



**Brick by Brick**  
**Building of the New Church 1924**



## Brick by Brick

This book is a short history of the building of the brick church building used by Immanuel's Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Ansgar, Iowa. In 2024, the congregation celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the congregation and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of the church.

Information was taken from the Building Committee meeting notebook, old Immanuel Lamplighters and Annual Reports. Newspaper clippings were found on the St. Ansgar Enterprise archive available online from the Nissen Library. Members of Immanuel also shared stories from their ancestors.

Carol Pahl, © 2024







In 2024, Immanuel's Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Ansgar, Iowa, celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation. It is also the centennial anniversary year of the construction and dedication of the brick structure that serves our congregation still today. Included below is a timeline of the construction of our beautiful church building.

The building committee and Pastor Brammer kept wonderful, detailed records that were used to create this history of Immanuel's brick church. The minutes, letters and paperwork from the many contractors were saved and stored in a wooden box archive. Indented texts are transcribed entries from the Building Committee and correspondence between Pastor Brammer and others.

In August of 1906 Pastor Paul Brammer was called and installed as Immanuel's fifth pastor. The congregation worshipped in the wood church located at the corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Street and Washington since 1882. The doors opened to the east.



Rev. Paul and Clara (Dornseif) Brammer

Shortly after Pastor Brammer's installation, the church almost suffered a total loss of their building. The steeple was struck by lightning and smoke and flames broke from the steeple.

St. Ansgar's new waterworks system underwent its first trial and its efficiency was proven. The fire department carried a hose inside the church and up to the steeple and the water put out the fire.

**Fire in St. Ansgar**  
Saturday evening the Water Works system had its first trial in the real work of putting out a fire and its efficiency has been clearly proven. Shortly after six o'clock a shower broke over St. Ansgar. The clouds,

The congregation continued to grow and by the 1920s, the wood church was at capacity. Talks began in 1921 to construct a new church building. May 13, 1923, a building committee was elected and instructed to find plans and an estimate of the cost for construction.

The building committee included Herman A. Borchardt as president and Pastor Paul Brammer as secretary. Other committee members included Herman A. Rosel, Herman E. Falk, Otto Simmering, August. C. Janzow, Richard C. Mueller, Otto Boening, Oscar G. Schroeder.

A separate finance committee was selected to handle raising the funds and to pay the costs to build the church. Herman A. Borchardt, Herman H. Fluhrer, Herman A. Rosel, August C. Janzow and Albert Schuhmacher were tasked with these duties.

### Visiting and planning

The committee visited several churches in Iowa and Minnesota. They were most impressed with St. Paul Lutheran located at 305 E5th Street in Blue Earth, Minnesota.

What follows are the opening pages of the Building Committee Minutes as recorded in a composition book written by Pastor Brammer:

July 10, 1923

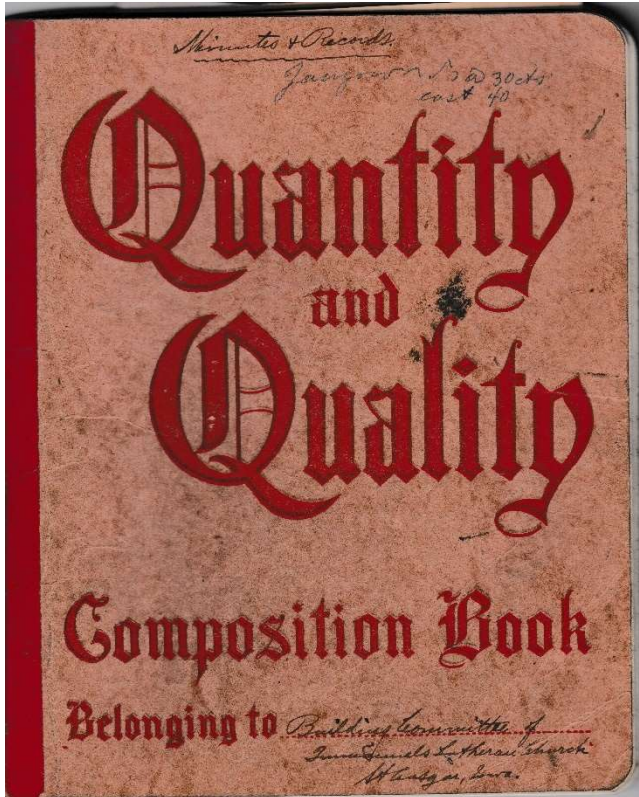
Our church building Committee, elected in the special meeting of the congregation, May 13, 1923, and instructed to look about for plans and estimates of a new church to be erected in 1924, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation, made a number of trips inspecting churches, some of these under construction, others finished. After due consideration of their merits and demerits, the church at Blue Earth Minnesota, appealed to us, seemed to meet our requirements, and came within our financial limits. We placed the plan and picture of this church with minor changes before the congregation in a meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. It met with general approval, and the committee was instructed to proceed to engage an architect, work out a definite

heavily charged with electricity, hung low and sharp flashes of lightning played pretty close to the earth. At about 6:20 the steeple of the German Lutheran church was struck, and instantly all the electric lights in town went out and almost immediately smoke and flame broke from the steeple. In a very few minutes the fire department with both hose carts was at the church. The firemen went to work like old hands and in a very short time the hose had been carried up inside the church into the steeple and the water was playing on the first thirty or forty feet above the ground. The people of St. Ansgar now appreciate the waterworks more than ever before. It would have been an utter impossibility to have put that fire out with pails, on account of the great distance which it was from the ground, and had it not been for the waterworks the church and probably other buildings would now be in ashes.

*St. Ansgar Enterprise August 30, 1906*

place and to submit it to the congregation for approval. After again inspecting the work on the churches under construction at Blue Earth and Janesville Minn, the walls of which by July 9<sup>th</sup> had been carried up to the roof, all the members of our committee met in the evening of July 10, 1923, and passes the following

resolutions:



1. That we now proceed to choose an architect.

2. That we decide on an architect by ballot.

3. The choice of the architect having by common consent have been diminished down to the two firms of Schippel & Schmidt of Mankato, Minn and Gaarder & Gaarder of Albert Lea, Minn. The ballots revealed the following results: 5 votes for Schippel & Schmidt, 2 for Gaarder & Gaarder. [ed. designed Albert Lea MN Post Office]

4. By acclamation this choice was now made unanimous

Note: Mr. R.C. Mueller remarked

that he would not vote NO; but that according to his personal opinion Mr. Schmidt was not the man to properly supervise our job.

5. Resolved, that the building comm. reserve the right to have full supervision over the building project, labor and material, while under construction, in this manner, that whenever possible, there always be a member of the comm. on the ground and if anything be found wrong or faulty, that the committee or a quorum to be called together, and if they cannot adjust the matter, to call the architect and adjust the matter with his cooperation.
6. Resolved that the secretary notify Schippel & Schmidt that we are now ready to enter upon negotiation with them to see whether we can come to a satisfactory agreement and make the contract.
7. Adjournment.

X-Rev. Brammer, H. E. Falk, H  
A. Borchardt, H. A. Rosel, August  
Janzow, Otto Simering and R. C.  
Mueller were up to Mankato, Minn.,  
last Thursday, making the trip by car

*St. Ansgar Enterprise May 23, 1923*

They selected Schippel & Schmidt, Architects from Mankato, Minnesota, to design the plans and submit blueprints.

October 7, 1923 the congregation approved the plans for the new church. It would face east, just like the old wood church. The building would be 48 x 93 ft overall and seat 450 people comfortably. The outside would be brick.

After advertising for contractors a few problems surfaced.

## Legal issues

### Architects

Even as the building committee and the congregation were making and approving the plans for the new church building, the architectural firm hired to develop the blue prints was having its own problems. The senior member of the firm was planning to retire and Mr. Schmidt was to purchase Mr. Schippel's share of the company. It is unknown what the situation was between the two men, but it resulted in the local sheriff serving a garnishment to Immanuel Lutheran Church the day after the congregation voted to proceed with the plans presented to them. They needed to make a payment for the delivery of the blue prints but were in a quandary who to pay.

Letter to Mr. Schippel from Pastor Brammer...

Sept 22, 1923

Mr. Alb. Schippel,  
Mankato, Minn

Dear Mr. Schippel: - In regard to paying Mr. Schmidt the money for the plans, we cannot very well hold back the money due on the contract without getting ourselves into trouble of some kind.

We contracted for plans with the FIRM Schipple & Schmidt, and to the Firm S. & S. we are to pay according to the terms of the contract. My suggestion would be that you members of the firm settle this matter among yourselves rather than take your troubles before your customers.

We will not be ready to approve the Blue Prints and Specifications before Oct. 7 and by that time you ought to have the matter adjusted. ....

Yours truly, Paul Brammer



Letter from H. H. Matt, Attorney at Law, Osage, Iowa to Pastor Brammer

October 17, 1924

Dear Sir:

This is to inform you that the controversy between Mr. Schippel and Ernest Schmidt has been settled, and that the attachment served on you by Sheriff Hungerford is released, and you can now proceed to pay Mr. Schmidt whatever might be due him.

Respectfully yours, H. H. Matt, Attorney at Law, Osage, Iowa

Letter to Mr. Schmidt from Pastor Brammer

October 18, 1923

Dear Mr. Schmidt:

... On Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> the congregation approved of the plans and specifications, and on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> the Building Committee met to authorize the payment of the 300.00. But in the afternoon the Sheriff served a garnishment by Mr. Schippel on our treasurer, and so we awaited further developments. About the same time, we received a letter from Mr. Schipple saying that on advice of H.H. Matt, Atty., he wished to say that he had sold his business to you allowing you to use his name in a settlement very soon and that he would see that our job was taken care of even if he had to do it himself. This was a contradiction in itself. The fact is we do not know what we are at. Matt says we should pay you; Shippel says he sold out; we made the contract with S & S. I think a legal statement as to the legal status of your partnership or a written order or permit signed by both of you would satisfy the com. ...

Yours truly, Paul Brammer

Minutes from the Building Committee record book:

October 9, 1923 garnishment notice from the Architect

October 18 minutes: On reading the letters of Schippel dated Oct 10, 1923, of Schmidt dated Oct 17, 1923 and H. H Matt dated October 17, 1923, resolved that the Secretary inform the firm Schipple & Schmidt that the first installment of 300.00 due to Schipple & Schmidt was garnished by Mr. Schipple and this payment to the same was stopped, and on Oct 18 rec'd letter from H. H. Matt and that the firm of Schipple & Schmidt is now to advise us what action we are to take in this matter, as we are ready to do business with them as per our contract.

The check was reissued to the firm Schippel and Schmidt and the building plans progressed.

