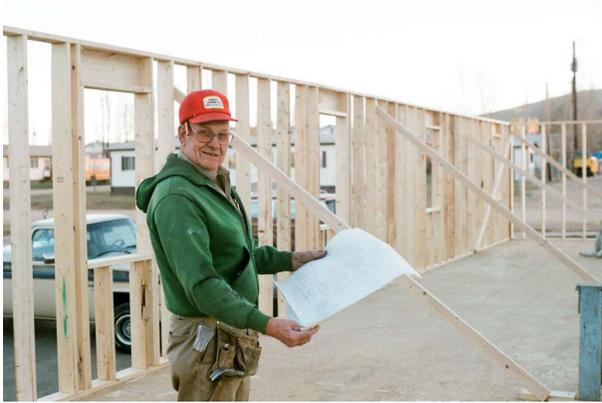




**Building the Addition
to the Church
1985**





Joe Opoien oversaw the work for the addition.



Workers pose for a group photo, front row, from left: Duane Quail, Tony Westberg, Merlyn Aker. Back row: Waino Wanhanen, Max Rolph, Joe Opoien, George Kymala.



Building the Addition to the Church 1985



Waino Wanhanen (1915-2009) working on the addition.





Choir in 1987. Front row, from left: Bernice Kauk, Deb Schmidt, Audrey Zwingelberg, Tammy Leaver. Second row: Angie Sedig, Darlene Aker, JoEllen Rolph, Kim Ridley, Alona Westberg. Back row: Tim Sedig, John Sogge, Pastor Hill.

The congregation began using the newly published *Lutheran Book of Worship* in Advent of 1979. The congregation used the Second Setting of the Holy Communion liturgy. Angie Sedig led introductory sessions starting in September to learn the new liturgy.

New choir robes were purchased in 1980.

In 1980, Immanuel conducted a community religious survey of the city of Whitewood. The April 1980 newsletter reported partial results: “30 unchurched; 49 Lutheran; 32 Catholic; 21 Presbyterian; 25 households representing a total of 10 other denominations.” A parish pictorial directory was produced in 1980 featuring Immanuel, First Lutheran Church, and Cave Hills Lutheran Church.

September 28, 1980, there was a dedication service for the newly-remodeled chancel and new altar cross. The September newsletter also reported, “The recent painting and fix-up bee has drawn the notice of others in town. Many are commenting how nice the Lutheran Church looks! The condition of our church building is a witness of the kind of caring people we have in our church.”

The congregation had special Reformation Sunday events throughout the 1980s combining with First Lutheran Church in Lead. There appears to have been a joint choir for those events as well as extra special music. There was often a guest speaker as well.

In 1984, a committee began working on an addition to Immanuel's church building. The April newsletter reported: "The building committee has met twice to discuss expansion of the church. Among the things being considered are Sunday School rooms, a narthex, bathrooms, the kitchen, the fellowship hall and a cry room. Drawings will be drawn and redrawn to come up with the most practical expansion plan." John Sogge and Alona Westberg drew up with plans for the addition.

Ground was broken for the new addition on Sunday, October 27, 1985. In addition to the ground breaking, the congregation celebrated the 25th anniversary of our present church building and Reformation Sunday. The Rev. Ron Gladden, assistant to the bishop of the Red River Valley Synod, was the guest speaker.

The June 1986 newsletter reported that "the council voted to borrow \$50,000 for 20 years at 11½% interest. That makes our monthly payment \$533.22. The newsletter also reported \$60,085.44 in expenditures for the addition: Basement \$2,150.00; Labor \$4,816.28; Lumber \$19,447.34; Plumbing and heat \$4,424.68; Roof \$6,257.00; Block and stucco \$17816.70; Electric \$5,000.43; Misc. \$173.01. It also reported \$15,274.86 in outstanding bills: Stucco \$8,200.00; Heating \$4,174.86; Electric \$500.00; Supplies \$500.00; Interest \$1,900.00.

The April 1987 newsletter included a summary of the \$72,634 total cost of the addition: Digging \$2,150; Basement stonework \$24,816; Electric \$6,723; Plumbing and Heat \$4,977; Lumber and insulation \$22,545; Roof \$6,523; Misc. \$118; Labor and Misc. \$4,816.

Additional work on the addition to the church continued in 1988. The cost of the work was \$11,930. It was covered almost entirely by donations that year to a church improvement fund.

