

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
800 E. Bay Street
Sebewaing, Michigan*

**This Booklet is Dedicated to the Memory of
Sebewaing's First Settlers of
Immanuel Lutheran Church - Sebewaing
February 17, 1852 - February 17, 2002**

News clipping from Sebewaing Blade December 22, 1905



**J. J. F. AUCH
DIED VERY SUDDENLY**

OF NEURALGIA OF THE HEART

Was First White Man in Sebewaing and
Very Highly Respected
by Everybody.

The announcement Saturday morning of the sudden death of J. J. F. Auch of neuralgia of the heart, which occurred the previous evening, cast a pall of gloom over the whole community. It was indeed a sad surprise to the vast number of people who knew him.

The aged gentleman, revered and profoundly respected by everybody, was stricken ill Friday morning, but nothing serious was thought of his sickness. Through the efforts of medical aid, he seemed to rally somewhat during the day, but toward evening he took a decided change for the worse and immediate relatives were summoned to his bedside. He was fully cognizant of his surroundings to the last. At about 9:30 o'clock he was taken with the fatal spell and the spirit that had been harbored in its mould of clay for 88 years, took its flight and one of the most useful lives the Almighty ever

created was at an end. His wife and children and sister, Mrs. John Muellerweiss, were at his bedside when the end came.

John J. F. Auch was born August 21, 1817 in Wuertemberg, Germany, the son of Christian and Margaret Auch. He attended school from his sixth year to his twelfth. In 1836 he emigrated with his parents to the United States. They located near Ann Arbor, where the elder Auch purchased an 80-acre farm. Mr. Auch assisted his father in farm work until the age of 22, when he became interested in agriculture in his own behalf, in which pursuit he passed 18 months. He then determined to become a minister and began the study of theology, which he continued three years.

In 1845, he came here as a missionary to the Indians, among whom he labored seven years, doing worlds of good. Mr. Auch bore the distinction of being the first white settler in what is now known as Sebewaing. In 1851 he was followed here by his parents and the remainder of the family. The following year Rev. Auch received a call to settle as pastor over the German Lutheran church which had by that time been established here. He discharged the duties of the position faithfully until 1867, when he resigned. He went to Unionville, where he embarked in the saw and grist mill business, which he continued 10 years and in which he was favored with profound success. In 1873 he returned to Sebewaing to watch over the declining years of his aged mother, who died several years later.

During his early residence here Sebewaing had no physician and the reverend gentleman saw the urgent needs of one familiar with medicines and it was during his pastorate that he took up the study of that science under the direction of Dr. Koch, of Frankenmuth, Saginaw Co. In this profession he met with good

*Christian Auch - Elder
Johann Gruenbeck
Fredrich Schilling - Treasurer
Gottfried Beck - Secretary
Johann Gottlob Weidner
Conrad Gruenbeck
Johann Ziegler
Philipp Gruenbeck
Martin Gremel - Elder
Jacob Friedrich Ruehle
Justus Schmidt
John Muellerweiss - Collector*

success and practiced for many years.

His marriage to Marcia D. Strieter took place in 1839 at Ann Arbor. Mrs. Auch died in 1886 and two years later he was united in marriage to Anna M. Erdman, who survives him.

Three of Mr. Auch's brothers and two sisters preceded him to the grave. Besides four children, Geo W., Clara, Ernst and Anna, he is survived by two sisters, Mrs. John Muellerweiss, of this place, and Mrs. Dorothy Roeder, of Arlington Heights, Ill.

Mr. Auch had just completed the erection of an elegant residence on Main Street and with his family had occupied it only four weeks ago.

The funeral took place Tuesday afternoon from the Emanuel Lutheran Church, which faith Mr. Auch was a life long follower. The big church was crowded to its fullest capacity by young and old. Rev. C. J. Umbach preached a powerful sermon and eulogized the character of the departed in a most fitting manner. Those from out of town who attended the funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Geo W. Auch and children, of Detroit, Mr. and Mrs. John Rogner, of Richville; Miss Rose Strieter, of Saginaw; Mrs. Julia Hartman, of Detroit; Miss Lizzie Gaensbauer and Ed Muellerweiss, of Saginaw; and Theodore Muellerweiss, of Gera.

Immanuel Lutheran Church - Sebewaing

Calendar of Events Commemorating the 150th Anniversary 1852 - 2002

<u>DATE</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>	<u>TITLE/EMPHASIS</u>
February 17, 2002	Rev. C. William Hoesman	Michigan District President
April 21	Rev. Elmer E. Scheck	Confirmation Reunion
June 16	Rev. Dr. Charles Manske	History of the Congregation
July 21	Rev. Larry Schmidt	Mission Sunday with daughter congregations: Unionville, Kilmanagh Bach and Caseville
August 18	Rev. Dennis Borchers	Education Sunday with former/current teachers
October 20	Rev. Dr. Edward Arle	Reformation & Sacraments
December 1	Rev. Eric Majeski	Family Life
February 16, 2003	Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer	Former Lutheran Hour Speaker "Moving Forward", with afternoon program also

For the 150th Anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sebewaing, Michigan

Let Us Rejoice



1. For man - y years of grace We thank our God a -
 2. Here we have been for - giv'n Through Word and Sac - ra -
 3. We al - so thank you Lord For pas - tors, teach - ers,
 4. And with the gifts you've giv'n Let's serve you ev - 'ry



bove; For He has blessed this church With His un - end - ing love.
 ment. The wa - ter, bread, and wine Are gifts from heav - en sent.
 friends Who faith - ful - ly have served Our Sav - ior with - out end.
 day. And in the years to come Be with us Lord, we pray.



Let us re - joice, With heart and voice; Our praise we bring, to you, our King.

TEXT: Heidi Stecker
 TUNE: "Darwall's 148th"

A History of First Time Events at Immanuel

First Baptisms:

	<u>Born</u>	<u>Baptized</u>
Christina Barbara Ziegler	9-19-1848	5-20-1849
Anna Christina Haushahn	11-1-1850	11-10-1850
Maria Schmid	8-2-1851	8-10-1851
Friedrich Killinger	7-13-1851	8-5-1851
Eva Katharine Gremel	1-12-1852	1-20-1852
Gertrude Gruenbeck	10-7-1852	10-10-1852
Anna Katherine Muellerweiss	10-16-1852	10-24-1852
Lydia Schmid	11-8-1852	11-14-1852
Philippine Gruenbeck	11-24-1852	11-28-1852

First Confirmation:

May 23, 1852 - 3 boys and 3 girls
 Ernst Jacob Beck
 Johann Andreas Beck
 Johannes Mammel
 Juliane Louise Auch
 Katherina Eugenia Frueh
 Margaretha Schmid

First Funerals:

Nov. 15, 1850, Evangelical Lutheran Missionary Mr. Johann Friedrich Maier, born Oct. 2, 1823 in Pfalzgrasenweiler Kingdom, Wuerttemberg, Germany.

Buried Nov. 25, Johann George Haushahn a farmer-birth unknown-early death in waves off Saginaw Bay during frightful storm. They were found on shore the day before.

First Marriages:

June 2, 1850, Evangelical Lutheran Missionary, Johann Maier, age 26, of Pfalzsaferweiler, Kingdom of Wuerttemberg, Germany, to Dorothea Barbara Auch, age 21, of Ecklendamzen, Germany.

Oct. 5, 1851, Johannes Gruenbeck, native of Grand Dukedom of Hesse Dormstaedt, Germany, and widow Philippine Schmitt also of same place.

Oct. 27, 1851, Conrad Gruenbeck, native of Grand Dukedom of Hesse Dormstaedt, to widow Barbara Haushahn of Bavaria, Germany.

Nov. 30, 1851, Martin Krauss of Bavaria, Germany, to Elizabeth Gruenbeck, native of Grand duchy Hussy, Dormstaedt, Germany.

Feb. 17, 1852, Albert Irion, age 30, native of Kingdom Wuertemburg to Maria Katharina Schilling, age 18, Twp Scio, Washtenaw Co. Mich.

June 10, 1852 Evangelical Lutheran Missionary, Johannes Edmund Roeder, native of Silisia, Germany, to widow Dorothea Maier nee Auch of Echterdengen, Kingdom of Wuerttemberg, Germany.

