a teacher of Greek and archivist at Luther Theological Seminary.

He died while on vacation in Germany on June 19, 1970, at the age of 70.



Ernest G. W. Sihler
1900-1970

O. G. Malmin, ALC 'initiator,' dies

Dr. O. G. Malmin, teacher, pastor, editor, and an architect of Lutheran church unity, died Sept. 28 after a half-century of service to the church.

As church editor, he played a key role in merger negotiations that led to the formation of the American Lutheran Church.

At a memorial service Oct. 2 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, appreciations were spoken by Chaplain Raymond Huss of Ebenezer Society; by Albert E. Anderson, general manager of Augsburg Publishing House; and by Dr. Lloyd Svendsbye, vice-president of St. Olaf College. The sermon was preached by Dr. Oscar A. Anderson, president of Augsburg College, who said of Dr. Malmin: "Communication was his expertise but he was taught by the Spirit of God."

Church editor 21 years

Reared in a parsonage at Thompson, Iowa, Dr. Malmin served in the parish ministry for 12 years before his election in 1938 as editor of *The Lutheran Herald*, the official journal of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, and its successor body, The Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC). After 21 years in that post, he became editor-in-chief of the church's publication division, Augsburg Publishing House, a position from which he retired in 1966.

The merger idea which he "fathered" dates to a train ride in 1948 shared by Dr. Malmin and Dr. John M. Jensen, editor of the *Ansgar Lutheran*, as they returned to Minneapolis from a Lutheran editors' meeting in New York.

Jensen recalled their conversation: "We sat and talked of the ideas that were being aired in Lutheran circles at that time. After a pause Malmin said, 'What we need is some kind of resolution [supporting merger] from one of the smaller bodies.' I was from the small UELC (United Evangelical Lutheran Church), so I took out my notebook and wrote a resolution. Malmin made certain suggestions, and when he read the revised version, he



O. G. Malmin 1899-1973

said, 'This will do.' The resolution was presented to the UELC convention two months later and adopted. This marked the start of merger negotiations. It was Malmin's idea."

During the ensuing years, Malmin, a tireless worker, coupled his editorial duties with service on both the Joint Union Committee and the Committee on Polity and Organization which prepared the Articles of Union and the Constitution and Bylaws for the new church body, uniting the ELC, the former ALC, and the UELC. Later he served on the committee which negotiated the merger between the ALC and the Lutheran Free Church. He also was a member of the American section of the Committee on Canadian Autonomy, which prepared the way for the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada as an autonomous church.

Associates with whom he worked remember Malmin as a man of kindness, thoughtfulness, and warmth. Always preeminently a pastor, he was sought out for guidance and counsel by pastors and laymen alike.

Teacher and student

Malmin was a school teacher before entering the ministry. Following graduation in 1921 from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, he taught at Luther Academy in Albert Lea, Minn. In the fall of 1924 he entered Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, and during his years there he was also an instructor in New Testament Greek. Ordained in 1927 by his father, the Rev. Rasmus Malmin, at Trinity Lu-

theran Church, Kiester, Minn., he was married that same year to Fernanda Urberg of Blair, Wis.

He began his work as a parish pastor at St. John's (now Trinity) Lutheran Church in Rapid City, S.D. While there he also served Grace Lutheran of Sturgis and Bethel Lutheran of Lead. He also was Protestant chaplain at the sanatorium near Custer. A plaque marking the dedication of the presidential monuments in the Black Hills bears Malmin's name for delivering the invocation. Subsequent pastorates were at East Side Lutheran in Sioux Falls, S.D. (1932-35), and Zion Lutheran in Minneapolis (1935-38).

He was co-author with Mrs. Malmin of *God's Chosen People*, translator of Lønning's *The Fourth Candle*, and author of *Chapel in the Hills*. He served on the board of regents of Augustana College in Sioux Falls and the board of the House of Mercy in Sioux Falls; and for five years he was a member of the synodical Board of Parish Education. Honorary doctorates are from Luther College (D.D.), and from Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Wash. (Litt.D.).

His many contributions

At the time of his retirement, he was cited by the ALC Board of Publication for his many contributions to the church. "In all these activities your affection and concern for persons have been manifest," the citation said. "Associates and friends, the young and inexperienced, those in need of assistance and understanding have come to depend on the wisdom of your counsel and the warmth of your heart."

In 1971 Dr. Malmin came out of retirement to serve as assistant chaplain, until July 1973, at Ebenezer Society, Minneapolis. He and Mrs. Malmin resided at Ebenezer Towers.

He is survived by his wife; a daughter, Mrs. H. R. (Ferdy) Daniels, Rochester, Minn.; four grandsons; a sister, Marie Malmin Meyer, Northfield, Minn.; and a brother, Gunnar J., Tacoma, Wash.

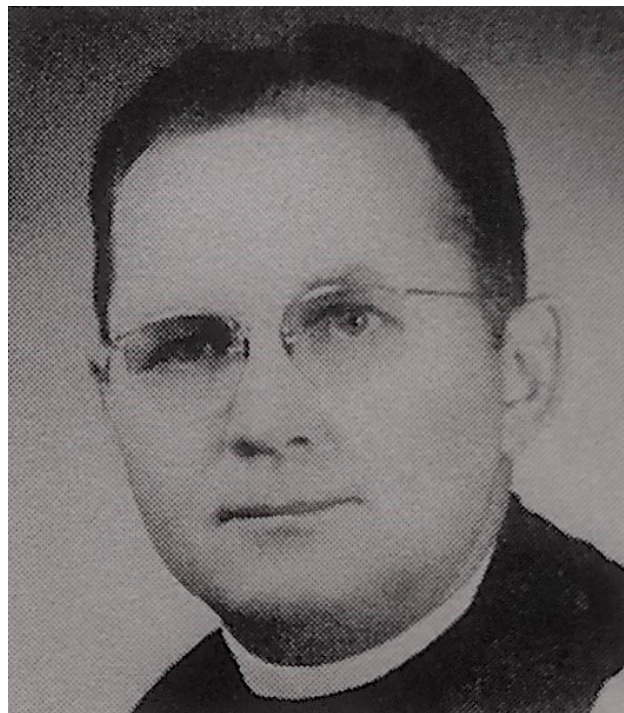
If so desired, memorials may be sent to Ebenezer Society; Ephphatha Services for the Deaf and the Blind, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57101; or to the donor's choice.

Pastor Irvin A. Suby 1928 - 1933

In 1928, the Rev. Dr. A. J. Bergsaker, the President of the South Dakota District of The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, suggested that Sturgis and Whitewood be served by the same pastor.

A history of Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis reports that “the two call committees accepted the offer of the NLCA Home Mission Board to pay half of the pastor’s salary, with the congregations each paying \$375 per year. The letter of call to Rev. Irvin Suby, recommended by Rev. Malmin, stipulated that he was to serve the two congregations, preach every Sunday in Whitewood and Sturgis, to alternate months for morning services, to reside in Sturgis, and to hold services in English.”

On February 26, 1928, a special meeting was held at Immanuel to appoint three men to meet with a committee from Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis regarding the call process. The congregations agreed to call the Rev. Irvin A. Suby, a new seminary graduate, as pastor and that Immanuel commit to paying \$325 toward the pastor’s salary. It is not known why the amount was lower. Perhaps Grace paid the additional \$50.



