

In October, Immanuel will celebrate 115 years in ministry. This month we will hear about:

Outreach Efforts



Mike Nelson, Father Moran, Connie Lindborg giving check for \$1000 for Group home in 1972

Immanuel has been involved in a variety of outreach projects over the years. From 1971-1973, financial support, personal time and talents of the congregation were give to the Council Groves project, the Half-way House, the Handi-Shop (now Goodwill Industries) and Boy's Foster Home (now Youth Homes)

Three Thousand Dollars starts Big Projects- Memory by Connie Lindborg

In 2002, we collected recordings of members telling about their memories of Immanuel. This one was recorded by Connie Lindborg, wife of Dick Lindborg.

Hello Everyone. This is Connie Lindborg. Almost 46 years ago in 1956 I married Dick Lindborg a lifetime member of Immanuel. That same year I also became a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Both Dick and I have served our Lord as members of church council, choir, church school teachers, builders and workers in the everyday facet of Immanuel's lifetime.

Immanuel members have always reached out into the community to perform needed service projects. 30 years ago (in 1972) Immanuel played a major role in community outreach projects that are still thriving today. Thousands of lives have been touched in one way or another.

I haven't yet been able to find out where the \$3000 came from. I'm famous for that. I find some money and all I knew was how to spend it. But Immanuel had it and it was approved to be spent on community outreach in the form of seed money to get things started on three designated community projects. Originally the projects were for a halfway house for alcoholics, a home for the handicapped or the mentally handicapped and a low income housing complex. Somewhere along the line the halfway house and the home for mentally handicapped were dropped and in their place Goodwill Industries and a group foster home for boys received the \$1000 seed money.

Carl Wetterstrom served on board of directors for what is now called Council Groves Low Income Housing who else got a

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Local Outreach by Connie Lindborg (continued)

\$1000 of seed money. Katie Argo served on the board of directors for Goodwill Industries. (*originally called Center for Handicapped*)

Pastor John Nelson and myself went to the courthouse to visit Jerry Johnson who handled was the man who handled all the youth and their problems or were in trouble with the law. I remember Pastor John asking him if he thought there was a need for a group foster home in Missoula. Jerry Johnson was so elated to say the very least. You would have thought we handed him a million bucks. And here it was just some seed money to get things started. So another board of directors was established to begin the search for the first group foster home. Which is now a complex of several youth guidance homes. Pastor John and I served on that board for a few years. Most of the churches in Missoula had representatives on these boards over the years. The Youth Foster Home or Youth Guidance home is quite an intricate project right now.

I think the efforts of Immanuel members to reach out



Ralph Shallberg, lay chairman of Immanuel and Mrs. Richard (Connie) Lindborg, secretary of the congregation go over church accounts in preparation for paying out \$3000 to current Missoula Community projects.

into the community with only a fistful of dollars deserves recognition and we should be proud to see the success of all three of these important parts of Missoula.

Missoula's first Kindergarten Classes



Ad in Missoulian April 30, 1960

Immanuel has always had a passion for young children. We were the home to one of the first kindergarten classes in Missoula. In the early 60's Immanuel had 4 kindergarten classes, before it was even required. The school district hired the teachers to teach the classes.

Today (2013) we are still the home to preschool classes.



QUILTING... YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Quilting has been a form of outreach for Immanuel for many years. In the early years, quilts were made for Poverello Center (originally owned by Lenus and Julie Ekstrand as a rooming house.) Julie Ekstrand told a story of women meeting weekly to make 34 quilts for when the new addition was open- one for every bed. She said they had a great time quilting- "solved all the problems of the world".



One of 34 quilts made by Immanuel quilters for Poverello Center in mid-seventies.



Early Immanuel quilters and one of their quilts. Nikki Armstrong, Flossie Gilfallen, Louise Nelson, ?? Julia Eckstrand, Elsie Beebe, Front Row (*unidentified- if you know there names, please let Nancy Marks know*)

Quilting today...

The quilting tradition continues today when Immanuel quilters meet weekly to make quilts to give with the Christmas Giving Tree Gifts to families in need. Thirty to



Vivian Milch, Carol Graham, Laurie Swanson and Eileen Brown working on a quilt for Giving Tree families in December 2012.

Editor's Note: If you have a memory of Immanuel and/or some photos or if you have more information about Immanuel's life and ministry- please send them to Nancy Marks at mclamarks@wmcspd.org to be included in our 115 Year History Celebration Remembrance Book!

MISSIONARIES

David and Margaret Urfer were missionaries in Liberia for many years in the sixties and members at Immanuel on their return. Here is a short report sent by David to members of Lutheran churches supporting them. Margaret continued to knit items, sell them at the bazaar and send the proceeds to Liberia for many years.

"Greetings to all the people of the PNW Synod.

As we are starting our 4th year of work for the church we can look back on many accomplished tasks, but there also remains a lot to be done.

The every day job of repairing things takes a lot of time but there have been some big steps taken too, like putting in a new water system for the hospital community and last year's installation of two new light plants. Zor-Zor hospital is a very busy place and enormous amounts of patients are seen and treated each year.

Margaret is in charge of the craft shop, where she sells the homemade articles for the lepra and TB patients, their only source of income.



We are looking forward to our furlough home, where we hope to meet many of you and tell you more about our work here

Thanks for your supporting prayers.

Dave and Margaret Urfer

MISSIONARIES TODAY

Immanuel has been sponsoring missionaries for many years. We have sponsored Pastor Kevin Jacobson for the past 2 years. Kevin is the brother of member, Judy Wellert.

Kevin Jacobson is an ELCA missionary serving in Paramaribo, the capital city of Suriname (formerly Dutch Guiana). He has been the parish pastor of Maarten Lutherkerk (Martin Luther Church) since 2008. One of his primary missions is to identify Surinamese church leaders and find ways to have them trained to serve as pastors and lay ministers.

Some of his other ministries include building a new church in Lelydorp, a suburb of Paramaribo; rebuilding senior citizen housing owned by his parish and located behind Maarten Lutherkerk; teaching at the local seminary; and preaching monthly in Nickerie, about 3 hours from his home, where he also helps support a local orphanage.



Kevin dying Easter eggs at a local orphanage.



Kevin Jacobson at his church.

Support for Vietnam Refugees

Another outreach project was the sponsoring of five young Vietnamese refugees in 1975. Immanuel, along with four other Lutheran churches, sponsored a total of 38 Vietnamese and Laotian refugees. "The idea of sponsorship program was to get them integrated into the community which they did themselves", said Pastor Dick Wilderholdt of Our Savor Lutheran Church in Bonner. The churches arranged for housing and began the search for work. Individual church members contributed food, dishes, bedding, clothes and furniture. Their largest contribution was moral support and cultural education such as teaching English or getting them into English classes. The five young men sponsored by Immanuel are working. Gordon and Ina



Back row: Mang WaiSou, On Nguyen, Buu Tan Lam, Nam Van Lam and Ina Swanson;
Front row: John Swanson, Harold Mast, Mary Jane Mast

Swanson helped to coordinate the program and were "mom and dad" to them while they got settled. Within a year and a half they were all employed. They are all now married, raising children and working in different places across the United States. They still keep in touch with Gordon and Ina.

Habitat for Humanity

Immanuel has been involved with Habitat for Humanity since 2002. We have teamed up with other Lutheran Churches and Thrivent to build ... houses. During 3 different years we have teamed up with other churches in Missoula to build houses. Members of Immanuel help with the build itself as well as being host and providing lunches.



Immanuel's Lunch for Habitat workers:
Baked Potato Bar