



**125 YEARS
OF
WORSHIP
AND
FELLOWSHIP
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN**



**CHURCH
1876-2001**



WE DEDICATE THIS BOOK

To: The Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who has blessed Immanuel Lutheran Church, Augsburg, for these one hundred and twenty five years.

To: The Sainted Founders of Immanuel, who so faithfully labored for their Lord.

To: The Pastors and Teachers who have taught us God's Holy Word in its truth and purity.

To: The men and women who have devoted their time and talents to the growth of Immanuel.

To: All members who faithfully hear, learn and love the Word of God and His Sacraments.

To: The children of Immanuel who are the church of tomorrow.

INTRODUCTION

God's people, feeling the need of the true Word and Sacrament and the teaching of God's Word to their children, resolved to organize a congregation in the Augsburg area.

In order to have the services of a resident minister, our forefathers gathered God's people together to form a Lutheran congregation.

Immanuel Congregation resolved to observe the 125th anniversary with appropriate services and activities. This was done in recognition of God's many blessings over 125 years of time.

The theme chosen for the 2001 Anniversary is: "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past."

Speaker for the anniversary service on September 16, 2001 is Rev. David Bueltmann, president of the Central Illinois District.

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR



Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had once taken great pride in the kingdom that he had built by his mighty power and for his glory. God quickly reminded him that He gives kingdoms to whom He desires. Nebuchadnezzar was striped of his kingdom until he acknowledged that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes. When Nebuchadnezzar finally raised his eyes toward heaven, he praised the Most High and said, "His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation." Daniel 4:34

Over the years and from generation to generation we at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Augsburg, have known and continue to acknowledge that this place and these people are under the dominion, power, and grace of Almighty God. God the Father in His mercy has redeemed us through His Son and the Holy Spirit continues to sanctify our lives.

CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY

AUGSBURG RECEIVES ITS NAME:

From 1900 to 1912 Immanuel Lutheran Church was again an independent Lutheran congregation, although it had a definite lean toward membership in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The building itself sat four miles east of the frontier town of Shobonier, the first town in Fayette County. The land it sat upon had been railroad land purchased by Mr. Friedrich Emel and later resold to the congregation for \$36.00 per acre. Two acres had originally been purchased. In December 1879 Mr. Emel generously donated an additional four acres upon which to build a parsonage.

The church sat at a crossroads, on the northwest corner, facing south. Across the rough dirt road to the east sat a store owned and operated by Gottfried Metzger. South a mile sat another store owned and operated by Mr. Schaefer, beside which sat a little one-room school, originally supported by the St. Paul community School District.

In times past, before road delivery of mail, people traveled by foot, wagon, or horseback to collect their mail at the post office in Shobonier. It was not an easy journey. The trip itself took the better part of a day. It therefore was not unusual to take the entire family at times and spend some time in one of the town's four general stores, two blacksmith shops, town barber, stockyards, or train depot. On Saturday afternoons one could even listen to the town band, have some homemade ice-cream, and do a little socializing.



Still it was a hard trip to make. So the community spoke to Gottfried Metzger who, on January 13, 1898, allowed a little post office to be placed in the back corner of his store. Now each day a man from Shobonier would deliver the mail to the post office in the quaint little German community four miles east of town.

The post office had been there about two years when the new Pastor of the little German Lutheran church arrived. The man's name was Pastor Suhren. He was a man who had grown up in Augsburg, Germany, and was not long in America.

As was the custom in those days, a lot of discussions took place around the pickle barrel and the potbelly stove. One morning as Gottfried Metzger and Pastor Suhren were visiting, the man came to deliver the mail. The discussion turned to the little post office. Yes, this little post office was a fine thing to have, but shouldn't the community choose a name for itself so that people might better address their mail? No one knew what to call this little settlement.

Linda Wasmuth, one of our members and the daughter of Gottfried Metzger, remembered being present for this discussion. As she recalls it, among those present, it was Pastor Suhren who suggested, "Why not call it Augsburg?"

The name stuck and so it is today that the name Augsburg, given to this little German settlement 101 years ago, remains to this day. No more fitting name could have been chosen. For not only is it the name of our one time Pastor's hometown in Germany, but it is also a name which identifies the faith of those who worship here. It was in Augsburg, Germany, that the great Biblical truths of justification by faith were so boldly confessed and reaffirmed by Dr. Martin Luther and his supporters at the peril of their lives in 1530. It is upon the same faith and beliefs in that Biblical standard, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and the symbols of the Evangelical Lutheran Church that we stand today. The

inspired and in-errant Word of God is our sole foundation, source, and norm of doctrine and faith. "Here we stand, we can do no other!"

Immanuel Lutheran Church at Augsburg dates its beginning to a small group of German immigrants, who settled in this area of Wilberton Township, Fayette County, Illinois, prior to the year 1876. This was the year of the United States of America's first centennial celebration. This little congregation also drew settlers from the neighboring Kaskaskia Township, to the west. These Lutheran pioneers established a congregation known as Immanuel Evangelisch=Lutherische Kirche.

A constitution was written. Services were held in German. Communion was celebrated once every three months. The hymnal of the Allgemeine deutschen Evangelisch=Lutherischen Synode von Missouri, Ohio, und andern Staaten (The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod) was used. None of the notes for the first constitution, minutes, or hymnals are known to remain. The congregation operated as an independent Lutheran body with loose ties to both the Iowa and Missouri Synods.

The first recorded meeting of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church occurred on December 9, 1877. The meeting opened with a prayer by the then Pastor Meier. The first order of business concerns the receipt of three members into full voting membership who had been excommunicated from St. Paul's Lutheran Church and their Pastor, Pastor Schuricht. Dr. Rheiner placed before the congregation a resolution that the chairmen of both congregations hold a just and fair investigation so that a God pleasing solution might be found. This investigation would never take place, as St. Paul's would not agree.

Other business included an instruction to the Trustee to lay out a garden on the southwest corner of the church property as soon as possible. Also that the results of the Trustee election be reported to the notaries of Wilberton and Kaskaskia Townships. Father Wasmuth (elder) was tasked with collecting the amount of the Pastor's salary from the members. The Trustees are empowered to put a middle wall in the church and engage a janitor to clean the building once a week and build and maintain a fire on Sundays during the worship hour.

The Rev. Meier, the first pastor, organized the Immanuel Lutheran Church - Augsburg in 1876.

The following Pastors served the congregation and were members of the Iowa Synod from 1876-1912:

Rev. Meier	1876-1881	Rev. Bucka	1899-1900
Rev. Mueller	1881-1887	Rev. Suhren	1900-1905
Rev. Flierl *	1887-1894	Rev. Genter	1905-1912
Rev. Melchert	1894-1899		

* The first Pastor of the Iowa Synod

These pastors also served as teachers in the school. The subjects taught at that time were religion, reading and writing.

January 20, 1878 was perhaps among the greatest days of this little congregation's history for it was on this blustery winter day that the first building to house the Body of Christ here at Augsburg was dedicated. In two special services of worship, the morning in German and the afternoon in English, the members rejoiced and praised God for His kindness and love. Special officiates were obtained from the Iowa Synod Seminary in Iowa, the well-known brothers, Sigmund and Gottfried Fritzsche. It should be noted that an English service at this time was somewhat unusual and perhaps even a bit progressive.

Upon their departure, the Fritzsche's must have had some discussion with the congregation concerning their constitution for in the minutes of the following months, recommended revisions were dealt with. Also a discussion of a controversial nature began concerning application for membership in the Iowa Synod. Several of the founders of the congregation were in disagreement, maintaining that application

to any Synod originally was to be by unanimous vote. The matter was eventually laid to rest until discussion began afresh in 1885-86.

January 2, 1878 the Trustees were directed to buy insurance for the church as soon as possible in the Chicago American Insurance Co., with coverage as high as possible. John Metzger was directed to buy an arrow with a rooster appropriate for a Lutheran Congregation for the church spire at the best price possible. It was resolved to dedicate the church in two weeks from next Sunday, January 20, 1878; also on that Sunday afternoon there was to be an English worship. The speakers for this celebration, Professors Sigmund and Gottfried Fritzsche were to be invited.

The first church building was dedicated on January 20, 1878, on the site of the present church building. Mr. Charles Wasmuth donated rough lumber. John U. Metzger donated the bell, which now sits on top of our church sign. Others donated labor and materials.

July 1, 1879 brings the first discussion of the school with a resolution to suspend its operation for two weeks before New Years, one week before Easter, one week before Pentecost, and one week before harvest. By the October meeting the school and its operation would become a bit of a problem with both Pastor and parents. As with today, the same age old story prevailed as to whether or not the Pastor was teaching well enough or the parents were not encouraging their children to study at home. The difficulty finally was resolved that the parents needed to be more supportive of the school and their children's studies. The children were not to be kept home without a valid reason. And for his part the Pastor would be less scolding and more temperate.

It was also in the October meeting, 1879, that the pasture and cemetery were fenced in. The fence being described as four boards high. Straw was gathered and a cow stall built. Hitching racks were also placed around the church for horses in order to protect the fence around the churchyard, which had become considerably weakened.

A two-acre tract of land was purchased for a building site for the sum of \$60.00 from Mr. Fred Emel. In December 1879 Mr. Emel donated an additional four acres to be used for building a parsonage.



In March of 1880, Father Knospe designated burial spots in the cemetery for both members and nonmembers. Eventually, members were buried to the east and nonmembers to the west. During this same month, 25 apple and 5 peach trees were planted about the church property.

March 11, 1883, during a special meeting the congregation granted Pastor Meier a peaceful release and voted to call Pastor L. Mueller of Pocohantas. By June of the same year Pastor Mueller had accepted.

Mr. Fritz Sasse, at the June meeting of 1883, strongly influenced by the Word of God, moved that the Lord's Supper is to be celebrated every six weeks as opposed to the present practice of celebrating it once

every three months. The motion passed. Christian teaching for all youths below the age of 18 years was begun. November 11th would be observed, as the 400th anniversary of Martin Luther's baptism, and a regular Reformation Festival would be celebrated each year on October 31st.



Plans began for a new building project, which must have excited the congregation. For in the minutes of October 7, 1883, it was recorded that a new parsonage was to be built in the spring, "completely new!" The size was designated to be 36x16x16 (h). With this, a new kitchen would be added on with a basement cellar beneath. So, too, a cow barn of 18(1) x14 (w) x10 (h). An ambitious project, especially in those days! The following March 1884, a list was made to work six men each day until the work was completed. The kitchen was to have a porch on either side, a cellar beneath, on good foundation with vent holes enclosed by wire. Twelve windows were planned, both upstairs and down. Each window to have four panes of glass. The upstairs

windows measured 12x28 and the downstairs measured 12x20. There were two doors front and rear measuring 2x10. Inside doors all measured 2x8. An additional ten feet of distance was added between the parsonage and the church.

Another interesting notation, found in the church minutes of October 1884, concerns the rescheduling of church services. Augsburg has never been a congregation to cancel worship services even in 1884. The members were having certain difficulties; it seems, with heavy rains making the old rutted dirt roads nearly unusable. The resolution in 1884 states, "If the rain continues from early until 10:00 AM on a Sunday morning, then church services shall be held at 2:00 PM." Thus, if services couldn't be held in the morning, they would be held in the afternoon. There is no excuse for not attending church.

January 1, 1883 William Theimann, janitor, was to be paid \$12.00 per year.

January 2, 1884 and January 1, 1885 Emille Beckel, sister-in-law of Rev. Mueller cleaned the church for \$15.00 per year.

Then, as now, Pastors need vacations and understanding congregations were willing to grant them. In May 1885, Pastor Mueller requested and received by unanimous vote, a vacation of two months. Pastoral coverage was of course obtained. The previous Pastor Meier would come every third Sunday to preach. Should Pastor Mueller's salary not be cut that year, he would reimburse Pastor Meier himself. However, as congregations were irregular in supporting their Pastors fully, giving more to congregational needs than the care of their shepherds, Pastors often received less than four-fifths of the meager \$300.00/yr. income they were promised. In October of the same year Pastor Mueller had to forgive the congregational debt owed to him and offered to start with a clean slate.

January 2, 1887 Mr. Ferdinand Jahn cleaned the church for \$12.00 per year.

