





**IMMANUEL    EVANGELICAL    LUTHERAN**  
**CHURCH    -    FREEPORT,    ILLINOIS**



**OUR SOCIETIES**

- Men's Club
- Concordia Society
- Fellowship Guild
- Mixed Choir
- Children's Choir
- Altar Guild
- Sr. I. Y. P. S.
- Jr. I. Y. P. S.
- P. T. A.
- Boys' Club
- Girls' Club

**INTERCHURCH COMMITTEE**

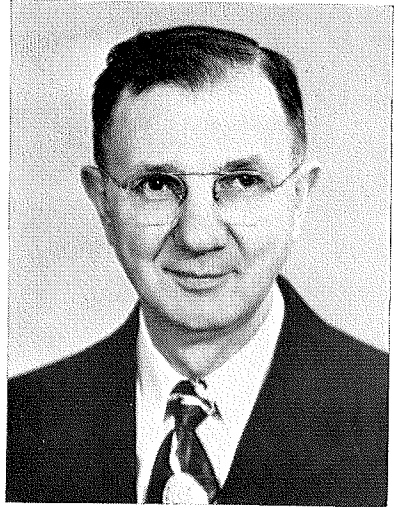
- Mr. Albert C. Krueger
- Mr. Elmer Krueger
- Mr. Paul Siegmeier

**SYNODICAL DELEGATES**

- Mr. Fred Jacobs
- Mr. Herman Kempert

**AUDITING COMMITTEE**

- Mr. E. J. Dumroese
- Mr. Elmer H. Schirmer
- Mr. Alfred Schult



**MR. H. KEPPE**n, Sexton



Two students from our congregation, Mr. John Hill and Mr. Alvin Miller, are preparing themselves for the Holy Ministry, and Miss Norma Krueger is teaching in a Lutheran school at Clyman, Wisconsin. Mr. Benjamin Seitz, a teacher in the Christian Day School for many years, and now living in retirement, was a member of Immanuel.

**IMMANUEL CONGREGATION** stands as a monument of God's grace and the fervent work of the fathers. The uninterrupted ministration of God's Holy Word, the ministration of the Sacraments, the benefits of public worship, and the blessings which come to us in the household of faith, are all worthy of thanks and praises.



We are thankful to God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, for the foresight, determination and sacrifice of our forefathers and for the untiring efforts of all, both living and departed, who make the celebration of our Diamond Jubilee possible.



"Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish Thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it." Psalm 90:17.

**1877 • 1952**

**To the glory of God and  
in Memory of His abiding  
blessing for 75 years.**



“Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets,  
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”

Ephesians 2:20



**Brief History of  
IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

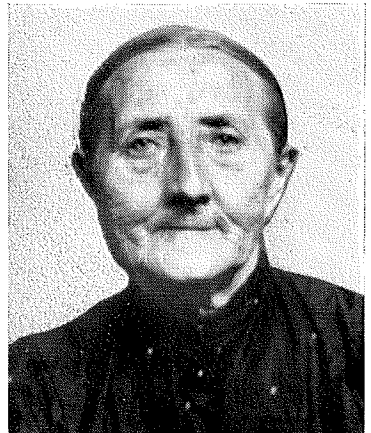
**FREEPORT, ILLINOIS**

February 23, 1877, the Rev. T. J. Grosse, Addison, Illinois, came to Freeport upon the request of the Northern Illinois Pastoral Conference to survey the field for the purpose of preaching the Gospel of Christ Jesus, and with the help of God to organize a truly Christian congregation. He had been furnished with the names of two men to contact. With difficulty he located these two men and explained his mission to them. These men endeavored to discourage him. However, with the help of God he continued in his efforts.



