

History of Immanuel Lutheran Church

Active interest of the Lutheran Church in the Sellwood neighborhood of Portland served by Immanuel date back to the early summer months of 1908. Certain members of Trinity Lutheran Church of Portland, Oregon (located at N.E. Rodney and Ivy) appealed to their pastor, the sainted Dr. J. Rimbach, to use his influence toward the end that church services might be conducted for the families of the church who resided in the district with the goal of establishing a church here. The result was that a preaching station was soon arranged and, on about July 12, 1908, the first service was held by **Professor F.W.J. Sylwester**, President of Concordia College, Portland, Oregon.

The organization of the congregation was effected on August 30, 1908 at a meeting called by Dr. Rimbach. Four voting members signed the constitution presented by him: John Helm, William Hering, George Hoehner and Christian Kurtz. Members of the Trappe, Bohlmann, Klug and Staats families were among the early members of the congregation. The official chosen name of the new congregation was **The German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation of Portland, Oregon**.

Following the organization of the congregation, they resolved to call a resident pastor. The call, on October 11, 1908, was assigned to the **Reverend H. C. Ebeling** of St. Paul's Church of Gaston, Oregon. Pastor Ebeling was installed by Pastor R. H. Behrens in the new congregation on November 15, 1908. Pastor Ebeling also served the newly established *English Lutheran Mission of Portland* in connection with his service to Immanuel.



Pastor Ebeling, 1908-1937

The first baptism conducted at Immanuel was on October 4, 1908 for Frank Robert Hoehner, age four months, son of Georg and Eunice Hoehner (maiden name Jahn).

Tauf-Register					
Für das Jahr					
No.	Nachname.	Tag der Taufe.	Tag der Taufe.	Name von Mütterlein.	Kindlein.
1.	Frank Robert	22. Okt.	1908	Georg Hoehner & Eunice geb. Jahn	Eunice Hoehner Frank Robert Georg Hoehner Eunice Hoehner Frank Robert Georg Hoehner Eunice Hoehner
2.	Anna	14. Sept.	1907	Christian Kurtz & Margarethe geb. Schmidt	Christian Kurtz Margarethe Schmidt Christian Kurtz Margarethe Schmidt
3.	Mathias Karlsson	17. Sept.	1907	Christian Kurtz & Margarethe geb. Schmidt	Christian Kurtz Margarethe Schmidt Christian Kurtz Margarethe Schmidt
4.	Arthur Carl	7. Jan.	1907	Carl Kurtz & Margarethe geb. Schmidt	Carl Kurtz Margarethe Schmidt Carl Kurtz Margarethe Schmidt
5.	Alfred Henry	7. Jan.	1907	Carl Kurtz & Margarethe geb. Schmidt	Carl Kurtz Margarethe Schmidt Carl Kurtz Margarethe Schmidt
6.	Blas Maria	12. Febr.	1904	Johann Helms & Margarethe geb. Schmidt	Johann Helms Margarethe Schmidt Johann Helms Margarethe Schmidt

The first two services were held in a vacant store building at S.E. 11th and Umatilla Streets and next in the Union Hall located at S.E. 13th and Tenino Streets. In early 1909, the congregation purchased a building site at S.E. 15th and Lambert Streets (at the time Lambert was named Leo Avenue). On April 18, 1909 the cornerstone of the church was laid and on the day of Pentecost it was formally dedicated to the service of the Triune God.

The size of the first church was 30 x 42 feet and had a basement. The front part of the basement served as a schoolroom and the rear part as a woodshed. At this time the congregation numbered eleven (11) voting members and about fifty (50) communicant and one hundred (100) baptized members, respectively.



In January 1909, Pastor Ebeling organized and conducted a Christian Day School in addition to his pastor and missionary duties. On July 8, 1909, Immanuel congregation was received into membership of the *Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States*, (now named *Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod*) at the District Convention in Tacoma, Washington.

The first Confirmation Class of Immanuel was confirmed on July 4, 1909 and included Albert Gottlieb and Eunice Christine Voeller (born in Bowdle, South Dakota), Rosa Charlotte Klug (born in Calumet, Michigan), and Frida Anna Bertha Wiese (born in HallCo, Nebraska). The first marriage conducted at Immanuel occurred on June 20, 1909 with the uniting of Hugo Post (age 24) and Lucia Bopp (age 26). The first funeral conducted at Immanuel was for Ernst Kern, who was born on April 17, 1847, died March 4, 1911 and was buried March 6, 1911.



Pastor Ebeling with May 8, 1921 confirmation class

The May 8, 1921 Confirmation Class pictured above includes: Jacob and Lillie Doern, Arnold Erwin Arthur Ebeling (son of the pastor), Lena Graessel, Margarete Frida Hardt, Arno Dietrich and Hilda Pauline Hoepker, Caroline Elisabeth Huber, William Frank Kirnley, Martha Helene Koschwitz, Mary Mayer, Margaret Pauline Roethe (who later married Arthur Christofferson - both were longtime Immanuel members until their passing), Alice Elisabeth Strauss, Erwin Heinrich Viohl, and Arthur Albert Wiedenhorft.