April 17, 1887 the congregation resolved that our church spire should be covered and indeed the Trustees should be responsible for this assignment, to bring it about as good and as reasonable as possible.

October 2, 1887 it was resolved that August Hagen be paid \$20.00 for his completed work on the church spire.

On April 8, 1888, Pastor Mueller spoke openly to the congregation concerning his growing health problem and asked to be removed peacefully from his office as pastor. An immediate call was then issued to Pastor Flierl who accepted and arrived by July 1st. Although discussion occurred under Pastor Mueller regarding the congregation's application for membership in the Iowa Synod, no further note occurs in the minutes concerning this from May 31, 1885, until a delegate is chosen for that Synod's convention in April 7, 1889. It is therefore assumed that it was under Pastor Flierl that the congregation was received as a member of that Synod in 1889.

The Officers of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church 1876-1889 were as follows:

<u>Chairman:</u>	<u>Elder:</u>	<u>Trustee:</u>	<u>Secretary:</u>
John U. Metzger (1876-1879)	Father Wasmuth (1876-1879)	Dr. Rheiner (1878-1881)	August Wuhle (1876-1881)
Wm. Fellwock (1879- 1882)	Friedrich Schukar "Fritz" (1878-1882)	August Schukar (1878-1881)	Gottfried Ehrat (1881-1882)
Jacob Schmidt (1882-1886)	Friedrich Sasse (1882-1885)	Julius Hagen* (1878-1883)	August Wuhle (1882-1885)
Jacob Ehrat (1886-)	Father Knospe (1883-1886)	Louis Gerke* (1881-1886)	Fritz Reusmann (1885-1886)
<u>Song Leader</u>	Julius Hagen (1883-1888)	August Schukar* (1882-1887)	Carl Reusmann (1886-)
Fritz Schukar (1878-1882)	Fritz Sasse (1886-1891)	William Fellwock (1884-1889)	
Louis Gerke (1881-1885)	Father Knospe (1889-)	August Schukar (1884-1889)	
August Wuhle (1882-1884)		John Horn* (1884-1889)	
Jacob Ehrat (1883-1884)		William Riechmann (1885-1890)	
Christian Knospe (1885-)		Anton Wolff (1889-)	
John Horn (1885-)			

* This symbol represents those who also served in the capacity of Treasurer of Trustees.

+ Some final dates are close approximations.

UNDER THE IOWA SYNOD, 1889 TO 1899

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church spent about a decade as a member of the old Evangelisch=Lutherischen Synode von Iowa und andern Staaten, (Iowa Synod). The organization of this Synod occurred in 1854 by a Pastor in Neuendettelsau, Bavaria, Germany, by the name of J.K.W. Loehe. Rev. Loehe had been responsible for sending many German trained pastors to America and organizing and directing such missions as the new Missouri Synod seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1846, and work among the Chippewa Indians in Michigan, 1844, creating the idea of the church extension fund. He was an active and extensive supporter of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod until 1854 when a doctrinal disagreement occurred.

Many of the young men whom Pastor Loehe trained and who continued their education in America at the Fort Wayne Seminary became strong and well known supporters of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Others joined the Iowa Synod. Still others were to join Iowa and later, as our own Pastor Bucka, because of conscience, transferred to Missouri.

This goes far to explain why our own congregation wavered for so many years between both the Iowa and Missouri Synods. Only in 1889 did we officially cast our vote with Iowa, and then only for a decade. For a number of years the subject of the church cemetery and the burial of nonmembers was an important issue. A satisfactory solution was finally obtained with a special meeting in February 1891.

The congregation resolved that members of the community who were not members of the congregation would be buried in the cemetery, but on the west side only, and members would be buried on the east side. A specified fee was levied for nonmember burials. Children to the age of 13 would be charged \$2.00 for a small grave. Anyone older than 13 would be charged \$3.00 for an adult sized grave. All payments were in advance. For the use of the Pastor, a gratuity of \$3.00 was charged if the Pastor came to the house and \$1.50 if not. All active members of the congregation received burial without charge.

Another recurrent problem was the discipline of church members. It was not uncommon for the congregation to admonish inactive members as well as those leading manifest and immoral lives. Discipline in the past was swifter and more severe. Inactive and manifest sinners not repenting after two or three admonitions were immediately excluded (excommunicated) until they realized their sins and made confession. Today, exclusions are far less common. This is an ever-present reminder of how seriously our fore bearers upheld their doctrine, faith, and Christian life.

January 29, 1888, Ferdinand Jahn cleaned the church for \$12.00 a year again.

In 1888, the pastor's salary was \$250.00 per year.

January 1, 1889, the church cleaning was given to the mother of Rev. Flierl for \$10.00 a year.

January 12, 1890, Christian Luck accepted cleaning the church for \$10.00 a year.

January 1, 1891, Herman Marzahn accepted the church cleaning for \$10.00 a year.

On April 5, 1891, Mr. Horn informed the congregation that from now on it was fully forbidden to cut on church benches with knives, or write on them with pencils, or chew tobacco in church.

In 1894, the pastor was paid \$250.00 per year plus free house, fuel (wood), garden plot, pasture and part of the moving expense.

December 12, 1894, Pastor Flierl was granted a peaceful release to Boes, Richmond County, Wisconsin. Synodical President, Rev. Leindorfer of Waverly, Iowa, recommended that a call be sent to Pastor E. R. Melchert of St. Paul, Minnesota. The call was accepted.

July, 1895, summer brought water shortage. The cistern on the East Side of the parsonage had to be improved and water led to it from the new well. The cistern was lined with brick and lime masonry.

January 1, 1896, gratuity payments were established for certain Pastoral functions. A baptism was \$0.50, a confirmation was \$1.00, and a marriage ceremony was \$2.00. Cleaning the church was also raised to the sum of \$15.00 per year.

December 4, 1898, Pastor Melchert accepted a call. The congregation prevailed upon him to request the names of candidates from the President of the Iowa Synod before his departure so that they might extend a call. December 26th Pastor Melchert reported back to the congregation that the President had suggested Pastor Bucka. Thereupon, the congregation prevailed upon Pastor Melchert to extend the call on their behalf. Pastor Bucka arrived by February 1899.

Under Pastor Bucka, a significant event occurred. Immanuel voted 24 to 6 to leave the Iowa Synod. The following is a translation of the congregation's minutes as completed by Rev. Ervin Meseke, a son of the congregation:

Special Meeting, November 26, 1899

The meeting was called in accord with the constitution, the date and purpose having been announced in the church the Sunday before. Pastor Bucka shared with the congregation that he had resigned from the Iowa Synod for reasons of conscience. The concern now is what position the congregation will take in the matter.

The discussion began with the reading of the constitution. At the request of the assembly, the Pastor presented the differences between the Iowa and the Missouri Synods, and stated the procedure for separation from the Iowa Synod

and union with the Missouri congregation in our neighborhood [St. Paul's] and with the Missouri Synod itself. It was advanced that the cause for separation is the punching of holes (Ausschlag) in the Word of God and the Confessions of our Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The primary opponents for the union with the neighboring congregation and Missouri Synod were ... [two men] ...; yet they were not in a position to provide anything of an enlightening or supporting nature for their position. After lengthy debate, the proposal was made by Frank Sasse and seconded by a number of persons that:

"The congregation herewith separate itself from the Iowa Synod and continue independently as long as it deems it good."

A total of 30 voted, 24 votes for the proposal and six against.

RESOLVED that this resolution, signed by the designated officers of the congregation, be sent to the proper representative of the Iowa Synod immediately.

Afterward the Pastor spoke a word of admonition and counsel on the basis of Holy Scripture calling for peace and a mutual bearing of one another's concerns. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Gottfried Ehrat, Secretary

The majority of the congregation, who had been convinced in their hearts by the Word of God, remained content. Shortly after this decision to leave the Iowa Synod over reasons of conscience, due to the Iowa Synod's erroneous stance on the Word of God, Pastor Bucka received a call and was led to accept.

In heartfelt devotion to God and the desire to follow their Savior, the members of Immanuel stood firmly upon the inspired and inerrant Word of God, and through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, emerged victorious and strengthened both in their faith and conviction to God's Holy Word. Here stands a momentous date in our history testifying to the power of God and the faithfulness of His people.

The Officers of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church 1889-1899:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Fritz Sasse	Anton Wolff	Martin Sasse
Carl Reusmann			
Jacob Ehrat (1892-1894)	(1891-1894)	(1889-1894)	(1899-)
(1886-1894)	Herman Marzahn	John Horn	John Sasse
Adolph Thielmann			
Ernst Oertwig (1894-1899)	(1892-1895)	(1890-1894)	(1899-)
(1894-)	Friedrich Lape	Martin Lape	Wm. Riechmann
Gottfried Ehrat			
(1899-)	(1894-1897)	(1894-1899)	(1899-)
	Julius Hagen	Henry Riechman	
<u>Elder:</u>	(1895-1898)	(1894-1899)	<u>Secretary:</u>
Father Knospe (1889-1892)	John Horn	Jacob Ehrat	Carl Reusmann
Jacob Schmid (1890-1902)	(1897-)	(1894-1899)	(1886-1890)
Christian Luek (1890-1891)	<u>Trustee:</u>	Harlin Lape	Friedrich Marzahn
	Wm. Riechmann	(1897-1902)	(1890-1891)
	(1885-1890)	Edward Draeger	Chris Riechmann
		(1898-1903)	(1891-1892)

Immanuel congregation held membership in the Iowa Synod until November 1912.

Some of the members of the congregation who held membership in the Iowa Synod were:

Charles Wasmuth	Fred Wasmuth	Henry Riechmann
Charles Ehrat	George Ehrat	Fred Ehrat
George Krug	Wm. Krug	Barney Krug
Ludwig Mazhan	Wm. Fellwock	Burtrum Fellwock
Henry Bolhort	Julius Hagen	Jacob Schmid

Wm. Schmid	John U. Metzger	John Metzger
John Horn	Wm. Reichmann	Emil Schukar
Gottfried Sasse	Carl Sasse	Frank Sasse
Christ Ehrat	Wm. Harmier	Jacob Ehrat
Paul Ehrat	Wm. Ehrat	Gottfried Ehrat
John Bueher	Henry Knecht	Martin Krug
Philip Wolff	John Schmid, Sr.	John Schmid, Jr.
Jacob Metzger, Sr.	Jacob Metzger, Jr.	William Gabel
	Henry Reichmann, Jr.	

At this time Immanuel joined The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Approximately sixty voting members of St. Paul congregation obtained their peaceful releases and helped to organize Immanuel Church.

Some of the members who joined Immanuel from the St. Paul congregation were:

Fred Torbeck	John Torbeck	Martin Torbeck	Christ Torbeck	Sal Torbeck
Fred Torbeck	Fred Rubin	Herman Meseke	John Meseke	Fred Meyer
John Meyer	Carl Meyer	H. W. Meyer	William Meyer	Christ Meyer
Herman Meyer	Henry Meyer	August Rubin	Henry Meseke	August Meseke
Emil Beyer	Bill Nolte	Bill Beckmeier	Charles Moeller	Bill -Sachteleben, Sr.
Louis Rolfing	Fred Gerkin	Henry P. Gerkin	Ted Lotz	Ed Lange
Fred Harmier	Gottfried Metzger	Wm. Aukamp	Herman Schubart, Sr.	Herman
		Schubart, Jr.		
Louis Rebbe	Charles Rebbe	George Lange	Henry Bertram	Carl Bertram
Charles Gable	Henry Sachan	Julius Sasse	Martin Sasse	Herman Kruenegel
John Kruenegel	Carl Kruenegel	Christ Rebbe	Henry Meyer	Fred Von Behren
Albert Braasch	Anton Wolff	John Telger	John Knecht	Herman Hassenbrock
Christ Henricks	Fred Peterson	Fred Storck	Fred Rebbe	Fred Wefer
Christ Peterson	Pete Rothamel	Charles Schaal	William Gable	



In November 1912, Immanuel began its preparations for application into the Missouri Synod and the Synodical Conference of 1914. We became a sister congregation of St. Paul's, St. Paul, Illinois. Approximately 60 of their voting members were peacefully released to join our congregation and assist in the re organization process as our congregation prepared for this great moment. At the voter's meeting of January 5, 1913, the congregation resolved to adopt the new constitution, which had been prepared following a model provided by Missouri. The name of the congregation was to be kept as formerly, Immanuel. At a special meeting three days later Pastor Martin, the vacancy Pastor from St. Paul's, read the names of all of the members of the congregation. He then presented a slate of four candidates provided by the Synod to be the

congregations first Missouri Synod Pastor. The candidates for call were Rev. Fleckenstein, Rev. Siebert, Rev. Schuetz, and Rev. Horstman. Pastor Fleckenstein received the unanimous vote. His arrival was in February with the agreement that he would be allowed to act as the vacancy Pastor at Jehovah Lutheran Church, Vera, until a new Pastor was obtained.