**REV. T. J. GROSSE**  
Founder — 1877

Rev. Grosse then met Mrs. John Schroeder who previously lived in Oak Park, Illinois. At first she thought this was Pastor Grosse's brother, who was Pastor of Harlem Lutheran Church. Pastor Grosse explained his mission to Mrs. Schroeder. With joy, she informed the Pastor that a number of Lutherans lived in Freeport and introduced him to the Elders of the Evangelical Church. The Pastor of the Evangelical Church had resigned and the Elders invited Pastor Grosse to preach in their church. Consent and permission were obtained from the resigned Pastor of the Evangelical Church and thus the first Lutheran Services were conducted in Freeport, Illinois, on February 25th, 1877.



**MRS. JOHN SCHROEDER**

March 18, 1877 and thereafter, Lutheran services were held every Sunday in the large auditorium of the public school in the third ward.

April 15, 1877 Pastor Grosse was requested to organize a Lutheran Congregation and he thereupon presented this group of believers with a constitution.

May 6, 1877 another meeting was held and the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Unaltered Augsburg Confession, Freeport, Stephenson County, Illinois, was organized. The Constitution was adopted and signed by nineteen men. Pastor Grosse was requested to remain in Freeport. He accepted and thus became the first Pastor of our church.

May 20, 1877, Pentecost Sunday, the Congregation observed the celebration of the Lord's Supper in accordance with the words of institution.



**FIRST CHURCH**  
Dedicated — 1877

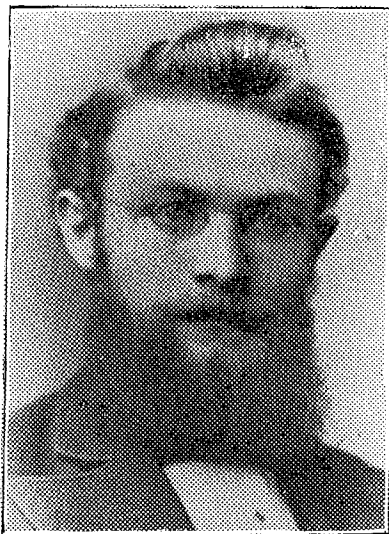
September 2, 1877, the first church was dedicated on property secured at South Chicago Avenue and West Pleasant Street. This building was also to serve as a Christian day school and a teacher was engaged that fall.

December 20, 1877 Pastor Grosse preached his farewell sermon on the basis of Acts 20:32 "And now brethren, I commend you to God, and to the Word of His Grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified."



# A N N I V E R S A R Y <

December 20, 1877 Candidate F. Behrens was installed and ordained as Pastor of Immanuel Congregation. This took place in the morning service. In 1881 Pastor Behrens accepted a call and departed from our congregation.



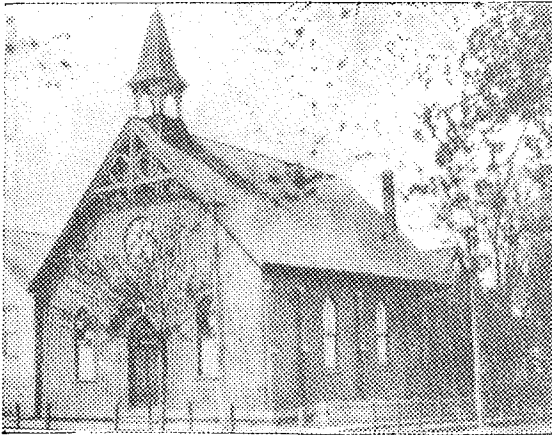
**REV. F. BEHRENS**  
1877 - 1881

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In the year 1881 (exact date not known) the Rev. H. G. Schmidt was installed as Pastor of Immanuel Congregation.



**REV. H. G. SCHMIDT**  
1881 - 1899



**SECOND CHURCH**  
Dedicated — 1886

In 1886 our second church was dedicated. The first church now became the school building. A basement was built high enough for a second class room. Rapidly the second church became too small and property was purchased at the corner of South Chicago Avenue and East Pleasant Street. In 1899, after eighteen years of faithful service, Pastor H. G. Schmidt accepted a call to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



**REV. A. C. LANDECK**  
1899 - 1914

Also in 1899 Rev. A. C. Landeck accepted a call to Immanuel Congregation and was installed as Pastor.