Immanuel became a part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 1988 with the merger of the Lutheran Church in America, The American Lutheran Church and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

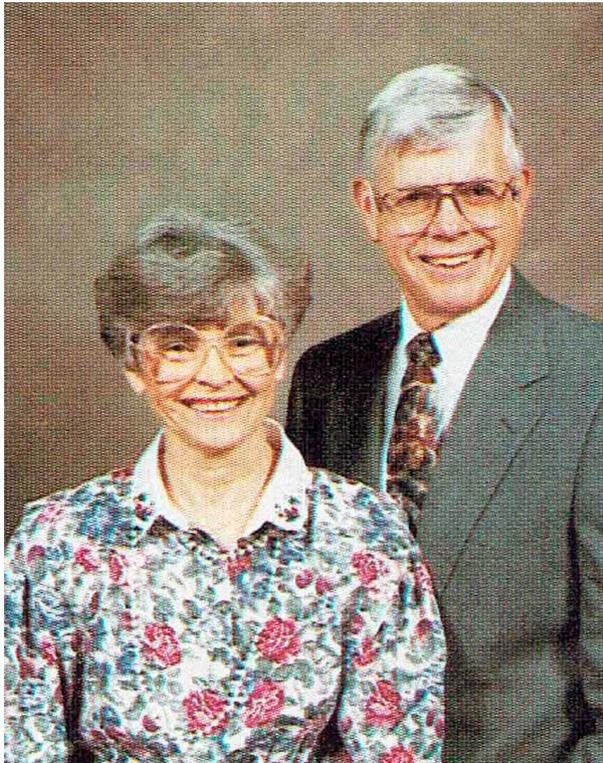
At the annual meeting in January of 1989, Alona Westberg reported that there were 42 children enrolled in Sunday School and 59 children attended Vacation Bible School in 1988. It was also reported that year that lay members have begun assisting the pastor with the distribution of Holy Communion.

The 1989 minutes also note that "Tony Westberg made his 15th annual motion to adjourn." That tradition has continued annually ever since whenever Tony Westberg was in attendance at an annual meeting of the congregation.

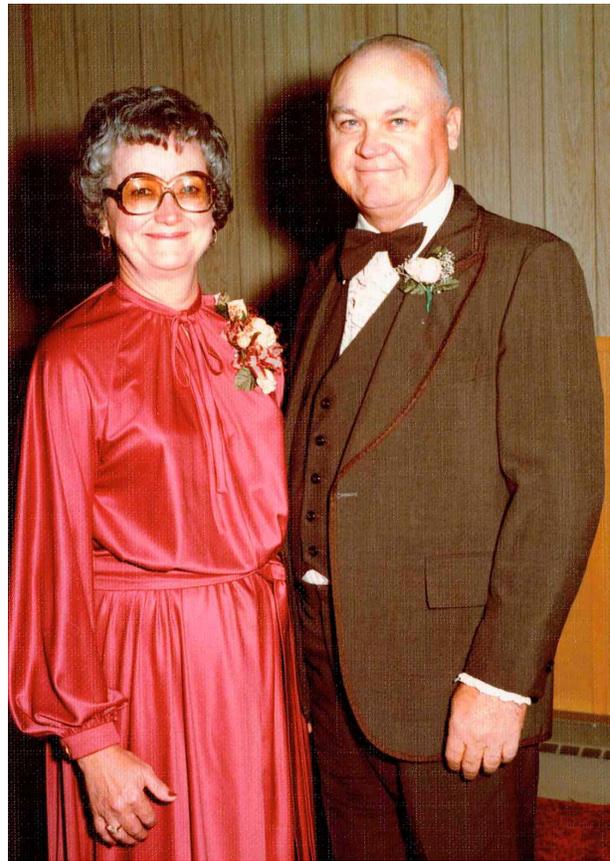
In 1989, we had 59 students enrolled in Sunday School and 68 for Vacation Bible School.

Pastor Hill retired on August 31, 1989. The announcement of the retirement came as a surprise to the congregation. The retirement was announced on a Sunday when Pastor Hill was on vacation, and Pastor Hill never returned to the congregation for a formal farewell.

Pastor Hill died on April 14, 2006, at the age of 81. He is buried at Black Hills National Cemetery.



Harriet and Duane Quail joined Immanuel in the 1970s. Duane Quail served as treasurer 1979-1989. Harriet Quail was involved with the Sunday School and women's organization.



Norma and Don Dubbe joined Immanuel in the 1970s. Norma Dubbe (1931-1998) was active in the church women and Altar Guild. She helped make the blue and white paraments currently used by the congregation. Don Dubbe was president of the congregation in 1984 and served on Church Council 1982-1984 and 2000-2002.

Pastor Ken Dugan 1989 - 1990

Following Pastor Hill's retirement, the parish turned to the Rev. Kenneth Warren Dugan of Rapid City to serve as interim pastor.

