

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
1898- 2013
115 Years of Ministry
God's Work, Our Hands*

The first organized meeting of Immanuel took place on October 29, 1898 in the home of Mr. And Mrs. John Berglin. Rev. A.E. Gustafson from Helena presided at the meeting and led occasional services until January 1900. They adopted the name Immanuel Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. The infant Congregation met during the two years only monthly and in the homes of the members since there was no church available to them. The records show that several attempts were made to purchase church buildings from other denominational bodies, however, no purchase was made.

On January 22, 1900, pastor Gustafson announced his resignation. Sufficient progress had not been made to continue the work and nothing more was attempted in five years.



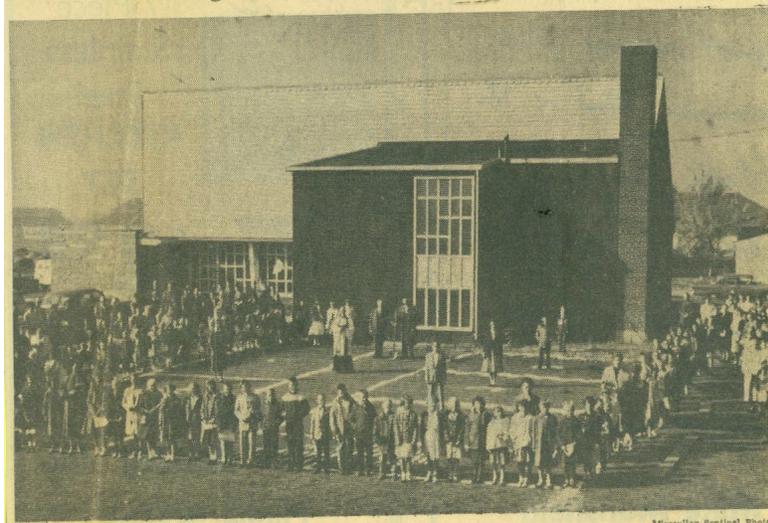
In February 1905, a student H.F. Johnson presided at the services and Rev. Herman Lind from Anaconda was called to reorganize the congregation. Members petitioned the Augustana Synod for membership and became a part of the church at large. A church building was built on Alder street. Several pastors served over the next 20 years.



In August 1919, PR E.A. Palm came to Immanuel. It was in that year that the confirmation class was taught in the English language and many services were conducted in English. Over the next 25 years, changes were made to the building and several more pastors served Immanuel.

Pr. Rod Johnson arrived August 1951 to begin 18 years of service. In 1953, with 160 children in Sunday School, they had outgrown the "old church" and plans for a new church on South Avenue were made. Groundbreaking for the South Avenue site began October 1954 and was dedicated in May 1955. An education wing was dedicated in May,

Education Building Ground Broken at Immanuel Lutheran Church



Missoulan-Sentinel Photo

1959. On Reformation Sunday, October 1960, the Luther Wall was dedicated.

In 1952, Immanuel was able to lease property on the Clearwater River and build Camp Imlu. Over the years, a log lodge and a dorm were built. The site was used for retreats, outdoor ministries, vacation bible school, confirmation retreats and other outdoor ministry events. In 1996 the Forest Service increased the cost of the lease dramatically, eventually with the cost of the lease out of reach. In 1999, Camp Imlu was sold with the proceeds going to start the Immanuel Endowment Fund.



Dr. Maynard Kragthorpe served Immanuel from September 1969 to June 1972. Pr. Fred Ranlett was called and served from October 1973 until his death in June 1984. Building of the Hemgren Room began in 1984.

Interim pastor, Earl Anderson was at Immanuel six months. Pr. Paul Seastrand accepted a call to Immanuel and was here February 1985- July 1991. The stained glass windows in the Hemgren Room were installed in February 1985. Jan (Bendickson) Croisetiere, who was baptized and confirmed in Immanuel, created the stained glass windows in the Hemgren Room. Completion and installation of the etched windows displaying a variety of crosses dividing the sanctuary and Hemgren Room took place in December 1987.

Pastor Gregory B Karlsgodt was called in September 1991. An electronic Rogers organ replaced the pipe organ in 1993. In 1993, council established a Mission Endowment fund with the ELCA with funds from the estate of Mr. Stump. This Endowment Fund remained in effect until 1999 when a task force developed Immanuel Lutheran Endowment Fund including the funds from the sale of Camp Imlu as well as the funds from the previous Endowment fund.



In 1996, following a Stewardship drive, the Spirit Alive! Contemporary Service began. Beginning Rally Day 1996, Immanuel began offering non-traditional and traditional worship every Sunday. From 1996 to May 2001 the leadership for Spirit Alive! was provided almost entirely by volunteers. In

August 2001, Immanuel hired Phyllis Huber as a Youth, Worship & Music and Education director. Under Phyllis' leadership, music has evolved into five worship bands with paid worship leaders. Immanuel continues to offer two services, a contemporary Spirit Alive! worship and a traditional worship.

In January 2002, a motion was made to pursue a visioning process at Immanuel. With the assistance of interim Pastor Terry Oliver, a Strategic Planning team was formed and with input from the congregation through cottage meetings and a church profile, a vision and mission were written, values and beliefs were identified and goals and action plan was developed.

Vision: Immanuel is called to be a caring, compassionate and diverse congregation that is spiritually nourished through Jesus Christ and reaches out to the community at large.

Mission: Share the love of Christ with all! Adopted January 2003

In August 2002, Pastor Aprille Jordan was called to serve Immanuel in the midst of this process and has assisted in supporting the planning process. The strategic planning team meets annually to review progress on previous goals and set goals for the upcoming year. In 2003, a Capital Improvement Campaign was begun to make necessary updates and renovations to the building. Many improvements to the building have been made to beautify and provide needed upkeep for the building.

Immanuel's history could not be written without mention of our Scandinavian Smorgasbords. One of the values identified by members of Immanuel is a *strong Lutheran tradition and heritage*. The Immanuel Historical Scrapbook shows Smorgasbords as early as 1938 when Immanuel was a small church on Alder Street. In 1981, Smorgasbords began as an annual event to support Camp Imlu. Over the years it changed from a "sit down- be served" dinner to a Smorgasbord of Scandinavian favorites, including lutefisk and lefse. Ten percent of the funds are tithed to the synod, ten percent go to local community outreach and the remainder are used to support Immanuel's ministries. It's a great opportunity for members to work together to reach out to the community.