June 13, 1852, Johann Michael Schmid, age 22 of Bavaria, Germany to Anna Barbara Barthel, age 23, of Bavaria, Germany.

Aug. 15, 1852, Jacob Wintermeier, age 27, to Gertrude Herbert, age 24, both of Grand duchy Hesse, Dormstaedt, Germany.



One of the earlier marriages at Immanuel:
 Emelia Weidner/Ernst Kahlman, October 18, 1888

From the Beginning ... 1852

The history of Immanuel congregation began in the year 1845 when the Rev. J.J.F. Auch came to the Sebewaing region. At this time there were a scattering of settlers, mostly lumbermen, in this western part of Huron County. The remaining portion of the county was inhabited by Chippewa Indians.

It was to these Indians that three young missionaries were sent in 1845 by Rev. Friedrich Schmid of Ann Arbor. Rev. Schmid founded congregations, organized the Michigan Synod in 1840, and trained missionaries to labor among the children of the forest.

Missionaries sent to this area were J.J.F. Auch, Simon Dumser, and George Sinke. They had to deal with the Indian's worship of Che-mon-a-tow, the Great Spirit and spoke through an interpreter, who frequently misinterpreted much of what was said.

Shortly after their arrival in Sebewaing, the missionaries learned of a large group of Lutheran Bavarians who were on their way to the Saginaw valley to establish the settlement of Frankenmuth.

Missionary Auch traveled by canoe to meet the group and overtook them between Bay City and Saginaw. He accompanied them to Frankenmuth and helped them get settled. He was sent to Detroit where much of the group's money had been left with a Pastor Winkler. Rev. Auch carried the money in a wooden pail to the Land Office and there laid down \$1600 for the square mile of land - Frankenmuth.

Following a controversial discussion on doctrine during a Michigan Synod meeting in 1846, some left to join the Missouri Synod which had formed in 1847 and the remainder remained with the Michigan Synod. Missionaries Auch and Sinke stayed true to the Book of Concord and joined the Missouri Synod, also.

Missionary J.F. Maier replaced Rev. Dumser and served at Shebahyonk, and two groups of Indians on the AuSable River and the Au Gres River.

In 1849 the first white settlers, besides the missionaries, arrived in Sebewaing. They were Frederick and John Ziegler, brothers. In the same year John G. Haushahn arrived.

On November 15, 1850, Haushahn and Mission-

ary Maier drowned in Saginaw Bay when their sailboat capsized on a return trip from Bay City. Rev. Roeder became Rev. Maier's successor.

In 1850 more people arrived to the area and the settlement began to grow. Most of them were of Swabian stock whose parents settled near Ann Arbor during the 1830's. They were agricultural people who originally came from a region near Stuttgart, in the kingdom of Wuerttemberg, Germany.

On December 14, 1851, a group of 12 men met with Rev. Auch in the Sebewaing Mission House for the purpose of organizing a Christian congregation. The constitution which they drew up continued, with only minor alterations, for the next 90 years. They chose the name, "Deutsche Evangelish" - Lutherische Immanuels Gemeinde U.A.C." (German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.)

The first annual meeting was held February 16,

1852 with the following officers elected: Elders, Christian Auch and Martin Gremel; trustees, Gottfried Beck, secretary; Friedrich Schilling, treasurer, and Johann Muellerweiss, collector.

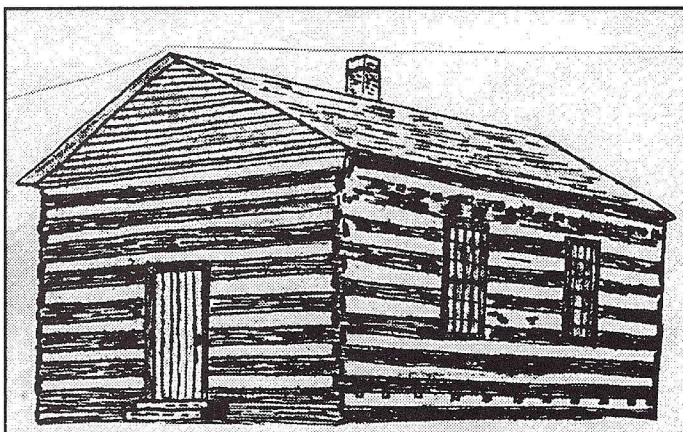
A formal call was extended to Rev. Auch, who

hesitated to accept because of uncertainties about abandoning his mission with the Indians.

Soon, however, his decision was made for him. Misled by unscrupulous Indian agents, some emigrated to Canada, others to an Indian reservation in Saginaw County. Rev. Auch could now devote his entire time to the rapidly growing congregation and accepted their call. On March 4, 1855 he was formally installed as pastor of Immanuel.

A log structure was dedicated on that same day as the first church. In 1853, Christian Auch, Gottfried Beck, and Friedrich Schilling donated six acres of land as a future building site for a church, school, and a parsonage, and another acre for a cemetery. The log building served as the church for the next 18 years.

About the time the church was dedicated, the con-



Our first church, dedicated March 4, 1855, also served as school.

gregation joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. We have been staunch supporters ever since. During 1866, Rev. Auch baptized 36 children and confirmed 27. By the end of the year the number of souls was 387, voters 86, and school children 110.

Early in 1867, Rev. Auch resigned from the ministry. Rev. George Speckhard was called to succeed him. He was offered a salary of \$600 per year plus free fire wood and house. He served the congregation for six years during which time a new church building was begun since the log church could no longer house the growing group.

The cornerstone of the new building was laid July 21, 1873, with Rev. Speckhard officiating. This was one of his last official acts at Immanuel, for a month later he accepted a call to an area near Detroit where he took charge of an orphanage which later became the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf.

On October 19, 1873, Rev. J. L. Hahn of Hillsdale was installed. The congregation now numbered 568 souls, 114 of whom were voting members. Shortly after Rev. Hahn's arrival the new frame church was dedicated to the glory of God. There were three services with the afternoon service in the English language.

The approximate cost of the new church was \$6,000 with 33,000 feet of lumber donated by members. The structure was 70 feet by 40 feet and it was topped by a steeple 85 feet high.

In 1876 daughter congregations were organized at Unionville and Kilmanagh. Both were served by Rev. Hahn until 1883, when they called pastors of their own. Caseville was served from Sebewaing for a time, but later united with Kilmanagh.

After serving the congregation for 18 years, Rev. Hahn accepted a call to Lennox in May 1891. He was succeeded by Rev. C. J. Umbach on November 29.

The first Ladies Aid society was formed in 1895. Throughout the years they continued to provide many needed resources: new bells in 1898, which are still in use today. In 1914 the frame church was renovated. The Ladies Aid furnished the electric

lights.

Rev. Umbach died February 13, 1918, after serving Immanuel for 27 years. Rev. G. F. L. List of Detroit was called as his successor. In 1923 both Senior and Junior Walther Leagues were organized. Rev. List led Bible discussions and Mr. A. E. Scheiwe guided variety programs which provided wholesome entertainment to the community. Mr. Scheiwe organized the Immanuel choir which had previously been directed by various teachers.

During the night of March 6, 1926, a terrific wind storm caused the steeple of the church to fall on the north roof of the church. It was rebuilt, but not to its former height.

The 90th anniversary of the church was observed

July 12, 1942. The special Thank Offering became the nucleus of the New Church Sinking Fund. In eight years this fund grew to \$100,000. Plans were made in 1949 to proceed with blueprints and specifications for the structure.

In August 1949, Rev. List retired. Rev. D. H. Heitner of Saginaw became the new pastor. During his tenure a new church was planned and begun. Groundbreaking ceremonies were held March 26, 1950, the cornerstone was laid July 16, 1950.

