
Human Interest Stories of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Barrett, Minnesota



Human Interest Items and History taken from the records which were kept of the Immanuel Church of Barrett, Minnesota, Lion Township from 1872 to 1936. Translated from the Norwegian Language by Mrs. Hugh Block (Judith Leraas) and presented in a shorter form at the 100th anniversary of that church, June 18, 1972.

We, the undersigned settlers in Town of Lien Grant County, driven by longing for good things from the church, united us into a Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation and are drawing up for the same, the following decisions: (the Constitution)

1. The Congregation's name shall be: The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation. (This is amendment number 1, there were 25 amendments.)

This took place on the 5th Sunday after Easter, May 6, 1872.

Very soon after the congregation was organized, people began to talk of building a church but early settlers MEANS were tight and the church was not erected until 1883. The church was completely finished in 1898 when a gallery was built, also a place for the choir, a sacristi, a pulpit and an altar were added. Finally in 1899 on May 28th, the church was dedicated and this ceremony was conducted by forman (a high official) K. Bjorgo.

In the year 1907 the east part of this congregation severed its membership here and formed its own congregation. Our congregation gave its sanction to this step. This newly formed congregation which also remains in "Call ties," with our congregation goes by the name "Our Savior's Congregation."

At the meeting of the Parish in Elbow Lake February 28, 1899, it was decided to call a helping pastor, who should serve with Pastor Erdahl throughout the call. Pastor Otto G. Juul accepted the call, first as a helping pastor, and when the parish was divided in 1901 he accepted the call from Elbow Lake and the adjoining congregations, which earlier had formed the northern part of Pastor Erdahl's parish.

The "Minister Farm" (parsonage was on the farm) which was common property of all the congregations was now bought by this southern parish. (From the history you will note that Pastor Carlson was the first pastor of our congregations.)

The following have been teachers and "Church singers" (leaders of church singing) in the congregation: Nils Hoaas 1878 to 1883 (his granddaughter is Fern Hjelle of Barrett), Johannes Leraas 1883 to 1884, Lars J. Hauge 1884 to 1887, Knut Brorvik 1887 to 1891, Johannes Leraas 1891 to 1918.

(There is a printed booklet containing the constitution of our church published in the Norwegian language in 1883, by the Fergus Falls Ugeblad. It is also written in its entirety starting on page 11 through page 16, in the secretary's book)

1874 The congregation's meeting was held in O. E. Lien's house on April 20th, 1874. It was decided that every member who had paid 50¢ toward a burial place should now pay \$1.00. The trustees were to appoint a man to receive the money and to stake out lots for burial. P. A. Moller was appointed for this. (literal translation says, "to show where the body should be laid"). It was also decided that P. A. Moller should continue as "Kirkesanger". The wages to be one free-will offering according to each ones ability and "heart" to pay.

P. Moller declared that the Swedes do not want to take part in the congregation's burial place. (Moller was also a Swede, and you know there was friction or rather a feude carried over from Europe)

It was decided that the fence shall be moved off Ole Lien's land. John K. Lee shall take up the fence for \$1.50.

Nov. 10, 1874 It was announced that a few of the Swedes who

still remain in our congregation wish to drop out and form their own Swedish congregation.

We accept this and thank them for their association with us. The vote of thanks was unanimous.

Since Amund Arneson offers to donate land for burial place on his farm in the North-east corner in Section 10, the congregation accepts this with thanks. The vote was 9 in favor and 5 opposed. (This is at present Hilda Waugh's farm)

The motion was made that the Swedes who had paid money toward fence material for the cemetery should be paid back that amount. Amund Arneson volunteered to erect a fence for \$4.50.

As a choice for Kirkesanger, Markus Samuelson was nominated and unanimously elected. January 1876, It was decided to take up a collection for which to buy a record book, (we still have this book, and use it, these remarks are taken from its pages.) as it is necessary that the business of the congregation be recorded in a regular book, since lose pages are so easily lost. For this purpose every voting member shall give 20 cents. During this meeting a collection of \$3.80 was taken.

In regard to religious school, it was decided that if a teacher can be found to conduct norwegian religious school, and if enough money can be gathered, this will be done as the congregation is willing. The approximate wage was set at \$25 per month. \$27 was subscribed (pledged) at this meeting. A teacher is to be hired as soon as possible.

Ole Bartness, Secretary.

A collection was taken up to pay the debt on the fence around the cemetery. Earlier it was decided that there should be a strip of "breaking" around the cemetery (evidently firebreak). Ole Alvstad, Arne Erlandson, John Lee and Markus Samuelson volunteered to do this work in the spring of 1876.