St. Paul donated the school building near Schaefer's store to Immanuel in 1913, to serve as the congregation's first parochial school building. It served as such until after the new church building was dedicated in 1918. The school was then moved into the original, and now renovated, church building just north of the present day church. This building then continued as the congregation's school until 1975, when the congregation voted to close the school and bus their children eight miles east to the parochial school in St. Peter.

In 1913, the St. Paul congregation donated a school building one mile south of Augsburg. In that same year, Immanuel Lutheran Church called the first teacher to serve its parochial school, which was then one mile south, beside Schaefer's store.

In May 1913, a teacher was called for the school. He would be the first of several to serve over the years. His name was Mr. John Bradhagen of the St. Paul congregation. Mr. John Bradhagen was hired as the teacher with 73 students attending school. Later the old church building, just north of the present church, was converted into a Christian Day School known as Augsburg Lutheran School. There it remained until 1975 when the school was closed and the students were sent to the St. Peter Lutheran School. The community was blessed for 97 years with a church school for their children. The following teachers have faithfully served our parochial school over the years:

1913-1915	John Bradhagen	2 years	1915-1921	Paul L. Schaefer	6 years
1921-1937	Henry G. H. Kiehl	18 years	1937-1942	Urban Ewald	5 years
1942-1944	Chester L. Platt	2 years	1944-1945	Pastor & Mrs. Malling	1 year
1945-1970	Paul R. Mueller	25 years	1970-1975	Howard W. Florine	5 years

Teachers also served as organist for all services. Mr. Paul Mueller served as organist 28 years, until February, 1974.

During this same time frame, it was resolved to move the church 180 feet to the north; cover the ceiling with paper and metal; remove the wainscoting in order to repair the windows; build a new chimney; place the pulpit in the center; paint the interior white with gray trim; improve the foundation; and build two exits, one to the north and one to the south. The school was to be left with the other buildings until a new church would be built.

As the congregation grew, it became evident that a new and larger building was needed. On April 13, 1913, the parish resolved to move the old building a short distance north. Work began on the original site on the present building.

April 13, 1913, it was resolved to build a barn 18x24x14 feet high with a lean-to on one side.

November 30, 1913, it was resolved to buy lamps for the church. It was turned over to the trustees to decide how many and when to buy them.

In January 1914, it was decided to drop the fifth reader in school and in place teach U.S. history.

February 1914 brought the establishment of a building committee to study the various churches of St. Louis and elsewhere for new styles of architecture and then to complete plans for the building of a frame church with approximately 3,600 feet of seating space. The committee consisted of August Rubin, Gottfried Ehrat, and John C. Torbeck. In April, John Schmid, Sr., W. Gabel, M. Torbeck, and H.

Hassabrock were added to the committee. John Torbeck was placed in charge of the new building construction. Materials were purchased from Sonneman Lumber Co. in Vandalia and shipped by rail to Shobonier where members with horse and wagon hauled them at great effort over the rough unimproved roads to Augsburg. The building costs were a little over \$8,000.00. The rest was volunteer labor and material.

April 11, 1915, it was resolved to buy an organ for a maximum of \$75.00 and to leave this purchase in the hands of the Pastor and the Elders.

In May 1916, Teacher Paul Schaefer received a salary of \$500.00 per year plus free house and fuel.

May 14, 1916, Teacher Schaefer reported that school enrollment was 73 and more room was needed. The congregation decided to have Mr. Schaefer's oldest daughter teach the lower grades in the summer kitchen near the teacherage. She was to be paid \$30.00 per month.

Mr. John C. Torbeck was in charge of construction of the new building. The firm of Nolte and Nauman of St. Louis, Missouri, was the architect.



The original building committee included: August Rubin, Herman Hassabrock, and John Schmid.

January 28, 1917, we called a pastor for \$600.00 per year, free house and fuel, and feed for livestock.

By the spring of 1917, the cornerstone was officially laid and dedicated to the glory of God. This is the building in which we worship today, made by members, with hands of love. The building was completed in 1918 with a dedication service on July 14th. The building's architectural design blends well into both the community and its environment.

Building Committee members were:

Martin Torbeck
Gottfried Ehrat
John Schmid
William Gabel

R. August Rubin
Fred Gertin
Paul L. Schaefer
Rev.R.Herrmann

April 22, 1917, it was decided to have the school picnic on June 15 in Mr. Herman Meseke's woods.

May 1, 1917, a contract was signed with George Kilgen and Son of St. Louis, Missouri for the purchase of a Kilgen Organ for \$1,800.00. The organ was to be ready for use by October 1, 1917.

June 10, 1917, it was decided to order the church bell from Montgomery Ward.

In 1918 the old school and property that had been donated by St. Paul's congregation was sold at public auction.

April 17, 1918, the church dedication was to be in German in the forenoon at 10:30am and evening at 8:30pm. English would be in the afternoon at 3:00pm.

May 26, 1918, the church dedication would take place on July 14, 1918.

On July 14, 1918, the new church building was dedicated.

September 8, 1918, new stoves for the school and the confirmation room were discussed. It was left to the trustees and the teacher.

October 6, 1918, it was decided to have English services at 7:00pm every second Sunday in the month.

In February 1919, the janitor's salary was raised to \$125.00 per year. His duties included tending to the stoves, lamps, sweeping, to ring the bell, keep church property clean, and work at weddings and funerals.



May 18, 1919, it was decided to build a new teacherage north of the school. School summer vacation was to be from July 1 to the end of August.

December 10 1922, a pastor was called for \$1,000.00 a year, free dwelling, fuel, and pasture shared with the teacher.

In January 1923, Rev. Schwagmeyer asked the congregation to have two elders in the balcony during services, to keep order. He served as vacancy pastor at the time.

January 2, 1924, four finance districts were established and duties of the four finance-men were described.

December 21, 1924, Mr. Terry offered to furnish electric light with a Delco Light Plant for Christmas evening. We accepted the offer.

January 2, 1925, the janitor was to receive \$125.00 per year.

March 15, 1925, it was decided to build a new parsonage.

In March 1925, two more acres of land were obtained from Mr. Fred Gerkin. This land was used for the church and school buildings; homes for the pastor and teacher; a picnic grove; and cemetery.

April 13, 1925, it was decided to have an English service on a Sunday forenoon to be followed by a German service.

A new parsonage was erected in 1925.



September 27, 1927 it was decided that each voting member donate three days of work free for the building of the parsonage.

August 2, 1937, the American Foundry Furnace Company of Bloomington, Illinois installed two room heaters for the cost of \$310.00. The committee that signed the contract was William Torbeck, Edward Wolff, and Charles E. Meseke.

January 2, 1939, it was resolved to turn the matter of electricity for the church, school, parsonage, and teacherage over to the Trustees.

February 12, 1939, the church bell was replaced since the original one was cracked. The cost was \$374.00.

July 1939, it was resolved to grant widows and widowers, at age 60 or over, a grave beside their mates, provided they ask for it.

April 14, 1940, it was decided to wire all the buildings and the grove for electricity.

July 20, 1940, it was resolved to put a new floor on the old floor in the school.

October 6, 1940, the envelope system was adopted and it was decided to order envelopes yearly and pay for them.

January 12, 1941, the janitor bid for \$165.00 a year was accepted.

July 5, 1942, by a vote of the congregation, we shall in the future have our meetings and protocols in English.

Rev. Robert Jank, who left Augsburg to serve as chaplain in the armed forces during World War II, can be credited with the organization of the young people's society, also called the Walther League.



The Ladies Aid Society was begun on September 8, 1943, when Rev. Guenter Malling was pastor. Some of the first members were: Arleen Sasse, Emma Gerkin, Hilda Meyer, Lorna Platt, Hanna Lange, Anna Krug, Irma Malling, Emma Metzger, Lena Meseke, Anna Lange, Josie Schaefer and Gertrude Johnson.

Excavation for the church basement began in 1947.

In 1948, a full basement under the church was completed.

Water and bathrooms were installed in both homes in 1949.

In 1952, the interior of the church was redecorated.

In 1952, Ervin Wangrow laid tile and waxed and buffed it for \$1,632.00.



January 10, 1952, we signed a contract with W. H. Barenfanger, Jr. and C. W. Barenfanger and Barenfanger Construction Company to install acoustical tile, sheet rock walls, spackle to make smooth, one coat of sealer and one coat of satin textured paint. They were to sand all wood and trim, stain and varnish, sand all floors and seal, sand, stain and varnish all pews. The contract was for \$8,700.00. The committee was:

Paul Torbeck
Walter Meseke
Otto Grandt
Roy Gerkin

John Schmid, Jr.
Charles Gabel
Herbert Metzger
George Rothamel

February 23, 1952, W. F. Barrett serviced the organ. A blower was added for \$730.00. The pipes were removed and cleaned. Holes were cut in the bellows for the air pipe.



Henry Lange built the lectern out of an old organ and made it to match the altar and pulpit.

The first Sunday school classes were held on April 27, 1952, during the ministry of Pastor Martin Kuegele. He was also responsible for the formation of the Men's Club on January 12, 1954. This organization is also known as the Lutheran Laymen's League.

The picnic shed was built in 1953.

Gas furnaces were installed in the parsonage and teacherage in 1959.

Both English and German services were held at Immanuel until September 1960, when German services were discontinued.

In 1961, two restrooms were added to the school and two in the church basement. Proposal for this project was made on January 2nd. Approval was made on January 8th. Construction began on January 10th. Andy Bauer, Floyd Meseke, and Elmer Lange were in charge of this project.

A new garage was built for the parsonage in 1962.

A new gas heating system was installed in the year 1965.



On January 3, 1966, the entire membership of the Ladies Aid became members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.



A

A new garage was built for the teacherage in 1966.

The Immanuel Congregation was incorporated in 1967.

Immanuel Church was rededicated in 1968, the 50th year of the present church building.

The congregation in June 1970, honored Mr. Paul Mueller upon his retirement from teaching. A special service was held.

A water line was laid to the picnic shed in 1970.



In February 1971, evangelism efforts by the congregation were given a special impetus when Pastor Ervin Meseke, a son of the parish, led the congregation in a series of special evening services. Calls on the unchurched were made in which members shared their faith in Jesus Christ. Additional efforts have been made since that time under the direction of Pastor Ellis Rottmann.

Pastor Dierks is the first pastor to be married while serving the congregation. He and Miss Mary Ledford were married at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, in Vandalia on May 1, 1971.

Vacation Bible School began in the summer of 1972

A new piano was purchased in September 1973 for use in the Sunday school.

The basement of the church was remodeled in 1975.

Arrangements were made in the year of 1975 to transport the school children to the St. Peter Lutheran School, St. Peter, Illinois. A school bus was purchased at this time. The parish agreed to cover the cost of tuition.

The pupils of the Augsburg school had always presented Christmas programs on Christmas Eve. In December 1975, the Sunday school children took charge of the service and plan to continue to do so in the future.

In 1976, the church pews were re-varnished; the church window and frames were stained, sanded and varnished; a speaker was installed in the nursery; and a school bus was used to pick up nonmembers for Sunday school.

In 1977, the parsonage was insulated; a fund was established for the radio mission on WPMB; an intercom was installed between the Elders' room and the Pastor's office; aluminum siding was installed on the church; and a new well was dug.

During 1978, the basement of the church was carpeted and a double sump pump was installed in the basement.

In 1979, the candelabra were refinished.

The coal shed was given away and moved in 1980.