Pastor Ebeling continued as teacher until 1921, when the congregation called teacher O. Rausch, who conducted the school from September 1921 to June 1927, when he accepted a call and the school was closed.

A severe hip injury sustained by Pastor Ebeling in the service of the church made it impossible for him to carry out the duties of the ministry and compelled him to tender his resignation to the congregation on December 19, 1937, which the congregation reluctantly accepted on January 2, 1938. He was made an Honorary Pastor of Immanuel by the congregation. On September 16, 1943, the Lord called his faithful servant unto Himself.



1930 Walther League Convention at Immanuel

During Pastor Ebeling's pastorate, the following acts were performed:

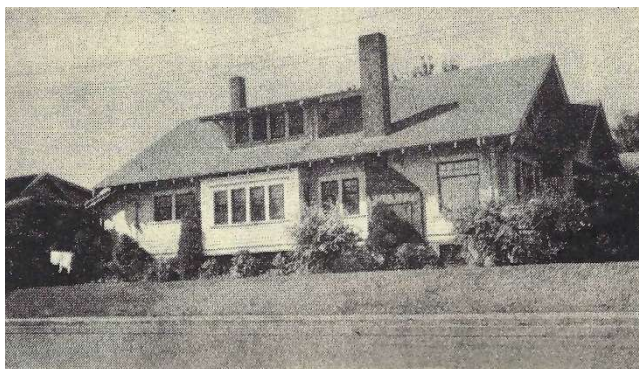
Baptisms:	234
Confirmations:	178
Marriages:	131
Funerals:	97

Following the resignation of Pastor Ebeling, on January 30, 1938 the congregation called its second pastor, the **Rev. H. J. Trinklein** of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Beach, North Dakota. His installation took place on April 24, 1938 when he was installed by Pastor Ebeling. In 1938, the congregation purchased the house at 1434 S.E. Lambert Street for a parsonage. In a Sunday bulletin of Immanuel for May 8, 1949 it reported attendance at the Bible Class "last Wednesday evening was 54, three less than the previous week."



Pastor H. J. Trinklein
1938 - 1956

Under the blessings of God, the Immanuel congregation increased over the years and for a number of years, the congregation had felt an urgent need for better church facilities and a larger church home. The congregation had begun setting aside funds in 1923 toward the project of building a new church. Months and years of prayerful thinking went on and many meetings were held as a Building Committee and Ways and Means Committee were elected. After many meetings and consultations the decision to build was reached and bids were received on July 31, 1950. Mr. Albert Plagens of St. Paul, Minnesota was engaged as the architect along with E. F. Balgemann who was a member of the District architectural committee.



Immanuel's Pastor's Parsonage at 1434 S.E. Lambert Street
1938 - 1969

After lengthy delays due to difficulties in getting a permit to build, ground was broken after the worship service on November 5, 1950. A public election was given the right of way on Tuesday, November 7, 1950 and on the following day dismantling of the basement of the old church began. The old church building was moved to the lot directly south of the church, which was purchased for a future parking lot. Excavation began on November 13 with the old foundation completely razed on November 20, 1950. The mover of the church building, C. B. Burt, generously extended the offer to permit the congregation the use of the building, which was now resting on moving blocks, until the time when there was room in the new building for services. The basement in the parsonage was converted into a meeting place for smaller gatherings.

Due to the kindness of *McGinnis and Wilhelm* (later sold/merged into what is now *Portland Memorial*), local morticians, the funeral parlors of this firm were used for services and meetings for several Sundays, and on December 10, 1950 services were again taken up in the old church building which was then resting on props.

Pouring of the foundation began on January 23, 1951 and the walls of Immanuel began to rise. A delay of months was experienced, however, due to a stone finishers strike that kept the limestone facing, arches (etc.) unfinished at the plant in Indiana. On Sunday, July 1, 1951, the cornerstone was laid - which can be seen on the northwest corner of the main church building. E. F. Balgemann continued the construction of the shell of the building - and on October 1, 1951 the roof had been finished and then on October 17, 1951 the fleche, or spire, could be raised to hold the cross high before the world.

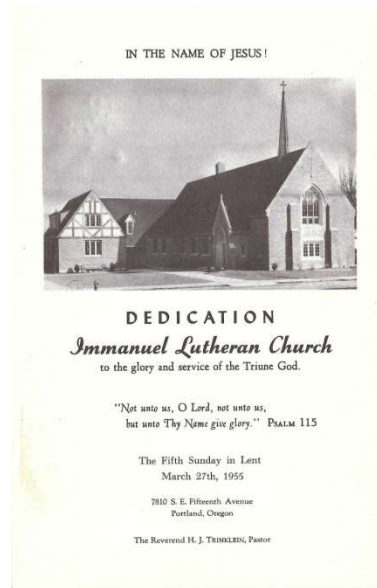


When the builder had completed the outside of the building, an agreement was reached with him that Immanuel would continue with volunteer work and the members undertook to first complete the educational and social part of the project. After many hours of day and night work, the congregation was able to occupy the large room on the first floor as a chapel, with the other rooms for overflow crowds. (In later years, this first floor chapel became the Sunday School's opening devotion room - and after another remodel in the 1980's it became what is now the "choir room," an office and pastor's office). The chapel was dedicated on October 12, 1952 and two services began to be held there at that time.