The congregational meeting of Immanuel Congregation was held in Ole Lien's house October 19, 1876. The meeting was opened with scripture reading and prayer by the congregation's pastor. The pastor was chosen as chairman, Jens Blixrud was chosen as secretary. Since the congregation now had acquired ledger books, wherein its constitution and congregational meetings up to now, and early decisions as well as later decisions should be written, the remark was made that at no congregational meeting had a separate name for this congregation been approved, and that together with Lincoln they were called Grant Norwegian Evangelistic Lutheran Congregation, and that the name Lien Congregation was used without there having been a decision about this. People found it therefore in order, that a name should be picked for the congregation and it was unanimously decided that the name should be THE NORWEGIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN IMMANUEL CONGREGATION OF GRANT COUNTY.

A collection was taken up for the pastor's farm and dwelling expenses. \$10.50 was to be applied to the land, and \$22.50 on the dwelling.

January 1887 The congregational meeting of Immanuel was held the 9th of January 1887, in Valborg Anderson's house. The Parish meeting had decided to build a house on the Minister's

farm. There was a committee of 5 members chosen to buy the material for the building, and to supervise and oversee the work. In the meantime there had come in sufficient money to buy material for the building. Therefore the committee thought it best that the congregation should decide whether to hire a Contractor or to do their own buying. They decided they could save considerable money by buying the material themselves and hiring a carpenter. They therefore took up a new subscription for material and hire; this amounted to \$22. Besides this several offered to haul rocks.

The next item to arrange was the wages for the religious school to be held this winter. Since there was a shortage of \$7.50, the following added to their subscription: Ole Lien \$3.00, Herman Larson \$10.00, Ole Mostad \$.50, Tollef Tollefson Ekre \$10.00. The following pledged: Ole Leraas \$1.00, Jens Blixrud .50, Christian Israelson .50. \$10.50 was collected for erecting a fence at the parsonage. Lauritz Olson promised to furnish 10 posts. Several promised to work each one day in erecting the fence.

In behalf of the congregation the following placed their signatures on a note for \$100 to Torfin Svendsen: Ole Lien, Christen Anderson and Haldor Eide.

Since the heretofore functioning "kirkesanger," Markus Samuelson wished to be relieved of his duties, schoolmaster Mr. Hoaas was elected for a set wage of one bushel of wheat from every farmer in the congregation plus a free will offering at each of the three festal services.

The congregation's school was considered. By subscription, was gathered \$60, with pledges of more later. Since in this way the congregation was assured of three months of school, and it already had commenced at Lauritz Olson's home, it was decided that the congregation should be divided into four districts evenly divided, according to the number of children in each district, but also that the children would be free and welcome to be sent from one district to another. The school was to be held one week at the time in each district.

March 5th, 1880. A meeting was held by the Immanuel congregation. There was a reading of the congregation's constitution, which had been prepared by a committee which had been elected earlier, was considered.

This constitution is to be printed in the number of 150 copies. Pastor Erdahl was appointed to make corrections and to get it printed. (this was done by the Fergus Falls Ugeblad Print, in 1863, and we still have one of the original copies. It was on display at the Centennial celebration June 16, 1972)

December 17, 1880 We spoke again of the erection of a church for the congregation. Those present were in agreement that it should be built in section 22, where the roads from east, west, north and south will cross each other.

Next there was a discussion of building a house 40 x 35 feet, as a frame for the church which was to be, until it could be finished later. As to where the site of the church should be, it was left to be decided at a later meeting. A subscription was taken and money given as follows: Ole Lien \$50, Mons Andreson \$30, Haldor Eide \$50, John Lee \$50, Herman Larson \$40, Nils Hoaas \$20, Thor Halvorson \$30, Lauritz Olson \$40, Markus Samuelson \$20, Christian Israelson \$10.

June 21, 1881 Ole K. Lee attended the meeting and asked the congregation to forgive him for the aggravation he had caused the congregation. They accepted his apology. (It did not state his offense) (Pastor Carlson)

Peder Iverson who had considered himself "dropped out" of the congregation because of some difficulty with Pastor Carlson, which had not been made known to the congregation asked to be reinstated in the congregation together with his family. He promised to pay two instalments toward the pastor's wages. Since he was a former member, he and his family were at once accepted by the congregation. (the reasons for the difficulty were not stated)

In order to pay the dues of the parish (call) it was decided that a subscription should be started according to which each was to pay one cent for each bushel of wheat harvested.

A subscription (collection) for making a well at the parsonage was taken. The following amounts were given: Lauritz Olson, Peder Iverson, Jens Blixrud, Ole Lien, Ole Leraas, Amund Arneson, Jacob Gubrandson, N. Hoaas, each gave 25 cents. Christen Anderson 50 cents.

