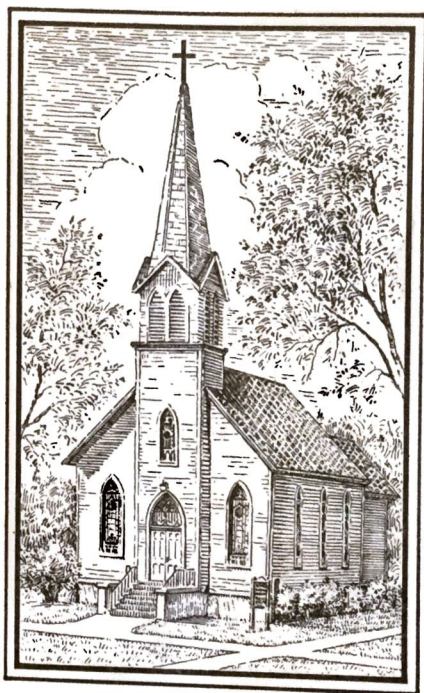


E. J. Fleming



Fiftieth Anniversary

IMMANUEL CHURCH
EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED

HINSDALE, ILLINOIS

HISTORY OF IMMANUEL CHURCH

In writing the history of Immanuel Church we must start with St. Johns Evangelical church of Fullersburg. St. John's is truly the mother of the Hinsdale church.

The Fullersburg church was built in 1879. Before the year of 1860 Fullersburg or Brush Hill as it was then called, seemed to be the place which was destined to grow rather than Hinsdale. It was situated on Ogden Avenue, or the Plank Road, as it was called in those days, and was on the most important road between Chicago and Naperville. However, the coming of the railroad in 1863 and 1864 changed all that. The Burlington Railroad decided to lay their tracks a little farther south and so fate intervened in favor of Hinsdale instead of Fullersburg.

The village of Hinsdale was incorporated in 1873, when there were about 300 to 400 people living there. Shortly after that time quite a German settlement sprang up in Hinsdale, most of the people coming from the province of Hannover of Northwest Germany. At home they spoke their native Plattdeutsch, or Low German. Of course there was also a sprinkling of people from other parts of Germany. In 1888 the Missouri Lutheran Synod organized the Zion Lutheran Congregation and erected a church building at the corner of Second and Vine Streets. Quite a few Germans joined this church. Some, however, especially those from Hannover, were not satisfied that this was the church which they had belonged to in Germany. The feeling to have some church affiliation was, however, strong and so they directed their eyes to the Fullersburg church. At that time Rev. Frederick Braun was pastor in Fullersburg. He was the son of Frederick Braun, who with his family had come from Baden, South Germany, and a brother of William Braun. The Hinsdale people made an arrangement with Rev. Braun to preach for them on Sunday afternoon in Gardner's Hall on Chicago Avenue and Lincoln Street, which later became the home of the Swedish Baptist Church. This, however, did not work out very good and the people decided to join the Fullersburg church as members and attend the services there. It was quite a ways to walk. There were wooden sidewalks in Hinsdale but they

stopped at Ogden Avenue. Many of the Hinsdale men were carpenters and all handy with a hammer, so they built a sidewalk from Ogden Avenue to the church. Rain or shine, even the children walked every Sunday to attend Sunday School.

Rev. Braun had a good Men's Choir. The men who later joined Immanuel Church were: Julius Kanning, Fred Loehman, Fred Schmidt, Gus Reinke, John Rohr, Bill Wenz, William Braun and Henry Horstman.

After Rev. Braun left, Rev. Bloom was called as a pastor. Not very long after that there was some disagreement between Rev. Bloom and quite a few members, and the Hinsdale people decided to start their own congregation. They got in touch with Rev. Carl Luedeke, who was pastor of a church in Grossdale (now Brookfield) who agreed to preach alternately in the morning and afternoon. On August 7, 1898 the Hinsdale Congregation was organized with Rev. Luedeke as resident pastor, under the name "Deutsche Evangelisch Lutherische Immanuel's Gemeinde." There were seven charter Members: William Vornsand, Frederick Braun, William Braun, William Horstmann, Julius Kanning, Fred Loehman and Gus Reinke. Wm. Vornsand was elected President, Wm. Braun Financial and Recording Secretary. Services were held in Fleck's Hall, a building which stood near the Southeast Corner of Lincoln Street and Hinsdale Avenue. In September 1898 a Frauen-Verein was organized with nine members. A small reed organ was purchased and Wm. Braun was the organist for the church services. During the disagreement with Rev. Bloom an appeal had been made to the Evangelical Synod of North America of which St. John's church was a member. The Synod decided in favor of Rev. Bloom and the Hinsdale people thought they had not received a fair deal. For this reason they decided to remain an independent church.