Attention was then directed to the church nave and the floor was poured in November 1953 and the tremendous job of paneling the ceiling, all by volunteer work, was completed by the end of the year. With the help of God, who worked through the willingness of hands willing to work and hearts that were by Him moved to willingness to contribute and to purchase bonds and aid from a loan from the *District Church Extension Fund Board of the Northwest District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod* (of money deposited with the board by a consecrated Christian for this purpose) - and in response to the prayers of His people, the building was completed. The project became a labor of love to many with families and individuals sacrificing their comfort, means and their living so that the Lord's House could be built.

With profound thanksgiving Immanuel congregation was used by God to build His church in this community. With profound gratitude voices were lifted in thanksgiving for the privilege of working for His eternal purposes. The church building was dedicated in a Dedicatory Service at 10:30 a.m. on the Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 27, 1955,

officiated by Pastor Trinklein. The special guest speaker was Rev. Theo. E. Dorpat, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Spokane, Washington (who chose Psalm 126:3 for his sermon, "Our Joyful Dedication"), organist Harold Staats (who was the son of original members and was the faithful organist at Immanuel for 80 years) and choirmaster, Kenneth J. Trinklein (Pastor's son, who was choirmaster and choir member for many years). In addition, a Dedicatory Vespers service was held that day at 5:00 p.m.



1955 Church Building Facts

Architecture: English Gothic Countryside Chapel

Trusses: by Timberline Structures

Brasses, Lectionary, Paraments: memorial gifts from individuals

Main arches, facings and stone trim: Indiana limestone

Furniture: Appalachian Hilltop Oak, by Marshall Company, Payette, Idaho

Paraments: Mrs. E. Hoefner, Portland

Public Address System: Men's Club of Immanuel

Credence Tables: Builder's Wood Products

Architect: Albert Plagens of St. Paul, Minnesota

Building Committee: Arthur Christofferson, Chairman; Albert Anderson, secretary; C. P. Schierholz, P. E. Dressler, John Westphal and Pastor Trinklein.

Ways and Means Committee: Edward C. Eick and Harold Staats



Pastor Trinklein opening church doors for dedication
March 27, 1955



Pastor Trinklein Confirmation Class of 1956

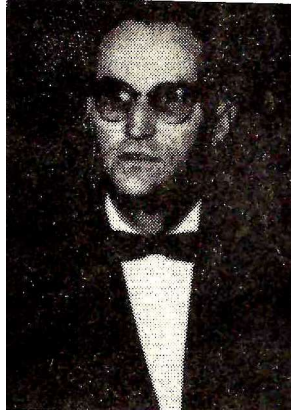
During Pastor Trinklein's service at Immanuel, he also served as Visitor for the Northwest District (Portland area), member of the Executive Board of the *Good Shepherd Home of the West*, Advisory Pastor of the *Lutheran Laymen's League* in Portland and was elected Honorary Advisory Pastor for Life, member of the local committee of the *Lutheran Refuge Service* and was a local Armed Services Contact Pastor.

Pastor Trinklein had suffered a heart attack in 1950 and was in apparent good health afterward until June 17, 1956. At the baptism service of Carol Sachs (sister of Judy Cox and aunt of Don Cox, Jr.), he fell ill due to a combination of a lung and urinary infection which brought on another coronary attack. He seemed to recover nicely until he suffered another attack and was called home to the Lord on September 17, 1956 as he was showing the new church building, of which he was justly proud, to another pastor at which time he sat down and fell asleep in Jesus. Funeral services were held at Immanuel on September 20, 1956 and approximately 500 gathered to pay homage to him after his forty-one years of ministry, 18 years of which were in the service to Immanuel.

During Pastor Trinklein's pastorate, the following acts were performed:

Baptisms:	306
Confirmations:	123
Marriages:	89
Funerals:	61

The congregation again was needing to call a pastor and extended the call to **Pastor Waldo Rist** from Idaho Falls, Idaho, who was installed at Immanuel on March 3, 1957. During his pastorate, the congregation continued to grow. He was strong in evangelism and the congregation worked with him in calling on the unchurched which resulted, with the power of the Holy Spirit, increasing church and Sunday School attendance. He was also a good organizer and many members became more involved in the work of the congregation.



Pastor Waldo Rist
1957 - 1962

Pastor Rist accepted a call to Spokane, Washington in the fall of 1962.