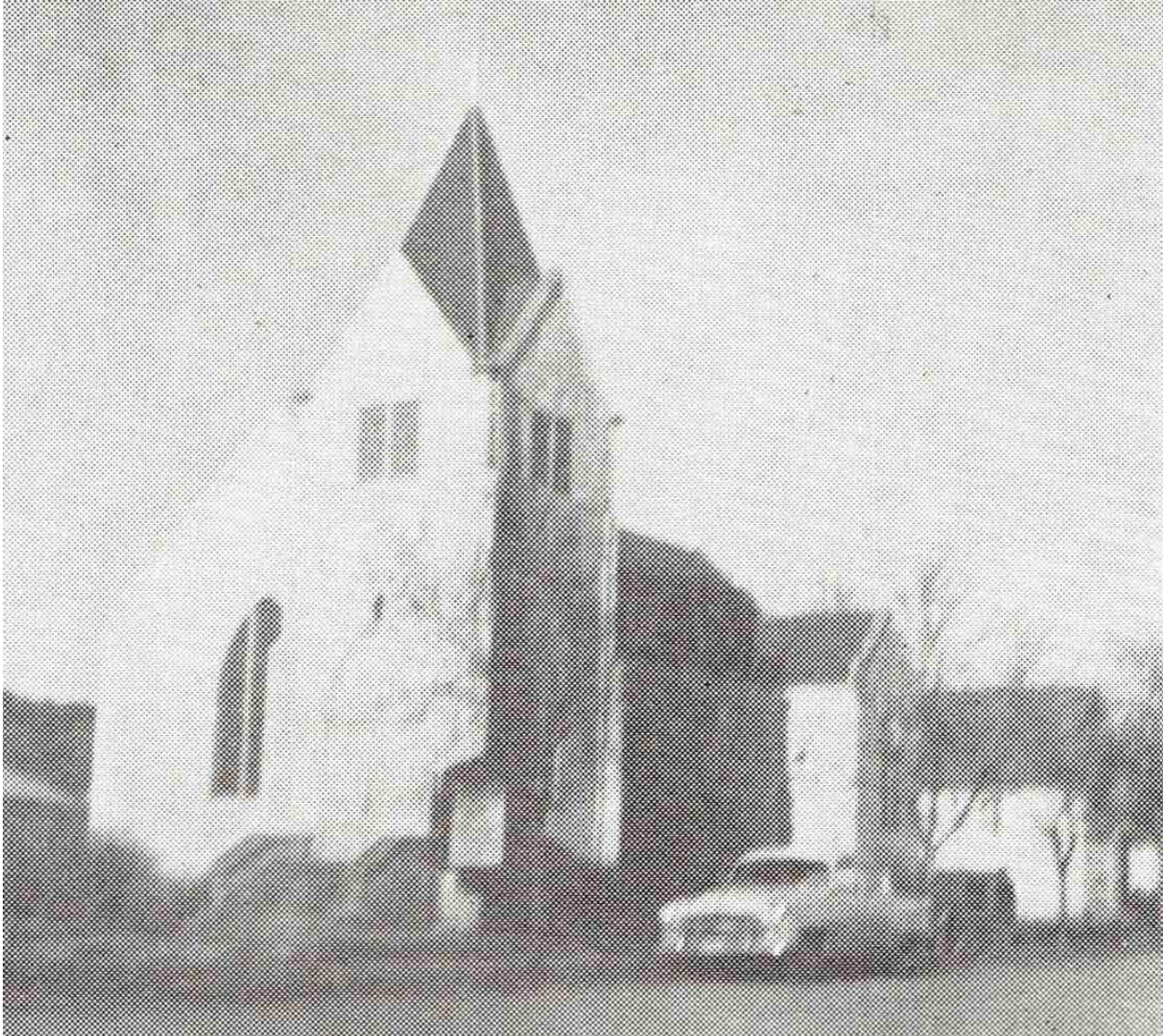
*Pastor Irvin A. Suby
1897-1970*

On March 25, 1928, Immanuel’s members voted to amend the congregation’s constitution to indicate a change in membership from the English Conference to the South Dakota District of The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. It is likely that English had become the common language of most of the members of the South Dakota District, so a separate English Conference was no longer necessary.

Pastor Suby was installed as pastor of Immanuel and Grace by Pastor O. G. Malmin on July 22, 1928. The offering from the service was given to the new pastor.

Pastor Suby was a graduate of Luther College and Luther Theological Seminary. He married Valborg M. Pederson in 1927.

Pastor Suby was the first resident pastor for Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis. Grace and Immanuel continued to share a pastor until 1960.



Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis built its first church building in 1928. The Sturgis congregation worshiped in this building until 1960. The building was sold to Trinity Lutheran Church (Wisconsin Synod) and moved to the corner of Baldwin and Marshall Streets in Sturgis. Immanuel shared a pastor with Grace Lutheran Church until 1960 and briefly in 1966 and 1967.

The minutes of the January 11, 1929, annual meeting state that “the reports to the Home Mission Board were signed.” The signing of reports to the Home Mission Board were noted in several year’s minutes. The congregations received ongoing financial support from The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America for several years.

The 1929 annual meeting minutes also report that a committee was elected “to look into the possibility and costs of improving the church.”

The treasurer’s report from 1929 shows \$544.62 in income. That included \$224.00 received from members, \$29.25 from Sunday collections and a \$122.25 loan from Ed Weisman.

Total expenses for 1929 were \$501.35. Expenses included \$325.20 paid to Pastor Suby and \$122.25 paid to Chris K. Pedersen for work on the church. Other expenses included \$7.20 to the Danish Creamery for ice cream. Other smaller expenses reflect work done on the church building. Two expenses for 1929 seem to indicate the beginning of Immanuel's support for the wider church: \$5 for the district president and \$20 "for the Budget."

The October 29, 1929, collapse of the U.S. stock market marked the beginning of the Great Depression which resulted in difficult times for many of our members and for the congregation.

The financial report for 1930 showed \$438.33 in income, but shows a shortage of funds with a loan of \$64.34 from the Ladies Aid and a loan of \$39.65 from A. W. Fager among the income items. Total Sunday offerings were \$84.07 with an additional \$207.00 received from members and non-members through the subscription system. Total expenses were \$404.74 including \$350.04 for Pastor Suby's salary. Other expenses included \$4.35 for coal and \$5.70 for wood.

Sunday worship offerings during this time were usually between \$1 and \$4 total. For example, in 1930, the largest offering was \$5.05 on January 5. The smallest offering was 60 cents on August 24.

Financial reports for 1931 show \$197.75 in income combining with \$28.58 cash balance from the previous year for \$226.45 total. Expenses were \$226.00 — leaving a balance of 45 cents at the beginning of 1932. Pastor Suby was paid \$187.50 in 1931. That year also shows W. E. Butts paid \$14.00 as janitor for the church. Expenses also included \$20.50 for replacing glass in windows and \$4.00 for wood.

Pastor Suby left in 1933 to take a call to serve in Nunda, South Dakota. He later served congregations in Wisconsin and retired in 1964. He died on January 4, 1970, at the age of 72.



Aerial portion of the photo. (Photo from Deadwood History, Inc., Adams Museum Collection, Deadwood - 0099.189.001) photo of Whitewood



*Enlargement
can*

Hjstegen H.C., Adams Museum Collection, Deadwood - 0099.189.001)

*of aerial photo of Whitewood from around 1935 on previous page. The original building
the upper portion of the photo between the Whitewood School and*

Pastor Orlando M. Skindrud

1933 - 1940

The Rev. Orlando M. Skindrud, a new graduate from Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, was called to serve as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church and Immanuel and in 1933. Pastor Skindrud studied at St. Olaf College and the University of Wisconsin. He was a high school history teacher prior to going to seminary. He was ordained in 1933. He married Ruth I. Dahlen in 1927.

The Great Depression defined this time in Immanuel's history. It appears that the Immanuel congregation stopped meeting for a time. The official record book records the minutes of the annual meeting on January 1931, but it records no other activity until it reports that on April 22, 1934, the Rev. Orlando M. Skindrud led his first worship service at Immanuel. Following the service, the congregation voted to have services twice a month.

In a reflection sent to Immanuel for its 50th anniversary, Pastor Skindrud wrote, "As I recall, it was in the year 1934 or 35 that the families of your congregation came together again, after the church had been closed for some time."

Financial records reflect that lack of activity in the congregation in 1933. The records show \$13.05 was paid for insurance in November of 1933 and two small bills were paid. \$64.50 was received from members in January of 1934 and counted for 1933. Pastor Skindrud was paid \$37.00 in July of 1934. He was paid \$16.00 in January of 1935.



*Pastor Orlando M. Skindrud
1900-1971*

Income for 1935 was \$106.11. Total expenses were \$119.46. Pastor Skindrud was paid \$88.00 in 1935. It appears that electric lights were installed in the church in 1935. The treasurer's report notes an expense of \$5 for electric lights.

The congregation began 1936 with 18 cents in the bank. Income that year was \$45.97. Expenses that year were \$41.80 — including \$20.00 paid to the pastor.

Sunday worship offerings in the 1930s were usually between \$1 and \$2 each service. Total Sunday collections were \$26.61 in 1935; \$28.29 in 1936; and \$33.83 in 1937.

The 1937 financial report showed another lean year. Total income was \$100.62. Total expenses were \$170.50. This year's expenses showed \$12.75 in support for "home missions" as well as \$90 for the pastor's salary.

On October 21, 1934, a special service was held at Immanuel at 2:30 p.m. Three pastors were involved: "Pastor P. B. Stenslund, Newell, and our Pastor O. M. Skindrud preached the sermon and Pastor R. C. Reinkoltzen of Rapid City was preaching the Dedication Sermon for Immanuel Lutheran Church of Whitewood and after the service the Ladies Aid served lunch to all free."

In 1937, First Lutheran Church in Newell began to share a pastor with Immanuel and Grace.

On January 6, 1938, the congregation met for its annual meeting. It was decided "to pay Mr. And Mrs. David Clover \$5 in appreciation for their services in cleaning the church and building fires for services." It was also decided "to unite with Grace Lutheran, Sturgis, and First Lutheran, Newell, in praying for a monthly assistance of \$60 in the year 1938 from the Home Misson funds" of The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. The congregation voted to "endeavor to pay the pastor a salary of \$10 per month in 1938."

The 1938 financial records show that the church paid the pastor \$128.00 in 1938 and had total expenses of \$205.35. The report shows \$242.73 in total income — \$48.61 in Sunday offerings, \$86.25 from members and \$86.60 from the Ladies Aid.

The next year, at its January 17, 1939, meeting, Immanuel made the same request and set the same goal. The congregation again voted "to unite with Grace Lutheran, Sturgis, and First Lutheran, Newell, in praying for monthly assistance of \$60 from the Home Mission NLCA" and "to endeavor to pay the pastor a salary of \$10 per month in 1939."

"The officers of the Ladies Aid and officers of the Immanuel Lutheran Church held a meeting at the home of Mrs. Wonders, May 27, 1939, to discuss matters concerning Aid's funds. A motion was made . . . the Ladies Aid pay as their share, \$5 per month towards minister's salary, the congregation pay \$5 per month. It was decided if either was short of funds, the other help if possible." It was also decided "that some of the men come in and repair the church steps some day. The ladies will serve coffee and cake on that day."

In the January 5, 1940, minutes it was reported that "every first and third Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. divine worship services are held. Rev. O. M. Skindrud, who resides at Sturgis, serving Sturgis and Newell Lutheran congregations, also serves the Immanuel congregation of Whitewood." A special resolution of thanks was sent to the Homestake Mining Company Superintendent Guy Bjorge of Lead "in appreciation of the \$20 gift of assistance received in December 1939." M. Jacobson was to be paid \$6 "in appreciation for the services so faithfully tendered the congregation in maintaining the fires in heating the church building during the past year."