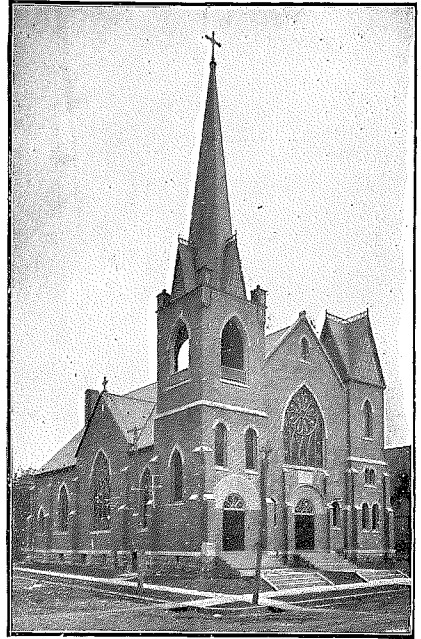




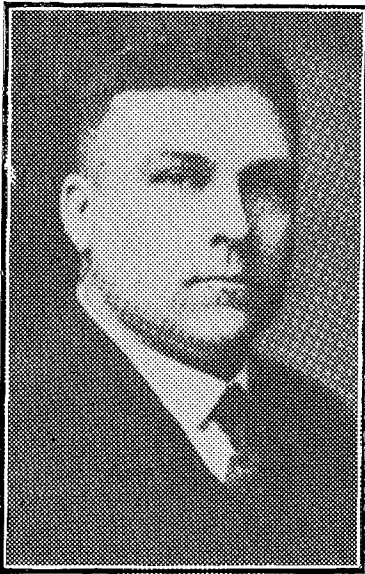
# A N N I V E R S A R Y

December 1, 1900, our present, large and beautiful brick Church was dedicated. The cost of construction was approximately \$13,000.00.

In 1914, Pastor Landeck accepted a call to the Congregation at Pecatonica, Illinois.

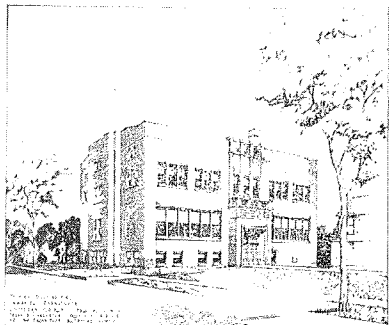


**OUR PRESENT CHURCH**  
Dedicated — 1900



**REV. L. SEIDEL**  
1914 - 1927

Rev. Louis Seidel accepted a call to Immanuel Congregation and was installed as Pastor in 1914.



**OUR SCHOOL**  
Erected in 1923

In 1923 it became apparent that a new school building was needed. Our present school building was then constructed at a cost of over \$70,000.00. It contains four large class rooms, a library, auditorium, bowling alleys, kitchen, recreation rooms, stage and motion picture facilities, complete hot water heating plant with stoker operation and rooms for various meetings.

In 1927 Pastor Seidel accepted a call to St. James Church, Chicago, Illinois



**REV. O. SCHUMACHER**  
1927 - 1950

October 2, 1927 Rev. Schumacher accepted a call to Immanuel Congregation and was installed as Pastor. During his Pastorate the debts of the Congregation were eliminated and the property south of the Church building was purchased for use as a parsonage.

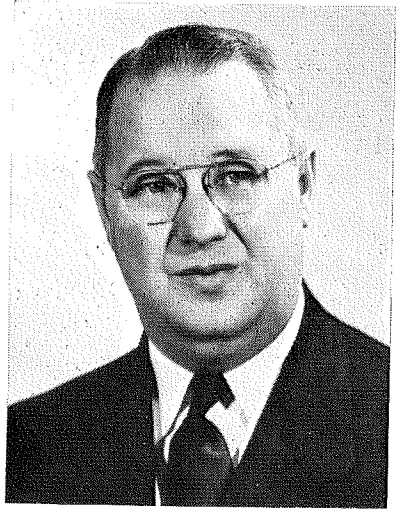
The previous parsonage near the school building was converted to a teacherage.

