

# 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.

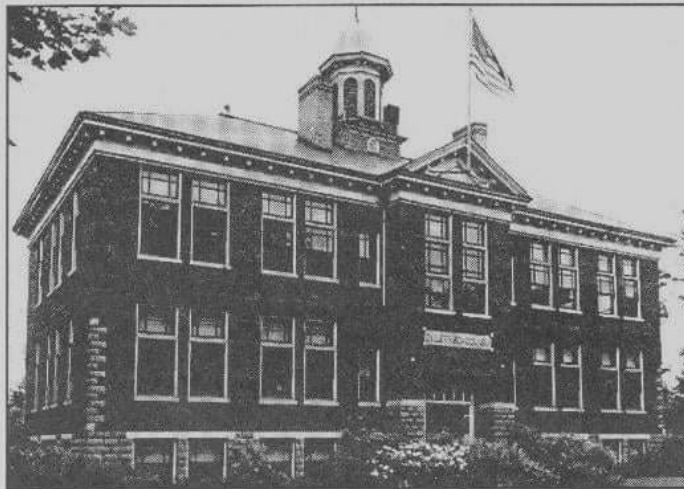
In reviewing the history of our educational program we can see very clearly that God has been with us. Several thousand children have been instructed in the truths of God's Holy Word and have been trained in Christian living, besides receiving a quality education as prescribed by the state of Michigan.

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.

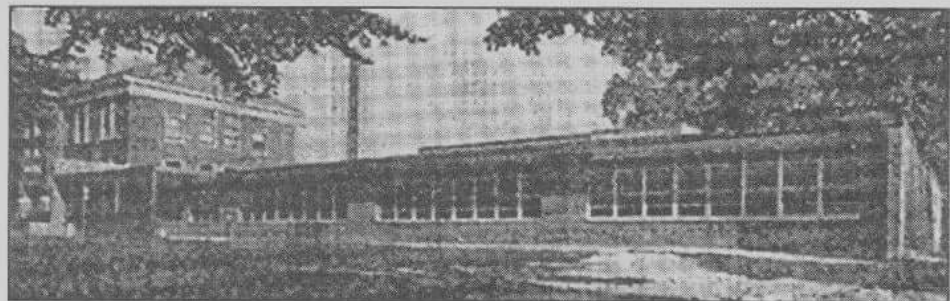
During all these years, God's Word has been taught in its truth and purity. For these immeasurable blessings, let us give all thanks and praise to God. May God continue to shower His grace and blessing upon our program of Christian Education in the years that lie ahead.

- Principal Gary Marxhausen



New school dedicated August 16, 1917

Immanuel School Addition Dedicated August 25, 1957



**Immanuel Lutheran School History, Sebewaing, Mich., as written by Principal Gary Marxhausen**