The 1940 minutes also note that the congregation was joining with the Sturgis and Newell congregations in "petitioning the Home Mission Committee of the South Dakota District, asking for the sum of \$60 per month assistance toward the pastor's salary for 1940." It was also noted that "the pastor thanked the Immanuel Lutheran Congregation on behalf of the church at large for

cooperative spirit ... in sending into the general church body treasury the budget apportionment of \$16 in the past year, appealing also for the same united spirit in the coming year.”

Pastor Skindrud completed his ministry at Immanuel, Sturgis and Newell in 1940 and moved to Clinton, Wisconsin. He served as a chaplain for the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946 (during World War II). He served in Clinton before and after the war. He then served a congregation in Sparta, Wisconsin, before retiring in 1965. He died on May 31, 1971, at the age of 70.

Immanuel’s 50th anniversary book included the following reflections from Pastor Skindrud:

As I recall, it was in the year 1934 or 35 that the families of your congregation came together again, after the church had been closed for some time. Here we worked together, preached from Sunday to Sunday, held Sunday School and met with confirmants and the LCW ladies. It was not easy, these were the real lean years with an abundance of grasshoppers, and no, no, no rain.

I’m reminded of the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy 35:1, 7, “... and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. ... And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water.” This was our hope and prayer in those dry years ... and the better years did come ... and your church has prospered, and I’m sure you have again and again rejoiced in the Lord.

May your anniversary be one of joyous reflection and of offering unto the Lord His praise and thanksgiving. Mrs. Skindrud and I send you our warmest regards and greetings.

History of Immanuel Lutheran Church Ladies Aid 1921-1944

A firsthand account of the history of Immanuel's Ladies Aid was prepared by Mrs. J. P. (Katrina) Jensen in 1944. It is reprinted on the next three pages as it was typed by Mrs. Jensen.



Ladies Aid in the 1930s, from left, front row, Mrs. Wandeni, Johanna Weisman, Katrina Jensen, Amelia Millis. Second row: Mrs. Orr, Mrs. Halvorson, Saima Trohkimoinen, Mrs. West.

The Black Hills Circuit
Immanuel Lutheran Aid of Whitewood
Whitewood, S. Dak.

Our Ladies Aid was organized on March 5th, 1921 at the home of Mrs. Marie Fabricius, now Mrs. M. Hansen.

Rev A. H. Trystad opened with devotions.

A motion was passed that we organize a Lutheran Aid at Whitewood, with sixteen ladies present, ten became members namely:

Mrs. Nels Olson
Mrs. Wm Blomberg
Mrs. Hans Carstenson
Mrs. D. C. Davis
Mrs. A. W. Fager
Mrs. Jake Olson
Mrs. John Johnson
Mrs. Robert Smith
Mrs. Marie Fabricius Hansen
Mrs. Alena Hansen Honorary Member

The following officers were elected

President Mrs. Jake Olson
Vice President: Mrs. John Johnson
Secretary Mrs. Wm Blomberg
Treasurer: Mrs. Fabricius Hansen

A motion was made that we pay 1.00 membership dues and .35 for lunch at each meeting

Our meetings were held every three weeks on Wednesday, unless otherwise decided. A constitution was adopted by the members. This ended the first meeting, refreshments were served by the hostess. In those days the meetings were held at the homes. On March 19th a meeting was held, a membership committee elected namely Mrs. Hans Carstenson, Mrs. Nels Olson and Mrs. J. Johnson. A Decoration Committee consisted of the officers. We then met every three weeks and on July 13th we were honored by having Rev Boe as a guest, bringing an encouraging little talk. On Aug 10th we met at the social rooms of the church. A motion was made and seconded that we order three dozen Lutheran Hymnaries. On Aug. 24th we met at Mrs. Nels Olson in the country, We were honored by having Missionary Trystad from China present. He spoke briefly of China. On May 23rd 1922 a meeting was held. Officers were elected. A motion was made and seconded ~~that~~ Aid pay \$5000) to improve the church, also \$5.00 to Home missions and \$5.00 to Orphans Home. On June 23, 1922 we entertained the Ladies Aid of Sturgis. Each fall a very nice Bazaar and dinner was held the proceeds went to help all expenses of the church. No meetings were held from Nov. 1922 until Aug 23, 1923. At this time Rev. Melvin Hauge was installed. We commenced with sixteen members present. We met at Mrs. Jack Hansen to reorganize our Aid. Officers were elected. Our Charter member Mrs Soren Hansen Passed away in Nov. of 1931. On Jan 23, 1924 Mrs Ben Mollerud presented the church with a beautiful ~~at~~ scarf. On Jan 21 1925 a motion was made and seconded that the Ladies Aid pay One Hundred Dollars on Church Debt. Our aid met on June 3rd. 25 Our new Pastor Rev. Aga was present. A motion was made that we purchase a Piano from Rev. Perry. Officers signed note for \$125.00 on Piano. On Feb. 17-1926 a note to the Whitewood Bank amounting \$75.00 was paid and \$25 were also paid on the Piano. Mrs. Fred Loose passed away in February of 1927. On April 6th 1927 the

the balance on the Piano was paid amounting to \$51.00. On May 4th three men of our congregation served namely Chris Paulsen Chris Peterson and Fred Loose. On June 29th 1927 Ice Cream social was held in church parlor. A Lecture was given by Gerald Renaas. On Sept. 19th, 1928 the Aid paid \$100.00 on church Debt. Rev. Aga moved away in 1927. Rev. Suby took over the duties as Paster in the summer of 1928. In April of 1929 our Ladies Aid prichased an electric Stove from Mrs. Gwy Bailey for \$15.00. On July 25th a meeting was held, a committee was appointed to have the church cleaned and papered. A supper was served by the Aid on Oct 12, which amounted to \$6L.65 On Oct 2nd a note for repair on church was paid by the Aid amounting to \$102.00. On April 25th 1930 a farewell party was given for Mrs. A. Peterson for the splendid work in the Aid and Sunday School. A Purse of \$15.00 was presented to her. On Oct 10, 1930 the Ladies Aid paid \$147.00 on the standing debt of the church. On July 15th 1931 a farewell party was given for Mrs. Leslie Hayes for her wonderful work as a Sunday School Supt and a Purse of \$10.00 was presented to her. From Nov. 1, 1932 until May 3rd 1934 no meetings were held. Due to the depression so many moved away. It was impossible to keep the aid going. On Dec 1933 our new minister and family Rev. and Mrs. Skindrud arrived. They moved into the upstairs apartment of Weismans new home in Sturgis. D. Living there until the new parsonage was completed in 1936. On May 2nd 1934 a meeting was held for the purpose of reorganizing and elcing officers. With a great number of our church members moved away we found it rather difficult to get started. We were experiencing about the worse drought I hope ever to see. We started out with about nine members. We met once a month served the public hot lunches at ~~25%~~ .25. a plate. Helped to pay the bills that the church couldn't otherwise handle. On May 6th 1936 a motion was made to secure a graduate of the Bible Institute of Minneapolis to conduct Parochial school for two weeks. On June 14th, Mrs. Skindrud invited the Whitewood Luthab Aid to meet at her home the new Sturgis Parsonage which had just been completed. On Sept 20th, 21-22 1936 we were invited to Newell S. Dak. for the meeting of the W. M. F. which was well attended. At the Aug meeting of 1937 a new member was installed namely Mrs. H. J. Wender who later became our president. On March 1, 1939 our old seretary book was filled, and a new one was purchased. On June 7th 1939 the aid decided to change from the Commercial Bank of Sturgis to the Bear Butte Bank of Sturgis, S. Dak. On Sept. 23-29 the Black Hills Circuit Convention was held at the St. Johns Lutheran Church at Rapid City. a large delegation attended from our aid. On Oct 4th the president gave a detailed account of the Black Hills Circuit meeting. Rev. and Mrs. Skindrud moved to Clinton, Wisconsin on May 23, 1940. Christmas of 1940 Rev Oakland gave his first Sermon. Rev and Mrs. Oakland were present at our first meeting of Jan 3rd 1941. On June 4th the Aid purchased half of the windows for the church. The windows had been removed by one of the worse hail storms that the vicinity of Whitewood had ever known. The shingles had been badly damaged and new ones had to be placed. On Feb 4th 1942 a meeting was held and a committee was chosen to decide on papering the church. The Church was papered on March 15th which was a wonderful transformation. Meetings were held, luncheons served, and each fall a chicken dinner was served to the public. On Jan. 6th 1943 the annual meeting was held, officers elected. A letter was read from Rev. and Mrs. Skindrud of Clinton Wis. which was greatly enjoyed by all. The year of 1943 was rather an uneventful year with only our monthly meetings which were well attended. Our year was finish

ed with a lovely chicken dinner. This completed the first history of our aid from the beginning of 193L to Dec. 31, 1943.

Mrs. J. P. Jensen
Historian.

HISTORY OF 1944

S. Dak. District : Black Hills Circuit
Immanuel Lutheran Ladies Aid
Whitewood, S. Dak.

The Aid met in joint ses sion with members and officers of the church on Jan 5th 1944.

Due to bad weather w e had no meeting in Jebraury. At our March meeting we decided to change the price of .35 for lunches to .35/
At this meeting we elected a cradle roll secretary. A motion was made and seconded to have an Easter sale. Three new memgers were added to our list. On April 8th our annual Eas ter sale was held which was well attended. This netted us \$25.50. On May 5th the aid met the rain poured by members came one and all had a lovely meeting. Lunch was served. June was another meeting andLuncheon. At this meeting we dedid ed to hold a Rummage sale, something we had never tried before. On July 8th we held our Rummage Sale which was a grand success. nestting us \$64.00 which was very good for such a small community.