During Pastor Rist's pastorate, the following acts were performed:

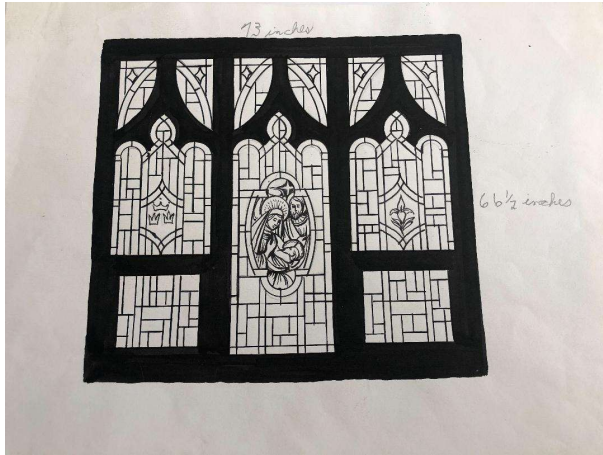
Baptisms:	242
Confirmations:	140
Marriages:	70
Funerals:	71

Pastor Philip Unterschultz of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Spokane, Washington was called to Immanuel and installed on October 6, 1963. Pastor Unterschultz was strong in calling on members, prospects, the sick and hospitalized and the members were happy with his ministry and continued to prosper.



Pastor Philip Unterschultz
1963 - 1972

In July 1966, the final payment of the debt on the church was made and a mortgage burning service was celebrated. Other projects were now undertaken and it was determined to improve the beauty of the church with stained glass windows which would also uplift the worshippers in their worship. Memorial funds were used for this project and on July 10, 1966 the first stained glass window - the nativity scene - was installed. Within two years, all the other windows were replaced with stained glass telling the stories in the Gospels at a cost of over \$14,000 (see appendix for all windows installed).



Conceptual Drawing of Christmas Window



Actual Christmas Window



Mortgage Burning - 1966

In 1967, the old furnaces were replaced with three new furnaces, the old electric organ was replaced with a used pipe organ and new appropriate church lamps were installed in the nave of the church.

In 1967 the Sunday School had grown to an average attendance of about 125 children and it was felt that Immanuel needed more rooms for all the classes and a larger fellowship hall would be needed. The voting members approved the purchase of property around the church for the expansion and for more parking space. When a house to the east of the church burned down, the congregation purchased that vacant lot and soon another house to the east was for sale and it was also purchased. Likewise, two houses to the south of the church were for sale and Immanuel acquired those properties as well - and that provided enough property to make an expansion possible. No decision was made to start a building program at that time, however.

During the late 1960's and into the 1970's, Immanuel had many fellowship activities including church picnics, dinners and shows in the fellowship basement and offsite, league bowling teams (sponsored by *McGinnis and Wilhelm* and one team sponsoring themselves, "DDT") and a "Card Club" made up of several couples who gathered each month of the year at the home of one of the couples for games of cards and laughs.



Immanuel's "Card Club" group

Standing left to right: Cherry Gross, Gloria Logan, Joy Weintz, Eileen Wilson, Jan Bender, Alta Walters, Marge Trinklein
 Men around the table, left to right around the table starting with nearest white shirt: Fred Gross, Wendell Weintz, Bill Logan, Eddie Walters, Ken Trinklein (bows on his head), Herman Bender, Bob Wilson, Don Cox.

In the summer of 1972, Pastor Unterschultz, already over retirement age, notified the congregation that he was planning to retire. The congregation asked that he continue until another pastor would be secured.

During Pastor Unterschultz's pastorate, the following acts were performed:

Baptisms:	470
Confirmations:	195
Marriages:	102
Funerals:	119

Pastor Orville Markgraf of Renton, Washington was called by Immanuel to serve as its next shepherd. Pastor Markgraf was installed on May 20, 1973.



Pastor Orville Markgraf
 1973 - 1977

Under Pastor Markgraf's ministry things continued to run smoothly. He was known for his smile, laugh and genuine love for all people. In 1974, Deaconess Gail Klein was engaged to help as secretary and work with the youth and Sunday School. She accepted a call to Denver, Colorado in 1975.

In 1975, Pastor Markgraf saw a notice from *Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services* of a need for sponsors for families from Southeast Asia. As a result, Immanuel supported the immigration of the Khat Neang family from Cambodia. Pastor Markgraf and Bob Wilson met the family of nine (Khat, his brother, sister, wife and children) at Portland International Airport, with the seven large boxes that were their entire possession. Earl and Alice Berrong provided a rental house they owned rent free for the family and Bob Wilson found them work as dishwashers at Lani Louie's Chinese Restaurant in Oak Grove. Khat and his brother also found work as janitors and eventually Khat opened and owned his own janitorial business. The Neang family attend Immanuel for several years.