### City Alley

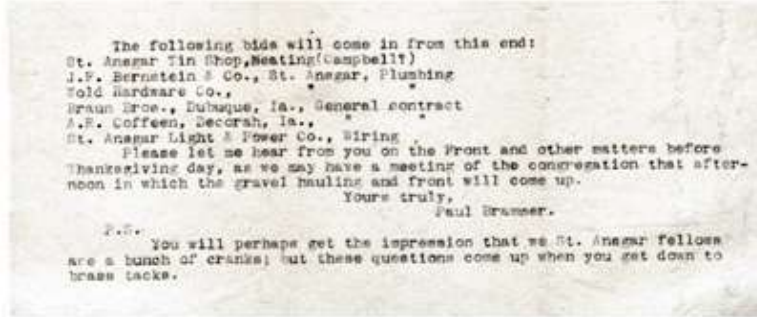
Letter to Mr. Schmidt from Pastor Brammer

Nov 21, 1923

Dear Mr. Schmidt: - The other day we staked out the exact location of our church, facing it East, as we had planned. There is a 20 ft alley platted East of the parsonage running North and South; it is still closed and the present neighbor does not want it opened. We thought of having it vacated together with the neighbor, but he will not live forever and experience shows that if the future neighbor should want it opened, the court would uphold him. We dare not put our church in the alley. This leaves us only about 112 ft from East to West. Staying 2 ft East of alley with the rear end of the church, would leave us little from lower front steps to the sidewalk, with too much slant on the short piece of walk to the outside walk. This slant could be eliminated by putting a step in which, however, would be objectionable. In brief, our ground would level up better with a North front. Again, the rear end of the church would come pretty close to the parsonage, not a pretty view from the parsonage seven days a week. Again, the parsonage and all the other buildings

on the East and West street face North, and facing the church North would present a prettier front towards that street and the town. The East and West street running along the North side of our property is a wider and better street than the North and South street East of the church. Again, with the East front the social and school room in the basement would get the sun through the South windows where the shades could be





*Letter written by Pastor Brammer to the architect Nov. 21 1923*

drawn down to protect the eyes of those sitting nearest. This objectionable feature would be eliminated with a North front and let the light into the basement from the East and West. Again, the cold coming in through the large and other

windows on the North is mentioned against the East front. Most of us took it for granted that we would face the church East again like the old one. What always made me hold out against a North front was the cold blast that would come in through the doors when people enter the church, as well as the probable ice and sleet on the steps. (But the wind does not always blow from the North, even in winter. Besides we would have the small door to the East to fall back on in that case.) The fact is that there is considerable sentiment on foot to face that church North, if it can be done yet without causing too many changes in the plans and additional expense. We are aware that the contractors are all figuring the present plans, and in case we do face the church North, the two towers will have to be interchanged. Now the committee wants me to ask you what you think about it. IS it possible to make this change now? Would it be necessary to make new Blue Prints? Would it affect the bids, etc.?

Would you please tell us approximately how many yards of sand and gravel we need in all for concrete and plaster. (We can get it place on the ground @ 2.23 per yard.) How many 100 face brick do we need? What are the prospects of prices? Up or down? Can you give us an estimate what our job will cost at present prices?

The following bids will come in from this end: .....[list of local bids]

Please let me hear from you on the Front and other matters before Thanksgiving day, as we may have a meeting of the congregation that afternoon in which the gravel hauling and front will come up.

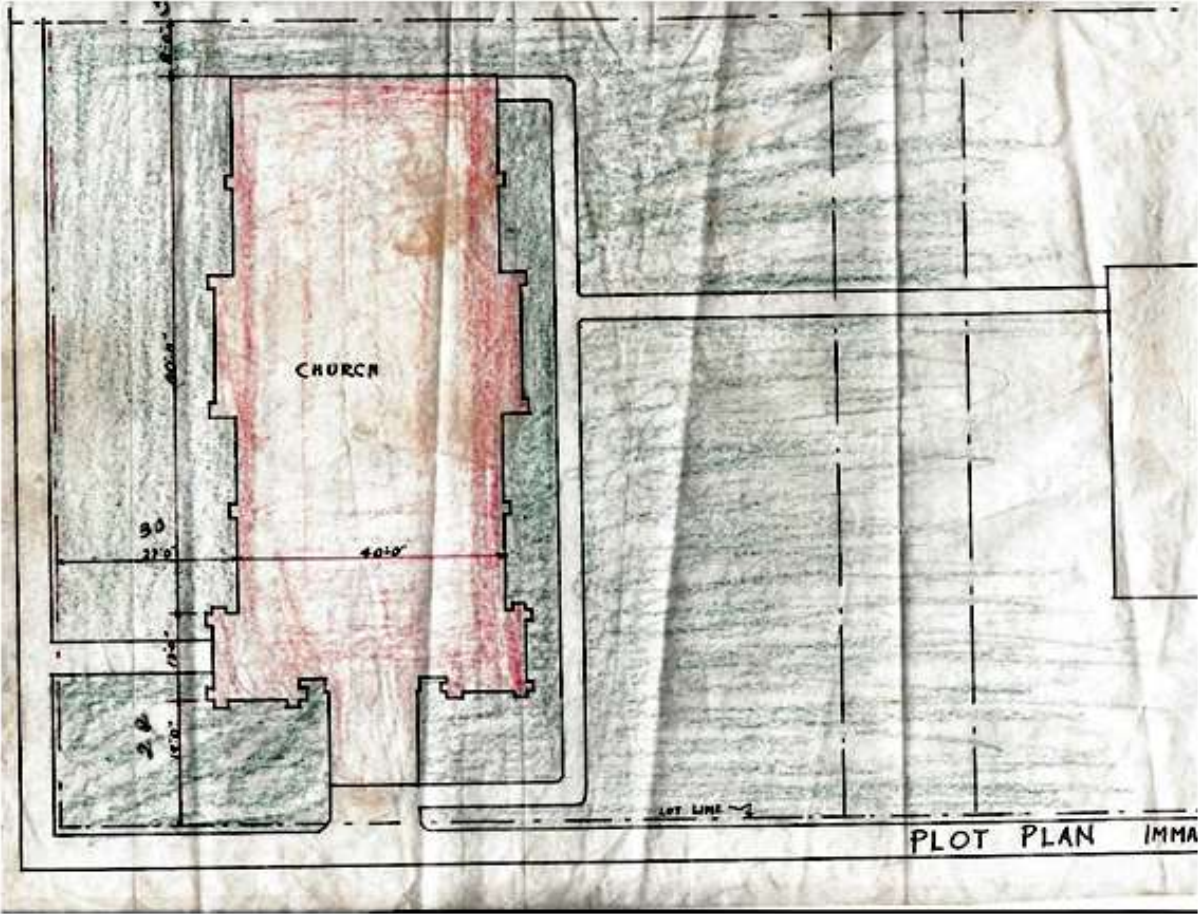
Yours truly, Paul Brammer

P.S.

You will perhaps get the impression that we St. Ansgar fellows are a bunch of cranks; but these questions come up when you get down to brass tacks.



New Plot Plan changing the church to lay North and South. Notice the dotted lines between the church and parsonage. This is the city alley that convinced the congregation to switch the church to open to the North.



Revised Plot Plan by Architect Dec 1, 1923 E.H.S.

North



South



## Contracts and Decisions Made

December 11, 1923 the contract for construction was awarded to Schradle and Clark of Austin, Minnesota. The construction of the new brick church would begin in the spring of 1924.

The ad for submitting bids was placed in the Improvement Bulletin of Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> and the St. Ansgar Enterprise on November 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>.

Contractors' bids were opened December 11, 1923: Sjosbrand \$33,164.00; Topager Counst. Co \$33,429.00; J B Nelson Const. Co \$34,535.00; Ed Schuhmacher \$35,541.00; Braun Bros \$36,483.00 Schradle & Clark \$32,075.00. (A difference of \$4,408 between high and low.)

Resolved that we let the General contract to Schradle & Clark for \$32,075.

### Sand and Gravel:

Mrs. Kittleson at a flat rate of 1.00 @ load. Mr. Simmering and Mr. Borchardt volunteered to oversee the volunteer work of hauling gravel & sand. 161 loads of gravel from Mrs. Kittleson hauled. 96 loads of sand from Herman Hansen's have been hauled.

### Plumbing:

Jan 4, 1924 Resolved to accept J. F. Bernestein bid of \$558.86 for plumbing.

### Heating:

Unanimous resolved to accept Campbell bid of \$1789 on Jan 4, 1924. Campbell will give 5% off \$600 if furnace is shipped April 1<sup>st</sup> and paid for on arrival.

#### NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned at Immanuel's Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Ansgar Iowa, until the 11th day of December, 1923, at 10 o'clock A. M. of said day for the erection and completion of a brick church building on the lot of the owner.

Plans and specifications can be seen at the St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Mankato Builder's Exchanges, and at the Parsonage, St Ansgar, Iowa, and at the office of the architects at Mankato Minnesota.

All bids must be accompanied by a certified check of 5% of bid.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

Building Committee  
Immanuel's Ev Lutheran Church  
St Ansgar, Iowa.  
Per Paul Brammer, Secretary  
Schuppel & Schmidt, Architects,  
Mankato Minn

*St. Ansgar Enterprise Nov. 7 & 14, 1924*

## **Brick:**

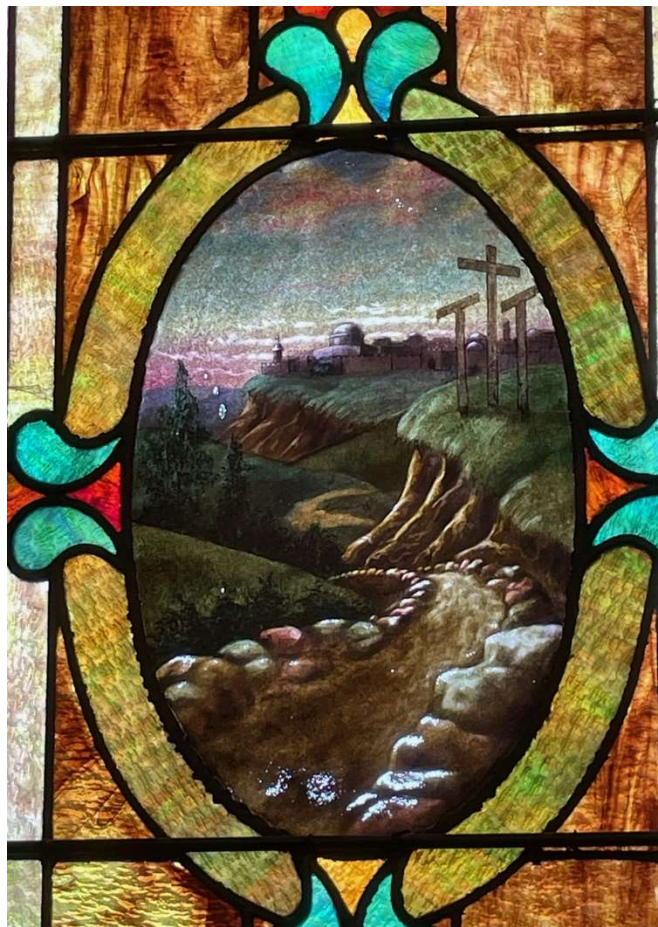
Approximately 80,000 bricks were needed. The building committee selected Twin City Brick Company of St. Paul, Minnesota and the “Autumn Leaf rag faced” brick. The committee requested samples because they didn’t want variation in the color of the brick. January 25, 1924 a representative of Twin City Brick Co. came to the meeting and said his company couldn’t furnish the narrow color as they had chosen. They ordered a different set of colors and reserved the right to reject the brick on arrival if it didn’t correspond with the samples. The company agreed and signed the amended contract.