June 28, 1950 Pastor Schumacher accepted a call to Our Savior's Church at Bettendorf, Iowa.



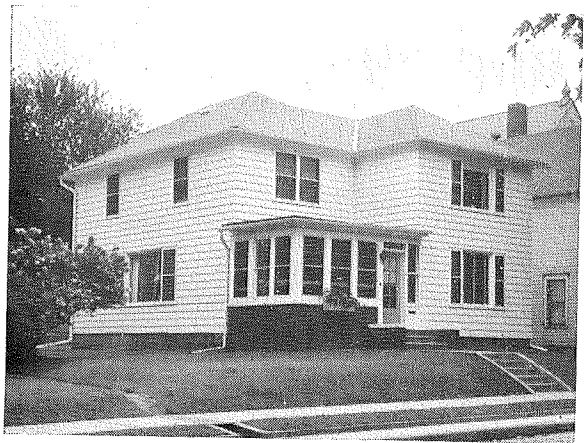
# A N N I V E R S A R Y

October 8, 1950 Rev. F. E. Bartling was installed as Pastor of Immanuel Congregation and is our present pastor.

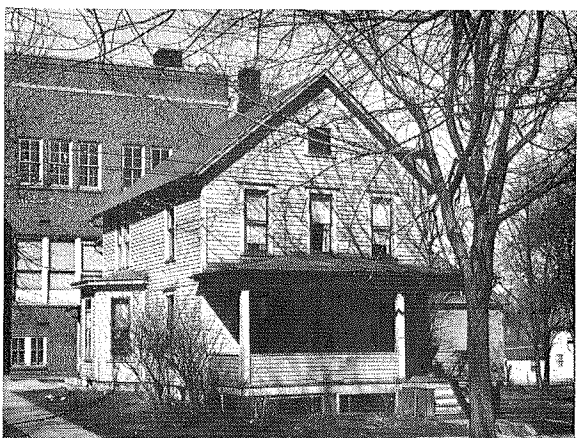


**Our Present Pastor**  
**REV. F. E. BARTLING**  
1950 -

In 1951 the Congregation rebuilt and completely modernized the parsonage at 617 South Chicago Avenue.



**PARSONAGE**  
617 So. Chicago Ave.



Our first Teach-  
erage in its present  
location at 510  
South Chicago  
Avenue.

**TEACHERAGE**  
510 So. Chicago Ave.

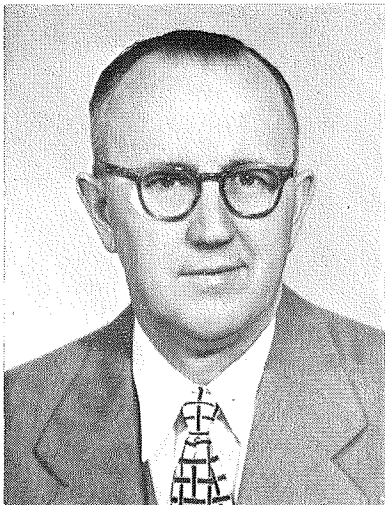


December 1950 our  
congregation purchased  
the property at  
1251 W. Logan Street  
to be used as a  
Teacherage.