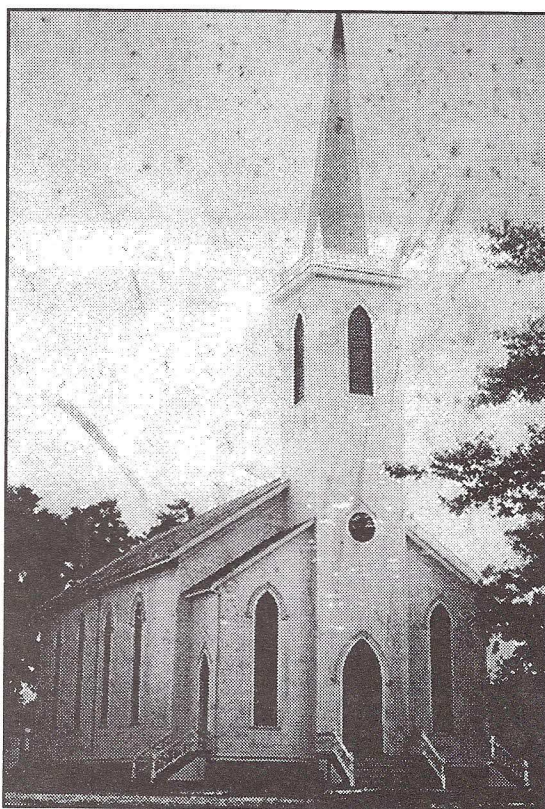
A happy day in the history of Immanuel congregation was September 16, 1951, when the new church structure

was dedicated with approximately 4,000 worshippers in attendance.

During the closing years of the first century of Immanuel's history, four new societies were organized: Lutheran Laymen's League in 1946, the Ushers' Club, Mary-Martha Guild and Couples Club in 1950.

A new tithing and sacrificial giving plan was encouraged and during 1951 the contributions averaged more than \$100 per communicant.

1951 was the Centennial Year, and four Sundays in October were designated to commemorate the



Immanuel Lutheran Church - 1873-1950

event. The first Sunday was Centennial Sunday, second, Homecoming Sunday, third, Youth and Christian Education, and fourth was Stewardship Sunday.

On May 10, 1953, Pastor Heitner was released to serve St. John's Church, Port Richmond, Staten Island, NY. Pastor E. W. Scheck of Bach became vacancy pastor. Two theological students serving at Camp Lu-Lay-Lea, Elmer E. Scheck, son of E. W. Scheck and Raymond Weber, son of Teacher Weber helped with preaching the English sermons.

On August 11, 1953, a call was extended to Rev. Walter Pieper to serve as pastor and in 1955 the congregation celebrated the 25th anniversary of Pastor Pieper's ministry.

February 10, 1958, Pastor Pieper accepted a call to St. John's in Ludington and Pastor E. W. Scheck once again served as vacancy pastor. Retired Pastor Potzger did the Sunday preaching. August 25, 1958, Rev. Gordon Light accepted the call to serve Immanuel. It was at this time that German services were discontinued.

A new revised constitution and by-laws were adopted November 11, 1963.

August 3, 1964, Pastor Light was granted a peaceful release to St. Paul's in Trenton. Assistant Pastor Mundinger assumed the vacancy until September 14, 1964, when Pastor Elmer E. Scheck accepted the call to Immanuel as head pastor.

The congregation was saddened by the sudden death of Pastor Mundinger July 24, 1965. Since Pastor E. W. Scheck was asked to assist his son, E. E. Scheck, he thus became Pastor Mundinger's successor September 13, 1965.

Repairs to the church building were completed in 1967 at a cost of \$18,779. In 1971 the interior of the church was painted by professionals and the pews refinished by volunteers. The entire task took about two months and was commemorated by a rededication ceremony, March 21, 1971. District President Richard L. Schlecht, was guest speaker.

A 20-year celebration was held with former pastors, Revs. Gordon Light and Walter Pieper serving as guest preachers. A potluck followed by a music festival conducted by A. E. Scheiwe in the gym. An anniversary book depicted the events of the past 20

years.

A historical pageant during the Sugar Festival July 15, 1973, was given by area churches in the USA junior high gym. Our congregation played a major role in planning and carrying out this event.

On July 22, 1973, Rev. Dennis Borchers was installed as assistant pastor. Pastor E. W. Scheck was to become the visiting pastor for shut-ins.

A new mission was begun in Caseville as a daughter church of Immanuel. On July 11, 1971, Rev. Terry Claus was installed as pastor of St. Paul's in Linkville and also the new mission in Caseville, Good Shepherd Church.

In preparation for celebration of the 125th anniversary in 1977, an anniversary book was planned with pictures of the families of the congregation to be taken by W. C. Hurdelbrink. The first anniversary service was held December 12, 1976 to commemorate the organization

meeting, when on December 14, 1851, a group of 12 men met with Rev. Auch to organize Immanuel congregation.

Confirmation reunion services/dinners were planned for April 24, May 22, June 26, August 28, and October 23. A giant festival service in the Sebewaing Village park took place July 10, on the final day of the 13th annual Sugar Festival. Dr. Oswald Hoffmann of the Lutheran Hour was speaker with 2,215 attending. A mission festival was held July 31. Thanksgiving Day concluded the anniversary festivals for the year with a membership of 1,732 souls.

In 1977 Immanuel began broadcasting the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service via station WKYO in Caro. This greatly enriched the worship for shut-ins. Pastor E. E. Scheck accepted a call to Wisconsin, and Pastor Darold Deterding became our new pastor in 1977.

Upon recommendation of the Board of Education, approved by voters, female teachers at Immanuel became called servants in 1978. Mr. Scheiwe reported no shortage of organ players in the future - 40 children were enrolled in his music program with half already playing the organ.

In 1979, heating units in church and school were converted to natural gas. The general budget was \$280,085. The shortage was \$49,556. Immanuel donated the Sebewaing Carillon Bell Tower to the Village of Sebewaing. It was built in honor of A. E.



New Church Dedicated September 16, 1951

To The Present ... 2002

Scheiwe at a cost of \$18,695.

Women were given the right to vote and hold office at Immanuel Church in 1983. Pastor Darold Deterding was given peaceful release in 1983, and assistant pastor Rev. Ed Arle became head pastor until 1985 when he accepted a call to St. Charles, MO. Rev. Martin Hagenow accepted our call as administrative pastor and was installed that year.

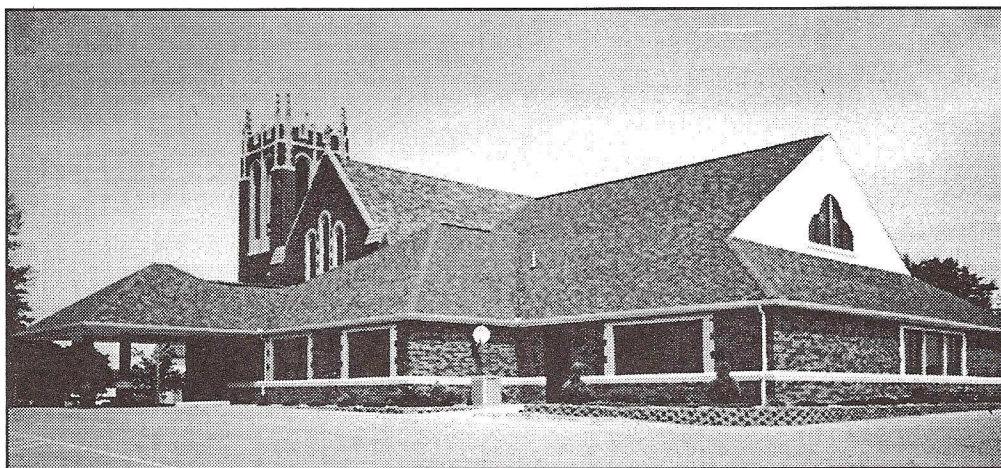
Our first vicar was assigned from the seminary: David Jay Webber. The vicar program continued until 1998. All served under the guidance of Pastor Hagenow.

A major project began on October 30, 1995, when voters approved an addition to the existing church, renovations to the school and resurfacing of parking lot. Groundbreaking ceremony took place in the spring of 1996 for the \$541,000 project. Plans included ground level gathering room, bathrooms, kitchen, pastor/secretary offices, elevator, and upgrades to Immanuel School. "Building on a Promise" was the funding project presented to members for pledging. Loan secured from Church Extension Fund. Laborers for Christ and volunteer members assisted with construction of the projects.

New project completed and dedicated January 19, 1997, with a worship service and open house.