March 10, 1924 ordered face brick to be delivered, 1 train car load a day until 5 car loads have arrived. Volunteers from the congregation would move the brick from the railcars to the church location.

## **Art Glass Windows:**

January 10, 1924, 3 reliable firms were requested to provide samples, designs and quotations on Art Glass. January 29, 1924 the committee instructed Ford-McNutt to submit sketches of windows: The Good Shepherd, Blessing the Little Children, Gethsemane and the nave windows with symbols subject to approval from the architect. Feb 13, 1924 Rothburgh Glass submitted designs but they didn’t use this company.

March 5 Signed contract with Ford-McNutt Glass at \$2150.





# Ford McNutt Glass Co.

SUCCESSORS TO FORD BROTHERS GLASS COMPANY

ESTABLISHED 1890

DESIGNERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF

ART, STAINED & ECCLESIASTICAL GLASS

AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN FIGURE MEMORIAL WINDOWS

MINNEAPOLIS

KANSAS CITY

CHICAGO

Minneapolis, Minn.,  
March 10th. 1924.

Reverend Paul Brammer,  
St. Ansgar, Iowa.

Reverend Sir:-

Your esteemed favor of March 6th. to hand  
and contents noted.

We thank you for your contract and wish  
to say that your insertion of the clause in regard to  
"Christ Blessing the Little Children" at \$100.00 is en-  
tirely satisfactory.

Inclosed you will find a diagram shwoing  
the arrangement of the windows together with the figures  
and the emblems as we agreed upon when you were here with  
your committee last week. We also inclose a booklet of  
emblems which I am sure will be very clear to you.

We have started with the window in the  
sanctuary back of the altar, numbering this window No. 1  
and ending with the window marked No. 18 which appears in  
the vestry room.

We will greatly appreciate receiving a set  
of your plans as soon as you can send same. We will also  
appreciate it if you will give us the name of your con-  
tractor so that we can get in touch with him in regard  
to the patterns for the glass openings in the frames.

Again thanking you for past favors and  
trusting that we may soon begin work on your beautiful  
windows, we remain

Yours very truly,  
FORD-McNUTT GLASS COMPANY.

*Edw. Highton.*

EML.E.

OUR WINDOWS CAN BE SEEN IN TWENTY FIVE HUNDRED CHURCHES IN TWENTY EIGHT STATES IN THE U. S. A.



DESIGNS AND INSCRIPTIONS FOR  
WINDOWS OF  
IMMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST. ANSGAR, IOWA.

Window No. 1. The Word  
In Memory of Rev. E. Wiegner  
By Conf. Classes 1876-1890

Window No. 2. Organ Room  
(No Enscription)

Window No. 3 & 4 Baptism & Holy Spirit  
In Memory of Mrs. Emilie Schmidt †1911

Window No. 5 Resurrection  
Mr. & Mrs. J.F. Koch

Window No. 6 & 7 Parable No. 3 & 4  
~~Mr. & Mrs.~~ P.E. Adrian — *Mrs. F. B. Adrian*

*Family of*  
Louis Intorf ~~Family~~ Window No. 8 & 9 Parable No. 1 & 2

Window No. 10 Christ Blessing Little Children  
Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Miller

Window No. 11 & 12 Parable No. 7 & 8  
1st Lt. Gerhard F. Hartwig †Belgium 1918

Window No. 13 & 14 Parable No. 5 & 6  
~~Mr. & Mrs.~~ Hermann Hartwig — *Mrs. Hermann Hartwig*

Window No. 15 Gethsemane  
B 1924 (Arranged with letters the same size as the other windows, but  
in kind of a monogram or with some other flourish to fill out)

Window No. 16 & 17 Bread & Chalice  
~~Mr. & Mrs.~~ C.L. Tessmann *Mr. Carl L. Tessmann — Mrs. Carl L. Tessmann*

Window No. 18 Lord is my Light  
A Thank-Offering

=====			
Large Tower 1st Floor	East (Twin):	Mr. & Mrs.	Otto Boening
" " "	North	" :	Mr. & Mrs. J.W. Ahlf
Small " "	" "	" :	Y.L.S. 1900-1925
" " "	West	" :	In Memory of Mrs. Wilhelmine Falk
Large Tower 2d Floor	East - - -	" :	Mr. & Mrs. Moritz Albrecht
" " "	North - -	" :	Mr. & Mrs. Hermann Treichel
Small Tower	" - - -	" :	Carl Müller
" " "	West - - -	" :	Falk Brothers
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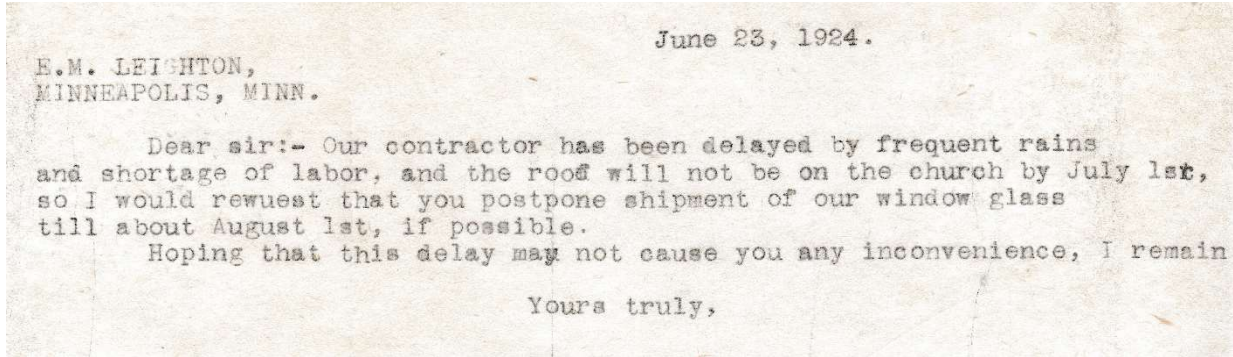
Note: In Window 3 & 4 and No. 11 & 12 the † stands for "Died".  
In the Carl Müller window place the two dots above the "u" as he  
used to write it (so requested)  
In windows No. 6 & 7 and 8 & 9 I have inverted the number because,  
standing in the church, one reads the Parable from left to right.



Windows donated, location + price.

Window No.	Inscription	
1. (Altar Niche) Wigner	In Memory of Rev. E. Wigner by Conf. Classes 1876-1890.	70. <sup>00</sup> Paid.
2. Organ Room		(50. <sup>00</sup> )
3.)	In Memory of	70. <sup>00</sup> Paid.
4.)	Mrs. Emilie Schmidt. + 1911	
5. Resurrection.	- Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hoch.	450. <sup>00</sup> Paid.
6.)	Mr. F. E. Adrian	70. <sup>00</sup> Pd
7.)	Mrs. F. E. Adrian	
8.)	Family of	70. <sup>00</sup> Paid.
9.)	Louis Gutzog	
10. Christ Blessing Little Children.	- Mrs. & Mrs. L. H. Miller.	340. <sup>00</sup> Paid.
11.)	St. Bernhard F. Hartwig	70. <sup>00</sup> Paid
12.)	+ Belgium 1918.	
13.)	Mrs. Herman Hartwig	70. <sup>00</sup> Paid.
14.)	Mrs. Herman Hartwig	
15. Kethmann.	- B. 1924.	350. <sup>00</sup> Paid
16.) Broad & )	Mr. Carl L. Testman	70. <sup>00</sup> Paid
17.) Abalice. )	Mrs. Carl L. Testman	
18. (Vestry) Light. A Thanks offering.	?	70. <sup>00</sup> Paid.
Large Tower E	Mrs. and Mrs. Otto Boening	60. <sup>00</sup> Paid
" N	Mrs. and Mrs. J. W. Ahlf	60. <sup>00</sup> Paid.
Small Tower N	Y. L. S. 1900-1925	60. <sup>00</sup> Paid.
" W	(In Memory of Mrs. Wilhelmine Falk	60. <sup>00</sup> Paid <sup>50.<sup>00</sup> + 10.<sup>00</sup></sup>
Large Tower, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor E	Mrs. & Mrs. Moritz Albrecht	40. <sup>00</sup> Paid
" " N	Mrs. and Mrs. Hermann Fraichel	40. <sup>00</sup> Paid
Small Tower " N	<del>Mr. Carl Müller</del>	40. <sup>00</sup> Paid
" " " W	( <del>Albrecht</del> ) Falk Bros.	40. <sup>00</sup> Paid





Labor problems and weather delays are nothing new. The contractors in 1924 had the same issues.



(The windows are numbered counter clockwise around the nave of the church and start with the Baptism window over the choir loft on the east wall.)



**Window 1: Sacrament of Holy Baptism and the Holy Spirit**

(Located east side behind choir loft)

Inscription: In memory of Mrs. Emilie Schmidt + 1911

**John 3:5** *Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.*

**Mark 1:10** *He saw the heaven opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him.*

Original cost: \$70.00

Notes: Given by her daughters, Emile Schmidt nee Bartz was born May 7, 1870. She died February 1, 1911. Her husband was Herman Schmidt who was born January 31, 1861 and he died December 11, 1947. Both are buried at Immanuel Cemetery.

**Window 2: Resurrection** (Located along east wall center of nave)

Inscription: Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Koch

**MATT. 28: 5-6** *The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen from the dead. Come and see the place where He lay."*

Original cost: \$450.00

Notes: Julius Koch was born in 1847 and died June 28, 1930. His wife was Laura Bidstrup who was born April 1851 and died November 11, 1920. They are both buried at the city cemetery. They had two sons, Oscar and Walther.

**Window 3: Parable of the Weeds** (Located along east wall of nave)



Inscription: Mr. F. E. Adrian

**LUKE 8:7** *Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.*

Notes: Frank E. Adrian was born September 22, 1847 and died January 23, 1918. He was married to Anna Adrian nee Boldt. He is buried in Immanuel's Cemetery.