December 13, 1881 After the meeting was opened in the usual way with scripture reading and prayer by the pastor, we began to speak of the church which was perhaps to be. Since there were offers from Ole Lien, and Knut Vaa of free sites, for the church and a church yard, and Knut Vaa also offered to give 10 acres free for the use of the congregation it was decided to discuss the feasibility of each offer. A straw (trial) vote was taken, and the result was 12 in favor of Ole Lien's offer, and 8 in favor of Knut Vaa's offer. Then a final vote was taken and it was decided to build on Ole Lien's land. (I think perhaps driving distance for most people was a deciding factor)

February 7, 1882 It was agreed that the church should be 36 x 50 feet by 18 feet. It was decided that the foundation should be set in place as soon as possible, and it should be 2 feet high at its lowest point. It was decided that a cellar should be dug under the church and it should be 12 x 12 x 6 feet.

It was agreed that a subscription should be taken and payable Dec. 1, 1882. The new subscriptions for the church were: Reinert Johnson \$25 and Ole Johnson \$10. It was decided that a committee consisting of 5 members should be elected to be responsible for measuring of the church yard and the place for the church and also for the building of the same. The following persons were elected on the committee: Reinert Johnson, Ole Leraas, Herman Larson, Ole K. Alvstad, and Peder Larson. John K. Lee was elected as treasurer of the money which must come in for the building fund.

It was decided that the congregation should hereafter bury its dead on the church yard, which is staked out by the church on Ole Lien's land.

June 3, 1883 It was decided that the congregation should not come to a conclusion as to whether the church shall be built with or without a tower, "until we can see what the difference in cost will be." It was decided that a congregational meeting should be held the 17th of June for the purpose of discussing the teachings of the church as there is now strife about this in our church. (synod)

Upon request of Amund Arneson as to what the congregation wishes to do with the old cemetery on his land, it was decided

after some discussion to postpone the decision until later.

February 9, 1883. Next we went on to get an overview of the subscriptions for the building of the church and the following were added: Tollef T. Ekre \$20, Martinus E. Anderson \$25, Martin Larson \$25, Christen Anderson \$40, Jens Blixrud \$5, Herman Larson \$25, Reinert Johnson \$10, John Sniben \$10.

After current price lists from various lumber companies were considered, we took into consideration where we should purchase material for the church. We found that a company in Minneapolis would be the best to form a contract with, if we could only raise the necessary money by that time, in this case the following think they can pay their subscriptions by that time: Ole Lien \$100, John Lee \$50, Herman Larson \$65, Haldor Eide \$25, Christen Anderson \$50, Christian Israelson \$10, Ole Mostad \$45. Total \$350. Since half of the money needed for material will be gathered in time it was decided that members of the building committee would go around and try to gather from those not present, both by subscriptions and pledges as much as could soon be paid in.

In regard to the congregation's school it was decided that the 5 circuits (divisions) should each choose one trustee, and these should meet when necessary to decide and consider when and where the school shall be held, and other things that will be to advantage. These elected trustees were: Ole Lien, Tollef Nilson, Ole Halvorson, John Lee and Hans Andreson.

A subscription was taken up for the school. Contributions were: Lauritz Olson \$10, Ole Leraas \$7, Christen Anderson \$5, Herman Larson \$10, Ole Alvstad \$4, Tollef Nilson \$10, Ole Lien \$20, Jens Blixrud \$5, Per Larson \$15, Markus Samuelson \$3, Reinert Johnson \$8, John Lee \$4.

Sept. 15, 1883 A discussion was held in regard to the congregation's school, whether to hire more than one teacher. It was decided to have one teacher for the whole congregation, and Johannes Leraas was accepted as such.

We went on to consider the expense records for the church building. It was left up to the trustees to decide how much Endre G. Jenstad was to receive for the days he worked (painted) the church. It was decided to elect two auditors to go through the church's accounts. Elected were John Lee and Ole Leraas.

Nov. 28, 1883 Following consideration of how much we still owe on the church, it was decided that Endre G. Jenstad was to be paid at the rate of \$1.50 per day for the time he spent painting the church, therefore \$6.00. Jens Blixrud who had worked some on the church and had \$6.25 coming, will allow this on his next subscription to the church. Reinert Johnson for hauling asks \$18. Ole Alvstad \$18.25, Herman Larson for cement work, cement etc. \$10.25. Ole Johnson for cement work and hauling \$3.75, Lars Hjelle \$4.00. (He donated the \$4.00 to the church)

Nov. 28, 1883 Per Erlandson was paid \$5.00 for measuring the church lot. Ole Lien had \$7.50 coming and gave that to the church. The rest of the church's debt is now \$700. To cover this debt it was decided to gather as much as possible by subscription and to take a loan for the rest. Also to divide the subscribers according to those who could pay at once and those who could pay later. The sum of \$180.75 was collected and for the rest they would

take out a loan the size of which was to be decided by the trustees.

It was decided that from the leftover material of the church there should be put up a small shed 12 x 16 feet for to put the pastor's horses.

May 22, 1889 There was talk of putting up lightning rods on the church, but all were opposed. However, all were in favor of insuring the church, and therefore, it was decided to insure the church for \$1800.