During 1981, new sidewalks were poured; shrubs were planted in the cemetery; Ascension Day service was discontinued; a surprise 25th celebration was held for Pastor Diercks; the bell was no longer to be rung on Saturday evening, and the elders began recording church attendance.

The parsonage had aluminum siding and a new roof installed; and church greeters were implemented for greeting those who attend our worship services.

In 1983, a new sump pump was installed in the basement of the church; a new drainage system was laid for the church grounds; ceiling fans were installed in the church; and a water cooler was installed in the church basement.

During 1984, reserved parking signs for the handicapped were installed.

In 1985, the constitution was reviewed and a new one was proposed. It was defeated by a vote of the congregation. A dishwasher was installed in the parsonage. We began to scramble the envelope numbers as they were assigned communicant members.



Project Faith, an evangelism outreach, was implemented in Shobonier during 1986. A trailer was used for worship and fellowship and a playground was setup.



During 1987, a photocopier was purchased; a member purchased paint, repainted the altar, the pulpit, and the baptismal fount; the public announcement system was moved; and the evangelism committee received a \$6,000.00 grant from the LWML.

1988 was the year that a new furnace, central air-conditioning, and a new gas water heater were installed in the parsonage. Individual glass communion cups were introduced.

In 1989, the last one-room schoolhouse in Illinois was torn down. In February, the barn was converted to a garage.

The position of Music Director was created; Good Friday

collection was

dropped; a Social Ministry committee was formed; and the interior of the church was painted. Ervin Meseke translated the German minutes into English.

During 1990, the wheel chair ramp was constructed and a new audio system was installed with three speakers, a new mixer, and one microphone.

In 1991, a nursery was created in the upstairs of the church; a new roof was installed on the church; a new closet was constructed in the back of church; the school bus was no longer in use; and the tombstones in the cemetery were straightened up.

A resolution to establish a new cemetery policy was passed in 1992.

In April and May of 1993, a new parish hall was built at a cost of \$102,400.00 without interest. \$66,852.00 was borrowed and \$13,439.00 in interest was paid out. The loan was paid off in May of



1998. The position of Activity Coordinator was established in 1993.



The new cemetery policy was adopted in 1996 and blue spruce trees were planted at the cemetery.

In December of 1997, an electronic organ made by Allen Organ Company was purchased from Samuel Music in Effingham, Illinois at a cost of \$42,000.00. \$28,500.00 was borrowed and \$3,388.00 was paid in interest. The Loan was paid off in November of 2000.

In 1998, new shingles were installed on the parsonage and garage. Materials were purchased for a parsonage utility building, which was erected by Pastor Simmons and his family. Pastor Simmons donated computers for the church, networked them, and began entering church records into this system.



During 1999, the teacherage was given to a Mennonite family and was moved four miles

east of the church.

Three stained glass windows were added in 1996 and two more in 2000. Richard Krug and family donated them.

During 2000, the Sr. Youth Group painted the picnic shed.

In the 125th year, 2001, the exterior of the church has been painted; the old storm windows on the church have been removed and sold for scrap; and new double pane replacement windows will be installed through out the church. A new inkjet printer and scanner were donated for use in the church office. The Sr. Youth Group donated a new audio mixer/amplifier for the church sound system. A library system is being implemented using our computer system for cataloguing purposes.

UNDER THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD FROM 1912 TO THE PRESENT:

The Deutschen Evangelisch=Lutherischen Synod von Missouri, Ohio, und andern Staaten, or as it is known today, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, was largely organized by Saxon immigrants from Germany settling in the Missouri counties of Perry and St. Louis. Due largely to the efforts of the Reverend C.F.W. Walther, after whom the Walther League was named, and his publication, Der Lutheraner, many German immigrants were able to band together in a common faith. These individuals, confessing the authority of Scripture and the symbolic books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, formed the Missouri Synod in 1847. Their first true venture was to supply all newly organized congregations of recently arrived immigrants with a model constitution, a hymnbook, and other Lutheran publications. This is very likely how our own congregation began and continued using Missouri Synod hymnals throughout its history.

The first Missouri Synod pastor was the Rev. Hugo Fleckenstein, who served from 1913-1917.

Others who served Immanuel were:

Rev. Rudolph Herrmann	1917-1922	Rev. George Kaiser	1961-1966
Rev. Emil Richter *	1923-1936	Rev. Reinhold Dierks	1967-1985
Rev. Robert Jank	1937-1943	Rev. Mark Geffaller	1985-1987
Rev. Guenter Malling	1943-1947	Rev. Jerome Koch	1988-1994
Rev. Fred Mueller	1949-1950	Rev. Eric Lange	1994-1997
Rev. Martin Kuegele	1951-1958	Rev. Ronald Simmons	1997-2002
Rev. Norman Bultmann	1958-1960	Rev. Roger Wholetz	2003-

* The Pastor responsible for starting Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Vandalia, IL. He began work between 1934 and 1936.

"And He gave some to be apostles; some, prophets; some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for unto the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11,12).

Throughout Immanuel's 125-year history, we have been richly blessed with many good and capable Pastors whom God in His surpassing love has sent us. They come, each as His representatives, to minister to us and equip us as God's precious servants to minister to each other. These faithful shepherds have guided our congregation, as the Body of Christ assembled here at Augsburg, in spiritual growth and Christian outreach, and provided the nurture, which we have needed to remain strong in the wonderful love and grace of God.

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Sons of the congregation who entered the ministry are: Rev. Walter Schaefer, Dr. Eric Kiehl, Rev. Paul Kiehl, Rev. Ervin Meseke, Rev. Gilbert Meseke, and Rev. Martin Torbeck.

Mr. Glen Aukamp and Miss Charlotte Schaefer became parochial school teachers.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ehrat were baptized, confirmed and wed in the first church.

Edna Kruenegel is the oldest living member of the Augsburg Lutheran Congregation (9/24/1908).

Church Flag Dedication

L to R: Carl Rubin, Carl Wuehler, Carl Albrecht, John Meger, John Schaal, Pastor Jank, Berniece Ehrat, Charles Moeller, Walter Lange, Ernest Rubin, Jake Metzger, Martin Schaal

The congregation consists of 304 souls, 239 communicant members and 59 voting members.



Christmas 1998



SIGNS

The Old

And

TH



[PREVIOUS](#)

[MENU](#)

[NEXT](#)

Some of the students that Teacher Paul R. Mueller taught during his 25 years of teaching at Augsburg.



VBS



VBS

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.
Psalm 23:4

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:57



Augsburg

By Linda Negro

The old church bell in Augsburg rang Thursday, calling in 10 students for their last school day and the final session of the Immanuel Lutheran one-room schoolhouse.

One of the few remaining one-room schools in Illinois closed its doors after 97 years of service to the small community of Augsburg, about four miles east of Shobonier.



Although as many as 92 students in eight classes have been taught at once by one teacher in the small school room, Howard Florine, the school's teacher for the past five years, was only responsible for six 7th graders and four 8th graders this year.

The small Lutheran community first opened the school in 1878. The congregation sectioned off the back of their small church for the schoolroom.

As the congregation grew, a larger church was needed. The new church was built in 1918 and the original church was set aside for a school.

All the Lutheran children of Augsburg were taught at this small school or at its west branch, one mile south of Augsburg.

In the mid-1960s the Augsburg congregation decided to share the teaching responsibilities with the Lutheran Church in St. Paul. Each school was responsible for four classes.

But in the spring of 1972 the St. Paul school closed, leaving eight grades to be taught at the Augsburg school.

"There was just no way that I was going to teach eight grades," Florine said. "So the congregation decided to send the first through fourth grade students to the Lutheran school in St. Peter and teach the remaining four grades at this school."

But as the transferred fourth graders were ready to move to the fifth grade, they decided to continue to stay at the St. Peter school instead of returning to Augsburg, Florine explained.

"The kids don't want to give up the school because they have made a lot of friends and are involved in school activities," Florine said. "The congregation would like to keep our school open, but no one wants to send their children here because they are settled in the St. Peter School. So our school will close and the congregation will pay the tuition to send our students to the St. Peter School."

Some students will also attend school in Vandalia.

The students attending the one-room Augsburg school are leery of transferring to a larger school.

"I know all the kids here," Loann Moeller said.

"They have a lot of fights in the bigger schools," Scott Torbeck said. "But in the one room school you know everyone and no one gets mad."

"It is more like home in this one-room school," Randy Sasse said. "You're close to everyone and you know someone will help you if you're in trouble."

"The one-room school is also nicer because you don't have to change to so many different rooms," said Diana Bertram, who recently attended a larger school.

"The school is not being closed because it's not doing its job," Florine said. "It's just a victim of the circumstances. This school has been highly respected in the community and in Vandalia."

"But the Lutheran school in St. Peter has a bigger gym and they can offer many activities that we can't offer," Florine said.

"It's sad to see this one-room school close," Florine said. "There is so much flexibility in teaching here and there is a better chance for a good rapport between the teacher and pupils."

"Since the grades are all taught in one room the children can listen in on the other class and pick up something they missed earlier," he said. "The kids also become more independent and learn to work on their own while I'm working with the other class."

Also, since Florine has taught many of the students for four of five years he knows their weaknesses and strengths.

"You know what problems they have and where they need help at the beginning of the year," Florine said. "If you didn't already know the students you might get one-fourth the way through the year and realize they needed help several months ago."

Florine hasn't always been sold on the idea of a one-room school.

"The Lutheran Church places teachers just like they place the pastors," he said. "I wasn't expecting this. We filled out a dream sheet listing the type of position we would like to have. I was interested in going back to Michigan and thought I would teach one grade at the school."

"Then I got the call to come here," he said. "My job included teacher of four grades, principal, janitor and secretary of the voters for the Lutheran church. It sounded like an awful lot.

"I had received nothing that I had asked for on my dream sheet except I didn't want a large town," he said. "They took me at my word." (Augsburg boasts a population of nine in the winter and seven for the summer.)

Florine has had several calls to teach at several Lutheran schools in Illinois.

BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR PASTORS

ROBERT M. JANK (1937-1943)



The Reverend Robert M. Jank graduated from the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri and served fifteen years as a missionary in India. In 1937 he accepted the Call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Augsburg, where he served for six years. During his ministry here he was instrumental in establishing peace and harmony within the congregation. He later spent four years as a chaplain in the U. S. Army, twelve years as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Pocahontas, Missouri., and three years in Forest Green, Mo. He retired to Cape Girardeau, Missouri in 1962.

Pastor Jank married the former Cora Bombal. They are the parents of four children: Ercih, Walda Schaefer, Connie Lange, and Carl.

GUENTER W. MALLING (1943-1947)



The Reverend Guenter Malling emigrated from Germany in 1928 and graduated from the Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois in 1938. His first parish was at Osman, Illinois, where he served for five years. In 1943, he accepted the Call to Immanuel at Augsburg, where he conducted English and German services. The Ladies Aid was organized and a basement was constructed during his ministry here. He left Augsburg in January, 1948 to serve at rural Waseca, Minnesota and a few years later served a dual parish there. The clergyman has traveled extensively through Europe, the Middle East, and the Holy Land. He remained at Waseca until his retirement in 1973.

Pastor Malling was married in 1938 to Irma Vathauer, a parocial schoolteacher. Mrs. Mailing served the Augsburg Lutheran School during a vacancy and taught at St. Peter, Illinois. They are the parents of three sons.

MARTIN F. KUEGELE (1951-1958)



Rev. Kuegele, graduate of Concordia College, Hawthorn, New York and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 1911, accepted the call to Immanuel and was installed December 1951. It was from Augsburg that Pastor Kuegele retired, preaching his farewell sermon Easter Day, April 6, 1958. It was during his ministry that the church was redecoreated. In January 1915, he married Margaret C. Yank of Vera. They had five children. She passed away in 1950 and Rev. Kuegele married Mrs. Lillian Meyers the following year prior to accepting Immanuel's call. In his retirement, Rev. Kuegele served St. Paul's Wittenberg, Missouri, from April 1961 until his death in 1963, one day before his 75th birthday.

NORMAN L. BULTMAN (1958-1960)



The Reverend Norman L. Bultman was born in a Lutheran parsonage near Jefferson City, Missouri. There he attended the parochial school. He attended St. Paul College, Concordia, Missouri, and graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri in 1943. He was ordained the same year at Indianola, Nebraska. The cleric served in several states before accepting the Call to Immanuel Lutheran Church at Augsburg in 1958, where he served until 1960. During his ministry here, the Adult Bible Class, which, meets on Sunday mornings, was organized.