Rev. Luedeke was pushing vigorously the idea of building a church, which materialized in 1900. Wm. Vornsand was the contractor and all the carpenter work was done by the members.

Wm. Braun started a Men's Choir with seven members. After the church was built he organized a mixed choir,

with twelve members. The organ was placed on the balcony and here the choir practiced and sang during the Sunday services.

There was a big pot-bellied stove in the corner where now the choir seats are, and a chancel was built on the wall above the altar where now the organ is. In front of the congregation in the Northwest corner was a pew for the Herren Vorsteher (Councilmen). All services were held in the German language. The back room was furnished with old fashioned school benches with a desk in front of them. Here the Sunday school assembled and the minister also held school every Saturday for several hours, to teach the children reading and writing high German and to supplement Sunday School lessons.

The money for the church building was raised through subscriptions and the rest borrowed on notes bearing 6% interest from members and friends. The dues for voting members were \$8.00 per year minimum. Anyone who did not pay that much during the year could not vote at the January meeting. The biggest source of making money was the annual picnic, which was a Sunday School and Congregational picnic combined. The first two picnics were held at Chicago Avenue and the Tri-State Highway, which was then part of a farm owned by Jack Wenz, a member. After that they were held in the woods east of the County Line, near 47th Street, an ideal place. These picnics became quite a success and money maker. The only other source of making money was the basket social, which was very popular in those days. They were held in the school room where the space was limited. So once the people rented Everden's Hall for that purpose. That night Herman Kanning and Fred Vornsand gave a few short skits and after that there was a dance, something unusual for those times.

Some of the congregation started to talk about building a parsonage. This was erected in 1908 at a cost of \$1,600.00. Wm. Vornsand was again the contractor. While the first floor of the parsonage was the minister's residence, with an additional bedroom upstairs, the rest of the second floor was left as one large room which was to be used for meetings and entertainments.

In the fall of 1908 Rev. Luedeke left and the congregation had to look for a new minister. Not knowing where to find one they turned to the Evangelical Synod which of course was happy to oblige, although the congregation insisted on retaining their independent status. Rev. E. Kroencke was unanimously elected. However he only stayed two and a half years and left in the spring of 1911 stating that he wanted to try his luck on a farm in Missouri which he owned.

In the January meeting of 1909, Herman Kannenberg was elected Financial and Corresponding Secretary, which office he held for fourteen years.

During these years quite a number of young people had grown to the age of 16 to 18 years. This group Herman Kannenberg formed into a theater group with great success. On April 16, 1910 they came before the public with a big show at Fleck's Hall which was quite a success. The second big show was given May 30, 1911, in the Hinsdale Club Auditorium. There came play after play from then on, under the auspices of the choir, the Ladies Aid and later the Men's Club. Smaller entertainments with short plays were given in the parsonage hall. Short religious plays were also introduced in the Christmas Eve Sunday School program.

Rev. Max Stommel came in 1911. During his stay there arose quite an agitation for the English language in the church, with the result that English was used exclusively in the Sunday School while services were held twice a month in English. Rev. Stommel left in 1917 and Rev. Stanger was elected to be his successor. Wm. Vornsand resigned as president and Wm. Braun was elected to this office. By this time the animosity against the Synod had died out and in 1918 the Church united with the Evangelical Synod of North America. The congregation was incorporated under the name: Evangelical Immanuel Congregation.

The use of the Parsonage Hall had proved to be quite an irritation for the ministers' families so it was decided to build a basement under the church. This was accomplished in 1920. A steam heating unit was installed at the same time. A stage and a kitchen were also built.

In the same year the Men's Club was organized.

In 1921 Rev. Stanger received a call from the church in Matteson, which he accepted and soon thereafter Rev. Wm. Moenkhaus became pastor of Immanuel.

The lot south of the church building, which had been vacant ever since the church was built, had been used by the congregation for several years for moonlight picnics, the picnics on County Line Road having been abandoned due to the uncertainty of the weather. This lot was purchased by the congregation in 1923. Under the leadership of Alfred Kroencke, who had become quite active in the church, a Bazaar was held in 1922 in the church basement. Quite a number of booths were erected and the financial success exceeded the greatest hopes.

Always on the alert for improvements of the church, the congregation decided to have a pipe organ installed, inasmuch as the little reed organ, which had been in use 25 years, was beginning to give out. The organ was purchased and was dedicated November 25, 1923, at the time of the 25th Anniversary celebration of the church. Professor Stanger of Elmhurst College played the organ and after that gave a number of organ concerts to help defray the cost of the organ. The choir was then moved from the balcony to the front of the Sanctuary.

Rev. Moenkhaus left in 1924 and the congregation called Rev. Otto Lauxmann as their pastor. During this year Mr. Kannenberg made an offer to the congregation to install a stained glass window in the church in memory of his wife's father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Braun, charter members. This offer was accepted and the whole congregation took up the project with the result that stained glass was put in all windows. One window was dedicated to the memory of the first pastor, Rev. Carl Luedeke.