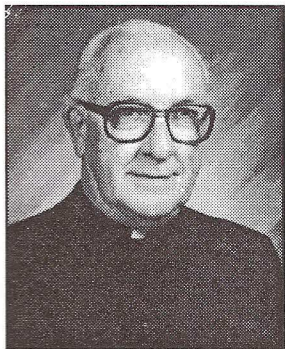
Pastor Hagenow accepted a call to St. Peter, Hemlock in November 1999 and the congregation is currently without an administrative pastor. Assisting pastors Albert Bahr and Charles Kuhl along with Circuit Counselor, Rev. Gerald Meyer of Cass City continue the work of serving the congregation members and conducting services. Church services are rearranged in order to accommodate Rev. Meyer's schedule at Cass City. Two services at 8 and 11 a.m. are introduced with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Charles Kuhl was called as assisting pastor in 1998.

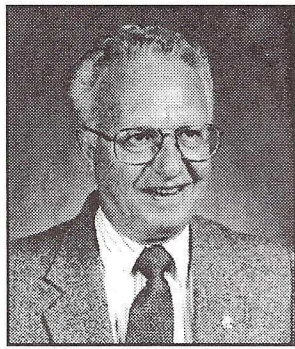


New addition to church dedicated January 19, 1997

Current Assisting Pastors:



Rev. Albert Bahr
1992 -



Rev. Charles Kuhl
1998-

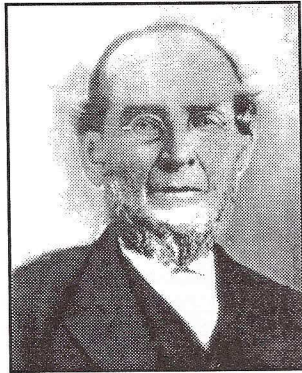
And now we move into the future with our God, who is Immanuel - God with us!

A century and a half of witnessing to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this community finds us deeply thankful for the grace and unnumberable blessings which our gracious God has bestowed upon us.

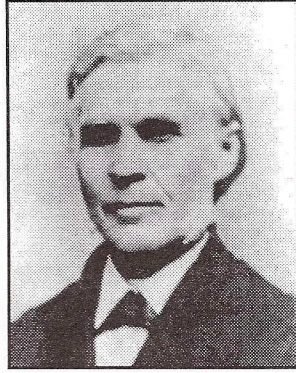
Confident that our God and Savior in Christ is with us, we will meet the challenges and opportunities the Holy Spirit will place before us and, with His help and guidance, continue to proclaim the truth both near and far, reach out to people to educate them for eternity, and invest our lives in worship, witness, and work in our beloved congregation and community.

To God be all the glory! - Pastor Albert Bahr

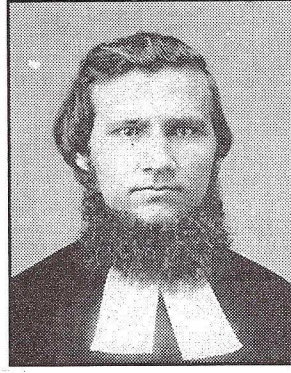
Pastors Who Served Their Lord by Serving Immanuel



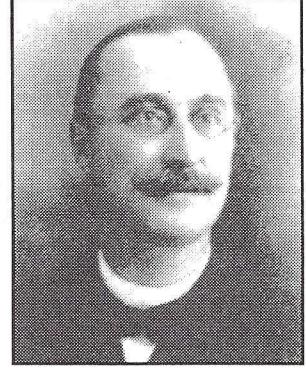
Rev. J.J.F. Auch
1854 - 1866



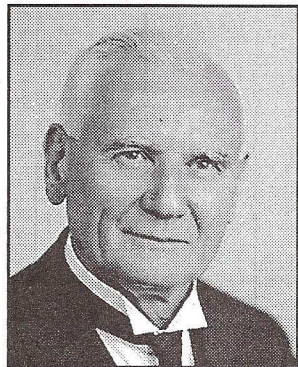
Rev. George Speckhard
1867-1873



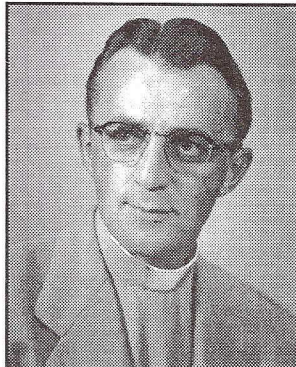
Rev. J. L. Hahn
1873-1891



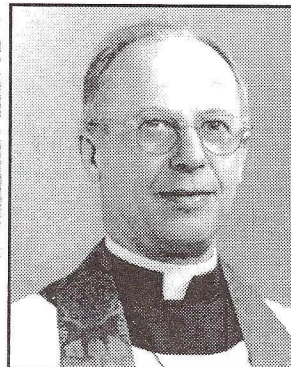
Rev. C. J. Umbach
1891-1918



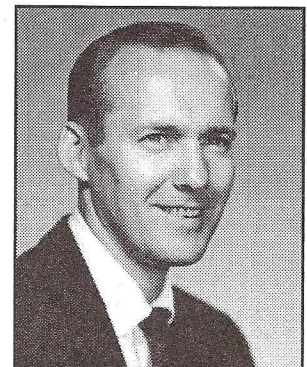
Rev. G.F. L. List
1918-1949



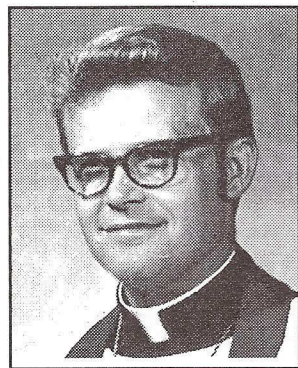
Rev. Donald H. Heitner
1949-1953



Rev. Walter A. Pieper
1953-1958



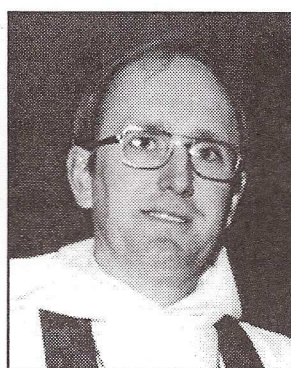
Rev. Gordon H. Light
1958-1964



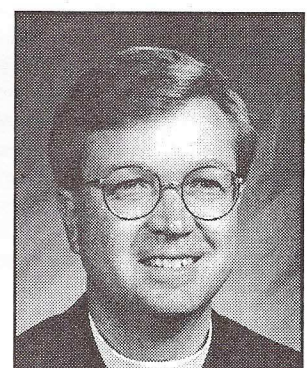
Rev. Elmer E. Scheck
1964-1977



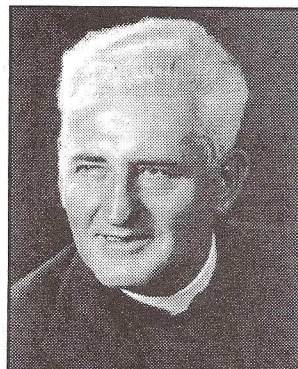
Rev. Darold W. Deterding
1977-1983



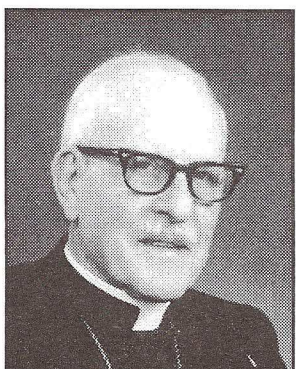
Rev. Edward J. Arle
1984-1985
Ass't. 1978-1983



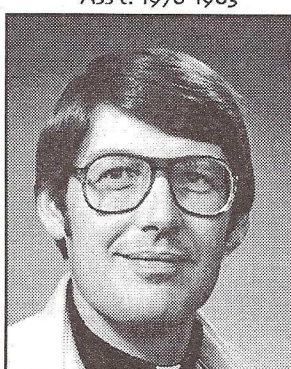
Rev. Martin J. Hagenow
1985-1999



Rev. Wm. Munding
1961-1965, Assistant



Rev. E. W. Scheck
1965-1973, Assistant



Rev. Dennis Borchers
1973-1977, Assistant

Vicars

Jay Webber	1986-87
Philip Krupski	1987-88
Douglas Spittel	1988-89
Merle Mahnken	1989-90
Wayne Huebner	1990-91
Fred Hearn	1991-92
Russell Helbig	1992-93
David MacKain	1993-94
Steven Heinsen	1994-95
Donald Wisenor	1995-96
Phillip Phifer	1996-97
John Nelson	1997-98

A Chronology of Events 1852-2002....