Pastor Bultman was united in marriage with Ethel Hilgeman of St. Louis, Missouri in 1956. He was serving Zion Lutheran Church, Rockville, Missouri, when he delivered the afternoon sermon at the 100th Anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Sunday, September 6, 1976.

J. GEORGE KAISER (1961-1966)



The Reverend J. George Kaiser was born July 1, 1895 in Hannibal, Missouri. He graduated from the Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois in 1919. His ministry includes three years at a dual parish near Clayton, Illinois; six years at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Athens, Illinois; ten years at St. Paul Lutheran Church near Mattoon, Illinois; eighteen years at St. John Lutheran Church, Champaign, Illinois; and six years at Zion Lutheran Church, Macon, Missouri. He assumed the ministry at Augsburg in 1961, where he labored for five years. He then served Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Eureka, Illinois until his retirement. His ministry includes twenty-four years as Circuit Counselor of the Champaign-Danville Circuit of the Central Illinois District.

Pastor Kaiser married Mathilda D. Bullerman of Strasburg, Illinois on January 13, 1921. They are the parents of five children: Herbert, Dorothy Taube, Norma Albriecht, Lois Strecolus, and Lora Reiner.

REINHOLD F. DIERKS (1967-1885)



Rev. Dierks was born January 23, 1929, in Shellake, Wisconsin to Rev. Walter J. and Mildred Dierks. He was baptized in the St. John Lutheran Church there. Rev. Dierks has one brother and three sisters.

The clergyman attended grade school in Mellen, Wisconsin, and was confirmed at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, on April 18, 1943, by his father. He graduated from the Chippewa Falls High School in Wisconsin in 1947. In 1951, he graduated from the St. John College, Winfield, Kansas, and in 1956 from the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. He earned a Master of Sacred Theology Degree at the St. Louis Seminary in 1984. He was ordained at the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mellen, Wisconsin by his father. During the forty-five years of his ministry, he has served churches in: Silver Bay, Minnesota, LaGrange, Missouri, Villard and Grove Lake, Minnesota before coming to Immanuel Lutheran Church-Augsburg, in 1967. Since 1985 he has served in Hooker, Oklahoma; Wapello, Iowa; and is presently serving Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Keosauqua, Iowa on a part time basis. He served extended terms as Circuit Counselor at both Augsburg and Hooker

Pastor Dierks is married to the former Mary Ledford of St. Louis, Missouri. They have one daughter, Rebecca, born October 2, 1975.

Rev. Dierks and Mary live in Oakville, Iowa. Their daughter Rebecca lives in Sioux City, Iowa with her three children, Alexander, Eden, and Olivia. Their nephew, Douglas (D.J.) Scheets, lives in Wapello, Iowa.

MARK A. GEFALLER (1985-87)



Rev. Gefaller married Beth Nichols of Jackson, Michigan on May 24, 1980. He is a graduate of Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan and Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. In 1985, he accepted the call to Immanuel upon graduation from seminary. Beth, Matt, Luke, Nathan, and Rev. Gefaller arrived in Augsburg in June 1985. He was installed upon arrival. It was a time of learning and adjustment to parish life. During the two years of his ministry here, a choir was formed, choir robes and music were obtained, and an evangelism committee was formed. A mission was begun in Shobonier called Project Faith and a live nativity program was produced. In addition, new sound system was installed, the office updated, church records translated and preserved, and copies of valuable documents placed on file in the archives of the Concordia Historical Institute.

Their fourth child, Sarah, was born to them February 4, 1987, while serving here at Augsburg. Their children loved to see “Grandma Ruby” from across the street. It was mentioned that the population of Augsburg doubled when the Gefaller’s moved in. Their children looked forward to playing with the children of many of the families on Sundays and throughout the week.

A fundraiser for one of our members placed Pastor Gefaller in a wig and false mustache singing to the Statler Brothers.

In March 1987, Pastor Gefaller accepted a Call to Clayton, Illinois. After three years he was ordered to active duty in the Navy Chaplain Corps. While on active duty, he served with Marine Corps infantry in the Philippines (Earthquake & Mt. Penitubo) and front-line combat action in Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Following the Marines, he served on the Guided Missile Cruiser, *USS Wainwright*, for Operation Provide Promise. He and his family were next at US Naval Station, Panama Canal. Finally, in our nation’s capitol on the staff of the Navy Chief of Chaplains. In 1992, he as awarded the “Armed Forces Chaplain of the Year” award. Following knee surgery, Rev. Gefaller was medically retired and took an “interim style” ministry in Ottumwa, Iowa. In December of 1999, he was installed as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, North Prairie, Wisconsin. He recently accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

Matthew graduated from Martin Luther High School in June of 2000. Luke will be a senior there in 2001. Nathan will be a junior at Lake Country Lutheran High School, which opened recently in their Circuit. Sarah will be a freshman.

JEROME KOCH (1988-1994)



Rev. Koch graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne Indiana in the spring of 1988. He accepted the call to Augsburg in June of 1988. He left Immanuel Lutheran Church in June of 1994. Rev. Koch is presently the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Chenoa, Illinois.

Rev. Koch and Karen have three children. Since they left Augsburg, they have been blessed with five more grandchildren. They spend most of their free time visiting them. Their oldest grandchild started high school this year

Karen has her own business, a card and gift shop. She makes some of her own products. Karen also works for the Law and Justice commission.

ERIC TIMOTHY LANGE (1994-1997)



Rev. Lange was born on June 4, 1960 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana to Alfred and Alma Lange of Auburn, Indiana.

He graduated with a BA from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1984 with a major in Greek and in Hebrew and a minor in Religion. He graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana in 1988 earning a Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.). During this time, (1986-87), he vicared at Calvary Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon. This is where he met his wife, Jolene. They were married on June 6, 1987.

Pastor Lange served his first call at Trinity Lutheran Church, Pontiac, Illinois from 1988-91. During this time sons Alexander (2/24/89) and Andrew (1/5/91) were born.

The Lange's then moved to St Louis, Missouri while Pastor Lange attended graduate school at Concordia Seminary (91-94). During this time, son, Aaron (1/14/93) was born. While at St. Louis, Pastor Lange served as the first graduate research fellow for the World Mission Institute at Concordia.

The Lange's moved to Augsburg, Illinois in August of 1994. During his time at Augsburg, he continued his studies at Concordia on a part-time basis. While at Augsburg, daughter Bethany (12/10/96) was born.

In August of 1997, Pastor Lange accepted a call to Redeemer Lutheran Church of Gresham, Oregon. In March of 1998 Pastor Lange taught a term of Introductory Greek, Advanced Hebrew, and Introduction to the New Testament at the Lutheran Seminary in Novosibirsk, Siberia. Growing out of this experience, two young Russian Vicars (Alexei Shilin and Daniel Burlakov) served under him here in America. This is the first time Russians have served a US vicarage in the LCMS.

In February 1999, the Lange's were blessed with the final addition to their family. Son, Adam (2/9/99) was born.

Pastor Lange received his STM (Master of Sacred Theology) in 1999 and is nearing completion of his doctorate in theology.

RONALD C. SIMMONS (1997-2002)



Rev. Simmons was born May 16, 1947 to Charles and Ruth Simmons, at Pontiac, Michigan. The family moved to a farm near Goodrich, Michigan in the spring of 1953. He graduated with honors from Goodrich High School in the spring of 1965. In January of 1967 he joined the Army and was trained as a Microwave Radio Repairman. He then served 2 years in Vietnam during which time he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. He was discharged from the Army at the rank of Specialist E-5 in October of 1969.

Rev. Simmons married Ruth Elaine Weiss of Saginaw, Michigan on April 24, 1971. They have 5 children, Rachel Cook, Rebecca Craig, Randall, Rhea, and Renee. After 12 years in the hog farming business in Michigan, he entered Concordia College in Ann

Arbor to prepare for the pastoral ministry. He is a 1985 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne. His first call was to St. Paul Lutheran Church in Stover, Missouri in June of 1985 and there served as pastor until November of 1997. He accepted a call to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Shobonier, Illinois and is currently serving here as our pastor. Pastor Simmons has implemented computers and software into our record keeping system. He is well on the way to gathering our records and history into this system.

VICARS

Our congregation, in times past, also had occasion to make use of vicars assigned to us from the seminary. We have had four in all. Their primary function was to teach the school while assisting the Pastor with the congregation in a limited capacity. These students were Mr. Serger, Mr. Wescott, Mr. Prifogle, and Mr. Winterstein.

BIOGRAPHIES OF OUR TEACHERS

URBAN R. EWALD (1937-1942)



Mr. U. R. Ewald graduated from Concordia College, River Forest, Illinois, in 1933. He accepted his first Call to Immanuel Church, Augsburg, after teaching four years in Altamont, Illinois. During his service here, he taught all eight grades, served as organist and was asked to lead the young people. The teacher left in Augsburg of 1942, and has served St. Matthew and Bethlehem in St. Louis, Missouri, Zion Church in Pocahontas, Missouri, Trinity at Centralia, Illinois, St. Paul in Ashland, Illinois, and St. Paul in Troy, Illinois.

Teacher Ewald and his wife Helen were married in 1938 in Unionville, Michigan. They are the parents of seven children: Vida, and Elwyn, who were born at Augsburg, David, Gene, Mark and Larry. Their first child rests in the Augsburg cemetery. The six remaining children all graduated from Concordia Teacher's College, River Forrest, Illinois, and have all served the church in a variety of capacities.

CHESTER L. PLATT (1942-1944)



Mr. Chester L. Platt graduated from the Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Nebraska, in 1933. He arrived at Augsburg in the latter part of August 1942, during the ministry of Pastor Robert Jank. He spent two enjoyable years as the teacher in the Augsburg Lutheran School, in charge of eight grades, and had other duties as well. In August of 1944 Mr. Platt accepted a Call to Millington, Michigan. The Lutheran School at Millington grew from a one-room school with 36 students to an enrollment of 285 students in a school with nine rooms in 1976, while Teacher Platt served there.

PAUL R. MUELLER (1945-1970)



Mr. Mueller was born on August 6, 1908, at Frohna, Perry County, Missouri, the son Mr. and Mrs. Otto I. Mueller. He attended the Concordia Lutheran School and the Frohna Public School. In the fall of 1924 he entered Concordia Teacher's College, River Forest, Illinois, completing high school and two years of college. In 1929-1930, Teacher Mueller served as supply teacher at Zion Lutheran School, Oneida, Wisconsin, where he served the Indian people. He graduated from Concordia Teacher's College, River Forest, in 1931 and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Education there in 1958. Mr. Mueller served as teacher and organist at Zion Lutheran Congregation, Bunceton (Lone Elm), Missouri, 1931-1945. He came here to Immanuel in 1945.

Teacher Mueller married Erna A. Miesner, daughter Mr. and Mrs. Gottlieb Miesner of Gorham, Illinois on August 1, 1931. Their daughter, Doris, married Lawrence Rubin.

Mr. Mueller enjoyed the enviable distinction of a quarter century of service at Augsburg. During that time, he served as organist for most church services, including weddings and funerals. In addition, he was secretary to the congregation and kept faithful records of the parish for 25 years. On Sunday mornings, he taught a high school Bible class. He also served as instructor in the confirmation classes during vacancies, and conducted church services on occasion. He was also school custodian in the small one room building where classes have been held these many years. Choral groups at Augsburg have also been under his direction. Teacher Mueller served Immanuel Church during the pastorates of six clergymen: G. Malling, F. Mueller, M. Kuegele, N. Bultmann, G. Kaiser and R. Dierks.

Teacher Mueller taught all eight grades at Augsburg in the one room school for most of the quarter century. In the fall of 1967, only grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 were taught here, a change which continued through May 1970. The other grades were taught at St. Paul Lutheran School, 4 miles southeast of Augsburg Burg, where Mr. Stanley Bluma was the teacher. Immanuel and St. Paul Churches agreed to this plan, under which students from either parish would come to the school where their grade was being taught. Beginning in September 1970, the lower grades were taught at Augsburg under Mr. Howard Florine, and the upper grades were taught at the St. Paul School under Mr. Bluma. Mr. Mueller wrote an article on the dual school system, which was featured in the January 1969 edition of Lutheran Education, a leading Lutheran school magazine.