Rev. Lauxmann resigned in 1926 and Rev. H. Barth was called as a pastor. On August 15, 1926 the congregation had a celebration for Rev. and Mrs. Barth on account of their Silver Wedding and Rev. Barth's 25th Anniversary as a minister. In 1928 Rev. Barth received a call from another church and left.

There had long been some talk of uniting Immanuel's Hinsdale and St. John's Fullersburg. With this point in view Rev. Dreusicke of St. John's was approached and he agreed to serve both congregations. It developed, however, that the time did not seem ripe for such a merger and in 1931 the arrangement with Rev. Dreusicke was cancelled.

On New Year's Eve 1930 a fire started on the roof of the church, but owing to the early discovery and a quick response of the Fire Department, the damage was not very large.

At the annual meeting in January of the same year it was decided to discontinue the picnic and to urge the members to increase their subscriptions to offset the loss of revenue.

In October 1931 Rev. Walter Luedtke was called as Pastor. He had been assistant Pastor of St. Peters Church of Chicago and had just been married. The Hinsdale Congregation gave him and his bride a rousing reception with a Kitchen and Pantry Shower.

In the summer of 1932 Rev. Luedtke started a Vacation Bible School which proved to be a great success and was held annually during the following years. In the same year Rev. Luedtke started the "Messenger" as a regular monthly church publication which was received with great interest. The choir was outfitted with choir robes.

In 1933 the congregation bought a new communion set, consisting of trays and small cups.

After serving nine years as president Wm. Braun resigned and Alfred Kroencke was elected in his stead. Mr. Braun also resigned as choir director and organist. Rev. Luedtke took over the choir. Mrs. Marion Shaper and Mrs. Florence Full served as organists. The congregation honored Mr. Braun with a party and presented him with a comfortable Easy Chair. However he continued to serve as Treasurer of the Benevolence Fund, on the Board of Christian Education and as delegate to the Synodical Conference.

In 1934 an important decision was made, namely to discontinue at once and altogether all church services in the German language as there were not enough people left who attended such services.

In the same year Rev. Luedtke started the Memorial Fund. To this Fund members pay money as a perpetual memorial to loved ones who have gone to their reward. The funds are allowed to accumulate and invested and only the interest received may be used for church expenses. This fund has grown now to over \$1,000.00.

In January 1935 Alfred Kroencke resigned as President and A. J. Full was elected for the unexpired term. In January 1936 C. Kirchner was elected President.

On July 3, 1935 the church steeple was struck by lightning. Fortunately there was no fire.

In 1937 a new roof was put on the church building and the exterior repainted. In July 1937 a Birthday Club was started. Members of this club receive a birthday card and in return make a donation to the Fund. This has been a nice revenue to the church finances. A. J. Lehman is the treasurer of this fund.

Early in 1938 the steam boiler cracked and it was necessary to secure another one. Mr. Carl Theidel presented the church with a boiler. This, however, was so large that a new boiler room had to be built and at the same time the kitchen was enlarged and modernized to make it easier for the ladies to serve dinners and banquets.

On October 2, 1938 the Congregation celebrated their fortieth Anniversary with appropriate church services in the morning and evening and an Anniversary Banquet on October 5th. Mr. Wm. Braun made an interesting talk of the old times.

In January 1939 A. J. Full was elected President.

In 1940 the interior of the church was newly decorated.

In 1941 the basement was redecorated.

In October 1940 Wm. Braun died. With him passed a personality which for many years had dominated the policies of the congregation more than any other man. He was the last one of the original charter members.

The congregation adopted the Pastor's Pension Fund, by which 5% of the Pastor's Salary was paid to the Synodical treasurer.

In January 1942 Victor Brod was elected President. A booklet "The Upper Room" for family devotion, was voted to be bought and to be sent free to all members.

In February 1943 Rev. Max Stommel, who had retired from active service and had moved back to Hinsdale, was made an Honorary Member of Immanuel Church.

In 1944 a stoker was installed.

In the meeting of January 2, 1945, Rev. Luedtke announced that the Ladies' Aid had given \$450.00 to the General Treasury in order to pay up all outstanding debts. On January 28th a note burning ceremony was held during the regular morning service.

Frank Braun was elected President.

On April 26, 1946 the church gave a banquet for the returned Service Men of our congregation in the Community House, which was quite a success.

In May 1946 Rev. Luedtke tendered his resignation, having received a call from another church. He left in August after a successful ministry of fifteen years. The Congregation gave him a farewell party and presented him with a handsome gift.

After Rev. Luedtke left the church was confronted with the problem of continuing the publication of the Messenger. We were very fortunate in securing the services of Carl Homann and Marie Pelz as editors. They have done an excellent job and the Messenger is now bigger and better than ever before.