In July 1976, the congregation of Immanuel joined the rest of the country in celebrating the Bicentennial. Members wore appropriate attire, including many members who had served in the Armed Forces wearing their uniforms, and enjoyed lots of fun fellowship. Women wore beautiful hats. During the worship service, Immanuel followed the old practice (for fun) of having the women sit on one side of the church and the men on the other side.



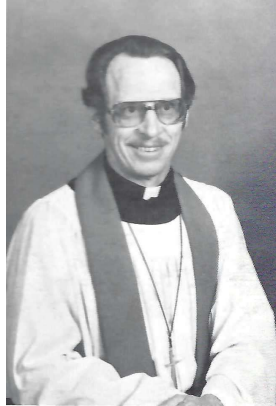
July 1976 Bicentennial Service

As the years moved into the late 1970's, younger families began the migration to the suburbs - a phenomena experienced in many areas of the country. This began to be felt at Immanuel as church and Sunday School attendance began to decline. The midweek (Tuesday) church school, which had averaged 65 - 75 children for about 15 years, began to experience attendance declines and was eventually discontinued. During this time, Larry Arnold and Herb Tuebner led several members including youth to volunteer as a group at the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Portland - wheeling patients to Sunday morning chapel services and visiting with them. The first consideration of forming a preschool at Immanuel was initiated by June Zadow during this period. After a congregational meeting it was decided to not move forward with a preschool at this time. Pastor Markgraf's ministry at Immanuel was of short duration as in the fall of 1977 he suffered a heart attack. On December 31, 1977, he resigned because of ill health and retired. Pastor Unterschultz was engaged as vacancy pastor as Immanuel began the call process for another shepherd.

During Pastor Markgraf's pastorate, the following acts were performed:

Baptisms:	63
Confirmations:	64
Marriages:	42
Funerals:	35

Immanuel called **Pastor Ruben Bauer** of Prosser, Washington and he was installed on June 18, 1978. Under his pastorate, a new constitution was prepared and adopted by the congregation that required many more members of the congregation to be involved in the life of the congregation. During this time he began to feel the Lord was leading him in another direction and the District Office assisted him and the congregation in an offsite weekend retreat at a local camp where all shared their thoughts, concerns and love. In late 1980, he resigned and he decided to take training in administration of nursing or retirement homes.

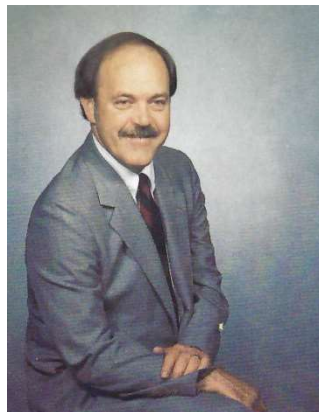


Pastor Ruben Bauer
1977 - 1980

During Pastor Bauer's pastorate, the following acts were performed:

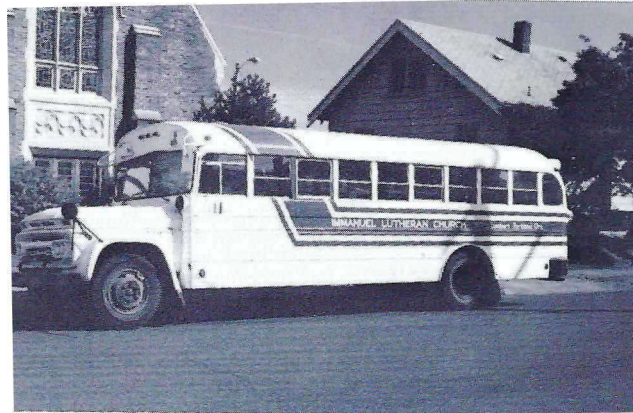
Baptisms:	47
Confirmations:	28
Marriages:	30
Funerals:	12

Professor Rev. Sidney Johnson of Concordia College, Portland was chosen to serve as vacancy pastor. After serving for two months in this role, the congregation called him to the position of pastor of Immanuel. He accepted the call, but could not assume the full workload of the call immediately since he was obligated to Concordia College for the remainder of the semester. Pastor Unterschultz again helped out by calling on the sick, the aged and hospitalized until Pastor Johnson could assume the full duties of the office.



Pastor Sidney Johnson
1982 - 2008

In June 1982, Pastor Johnson was released from his college duties and was installed as pastor of Immanuel on June 13, 1982. During Pastor Johnson's service, Immanuel acquired a new hymnal - the blue "Lutheran Worship." Immanuel began a newsletter and named it "The Silver Chalice" and it was expanded under the Publicity Chairman, Pat Schwerin. Immanuel also had acquired an old school bus and painted it in white, blue and maroon colors and christened it "Immy-Lou." The bus was used initially for youth trips for activities around the city or camping trips to the coast. It also became used for picking up close by members in its later years. Due to increasing mechanical issues and costs, as well as lack of members with the proper licensing and skill for driving it (John Sherman and Dave Cox being its primary drivers) - it was retired.