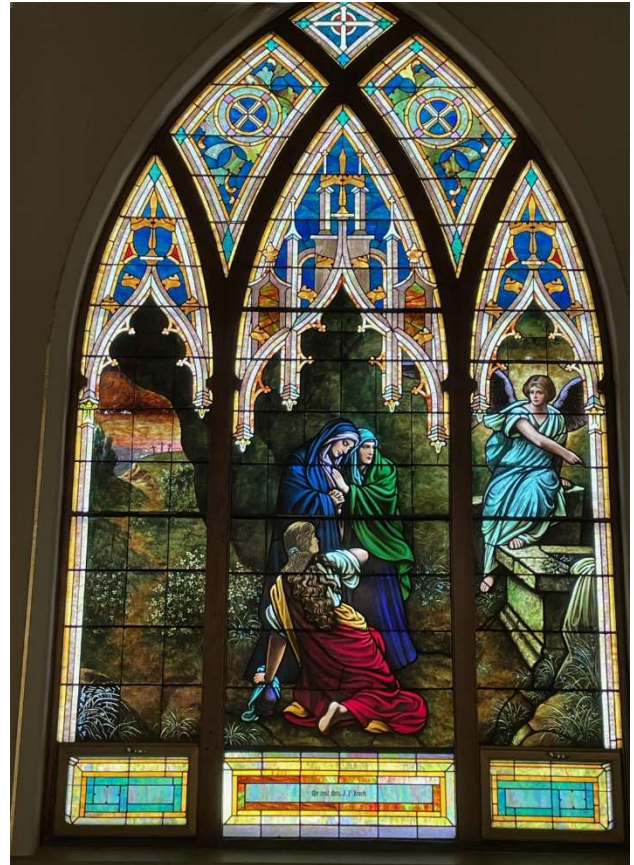
**Window 4: Parable of the Harvest** (Located along east wall of nave)

Inscription: Mrs. F. E. Adrian

**LUKE 8: 8** *Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown*

Original cost: \$70.00

Notes: Given by their family. Mrs. Anna Marie Adrian nee Boldt was born April 4, 1858 and she died November 5, 1948. She was married to Frank Adrian.





**Window 5: Parable of the Sower and**

**Window 6: Parable of the Rocks** (Located along east wall of nave)

Inscription: Family of Louis Intorf

**LUKE 8:5-6** *A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.*

Original cost: \$70.00

Notes: Given by his children, Henry paid for the window on May 8, 1924. Louis was born December 19, 1858 and he died October 28, 1922. His first wife was Melosine Brandt Intorf and they had six children. She was born October 25, 1851 and died May 24, 1905. Louise Intorf nee Dornseif married Louis and they had 2 children. She died in 1954. All are buried in Immanuel's cemetery.

**Window 7: Christ Blessing the Children** (Located on north wall of balcony)

Inscription: Mr. & Mrs. C.H. Miller

**Matt 19: 13-14** *Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to*

*place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*



Original cost: \$340.00

Notes: Christian Henry Miller was born December 10, 1858 and died July 29, 1919. His wife, Wilhelmina (Minnie) Miller nee Walck was born May 11, 1857 and she died October 3, 1948. Both are buried in Immanuel's Cemetery. The Miller's three children are also buried at Immanuel Cemetery. The Millers were one of the original families of Immanuel.





**Window 8: Sea of Galilee and**

**Window 9: Calvary** (Located at south wall of in the Gathering area. These windows were moved in 2007 during remodeling to add elevator.)

Inscription: First Lt Gerhard F Hartwig Belgium + 1918

**MATT. 15:29** *Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then He went up into the hills and sat down.*

**JOHN 19:17-18** *Carrying His own cross, He went out to Golgotha. Here they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on each side and Jesus in the middle.*

Original cost: \$70.00 (includes window #8)

Notes: Given by his wife. Dr. Hartwig was killed during WW1 in Belgium. Gerhard Hartwig was born December 3, 1888 to Herman and Alwine (Meilke). He was baptized by Pastor Wiegner, confirmed by Pastor Janzow. He married Amanda Lars September 6, 1917. and died October 31,

1918. Pastor Brammer conducted the funeral. Dr Hartwig was 29 years, 2 months and 20 days and is buried in Immanuel’s Cemetery.

(These windows were originally on the west wall of the church but had to be moved to make room for the elevator shaft and opening.)



**Window 10: Gethsemane** (Located along west wall of nave)

Inscription: Mr. Herman Hartwig

**MATT. 26: 36** *Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.”*

Original cost: \$70.00 (included window #11)

Notes: Herman Hartwig was born December 15, 1883 and was baptized by Pastor Wiegner. He was confirmed by Pastor Drexler. March 15, 1911, he married Louise Hartwig nee Ruebe. He died April 7, 1964 and is buried in Immanuel Cemetery. Gerhard Hartwig was his brother.

**Window 11: Bethlehem Star** (Located along west wall of nave)

Inscription: Mrs. Herman Hartwig

**MATT. 2:2** *Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him.* **LUKE 2:10** *But the angel said to them, do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.*

Notes: Mrs. Louise Hartwig nee Ruebe was born December 7, 1892 to Carl and Bertha Ruebe nee Hollatz. She was baptized by Pastor Hantel and confirmed by Pastor Brammer in 1907. She married Herman Hartwig March 15, 1911 and died February 23, 1975.

**Window 12: Jesus Praying at Gethsemane**  
(Located along west wall in center of nave)

Inscription 1874 – B – 1924

**MATT. 26:42** *My Father, may Your will be done.*

Original cost: \$350.00

Notes: Donated by H. A. Borchardt, president of the building committee. Herman A. Borchardt was born June 5, 1864 and died January 3, 1944. His wife was Clara Borchardt nee Moeller. She was born to Christian and Dorothea Moeller on May 3, 1866 and confirmed by Pastor Wieger in 1879. The Borchardts were married in 1892. She died November 16, 1941. They are buried in Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.



**Window 13: Bread** (Located along west wall near pulpit)

Inscription: Mr. Carl L. Tessman

**LUKE 22: 20** *In the same way, after supper He took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you."*

Original cost: Cost: \$70.00 (along with window #14)





Notes: Charles (Carl) Tessman was born in Poland on July 22, 1844. He died February 4, 1919. Mr. Tessman was one of the founding families of Immanuel Lutheran. He is buried in Immanuel Cemetery.

**Window 14: Chalice** (Located along west wall near pulpit)

Inscription: Mrs. Carl L. Tessman

**LUKE 22: 19-20** *And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying "This is My body given for you; do so in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper He took the cup saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you."*

Original cost: Cost \$70.00 (together with window # 16)

Notes: Given by the Ed Tessman family. Augusta Tessman nee Groth was the daughter of John and Caroline Groth. She was born October 31, 1851 in Germany. She married Carl Tessmann in 1873 and died January 15, 1932 and is buried at Immanuel Cemetery. She was the last member of the original

founding families.

**Window 15: The Lord is my Light** (Located in the sacristy)

Inscription: A Thank Offering

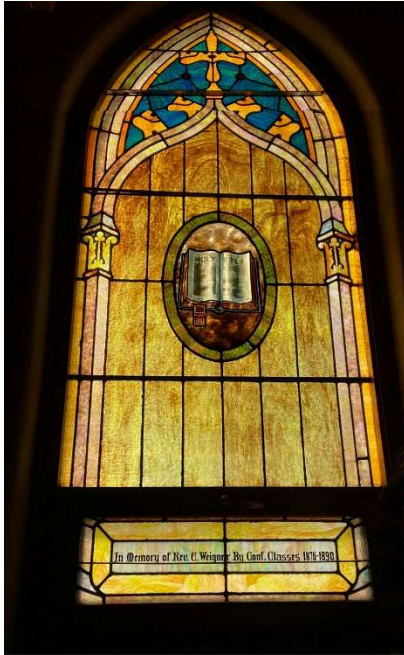
**PS. 136:1** *Give thanks to the Lord forever, for He is good.*

Original cost: \$70.00

Given anonymously







**Window 16: The Word** (Located behind the altar)

Inscription: In memory of Rev. E. Wiegner by Conf. Classes 1876-1890

**Ps 119:105** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.*

Original cost: \$70.00

Notes: Rev. Wiegner was Immanuel's first pastor.

Why would such a special window be hidden behind the altar? Originally, communicants came to the left side of the altar to receive the Lord's body (bread), walked behind the altar to

come to the right side to receive the Lord's blood (wine). Brass communion rails were located on either side of the altar platform. The lectern was also on the same level as the altar.

**Window 17:** Organ pipe room

No inscription

Original cost: \$50.00

**Balcony**

Inscription: Mr. and Mrs. Moritz Albrecht (North Wall)

Original cost: \$40.00

Notes: Moritz Albrecht was born April 21, 1851 and he died April 5, 1923 and is buried at Immanuel Cemetery. His wife was Augusta Albrecht nee Sasse born October 14, 1855 and died in 1944. She is also buried at our cemetery. They had six children.

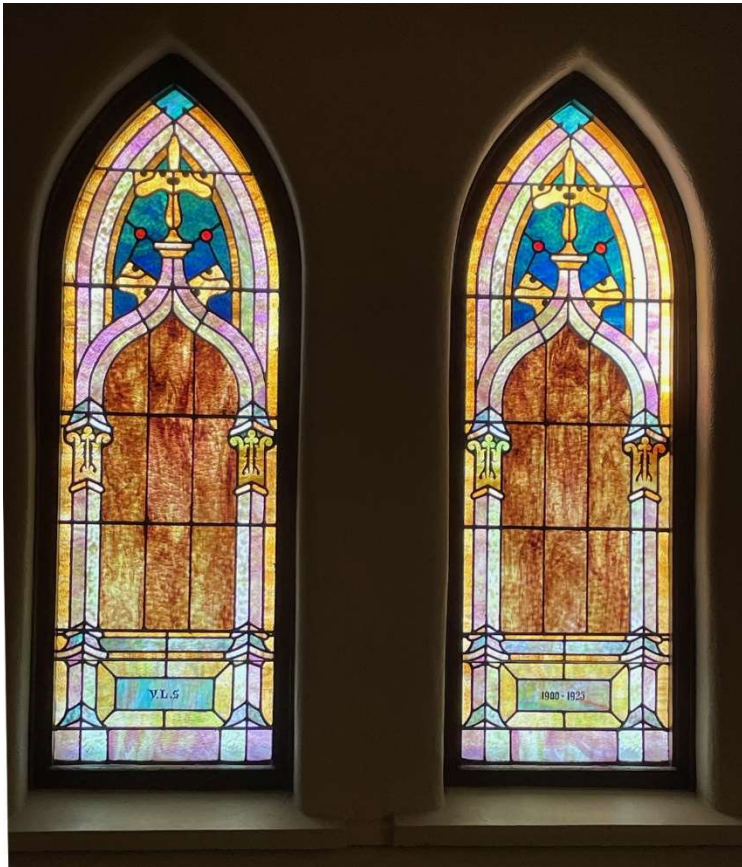
Banner closet (West tower-west wall)

Inscription Carl Müller (included umlaut, the punctuation " placed over a vowel in German)

Original cost: \$40.00

Notes: Carl F. Mueller was born December 13, 1840 in Germany. He died February 12, 1912 and is buried in Immanuel Cemetery. His first wife was Henriette Mueller nee Vocks. She died in 1876. His second wife was Wilhelmine Mueller nee Storz. She died in 1905. Both are buried in Immanuel Cemetery.