Rev. Dean Plassmann was called to fill the vacancy and started to serve in September. The Congregation gave a welcome party for Rev. and Mrs. Plassmann on October 13th.

On October 13, 1946 Rev. Dean Plassmann was installed as pastor of Immanuel Church by his father, Rev. Ewald Plassmann, President of the North Illinois Synod.

On March 21, 1947 the motion picture "King of Kings" was shown in the sanctuary.

Inasmuch as the exterior of the church building and the parsonage needed painting badly, talk on how to raise the money had been going on for some time. In June 1947 the "Penny A Meal" plan was adopted by the congregation for one year. Under this plan little banks representing a church were to be distributed among the members and the contents to be collected regularly by a group of men every first Monday in the month. Banks were distributed in July and the first collection made in August. The result of this plan has exceeded all expectations. After the last collection in July 1948 there was a balance of \$2,124.40 in this fund. The contract for the painting was given out and the congregation will have the satisfaction of having the church and the parsonage shine forth in new splendor. It was decided to have another collection in October and another one in January and let the congregational meeting in January decide whether to abolish the plan or continue it.

Much credit is due Mrs. Chas. Lang. She was the one who proposed this plan and explained it in detail. She also kept a faithful record and accounted for all moneys collected for this fund.

In January 1948 A. J. Lehman was elected President. The Board of Religious Education, which had been in existence for a number of years, was placed in an inactive status due to the fact that under the present operation of the Evangelical and Reformed Church General Synod this Board is no longer necessary.

In March 1948 Rev. Dreusicke and Rev. Mallick were made Honorary Members of Immanuel Church.

A ballot which had been taken regarding the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed churches with the Congregational Christian churches indicated our church in favor of the merger by a very large majority.

In July 1948 a Link Belt Stoker was donated by Mr. John Oestman, to be installed in the parsonage.

Due to the merger of the Evangelical Church with the Reformed Church, the Council voted to use "Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church" as the official name of the congregation.

The Bensenville Home has been a major Missionary project of the Hinsdale Church. Besides all work done by the Women's Guild, we have since 1931 made a regular yearly money contribution to the Home which now amounts to more than \$2,500.00.

The year 1948 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the congregation, which event will be appropriately celebrated. On October 17th at 9:15 A.M. the Church School will have an anniversary Program. At 10:20 A.M. there will be a Worship Service at which Rev. Moenkhaus and Rev. Barth will preach. At 7:30 P.M. there will be a Worship Service where Rev. Luedtke will be the speaker. On the two services Rev. Stommel will be the Liturgist. At the Worship Service at 10:20 A.M. on October 24th Rev. E. H. Plassman, President of the North Illinois Synod, will preach the sermon. At 7:30 P.M. the Choir will give a sacred concert. Each Society will have a certain evening on which they will entertain the congregation with a special program and refreshments.

The Congregation looks into the future confident that they will grow, not only materially, but spiritually, demonstrating their awareness of their high calling, proclaiming that they are messengers, working for the glory of the Lord and Good Will towards all men.

The Church School

In 1888 a group of German people in Hinsdale, desirous to find some church connections, made an arrangement with Rev. Frederick Braun of St. John's Church at Fullersburg to preach to them on Sunday afternoons and also conduct a Sunday School. When this whole venture proved to be unsatisfactory and the people in 1889 joined St. John's Church as members, the children also went to the Fullersburg Sunday School.

When Rev. Luedtke was called as resident pastor of Immanuel Church in 1898 a Sunday School was started in Hinsdale with William Braun as Superintendent. From a picture of those early days we surmise that the attendance was about twenty eight children.

In 1917, H. Kannenberg assumed the duties of Superintendent until 1921 when A. J. Full was elected to that office. Ethel Busch was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Mr. Full resigned in 1942 and Rev. Luedtke acted as Superintendent. Mrs. Irma Butler became Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Agnes Giesler took her place in 1945 with Mrs. Florence Full as her assistant.

In 1946 Elworth Rohr was elected General Superintendent with Mrs. Martha Rohr as Primary Departmental Superintendent. Mrs. Agnes Giesler is still Secretary-Treasurer. We now have a Senior Department which assembles in the Sanctuary and a Primary Department which meets in the church basement.

The classes and teachers are as follows: Adults, Rev. Plassmann; Seniors, Frank Braun; Intermediates, Carl Hiller; Juniors, Mrs. Dorothy Hiller; Primary, Mrs. Ellen Henriksen; Beginners, Miss Dorothy Rae Hiller; Nursery, Mrs. Mildred Homann.

The enrollment is 78 in the Senior Department and 27 in the Primary Department.