"Immy Lou"

On July 22, 1983, Immanuel celebrated the **75th Anniversary** of the congregation. Several activities, entertainment and worship events were held - including a large tent in the back of the church for the entertainment venue. Many former members and pastors were invited to share in the celebration. A special booklet was prepared in commemoration and provided to each member.



75th Anniversary Entertainment Tent



Basement Fellowship for 75th Anniversary



Full Church for 75th Anniversary Service

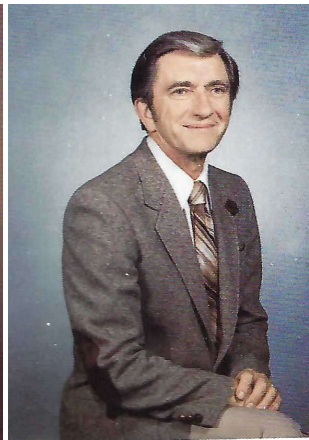


Pastor Rist visiting with Judy Cox at 75th Anniversary

While the exact year was not documented, Harold Staats, the son of a founding Immanuel family, retired from serving as Immanuel's 10:30 "late service" organist after 80 years of performing this service at no cost to the congregation. Ella Trinklein, who served that same function for many years for the 8:00 a.m. "early service" also retired. Ella and Pastor Trinklein's son, Ken Trinklein, also "retired" from being choirmaster - but continued to sing faithfully in the choir for many more years. Tom Curry became choirmaster for many years and led the choir in various choral presentations, including G. F. Handel's *Messiah*, complete with orchestra and professional soloists. Through the 1970's and continuing to the present days, Immanuel's choir visits assisted living communities and elderly members homes to sing Christmas Carols each Christmas season.



Harold Staats



Ken Trinklein



Immanuel Choir and Children's Choir - March 30, 1997

In the early years of Pastor Johnson's ministry, the congregation again considered the construction of a new and larger fellowship hall to the south of the church. A Building Committee was established with George Thiele as chairman and members John Sherman, Bob Wilson, Harold Sprecher, Wendell Weintz and several others obtaining architectural drawings and cost estimates. A vote of the congregation was held and it was approved to proceed with the building project. Memorial funds contributed by the congregation and a loan from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) were used to fund the approximate \$225,000 project. The architect for this project was Tom Holgate and Hugh Harper, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Oregon City, served as superintendent of construction with the church committee being the general contractor. The 72 foot by 85 foot addition (6,120 square feet) would house four classrooms, a kitchen, a bookstore and a variety of storage spaces, men's and women's restrooms and a 52 foot by 68 foot recreation space that doubles as a fellowship/dining and reception area. George Thiele stated at the time, "it's going to benefit the entire community, not just the congregation. The community will always be invited to participate in many of the activities that will be offered."

With over 100 people gathered in the vacant lot adjacent to the church, Pastor Johnson opened with a prayer and blessing ceremony. Ground was broken, and holding the shovel for the official picture was Ella Trinklein, widow of Pastor H. J. Trinklein and Ruth Zadow. She was surrounded by Pastor Johnson, Hilda Hochhalter, Ada Ruprecht, Cherry Gross, Nadine Sprecher and Marcilia Westphal (whose family were some of the earliest members of the church). The contractor hired to construct the hall was assisted by many in the congregation providing a significant number of volunteer hours to assist in its completion.



Fellowship Hall Groundbreaking

Upon the completion of the new fellowship hall, the basement of the church that had been used for that function was converted to use solely for Immanuel's new Preschool and the back lot was converted to a playground for the preschool to use. Immanuel's Preschool began with teacher Jolene Gross and assistant Tammie Stafford. A preschool board oversaw the operations and Eileen Johnson, Pastor's wife became the administrator. The Preschool became very well known and respected in the community and in most years was filled to capacity. Jolene Gross served as teacher for many years and many assisted through the years.

Once completed in the late 1980's, the fellowship hall was used by members for basketball and volleyball games on weeknights. Fellowship gatherings were held in the hall after church and for special occasions, including wedding receptions, with the new ability for elderly and disabled access. Bible classes were held in Room A and the hall was then offered for use to community groups, such as *Alcoholics Anonymous*, *Ocean Paddlers Association*, *Northwest Quilters*, and a local big band for practices and other community organizations. Later in Pastor Johnson's Immanuel ministry, the congregation began having a Harvest Carnival in the hall each October 31 where the community could bring their children for games, treats, pictures and visiting. The annual Harvest Carnival draws up to 200 children and parents to enjoy the night. These activities continue to the present day - although the basketball hoops have been removed in recent years due to lack of use.



The Annual Harvest Carnival on October 31 for which the community is invited

In the 1980's, Immanuel also began participating in the Lutheran Softball League with a coed team of members, as well as a basketball team of Immanuel's men competing on Sundays at Concordia University. As team members aged, the teams were discontinued in the late 2000's.