- 1845** - Three missionaries: Rev. J.J.F. Auch, Rev. Simon Dumser and Rev. George Sinke arrived in what is now Sebawaing to preach the Gospel to the Chippewa Indian tribes of the area, about 240 people.
- 1847** - Missouri Synod was organized
- 1849** - First white settlers, brothers Frederick and John Ziegler and families came to the area
- 1851** - More settlers arrive including Christian Auch, the missionary's father. On December 14, 12 men met with Missionary Auch to draw up a constitution to organize a Christian congregation. The name Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Immanuel's Gemeinde, U.A.C. was adopted.
- 1852** - On February 16, the first meeting of the new congregation was held. Officers were elected and a call to Missionary Auch was extended. The first constitution was ratified. School instruction was begun at the same time.
- 1853** - Messrs. Christian Auch, Gottfried Beck and Friedrich Schilling donated six acres of land as a building site for a church, school, parsonage and another acre for a cemetery.
- 1855** - March 4, Rev. Auch formally installed as pastor of Immanuel.
- 1866** - Rev. Auch baptized 36 children, confirmed 27. Number of souls 387, voters 86, school children 110.
- 1867** - Pastor Auch resigned from the ministry, Rev. George Speckhard was called. His salary was \$600 per year, plus a free dwelling and free firewood.
- 1872** - Congregation resolved to build a new house of worship.
- 1873** - Cornerstone for new church laid July 21. October 19, Rev. J. L. Hahn installed as pastor. New church dedicated with three services. A belled bag/pouch (klingelbeutel) was used for gathering offerings.
- 1875** - A choir was begun by teacher Andrew Kuch
- 1876** - Daughter congregations begun at Kilmanagh and Unionville.
- 1878** - Congregation voted to replace log school, a two story frame building erected across the street, west of cemetery for less than \$1,500.
- 1882** - Congregation purchased its first pipe organ, a two-manual Flegemaker, used until 1950. Organ pumper received \$15 yearly.
- 1893** - A branch school was opened on McAlpin Road which operated until 1913.
- 1895** - On May 1, Ladies Aid was organized by Pastor C. J. Umbach, 23 charter members.
- 1898** - Ladies Aid donated new bells, they still serve the church.
- 1900** - Congregation purchased land on which the Picnic Grove was located.
- 1912** - Daughter congregation started at Bach.
- 1914** - The frame church was renovated, galleries enlarged, windows were provided with colored art glass. Ladies Aid furnished the electric lights.
- 1915** - Printed financial reports were issued-first time.
- 1917** - New school built, \$24,000. Dedication August 12.
- 1918** - Congregation introduced the envelope system and plate collection.
- 1923** - Jr. Walther League was organized by Rev. G.F.L. List with 40 charter members, and Sr. Walther League organized by Rev. List and Alfred Scheiwe.
- 1926** - On March 6, a windstorm caused the church steeple to fall on the north roof of the church.
- 1927** - Immanuel Choir was reorganized by A. Scheiwe.
- 1938** - Valparaiso Guild organized with 33 charter members.
- 1944** - Sunday School begun and met the 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month. Herbert Richter led the primary group and Frank Marquardt led the advanced group.
- 1945** - On November 18, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League was begun by Pastor List with 44 ladies signing the constitution.
- 1946** - Beginning January 1, Sunday School will meet every Sunday. On January 13, a planning committee was elected to initiate plans for a new church. Adult Bible Class was begun by Alfred Scheiwe on February 3. LLL was started with 60 charter members.



Immanuel School children in 1891 with Teacher Miss Mary Gremel

- 1949** - On January 23 a resolution was made to construct a new church. Architects, Merritt and Cole.
- 1950** - A contract for new church was given to Engelhardt Construction of Bay City on March 12, \$240,000. Razing the old church on March 25 took six days, groundbreaking was on March 26. The following groups were organized: Usher's Club, Couples' Club, and a church nursery was started May 2. The cornerstone was laid for the church on July 16.
- 1951** - Present house of worship dedicated September 16. Approximately 4,000 attended the services.
- 1951** - Children's choir started.
- 1952** - Immanuel's Centennial was celebrated with services and a pageant. The thankoffering amounted to \$9,836. During the first century, there were 3289 baptisms, 2467 confirmations, 829 weddings and 1373 burials.
- 1952** - First Mother/Daughter banquet by Mary Martha Guild.
- 1953** - Last school picnic in Picnic Grove June 14
- 1954** - School hot lunches were begun.
- 1955** - Girls' choir started.
- 1956** - Groundbreaking for new \$240,000 school addition. Enrollment 238.
- 1957** - On August 25 dedication of school addition. Ladies served Smorgasbord to 800 people.
- 1958** - German services discontinued in August.
- 1959** - Alfred Scheiwe started a class to teach students to play the organ in church.
- 1960** - Decision made on September 12 to build a new parsonage, 2400 square feet with attached garage. Builder is Carl Rummel, Jr.
- 1962** - Parsonage dedicated June 17.
- 1963** - Constitution was revised and adopted November 11.
- 1964** - Hard Surfacing of the parking lot.
- 1967** - Major repairs of church roof/walls, \$18,779
- 1968** - Golden Age Sunday was observed May 1, honoring Immanuel members 70+, 100 in attendance.
- 1970** - Church greeters initiated.
- 1971** - Voting membership extended to all male communicants who reached the age of 18 years. Interior of church painted and pews refinished. New mission church begun in Caseville. Ladies Aid completed more than 600 quilts in the last 20 years.
- 1973** - First Vacation Bible School
- 1974** - Dedication of Good Shepherd Church in Caseville
- 1975** - Bethel Bible Program started
- 1976** - December 12, special service held for 125th anniversary. After 125 years: Baptisms, 4136; Confirmed, 3527; Marriages 1187; Burials 1822. There were year-long reunions, services and dinners planned with a festival in Village Park on July 10, during the 13th annual Sugar Festival. Dr. Oswald Hoffmann was speaker. Current church membership is 1732 souls and 1391 communicants. Budget for 1977 is \$232,962 local; \$41,000 Synodical. Total, \$274,962.
- 1977** - Dan Beringer accepted call to teach, installed June 19, 1977. Pastor Dennis Borchers gets release to First Lutheran Church, Missouri Valley, IA.
- 1978** - Recommendation from Board of Education that female teachers of Immanuel School be eligible as called servants. Accepted.
- 1979** - Heating units changed to natural gas. Beginning in January of next year, voters' meetings are open to all members of the church.
- 1980** - Sebewaing Village given gift, with rights to ownership and maintenance, the Carillon Bell Tower. Mary Martha Guild supplied Cherub Choir with new gowns. Church Secretary Arlene Kunisch retires.
- 1982** - Constitution amended, age of voters lowered to 18. Introduced Synod's new hymnal, 800 ordered.
- 1983** - Women given right to vote and hold office. Peaceful release given to Rev. Darold Deterding. Pastor E. W. Scheck retires.
- 1985** - Pastor Martin Hagenow installed.
- 1986** - A new congregational photobook published. First Vicar arrives: David Jay Webber.
- 1987** - Richard Cohrs accepts call as principal/teacher. Immanuel School vandalized. A. E. Scheiwe honored in June for 65 years of dedicated service. Eugene Kunisch land donated to Immanuel in honor of Hilbert Bergman by Hilb and Amanda Bergman.
- 1988** - Budget - \$536,825. PTL Auction nets \$4,400.
- 1989** - New paraments dedicated in December 24 service.
- 1990** - Budget - \$580,927.
- 1991** - Speakers installed by narthex by Don Bauer. Special Sunday School recognition for Edna Engelhardt for 25 years of teaching Special Education classes.
- 1992** - Pastor Albert Bahr installed as assisting pastor. 140th Church Anniversary celebrated. August Meinecke, 1st Vice President of the LC-MS, preached both services.
- 1994** - Sunday School celebrates 50th anniversary
- 1995** - Ladies Aid celebrates 100th anniversary on May 2. On October 30, voters take a bold step to make the church handicapped-accessible, build a gathering room at ground level, and install an elevator.
- 1996** - Groundbreaking ceremony for new addition. Church services to be held in gymnasium of school until renovations completed.
- 1997** - Teacher Dan Beringer and Principal Rich Cohrs celebrate 25 years in the teaching ministry. New addition/renovations dedicated Sunday, January 19. New principal/teacher moves to community - Gary Marxhausen.
- 1998** - St. Paul/Unionville school and Immanuel/Sebewaing school merge as: Christ the King Lutheran School.
- 1999** - Mary Martha Guild observes 50th anniversary, publishes cookbook. In November Pastor Hagenow receives release to accept call to St. Peter/Hemlock. Richard Wroblewski retires as Sunday School Superintendent, replaced by Teacher Jim Bunke.
- 2000** - Parsonage updated and renovated. As of December 31, 943 communicant members, 181 children. Total 1,124 souls.
- 2001** - June 30, After 150 years, the following acts were performed: Baptisms 4649; Confirmed 4055; Marriages 1465; Burials 2233. Mortgage burning ceremony from Church Extension Fund loan for 1996 addition/renovations. Dan Beringer, Gary Marxhausen, Bonnie Schamber celebrate 30 years each in teaching ministry. Pastor Bahr surprised by congregation November 11 on his 50 years in the ministry.

