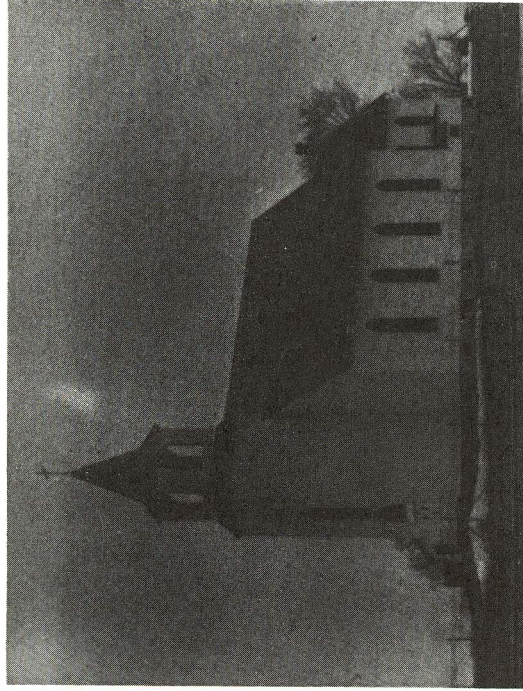


100th Anniversary

1872 - 1972



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Lien Township, Barrett, Minnesota

Sunday, June 18, 1972

Immanuel Congregation . . .

ONE-HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY

From a small beginning, one-hundred years ago; the Immanuel congregation has now reached the centennial of her birth, and with prayer and praise to God, she has magnified his Name for his guidance, protection, and blessings during these one-hundred years. 'Hitherto, the Lord has helped us.' (I Sam. 7:12)

On May 6, 1872, twenty-two men met at the home of Christian Anderson, Lien township, and discussed the urgent need of a house of worship for themselves, their children, and for others who might come into the community.

The charter members present at this meeting were: Ole E. Lien, Ole K. Alvstad, Jens Blixrud, Herman Larson, Martin Larson, Tollef Nelson, Jens Strand, Peter Iverson, Lauritz Olson, Christian Anderson, Amund Arneson, Peder Larson, Ole Bartness, Christian Israelson, Haldor Eide, Johannes Hesjedahl, Ole Leraas, Knute Bakke, Ole Bjornson, Erland Anderson and Ole Hoibraaten.

After the organization of the Immanuel Congregation, these people were added to the membership list: Mons Anderson, Peter Mollor, William Erlandson, Jons Jonson, Nels Person, Ole Holberg, Marcus Samuelson, Anders Erickson, Hans Endreson, Mrs. Berit Johnson Lee and her two sons, John K. and Ole K. Lee, Mrs. Inger Gran, Tollef Ekre, S. R. Lerum, Reinert Johnson and Miss Pauline Ausjon.

The matter of a church-home was discussed and became a vital issue. To help the new congregation, Ole E. Lien gave four acres of land for a church building and a cemetery. Plans for the new church was partly realized in 1883 when the main auditorium was built. The gallery and sacristy were completed in 1898. The church office was completed and dedicated on May 28, 1899 by the late district president, the Rt. Rev. K. Bjorge.

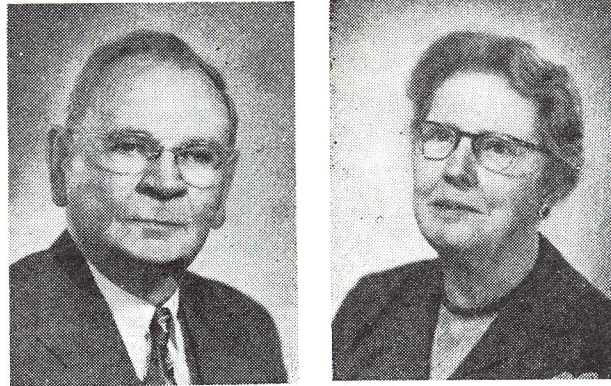
In 1900 a farm was purchased by the parish. It was on this farm that the pastor and his family were to live and earn part of their income. Immanuel's share in the purchase was \$1,200.00 In 1914 the farm was sold and a house in the village of Barrett was purchased for use as a parsonage. In 1965 a new parsonage was built.

Many improvements on and in the church building have been completed. The Willing Workers Sewing Circle, Luther League and Ladies Aid joined in sponsoring the church parlors and this was formally dedicated on December 13, 1928. On Sunday morning, September 21, 1941, lightning struck the church and the beautiful spire was completely demolished. This was replaced by a much shorter steeple. The two stained glass windows in the chancel were installed in 1947. An electronic organ was purchased in 1949. The stained glass windows in the main church were installed in 1950 and the pews in 1958.