Immanuel's Softball Team - approx. Summer of 2000

In the early 1990's, the Immanuel youth began mission work by serving spaghetti dinners at the new Lutheran urban mission in North Portland once a month. This mission project ended after a year of effort. The choir and pastor were asked by the Westmoreland Union Manor to assist with chapel services each Sunday afternoon and the pastor and choir gladly performed this outreach several weeks a year for many years.

The congregation also formed, under the leadership of Cherry Gross, its own Sunday late afternoon bowling "league" at 20th Century Lanes at SE 92nd and Powell Blvd. In the 2000's, several teams of Immanuel members and friends of all ages participated in this fun activity. Another fellowship activity begun later in Pastor Johnson's ministry was "Movie Night." Members were invited to view a movie together - sometimes at the church and other times at a local theater. Pastor, being a former English and Drama professor at Concordia University, would lead the post-movie discussion. Also during this time, Immanuel's Dorcas Guild began to hold an annual Christmas Dinner in the hall. Besides eating wonderful meals, the attendee's participated in a silent auction with proceeds benefiting many mission projects of the larger church and listening and watching various forms of entertainment each year.

Immanuel continued its monthly/bi-monthly newsletter, renaming it *Immanuel Lighthouse*, under Allison Zimmerman's editorial skills with significant contributions from various members. For several years in the early 2000's, a Praise Team, was formed by Amy Westlund. The team was made up of many of the choir members and drew others from the community, singing more contemporary hymns and songs for the fifth Sunday of every month and occasional other services, as well. Upon Amy's marriage, move to Tigard and transfer to a Lutheran church in that area - the Praise Team was discontinued. Kathy Sherman led Immanuel's volunteers at Sellwood Neighborhood Association's *Sundae in the Park* each summer, serving up ice cream sundaes to all those in attendance.

On September 30, 2007, Pastor Johnson and the congregation commissioned Joel Nickel of Liturgical Art & Design of Salem, Oregon to create a new altar cross made of tiles and maple and oak wood (see appendix B for the stories of the cross). The cross was dedicated on September 30, 2007.

Pastor Johnson decided to retire from the ministry in 2008, shortly after Immanuel celebrated its 100th Anniversary with a service of commemoration and fellowship activities. Immanuel began the call process to find its next pastor.

During Pastor Johnson's pastorate, the following acts were performed:

Baptisms:	161
Confirmations:	91
Marriages:	168
Funerals:	81

During the interim, Pastor Ted Will filled in during the vacancy period. The congregation decided to seek a pastor directly from Concordia Seminary, and **Rev. David Zemke**, who had been a member of Holy Cross Lutheran in Spokane, Washington prior to seminary, was assigned to Immanuel's call.

Pastor Zemke was installed as pastor at Immanuel on July 19, 2009 and began his first service to Immanuel in August 2009. During Pastor Zemke's time at Immanuel, he continued the emphasis to reconnect with the neighboring community that had begun in Pastor Johnson's tenure. Events such as the annual Harvest Carnival continued with his enthusiastic participation and Immanuel began to hold outdoor events for the neighborhood on the annual first Tuesday in August "Neighborhood Night Out," where representatives of Portland Police and Fire Bureaus were invited to join in and the children could see their police and fire trucks up close and personal. BBQ meals were made on site and shared while games of physical fun, such as sack races and balloon tosses were joined by music provided by members and guests. Pastor Zemke also initiated Sunday afternoon services at 3:00 p.m. for the confined people at *Brookstone Assisted Living* community in the Sellwood neighborhood. Several members, pastor and pianist joined people of Brookstone for a short service involving hymn singing and a message from pastor (with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, this service had to be discontinued).



Pastor David Zemke
2009 - 2018

Late in Pastor Zemke's ministry, the Church Council evaluated further options for reaching our community and included in those options enhancements to Immanuel facilities. The decision was made and approved by the congregation to sell the lot that had been the Preschool Playground and move the playground to the front of the fellowship hall. This would enable an upgrade to the play equipment and surface, making it more visible to the neighbors, disability enabled, easier maintenance, security and overall improvement to the church facilities safety and appearance. The property sale and playground move and construction was completed in 2019. At the time of writing this history, further modifications and updates to the Fellowship Hall are being considered to further enhance Immanuel's ability to serve the community.

Pastor Zemke received and accepted a call from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Battle Ground, Washington and left his service to Immanuel in September 2018.

During Pastor Zemke's pastorate, the following acts were performed:

Baptisms:	54
Confirmations:	2
Marriages:	2
Funerals:	27

Once again Immanuel began the process to call a new Pastor. During this period, the retired pastor that agreed to serve the majority of Sundays as Vacancy Pastor was Rev. Ted Will of Vancouver, Washington. Having served in this role for Immanuel in 2008 - 2009, he would return to serve a second time in this role for nearly two years as the call process continued.