150 Years of Christian Education

When our fathers drew up the constitution of Immanuel congregation 150 years ago, they included this wise provision, "There shall always be an elementary school connected with the congregation."

At the first meeting under the new constitution held February 16, 1852, it was resolved to begin school and religious instruction at once. Confirmation instruction was to be offered every other Saturday from 2-5 p.m. The meager circumstances of our fathers prevented them from engaging a regular teacher, so the pastor willingly took charge of this work for the first 14 years.

Until 1855 the Mission House in town served as school. After the dedication of the first church, March 4, 1855, classes were conducted in that building.

Immanuel School opened with 12 pupils, but the number increased rapidly. Available statistics give the following: 1852, 12; 1854, 23; 1855, 34; 1858, 43; 1860, 59; 1862, 70; 1866, 110.

During the first seven years school was conducted only three hours each day. The summer vacation lasted but four weeks. Practically all instruction was in the German language.

"Christenlehre" or catechism instruction was offered to the confirmed youth every Sunday to make educated, Christian citizens for the 21st century.

The school furnishings were rather primitive in the early days. There were no regular school benches and no blackboards until 1867, and those introduced were homemade. One of the first visual aids was a map of the world purchased in 1866.

The parents were required to furnish a load of split firewood and a tuition fee of \$1 per year for each child sent to school.

Our educational program has undergone many and great changes during the 150 years of its existence. The most recent and significant change occurred in June of 1998 when the Voters' Assembly voted overwhelmingly to merge schools with St. Paul in Unionville.

With approval of the voters from both congregations, Christ the King Lutheran School was formed. Now in its fourth year, Christ the King operates

two campuses with the preschool through second grade at the Unionville campus, formerly St. Paul School and the Sebewaing campus housing the third through eighth grade.

Pastors from both congregations play an instrumental part in the religious instruction of our youth. The two faculties formed one faculty who continually work together to proclaim the Gospel to our young.

The merger also brought a Director of Youth and Family Ministry who works with both churches. However, our objectives remain the same today as they were in the beginning; namely, to make disciples for Jesus Christ and to make educated, Christian citizens for the 21st century.

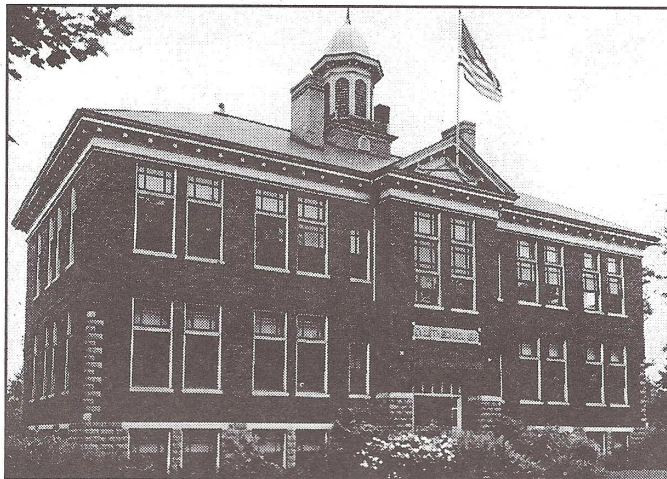
In reviewing the history of our educational program we can see very clearly that God has been with us. Several thousand children have been instructed in the truths of God's Holy Word and have been trained in Christian living, besides receiving a quality education as prescribed by the state of Michigan.

During all those 150 years the school has been blessed with consecrated and dedicated Christian teachers. Our school has always enjoyed the respect, not only of the congregation, but also of the community at large. As of the 2001-02 school year, 166 students are enrolled at Christ the King School, K-8.

A large majority of the members of our congregation have supported the school morally, by sending their children there, and financially, by providing funds necessary for its operation.

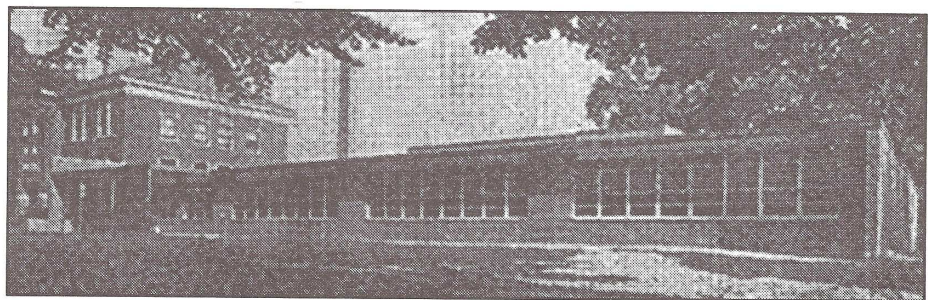
During all these years, God's Word has been taught in its truth and purity. For these immeasurable blessings, let us give all thanks and praise to God. May God continue to shower His grace and blessing upon our program of Christian Education in the years that lie ahead.

- Principal Gary Marxhausen



New school dedicated August 16, 1917

Immanuel School Addition Dedicated August 25, 1957



Teachers Who Fed Immanuel's Lambs Through 150 Years

Rev. J. J. Auch 1852-67
 Carl W. Trettin 1867-69
 Rev. George Speckhard 1869-71
 Andrew Kuch 1871-82
 Elizabeth Gremel 1880-84
 E. Dress 1882-91
 Mary Gremel 1884-92
 Herman Hahn 1891-1901
 Otto von Renner 1892-95
 Alfred Barthel 1895-98
 L. Appold 1899-1940
 Ferdinand Schmidt 1901-04
 C. L. Manske 1904-40

Teachers of the Branch School,
 3 1/2 miles E. of Sebewaing on McAlpin Rd.

M. D. Ahrens 1893-97
 F. A. Wiedewald 1898-1900
 Carl G. Riess 1901-13

Branch School discontinued 1913

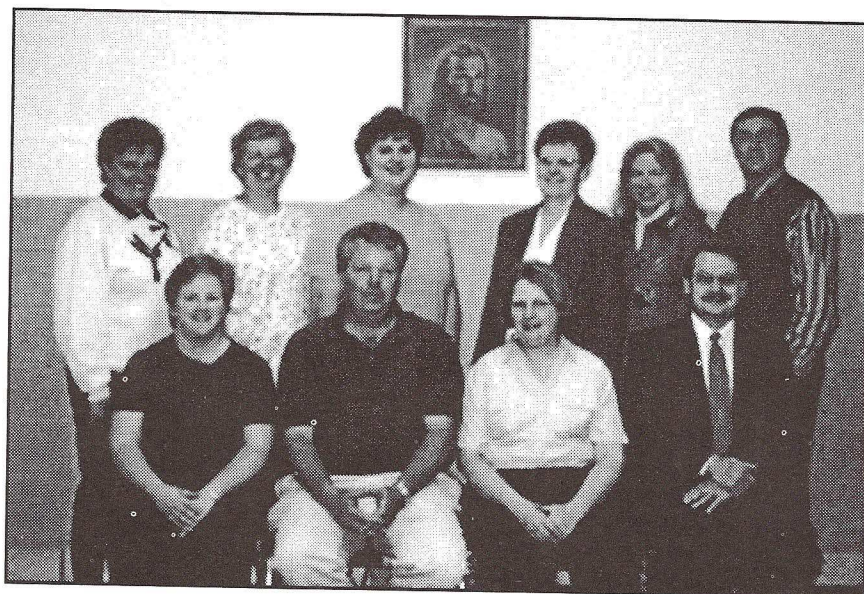
Clara Gremel 1907-10
 Elmer Gremel 1910-11
 Elsie Umbach 1911-12
 Frieda Roese 1912-21
 Elmer Heinitz 1921-22
 Bernhard Roth 1921-22
 Emma Reck 1922-27
 A. E. Scheiwe 1922-72
 Esther Knief 1927-29
 Frank A. Marquardt 1929-68
 J. P. Baden 1940-44
 H. W. Richter 1944-52
 Herman L. Glaess 1950-54
 Werner Wichmann 1952-67
 Norma Scheiwe 1952-53
 Alma Denner 1953-75
 Wyman Pape 1954-61
 Betty Volz 1954-56
 Audrey Wutzke 1955-57
 Alberta Pape 1956-61
 Dorothy (Scheck) Schaus 1957-59; 1974-84
 Sally (Schwartz) Hahn 1957-61

