

Judith Bloch

80th

Anniversary

OF

Immanuel
Lutheran Church

LIEN TOWNSHIP
Barrett, Minnesota

Sunday, Sept. 14, 1952

Rev. Ivar Sandberg, Pastor



Immanuel Lutheran Church

Even He shall build the Temple of the Lord;
And He shall bear the glory. Zechariah 6:13.

Brief History of Immanuel

The Rev. Lauritz Carlson, son of a prominent pastor in Thronhjem, Norway, was born in that city November 6, 1842. He was sent to the Cathedral School of Thronhjem and graduated from that institution. Then on to the University of Oslo, and was graduated from the Theological Department. He looked beyond the snow-clad mountain summits of Norway, across the Atlantic Ocean, and wondered what might be seen and found on the other side of the sea. And



prompted by an inner urge, he left the comforts of home, set sail for America, and arrived in Alexandria, Minnesota, in the summer of 1871.

Immediately upon his arrival there, the congregation at Holmes City, Minnesota, extended a call to him, and besides the Holmes City congregation, he also served the Moe congregation. During those early years, he would also come to Grant county, look for the scattered settlers, and break to them the "Bread of Life."

He had visited the early settlers in Lien township and on May 6, 1872 organized the Immanuel congregation.

The charter members were: Ole E. Lien, Ole K. Alvstad, Jens Blixrud, Herman Larson, Martin Larson, Tollef Nelson, Jens Strand, Peter Strand, Peder 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.

Shortly after the organization of the congregation, the following were received into church-membership: Mons Anderson, Peter Moller, 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.



How amiable are Thy tabernacles, O Lord of Hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord . . . Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house — yes, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee!
Psalm 84.

The matter of a church-home was earnestly discussed, and soon became a vital issue. Ole E. Lien gave the congregation four acres of land, for lot and cemetery. Plans were made for a new church, and these plans were partly realized in 1883, when the main auditorium was built, but not until 1898, was the church edifice completed, and the church dedicated in 1899 by the late Rt. Rev. K. Bjorge.

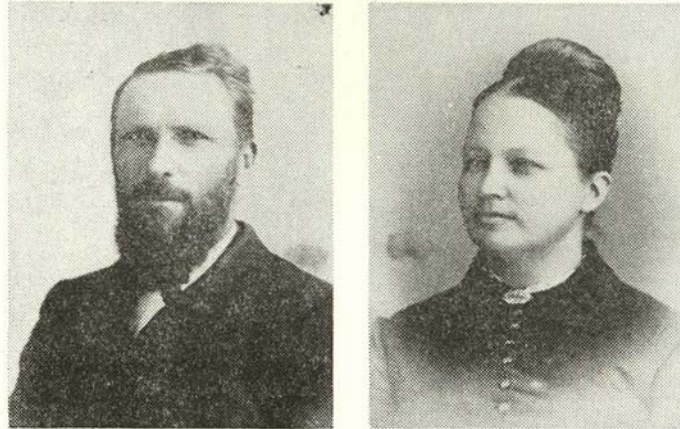
New members were added as these moved into the Lien community — thus Tosten Ostenson and Knute Waugh, and during the course of time, the Immanuel congregation grew strong and active.

However, as the steady influx of new settlers continued, it became physically impossible for one pastor to cover these far-flung fields, and to minister adequately to the spiritual needs of the pioneer settlers. Rev. Carlson continued to keep in touch with these folks until the spring of 1875, when he accepted a call to San Francisco, California. He served parishes in Montana, Idaho, and twice to Sidney, Australia. He passed away in San Francisco, California on May 14, 1913.

On this festive day, we remember with grateful hearts, this kind servant of the Lord, who helped to organize the Immanuel congregation — pronounce upon its birthday and upon all its activities — the Lord's blessing.

First Pastor of Immanuel

Rev. G. Erdahl was born in Hardanger, Norway, October 5, 1840. At the age of seven, he came with his parents to this country, and made their home at Madison, Wisconsin. Rev. Erdahl was a member of the first graduating class of Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. He was graduated from the Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. After this he took graduate work at the University of Michigan, and was married to Miss Anna Norman.



1875 — 1914

In the summer of 1875, this parish, consisting of the Immanuel, Lincoln, West Elbow Lake, and Pomme de Terre congregations, sent a call to Rev. Erdahl, then a young pastor at Omaha, Nebraska. Rev. Erdahl accepted the call, and became the first resident pastor here.

He preached his opening sermon in the Immanuel congregation September 26, 1875 and based his sermon on the text for that day: Matt. 22:34-46, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?"

He served this parish with eminent ability, loyalty and faithfulness for a period of 39 years, and those years were not always filled with sunshine—often life's way would circle down into the lonely valley of trials, and sorrow, and parting, yet hopefully and trustingly he carried on his work with an upward look.

And during those many years, how often he would slip quietly into your homes—both in moments of joy, but also in moments of sorrow—and leave with dear ones, words of cheer, words of comfort, and words of blessed assurance.

He met your little children, as loving hands held them over the Baptismal Font, engrafted the tender buds into the Living Vine Jesus Christ. He instructed them in the Word of God, led them, guided them, influenced them, and tenderly watched over their unfolding lives.

A Small Part of the Congregation



Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance Psalm 33, 12.

O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.
Psalm 34, 3.

And when they crossed the threshold from childhood to youth, he exhorted them, by the grace of God, to abide in their Baptismal Covenant, to remain faithful to God, loyal to the church, and to keep themselves unspotted from the world.

Then when they were about to establish a home of their own, he would plead with them to make that home a "Christian Home." And Sunday mornings, when the church bells would be tenderly calling "It is the Sabbath Day," then to make ready to go up into the House of the Lord.