The Primary Department is very much elated over the acquisition of four miniature church pews which are set on the basement stage and are going to be used for devotional period during the Sunday morning session. They are of knotty pine and have been built by Carl Homann who spent much time and labor to make a perfect job. The material has been donated by the Mother's Club. The idea for the small pews was originally suggested by Mrs. Mildred Homann who also designed them.

THE CHOIR

The first choir was organized by William Braun. It was an all men's choir and practiced in Fleck's Hall where also the services were held. William Braun was the choir

director and organist. The original members were: John Horstman, William Loehman, Julius Kanning, Albert Strohle, Wm. Vornsand, Fred Loehman and Julius Braun.

After the church was built Wm. Braun formed a mixed choir. The members were : Louise Braun, Sophie Rohr, Bertha Loehmann, Mamie Kanning, Minnie Horstmann, Julius Kanning, William Loehmann, Fred Loehmann, Fred Meyer, August Reinke, Carl Luedeke, John Horstman. In 1900 Herman Kannenberg joined the choir.

In 1907 the membership of the choir had changed entirely. Of the original members of the mixed choir only John Horstman was left. The others were: Minnie Gliessman, Sophie Gliessman, Ida Horstman, Annie Springborn, Olga Gille, Mamie Wolf, Tilly Vornsand, Lulu Graehling, Lizzie Horstman, Lizzie Rohr, Alvine Springborn, Alfred Vornsand, Fred Vornsand, Willie Gliessman, Dick Hageman, Henry Gliessman, Fred Wolf and John Graehling.

Before 1907, at one time or other, other choir members were Walter Luedeke, Edward Luedeke, Frank Wolf, Fred Gliessman, Lena Treppenstedt.

After being confirmed, anyone was allowed to join the choir, provided they were able to sing. The same rule holds good today.

It is interesting to note that all those mentioned above, Mamie Wolf, now Mrs. John Horstman is the only one who is still a member in the present choir. She joined after her confirmation in 1903 and has been an active member ever since. She was honored this year with a picnic and a lovely gift.

For many years the members have been paying regular dues in order to be able to pay for the music and entertainment. At first the dues were 10 cents per month. Since then they have been raised to 25 cents per month. With the advent of the annual concert much pressure has been taken off the dues in regard to the music problem.

William Braun had directed the choir until 1933 and also had been his own organist. When he resigned Rev. Luedtke took over as director and another organist of much the

same caliber as Mr. Braun was acquired in the person of Mrs. A. J. Full. When Mrs. Full was unable to continue, the duties of organist were assumed by Mrs. Marion Braun Schaper, who continues to this day and is certainly on a par with her father and Mrs. Full. The choir also has now an able assistant organist who is willing to help, namely Mrs. Dorothy Hiller.

WOMEN'S GUILD

This organization was started in October 1898 under the name: Frauen Verein der Deutschen Evangelisch-Lutherischen Immanuels Gemeinde. The first officers were: Mrs. John Sommerkamp, President; Mrs. Fred Braun, Treasurer; Mrs. Wm. Horstman, Secretary. Other members were: Mrs. Wm. Wentz, Mrs. Jake Wentz, Mrs. Gus. Reincke, Mrs. Julius Kanning, Mrs. Wm. Loehman and Mrs. Wm. Vornsand. Their first meetings were held in Fleck's Hall, some time later in the homes of members. Meetings were conducted in the German language.

The main object of the Society of course was the raising of money for the congregation. At first they sponsored some Basket Socials. In April 1903 such a Social netted \$29.50, for the sale of pillows they netted \$26.10. Later the Society branched out by giving bake sales, Family Evenings, Bunco Parties and Dinners and they actively participated in Picnics and Bazaars. Their first dinner was given in what is now Stebbins Store.

In the minutes of April 1903 we find a resolution that the Society was to furnish two carriages for the funeral of any member. We have no recollection whether this resolution was ever carried out. During this year the Society paid \$100.00 towards the debt reduction. Until 1905 the Ladies paid the Pastor's Salary.

In the same year Mrs. Dorteia Loehman was made an honorary member. She was the mother of a fine group of sons and daughters who were all active in church work but have all passed away. At her funeral in December 1914 Rev. Stommel gave tribute to her christian character by preaching on the scripture passage "She has kept the faith".

In the January meeting of 1903 Mrs. Karl Theidel was elected Secretary, which office she held to the end of 1916. In 1918 she was re-elected for one year. So she has fifteen years of service as Secretary to her credit. She is the last one of the faithful group of the early years of the church and is now honorary member.

In 1904 the Ladies started to work for the Bensenville Home. Happy days are recalled when the Ladies rode to the Home on a hay-rack for their visits. There never was any shortage of good times and entertainment.

Another interesting resolution is found in the minutes in 1904 namely: Resolved that in the meetings only Coffee, Bread, Butter, Meat or Cheese be served. Any member who serves more has to pay a penalty of \$1.00.