Perhaps the most significant contribution of Teacher Mueller and his wife was the Christian training that all the students received and the excellent example in Christian living on the part of this fine family. The Holy Bible and Luther's Small Catechism formed the basis of the religious teaching in the Augsburg School these many years. Many will long remember the pleasant and profitable years at the Augsburg School under Teacher Mueller. None will forget the intense faith in Jesus Christ evidenced by this dedicated teacher in all his work in the parish at Augsburg.

In the 25 years that Teacher Mueller taught here, we had a total of 181 students taught. Of these, 91 were boys and 90 were girls.

HOWARD W. FLORINE (1970-1975)



Mr. Florine was born and raised in Flint, Michigan, the third child of Ted and Vera Florine. He was baptized at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Flint by the Rev. Otto E. Sohn. Attending St. Paul Lutheran School did much to shape his life and develop his faith. He had two really special teachers there.

Upon high school graduation, after changing his career focus from electrical engineering, Mr. Florine attended Concordia Lutheran Jr. College in Ann Arbor, Michigan and went on to Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Illinois, receiving his BA in February 1970. He was offered and accepted a teaching position at Bethel Lutheran School in Chicago to fill a temporary vacancy. In May of that year his official placement was to Immanuel Lutheran School, Shobonier, Illinois, teaching grades 1-4.

He drove down in June for a short weekend visit, staying with Pastor Reinhold Dierks. That provided his first exposure to the people of Augsburg. A few weeks later he drove down, with the back seat of his new 1970 Ford Maverick filled with all of his belongings.

There were 39 pupils that first year. Stanley Bluma taught grades 5 through 8 at St. Paul. Mr. Bluma and Mr. Florine worked together along with teachers at other Lutheran schools in the area to establish a Lutheran School Basketball "league." The players and cheerleaders really developed over those few years despite our very rough beginning and lack of sophisticated equipment and facilities. The Nelson & Janice Torbeck barn proved just fine for practice!

When Mr. Bluma accepted a call and left St. Paul, the upper four grades were then taught at Augsburg with the lower four grades now at St. Paul. While Augsburg was a small country school, it had the latest in textbooks, teaching equipment and materials, along with access to special programs offered by the Vandalia school district. The education offered at Augsburg proved again and again to rank among the best in the area. Of course, it was inter-mixed and intertwined with a strong Lutheran emphasis to prepare those students for all of life. Each day began with the raising of the U.S. flag on the outside pole and the ringing of the old school bell. This was immediately followed by a short devotion, prayer and pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mr. Florine recounts that teaching was a true pleasure. It was like a family—everyone knew each other. The parents were very supportive of their children and the school. He recalls that discipline problems were almost non-existent.

Mr. Florine admits that he would be remiss if he did not mention the special team ministry partnership that developed during those years with one of the finest parish pastors anywhere—Pastor Dierks. The support, guidance and friendship he provided were exceptional.

Teacher Florine was also involved with the youth group, Walther League. He remembers what great kids—they were almost as old as he was, but they had a great time and the Ford Maverick sure got a workout with them.

A sad point occurred when the decision to close the school, after almost 100 years, was made. Mr. Florine accepted a call to serve as Principal and teacher at Zion Lutheran School in Mt. Pulaski, Illinois. After four years and after finishing the Masters Degree in Educational Administration, which was begun while at Augsburg, he was offered a position in student financial aid at Concordia Teachers College in River Forest. He accepted and spent 8 years there. During this time he finished work on his Master of Business Administration degree.

Mr. Florine left the professional church ministry after almost 18 years. He is now in his 23rd year of assisting college students finance their college education, currently serving as Director of Financial Aid at Dominican University—just a few blocks down the street from Concordia. He has been in the field of education for 31 years.

FIRST OFFICIAL ACTS

by Sharon Braasch Dolly

Instead of listing just the names of the first groom and bride, the first child baptized, those young people first confirmed and the first death, I am including additional information so that those individuals are not just a number in our first Book of Records.

The first recorded marriage at Immanuel:

Frank Rudolf Braasch, son of William Braasch and Emilie nee Schley, born April 17, 1853, Mayville, Dodge Co., Wisconsin and Wilhelmine Frine Derika Beyer, daughter of Carl Beyer and Friederika nee Kastner, born October 25, 1859, Williamstown, Dodge Co., Wisconsin were married on May 26, 1878 in Wilberton, Fayette Co., Illinois, by G. Meier, pastor. Witnesses were Emil Beyer and Marie Braasch.

Their first child, Maria Louisa Wilhelmina Braasch, was born April 30, 1879 and baptized at Immanuel on May 18, 1879. Her sponsors were: Wilhelm Braasch, Maria Beyer and Maria Braasch.

Frank and Wilhelmina's family consisted of the following children: Maria, Anna, Gustav Carl, Bertha A., Emil, Christina, Mathilda, Eleanor, Anna #2, and Robert.

The Frank Braasch family moved from this area to the Altamont, Illinois area by 1892.

Frank and Wilhemine, as well as Frank's parents, are all buried at St. Paul Lutheran Church, ALC, Altamont, Illinois. Wilhemine's parents are buried at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Shobonier, Illinois.

The first child baptized at Immanuel was:

Wilhelmina Elizabetha Bertha Krug daughter, of Wilhelm and Louisa Kratzman Krug, born September 24, 1877 and baptized on November 19, 1877. Her sponsors were: Wilhelm Fellwock, Elizabeth Krug and Bertha Drews.

Bertha died December 11, 1882 and was buried on December 13, 1882 with the stillborn child of Carl and Carolina Krumpff Schukar.

William and Louise had eight more children baptized here at Immanuel as follows: Ida Louisa Rosalia, Augusta Martha Ella, Friedrich Martin, Julius Bernhard, Carl Wilhelm Georg, Friedrich Wilhelm, Wilhelmine Elisabeth

Laura, and Emilia Magdalena "Lena". According to the 1900 census there was one other child that was deceased by June 1900.

The first confirmation was on May 19, 1878 with the following three confirmands:

Bertha Rheiner, Maria Elisabeth Ehrat and Heinrich Schwertz.

Bertha Rheiner, daughter of Edward and Metha nee Meyer Rheiner was born July 25, 1862 and baptized on September 29, 1861 by her father. Dr. Rheiner was a well known physician in the St. Paul area who was born in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland He was married March 14, 1854 to Meda Slaeger of St. Louis and by 1867 he brought his family to St. Paul. They were parents of seven children. This information is from The 1878 History of Fayette County.

Maria Elisabeth Ehrat, daughter of George and Katharina Schlatter Ehrat, was born April 22, 1862.

Katharina Schlatter was born December 1, 1827 in Lohn, Switzerland and her children Jacob, Barbara, Gottfried, Elizabeth, George and Christian were also all born in Switzerland.

Heinrich Christian Dietrich Schwertz, son of Friedrich and Carolina Ernestina nee Rohlfing Schwertz, was born January 7, 1864. Henry and his siblings were all born in Illinois but his parents were born in Prussia.

The first recorded death was:

Wilhelmina Carolina Wassmuth, daughter of John and Wilhelmina Beyer Wassmuth, was born April 23, 1874 and died January 29, 1878.

John Wassmuth, born November 10, 1850, He died January 29, 1903, Kansas City, KS married November 16, 1871 in Fayette Co., IL to Mena Beyer, she was born June 12, 1852 and died September 14, 1898. Their son Wilhelm Gottfried was born June 20, 1878 and was baptized here at Immanuel.

Some family information comes from Fayette Facts.

Our early records were recorded in German and translated by Rev. E. Meseke, Linda Hanabarger, and others. Our first Book of Records is from 1876-1912 and our second is from 1923 to date. I believe there never was a book for 1913-1922, Membership Cards were used instead. Many now are lost.

I have restored those years to the best of my ability.

CONFIRMATIONS

1878

Bertha Rheiner
Maria Elizabeth Ehrat
Heinrich Christian Dietrich Schwertz

1879

None

1880

Johann Georg Ehrat
Edward Schukar
Heinrich Fellwock
Johann Schmidt
Johann Julius Sasse
Amanda Schukar
Emilie Charlotte Janetzky
Carolina Schwertz
Elizabeth Horn
(A)Emilie Fellwock
Wilhelm Wuehle

1881

None

1882

Carl Friedrich Schukar
Friedrich Schmid
Christian Heinrich Wilhelm Brandhorst
Franz Heinrich Sasse
Maria Mathilde Schukar
Louise Caroline Wuehle
Emma Agnes Laura Sasse

1883

Christian Ehrat
Wilhelm Adolph Schmid
Wilhelm Goedel
Emma Rosaline Fellwock
Clara Augusta Schukar
Anna Augusta Schwirtz

1884

August Hahn
Fredrich Riechmann
Wilhelm Hintze
Hulda Sasse

1885

Gustav Sasse
Theodore Fellwock
Carl Sasse
Louise Marzahn
Ida Schukar

1886

Friedrich Schukar
Albert Hintz
Elisabeth Riechmann
Anna Fellwock
Margarete Sasse
Alwine Schmid
Marie Wolff

1887

Emil Schukar
Marie Doehring
Emilie Horn
Caroline Goedel

1888

Wilhelm Hahn
Wilhelm Schukar
Ida Riechmann
Marie Schukar
Anna Sasse
Elizabeth Riechmann
Johann Schukar

1889

Julius Sasse
Bernhard Schukar
Wilhelm Riechmann
Rudolph Fellwock
Sophie Gerken
Christian Breuer

1890

Karl Rotfuss
Anna Horn
Anna Wolff
Auguste Protz

1891

Ferdinand Hintze
Alexander Riechmann
Marie Schukar
Julius Gerken
Mathilde Doehring

1892

Wilhelm Protz
Wilhelm Wefer
Maria Sasse
Louise Emma Rosalie Fellwock

1893

Marie Louise Horn

1894

Anna Auguste Hintze
Ida Louise Rosalie Krug
Alwine Christine Braasch
Caroline Anna Christine Peterson
Franz Edward Protz

1895

Georg Schukar
Heinrich Carl Martin Oertwig
Georg Wilhelm Fellwock
Emil Sasse
Ella Auguste Martha Krug

1896

Albert Braasch
Fritz Petersen
Maria Metzger
Victoria Riechmann
Minna Horn

1897

Helena Katharine Metzger
Hanna Louise Katarina Metzger
Ernst Wolff
Johann Georg Ehrat

1898

Bertha Louise Riechmann
Johann Friedrich Oertwig
Martin Friedrich Krug
Gustav Adolph Doehring
Anna Henriette Maria Rensmann

1899

Christian Friedrich Protz
Gottfried Jacob Ehrat
Emma Katharine Ehrat
Emma Metzger

1900

Emilie Louise Elizabeth Wolff

1901

Rose Metzger
Maria Ehrat
Karl Ehrat
Bernhard Krug
Anna Sasse

1902

None

1903

None

1904

Lydia Metzger
Helene Metzger
Paul Ehrat
Georg Ehrat
Johann Schmidt
Wilhelm Krug
George Krug
Henrich Protz was not confirmed since the Lord called him home following a fall from a horse.