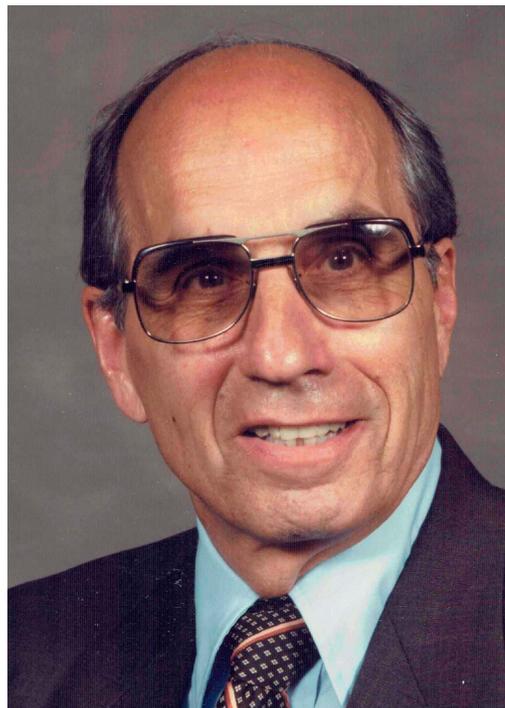
Pastor Dugan was a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota; Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, Illinois, and Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. He was ordained in 1952 in the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church (also known as the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod in North America). He served congregations in New York, Washington and Idaho. He also served as a missionary in Borneo and in Papua New Guinea. He married Mavis Elaine Larson in 1985. He retired in 1986.

In his report to the 1990 annual meeting, Pastor Ken Dugan wrote:

It was a painful wrench for all to have to deal with the resignation and retirement of Pastor Hill after his long ministry among you. Everyone of you will remember him and his family with fondness and love for his warm and dedicated ministry of service. Each will cherish his/her own memory of kindly things done, inspiring words spoken, and encouraging touch given. There will need to be careful and prayerful negotiating and planning with the Lead congregation as you move through the process of calling another pastoral leader. In the meanwhile, I count it a special blessing to be called to serve you as your interim pastor.

But pastors come and go, but the ministry of Christ through Immanuel has a continuity and strength because of the people who have committed themselves to be the Body of Christ in this place. . . . There are exciting new horizons for Immanuel as we begin a new decade of world history. We will need to move aggressively and with active faith into the future the Lord of the Church is planning for us.

In 1990, the wood floor in the sanctuary was refinished. Other significant expenses included the purchase of a photocopier and speakers for the sanctuary. The church received the bequest of a mobile home from Michael and Ruth Pawlowski. A lectern was added to the chancel furnishings in 1990. John Sogge also made the processional cross that year.



**Pastor Ken Dugan
1923-2016**

Pastor Dugan served the congregation as an interim pastor until June. In a report to the 1991 annual meeting he wrote, “Over the course of my pastoral ministry I have served seventeen congregations, and I do not know of another parish that I identified with so rapidly and completely as you folks. ... The time we spent with you as interim pastor was, I believe, productive for everyone involved.”

Immanuel continued to have a relationship with Pastor Ken and Mavis Dugan, supporting them in ministry in Papua New Guinea and learning about their work there.

Pastor Dugan died on October 19, 2016, at the age of 93. He is buried at Black Hills National Cemetery.



Pastor Dugan working as a missionary in Papua New Guinea

Pastor William A. Behrend

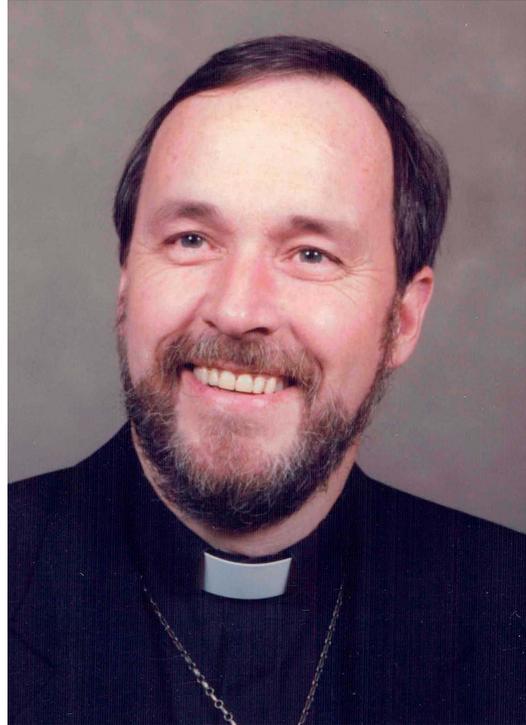
1990 - 1994

Pastor William Alfred Behrend was called to serve as pastor of the parish consisting of Immanuel, First Lutheran Church in Lead and Cave Hills Lutheran Church near Buffalo in 1990.

Pastor Behrend is a graduate of the University of South Dakota; Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California; and Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained on June 24, 1990, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church near Madison, South Dakota.

Pastor Behrend was a second-career pastor. He and his wife, Susan, previously farmed in eastern South Dakota and served as agriculture missionaries in Senegal for The American Lutheran Church.

A parish council was formally organized in 1990. The council included two members from each congregation. The parish council considered issues related to compensation for the pastor and other business of interest to all three congregations. An effort was begun to name the parish. Members were asked to submit suggestions and then votes were taken. Eventually the name Prairie and Pines Lutheran Parish was chosen.