During the first beginnings of Immanuel the Rev. Lauritz Carlson of Holmes City contributed his time and talents. He was present

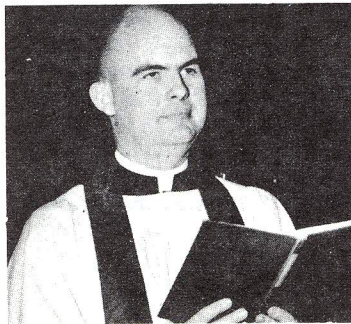
to her for advice, went away filled with confidence. Mrs. Sandberg passed away on April 7, 1971.

Pastor Sandberg submitted his resignation in the spring of 1959 and gave his farewell sermon on August 16, 1959.



REV. AND MRS. IVAR SANDBERG

On August 23, 1959, Rev. James A. Lokken was installed to serve the Immanuel, Lincoln and Our Savior's congregations. The Rev. Dr. Arthur E. Hanson officiated at the installation service which was held in the Barrett School gymnasium since none of the local churches was large enough to accommodate the people.



REV. JAMES A. LOKKEN

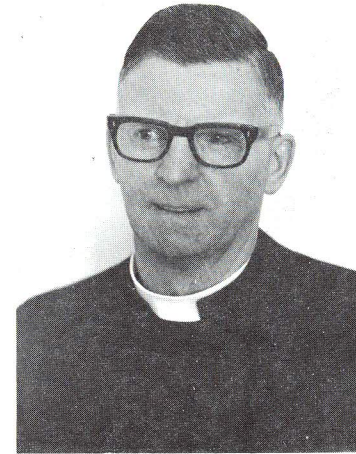
During the years that Rev. Lokken served the parish, a high degree of cooperation was enjoyed. A joint choir was formed to take part in all three churches on festival days. Services were scheduled at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Pastor Lokken was a member of this choir.

Quoting Pastor Lokken's greeting to the Lincoln congregation on their ninetieth anniversary- "It is with fear and trembling that a pastor undertakes to be an undershepherd of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. He must build up the congregation upon the foundation, which is Christ. He also builds on the work that has been done beforehand by other builders. As he seeks to carry on the work that has been so nobly conceived and so faithfully built, he is conscious of his responsibility to Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, and also to the heritage of the faithful pastors and laymen who have sought through the years to bring the Word of God to the hearts and lives of men living in this place."

Rev. Lokken submitted his resignation and on January 12, 1964 a farewell reception was given in his honor.

REV. HAROLD BUEIDE

Pastor Bueide was an interim pastor, and served from January 19, 1964 until August 30, 1964.



REV. GEORGE LUNDQUIST
1964-1966

Rev. Lundquist was extended a call to serve the parish. He accepted the call and served from September 20, 1964 to August 14, 1966. It was during Pastor Lundquist's term that the Lincoln congregation left this parish to become a two-point parish with Lands Lutheran at Hoffman, Minnesota.

REV. KARL MATTHIESON

Dr. K. M. Matthieson consented to serve as interim pastor until a successor could be called to take over the work of the parish. He served from August 21, 1966 to July 1967.

REV. HERMAN BUENTING
1967-



On July 16, 1967, Pastor H. Buenting was installed to serve the Immanuel and Our Savior's congregations. He delivered his first sermon in the parish on July 23, 1967. Again we find ourselves with a talented and helpful pastor's wife. May God richly bless their ministry among us.

PROGRAM OF EDUCATION

The Immanuel Congregation continues to be vitally concerned about a thorough instruction of its children and young people; and a sound preparation before confirmation. For this reason, the church established a parochial course of instruction lasting from two to seven months. These men served as teachers in the early years: Nels Hoas 1878-1883 Johannes J. Leraas 1883-1884; Lars J. Hauge-1884-1887; Knute Brovig -1887-1891 and Johannes J. Leraas 1891-1918. Mr. Leraas also served as "Klokker" and his beautiful voice was gladly given in leading the singing at the church services.

Mrs. Carl J. P. Johnson was the secretary.

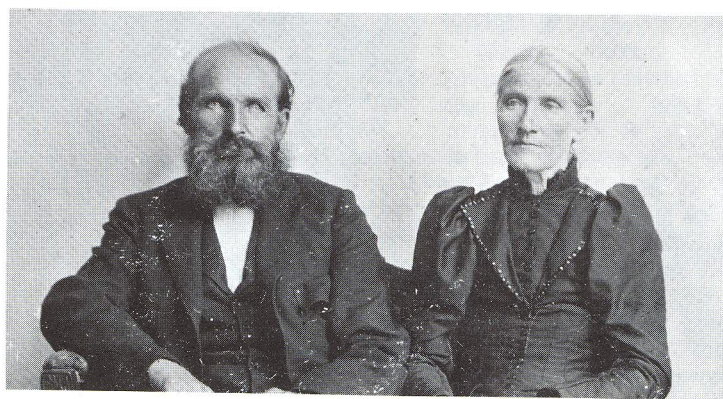
On the first Sunday, 28 pupils were enrolled.