1905

None

1906

Henry Knecht
Albert Louis Ehrat
Heinrich Carl Riechmann
Wilhelm Ehrat
Ernst Protz

1907

None

1908

Lena Ehrat
Ida Riechmann
Elli Usinger
Sophie Schmid
Tilly Schmid
Bertha Wolff
Harry Usinger
Jake Metzger

1909

Helene Riechmann

Marie Ehrat
Ida Schmid
Helene Protz
Christian Protz
Jake Goedel
Herman Sasse

1910

None

1911

None

1912

Emma Horn
Tilly Schmid
Margareth Schmid
Alma Metzger
Bertha Sasse
Esther Schukar
Edward Wilhelm Wolff
Alex Riechmann
Arthur Riechmann

1913

None

1914

Minna Helene Schukar
Edward Hermann Torbeck
Louise Wilhelmine Rothamel
Friedrich Wilhelm Schmidt
Dorathea Edna Mathilde Torbeck
Magdalena Emilie Krug
Eleonora Ella Harmeier
Johann Peter Goedel
Leona Louise Anna Kruenegel
Hulda Lena Emma Lange
Mary Sasse
Johanna Maria Anna Rolwing

1915

Linda Anna Maria Metzger
Wilhelm Salamo Friedrich Torbeck
Bertha Anna Louise Rebbe
Selesta Louisa Harmeier
Esther Emilie Riechmann
Walter Friedrich Elsworth Metzger
Ewald Herman Kruenegel
Johann Ludwig Christian Rebbe
Adelina Ernstine Alwine Kruenegel
George Frederick Gabel (Adult)
Charles Arthur Gabel (Adult)

Lillian R. Gabel (Adult)

1916

Minna Marie Elisabeth Wolff
Martin Friedrich Peter Torbeck
Nora Maria Sophia Rebbe
Metha Anna Schukar
Klara Anna Wilhelmine Schaal
Alwine Julia Katharine Torbeck
Clara Riechmann
Lillian Lehde
Julia Margaretha Emma Metzger

1917

Martin August Carl Beyer
Harry Carl Gerken
Walter Johann Friedrich Kruenegel
Walter Schaefer
Ludwig (Louis) Jakob Schmid
Linda Bertha Louise Kruenegel
Augusta Louise Meseke
Adele (Daily) Rebbe
Hilma Louise Riechmann
Hilda Sophia Carolina Sachan
Irene Adeline Torbeck
Mrs. Clara Ehrat nee Kleemann

1918

Alfred Friedrich Harmeier
Gottfried Herbert Metzger Jr.
Forrest Ernst Sasse
Minnie Goedel
Helen Louise Riechmann
Cordelia Anna Katharine Sachan
Ruth Shaefer
Walter Kleemann (Adult)

1919

Herbert Johann Solomon Metzger
Martin Ludwig Wilhelm Meyer
Alwinus Karl Kruenegel
Andreas Friedrich Hermann Kruenegel
Ervin Friedrich Louis Sachan
Wilhelm Christian Louis Rebbe
Elmer Torbeck
Harry Wilhelm Goedel
Pearlnelda Wilhelmena Helene Lehde
Eleonora Anna Minna Meseke
Ella Johanna Christine Torbeck
Irene Bertha Louise Torbeck
Eleonora Riechmann
Clara Manley

1920

Otto Ludwig Schukar

Elmer Friedrich Sasse

Albert Christian Hermann Meyer

Wilhelm Friedrich Rudoff Rebbe
Elisabeth Mine Schmid
Anna Emilie Schmid
Julia Maria Knecht
Gertrude Schaefer
Leona Elizabeth Huelskotter
Florentine Mathilde Sophie Sachan

1921

Edgar Heinrich Gustav Meyer
Victor Wilhelm Heinrich Lotz
Lydia Louise Martha Sasse
Viola Anna Moeller
Julia Lena Goebel
Lillie Wilhelmine Louise Rebbe
Florence Louise Martgarethe Bertram
Martha Auguste Emilie Kruenegel
Lydia Bombal

1922

Raymond Job. Friedrick Sachan
Clarence Franz Johann Meyer
Theodore Wilhelm Riechmann
Roy Louis Friedrich Storck
Ervin Johann Hermann Meyer
Walter Hermann Julius Wefer
Arthur Forest Goedel
Edward Albert Schmid
Margareta Elisabeth Hassebrock
Ella Louise Knecht
Linda Ann Magdalena Schaal
Leona Amanda Josephine Lotz
Cordelia Elizabeth Louise Bertram
Hilda Anna Friederike Rothamel
Edna Magdalena Christine Torbeck
Lena Maria Schukar

1923

Arthur Heinrich Wilhelm Braasch
Ernst Christian Solomon Torbeck
Walther Karl Friedrich Meyer
Leonhard Hein. Hermann Torbeck
Roy August Gerkin
Herbert Christian Fried. Peterson
Leroy Christian Hermann Meyer
Harry Ludwig Wilhelm Meyer
Anita Emma Augusta Kruenegel
Eleonora Maria Wilhelmina Aukamp
Lillie Louise Anna Rebbe
Lavern Emma Minna Moeller
Hulda Dorothea Ernstine Sasse
Erna Maria Louise Braasch
Lillie Martha Elisabeth Lotz

Mrs. Mollie Gerkin nee Hanley
Mrs. Bertha May Meseke nee Alexander
Delsie Minnie Meseke

1924

Walter Karl Gustav Rebbe
Delmar Carl Friedrich Oertwig
Walter Carl Meseke
Martha Anna Christina Bertram
Martha Maria Pauline Siebert
Helene Dorothea Rubin
Maria Cordelia Moeller
Hilda Louise Sophia Von Behren

1925

Walter Karl Gabel
Georg Karl Friedrich Rothamel
Irvin Hermann Friedrich Kruenegel
Raymond Gottfried Georg Meyer
Wilhelm Karl Meseke
Wilhelm Heinrich Knecht
Leona Emma Wilhelmina Sachow
Rosine Louise Emma Lotz
Clara Caroline Sasse
Viola Rosine Rubin
Ida Anna Emma Remmert
Gladys Amelia Elisabeth Michel
Adolf Edwin Walter Bollhorst

1926

Herbert August Georg Braasch
Lorenz Karl Christian Torbeck
Georg Heinrich Gottfried Meyer
Karl Friedrich Schaal
Lester Wilhelm Oertwig
Edna Eleonore Rubin
Alvine Maria Sophie Aukamp
Arthur Carl Harry Lotz

1927

Harry Martin Christian Schubert
Oskar Johann Heinrich Wefer
Raymond Heinrich Benjamin Torbeck
Edward Friedrich Knecht
Hermann Heinrich Goebel
Lillian Alwina Goedel
Mathilde Emma Margreta Knecht

1928

Albert Herman Gustav Heinrich Rebbe
Oliver George Friedrich Schukar
Edward Friedrich Martin Meyer
Oliver Philipp Meyer

Elmer Johann Heinrich Meyer
Alice Anna Siebert
Clara Alma Josephine Kruenegel
Rosa Louise Torbeck
Lydia Isidora Nellie Torbeck
Agnes Caroline Wilhelmine Schaefer

1929

Edmund Herman Edward Lotz
Harold Heinrich Peter Bertram
Ervin Georg Meseke
Walter Friedrich Peter Bertram
Norman Wilhelm Edward Michel
Norman Johannes Lotz
Edward August Wilhelm Remmert
Cordelia Anna Josephine Rubin
Elmer August Hermann Meseke
Evelyn Margaret Gabel
Rocile Anna Elizabeth Sasse
Norma Karoline Louise Krug
Mabel Emma Maria Rubin
Glenna Louise Dorothea Schaefer
Lydia Bertha Lotz
Friedrich Karl Meseke

1930

Verna Lena Moeller
Friedrich Johann Meseke
Roy George Wasmuth
Wilbert Johann Heinrich Torbeck
Walter Friedbert Braasch
Walter Peter Georg Lange
Wilhelm Heinrich Herman Aukamp
Dorothea Louise Ehrat
Edna Katharina Wefer
Verna Anna Katharina Lange
Otto Edward Wolff

1931

Charlotte Georgia Gabel
Frieda Anna Maria Lange
Pauline Johanna Siebert
Marvin Friedrich Schulte
Hugo Arthur Meseke
Georg Marvin Sasse
Albert Wilhelm Meyer
Willard Johann Christian Meyer
Roy Georg Knecht
Norman Jacob Heinrich Meseke
Albert Gerald Blickenstaff

1932

Richard Gustav Wilhelm Krug

Charles Gottfried Wasmuth
Ruby Alma Hulda Rubin
Grace Mathilda Ehrat
Helen Ida Krug

Olinda Elenora Hedwig Braasch
Florence Bertha Ida Wasmuth
Harold John George Schaal
Paul George Henry Kiehl
Elmer Jacob Rubin
Ruth Frieda Josephine Lotz
Ruby Louise Moeller
Isabel Metzger nee Adams
Doris E. Kruenegel nee Murfin

1933

Victor Wilson Schmid
Albert Johann Emil Torbeck
Oliver Martin Johann Lange
Orville William Gable
Adell Anna Wilhelmine Schullte
Bernice Sarah Kurtz
Dorothea Emma Karoline Maske
Emma Elizabeth Siebert
Gertrude Mathilda Schmid
Mildred Auguste Louise Krug
Ruth Maria Friedericke Von Behren

1934

Filbert Arthur Meseke
Walter William Ehrat
Alvin John August Michel
Richard Henry George Moeller
Clarence Jacob Knecht
Leonard Wilhelm Albert Moeller
Frederick Walter Rubin
Omer William Ehrat
Erich Heinrich Bernhardt Kiehl
Ruth Anna Martha Kiehl
Carl Edward Lotz
Helen Clara Emilie Lange
Hildegard Anna Bertha Braasch
Helen Hulda Erna Aukamp
Evelyn Helen Caroline Meyer

1935

Violet Lucille Lange
Doris Ida Schaal
Norma Clara Augusta Lange
Elna Louise Torbeck
Irma Helen Torbeck
Leola Laura Rohlfing
Herbert Hermann Philipp Rebbe
Floyd Karl Meseke
Clarence Heinrich Gottlieb Torbeck
Donald Edward Wasmuth
Wilbert Herman Arthur Meseke
Evelyn Emma Alwina Goedel

Helen Hulda Goedel
Forrest Riedle (Adult)
Delmer Riedle (Adult)

1936

Cecil Gabel
Harold Lange
Marvin Meseke
Elmer Lange
Lloyd Moeller
Delmer Remmert
Elmer Remmert
Charleen Gable
Cora Rebbe
Ruth Bertram
Ruby Bertram
Bernitta Moeller

1937

William Rubin
Wallace Torbeck
Alvin Lotz
Emelia Rebbe
Viola Meyer
Forrest Meseke
Orville Schukar
George Braasch
Willet Schaefer
Everett Sasse
Edward Sasse
Fred L. Ehrat
Bernice Ehrat
Hilda Rebbe
Esther Meseke

1938

Rita Rohlfing
Arleen Torbeck
Pearl Aukamp
Ralph Schaal
Norman Wolff
Harold Rubin
Walda Juanita Jank
Darleen Moeller
Virginia Gabel
Wilmer Moeller
Willard Torbeck
Carl Rebbe

1939

Arthur Ehrat
Alice Lange
Edgar Lotz

Erich Meseke
Raymond Meseke
Elvera Rubin
Arlene Sasse

1940

Lucille Henrietta Knecht
Irene Emma Rebbe
Marjorie Christina Schmid
Irene Hulda Louise Lange
Virgil Friedrich Schaal
Edw. Ernst Arthur Lange
Elden Wm. Martin Torbeck

1941

Mrs. Oscar Wefer nee Huddelson (Adult)
Gustav M. Aukamp
Ruth B. Ehrat
Artis A. Gable
Adell Loraine Goedel
Carl Robert Jank
Fred G. Moeller
Gilbert F. Meseke
Delbert O. Torbeck
Opal F. Siebert
George Stufflebeam (Adult)
Warren Epps (Adult)
Nellie Riedle (Adult)
Laurel Peyton (Adult)

1942

Donald Charles Ehrat
Wilbert Herman Rohlfing
Wayne Frederick Oertwig
Harold George Sasse
Clarence Godfried Metzger
Delbert Elmer Sasse
Inez Minne Torbeck
Bernice Hilda Meyer
Verna Julia Rethorn
Ed Willoughby (Adult)

1943

Irene Edna Clara Braasch
James Jacob Gabel
Beatrice Iola Krug
Arlene Elenora Lydia Lange
Dennis John Arthur Meseke
Lucille Anna Lydia Meseke
Arlene Minnie Moeller
Irene Minnie Moeller
Melvin Carl Rubin
Dale Ernst Torbeck

1944

Gustave Karl Bombal (Adult)

Dennis Arthur Bombal (Adult)

Mrs. Wm. Gabel (Adult)

1945

Arlene Marie Rethom
Dolores Anna Oertwig
Clara Anna Marie Schoon
Charles Emil Grandt
Harold Jacob Janssen
Allen Henry Schmid
Derald Henry Sasse
Mrs. George Braasch (Adult)
Lucille Swick (Adult)