Pastor William A. Behrend

“The Good News Letter,” a monthly parish newsletter began in July of 1991.

Improvements to the sound system were approved in August of 1990. Changes to the sound system included adding a “soundsphere” to the sanctuary, relocating existing speakers, and adding new transmitting and amplifying equipment. The \$1,757.15 cost was covered by memorial gifts. A photocopy machine and an answering machine were also purchased during this time period.

First Lutheran Church learned that its building needed to be moved because the land on which it was located was to be taken by the Homestake Mine. First Lutheran members began a study of relocation options in 1990. They looked into the possibility of relocating the building or building a new church. However, it was later decided to merge with Bethel Lutheran Church.

In his report to the 1991 annual meeting, Pastor Behrend wrote:



Confirmation 1992. Front row, from left: Aaron Arehart, Kirsten Flagstad, Shane Larson, Donald Wolkenhauer. Second row: Kari Grimsbo, Tyler Hallock, Pastor Behrend, Heidi Haiwick, Jennifer Ball.

This has been a year of great change in our parish. While last year has meant that everyone had to deal with the process of grief at the loss of a beloved servant of God when Pastor Hill retired, as well as a number of changes in the way things are done in the congregations, we have been successful in keeping truth and openness as our guides throughout the year and have been able to accommodate to new situations as well and to begin to look toward the future with the hope that comes from the Gospel of Christ as our light. I thank you for the call that you have given me to preach that Gospel, for the welcome that you have extended to my family and myself, and for the communion that you have participated in with us through the last part of the year. We all anticipate a long and fruitful association with every one of you.



Vacation Bible School in 1992





Immanuel adopted a new constitution at its 1991 annual meeting based on the model constitution recommended by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

During Pastor Behrend's ministry, lay people began reading Scripture during worship and serving as assistants in distributing Holy Communion. That proved controversial with some members of the congregation. "A spirited discussion was held which expressed dissatisfaction with the current practice of lay helpers in worship services. While motions to ask the council to discuss this matter did not pass, the depth of feeling and intensity of the discussion warrants further attention, and a Bible study will be offered to try to provide a forum for discussion and exchange on these issues," the January-February 1991 newsletter reported.

"A long discussion was held on lay readers and lay people serving Communion," according to the minutes of the 1991 annual meeting report. A proposal to ask the Church Council to consider the matter failed 13-27 on the question of lay readers and 18-24 on lay Communion servers. Pastor Behrend addressed that in his report to the congregation:

In our worship practice we have struggled with some difficult issues as well. The Word of God has become everyone's treasure once again as lay readers make the public reading of Holy Scripture an important part of our worship services. ... We are reminded that the priesthood

carrying the mercy and grace of God to each other is not just the responsibility and privilege of one, but the happy task of all believers, every time that we share God's body and blood together. Lay servers at communion teach us to minister to one another while the forgiveness we receive for our sin in the bread and wine of the sacrament gives us the strength to minister to the rest of the world.

In 1990, there were 52 students in Sunday School divided into four classes. 89 students were involved in Vacation Bible School that year.

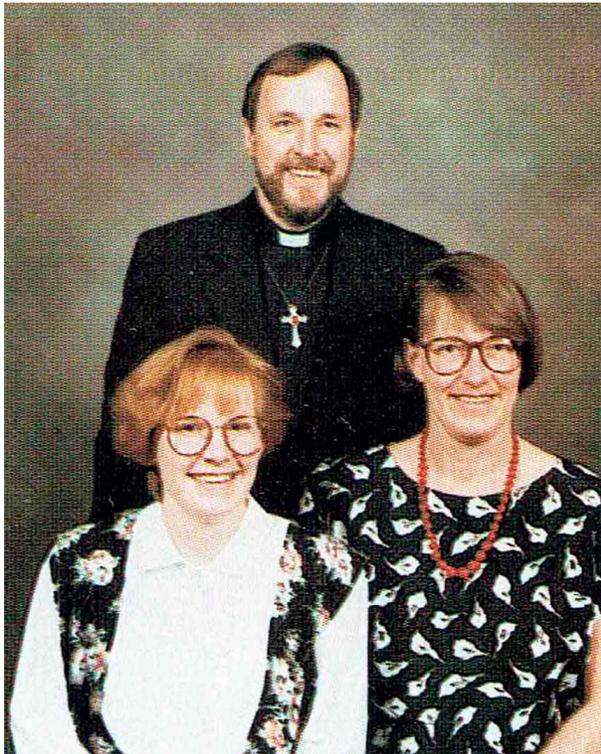
The proposed 1991 budget was \$39,683 — \$29,283 for the General Fund, \$4,000 for Missions Fund and \$6,400 for the Building Fund.