The offering taken on March 26 amounted to \$.36. By the end of that year, 43 children had enrolled.



MR. AND MRS. JOHANNES J. LERAAS

Under the sponsorship of the Ladies Aid, the Sunday School was started on March 19, 1933 with Mrs. J. Albert Larson as the Superintendent and Mrs. Anton Ronhovde as her assistant. The first teachers and their class are as follows: Mrs. Larson-primary class, Mrs. Norman Endreson-first grade, Josie Ronhovde-second grade, Jeannette Leraas-third grade, Dorothy Ronhovde-fourth grade, Lorna Ronhovde-fifth grade, Mrs. Adolph Johnson-seventh and eighth grades, Mrs. Henry Waugh-confirmation class and Johannes J. Leraas-bible class. The bible class was then taught in the Norwegian language.



MR. AND MRS. NELS HOAAS

WILLING WORKERS SEWING CIRCLE

This organization was organized in February 1915 at the Jens Blixrud home. The main purpose being to maintain the church building and add new furnishings. Some of the projects have been: to help purchase new hymn books, altar and pulpit hangings, flags and rugs. Part of the church basement, the organ, stained glass windows and pews was paid by this circle, as well as re-decorating at various times. A special project was the up-keep of the cemetery until it was incorporated. The first president was Miss Marie Blixrud with Mrs. Anton Ronhovde as secretary-treasurer. After 1950, Mission work was done and quilts were made for Lutheran World Relief.

LADIES AID

In November of 1875, a small group of women met at the farm home of Mrs. Berit Lee to organize the "Kvindeforening av Emanuels Menighed." These women saw that a ladies organization was needed to bolster the work of the men. As stated in their constitution, their aim was to "perform Christian works at home and abroad." The women in attendance that day were: Mrs. Ole K. Alvstad, Mrs. Christian Anderson, Mrs. Jens Blixrud, Mrs. Haldor Eide, Mrs. Hans Endreson, Mrs. Reinert Johnson, and the hostess, Mrs. Lee. Mrs. Reinert Johnson was elected the first president.

Early accomplishments were: purchasing the church bell in 1893, the church pews in 1888, the altar and pulpit in 1898, the first church organ in 1909 and in 1933 the present furnace. Now, as then, this organization is active in the work of the church.

LUTHER LEAGUE

The young people of the community banded together in the early 1920's to form a Young People's Society. Meetings were first held in the homes and later at the church. Wonderful programs were given and the church was often filled to overflowing. Everyone was welcome and whole families attended. A charge of 10 cents was made for lunch.

During the 1930's the name was changed to the Luther League.

The Immanuel Luther League was a very active part of the church and has contributed much to the Christian experiences of the young and old. It has helped in the financial support of church projects---both local and others.

In 1965, after the Lincoln congregation left the parish, the Luther League was combined with the Our Savior's and Fridhem League of Barrett.

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

In June of 1970, a cemetery association was formed to assure that the cemetery would always be maintained. Funds are now being accepted and memorials are appreciated.

Through the years, this congregation has enjoyed excellent music. Organists, choir directors and singers have given generously of their time and talents. In the earliest years of the church there was no organ or piano and the music was lead by a "Kirke Sanger" who would stand in front of the congregation to lead the singing. After the purchase of the first organ in 1909, Martha Samuelson became the organist. Following her were: Sophie Samuelson, Gladys Shervey, Gladys Johnson, Yvonne Block and Joan Larson. Assistants have been Janet and Shirley Blixrud.

Much credit must be given to the faithful and dedicated men who have served through the years as the custodians of the church.

The Immanuel congregation has a unique history: Sending two pastors into the active ministry of the Lutheran Church—Rev. Christian Anderson and Rev. Oscar B. Endreson—and two consecrated women into the work of Foreign Mission—Miss Corrine Johnson and Mrs. Clifford Michelson—both serving in Africa.



Many young men and women are now teaching in church colleges and universities, public schools and schools of nursing, one woman working with the headquarters staff of the Lutheran Church in America as the field representative for the L. C. Women, one man, now retired, spent many years in the diplomatic service station in Norway. Many have gone into various professions including: nursing, engineering, science and research.

"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good." (Ps. 107:1)