### Tower Windows

Mother's room (now the stairwell from the education unit to the narthex)

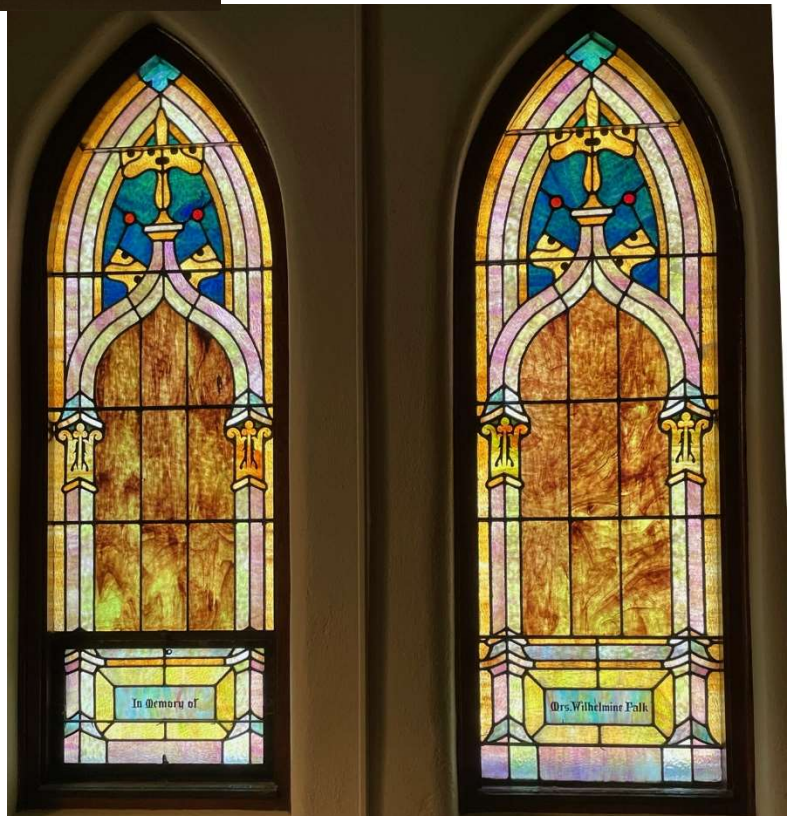
Inscription Y. L. S. 1900-1925 [Young Ladies Society]; (Located on west wall of west tower)

Original cost: \$60.00  
 Young Ladies Society was the forerunner of the Walther League and LYF.

Inscription: In memory of Mrs. Wilhelmine Falk (Located on north wall of west tower)

Original cost: \$60.00

Notes: Wife of Johann Falk; mother of 11 children; Mrs. Falk was born August 3, 1836 and died March 8, 1899. Her actual name was Friedrike Wilhelmine Bartelt Falk. She and her husband are buried at St. Ansgar City Cemetery.



Inscription: Mrs. Otto Boening (Located over east walk-in door east tower)

Inscription: Mr. Otto Boening ((Located over east walk-in door east tower)

Original cost: \$60.00

Notes: Otto was born March 7, 1881 and was baptized and confirmed by Pastor Wiegner. He died April 20, 1973 and is buried in Immanuel Cemetery. His wife was Adele Boening nee Hartwig who was born August 17, 1893 and baptized by Pastor Hantel. They were married June 10, 1914. Mrs. Boening died January 17, 1982. She is buried at Immanuel Cemetery.

## Stairs to Balcony

Inscription: Falk Brothers (Located north wall top-east tower)

Original cost: \$40.00

Notes: Herman and Otto Falk, sons of Johann and Wilhelmine Falk

Herman was born January 6, 1870 in Germany. He was confirmed in 1884 by Pastor Wiegner. He was married to Hedwig (Hattie) nee Albrecht in 1899 by Pastor Drexler. Herman died September 26, 1952 and is buried in Immanuel Cemetery.

Otto was born June 21, 1871 and was confirmed by Pastor Wiegner in 1885. He married Hulda Hackbarth in 1916. He died December 19, 1940 and is buried at La Crosse, Wisconsin.



Inscription: Mr. and Mrs. Herman Treichel (east wall-east tower)

Original cost: \$40.00

Notes: Herman was born February 15, 1823 and died August 31, 1878 at the age of 55. Hanna Nienow Treichel was born December 23, 1829 and died August 23, 1903. The Treichels were married in 1856, joined Immanuel in 1876 and are buried at Immanuel Cemetery. They had six daughters and one son. Many descendants are current members of Immanuel.



Inscription: Mr. J W Ahlf (North Wall Bottom-East tower)

Notes: given in his memory by his wife, Mrs. John (Wilhelmine) Ahlf per Oscar Koch

Notes: Johann (John) Wilhelm Ahlf was born February 5, 1854 in Germany and died October 14, 1920. He is buried in Immanuel Cemetery.

Inscription: Mrs. J W Ahlf (North Wall Bottom-East tower)

Original cost: \$60.00 (Includes above window)

Notes: Wilhelmine Ahlf nee Pfeifferling was born in 1863 in Germany and died September 16, 1932. She is buried in Immanuel Cemetery.

The Ford-McNutt Glass Co also provided the glass for the nine wood doors. We didn't find any information about the arch window over the front doors or upper west chancel wall by the altar. Two windows are at the top of each tower that look similar to the one in the organ pipe room. These windows are not dedicated to anyone. There are also two small windows near the roof of the south and north walls.

## Furnishings

The following bids were received for altar, pulpit and pews.

Feb 6, 1924 Dubuque Altar Co.

Altar dark 825.00, White 670.00; Pulpit Oak 450.00; White 350.00; Pews straight oak back 1663.00 (raised to 1740.00); single curve back 1840.00 (raised to 1940.00)

Feb 13, 1924 American Seating Co

Altar & Pulpit 1000.00

March 13, 1924

Altar Red Oak 943.00

White & Gold 1013.00

Pews 3 ply Auditorium 2765.00

Balcony 570.00

2 ply Auditorium 2460.00

Balcony 455.00



*Main doors to the north, located in narthex*



March 20, 1924 Frank Bercker  
 Altar white and gold 775.00  
 or Oak 865.00  
 Statue 98.00  
 Pulpit without platform 316.00  
 Organ panel 60.00  
 Pews auditorium and balcony 1929.20

March 23, 1924 Building Committee and Committee of Ladies Society voted whether the altar is to be white or oak. Results: 7 for oak & 7 for white. Decided to have congregation vote April 6 on the color of the altar.

The hymn board was added to the furnishing order at a later date. The cost was \$25.00.



The oak baptism font was given in memory of Pastor Brammer in 1950. He had served Immanuel for 40 years. The font from the old church was used previously and was given to a mission church in Hiawatha when no longer needed.





F. H. BERCKER

DESIGNER AND MANUFACTURER OF CHURCH FURNITURE

STATUARY. OIL PAINTINGS

PHONE LAKESIDE 2059

523 FREDERICK AVE., MILWAUKEE, WIS.

March 28, 1924

Rev. Paul Brammer  
Immanuel's Lutheran Church  
St. Ansgar, Iowa.

Rev. and dear Sir:

Returning home this morning I beg to thank you for the contract and also the telegram received last Monday.

I am here inclosing the addenda and it will be alright if you let me hear from you regarding the material for the Altar by April 7.24.

I will make a design in harmony with the general for hymnboards and will submit same with the new design for the Pulpit and pew end as well as altabase. This will be during the course of the coming week.

Thanking you and the members of the committee for the confidence in me, I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

*F. H. Bercker*

ADDENDA:

Futhermore I Agree that Immanuel's Lutheran Church shall have the Privilege to select an Oak Altar instead of the White for an additional \$ 90.00 by April 7th 1924.

Signed: *F. H. Bercker*

Accepted:

*Building Committee of*  
*Immanuel's Lutheran Church*  
*H. W. Forchardt Pres.*  
*Paul Brammer Sec.*



# F. H. BERCKER

DESIGNER AND MANUFACTURER OF CHURCH FURNITURE  
STATUARY, OIL PAINTINGS

PHONE LAKESIDE 2053

523 FREDERICK AVE., MILWAUKEE, WIS.

October 16, 1924

SOLD TO

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST. ANSGAR, IOWA

1	Altar # 5351L oak natural finish as per contract	\$ 865.00
1	Pulpit 6308 " " " " " "	316.20
To	auditorium pews, as per contract	1585.18
To	balcony " " " "	344.02
1	Panel rail, 5'6". # 7313 " " "	60.00
1	Hymn Board # 901 " " "	25.00
		<u>\$3195.40</u>
		317.84
	Net balance	\$ 2877.56

Freight Charges to be deducted.

J-4-23-500 Bks.-F. C. 4-22

Form 170A

Illinois Central Railroad Company

Station St Ansgar 10/23/1924  
Freight described below, consigned to you has arrived at this station and is now ready for delivery.

Car AW 2802 Ex Car

Point of Origin Immanuel Wisc

Date 10/16 1924 F. B. No. 9209

Shipper Jos Svoboda

Articles 40 crates church furn

Weight 2000 Charges \$ 77.00  
(Subject to correction)

Free time expires 10/26 1924

\*See schedule of conditions on reverse side.

This space for address only



Rev. P. Braniff  
St Ansgar  
Iowa

Arrival of 40 crates of church furniture, October 23, 1924





Oct. 27, 1924

Dear Mr. Bercker

The altar, pulpit and pews arrived here Friday and we unloaded them Saturday. Everything seemed to be in good condition. However when we opened the statue box, we found an all white statue instead of a statue “decorated in natural colors” as our contract calls for. Some one must have made a mistake in filling the order. So please send us another statue with the body in flesh color, dark hair, and robe in mild colors. If shipped at once it will reach us by Nov. 9 when we will dedicate. To be on the safe side will hold the present statue subject to your order until the arrival of the new one.

Will you also kindly in a few words give us instructions for assembling the pews? That will save us some time and useless experimenting.

Sincerely Yours, Paul Brammer

And a reply from Mr. Bercker on October 29, 1924

Rev. and dear Sir:



[Personal message between the two men]

...

Now regarding the statue finish. You no doubt recollect that I mentioned that if a white altar is furnished we will have to use a decorated statue and if a natural oak finished altar is selected we must use the ivory finish.

A colored statue on a natural oak finished altar is absolutely out of place. It takes the dignity away from the general. The statue at Blue Earth is also ivory.

You better use the ivory statue and you will notice, that same will give you a better job and quieter harmony than the colored statue would. I will await your further order on this matter.

[The letter continued with directions for assembling the pews.]

Yours truly, Fred Bercker



# Lighting

Purchased from Superior Fixture Co. of Des Moines Iowa

**Superior Fixture Co.**  
415 Sixth Avenue Phone Walnut 527

Ship Date Sept. 15 - 1924  
Via Express or Freight Expt.  
Install Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Install by \_\_\_\_\_  
Terms: 30 Day Mt.