When the parsonage was built in 1908 the meetings were held in the Parsonage Hall. The Ladies owned no dishes and did not have the modern conveniences of today. All food had to be carried from their homes to the hall already prepared as there was no stove to prepare the meals.

On February 3, 1922 the Society arranged a surprise party in the church basement for Mr. and Mrs. Fred Mochel on the occasion of their 50th Wedding Anniversary. The whole congregation was invited and many turned out to offer their congratulations.

In March 1923 a resolution was passed that the minutes of all meetings should be written in German as well as in English. This was quite a chore for the Secretary but was faithfully kept till the end of 1925. Then the German language was dropped altogether. Due to the predominance of the English language the name of the Society without any special resolution had been changed from "Frauen Verein" to "Ladies Aid".

In their meeting of November 1923 the members present told of their experiences as a member of the Aid. Mrs. Karl Theidel stated that she now had been a member for 25 years.

In March 1932 a resolution was passed to join the Women's Suburban Federation of the Evangelical Synod. Delegates

to their Conventions have been sent by the Aid regularly.

In April 1933 the Aid gave their first Mother and Daughter Banquet.

In January 1942 a resolution was passed to join the Women's Guild, a national organization of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The Aid besides paying their annual dues, took no active part in the program of the Guild until the end of 1946 when a resolution to that effect was passed and the name of the Ladies Aid was officially changed to the Women's Guild of the Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church of Hinsdale, Illinois. A supporting membership for the Vice President was purchased from the Northern Illinois Synod Women's Guild.

In May 1945 it was decided to "adopt" two children of the Bensenville Home every year for whom the Aid will have to buy clothing and toys for Christmas.

The Aid sent a gift on the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Theidel's 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 30th.

For years the Ladies have faithfully provided flowers for the altar at the Sunday services.

MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club was organized in 1920 and had its first meeting in the newly built basement. The object of the Club was to provide for the men of our church an evening of fellowship together, interest them as a unit in the projects of the church, and furnish them with various kinds of entertainment. Wm. Braun was the first president. It was decided to collect dues of 25 cents per month. We opened the meeting, as we are still doing, with a song, followed by a prayer by the Pastor, after which the business meeting was held. This was closed by another song and the Lord's Prayer spoken in unison. After that came the entertainment. The first one was a rubber horse-shoe game, which held the interest of the men for two years. There followed a miniature golf course.

In 1921 the Club felt strong enough to venture forth with

a minstrel show and several playlets which were given on September 26th.

In December of 1926 the Club gave another play "Captain Rackett" for three nights.

In the same year Herman Kannenberg introduced the Dart Ball Game which he had seen being played by the Men's Club of the Evangelical Church in Toledo, Ohio. The game went over big. Our Club is now a member of a Sub-urban Dart Ball League with eleven other Men's Clubs.

1926 to 1928 proved to be the hayday of the Club. Alfred Kroencke, who had been very active in church affairs also took hold of the Men's Club and made it his aim to increase its membership. Under his leadership the number of active members rose to about fifty. Mr. Kroencke also was instrumental in the purchase of a Moving Picture Machine which was used for the entertainment of the members. On January 21, 1927 a religious picture was shown in the Sanctuary depicting scenes of the life of Christ. Rev. Luedtke introduced the Father and Son banquet which was held regularly every year. A Christmas party was inaugurated and it finally was decided to make this a party for the ladies. These parties were very much enjoyed.

The war came and hit the Men's Club pretty hard. The membership and attendance dwindled to a handful until finally the walls of the basement seemed to exude a chilling coldness, which we tried to escape. Then a plan was suggested that we meet in the houses of the different members. This was accepted and for several years we enjoyed the hospitality of the different homes. Rev. Luedtke always gave a talk about some interesting topic: church history, mission enterprises, race problems and others, which proved to be quite interesting. The lady of the house always provided an appetizing lunch after the meeting, which of course was very much enjoyed, and thoroughly appreciated. Finally, however, a motion was made to move back to the basement.

We had long ago discarded the collection of the regular dues and now have a system of passing the hat at the meeting for voluntary contributions and we have fared better

than under the old system. Last year the Father and Son banquet, which had been dropped during the war, was resumed and also the Christmas party with the ladies. The Dart-ball game also came into its own again and is going strong.

On July 1, 1937 we joined the Churchmen's Brotherhood, but interest in what this society stands for never materialized until February 14, 1947 when we were presented with a charter by the General Secretary of the Brotherhood. The motto of the Churchmen's Brotherhood is: One is your Master, even Christ, and all ye are brethren. We have been using literature issued by the Brotherhood office for our discussions and learned about their home and world missionary projects.