Denise Rockstroh 1960-61
 Jane (Schaumburg) Mester 1960-62
 Mrs. Roland Preuss 1959-60
 Elsie Hanke 1959-60
 Gilbert Mueller 1961-86
 Erma Rummel 1961-63
 Ann Friedt 1961-62
 Mrs. R. Ebert 1962-63
 Janice Vogel 1962-68
 Edward Schmidt 1962-67
 Mrs. Norbert Gaeth 1967-68
 Virginia Palubin 1963-70
 Richard Wroblewski 1967-99
 Ronald Bruesewitz 1968-73
 Ronald Laczko 1968-69
 Carol Coon 1968-70
 Chris (AuBuchon) McAlpine 1969-74
 John Warnke 1970-76
 Penny Warnke 1970-73
 David Bickel 1972-78
 Linda Hopp 1973-74
 Stuart Bauer 1973-77
 Judith Johnson 1974
 Sally Rosenthal 1974-75
 Karen Volz 1975-81
 Dianne Strohacker 1975-77
 Kenneth Marotzke 1976-77
 Daniel Beringer 1976-
 Adrian Hanft 1977-78
 Kathy (Stecker) Westby 1977-84
 Jim Bunke 1978-
 Kurt Hofmeister 1978-98
 Lorene Zagata 1979-87
 Marlene Mueller 1981-92
 Gloria Beringer 1984-
 Julie Wenzel 1984-89
 Steven Stange 1986-87
 Richard Cohrs 1987-96
 Arlene Cohrs 1988-97
 Sharon Werschky 1989-

Gary Marxhausen 1997-
 Kaye Hofmeister 1997-98
 Jennifer Millerwise Jan-June 1997
Merger of St. Paul/Unionville &
 Immanuel/Sebewaing Schools 1998
 Bonnie Schamber 1998-
 Rebecca VanTol 1998-
 Cindy Engelhard 1998-
 Rachel Gwizdala 1998-2000
 Rebekah Seng 1999-2001
 Connie Bunke 2000-
 Deb Kundinger 2001-

2001-2002 Faculty

Front, Deb Kundinger, Dan Beringer, Gloria Beringer, Gary Marxhausen; back, Cindy Engelhard, Bonnie Schamber, Rebecca VanTol, Sharon Werschky, Connie Bunke, Jim Bunke



Non-Teaching Staff



Pam Geiger - Church Secretary
& Church Organist

Office Secretaries



Carol Mammel - School



Hot Lunch

Amber Abbe
Melissa Roberts



Custodians: Carol Reige
Bob Wiltse

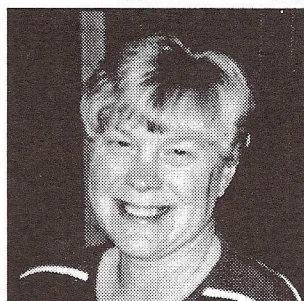


Deb Smith, Hot Lunch
Nutrition Coordinator

Organists and Music



Dan Beringer, Music Director



Sheree Goebel



Diane Kuhl



Sandy Kuhl



Madeline Irion
Saturday Pianist

Boards and Council

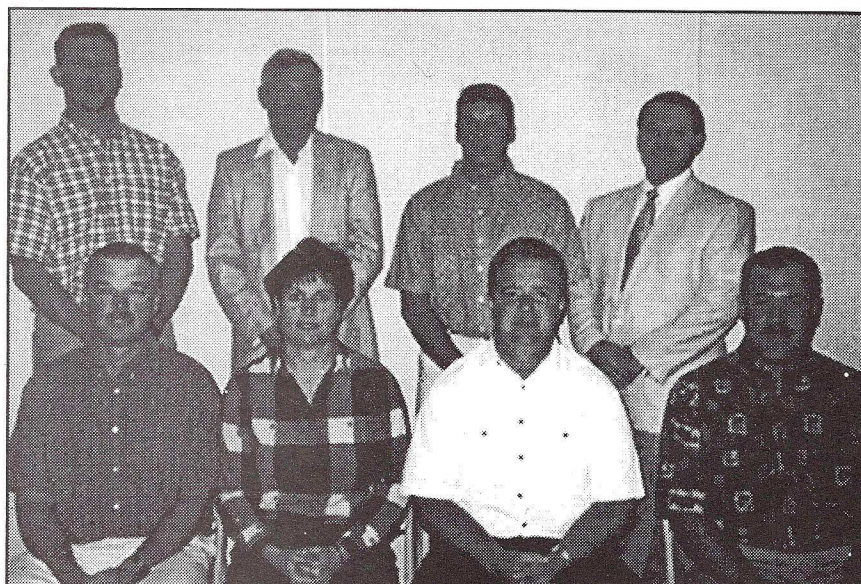


Board of Elders

Front row, Vacancy Pastor Gerald Meyer, Assisting Pastor Charles Kuhl, Dennis Bolzman, chairman, Don Loeffler; back row, Rod Truemner, Gordon Hoffman, Tim Smith, Mark Krauss. Missing, Richard Gremel.

Christ the King
School Board

Front row, Lynn Ewald, Cheri Bohn, Jon Link, Steve Gangler; back row, Jeff Williamson, chairman, Gary Wissner, Jeff Anker, Principal Gary Marxhausen. Missing, Mike Walz.

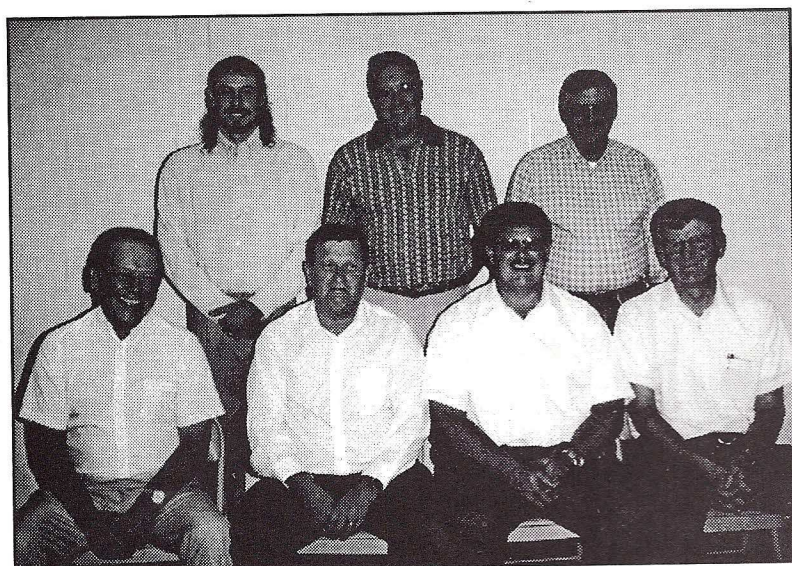


Church Council

Front row, Joan Hofmeister, Arlene Myers, Fran Davis, Norm Hensel; back row, Randy Bickel, Richard Wroblewski, Ron Winter, Vacancy Pastor Gerald Meyer, Jeff Williamson, Dennis Bolzman, Gary Marxhausen.

Church Officers

Front row, Joan Hofmeister, secretary/treasurer, Judy Gregory, financial secretary, Linda Wiltse, assistant financial secretary; back row, Mark Wiese, president, Norm Hensel, vice-president.