Des Moines, Iowa, July 1 - 1924

M Building Council - J. J. Mannucci  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_  
City St. Ansgar State Iowa

Ceiling 1st Floor \_\_\_\_\_  
Ceiling 2nd Floor \_\_\_\_\_  
Crowfoot \_\_\_\_\_  
Insulating Joint  \_\_\_\_\_  
Gas Stub \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION	SW.	C.L.	SIDE	FIXTURES	ELECT.	GAS	FINISH	SOCKETS	GLASSWARE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
Front Exit	X	0	2	130	1	0	Black Med.	Amber		15 00	30 00
Side "	X	0	2	64	1	0	"	"		15 00	30 00
Rear "	X	0	1	11604	1	0	"	"	6" Opal Ball	1 50	1 50
Vest. Etc.	X	5	0	1410	1	0	Sand B.	"	888-10 1/2 - Gothic	15 00	75 00
Under Bal.	X	3	0	1210	1	0	"	"	888-10 1/2	5 40	16 20
Chion Ro.	X	0	2	Special	2	0	"	Candl.	Gothic Back	15 00	30 00
Vestib. Cl.	X	1	0	1210	1	0	"	Med.	888-10 1/2	3 40	5 40
Staircase Bal.	X	1	0	1210	1	0	"	"	888-10 1/2	5 40	5 40
Chudt.	X	6	0	1518	1	0	"	Mogul	888-18	45 00	270 00
Bal.	X	0	2	Special	2	0	"	Candl.	Gothic Back	15 00	30 00
Cove	X	25	0	Box Cov.	1	0	"	Sign		50	12 50
Basement											
Social Ro.	X	9	0	1208	1	0	Sand B.	Med.	888-8 1/2	4 48	39 82
Kitchen Etc.	X	6	0	3154	1	0	"	"	1520-8"	1 75	10 50
Vestibule	X	2	0	1408	1	0	"	"	888-8 1/2	6 54	13 08
Other Room	X	3	0	3154	1	0	"	"	1520-8"	1 75	5 25
"		0	4	0	D.C.	1	0	Porclin.	"	1 00	4 00
Rear Exit	X	0	1	4500	1	0	Sand B.	"	1520-4"	2 75	2 75
										581 40	
										Less Basement	72 65
										508 75	
Complete Job 535 25 - F.O.B. Des. By. Omitting Basement 487 00 - " " This order given with the condition that the 3 absent members approve 5 O.K. order.											

We propose to furnish the above fixtures for the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send bill to M \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

CUSTOMER'S NUMBER

OUR NUMBER

Superior Fixture Co.

Date July 1 - 1924

By E. P. Campbell





F. M. DEEMER J. N. C. HANSEN

# Superior Fixture Company

MANUFACTURERS OF  
HIGH GRADE LIGHTING FIXTURES

415 SIXTH AVENUE

Des Moines, Iowa

October 7, 1924

SOLD TO Paul Brammer

ADDRESS St. Ansgar, Iowa

TERMS: NET CASH SALESMAN C

YOUR ORDER NO.

DATE 7-5

OUR ORDER NO. 41093

S. No. 49706

Fixtures per contract

535.25

St. Ansgar Immanuel's Ev Lutheran Church

OUR GOODS ARE RIGHT

OUR PRICES ARE RIGHT

WE TREAT YOU RIGHT

FIXTURES,  
WIRING,  
MOTOR INSTALLATION,  
FARM LIGHTING PLANTS.

## H. C. Determan ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

"EVERY JOB A MASTERPIECE"

119 EAST STATE STREET TELEPHONE 894

Mason City, Iowa

7-12-24

Contractor for St. Luke's Hospital,  
Webster Bros. Manufacturing Co.  
Completion of New I. O. O. F. Home,  
Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Rev. Paul Brammer  
St Ansgar  
Iowa

Dear Mr Brammer I wish to  
thank you for the fixture order for the  
Church. I am glad that the Committ  
Decided on the Complete Installation as  
I always like to see a job completed.  
I will be glad to have the fixture  
taken such time comes and if you think  
my offer is in Reason I will come up and  
Install Fixtures + switches

Yours Very Respectfully  
H. C. Determan

**Painting**

Interior painting A. Knudson, Manly, Iowa \$187.75

**Wiring** contract was given to St. Ansgar Light & Power.

**Subcontractors:**

- Mascon City Stone Co., Patterson; Bedford Lime
- George P. Smith Co. Charles City, Iowa; William Fairbanks, Millwork

**GEO. P. SMITH COMPANY**  
MANUFACTURERS AND JOBBERS  
**FINE INTERIOR FINISH**  
 STAIR WORK, SASH, DOORS, MOULDINGS, PORCH WORK,  
 STORE FRONTS, PLATE, WINDOW & ART GLASS

**ESTIMATE** QUALITY  
IN  
MILL WORK

Charles City, Iowa Jan. 13th, 1925.

Please check following list, as we agree to furnish only quantities and articles specified.  
 Give number of estimate when ordering.  
 Clerical errors subject to correction.

To **A.C. Janzow,**

---

Estimate No. **19949** Sheet No. **ONE** St. Ansgar, Iowa.

1		For <b>STORM SASH FOR LUTHERAN CHURCH</b>
2		<u>LOT NO. 1</u>
3	6	Storm Sash "B" for Side Elevation
4	2	Storm Sash "A" for Side Elevation
5	1	Storm Sash - unspecified - over Front Entrance door and front elevation
6		
7	8	Storm Sash "C"
8	4	Storm Sash "D"
9	3	Storm Sash "E"
10	4	Storm Sash "F"
11	1	Storm Sash for opening 2-6 x 5-0 - Side Elevation, unspecified
12		
13	1	Storm Sash for Front Door Transom
14	2	Storm Sash for Gables - unspecified
15	1	Storm Sash in rear of Church, approximate opening 6-0 x 5-6 - Gothic - unspecified
16		
17		
18		<u>LOT NO. 2</u>
19	23	Storm Sash 2 1/2, Glazed D. S.
20		



Report of subscriptions and assets: [Feb 1, 1924 Finance and Bldg. Comm. Joint Meeting]

Total Subscriptions:	\$34,545.00
Sale of church/school	<u>1,245.00</u>
Total	\$35,790.00

Report of contracts let & allowances

General Contract	\$ 32,075.00
Gravel & excavating	-- <u>1,075.00</u>
General contract	31,000.00
Allowance on Brick @ 28.50	<u>315.00</u>
General Contract	30,685.00
Electric Wiring	500.00
Gravel & Sand	257.00
Furnace	1,759.00
Plumbing	<u>558.86</u>
Total \$	33,759.86

Expenses to add

- Architect 1074.29
- Pews & Light Fixtures ?



“Subscriptions” was the amount pledged by the individual church members to help pay for completing the entire new church project. “Hopefully enough money would be collected to pay the bills.”

Much site work was needed before the new church construction could begin. First the existing wood framed church needed to be removed from the site. The city of St. Ansgar gave permission for 5<sup>th</sup> Street to be closed temporarily. The steeple and the side coal shed were removed and the entire church was lifted and moved into the street. The congregation continued to hold worship service in the church sitting in the middle of 5<sup>th</sup> street until the new building was completed and dedicated.

—The members of Immanuel's Lutheran church finished excavating for the basement of their new church last Friday. To judge by the face brick and cut stone already on the ground it will be a fine looking building.

*St. Ansgar Enterprise March 19, 1924*

—About ten teams were busy at work yesterday hauling gravel for the new German Lutheran church. This work is all donated by members. The gravel is being hauled from the Kittleson place south of town.

*St. Ansgar Enterprise December 19, 1923*

Much of the work was done by donated labor by members of the congregation to save money. Farmers brought their teams of horses to town to haul gravel and sand. Others worked to excavate the basement using a slip scoop. Otto Erdmann, grandfather of Keith Horgen, helped with removing the dirt.

Members with wagons would go to the rail yard and haul the building materials to the work site.

Fred Pagel, a retired farmer, and great grandfather of Norman Pahl, Phyllis Ahlf and Jerry Rachut, helped to move the brick from the rail cars. He worked in the brickyards in Milwaukee before coming to Iowa to farm. Fred argued with the younger men to toss him the bricks twice as fast so he could alternate arms catching and stacking the bricks on the wagon. They were afraid of injuring the 76-year-old man.

Many others also volunteered with the moving of the furnishings from the railyard. Every wagon load delivered helped to defray the cost.

—Work on the German Lutheran church is progressing nicely. On Monday seven men of the contracting firm of Schradel & Clark of Austin arrived to commence work. Tuesday about twenty men worked on the water mains and sewer and it is expected that this work will be completed by tonight.

*St. Ansgar Enterprise April 9, 1924*

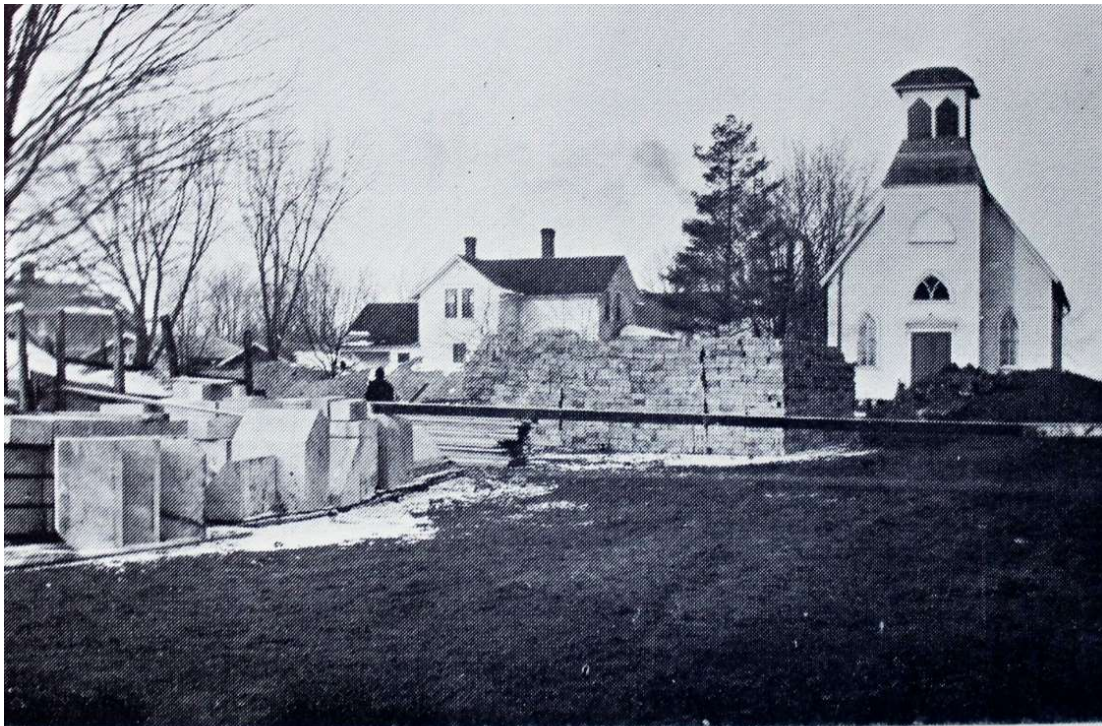
✕ Work on the new German Lutheran church is going along at full speed. This morning the contractor arrived and the work of pouring concrete for the foundation has begun. The crushed rock to be used is also on the ground.