**TEACHERAGE**  
1251 West Logan St.



## OUR PRESENT TEACHING FACULTY



**MR. A. E. DOERING**  
Principal



**MR. H. F. BODE**

### FORMER TEACHERS

F. Gose	A. Reuter
F. Kretzchmar	Catenhusen
T. Baumgart	Rosenow
O. Kolb	Bauman
M. Klee	Mandanz
E. E. Selle	H. Koschmann
Mrs. Siefert	R. Bendick
Hoffman	Miss E. Pilgrim
Gross	Floyd Dreith
Ben Schumacher	John Roth
Martha Timmerman	Elmer Hill
Lucille Wassman	



**MRS. A. E. DOERING**



**THE PURPOSE OF OUR CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL** has been stated correctly as follows: "Devoted especially to the Christian education and training of children according to the Word of God, that they may find and hold their Savior Jesus Christ, be and remain faithful members here below, serve God and remain on the path of faith in Jesus Christ which leads to their eternal home in heaven; also devoted to the purpose of rearing honest, upright, and useful citizens, who shall conscientiously respect and obey the laws of the land, and uphold our government's American ideals and institutions with true loyalty and patriotism." At present our Day School has an enrollment of 96 pupils. In 1944 our sister congregation here in Freeport, the Redeemer Lutheran Church, decided to make Immanuel School also their School.

"Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."—Proverbs 22:6.



## OUR PRESENT MEMBERSHIP

Baptized Souls — 870  
 Communicants — 560  
 Voting Members — 110

## DIAMOND JUBILEE STATISTICS

Baptisms — 1954  
 Confirmed — 1329  
 Marriages — 643  
 Burials — 635

## ELECTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

### OFFICERS OF CONGREGATION

Mr. Ralph Kasten, Chairman  
 Mr. Albert C. Marr, Secretary  
 Mr. Walter Kluth, Treasurer  
 Mr. Harry Gusloff, Financial Secretary

### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. LaVerne Richter, Chairman  
 Mr. Peter Haas, Secretary  
 Mr. LeRoy Kasten  
 Mr. Carl Neuman  
 Mr. George Siegmeier  
 Mr. Herbert Staben

### 75th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Mr. Elmer H. Schirmer,  
 Chairman  
 Mrs. Elmer Kasch,  
 Secretary  
 Mr. Earl Anderson  
 Mr. Wm. Dreier, Jr.  
 Mr. Paul Siegmeier  
 Mr. Herbert Staben  
 Mrs. Harry Gusloff  
 Mrs. E. J. Dumroese  
 Mrs. Ralph Kasten

### BOARD OF ELDERS

Mr. Ralph Kasten, Chairman  
 Mrs. Alfred Schult, Secretary  
 Mr. Robert Dixon  
 Mr. Lester Hill  
 Mr. Elmer Kasch  
 Mr. Alvin Ketelhut  
 Mr. Albert C. Krueger  
 Mr. Edwin Krueger  
 Mr. Elmer Krueger  
 Mr. Walter Krueger  
 Mr. Herman Ludtke  
 Mr. Frank Walter

### SUNDAY SCHOOL and BIBLE CLASSES

Enrollment — 129  
 Teachers — 14  
 Mr. Louis Stiegman, Superintendent  
 Mr. Wm. Dreier, Jr. Ass't. Sup't.  
 Mr. Ralph Erdman, Treasurer  
 Mrs. Ralph Erdman, Secretary

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Albert Dreier  
 Mr. Ed Sellke, Sr.  
 Mr. Herbert Staben



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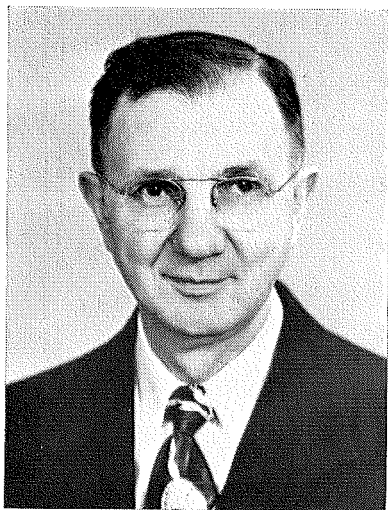
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**MR. H. KEPPEM, Sexton**

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