On August 4th we met, had a grand day, Lunch was served to the public. We also discussed the problem of laying a new cement side walk. We hwd no meeting in September. On Oct 4th a very interesting meeting was held, reports of the Circuit Convnention was given, which was gr given which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Ladies Aid History was read fy the Historian. On Nov 9th we had our last meeting of the year, as we don't serve in Dec. due to other church activities.

This closed our church year with the exception of a Church picnic we have every summer.

Histerian

Mrs. J. P . Jensen

Pastor Ralph L. Okland

1940 - 1946

The Rev. Ralph Luverne Okland was called to serve as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis, First Lutheran Church in Newell, and Immanuel. He was installed on December 15, 1940. Pastor Okland was a graduate of St. Olaf College and Luther Theological Seminary. He served in Outlook, Montana, before accepting the call to serve our parish. He was ordained in 1938. He married Jeannette C. Tande in 1940.

At the January 3, 1941, meeting, it was reported that “six services in 1940 by Rev. Skindrud, and one farewell; nine by student aid and two by Rev. Okland.” Luther Seminary student Luthard Eid had served the congregations during the summer of 1940. It also reported that “the Home Mission Application was read and Immanuel agreed to pay \$120 a year to Pastor’s salary. Services to be held as pastor arranges.”

At a September 12, 1941, meeting it was decided that the congregation should meet quarterly. Prior to that congregational meetings were only held once a year or as needed for special circumstances.

Pastor Okland’s ministry was marked by World War II. The United States entered the war following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941. The war would continue until 1945.

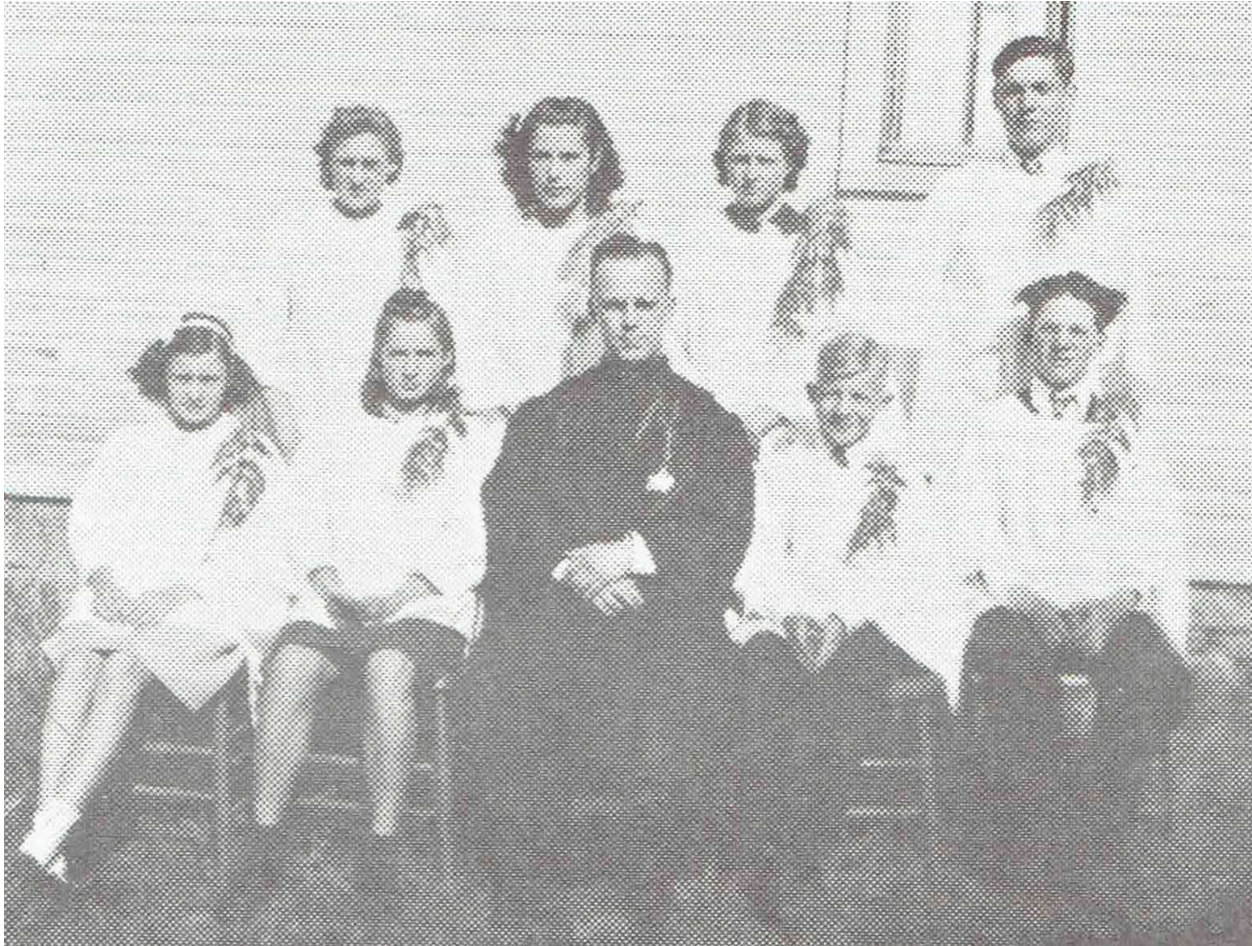
A 1941 treasurer’s record shows a balance on hand of \$12.72 on January 1, 1941. Sunday offerings ranged from 72 cents to \$4.09. Offering from “Easter containers” was \$15.58. It shows that Pastor Okland was paid \$10 every other month. It also reports bills of \$6.25 for glass for windows and \$34.95 for shingles, nails, etc. in June of 1941.

Pastor Okland reported to the annual meeting in January of 1942 that during the previous year “28 services were held with an average attendance of 19.” The congregation “voted to continue with services on alternating Sundays at 2:00 during winter and fall and at 9:30 during the summer months.” The pastor thanked the congregation for its payment of \$16 to The Norwegian Lutheran Church of America. It was also reported that “the application for \$10 a month towards Pastor’s salary had already been rushed in.”

A “special service and meeting” were held on Wednesday, July 22, 1942. The congregation again addressed the time and dates for worship. “It was decided to hold services the first, third and fifth Sundays at 2:00 from October 1 and at 9:00 from Easter until October 1.



Pastor Ralph L. Okland
1909-1985



Confirmation 1942. Front row, from left: Genevieve Jacobson, Helen Schreiber, Pastor Okland, Lief Erickson, Duane Erickson. Back row: Louise Schreiber, Eunice Jacobson, Johanna Schreiber, John R. Trohkimoinen.

The minutes also report that “disgust was expressed regarding the drinking going on in the city at public dances.”

In September of 1942, First Lutheran Church in Newell called Pastor George Anderson as its pastor. Pastor Oakland was then able to devote more time to serving the Sturgis and Whitewood congregations.

The annual meeting in 1943 heard a report that the congregation has 39 active members. Pastor Okland also made a motion that the “congregation make application for \$10 per month from the N.L.C.A.”

A history of Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis reports that:

Rev. Oakland served the Armed Forces as a Chaplain 1942-1944. At the request of Dr. Lester Pierson, president of the South Dakota District, NLCA, Rev. Oakland was released to

continue serving Grace Lutheran and the military community at Fort Meade. He held services and counseled at Fort Meade, as well as worked with the German prisoners of war that were brought here from Fort Robinson, Nebraska, to help with the sugar beet harvest at Vale.

Pastor Okland began a parish newsletter, The Lutheran Messenger, which was distributed to the membership of the Sturgis and Whitewood congregations with the news of the parish. Two hundred families received the newsletter. It was financed by contributions, advertisements solicited from community businesses, and profits from sales of books.