Feb. 5, 1890 The purpose of today's meeting was namely, that the congregation would place itself (at the peak, as head) (the wording is "i spidsen") in the lead for gathering of gifts for the needy in North Dakota. Therefore, we went directly to this purpose. After some discussion of the cause, the congregation decided that the pastor should write to a few pastors out there, for if possible to receive dependable signatures in the event of dividing out of the gifts to the needy.

After more particular consideration, the congregation decided to organize a head committee whose duty it should be to accept the gifts and bring them to the place decided upon, namely on board train cars at West Elbow Lake. For this committee were elected: B. Johnson, Markus Samuelson and Haldor Eide. To gather the wheat were: August Endreson, Soren Endreson, Ole Alvstad, Ole Anderson, Ole Lien, Halvor Olson.

These gatherers were to bring the wheat to the mill in Barrett to have it ground into flour. Markus Samuelson volunteered to speak to the miller and if possible, to get him to grind the wheat into flour without charge.

Feb. 5, 1890 The majority of those present of the congregation members spoke of their desire to have the cemetery divided into lots so each family could have its own lot and because of this desire it was decided to hold a meeting of the congregation in the early spring, and then make decisions to divide into lots and likewise also to decide whom of those concerned should be buried in the congregation's cemetery.

Then we went on to consider how and what was to be done about the old cemetery on Amund Arneson's land. It was announced that Amund wished to have the old fence removed, therefore the congregation decided to take up the old fence and put up a new fence which was to be of wire (staal traad) around the graves. Martin Larson volunteered to put up the new fence, which was to be of wire. As payment he was to have the old material, and the congregation was to pay for the new wire.

There was some discussion whether to fence in the entire church yard, also whether it should be barbed wire or smooth. No conclusion was reached so it was to be considered later.

Amund Arneson refused to allow us to put up a new fence around the old cemetery. There was some speaking on what ought to be done about the old cemetery, but nothing was decided, so we left that cause. (This cemetery was directly north of Hilda Waugh's buildings. Since no fence was there, it was soon made into tillable land. All but 2 or 3 bodies were removed according to Mrs. Sivert Shervey.)

Feb. 27, 1890 The pastor announced that the village of Herman wished to give or donate to the parish, its courthouse if the con-

gregation would conduct its school there. He thought that both the building and 100 acres of land could be had for almost nothing. The congregation took no action as it was thought that both the building and the location were not feasible.

One dollar and five cents was collected to buy spittoons for the church. R. Johnson was given the responsibility of doing the buying.

March 29, 1895 Nils Otteson who had been announced earlier was unanimously accepted into the congregation.

It was decided, first to hear the treasurers report for the past year and then to have the treasurer read the names of those who had paid the minister's wages, and also for what year.

It was decided that the stoves in the church should be moved, to be one on each side in the back of the church.

So we went on to discuss the congregations indebtedness. It was announced that the total debt was now \$59. It was then decided that the trustees should gather the money and deliver it to the treasurer before the 15th of November, when the note is due.

March 29, 1895 It was decided to discuss the addition of several benches for the church for the upcoming meeting. (three day circuit meetings were held at the different parishes for many years) First it was decided to make a number of benches 12 feet long, but after some debate (discussion) it was decided to have all members present and who were willing to furnish one bench 6 feet long. Of those present 17 promised to provide such a bench.

Then we went to the discussion of the pastor's wages. After a great deal was said about this matter, it was decided to elect four men whose duty it should be to look up those who were behind in the payment of their pastor's wages. They should try to, as far as possible, find out the reason why they didn't pay. For this were elected: Johannes Leraas, Ole Lien, Reinert Johnson and Herman Larson.

The decision was made that those who used tobacco in the church should furnish their own spittoons. The money was returned to the treasury by Reinhert Johnson.

Nov. 19, 1898 Ole Leraas announced that he had paid half of the note in the Elbow Lake Bank, which was \$20. Ole Leraas and Tollef Nilson were co-signers for this note for the church.

Nov. 19, 1895 It was decided to put a new foundation under the church in the spring, also that the congregation purchase stones (could have meant sand, however there are stones in the foundation, "sten" is the word used) from members of the congregation. Herman Larson, Reinert Johnson and Ole E. Lien were elected to buy the stones.

Dec. 20, 1896 The topic for discussion was the schoolmaster's plan for school and schoolmaster Leraas was therefore asked to state his proposition. (The whole plan was given, and voted on and accepted, provided the finances could be raised by the end of April.)

The plan was as follows: (by John Leraas)

With our congregation's school in mind, considering its meaning, its situation, its demands, its future and its aim in mind, I hereby submit the following plan hoping that the proposition will be accepted

whereby I hope to gain considerable advantage for the above named school. The plan is as follows: Every person in the congregation who has an interest in our religious school and has financial means, shall promise to pay me \$10.00. If, by this means, there can be gathered at least \$300, I will allow to be built and outfitted a house (room) which shall serve as a school house (an addition onto my own house) and I will conduct at least the most of the congregation's school in that room.