In February of 1991, a “Cabin Fever” talent show was held. The hope was for this to become an annual event.

A parish pictorial directory was published in 1991 in cooperation with First Lutheran Church and Cave Hills Lutheran Church.

The annual parish picnic was held on August 4, 1991, at Cave Hills Evangelical Lutheran Church. A bus was arranged to transport members of First and Immanuel to Buffalo.

In 1991, it was reported that “lack of funds delayed the start of the next phase of the remodeling project for most of the year but November 21-23 the old ceiling was torn down and new insulation and sheetrock was put up.”



Pastor Bill and Susan Behrend and Joy.



Judy and Larry (1934-1995) Huisenga. Judy served as treasurer 1990-1993.



Choir early 1990s. Front row, from left: Holly Ailts, Kim Ridley, Pat Walz, Harriet Quail, Angie Sedig. Second row: Joy Behrend, Heidi Johnson, Sue Behrend, Kathie Flagstad, Audrey Zwingelberg, Joanne Rath. Back row: Alona Westberg, Larry Huisenga, Marvin Hankel, Pastor Behrend, Lloyd Aadland, John Sogge.

A five-year loan for \$39,173.70 was secured from First Western Bank in Sturgis at 10.75 percent interest. Monthly payments on the loan were \$533.21, The loan was to finish the remodeling project.

The April 1992 issue of *The Good News Letter* included an update on Immanuel's remodeling project entitled, "Immanuel's New Look:"

Crews at Immanuel have been working hard the last few weeks, tearing down the old walls and putting up the new. In the final phase of our remodeling, the "Old Fellowship Hall" is becoming the new one. The walls of the restrooms are being rebuilt, giving us more room in the narthex and in the restrooms and making them both accessible to people with disabilities. The wiring is being renewed as well, and a new ceiling will be put in.

All of this work is being done with volunteer labor, and the men and women of the congregation have been giving up their Saturdays and other days to finish the project. Thank you to everyone who has nailed, taped, cooked and cleaned up in our remodeling. You will soon see that the work was worthwhile.

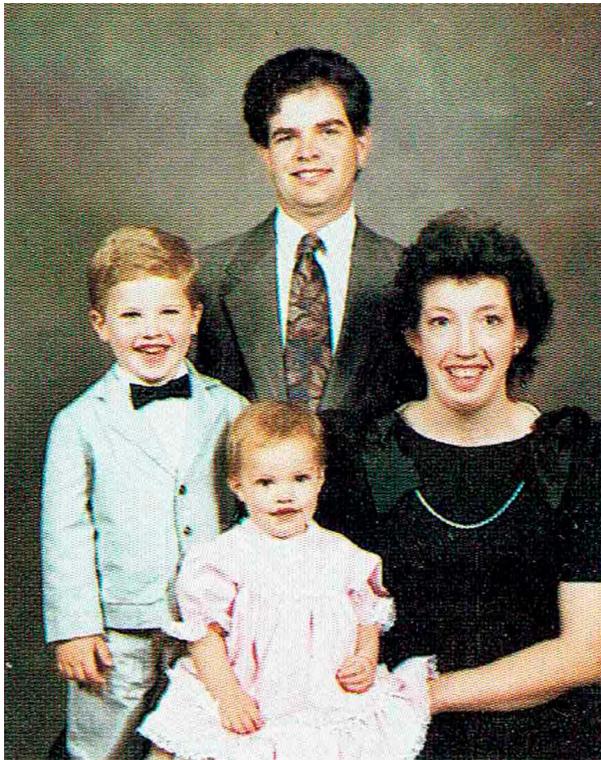
That same newsletter reported that there had been a break-in at Immanuel:

There seems to have been a crime wave in Whitewood, and Immanuel Lutheran has not been spared. Sometime in the night of March 3rd someone broke into the church, forced open the safe, and took the cash receipts from the Cabin Fever Chili Supper and Talent Show. The money totaled about \$114.00, and was destined to be used for assistance for campers attending the Outlaw Ranch Rendezvous.

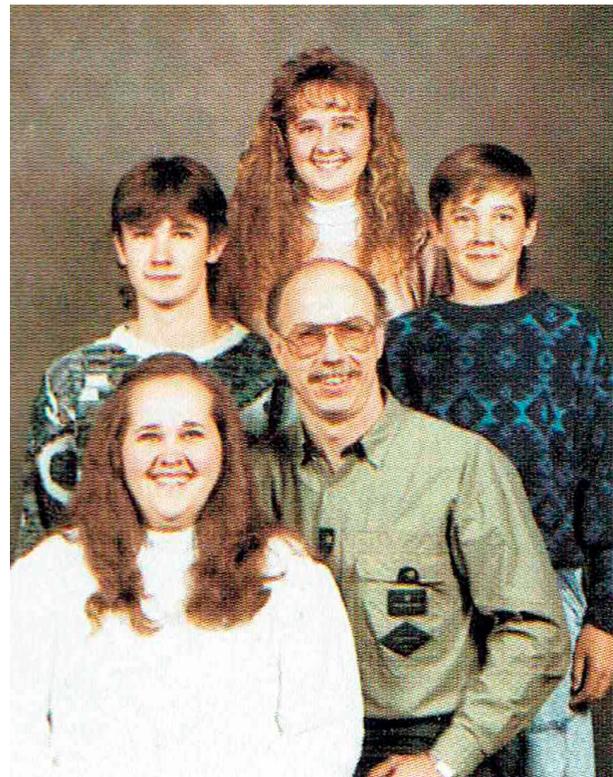
In 1992, Immanuel finished its building program. The old restroom walls were removed and new walls were built. The ceiling and lights were installed in the fellowship hall. New carpet and two sofas were purchased from memorial funds.