The Men's Club has during its 28 years of existence been interested in all church affairs, donating to the church treasury according to their ability. For years we have paid also a regular monthly contribution to the Bensenville Home. The Club has had its ups and downs and sometimes the light has been dim. But there has always been a loyal group of men to raise up the torch and save it from being extinguished.

MOTHER'S CLUB

Mother's Club was founded by Mrs. Elworth Rohr, December 1943. Mrs. Rohr, a born leader, is very capable of organizing a group and keeping it together.

The first meeting of this organization was a Christmas Party for the mothers and children of the Primary and Cradle Roll Department of the Sunday School.

The first regular meeting was held on January 18, 1944. Those present at this meeting were Mrs. Herbert Bredt, Mrs. Earl Peterson, Mrs. George Douglas, Mrs. James Byrne, Mrs. Carl Homann, Mrs. Arthur Bluder and Mrs. Elworth Rohr.

From this meeting the Club carried on until the present time, when first actual officers were elected and took over beginning January 1946. Mrs. Henry Henriksen was the first President, and Mrs. Arthur Bluder Treasurer.

Mother's Club is affiliated with the Sunday School and its purpose is to interest mothers in the development of her child, spiritually, mentally and physically.

Each year the Club sponsors one child from our Bensenville Home, at which time the child is remembered at Christmas and Birthday. A list is secured from the Home as to what the child desires, and needless to say the Mothers furnish everything that is asked for by the child and are happy in the thought that they are making an unfortunate child happy at Christmas and Birthday time.

Our project at the present time is collecting clothing for infants and small children of Bensenville Home, which will be carried on for the entire year.

Membership in the Club is open to all mothers who enroll their children in the Cradle Roll or Primary Department of the Sunday School of Immanuel Evangelical and Reformed Church.

CRESCENT CLUB

December 14, 1943 was the date of the first meeting of what is now the Crescent Club.

Up to that time there had been no group or organization of any kind to interest the young people over the eighteen year mark. Winifred Rohr and Rev. Walter Luedtke had discussed this before and decided that an organization of this kind was needed if the young people were to be kept from drifting away from the church. It would also give the returning veterans something to come to in the church.

The group which consequently was organized was known as "The Lamplighters" or the "Draft Age Club" for the ages from eighteen to thirty five.

This original group had its devotion as well as games, music and singing.

The group held together for the next few years and averaged about eight or ten members per meeting.

The obstacles were many and the disappointments greater and we of the present Crescent Club can thank Winifred Rohr for her untiring efforts to hold the group together. There were no real officers but Winnie was the leader and with the help of Rev. Luedtke kept the infant organization together.

It was not until the April 1944 meeting that the present name "Crescent Club" was adopted.

In December of 1944 it was finally decided that the group was strong enough to become an organization with elected officers, and the following people were elected to guide the destiny of the club: Ruth Douglas, President; Irene Ebert, Vice-President; Gertude Vogt, Secretary; Violet Goletz, Treasurer.

Now the Club was beginning to function as a real organization of the church. A constitution was drawn up and the first Sunday of each month was designated as the night for the meetings. The Club was now averaging about twelve to fourteen members per meeting.

In the last two years, bringing it up to the present time the Club has grown and is active in church work. It is now a club which hopes to be able to keep the young people of our church with us.

Several changes have been made and the age limit has been raised to admit more young people. It is now eighteen and up. We must remember that we must keep our young people with us because in the years to come, they will be our church. It is the only organization our church has that offers the opportunity for a husband and wife to attend as a group together for devotion and diversion.

In January 1948 the Club bought a Sound Track Motion Picture Machine for the price of \$500.00. This machine may be rented by any church organization upon payment of a nominal maintenance fee. The money for the machine was mainly raised by selling newspapers collected from the church members. It has already been used to good advantage. The Motion Picture Machine bought years ago by the Men's Club had no sound projector and had fallen into disuse. It could not be operated anymore.

The present officers of the Crescent Club have the pleasure of leading and serving a fine group that boasts a membership of approximately forty members, and averages between twenty to twenty five persons per meeting.

This is a far cry from the Lamplighters and the Draft Age Club which was our beginning.

Let us remember that had it not been for the perseverance of Winifred Rohr, whose untiring efforts kept the group together, there might not have been any organization today.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Youth Fellowship was started on October 11, 1945. Their object is to get the young people at the age from fourteen to eighteen in closer touch with the aim and workings of the church and train them to some responsibility of participating in the general church program. Any boy or girl is eligible for membership immediately after their confirmation.

At the first meeting the following officers were elected: Herb Brei, President; Donald Lehman, Vice-President; Dorothy Hiller, Secretary; Helen Hageman, Treasurer. Other young people present at the meeting and joining as members were Richard Brei, Kenneth Busch, Catherine Busch, John Runnels, Dolores Drallmeier, Allen Drallmeier, Chuck Lang and Allen Vornsand.