How often he would sit at the bedside of the sick and the dying, bringing to their hearts, courage and assurance, peace and hope, as the soul would wing its way homeward and heaven-ward. And from this pulpit would ring clearly the whole counsel of God, pointing to the two roads circling through this life, over the further hills and on into eternity—exhorting men to choose the Way of Life, and to faithfully follow Him who says: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

And when this servant of the Lord had reached the closing moments of his ministry, when the assignment given him had been finished, and could linger but a moment on the threshold, he could truly say to his Maker: "I have given them Thy word!" And from the Throne of Glory, it would echo back: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many. Enter thou into the joy of Thy Lord."

And on Wednesday, March 25, 1914, he fell asleep, pillowing his head upon the blessed promises of his Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

Two sons and two daughters survive him. They are: Ingvald of Madison, Wisconsin, Mrs. Ida Høgy of Cyrus, Minnesota, Mrs. Sara Olson of Duluth, Minnesota, and Michael of Barrett.

For these many years of blessed services to the membership of the Immanuel congregation, we of the younger generation will on this eightieth anniversary re-dedicate and re-consecrate our lives and our talents to the furtherance of the great work which our pioneer pastor and our pioneer fathers and mothers — through sacrifices and prayers — have so graciously begun.

Christian Education



The first settlers and members of this congregation were deeply concerned about the Christian training of their children and employed able teachers who would conduct parochial school from two to seven months each year: Nels Hoass, 1878-1883; John J. Leraas, 1883-1884; Lars J. Hauge, 1884-1887; Knute Brorvig, 1887-1891; John J. Lerass, 1891-1918. The latter served both as parochial school teacher and as a "klokker." His beautiful voice was cheerfully given in the service of the Immanuel congregation — glorifying God. This congregation may well be known as "The Singing Congregation," and much credit must be given to the interest of the young folks in the congregation and the able leadership of Miss Sophie Samuelson, who has so loyally served as organist and choir director for nearly forty years.

In the Service of Immanuel

During the month of May, 1914, a call was sent to Ivar Sandberg, then a senior at Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. The call was accepted, and Rev. Sandberg was ordained here in Our Savior's Church in Barrett on Sunday, June 7th, 1914 by Prof. O. E. Brandt of Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul.

Rev. Sandberg was graduated from Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, in the late spring of 1911, and from Luther Theological Seminary,



1914 to

St. Paul, Minnesota, May 29, 1914, and has served this parish since the day of his ordination.

He was united in Holy Wedlock to Miss Marion Berrum of Holmen, Wisconsin, daughter of the late Rev. E. Berrum and his wife, Ella, nee Brandt, October 4, 1917.

Many changes have taken place during these past 38 years. Most of the men and women who joined us in worship then, have been called home, and the sons and daughters, and the grandchildren of those, have now filled the thinning ranks here. Yet, the Lord's work goes forward beautifully and harmoniously, and on this joyful day, we extend our hands in thanks to all, both young and old, for their loyalty and devotion in the Master's services.

We would also note the many improvements that have been made in the congregation. The Willing Workers Sewing Circle and the Luther League Society, sponsored the building of the church parlors, which was completed and dedicated on Sunday, December 13, 1928.

On Sunday morning, September 21, 1941, lightning struck and completely destroyed the beautiful church spire. Thinking of no further danger from fire, services were conducted in the church that same day. But shortly after services, the strong wind fanned some hidden sparks into flames, and this time no one ever expected that the church would or could be saved. However, through the efficient work of the Barrett Fire Department, this cherished landmark of the pioneer fathers was saved. The loss was partly covered by insurance and a much smaller steeple replaced that of the former. The church was at that time completely and beautifully re-decorated.

Raymond J. Jensen
Edna Miller Jensen
Morris Samuelsen
With Endreson by Jensen
Melford Jensen
Peter Jensen

This Choir Sang at 50th Anniversary 30 Years Ago



So will we sing and praise Thy power! Psalm 21, 13.
Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth forever.
Psalm 20, 21.

Later an Electronic Organ was purchased for the church which adds greatly to the beauty and devotion of our church services. Two years ago memorial windows were installed in the church. These also lend reverence and dignity to the church of the pioneer fathers and mothers, and now, to the children and grandchildren.

The congregation has a well organized Sunday School with Bible Classes and a group of consecrated teachers. The congregation also has a very active Ladies' Aid organization, an active Willing Workers Sewing Circle, and an excellent Luther League organization.

Rev. Christian Anderson, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Christian Anderson, Sr., pioneer settlers of Lien township and charter members of the Immanuel congregation, has rendered years of eminent service to the church. He recently retired from active ministry.

Rev. Oscar B. Endreson, a son of the congregation, and a member of Rev. Sandberg's first confirmation class here, is pastor in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Miss Lillian Shervey, a daughter of the congregation, now Mrs. Clifford Mickelson, wife of Pastor Mickelson, is at present in the Sudan Mission Field, Cameroun, Africa. Other sons and daughters of Immanuel have distinguished themselves, both in the field of education and whatever other vocation they have followed.

We said a moment ago that the Immanuel congregation is a singing congregation. We also wish to say that it is a church-going congregation.

May the light of the Gospel guide us along our homeward way!

May the Holy Sacraments continue to be the source of our Christian life and our Christian hope!

May the kind Lord continue to bless our united efforts in building His church, through earnest missionary endeavors, and as He has blessed our forefathers in the past, may He bless us today, and our children and children's children in the tomorrows to come.

And to Him shall be all the honor and all the Glory!

Soli Deo Gloria!