New blue Advent paraments were used for the first time for Advent of 1992. "The Altar Guild has been busy for over a year making new paraments, and finally they were ready for the beginning of Advent. They are beautiful reminders of the season, and represent many devoted hours of work in the sewing and the cross-stitched appliques," the newsletter reported.

Bethel Lutheran Church and First Lutheran Church began merger discussions in the summer of 1991. Immanuel was included in the merger talks through a "Tri-Council," consisting of the councils from First, Bethel and Immanuel which began meeting in 1992 to discuss the merger.



Alan and Heidi Aker, Erik and Sarah. Alan served on Church Council and as congregational secretary 1987-1989.



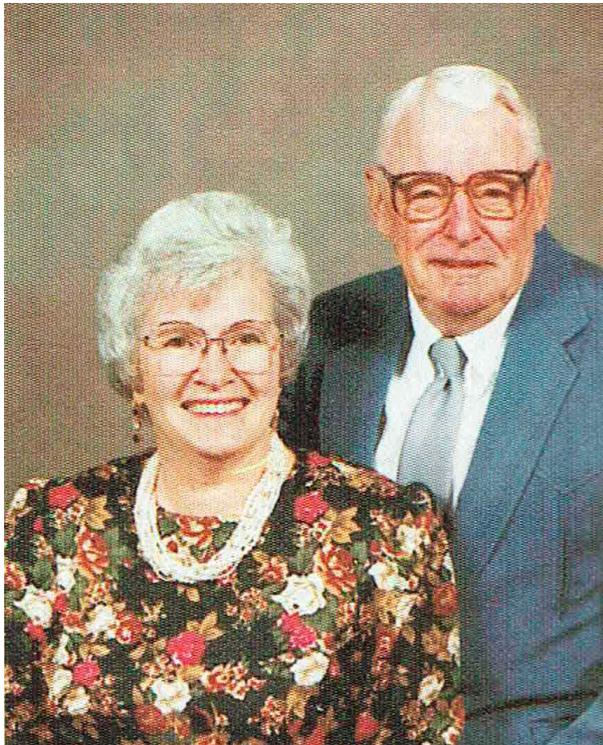
Janelle and Dave Arehart, Ginger, Uriah and Aaron. Janelle served on Church Council 1994-1999. She also was superintendent and a regular teacher for Sunday School. Dave served on Church Council 2001-2003.

The merger of the two congregations in Lead was approved by First and Bethel in October of 1992. The new congregation worshiped together for the first time on the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 1992. They later chose the name Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church for the new congregation. As part of the merger agreement, Pastor Behrend agreed that he would not be eligible for call by the new congregation and would seek a new call.

The former First building was sold to the Presbyterian Church (USA) which moved it to a location near the High Plains Heritage Center in Spearfish in an attempt to start a new congregation. That congregation did not continue. The building is now the home of the Solid Rock Church of Spearfish.

The Rev. J. LeeRoy Eikanger, pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church prior to the merger of the two congregations in Lead, retired in January of 1993. Pastor Eikanger was a graduate of Augustana College in Sioux Falls and Luther Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1954. He served congregations in New Effington, South Dakota; Madison, Minnesota; Omaha, Nebraska; and Webster, South Dakota, before accepting the call to Bethel in Lead in 1982. Pastor Eikanger died on April 10, 2015, at the age of 87.

Following the merger of the churches in Lead, the Prairie and Pines Lutheran Parish had two pastors who alternated serving Immanuel, Shepherd of the Hills and Cave Hills.



Frieda Waterson and William "Bill" Waterson (1926-2011). Bill Waterson served as president in 1989 and on Church Council 1988-1990.



Adolph Kauk (1919-2016) and Bernice Kauk (1930-2021). Adolph served on Church Council 1987-1989.