—Mrs. Ross Hartlev came down from Austin today to look for rooms. Her husband is one of the workmen on the new German Lutheran church and they expect to make their home here this summer.

*St. Ansgar Enterprise April 9, 1924*

Harvey Priem is working at St. Ansgar on the new German Lutheran church.

*St. Ansgar Enterprise April 25, 1924*



**Starting construction of New Church  
Spring 1924**



## Accidents on the site

According to clippings from the St. Ansgar Enterprise, at least two men were injured on the work site. The first one involved August Ruechel while he was helping with the basement. He was cut on his head by a falling hunk of frozen earth and required 8 stitches on his scalp by Dr. Westenburger. Another worker fell from the balcony but fortunately only sprained his wrist.

### **BLAST INJURES AUG. RUECHL**

Yesterday morning August Ruechel had his head cut by a falling piece of frozen earth while engaged on the cellar for the new German Lutheran church. He had hidden behind the coal house standing close by, pretty well protected by the eaves, but a small piece of frozen earth hit the edge of his hat and he stooped over to pick up the hat when a large piece that had moved slower on account of its size came down with terrific force on his head and cut it so that Dr Westenberger had to take eight stitches to sew it up. However, aside from the scalp wound, it did not injure him so he is getting along all right.

Work is progressing nicely on the cellar and it will all be finished in a few days.

—Calvin Thompson, one of the laborers on the new German Lutheran church, fell on Monday from the balcony while at work. He was indeed fortunate in that the only injury sustained was a sprained wrist. He will in all probability be able to go back to work in a few days.

*St. Ansgar Enterprise April 12, 1924*     *St. Ansgar Enterprise August 6, 1924*

## Laying cornerstone May 9, 1924

By May the walls were built to the level of the main floor and the congregation held a special service for the laying of the cornerstone. Ramps were built and benches set on the subfloor for the congregation.

### **IMMANUEL'S EV-LUTH CHURCH**

Sunday, May 25, the morning service will be dropped. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the cornerstone for the new church will be laid with appropriate ceremonies in German and English. A collection for the benefit of the building fund will be taken up.

*St. Ansgar Enterprise May 21, 1924*



**LAYING OF CORNERSTONE**  
**At Immanuel's Lutheran Church on Next**  
**Sunday May 29**



Construction work on Immanuel's Lutheran Church has progressed sufficiently so the cornerstone can be laid. Services will be held at the foundation of the new building next Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, conducted in German and English. There will be singing by the congregation, the Choir and the Sunday School, also special music by the orchestra. A special collection will be taken up to reduce the debt in the building fund.

A box containing a history of the church, its constitution and by-laws, hymn book, catechism, church papers, a list of members of the church and its various societies and organizations, a copy each of a state, county and local paper, specimens of present day currency, a list of national, state, county and local officials, etc., will be placed in the stone.

We expect to see a large gathering of people from far and near who want to witness this ceremony.

[Transcription of announcement found in May 21, 1924 issue of the St. Ansgar Enterprise.]



**LAYING OF CORNERSTONE**

**At Immanuel's Lutheran Church On**  
**Next Sunday, May 29th**

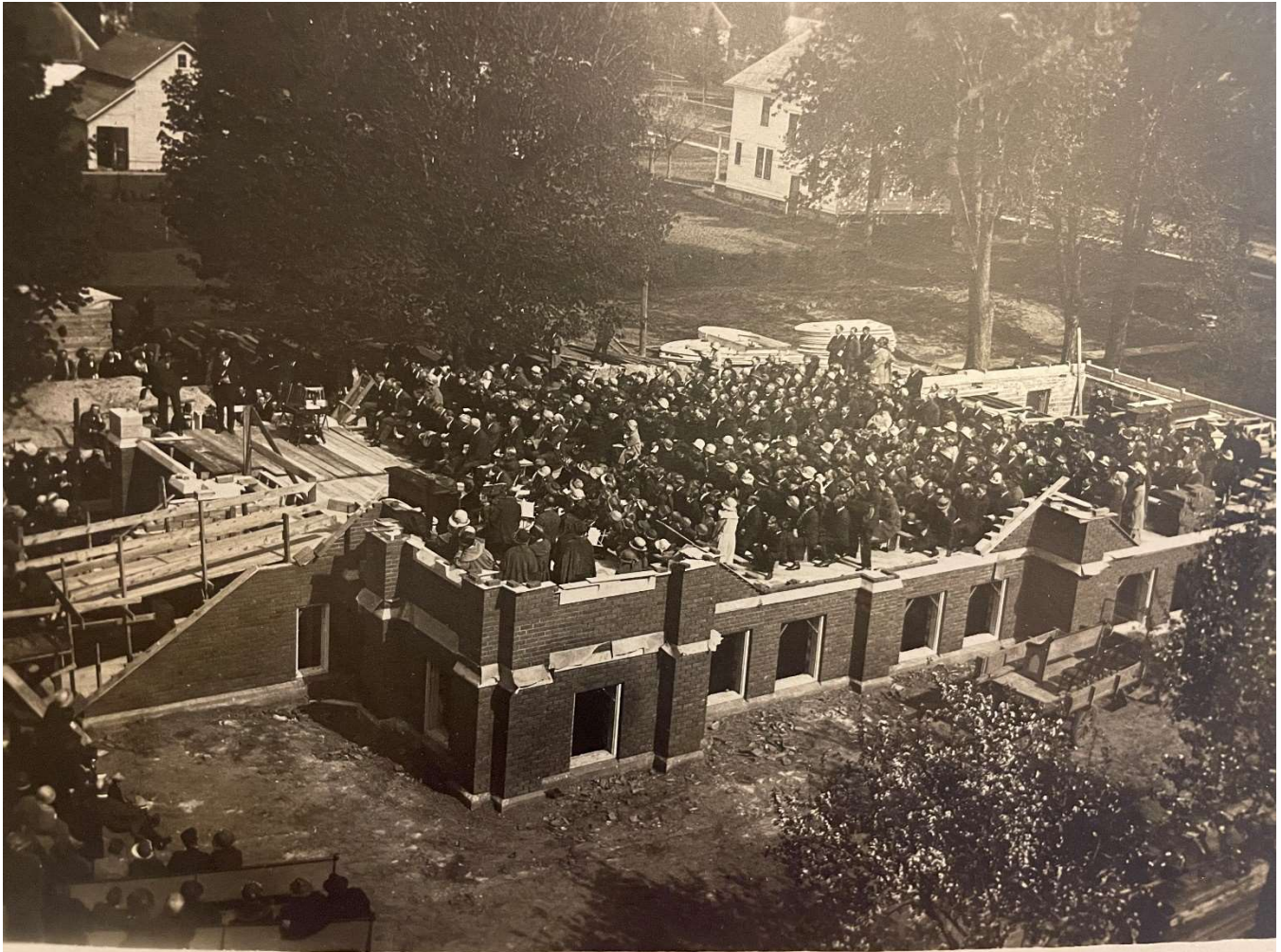
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A box containing a history of the church, its constitution and by-laws, hymn book, catechism, church papers, a list of members of the church and its various societies and organizations, a copy each of a state, county and local paper, specimens of present day currency, a list of national, state, county and local officials, etc., will be placed in the stone.

We expect to see a large gathering of people from far and near who wish to witness this ceremony.



Hymns sung at the Laying of the Cornerstone service included: “Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns wend” [Lord Jesus Christ Be Present Now LSB # 902], “Herr, hilf, laß wohl gelingen!” [Psalm 118], “O Lord of Hosts” by the Sunday School, “In the Name, which Earth and Heaven” [TLH # 632 for Special Occasions – Laying of Cornerstone], and “Now Thank We All Our God” [LSB # 895]. Rev. Theo. Frese of Osage, Iowa gave the sermon.



### **Sale of Old Church and School**

At the December 11, 1923 meeting: “Resolved to advertise for sealed bids on old church and school, to give possession Mar 1, 1924, to be removed by Mar. 15 (extension of time to be given in case of bad weather), check of 50% of bid to accompany same and balance when possession is given; without fixtures & bell; but including furnace, with or without foundation. Bids to be opened 2 p.m. Thursday Dec 20 at Imm. Luth School. The right reserved to reject any or all bids”.

Dec. 20 1923: Bids on old church & school opened and considered.

Bids on the church were the following:

1. Ernest L Hansen \$501.00
2. Mrs. H. A. Borchardt \$1010.00

Bids on the school were:

1. John Wirth \$130.00
2. Alfred J. Hansen \$176.00
3. Geo. Kuehl 235.00

Resolved to accept bid of Mrs. H. A. Borchardt on church

Resolved to accept bid of Geo. Kuehl on school

Sold foundation of old church for \$225

Proposed to sell old altar 100.00; pulpit 25.00; 19 long and 5 short pews 150.00,  
Light fixtures 75.00.

The church received \$12.00 for the pulpit and altar, \$295 for the old bell and \$51.50 for the pews and stove.

## **Organ**

[The building committee was not responsible for purchasing the new pipe organ. It was donated.]

Many companies submitted proposals but the Wangerin Organ Company of Milwaukee was selected to provide a 2 manual pipe organ with pedals. The order included the metal and wood pipes, a detached console and bench, a blower and used electro pneumatic action. The organ was delivered and installed in September 1924.





WANGERIN ORGAN COMPANY  
110-124 BURRELL STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, U.S.A.



SPECIFICATION

OF A  
TWO MANUAL ORGAN

FOR  
IMMANUEL EV. LUTH. CHURCH, ST. ANSGAR, IOWA

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

GREAT ORGAN

1	Open Diapason	8'	Metal	61 Pipes
2	Concert Flute	8'	Wood	73 Pipes
3	Dulciana	8'	Metal	61 Pipes
4	Flauto Traverso	4'	Wood (2)	61 Notes
	Great to Great	16'	Coupler	
	Great to Great	4'	Coupler	
	Swell to Great	16'	Coupler	
	Swell to Great	8'	Coupler	
	Swell to Great	4'	Coupler	
	Three Combination Pistons and Release			

SWELL ORGAN

5	Stopped Diapason	8'	Wood	73 Pipes
6	Salicional	8'	Metal	73 Pipes
7	Vox Celestis	8'	Metal	49 Pipes
8	Flute d'Amour	4'	Wood (5)	61 Notes
9	Violina	4'	Metal (6)	61 Notes
	Swell to Swell	16'	Coupler	
	Swell to Swell	4'	Coupler	
	Swell Unison Off			
	Tremulant			
	Three Combination Pistons and Release			

PEDAL ORGAN

10	Bourdon	16'	Wood	30 Pipes
11	Lieblich Gedeckt	16'	Wood (10)	30 Notes
	Great to Pedal	8'	Coupler	
	Swell to Pedal	8'	Coupler	

PEDAL LEVERS

Balanced Swell Pedal for entire Organ  
(Organ will be in a special chamber with an ornamental grille on auditorium and on chancel side furnished by the building contractor)  
Balanced Crescendo Pedal  
Great to Pedal Reversible

ACCESSORIES

Electric Organ Blower  
Action Current Generator  
Electro Pneumatic Action  
Console detached  
Organ Bench  
(Note - No case-work and display pipe front in this contract. Organ Chamber will require two Swell Shutter outfits for two sound openings)



**WANGERIN ORGAN COMPANY**  
110-124 BURELL STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, U.S.A.

**AGREEMENT**

(All provisions in this Agreement have been adopted as standard by the Organ Builders' Association of America, May 10, 1921.)

