

Immanuel Breaks Ground

Missoula, Montana, Monday Morning, October 25, 1954

Immanuel Lutherans Break Ground for New Church



Missoulian-Sentinel Photos

Ground was broken Sunday for a new building at South avenue and Holborn street for the Immanuel Lutheran Church. The top picture shows the only two living charter members of the congregation, which was founded 56 years ago Wednesday. With the pastor, the Rev. Roderick Johnson, they are Mrs. Alma Anderson, at left, and Mrs. Anna Broman. In the lower photo are officials who took part in the ceremony. From left are John Karlberg, chairman of the Building Committee; City Commissioner Paul H. Hoylo, a member of the church; A. P. Isaacson, oldest member of the congregation at 94 and a former Sunday School superintendent; Carl J. Lindborg of the Building Committee, who turned the first shovel of earth; Carl E. Lundquist of the Building Committee; Architect O. J. Ballas; Architect William J. Fox, and the Rev. Mr. Johnson.

Church Charter Members See Ceremony

Ground was broken Sunday for a new church for one of Missoula's oldest congregations, that of Immanuel Lutheran Church, which was chartered Oct. 20, 1898.

The only two living charter members, Mrs. Alma Anderson and Mrs. Anna Broman, took part in the ceremonies at South avenue and Holborn street following the morning service at the present small building, 430 Alder street, two miles away.

Also present was the oldest member of the congregation, 94-year-old A. P. Isaacson. He turned a shovel of earth in the groundbreaking ceremony.

The pastor, the Rev. Roderick Johnson, conducted a brief service to the accompaniment of music played on an electric organ mounted on a pickup truck, with Don Stagg as organist.

Carl J. Lindborg of the Church Building Committee turned the first shovel of earth after the Rev. Mr. Johnson dedicated the site and building-to-be "to the glory of God." Mrs. Anderson handed the shovel to Lindborg.

He in turn gave it to City Commissioner Paul H. Hoylo, who turned the next shovel of earth. Then Isaacson turned a shovel of earth, and finally, the Rev. Mr. Johnson.

The doxology followed, and the closing hymn was "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

The pastor said in opening: "Forasmuch as the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church have determined to build on this site a church to be dedicated to the glory of God, for the preaching and teaching of the saving Word of God, for the administration and use of the Holy Sacraments, and for the offering to God's glorious Majesty the sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving, let us ask the blessing of Almighty God upon this undertaking."

Work will begin Monday on a \$120,000 building of modern, functional architecture at the new site, across South avenue from the site of a second Missoula County High School. Architects are Fox and Ballas.