Miss Theresa Landbeck is Counselor and is doing a fine job in directing the activities of the club.

This group has joined and is affiliated with the greater organization of the Youth Fellowship of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and is deriving much benefit from this association.

At their meetings they have a worship and a recreation period. On May 13, 1948 they invited their mothers to a Mother's Day Party on which evening they had Dean Alfred Friedli of Elmhurst College as a speaker. On June 9, 1948 they held a Father's Day party for their dads.

In an organization of this kind entertainment must not be neglected. They have a standing reciprocal agreement with the Youth Fellowship of the Kloeckner Memorial Church of Chicago (where Rev. Moenkhaus now is pastor) for a once a year entertainment. On May 4, 1947 the Hinsdale group entertained the Kloeckners with a hay ride party. On April 25, 1947 they went to Elmhurst College. Once they went on a moonlight cruise on Lake Michigan and have visited Riverview Park twice.

This Youth Fellowship has a great future before them as they start early in life to prepare themselves for the responsibilities that will be theirs when they become the mainstay of Immanuel Church.

Immanuel Church Directory, 1948

Dean G. Plassmann, Pastor

Mrs. Marion Schaper, Organist

Historian, Herman Kannenberg

IMMANUEL COUNCIL

CHURCH BOARD

Albert J. Lehman	President	
Alfred C. Wolf	Vice-President	
Denton S. Turner	Corresponding Secretary	
Carl W. Hiller	Financial Secretary	
Richard Pelz	Treasurer	
Arthur Schulz	Treasurer for Benevolences	
James Byrne	Joseph Blazek	Carl Homann
Victor Brod	Lawrence Johnsen	Mrs. Irma Skinner
	Trustees	

GENERAL CHURCH SCHOOL

Elworth Rohr	Superintendent
Mrs. Agnes Giesler	Secretary and Treasurer
Mrs. Martha Rohr	Primary Departmental Superintendent

CHOIR

Edward W. Gottermeyer	Director of Choir
Mrs. Marion Schaper	Organist
A. J. Lehman	Financial Secretary-Treasurer
Mrs. Dorothy Hiller	Assistant Organist
Mrs. Lillian Schulz	Corresponding Secretary

WOMEN'S GUILD

Mrs. Doris Mueller	President
Mrs. Lillian Schulz	Vice-President
Mrs. Florence Vornsand	Secretary
Mrs. Ella Lehman	Treasurer

MEN'S CLUB

Denton S. Turner	President
Oscar Dreusicke	Secretary
Victor Brod	Treasurer

MOTHER'S CLUB

Mrs. Adeline Peterson	President
Mrs. Helen Busch	Vice-President
Mrs. Ellen Henriksen	Secretary
Mrs. Kathryn Johnson	Treasurer

CRESCENT CLUB

Carl Homann	President
Helen Busch	Vice-President
Mrs. Ruth Rohr	Secretary
Ralph Busch	Treasurer

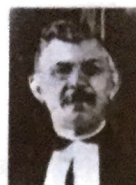
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Elmer Busch	President
Cecil Johnston, Jr.	Secretary
Robert Hiller	Treasurer

HONOR ROLL

Edwin Rohr,	John Gliessmann,
Theresa Landbeck,	Everett Raub,
Barney Garberson,	Walter Homann,
Walter Goletz,	William Rimbey,
Henry Lehmann,	Willis Rohr,
Frederick Vornsand,	Charles Loehmann,
Herbert Molzahn,	Walter Klinkig,
Fred Landbeck,	William Goletz,
William Winter,	Albert Vogt,
Charles Bluder,	Ralph Busch,
Elsworth Fleming,	George Hogrewe,
Ronald Rimbey,	Edwin Lehmann,
William Vornsand,	Allen Clineff,
Russell Claxton,	Drucilla Vornsand,

LOST IN ACTION
John Loehmann,



Rev. Carl Luedeke
1898 - 1908



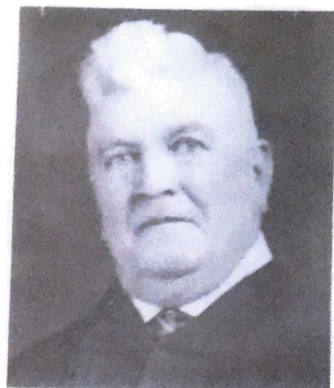
Rev. E. Kroenke
1908 - 1911



Rev. Max Stommel
1911 - 1917



Rev. Wm. Moenkhaus
1921 - 1924



Rev. H. L. Barth
1926 - 1928



Rev. A. Dreusicke
1928 - 1931



Church School



Women's Guild



The Choir



Men's Club



Mother's Club



Crescent Club



Youth Fellowship

Mrs. Marion Schaper,
Organist



Carl Homann - Marie Pelz
Messenger Editors