1946

Ruth Pauline Ida Schoon
Charles Allen Kruenegel
Kenneth Charles Meseke
James Edward Meseke
Marcella Alberta Ehrat
Luella Alberta Wolff

1947

Evelyn Irene Schaal
Shirley May Harmeier
Duane Charles Schoon
Arthur Otto Schukar
Billy Dean Wasmuth

1948

Robert Harmeier
Doris Mae Mueller
Leota Torbeck

1949

Geneva Luella Aukamp
Gertrude Helen Bombal
George Herman Meseke
Beatrice Ann Metzger
Shirley Ann Riedle
Aldin Leo Schukar
Emily Marie Summann
Nelson Delano Torbeck

1950

Anna Doris Marthe Mueller
Lorraine Marie Sasse
Glen Frederic Aukamp
Walter Paul David Summann

1951

Wallace Dean Bertram
Dennis Elmer Schukar
Howard Lee Kruenegel
Floyd Edward Oertwig
Iris Olga Summann

Edward Herman Wasmuth (Adult)
Carol Joyce Wasmuth (Adult)
Herbert Fred Sasse (Adult)
George Wasmuth (Adult)

1952

H. Wesley Harmeier
Leland S. Schaal
Beverley A. Wasmuth
Kenneth W. Rethorn

1953

Alvin Arthur Riedle
Jacob John Metzger
Jacklyn Mae Meseke adult
Deloris Ilene Sasse (Adult)

1954

Betty Jane Schaal
Herman Arthur Sachteleben
Allen Richard Sasse
Leslie Warren Epps
Arthur Walter Bombal

1955

David Edward Knecht
Lonnie Dean Riedle
Rolland Ross Epps
Marlin Orville Schukar
Elvera Lydia Oertwig
Marjorie Ann Bertram
Bernice Frieda L. Wollin
Loretta Irene Lange
Rosalee Elizabeth Janssen
Judith Kay Gerkin
Bernard Francis Williams (Adult)
Robert Earl Williams (Adult)

1956

Margaret Torbeck (Adult)
Darrell Omer Meador (Adult)
Alberta Grandt (Adult)
Lois Mae Rohlfing (Adult)
Sharon Edwards (Adult)
Ronald Lorenz Harmeier
Eugene Schaal
Florence Ann Kruenegel
Lois Mae Riedle
Kay Austin (Adult)
Mary Ann Bauer (Adult)
Howard McIntosh (Adult)
Tillie McIntosh (Adult)

1957

Richard Wollin
Albert Henry Wefer
David Lee Gerkin
Lois Ann Schmid
Janet Delaine Krueenegel
Karen Sue Meseke
Janet Louise Metzger (Adult)
Janet Lea Stokes (Adult)

1958

Harlan Robert Schukar
Larry Lee Bertram

1959

Gary Dean Meseke
Gary Dean Schmid
Faye Wollin
Billy Black (Adult)
Mrs. Velma Rebbe (Adult)
Nita Crown (Adult)

1960

David Sanders (Adult)
Mrs. Joyce nee Denton Bertram (Adult)
Delbert Knecht
Charles Lynn Wasmuth
F. Gale Meseke
Larry Lange
Michael B. Bauer
Bertha Ann Bombal
Carolyn Schukar
Mrs. Jean nee Klukis Janssen (Adult)
Mrs. Janice nee Sigrist Torbeck (Adult)

1961

Robert Dean Lotz
Elaine Louise Schmid
David Louis Reed

1962

Dean Edward Black (Adult)
Sharon Sue Braasch
Linda Sue McBride
Larry Lee Wollin
Leland Keith Meseke
Donald Keith Lotz
Nancy Louise Wefer
Ruth Ann Meseke

1963

Norma Lee Gabel (Adult)

Nancy Louise Schaal (Adult)
Orville Wm. Gabel (Adult)
Kenneth Elmer Lange
Roxis Ann Torbeck
Sharon May Meseke
Carolyn Joyce Moeller
Allen Harrison (Adult)

1964

Mary Ann Reed
Rebecca Sue Bauer
Mildred Ann Sasse
Larry Dale Radcliff (Adult)
Roberta Schmid (Adult)

1965

Earl Dean Wollin
Marilyn Ann Moeller
Steven Wayne Oertwig
Michael Edward Wasmuth
Jean Wollin (Adult)
Nancy Pearly Phinney (Adult)

1966

Ronald Dale Torbeck
Michael Alan Meseke
Angela Kay Ehrat
Diane Lynn Meseke
Dennis Allen Lange

1967

Stanley Keith Knecht
Judith Ann Lotz
Frances Moeller
Keith John Torbeck
Mrs. Deborah nee Griffin Harmeier (Adult)

1968

Dennis Dale Ehrat
Randell Dennis Meseke

1969

Jo Ann Marie Sasse
Debra Ann Meseke
Candace Marie Moeller
Donna Kay Meseke
Danny Joe Gable
Steven Lee Lotz
Ronald Dean Sasse
Mr. Robert Carroll (Adult)
Mrs. Norma Carroll (Adult)
Vicki Torbeck (Adult)
Roslyn Torbeck (Adult)
Beulah Wasmuth (Adult)
Deanna Kay Wollin (Adult)

1970

Patricia Jane Grandt
Daniel Craig Meseke
Susan Kay Meseke
Jerry Mark Sasse

Darlene Wasmuth (Adult)
Dennis Chatham (Adult)
Janine nee Schnarre Lotz (Adult)
Helen nee Stephens Meseke (Adult)

1971

Carol Ann Kruenegel
Barbara Sue Lange
Merle Dean Oertwig
Rickie Lee Sasse
Mary Edith Dierks (Adult)
Colleen Wefer (Adult)

1972

Brenda Lea Riedle
Marsha Jo Meseke
Kathryn Elizabeth Carroll
Tammy Jo Bauer
Bradley Charles Grandt
Rock Doran Schukar
Patricia Susan Oertwig (Adult)

1973

Donald Lee Meseke
Catherine Ann Riedle
Lana Iona Schukar
Lisa Ann Schukar
Nancy Lee Lange (Adult)
Patricia Ellen Meseke (Adult)
Richard Gerald Schmitt (Adult)
Jenean June Torbeck (Adult)
Richard Rodney Frailey (Adult)
Sandra Jo Florine (Adult)

1974

Sheila Ann Krug
Gregory Lee Schaal
Jerry Wayne Schukar
Larry Charles Rebbe
David Kent Rethorn
Pamela Sue Torbeck
Diana Kathryn Bauer (Adult)

1975

Randy Bill Sasse
Pamela Sue Schaal
Shawn Eldon Schukar
Scott Nelson Torbeck

1976

Dianna Kay Bertram
Loann Rae Moeller
Scott Alan Schukar

Sandra Kay Summann
John William Torbeck
Kent Lee Torbeck
Shelley Jo Williams
Joe Wayne Darnell (Adult)

1977

Lori Ann Harrison
Vickie Venetta Meseke (Adult)
Danny Lee Jarrett (Adult)

1978

Tina Marie Bertram
Michael Allen Gable
David Herbert Rebbe
Bunny Blunt (Adult)

1979

Sue Kaiser (Adult)
Marsha Sasse (Adult)
Sandy Torbeck (Adult)
Janet Wagner (Adult)
Jeffery Scott Gable
Mary Jane Harrison
Lisa Ann Meseke
Thomas Jerry Givens, Jr. (Adult)

1980

Melissa Irene Meseke
Sandra Sue Meseke
David Victor Gathe (Adult)

1981

Troy Allen Schukar
Daniel Paul Summann
Shanon Babette Wagner
Michael Alan Wefer
Laura Bone (Adult)

1982

Douglas Alan Harrison
Wade Allen Meseke
Brain Keith Schukar
Mr. Charles Bowles (Adult)
Mrs. Rhonda Bowles (Adult)
Janet Metzger (Adult)
Elizabeth Schmitt (Adult)

1983

Dana Lynn Harmeier
Rhonda Kay Meseke
Tina Louise Wefer

Karen Ann nee Koester Torbeck (Adult)

1984

Jennifer Jill Lotz

Regenia Marie Sasse

Tracey Lynn Schmid

Sarah Jean Williams

Erna Marie Wasmuth (Adult)

Debra Ann Rebbe (Adult)
Patricia Adair Grandt (Adult)

1985

Amy Hale (Adult)
Cheryl Oertwig (Adult)
Stacy Kruenegel (Adult)
Shelly Wollin (Adult)

1986

Mark Lynn Johnson (Adult)
Angela Kay Harmeier
Kimberly Dawn Lotz
Leann Marie Lollo

1987

Debbie Jean nee Wiggins Hobbie (Adult)
John Edwards (Adult)*
Mary Christian Whipple (Adult)*
Beverly Whipple (Adult)*
Thelma Whipple (Adult)*
Ronald Ray Clark (Adult)*
Lucretia Clark (Adult)*
Patricia Wilkerson nee Vogt (Adult)*
Christopher Mikeal Bauer
Jennifer Jo Harrison
Jacklyn Jan Harrison
*Project Faith

1988

Sarah Danelle Meseke+
Melissa Sue Dolly+
+Combined with St. Paul Church

1989

Mrs. Bonnie Clark (Adult)
Carl Wilkerson (Adult)
David Lynn Schukar
Michelle Lynn Stein
Keith Meadows (Adult)
Anita Meadows (Adult)
Donald Collier (Adult)
Elnora Collier (Adult)

1990

Christian Lynn Sasse
Matthew John Bauer
Gerald McMillan (Adult)
Sandra McMillan (Adult)
Marilyn Torbeck (Adult)
Brian W. Brown (Adult)
Camille Brown (Adult)

1991

Chad Arthur Rickman (Adult)
Judith Ann Kaiser (Adult)
Michael W. Gladson (Adult)

1992

Michael Sasse
Sherrie Wollin
Rachael Meseke
Kimberly Torbeck
Nick Collier
Randy Hoyle (Adult)
Sandy Hoyle (Adult)
Danny Hurren (Adult)
Sandy Ehrat (Adult)
Mary Rubin (Adult)

1993

Kimberly Marsh (Adult)
Kim Marsh (Adult)
Jason Schmollinger (Adult)
Carla Woolsey (Adult)
Evonne Schukar
J. D. Bauer
Nathan Collier

1994

Richard Greathouse (Adult)
Jennifer Greathouse (Adult)
Matthew Sasse
Berry Lee Corley (Adult)

1995

Kristy Lynn Roper (Adult)
Lloyd V. Williams Jr. (Adult)
Bob Crippen (Adult)
Dallas Jamie Hopkins (Adult)
Tiffany Lynn Torbeck
Clayton David Gathe
Simon Zachary Taylor

1996

Kimberley Carroll (Adult)
Randy Carroll (Adult)
Phillip R. Richards (Adult)
Diana Renee Langley (Adult)
Michelle Lee Torbeck (Adult)
Christopher Keith Cole
Landon Mitchell Lotz
Timothy Scott Torbeck
Deborah Lynn Alice Wollin

1997

Shanna Nicole Meseke
Peter Anthony Taylor
Kevin Don Gramlick (Adult)
Darlene Debra Kaiman (Adult)

1998

Renee Emily Simmons
Nathaniel Robert Rittis
Andrea Kathleen Sasse (Adult)
Milinda Ann Emerick (Adult)

1999

Kimberley Renee Cole
Katie Elizabeth Darnell
Charles Emil Grandt
Melinda Kay Lotz
Dustin Jay Stine
Lindsey Rochelle Thompson
Travis Lee Torbeck

2000

None

2001

Megan Adair Grandt
Kristen Marlene Grove
Jessica Darcel Rittis
Seth Andrew Schukar
Jacob Allen Smith



This brief history of Immanuel Lutheran Congregation at Augsburg includes events that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit worked with power and might to direct His people here and led them by His hand. The presence of Jesus Christ, the Savior, was fully understood by the many faithful Christians here who labored long and hard to provide spiritual services vital to the work God calls us to do.

Sharing the Word of God together means that the Children of God in this place resolve now to continue calling people to Christ. That work of love, blessed by God, does now continue in His name and by His power.

Thanks be to God!

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His Holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.” Amen

Psalm 103: 1-2