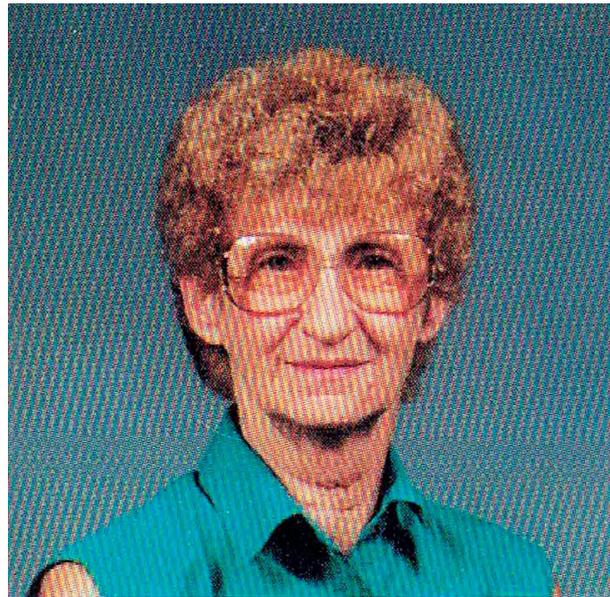
The Rev. Gene R. Peterson, the interim pastor for the South Dakota Synod, came in January of 1993 to serve the Prairie and Pines Lutheran Parish as an interim pastor. He continued at our parish until June. Pastor Peterson was a graduate of Capital University and Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary (now Trinity Lutheran Seminary), both in Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained in 1977. He served as pastor of Peever Lutheran Church in Peever, South Dakota; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Highmore, South Dakota; and Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison, South Dakota, before being called as Synod Interim Pastor. Pastor Peterson is retired and living in Watertown, South Dakota. He is now a pastor on the clergy roster of the North American Lutheran Church.

Pastor Behrend announced in his report to the 1993 annual meeting that he would be looking for a new call. “It is with sadness and difficulty that Sue and I have come to the conclusion that it is better to find ways of ministry elsewhere from the Prairie & Pines Parish. It isn’t any easier for us than it is for you, for we have many friends here and in the Lead-Deadwood area, as well as the Cave Hills. But one thing we have learned through the years is that no one is irreplaceable in ministry, and you can look forward to finding new relationships and loves from the pastors who will be called to ministry here in the next year.”

In 1992, Immanuel began discussing the possibility of “independence.” In his report to the 1993 annual meeting, Pastor Behrend wrote, “Independence. This issue has been in many conversations recently. If it is true that Immanuel can see itself as an independent congregation in the future, one which has called a full-time pastor for this congregation alone, and one that has a parsonage and the financial capability to sustain the obligations of a full-time call, then this should be our dedicated goal for the future. It is my belief that the potential for growth for both Whitewood and Immanuel is very real, and that discussing the goal of independence and estimating the growth in members and giving necessary to achieve our goals is something that should be given a high priority in our fellowship.”



Betty Aker served as secretary for the Ladies Aid 1986-1987 and 1995-1998.



Jordice Leaver (1938-2016) served on Church Council 1991-1992, as the congregation’s secretary in 1990 and 1992, and as Ladies Aid President 1988-1998.

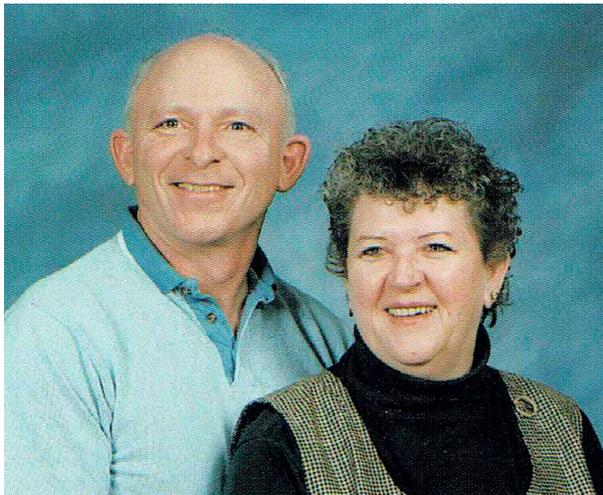
The 1993 annual meeting of the congregation voted to “request the council to appoint a committee to study the feasibility of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Whitewood retaining its own pastor on a full-time basis and becoming completely independent.”