Board of Trustees

Front row, Glenn Vogel, Carl Hoppe, Craig Rieman, Charles Bumhoffer; back row, Jason Kuhl, Ron Winter, chairman, Larry Adam.

Youth Board

Front row, Sheree Goebel, Gail Genow, Sarah Kemp, Peggy Walz; back row, Wayne Goebel, Dale Truemner, Rebecca VanTol, Randy Bickel





Board of Stewardship

Front row, Marilyn Fritz, Joan Walz; back row, Tracy Herman, Fran Davis, chairman. Missing, Jim Koch

Board of Evangelism

Front row, Betty Engelhardt, Sandy Lindemann, Richard Wrobleski, chairman; back row, Karen Dast, Joanne Harder, Dave Schnitker. Missing, Duane Rieman.



Board of Finance/Counters

Jean Wissner, Fred Gregory, Alice Pommerenke, Karon Nietzke, Glen Wissner, Norma Baur, Sue Lupp, Frank Gregory, Arlene Myers, Linda Wiltse.

150th Anniversary Committee

General Chairman	Carol Truemner
Publicity	Joan Hofmeister, chair
Publication	Erma Rummel, chair, Betty Guenther
Worship/Music	Glenn and Janice Vogel, chairmen
Special Events	Mike Walz, chair, Walt Rummel, Betty Guenther, Fran Davis
Art	Richard Wrobleski, chair, Lynette Walz, Janet Sharpsteen, Paul & Diane Strieter, Mary Bauer, Ethyle Beletsky, Lorna Highducheck, Fran Davis, Joanne Bach, Gordon Pommerenke, Suzie Claerhout, Kristi Claerhout
Historical Events	Gerald & Kathy Millerwise, chairmen, Ray & Darlene Werschky, Glen & Jean Wissner, Ken & Dorothy Wenzel, Edna Lutz
Hospitality	Betty Guenther
Pictorial Directory	Mary Lou Adam, chair, Judy Halstead, Jean Kuhl, Kris Jahr, Florence Liken, Marie Liken
Sales	Connie Gremel, chair, Deb Krauss
Videographer	Norm Hensel, Kerry & Gloria McKellar
Confirmation Pics	Loide Bahr, chair, Marie Liken, Alice Pommerenke



150th Anniversary Committee:

Clockwise from top, Lorna Highducheck, Janet Sharpsteen, Carol Truemner, Deb Krauss, Mary Lou Adam, Edna Lutz, Richard Wrobleski, Connie Gremel, Norm Hensel, Glenn and Janice Vogel.

Memories of the Picnic Grove Area

In 1900 Immanuel congregation purchased land on the north side of Bay Street, west of Auch Street, to provide a picnic grove and outdoor worship area.

Mission festivals were held there on a chosen Sunday in August, with outdoor worship and visiting missionaries in morning and afternoon services.

Around 1920, school teachers and trustees planned a program for the afternoon on the Sunday following the last day of school. Generally the program consisted of a picnic, with flag drills by students.

Soon after the arrival of Teacher Alfred E. Scheiwe in 1922, flag drills gave way to musical and dramatic efforts. After organization of the Walther League, Mr. Scheiwe presented a picnic evening program with musical groups, soloists and plays.

From the beginning, buildings were being erected to accommodate the various activities. A kitchen was built, equipped for food and meals prepared at home by lady members. Rustic

tables and seats were built where diners could eat their meals. Stands were added, with drop-down sides that opened to become counters for children and adults to purchase candies, lemonade, pops, pie, and cigars for the men. There was always a cashier on hand during these events, usually

a banker, who sat at an elevated table in the center of the main stand, prepared to make change and keep count of money for the clerks.

In time, a bowling alley was built which operated for many years as part of the "Grove complex". A fire of unknown origin destroyed the alleys sometime in the late 1920s.

Lemonade was made in 20-gallon crocks, with a lemonade-meister in charge, who supervised "hand-squeezing", usually by school board members, who operated concessions for many years.

For Immanuel pupils "Picnic Sunday" was a long-awaited event. Immediately following the Sunday service, in German at that time, students rushed to their school rooms to receive their "free" tickets. Lemonade tickets were unlimited, and there were several "nickel" tickets, each good for a candy bar, chewing gum or ice cream cone.

For those unwilling or unable to spend money or tickets for lemonade or soda pop, there was a water wagon which held a huge black iron tank, full of refreshing water. A single heavy metal cup, tied to the wagon by a cord, served as the only drinking vessel.

During the 30's, trustees and elders constructed cinder building blocks, that were notched on one end and set upright on the other, to hold steady the fitted wooden planks that seated the hundreds of members and guests. After each day's activi-

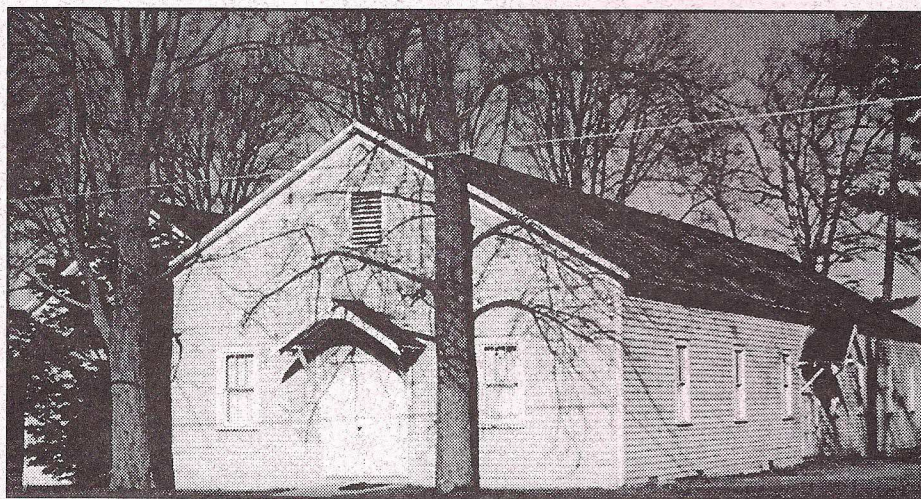
ties, the planks were removed and stored under a large stage that had been constructed at the north end of the picnic grounds.

The stage was in constant use during the "Scheiwe years" until mid-century, when athletic events gained greater following. In 1965 the stage structure was purchased by Gerald Millerwise, who dismantled it and used the lumber to erect his garage at his home, on Fifth Street.

Impossible as it seems now, one of the features at picnics was a target shooting range, at the north end of the grounds. For 10c, any would-be marksman was allowed five shots with a .22 caliber repeating rifle. A large background of heavy boards held a round target with bullseye center, which rang when the bullet hit the tiny spot. No accidents or wild shots were ever reported.

In 1906 a third teacher was necessary for the day school and the congregation voted to purchase a frame building from Sebewaing Public School, to be moved south of the church.

Primary grades were taught in that building until the new school was dedicated in 1917. The frame building was then moved into the Picnic Grove area, where it was used as a confirmation instruction room, and later became the kitchen for a dining hall, which was built following



Immanuel Dining Hall - December 21, 2001

the bowling alley fire.

The dining hall became a busy place as the old church had no basement and no dining or meeting room facilities. Through the years the dining hall was used for serving hot lunch for the school children, making noodles for the annual bazaar, quilting, rag bees, funeral dinners, wedding/confirmation dinners, and for years was the Ladies' Aid facility for serving dinners to hundreds of Sugar Beet growers, as was also done by several other churches in the community. One of its never-to-be-forgotten purposes was to be Immanuel's "church" while the 1952 structure was being built. Later, the dining hall building became invaluable as the site for the Couples' Club annual rummage sale.

As church and school facilities were enlarged and upgraded in the latter part of the 20th Century, the dining hall was used less and less. Finally, in 2001, the Board of Trustees recommended to a voters' meeting that the dining hall be razed due to prohibitive costs of continuing repairs.

As Immanuel's Sesquicentennial year began, the days of the noble old structure are clearly numbered, and the Church Grove is becoming more and more of a memory. For a century of service and good times, blessed richly by our Lord, the complex of the Grove, the stands, the stage and the dining hall, remain in the hearts and minds of those who labored and played there.