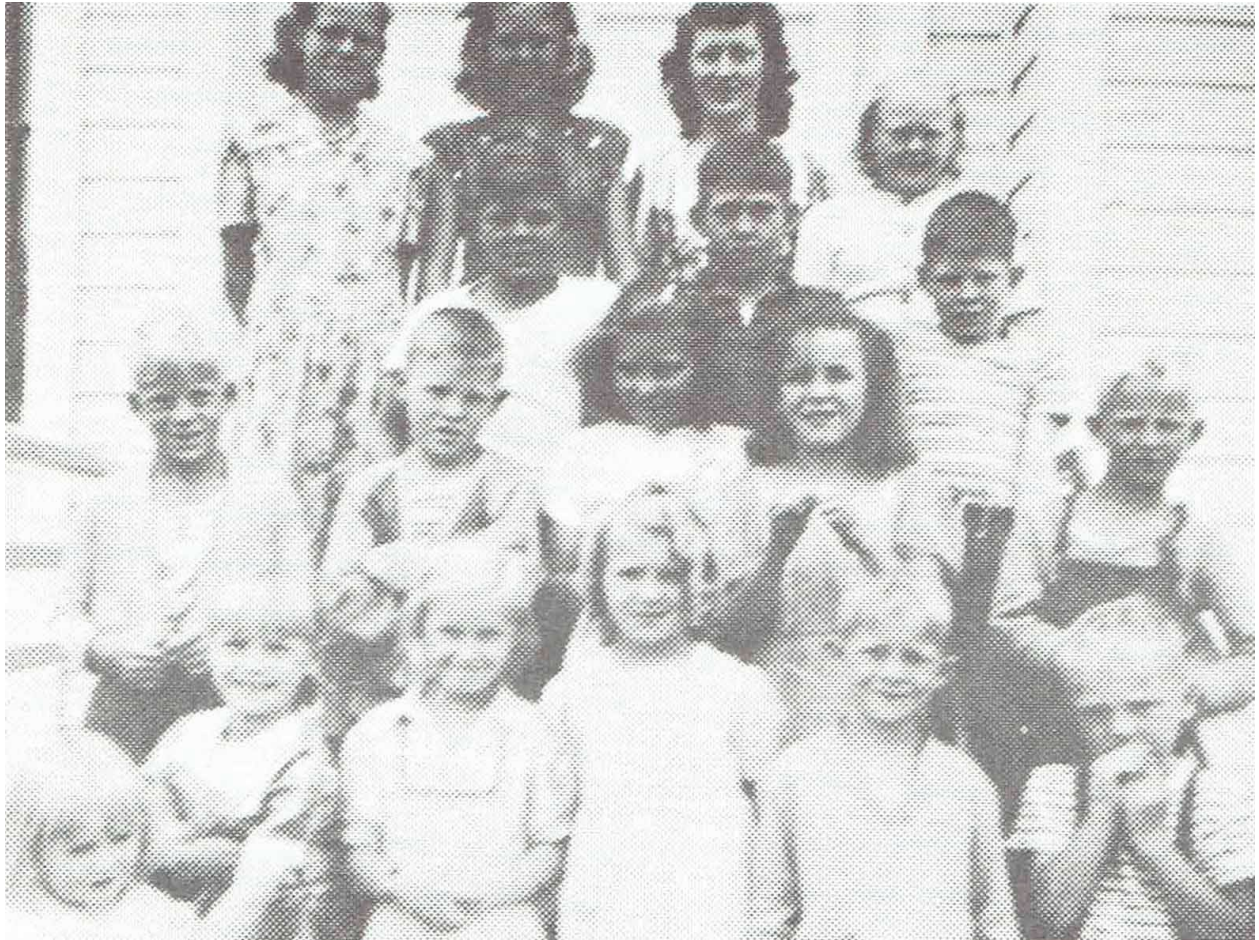
Total expenses for 1945 were \$89.20. Of that total, \$60 was paid for the pastor's salary. Pastor Okland received \$5 a month from Immanuel.

The congregation decided to "sell one lot of church ground ... for \$300 and the money be used only for church improvement" at the annual meeting on January 8, 1946. The congregation sold the lot to William L. Campbell.

A special meeting was held about this time. The meeting is dated July 21, 1941, but it is placed in the record books between a meeting in 1946 and 1947. The minutes report: "The members present voted to hold the meeting with Rev. Okland absent. ... The subject for discussion was whether we should continue to have services or discontinue them due to lack of attendance. It was decided that we continue services the first and third Sunday of each month."

Total income for 1946 was \$414.44 with \$408.33 in total expenses. Pastor Okland was paid \$5 a month in 1946 for the 10 months he served the congregation.

Pastor Okland left our parish in November of 1946 after accepting a call to serve in Wanamingo, Minnesota. He retired in 1976 after serving congregations in Minnesota, Montana, South Dakota, and North Dakota. He served as pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church in Rapid City 1961-1969. He died on September 6, 1985, at the age of 75.



1946 Vacation Bible School. Front row, from left: Candy Stoor, LeAnn Stoor, unknown, Colleen Robinson, Jerry Erickson, Russell Engebretson. Second row: Max Engebretson, Fred Schreiber, Lee Lehto. Third row: Carl Erickson, Lyman Lehto, Ethan Engebretson, Frances Fagering, Chris Erickson. Top row: Alice Schreiber, Marjorie Fager, Alene Christopherson, Elise Mae Fager.

Pastor E. Melvin Bremer 1947 - 1953

The Rev. Einar Melvin Bremer was called to serve Immanuel and Grace in 1947. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Luther Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1938 and served congregations in Montana before being called to serve our parish. He married Sarah Mikkelson in 1938.

The 1947 annual meeting heard the treasurer report "\$6.11 in the treasury and outstanding bills amounting to \$39.50 plus light bill." Pastor Bremer announced that worship services would be on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. "He asked that everyone act as missionaries to invite others to church," the minutes report.

1946 also saw some work done on the church with \$140 paid to lumber companies in 1947 for unpaid 1946 bills.

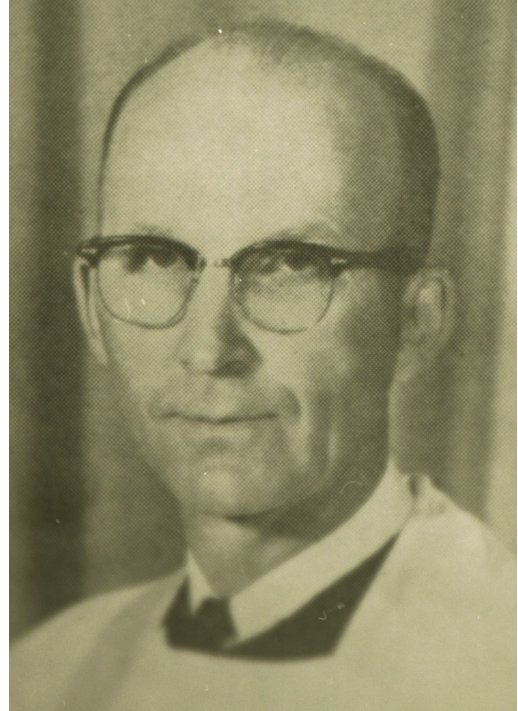
In 1947, a special fall offering brought in \$189.00. Expenses for 1947 totaled \$259.21. Pastor Bremer was paid \$5 per month for a total salary of \$60. Mission giving was \$18.74 for "budget" and \$10.05 for Lutheran World Action. Margaret Carlson was paid \$2 as pianist. \$3.34 was spent for apples for Christmas.

1948 saw \$387.58 in income and \$263.54 in expenses. Pastor Bremer's salary was increased to \$25 per quarter — \$100 for the year. This year also saw mission support for the district budget and Lutheran World Action total \$80.32.

Lutheran World Action was an effort by American Lutherans to reach out to Lutherans in Europe following World War II.

Pastor Bremer gave a report at the January 6, 1948, annual meeting and "outlined the aims of our church for the coming year as follows:"

- 1. More faithful attendance.*
- 2. More regular and larger attendance in Sunday School.*
- 3. Plan on Vacation Bible School teacher.*



*Pastor E. Melvin Bremer
1910-1986*



The congregation posed for a group photo following a service in 1948. Front row, from left: Mrs. Clark, J. P. Jensen, Mrs. Weisman, Mr. Weisman, unknown, John Trohkimoinen, William Fager, Selmer Fager, James Fabricius. Second row: Johanna Schreiber, Katrina Jensen, Helen Fager, Mrs. Schreiber, Carol Goodburn. Top row: Mrs. Lyle Goodburn, Saima Trohkimoinen, Mrs. Bruggeman, Mrs. Lehto, Ethel Engebretson, Alice Schreiber.

4. *Organize Junior Lutheran League.*
5. *Have Bible teacher and Evangelist come.*
6. *Stress daily Bible reading.*
7. *Financial aims at definite planning 1. Need; 2. Offering.*
8. *Strive for self-support.*

At the March 27, 1949, meeting, "Pastor Bremer outlined the plans and aims for the coming year:

1. *We are to have guest speaker on April 10 and hope to have another guest speaker in about six months.*
2. *Attendance has increased but everyone should strive to invite anyone that is without church in our community to our church.*

3. *Plan for Vacation Bible School again (hoping to have a man teacher this year).*
4. *Officers be faithful examples.*

The 1949 meeting also discussed work that had been done at the church. "A motion was made and seconded to pay Mrs Fagering \$12.50 as half of custodian fee for 1948. The Ladies Aid paid the other half. It was decided to let Ladies Aid pay custodian for coming year. Mrs. Fagering gave the \$12.50 as their payment on the new heater. Bills were presented on work on chimneys, etc. It was decided that since the Ladies Aid contracted work that they should pay for it."

The January 29, 1950, annual meeting decided to give an additional \$20 to mission as a part of the 1949 budget. The congregation also decided to raise the pastor's salary to \$150 for the coming year.

In 1950 and 1951 the congregation discussed the possibility of having offering envelopes rather than soliciting funds from members. "It was decided to solicit for donations," the 1950 minutes report. The 1951 meeting decided "that we continue with the contributions as before." The 1951 minutes also state that it was decided "that our first free will contribution" should be in by May 1 and the second contribution by October 1.

Pastor Bremer reported to the 1951 meeting:

There have been 30 worship services during the year. During July and August we had eight 11 o'clock services. One service was for confirmation and at two services the Sacrament of the Altar was administered. The attendance has varied greatly. Sometimes as low as four and a few times up to thirty, but usually about ten souls.

There has been no Lutheran Sunday school during the past two years. However, your pastor has met with a Junior Luther League of about 20 boys and girls, from the fifth grade and into high school age, once each month during the year. He has also taught one hour of Christian instruction to the 13 children in the Hathaway school once each Friday since September. About 17 children attended the Vacation Bible School last summer, with Mrs. Bob Eddy a teacher.

Our Ladies Aid has had monthly meetings with the devotional meetings in the home one month and serving supper at the church the next month. They have contributed \$150 toward the pastor's salary and the congregation has paid the other \$150.

Your pastor has baptized six children in the church. Three girls have been confirmed. There have been three funerals.

The minutes report that "Pastor Bremer asked if we could have Sunday school." It was decided "that we inaugurate the Sunday school."

Building a new chimney for the church was discussed in 1951 but nothing was decided, the minutes report. In 1953, "it was decided to lower the ceiling in the church kitchen."

"During the past three months the church attendance has increased very much and this has brought much encouragement to pastor and people," Pastor Bremer reported to the January 12, 1953, annual meeting. "Two Communion services were conducted during the year. Eleven different individual members have received the Lord's Supper at these services," he reported.