The parish newsletter was renamed as the *Prairie & Pines Pioneer* in February of 1993. That February 1993 issue included the following report on Immanuel’s annual meeting:

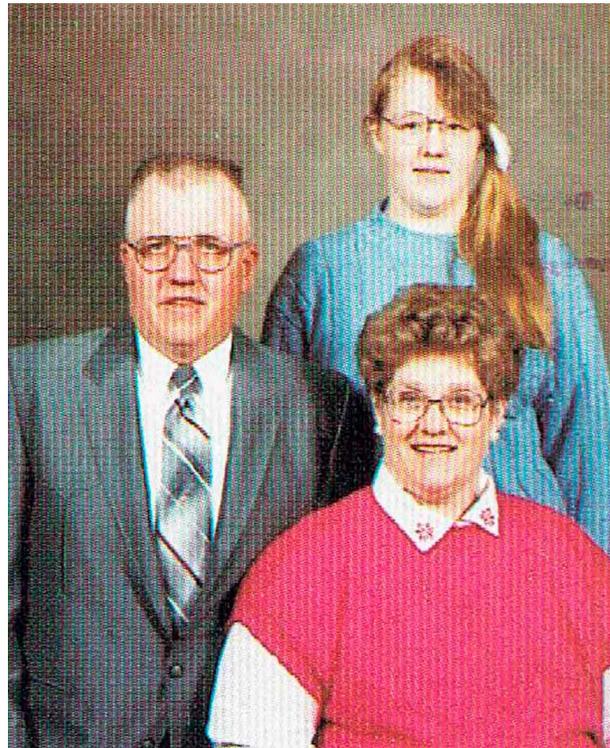
January 31, 1993, the members of Immanuel Lutheran met for their annual meeting. ... The congregation approved a budget for 1993 of a little over \$40,000, which represents about a \$1,300 increase over last year’s budget.

On this budget is a unique line item, one that has no dollar amount as yet. This is designated as the budget for “parsonage,” and it reflects discussion about setting a goal for eventual independence for the congregation in Whitewood. Members of the congregation expressed the optimistic look into the future that since both Immanuel and Whitewood have been growing in the past, it would be good to set definite goals for becoming independent, including membership increases, greater financial giving, and the possibility of securing a parsonage in Whitewood. The church council was directed to study the matter and report to the congregation by April 4, 1993.

The April *Prairie & Pines Pioneer* included this report of Immanuel’s goal of working toward independence:



Chuck and Delores Ginter. Chuck served on Church Council 1982-1987. Delores taught Sunday School.



R. Max Rolph (1943-1994), JoEllen and Julia Rolph. Max served on Church Council 1986-1991. JoEllen served as vice president of the Ladies Aid 1988-1991.

In a unanimous vote of the congregation on Sunday, March 28, 1993, the congregation of Immanuel Lutheran decided to work towards a goal of independence by the end of the century. Members of the congregation felt that it was inkeeping with the mission of the Church and the congregation to take the gospel of Christ into the world to have this goal. It means that the congregation has made a commitment to 10% growth in membership and in giving every year until the year 2001.

One of the ways that Immanuel sees growth happening in Whitewood is through one of the pastors called in the Prairie & Pines Parish to live in Whitewood full time, and sharing the duties between Whitewood, Lead, and the Cave Hills as at present. The new goal of Immanuel is closely linked to the future of all the members of P & P Parish. Members of all the congregations should try to reach an understanding of the nature of the call for new pastors. This new goal will depend on successful dialogue together in the Prairie & Pines Council and elsewhere. Immanuel members hope to be able to purchase a house in Whitewood as soon as possible, with the cooperation and agreement of the other congregations in the parish.

The Immanuel congregation is an enthusiastic partner in the P & P Parish, but realizes that new opportunities for growth present new challenges. Members hope that the close, cooperative relationship in the parish can continue. They also hope that all the member congregations will work not only for their own benefit, but the mutual upbuilding of sister congregations and the proclamation of the gospel.

The May newsletter included an update of the move toward having a parsonage in Whitewood so that a pastor could live here:

The call committee, task force and church council met April 29 to discuss a parsonage in Whitewood. Two possibilities were presented: a new manufactured house and a house that is for sale in Whitewood. The committee toured the new home and the lot on which it could be set and looked over the house near the church. With commitment from the congregation both were considered financially possible. Four members will look into loan interest rates from various sources.

A parsonage, located at 1317 Ash Street in Whitewood, was purchased in 1993. It was purchased from Alona Westberg and her sister Dianne Jensen. It was the home of their father, Richard Lenerville. The July newsletter included this update on the decision to purchase a home to be the parsonage in Whitewood:

Immanuel voted at a congregational meeting June 13 to purchase a parsonage. The house will cost \$40,000 at 7% interest for 15 years. (The church building was refinanced at the same time at 8%). Some work needs to be done on the house before it will be ready for a pastor. The council is asking for donations of time or money to get it ready.

On October 20, 1993, a loan for \$41,000 was secured from First Western Bank of Sturgis at 7.5 percent interest. Payments were \$380.18 per month with a balloon payment of \$32,400.93 due on October 20, 1998.

Pastor Behrend concluded his ministry in the parish in February of 1994. He accepted a call to serve Galilean Lutheran Church in D'Iberville, Mississippi.

Susan Behrend, Pastor Behrend's wife, died on January 21, 2008. A memorial service was held at Immanuel on February 15, 2008.

Pastor Behrend is retired and now lives in Albany, Georgia.



Pastor Behrend poses with the new Advent paraments made by the Altar Guild.