The house (room) shall be my own, but as compensation for the \$10.00, I will in return promise, if God gives me life and health, that I will for 5 years give the children 6 weeks annually of school for \$11.00 for every child for every year. This concerns only the children of those who have helped furnish money for the building of the house. For (ovrige vedkommende), I believe this means interested outsiders, or those who had not contributed, the fee for each child shall not be more than \$2.00 for six weeks. All this concerns only the first five years of the school.

In order to carry out the suggested plan, at least 5 of the present districts must join together. The children in these districts, should they number over 70, shall be divided into 3 separate groups, and graded according to the different abilities of each. (perhaps resembling grades) These should take turns of one week each. Each group would get 6 weeks of school each year, in 3 sessions, therefore 18 weeks.

If the number of children would be over 100, they would be divided into 4 monthly sessions. The school time for each group would then be 6 weeks annually.

For the children who would have such a long way to come that they could not go home every evening, I will promise to let as many as 10 have free board and lodging at my home, and care for them during the time the school is in session. The closest neighbors will without doubt also accept children in this way. Still no one ought to be burdened with more than two or three children each. Money or food shall be brought by these children from their own homes. When 5 years are past I shall no longer be obligated to furnish the house as a school house. Neither shall the wages agreed to for the five years be in power, as by that time, those who have paid into the building and furnishing of the house have been repaid in the form of money saved and having had a better school for their children. (He itemized how much had been saved by those having one, two or three or more children)

Since most of the "farmers" (bonde) now pay \$6.25 annually, this would amount to \$31.25 in 5 years. According to the new plan each man who had 2 children in school will save in this time \$11.25. The \$10.00 for the building of the house will thus be offset. Those who send three children will save \$6.25 and still get 2 weeks longer school for their children.

Should the number of children be between 40 and 60 or between 70 and 90, each district would naturally get only 5 weeks of school unless there would be a slight increase in compensation (wages).

That my wages during this time will be small, I take for granted, but I have taken into consideration the cost of the addition to my house. But, what I am really aiming at is that the congregation shall strive for a school where the children shall be graded according to their special abilities and knowledge. Simply because we must

try both to find a method and a place wherein, and by which, we can operate such a school, it is that I suggest the building of the house (room). Hoping that this cause will be accepted, willingly after having considered it seriously, I hereby submit it to the (hands of) the congregation. Feb. 3, 1896. Johannes J. Leraas.

(You will notice that my father's plans for school are very much the same as the latest which we now have, "according to their abilities and knowledge")

It was then decided that one man in each district should be elected to gather subscriptions for the school. Those elected were: Lars Fagerberg, Ole E. Lien, Knut Vaa, Herman Larson, H. J. Bollum and Johannes Leraas. It was decided that the subscription begin today. H. J. Bollum, Secretary.

1895 The committee which should repair the church tower announced that nothing had been done because there was no money available. It was then decided to take up a subscription to pay the transportation of delegates to the circuit meeting.

October 1896 It was decided that those who had not paid toward the repair of the church steeple, should pay \$1.00, and that those who had paid 50 cents should pay 50 cents more. Nils Jorgen Endreson, Secretary.

May 26, 1897 The treasurers annual report was read, it was as follows. For pastor's wages received and paid out \$143. For church repair \$18.33. With a shortage of 87 cents. For repair of the tower, \$16.25 and of that was paid out \$15.50, 75 cents left in the treasury. Besides this we owed Ole K. Alvstad for 5 days of work, to Ole Lien for 1/2 cord of wood \$2.75, to John Leraas \$4.20. This is at the present the entire indebtedness of the church. For the church janitor and other expenses \$28.55 was taken in and paid out. The treasurers report was unanimously accepted. Johannes Leraas, Secretary.

Dec. 20, 1897 The insurance premium was due, so a collection was taken up, the amount was \$3.75. To pay this bill in the future it was decided to take up a separate collection on October 1st.

The congregation still owes Hans Peterson for 3 days work, to Knut Alvstad for 2 days work. Both promptly donated their work to the church. To Ole Alvstad we owe for 5 days work, valued at \$8.00. He deducted \$3.00. The trustees are to try to collect from those who heretofore have not paid for this purpose.

Dec. 20, 1897 There was a discussion in regard to the finishing of the church. (completion) It was decided to elect a committee of 3 men to estimate the cost of this work. The congregation would pay the expenses. The committee consisted of Knut Vaa, Ole Lien and Johannes (John) Leraas, with a meeting to be held as soon as the committee has a report ready.