"I believe our treasurer's report will indicate that the financial contributions have been better this year due to the increased attendance that latter part of the year. Some of our members have been very conscientious about Church attendance and faithful in contributing, but others have been careless about the worship hours and naturally have contributed very little," Pastor Bremer wrote.

"The Ladies Aid has been active and has continued to pay half of the Pastor's salary. They have revealed an increased interest in missions, Lutheran Welfare and overseas relief, as well as, local financial help and enrollments in the Cradle Roll," he said.

Pastor Bremer presented the following "aims for 1953" to the annual meeting:

- 1. An increased attendance at Church Services throughout the whole year. Regular attendance by all members and more interest in the friends who worship with us.*
- 2. Communion Services at least six times during the year.*
- 3. Twenty new members, including children, this new year.*
- 4. An adult confirmation class preparing for Church membership.*
- 5. Vacation Bible School for two weeks in June.*
- 6. A five-day Bible or Evangelistic conference in our Church in Whitewood.*
- 7. At least one delegate attending the district Church convention in June.*
- 8. The family altar in every home. That is, Scripture reading, meditation and prayer as a family or as individuals. The Ladies Aid has ordered 24 copies of "Portals of Prayer" for each season of the new year. Get your copy and use it.*

At the 1954 annual meeting, Pastor Bremer reported that he had led 18 Sunday afternoon services and eight Sunday morning services in 1953. There had been four services of Holy Communion with 26 individuals receiving the Sacrament. He also reported that the Ladies Aid had 11 meetings and had nine active members and five honorary members. It was also reported that there were 39 students enrolled in Sunday School, six teachers and an average attendance of 32.

Pastor Bremer noted reported that the “Treasurer’s Report presented by Pete Jensen will reveal that the Lord has provided through the members and non-members who have worshipped regularly with us. The Ladies Aid has contributed half of the Pastor’s salary, and has paid the gas bill of the church. The Pastor’s salary is \$300 from Whitewood annually, and has been \$3,600 from Grace Lutheran Sturgis.”

Pastor Bremer also noted that he would be leaving the parish. “Your pastor will conclude his work in this parish on the 22nd of February, therefore all must pray regularly that God may provide a pastor to take up the work of ministering to the people of this fold. Thanks again for everything. God bless you and provide for your every need.”

Pastor Bremer served the parish until February of 1954 when he accepted a call to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church in Everson, Washington. He served congregations in Washington before retiring in 1975. He died in 1996, at the age of 86.



John Trohkimoinen (1895-1976) and Saima Trohkimoinen (1905-1986). John served as secretary of the congregation 1950-1953. Saima was involved in the Ladies Aid, serving as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.



James Fabricius (1892-1973) served as a trustee for 18 years 1945-1962. He was known for playing the violin. His brother Hans Fabricius (1896-1979) played the mandolin.

Pastor Verlyn O. Smith

1954 - 1955

The Rev. Verlyn Odell Smith was a graduate of Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Luther Theological Seminary. He served Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis and Immanuel from July of 1954 to August of 1955. He married Helen Johnson in 1949.

At the January 18, 1955. annual meeting, Pastor Smith reported that Holy Communion was offered at four services in 1954 and 39 people received the Lord's Supper at least once that year. He also reported that the congregation had 26 baptized members. Victor Halvorson reported that there were 45 people enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 35.

The annual meeting also decided to move the time of worship to 1:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of each month rather than at 2 p.m.

Pastor Smith was called to serve as a Professor of Religion at Augustana College in Sioux Falls in 1955 and served there until 1968. He later served in college campus ministry in California and Minnesota and as pastor of a church in Minneapolis.

Pastor Smith retired in 1992. He died August 31, 2012, at the age of 85.

The Rev. Bernhard Heinrich Joseph Habel, a recently retired pastor, served as an interim pastor of the parish from September of 1955 to March of 1956.

Pastor Habel was a graduate of St. Olaf College, Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary and Luther Theological Seminary. He served congregations in North Dakota, Minnesota, California, and Iowa, before retiring in 1955. He died on July 25, 1974, at the age of 84.

The 1956 annual meeting decided to contribute \$50 to the "seminary enlargement fund." They also decided to contribute \$12 to "Lutheran South Dakota Welfare" from money "left over from the Christmas fund." The Sunday School also reported that they would contribute \$20 to the church "to help pay part of last year's Bible school."

The congregation also "went on record favoring Minneapolis rather than Chicago as Lutheran headquarters should the Lutheran churches merge." This must relate to discussion



Pastor Verlyn O. Smith
1927-2012



Sunday School in the mid 1950s. Pictured are, front row, from left: Cliff Jensen, unknown, David Wanhanen, unknown, unknown, unknown, Randy Carlson, Carl Jensen, Waynetta Yates, Janet Carlson. Second row: Larry Wanhanen, Ronald Carlson, unknown, unknown, Kathy Jensen. Third row: Amelia Millis, Walter Orr, Laurence Yates, Gene Schick, unknown, David Halvorsen. Back row: Georgia Jensen, Mrs. Orr, Doris Autio, Mrs. Wangberg, Mr. and Mrs. Halvorsen.

leading to the formation of The American Lutheran Church in 1960. Minneapolis was chosen as the ALC's headquarters.

Pastor Harvey A. Grote

1956 - 1960

The Rev. Harvey August Grote was called to serve as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis and Immanuel in 1956. Pastor Grote was a graduate of Luther College and Luther Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1952. He previously served congregations in Underwood, Minnesota. He married Cora Mae Clark in 1944.

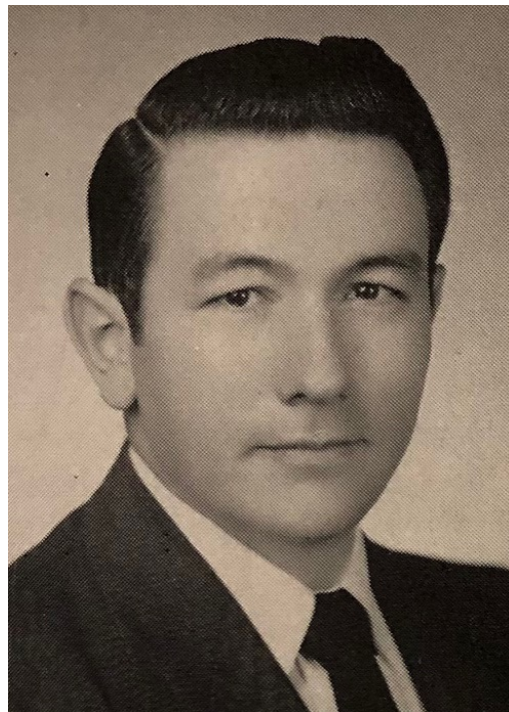
Pastor Grote began suggesting the possibility of Immanuel changing its parish affiliation from Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Spearfish early in his time as pastor of our parish. The minutes of an August 31, 1956, meeting noted that "a discussion followed concerning a possible merger of the American Lutheran and Evangelical Lutheran churches. It was also discussed that if this merger takes place we may have the possibility of services each Sunday morning with the willing cooperation of the Our Savior Lutheran Church in Spearfish."

At this time worship services were at 1:30 p.m. twice a month. A separate service of Holy Communion was scheduled for 8 p.m. on an evening in October.

The possibility of starting a Luther League youth group and a community choir was discussed at the August meeting.

A special meeting was held on October 20, 1956, to consider support for the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) for 1957. Pastor Pierson of Lead showed slides on the ministry of the ELC and its desire to enlarge its budget. The meeting reported that Immanuel had a confirmed membership of 21 persons. The congregation gave \$129.99 to the ELC in 1955. It also noted the congregation's total giving was \$1,030.65 with total expenses of \$900.66. The ELC asked for \$210 in benevolence giving in 1957. "The eight members present at this meeting agreed to recommend to the trustees and board to increase our budget from the \$129.99 but no amount was set."

At the annual meeting on January 18, 1957, Pastor Grote reported that Immanuel had 36 worship services in 1956 plus five P. T. R. services. Preach Teach and Reach (P. T. R.) were special services highlighting mission. Eight of the services that year were led by Pastor Habel, who served in the interim between pastors; 22 services were led by Pastor Grote and six were led by other pastors. Pastor Grote reported six services of Holy Communion that year. Average attendance at the Lord's Supper was 21 members.



Pastor Harvey A. Grote
1919-2013

At that same meeting a motion was made, “after a great deal of discussion as (to) how we might increase our number of church services, to meet with the Spearfish pastor and board to see if a union with that group is possible.”

The meeting also voted to increase their support of the Evangelical Lutheran Church budget to \$210 for the next year. Pastor Grote asked Immanuel to join the ELC’s Pastor Pension Fund. The congregation voted to pay toward Pastor Grote’s retirement fund, but then reduced the goal for benevolence support to the ELC to \$175.

On February 1, 1957, the congregation met with Pastor Grote and the Rev. Richard Schlack, pastor of the new mission congregation Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Spearfish, “concerning the change in pastor to the Spearfish ALC in view of the possibility of services every Sunday.” The meeting voted “to have Pastor Schlack ask the Mission Board and congregation if they would allow him to accept our congregational call.” The minutes also report that “other suggestions of finances and a release from the Sturgis church were agreed upon for a later date.”

At an August 3, 1957, meeting, “Pastor Grote asked the congregation what their wishes were as to the time of services this coming winter. He explained that he would ask Sturgis if they would change their hour of service so we could meet every Sunday at 11:15. This was agreeable to all present.” This meeting also noted the need for a “a new heater or floor furnace to replace the oil heater.” A building fund was started to purchase the furnace and provide for other building needs. \$100 was set aside for the building fund and it was agreed to augment the fund with 10 percent of Sunday offerings. Individual gifts to the fund would also be welcomed.

Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis must have been open to the new worship time, as a November 20, 1957, meeting was called “to decide how much we should pay Rev. Grote for his additional services.” It was decided “to pay him \$50 for his expenses of extra services in our congregation.”

The 1957 annual report notes that the congregation had 33 worship services, including seven services of Holy Communion in 1957. It reported that total communicants for 1957 were 93 with 35 members and six visitors receiving the Sacrament that year. Pastor Grote reported that “the mission possibilities in Whitewood are almost limitless. The community is growing and the town is surrounded by farmers and ranchers. Our endeavor to begin a confirmation class has proved successful. We have an enrollment of eight.”

The 1958 annual meeting voted to “pay 1 percent above the proposed budget toward the support of the district president’s residence.” The congregation also decided to “pay all of the minister’s pension which is 12% of his salary rather than 8% as in preceding year.

A special meeting was held on September 8, 1958, to transfer a portion of the church’s land to Bill Campbell in exchange for an easement right of way to allow access to the church building.



Pastor Harvey and Cora Mae Grote and their daughters Julie, Shari, Mary and Martha

A joint special meeting of the church boards from Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis was held on December 2, 1958. It was agreed that there would be a joint meeting of the boards quarterly. The meeting voted to raise Pastor Grote's salary to \$600 a year. "A suggestion was made that we hire a full-time intern pastor during the summer to work in our church and community."

"1958 will always be remembered as the year when we began using the new *Lutheran Service Book and Hymnal*. We are getting used to the new order of service. We want to thank Mrs. Florence Courtney and Mrs. Emelia Millis for purchasing the hymnals for us in memory of Ralph B. Courtney and Benjamin L. Millis," Pastor Grote wrote in the report to the 1959 annual meeting.

The 1958 annual report also notes that Pastor Grote was paid \$200 by the congregation and \$150 by the Ladies Aid in 1958. \$41.40 was also sent to the church for Pastor Grote's pension. 36 worship services were offered in 1958, eight of which were services of Holy Communion. 36 members received the Lord's Supper. Anne Sogge reported that there were 50 children and eight teachers for Immanuel's Sunday School in 1958, with an average attendance of 34 students.

The 1959 annual meeting also decided "to adopt the envelope and pledge system" for offerings and to order 50 boxes of envelopes.

A special meeting of the congregation was held on November 29, 1959. "The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of either building an addition or a new church. Also to discuss the possible union of Immanuel with the Presbyterian church of Whitewood." The congregation decided "to appoint the trustees to inquire of cost of a new basement and to move

present building to it.” A committee was also “appointed to assist Pastor Grote in making a survey of the community to determine the amount of people interested in expanding our church.”

At the January 15, 1960, annual meeting, “Alvin Jensen reported on the findings of the building committee. The basement under the present church building was estimated at \$5,000 to complete as compared with \$2,560 for the addition on the back of the building to form kitchen and additional Sunday School room.” The congregation decided to move forward with the addition to the back of the church building and to borrow funds for the project as needed.

At the meeting “there was a discussion of joining with Spearfish in hopes of additional service to our community. It was suggested by Pastor Grote to authorize further negotiations with Spearfish to see what could develop,” the minutes report. Three members were nominated “to attend the annual meeting at Spearfish to look further into the matter of becoming a parish with Our Savior’s Lutheran.”

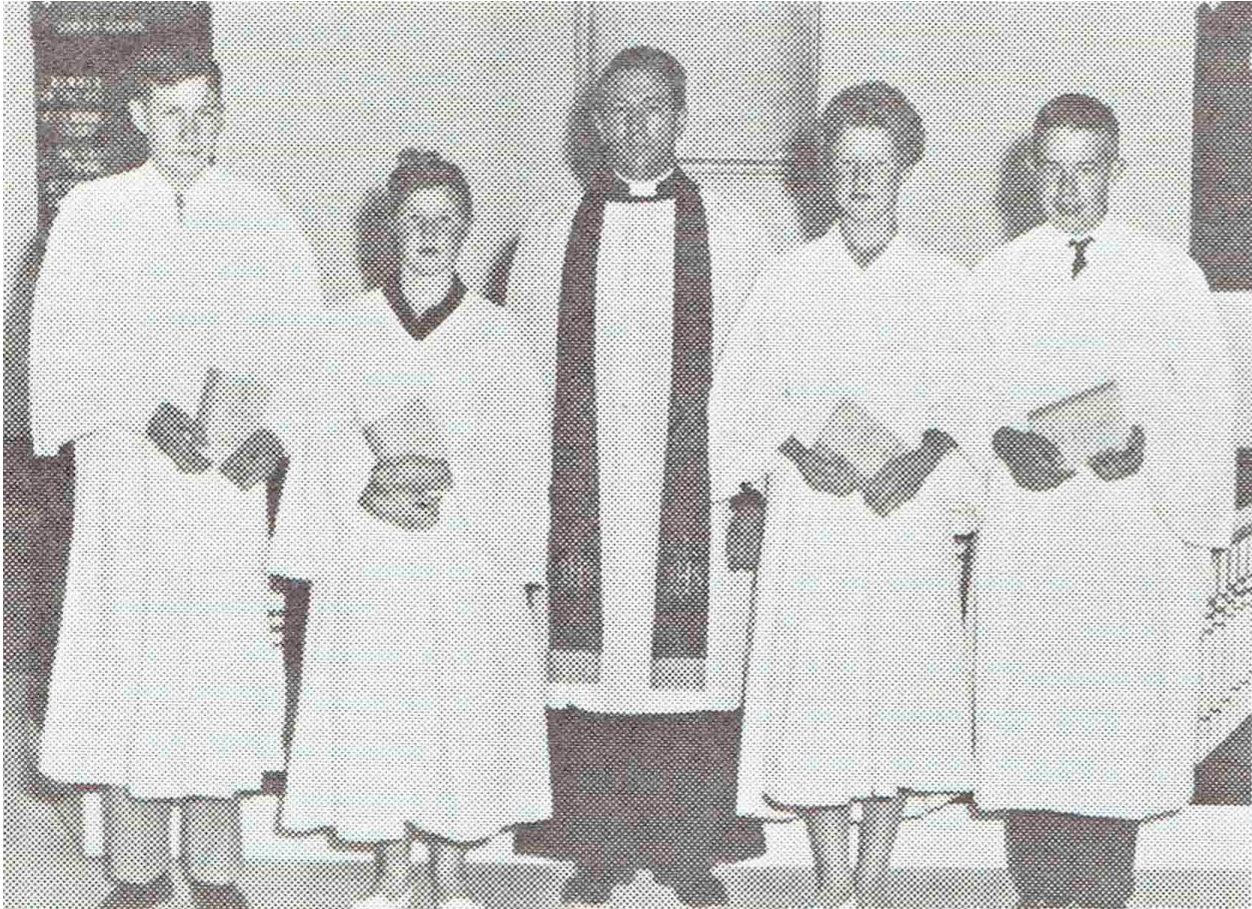
The report for the January 1960 annual meeting notes significant activity in 1959:

The Church Council has been very active this past year. Their reports will speak for themselves. Some events and activities are worthy of special mention. In April we began holding Worship Services every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. We started and are now using the new Lutheran Service Book and Hymnal. We are following the “First Setting” for The Service for our order of Sunday and Holy Communion Worship. This has increased our regular attendance at worship and Holy Communion.

Meetings and planning has gone into building additional Sunday School rooms to our present church building. There has been discussion about building a basement under our present church building. There has been discussion about moving our present church building to a new location. Mr. Millard Fillmore has offered the congregation a building site in a new housing area free of charge if the congregation should choose to build a new church building. This possibility has been discussed. It has been a year during which the congregation has given serious thought to ways and means of more effectively bringing the Gospel to the people in the village of Whitewood and the community around Whitewood. A survey of the community has been made and these results will be tabulated for use in future planning.

The Every Member Visits program was again used in our Congregation this year. Three men, Mr. Robert Fagering, chairman; Mr. Guy Balo and Mr. John Sogge together with the Pastor made up the E. M. V. Committee. With the help of other families and individuals in the congregation to make the visits — the work is nearing completion with pledges that should exceed \$2,500 in 1960.

1959 marked a year of nearly weekly worship services. Fifty worship services were offered in 1959, with six services of Holy Communion. 34 members and 21 visitors received Holy Communion in 1959. There were 59 children enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 38 students. The pastor’s salary was \$600 — almost all of which was paid by the congregation. Only \$37.50 was given by the Ladies Aid toward the salary.



Confirmation 1958, from left, Charles Schreiber, Maxine Lehto, Pastor Grote, Marlene Lehto, and Darrell Fager. This is one of the few photos available of the inside of the original church building.

On February 11, 1960, “the Immanuel Lutheran Church board met with the trustees of Grace Lutheran Church to discuss possibilities of Immanuel Lutheran becoming a parish with Our Savior’s Lutheran in Spearfish. The church board of Grace Lutheran voted in favor of the transaction subject to the approval of the congregation.”

It was decided that Pastor Grote and Pastor Lloyd Ziebarth of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Spearfish would alternate weekly Lenten services on Thursday nights for Lent of 1960. It was decided that half of the offering for the Lenten services would go to Pastor Ziebarth with the other half going to the church treasury.

A special meeting was held on March 6, 1960, with Pastor Thompson of the Home Mission Board to review the history of Immanuel.