Vacancy Pastor Ted Will
2008 - 2009; 2018 - 2020

While Immanuel Lutheran Church was midway through the eventual successful call process, several members of **Triumphant King Lutheran Church in Lake Oswego, Oregon** and their interim Pastor Mike Kasting approached Immanuel's officers to ask if our congregation would consider joining in mission with them by entering into a "joint parish agreement" and share the skills and resources of a future called pastor. They indicated they could not afford a full-time pastor and were seeking a congregation that would be willing to share the pastor with them and join in mission with them. After consideration of this request, the Immanuel Elders and Council took the proposed agreement to the congregation in May of 2020. Both congregations approved the agreement and it was signed and provided to the Northwest District office in June 2020.

Representatives of Triumphant King's Call Committee joined the seven member group of Immanuel's Call Committee to join in the call process for the next pastor.

Also at this time, the Covid-19 pandemic had begun to travel around the world and became a significant factor in the worship of both congregations beginning in March 2020. Meetings that were held - such as the Call Committee meetings - were either performed via internet Zoom meetings or conducted in person with minimum of six foot physical distancing and mask wearing. Immanuel cancelled in person services in late March as cases of Covid-19 infections continued to mount and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) limited in person gathering sizes - especially indoors. The Immanuel Preschool needed to go on hiatus at this time under the state's health guidance. The Elders made periodic calls to members to stay in contact. Immanuel's Head Elder, Don Cox, wrote procedures to conform to OHA guidance and many volunteers worked to implement those procedures so that in person services were again held beginning on June 28, 2020. The worship attendance was limited to 38 people, with windows and doors remaining open for air circulation, sanitation of pews after each service, required mask wearing by all in attendance and closing off every other pew to assure appropriate distancing. The much beloved fellowship hour after church was cancelled and choir members could not meet under OHA guidance due to experiences with Covid aspirants in churches that had sung during the early periods of the pandemic.



Pandemic related pew closures and seating
2020 - 2021

In late September 2020, Immanuel and Triumphant King jointly issued a Call to Pastor Philemon Ngare who had previously served with Bethesda Lutheran Communities. Pastor Ngare accepted the Call in early October and his Installation Service was held, under the pandemic-related attendance and procedure restrictions, on October 24, 2020. Northwest District of the LCMS President Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann performed the installation and gave the message. Several pastors from the District were in attendance to provide their encouragement and support to Pastor Ngare.



Installation of Pastor Philemon Ngare at Immanuel
October 24, 2021

Pastor Ngare began his service in the challenging times of the pandemic and the new joint parish arrangement with Triumphant King Lutheran Church.



Pastor Philemon Ngare and Family
2020 - present

The pandemic also led the Elders and Church Council to again consider how best to use technology to reach out to our members and the community to share the Gospel in these trying times. Through generous support of the Immanuel Endowment Fund, the congregation and leadership, Immanuel proceeded to implement technological solutions through camera, sound, computer hardware and software improvements led by Kris Bladow. Immanuel broadcast its first streamed worship service in December during the 2020 Christmas season via YouTube, connected to a link on its website or FaceBook page. In addition, an long needed upgrade to the sound system in the sanctuary was also approved and funded by these sources. The choir also used technology, led by Allison Zimmerman and assisted by Stephen Bladow, during the Covid pandemic period

by using the internet and software to record each person's individual singing track at home and then "mixing" that via technology to play at services.



Screen capture of streamed Easter 2021 service

Immanuel praises the Lord for sending another faithful pastor to lead our congregation and we pray for His guidance to Pastor Ngare, Immanuel leadership and congregation members as Immanuel continues to serve the Lord in the Sellwood neighborhood as it has done for over 113 years since its forming in 1908. We pray that the pandemic will soon come to an end with God's healing hand and that our full church worship and fellowship activities and Preschool can resume to serve our community many more years into the future.

The Future

History is the foundation of Immanuel's future. As we have considered our history from our founding in 1908 to the present time (as of this writing, April 2021), we praise God for all the challenges and blessings He has provided to us. Immanuel has a solid foundation, built on the rock of God's Word, in order to continue to provide mission and service in the Lord's name to the Sellwood and larger Portland area community. We continually pray for God's guidance and grace, that we may reach out in love to all those around us. If you haven't yet had the opportunity to worship and fellowship with us, we invite you to join us at Immanuel and become part of our family. We are the Lord's members to carry out his calling and serve Him in thankfulness and praise.

This history has been compiled from the following sources:

- The book of official acts performed at Immanuel Lutheran Church, including its earliest history from 1908 - 1955.
- The second book of official acts for the period after 1955 to the present.
- The *Dedication Service, March 27, 1955* worship booklet
- The recompiled history of Immanuel written by Pastor Philip Unterschultz for our 75th Anniversary, 1983 - contained in the official 75th Anniversary remembrance booklet.
- The pictures and memories of long time member (1956 to the present) Don Cox, Jr., baptized, confirmed, and married at Immanuel, choir member and servant through the years in several Immanuel positions.