May 26, 1897 Next there was a discussion about what to do with those members who for some time had paid no pastor's wages. It was suggested that the most proper method should be that the pastor, together with the trustee in each district concerned, should speak to those concerned. If it was found that poverty was the reason, the congregation should assume the payment. However, if they were simply unwilling, it would be best to remove their name from the membership list. There was, however, no final decision regarding the last suggestion.

Pastor Torvildson, a temperance speaker, was given the use

of the church to speak on temperance.

January 10, 1898 It was decided to make a gallery, and build stairways to it. Also, to make a stairway of planks and to lay a plank floor in the tower. The gallery should have a strong and fancy railing. (In good taste "smakfuldt")

It was decided to make an addition to the church 24 x 24 x 12 feet. This room should be for a recess for the pastor and the east side, and for the women of the church on the west side. (women with children who needed attention) There was to be a 6 inch riser where the alter is, two windows were to be on each side, and were to match the other windows in the church.

January 20, 1899 There was talk of building a church in Barrett. They were to consider that there would then be two churches in the congregation. The pastor spoke in favor of moving the Immanuel church to Barrett, thereby gathering the whole congregation into one church. He said that two places of worship was not inducive to good church attendance, and that many around Barrett would like to have a church there. The talk of moving the church was dropped and it was decided to make this (Immanuel) church in good repair and later to consider building a church in Barrett. People thought it would make for better church attendance with two pulpits as neither group would have too great a distance to come.

January 20, 1898 In the near future the building committee should use its best judgment and see to it that the stone is brought to the place for the church's foundation. (in Barrett) Ole Lien offered free stones for this purpose, it can be had on one of his fields of newly broken sod. (if you have ever hauled rocks off a field you will see that he was playing a good "Tom Sawyer", but he was also doing the church a good turn)

Hans Bardahl is at present farming this land. The building committee shall be: Lars Fagerberg, Knut Vaa, Endre Jenstad, Ole Alvstad and Johannes Leraas. Mr. Leraas shall also be the secretary for that committee.

Feb. 18, 1898 All who expressed their opinion thought it would be very well for the people of that area to have their own church in Barrett. However, it is not the intention that our Immanuel church shall be financially responsible for its erection. Each church should bear its own expenses, but they should support each other according to the best of their ability, in a brotherly fashion. (It might be well to note that the Barrett church did not get under construction until 1907)

A subscription was to be started at once for the new church. That committee should consist of Markus Samuelson, Anton Refling, Tollef Nilson and Lauritz Olson. To decide on a building site were: Tollef Nilson, Lauritz Olson and Markus Samuelson.

Feb. 3, 1898 It was decided to go ahead and build the church in Barrett as far as the finances would reach. There were plans made in regard to the entrance steps. The decision to have the stairways to the gallery go up within the church had to be changed. The gallery should have a gentle curve at the front from one long wall of the church to the other. The congregation members were to appear in goodly numbers on March 3rd to haul stones for use in the building. Mr. Beito, a builder of churches appeared at the meeting at the request of Pastor Erdahl. A collection to pay his travel expenses was taken, amounting to \$6.30. There was to be

another meeting on March 7 to further discuss the building of this church.

March 14, 1898 (for some reason, not held on March 7th) The following people had gathered these amounts for the new church: Lauritz Olson \$720, Tollef Nilson \$220, Anton Refling \$205, Markus Samuelson \$270; totaling \$1415. 2 acres of land were donated by C. G. Peterson. This was accepted with thanks. The church was to be built on this donated land. The church was to be started when the spring work was done. It would take 94 loads of stone for a 3 foot foundation, 125 loads for a 4 foot foundation. Every man should bring 5 loads of stones to the place where the church was to be built.

Jan. 15, 1900 Since there was a shortage of funds for the school, the following offered to raise one calf and donate its value at sale time to the school: Markus Samuelson, Herman Larson, Jens Blixrud, Haldor Eide, Reinert Johnson and Johannes Leraas.

Dec. 20, 1900 Since the Elbow Lake congregation now had separated, it was decided that the Lincoln and Immanuel congregations should buy their share of the Pastor's farm from them. The cost was to be \$1200. This was to be done by subscription.

June 18, 1900 Our church was duly incorporated. The copy of the incorporation is still in the secretary's book. The signers are: Ole K. Alvstad, Herman Larson, Ole J. Leraas, Andrew Johnson and Peder O. Langhaug. Ole E. Lien posted the notice. His name is signed (and there is an X and after that it says "his mark") H. J. Bollum was the register of deeds. (The paper bears the letterhead of E. J. Scofield, Attorney at Law, Elbow Lake)

July 19, 1900 Some repairs were needed on the buildings at the Pastor's farm, so a subscription was to be taken up during the winter. Ole Lien was to see to it that stones were brought.

January 26, 1901 Since not all of the money to pay off the Elbow Lake congregation has been collected, the trustees were to go around and gather as much as possible and take out a note for the rest.