On March 22, 1960, congregational leaders met with the Rev. Dr. E. O. Gilbertson, president of the South Dakota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church “to discuss our joining

with Spearfish (Our Savior's Lutheran Church). After a short discussion period acquainting Dr. Gilbertson with the facts as viewed by Immanuel members, he said he was in favor of the change. He recommended a meeting with Our Savior's Church board and the district presidents of the ELC and ALC to iron out all problems pertaining to the union."

On March 29, 1960, "a special meeting was called to meet with Mr. Campbell to discuss possibility of selling church building and present lot to him. A motion was made by Bob Fagering to propose selling property to Bill Campbell subject to approval of the congregation and the purchaser for a total of \$2,000."

On April 7, 1960, "a special meeting was called by President Glen Westberg for the purpose of bringing the congregation up to date on the building project. ... It was decided a congregational letter should be mailed to all members to inform them of the differing plans as to whether or not we should build a new church pending sale of present building."

The program for the dedication of the new church building included this report on this history of the building project:

The church project began with a special meeting of the congregation on November 29, 1959, to consider the building of an addition to the old church or the possibility of constructing a new church.

At a January 15, 1960, meeting, it was decided to let a contract for a \$2,500 addition on the back of the old church. However, difficulties arose concerning building on the old lot. The advisability of remodeling was also questioned. Therefore it was proposed to sell the old church and build a new church on a new site. The congregation voted unanimously in favor of this proposal, on April 22, 1960.

The congregation voted to sell its existing church building and build the current church building. The announcement of the meeting from Pastor Grote read as follows:

Dear Members and Friends

A special meeting of the congregation has been called for Friday, April 22, 1960, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church at 8:00 P.M. The meeting is called for the purpose of discussing the possibility of selling our present church building and property and building a new church on a new location.

Enclosed you will find a ballot and envelope. We would appreciate your cooperation in indicating on this ballot your decision concerning the two questions asked and then mail your ballot — unsigned — to the church in the enclosed envelope.

Much prayer and work has gone into the program of Immanuel Lutheran Church the past four years. The Lord has blessed our efforts. You have grown physically and spiritually. Beginning May 1st you will be part of the Spearfish Parish and this realignment will get you

greater pastoral services and you will be one step closer to getting your own pastor. Our prayer must be that in all future planning the Lord's Will be done and that we will be moved to meet the challenges He gives us. When God sets an open door before us we pray that His Holy Spirit will give us the faith and courage to enter.

Easter Sunday is upon us and we approach this festive Day with joy and gladness for what the Lord hath done for us. He died to set us free. He rose that we might live. In thankfulness for all His mercy and goodness let us give a thank offering for the Immanuel Lutheran building fund. Enclosed you will find a special Easter offering envelope for this building fund offering.

The congregation requested and received plans and blueprints for church buildings from the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of The Evangelical Lutheran Church. It is thought that one of those plans was used for construction of the new church building.

Millard Fillmore donated Lot 1 of Block 1 of the Fillmore Addition to the church for construction of the new church. Fillmore was developing homes in the area. The deed noting the transfer from Millard and Muriel Fillmore to Immanuel was dated July 30, 1960. The neighboring lots were purchased by the church in 1973.

June 4, 1960, Immanuel sold the old church and property to Earl O'Donnell for \$2,000. The sale was contingent on Immanuel being able to secure finances to construct its new church building. It was also agreed that Immanuel "shall have the right to retain the possession of the church situated on the above described real



Kathy Jensen served as Immanuel's organist 1959-1961.



Albert Grimsbo (1909-1983) purchased the old church building for use as a hall. When he sold Grimsbo Hall to the Whitewood Senior Citizens Center, he donated the bell to Immanuel for the new church building.

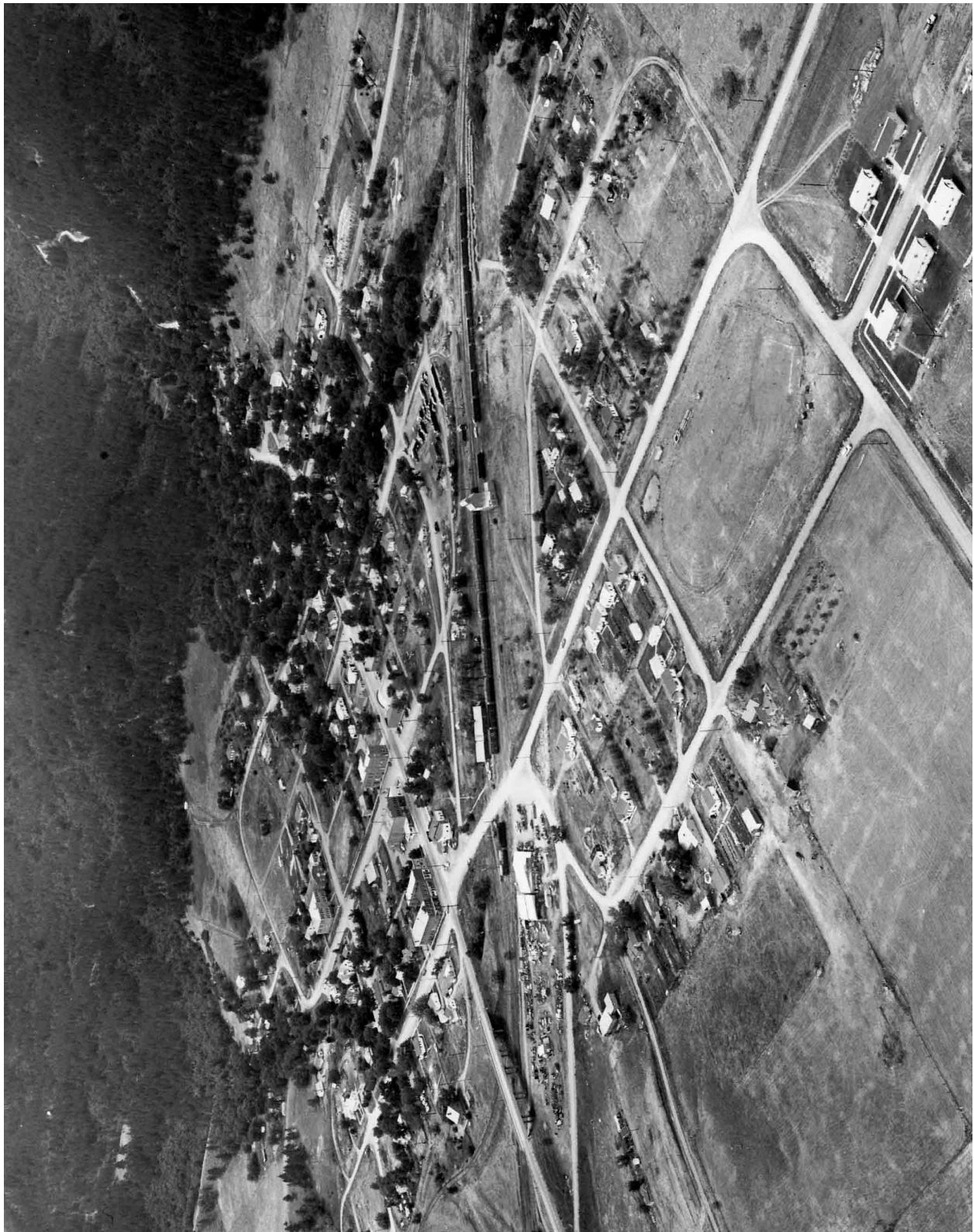
property for and during the time of construction of the new church ... and the right to use said church for church purposes until the new church has been completed.” It was also noted that Mr. O’Donnell, “on receiving the possession of the church, is to dismantle or remodel said church at his own expense, and that the church now located on said real property cannot be used by any other group of persons or associations for church purposes.”

The old church building was eventually purchased by Albert Grimsbo. It was moved to Pine Street between Meade and Custer Streets. He renamed the building Grimsbo Hall and rented it for various occasions. The church building was moved a block northeast in the 1960s and became Grimsbo Hall. It was the home of the Whitewood Public Library from 1964 to 1977. The building was sold to the Whitewood Senior Citizens in 1973 for \$5,000 and became the Whitewood Senior Citizens Center. The old church building continues to be the Whitewood Senior Citizens Center today.

A resolution authorizing the trustees to sign loan documents related to the construction of the new church building was approved on September 11, 1960. A mortgage loan of \$16,000 was secured on December 17, 1960, from the Bear Butte Valley Bank at 6 percent interest. Monthly payments on the loan were \$136.02. The loan documents were sign by Glen Westberg, president; and John Sogge, secretary. This mortgage was fully paid in 1975.

During this time, Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis was also building a church building. They broke ground on their new building in 1959 and dedicated the new building on June 10, 1960. Grace Lutheran was becoming a much larger congregation than Immanuel, and it was harder for their pastor to serve Immanuel. Arrangements were made for Immanuel to be served by Pastor Lloyd Ziebarth of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Spearfish.

Pastor Grote stopped serving as Immanuel’s pastor in May of 1960. He continued to serve Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis until November of 1963. He was one of the founders of Outlaw Ranch Bible Camp near Custer, South Dakota. He served as manager of Outlaw Ranch for several years before a full-time camp manager was called. Pastor Grote served congregations in Iowa and South Dakota before retiring in 1985. He died on May 7, 2013, at the age of 93. He is buried at Black Hills National Cemetery.



1960 aerial photo of Whitewood. The original building of Immanuel Lutheran Church can be seen in the the bottom left portion of the photo. The current location of the church is near the top right. (Photo from Deadwood History, Inc., Homestake Mining Company Collection, Deadwood - HMCC 151-2) An enlargement of this photo is on next page.