March 16, 1901 It has been reported to the congregation that John Lindem is a member of a lodge (secret society) and has been put out of the congregation. The congregation decided to send him a note which stated that it had nothing to do with his being put out of the congregation and still considers him a member, but that it does not approve of lodges. We will ask \$2.00 less in payment from Mr. Lindem for the coming year.

May 13, 1903 The pastor said that one of our congregation members is now the saloon keeper in Barrett, in spite of the pastor's reminder and warning. He wishes the congregation to let him understand that it does not approve of this new occupation of his, in hopes that it might bring him to quit this new occupation.

May 24, 1905 There was need of a stove at church and school District #14 donated one. It was decided to clean the cemetery on May 30, and to put up hitching posts that day too.

May 23, 1906 It was decided to allow a separate congregation in Barrett.

July 14, 1906 The following resolution was adopted: The members of the Norwegian Lutheran Immanuel Church in township of Lien, will sell to the Mpls. St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie R. R.

Co. for railway right of way, a strip of land 100 feet wide over and across the Pastor's farm. (before this could be done, it had been announced 4 Sundays in the church)

Nov. 14, 1907 Again there was talk of moving the church to Barrett. After discussion, a vote was taken; some did not vote, and no one voted to move it.

It was decided that each family should pay 75 cents per year for the "kirkesanger" instead of 1 bushel of wheat and one freewill offering as before. The pastor was to keep a record of the money spent for "bread and wine" and was to be re-imbursed once a year. He was also told not to conduct services in our church when in winter, the weather is too cold and stormy. There were some small repairs to be made on the church and each father in the church was to pay \$1.25, and all young people 35 cents for this.

Feb. 8, 1908 Our Savior's congregation in Barrett sent a message with the pastor asking that they be allowed to use our cemetery as a burial place. The answer was "Immanuel's congregation cannot allow Our Saviors, as a congregation to make use of Immanuel's cemetery."

May 18, 1909 If it is possible for the Barrett congregation to purchase one acre of land adjoining our cemetery, they may use that as a burial place. There was talk of putting a furnace under the church and, also, about the revised hymn book. (I believe the Lanstad hymnbook had been used up to that time) The revised hymnbook was to be used starting in 1911.

After the death of Pastor Gullik Erdahl in 1914, the Pastor's farm was sold to Julius Christian Larson for the sum of \$7800. (a copy of the deed (transaction) is in the record book)

March 1915 It was decided to put screens on the church windows and to put cement steps; also, to dig the basement deeper and to put in a cement floor. Andrew Johnson offered to furnish free oak posts for the fence to be erected around the church ground.

Amund Sivertson asked to drop out of the church because he was unable to pay the dues. The Pastor (now Rev. Ivar Sandberg) was told to go and see him and explain that no one would be put out of our congregation because of being unable to pay and that he should consider himself a member and pay whatever he could.

May 22, 1918 There was need of repair in the belfrey, and other repairs. Mons Ronhovde, Jorgen Endreson and Sivert Shervey were to do this. John Leraas is no longer able to be the "kirkesanger and deacon" and he suggested that the organist now should receive the two offerings which had formerly been his. So, she will now have three offerings annually instead of only one.

1920 Ole Leraas was elected to gather money for needy Lutherans in Europe. He reported that he had collected \$138.25, which was \$18.25 more than our quota.

1922 It was decided to ask Dr. Brandt to speak at our 50th anniversary. The committee for this event was to be Pastor Ivar Sandberg, Johannes Leraas, Peter Samuelson, Hans Moen and Osten Ostenson.

This anniversary was observed June 29, 1922. Following is a brief resume of the day's services, which were conducted by Dr. Brandt. His father was the first pastor to conduct services in our area, at Holmes City, near Evansville and at the Gudmundson

home in Elk Lake. Aasta Anderson and Ole Halverson, who had been confirmed by Rev. Nils Brandt, were present at the Jubilee services. Dr. Brandt, in his address stated that the anniversary of fifty years of usefulness in preserving and teaching Christianity was the occasion for great rejoicing. He said that the omissions or short-comings of the years that had passed should not mar the beauty of the day, but should serve as an inspiration for greater achievement in the future. A union choir of Our Savior's and Immanuel Congregations sang: "Come All Ye Faithful" and "Femti Aarigts Arboids Verke" "Fifty Years in Church Service" a special hymn written in the Norwegian language.

Rev. Ivar Sandberg gave a history of the congregation from the time it was founded until the present time. This history had been prepared by John J. Leraas (Johannes). The founders of the congregation were Ole E. Lien, Ole K. Alvstad, Jens Blixrud, Herman Larson, Martin Larson, Tollef Nilson, Jens Strand, Peder Strand, Peder Iverson, Lauritz Olson, Ole Bartness, Christian Israelson, Haldor Eide, Johannes Hesjedal, Ole J. Leraas, Knut Bakke, Ole Bjornson, Erland Anderson and Lars Hoibraaten. Founders living are: Mr. and Mrs. Ole K. Alvstad, Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Leraas, Martin Larson, Tollef Nilson, Jens Strand, Haldor Eide, Mrs. Ole Lien, Mrs. Herman Larson, Mrs. Peder Iverson, Mrs. Lauritz Olson, Mrs. Jens Blixrud, Mrs. Amund Arneson and Mrs. Ole Bartness. Many of these were present at the golden Jubilee.

At noon a bounteous dinner was served by the ladies of the Immanuel church.

The afternoon program began at two o'clock with a song by the choir. Dr. Brandt gave an address on Christian Education. Miss Karen Samuelson sang a vocal solo. Rev. C. G. Juul of Minneapolis, former assistant pastor to Rev. G. Erdahl and later pastor of St. John's Church in Elbow Lake, made an eloquent address on the work that had been done in the congregation. A short address by Rev. Ivar Sandberg concluded the afternoon program.

In the evening, the Cantata "Ruth" was presented by the choirs of Our Savior's and Immanuel churches. Mrs. Ivar Sandberg had charge of all choir singing. Dr. Brandt gave an address on Friendship following the first part of the Cantata. Miss Karen Samuelson, Mrs. Ivar Sandberg, Peter Samuelson and Miss Emma Setterlund sang the solo parts. The cantata was followed by a short address by Rev. Otto Juul. Although the program was a long one, those present enjoyed it thoroughly. (The above article was recorded in the secretary's book by Johannes Leraas)

1922 There was some difficulty in securing a janitor, but finally James Johnson was to take this job at \$50 a year.

May 22, 1924 There was talk of organizing a Sunday School. They were to meet in the school house by Hans Moen Dist. 60, and in Dist. 14, on Sundays when we did not have services in church. (otherwise, there was a short session after services "on the floor" conducted by the pastor) Services were conducted two Sundays, and skipping the third, I believe, the pastor conducting two services each Sunday. There was talk of having an occasional English worship, but nothing was decided.

May 20, 1925 It was decided to have 4 services in the English language annually.

May 1927 The young people of the congregation asked permission

to build a basement under the church. Permission was unanimously granted. The cost to be \$3000 to \$3700. Mr. Stuverude of Elbow Lake was to do the work and he was present.

June 7, 1928 Oscar Endreson is to be ordained here in our church June 17, 1928. The offering which will be taken will be given to him, after travel expenses of two pastors shall have been deducted.

May 16, 1929 The janitors wages were raised to \$100 annually.

January 16, 1931 It was decided to have the annual meeting in January instead of in May. It was decided that every third service should be conducted in the English language.

January 15, 1932 It was decided to have the annual meeting on the 2nd Friday of January.

October 16, 1932 Our congregation observed its 60th anniversary with Pastor Bestuel as speaker. (He was an uncle of Mrs. Ivar Sandberg) Pastor Sandberg read the 50 years history and also, of the last 10 years. Among things mentioned, were the lights installed by the Samuelsons, the basement by the young people, chairs for the basement by Mrs. Caroline (Andrew) Johnson, and the work of the Ladies Aid. The following original members are still living: Tollef Nilson, Martin Larson, Tosten Ostenson (He was not mentioned as an original but must have come shortly after), Ole Lee, Jens Strand, Mr. and Mrs. Knut Vaa, and Mrs. Herman Larson. Following are older members who have passed away since the 50th anniversary: Hans Bardahl, Mr. and Mrs. Samuelson, Mrs. Jens Blixrud, Mrs. Hans Moen, Mrs. Hans Peterson, Haldor Eide, Erland Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Alvstad, Mrs. Soren Endreson, Mrs. Jacob Leraas, Mr. and Mrs. Ole Leraas and Mrs. Tosten Ostenson.

January 17, 1933 (This is during the depression period) Pastor Sandberg said he would deduct \$100 from his wages for last year, the congregation accepted this with a rising vote of thanks. In memory of Mrs. Ole Lien \$25 was given to the church by Edward Lien. A thank you note was to be sent to him.

January 12, 1934 Pastor Sandberg again deducted \$100 from his wages. This was again accepted with a rising vote of thanks.

January 17, 1935 Again Rev. Sandberg deducted \$100 from his wages; it was accepted with a rising vote of thanks.

January 16, 1936 Once more Rev. Sandberg deducted \$100 from his wages, and again, it was accepted with a rising vote of thanks. (Unless you have lived through a depression, you cannot realize what this generosity on the part of Pastor Sandberg could mean) No wonder he occupies such a big space in the hearts of people who know him, and still this was far from the biggest things he had done for us.

Because of so much adverse weather, it was again decided to conduct the annual meeting in May as before.

1872 ***** 1939

Here ends the record which was kept in the Norwegian language.