This Agreement, made this 14th day of April, 1924  
by and between WANGERIN ORGAN COMPANY, a Wisconsin Corporation, of the City of Milwaukee,  
State of Wisconsin, Party of the First Part, and IMMANUEL EV. LUTH. CHURCH,  
Rev. Paul Branner, Pastor, St. Ansgar, Iowa  
Parties of the Second Part, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual covenants herein contained,  
WITNESSETH:

1. The Party of the First Part agrees to build for and erect in IMMANUEL EV. LUTH. CHURCH  
ST. ANSGAR, IOWA

..... a Pipe Organ, in accordance with the annexed Specification,  
complete and ready for use on or about Sept. 1, 1924, not later than Sept. 15, 1924,  
subject, however, to delays from fire, water, strikes or any causes not within the control of the said First Party.

2. The Party of the First Part warrants that said completed Organ shall be free from defects in either material  
or workmanship, and undertakes to replace or repair any such defective parts at its own expense during the term  
of one year after the completion of said instrument when informed by written notice. This warranty does not include  
tuning, regulating or care of said organ.

3. The Party of the Second Part hereby accepts this contract and the attached specification and requests  
the Party of the First Part to proceed with the building of said Organ, and to construct and erect the same, and  
agrees to accept the completed instrument and pay therefor the sum of.....

THREE THOUSAND ..... Dollars (\$ 3,000.00.....) as follows:  
Upon formal acceptance

4. That immediately upon the complete installation of the said Organ the said Second Party will with and in  
the presence of the representative of the said First Party examine said Organ and if in accord with this contract  
and attached specification agrees to give a formal acceptance of said Organ to the said representative of the said  
First Party.

5. Said Second Party agrees to provide the proper space and a level floor therein for the said Organ, also to  
furnish a suitable room and enclosure for the organ blower, and the necessary air-tight galvanized metal piping to  
convey the organ wind from the blower to the Organ and console, such piping to be constructed and installed  
subject to the approval of the Party of the First Part. The said Second Party further agrees to have the blower  
motor connected with the service wires, to provide the required switches, to furnish and install iron conduits for  
organ cables and wires, if demanded by local regulations, and to supply light, heat and power during the period of  
organ installation, if and when needed. ~~The said Second Party also agrees to pay all freight and drayage charges~~  
~~on the Organ and parts thereof, including charges, if any.~~

6. The Party of the Second Part agrees to assume all responsibility for said Organ and parts thereof, covering  
loss or damage by fire or any other cause, from the time the said Organ or parts thereof have been delivered to a com-  
mon carrier by the Party of the First Part, and will, until the above-mentioned purchase price is entirely paid, keep  
the said Organ and parts thereof fully insured against any and all loss or damage, such insurance to protect both  
parties hereto as their interests may appear and be established.

7. It is furthermore mutually agreed that the said Organ is to be and remain personal property, and the title  
to and Ownership of said Organ shall continue to vest in said First Party until such time as the contract price shall  
be fully paid in cash or its equivalent.

8. It is also mutually agreed that there are no verbal or other agreements or representations except as contained  
in this contract and the specification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties have hereunto set their hands and seals.

IN PRESENCE OF:

**WANGERIN ORGAN COMPANY**

Per Joseph Wangerin President  
Secretary

**IMMANUEL EV. LUTH. CHURCH**

**ST. ANSGAR, IOWA**

Per Paul Branner (SEAL)

Per H. A. Borchardt (SEAL)

Per..... (SEAL)



ADOLPH WANGERIN,  
PRESIDENT & TREASURER

EDMOND VERLINDEN,  
VICE PRESIDENT

F.A. HEYNER,  
SECRETARY



**WANGERIN ORGAN COMPANY**  
110-124 BURRELL STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, U.S.A.

ACCEPTANCE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the Pipe Organ built and delivered by WANGERIN ORGAN COMPANY, Milwaukee, Wis., and erected in EV. LUTH. IMMANUEL CHURCH, St. Ansgar, Iowa, has now been completely installed. Upon a test and examination the same has been found to be executed in compliance with the contract entered into on April 14, 1924. The said Organ is therefore hereby formally accepted.

Signed

IMMANUEL EV. LUTH. CHURCH

Per

*Paul Brammer*

*H.A. Borchartt*

St. Ansgar, Iowa Oct. 18 1924

ADOLPH WANGERIN,  
PRESIDENT & TREASURER

EDMOND VERLINDEN,  
VICE PRESIDENT

F.A. HEYNER,  
SECRETARY



**WANGERIN ORGAN COMPANY**  
110-124 BURRELL STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, U.S.A.

October 18, 1924

ORDER NO. 10604  
DEL. & SET UP  
TERMS AS PER CONTRACT

Immanuel Ev. Luth. Church,  
Rev. Paul Brammer,  
St. Ansgar, Iowa.

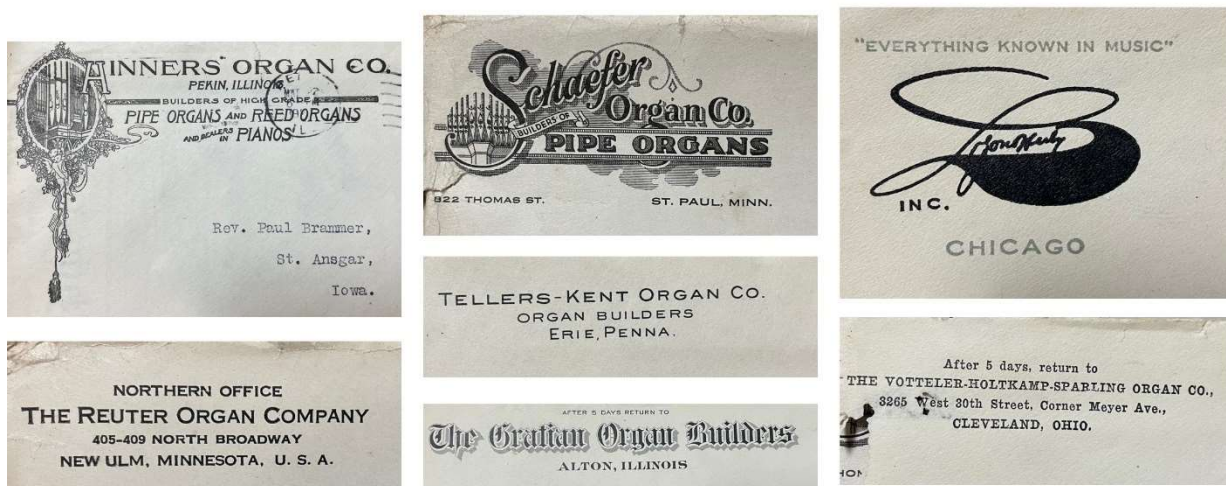
To Organ as per contract

3000.00

*Received payment*

*10/18/24*

*Ralph Wangerin*



Return address labels for the other organ building companies.

## Bell

The tower bell was purchased from Mc Shane Bell Foundry Co of Baltimore Md. The bell was donated in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation.

October 14, 1924

Reverend and dear Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of your valued favor of the 11<sup>th</sup> instant, we have wired you today as per confirmation herewith which we be now to confirm.

We would be please to furnish one of our 1500 Lb. pattern bells complete with mountings 2300 Lb. delivered F.O.B. St. Ansgar for the sum of \$1050.00 less 5% special discount for cash in full within ten days after delivery of the bell, provided it is found satisfactory and as represented. If it does not prove so it may be returned at our expense.

The bell would have the cast in raised letters the following inscription: DONATED BY C. H. BARTELT AND WIFE FOR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1924.

Should this not be Bartlet?

Shipment of the bell would be made, if ordered immediately, within ten days from the date of receipt of order. ....

Faithfully yours, McSHANE BELL FOUNDRY CO. (signed) S. W. Seery  
Secretary





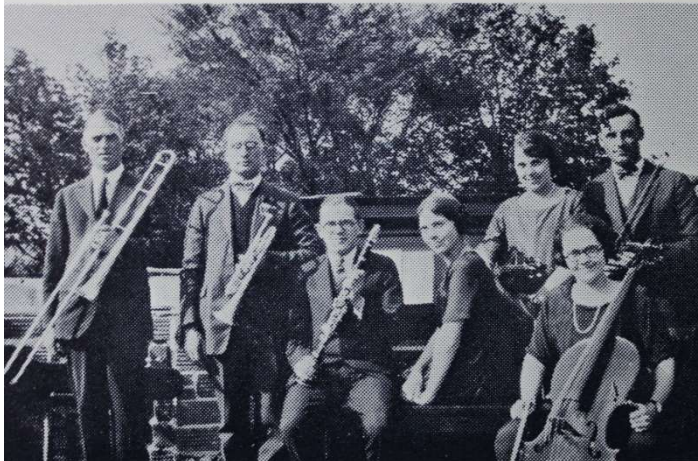
**Dedicating the new church Nov. 9, 1924**

The dedication service began at the old church, where a farewell service was held. From there the congregation headed by the architect, the contractor, the officiating pastors, the building committee, the deacons, the choir, and the Sunday School, proceeded to the new church.

After a hymn by the congregation, the general contractor handed over the keys to Pastor Brammer, who opened the door. Accompanied by the joyful peals of the new bell, the

people soon filled the large church to its utmost capacity. Former Pastor William Janzow gave the English address. The Sunday School and the Choir both shared anthems.

**Orchestra playing for cornerstone laying**



Immanuel Orchestra included Helen, Ruth and Laura Brammer, Harlan Sorenson, Wilmer Rosel, and Wilmer Mueller.



PROGRAM



Dedication of Church, Bell  
and Organ

of

Immanuel's Ev.-Lutheran Church

St. Ausgar, Iowa

November 9, 1924



Hymns sung at the dedication included: German hymns "Bis Hierher hat Mich Gott Gebracht", "Ihr Jungen, Jeht nach Diefer Stätte", "Macht Hoch die Tür" [Lift Up Your Heads], "Wir Glauben all' an Einer Gott" [We all Believe in One True God], "Dreifaltig Heilig Großer Gott" and "O wie lieblich", and the Sunday School sang "Here in Thy Name Eternal God".

In the afternoon, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service was held to just as large a crowd. The entire service was in English. Hymns included were "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty", "A Mighty Fortress", "What a Friend" by the Sunday School and "Now Thank We All Our God".

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost*

That evening, Prof. William Kirchoff of Cedar Rapids, gave an organ recital and dedication.

# SAINT ANSGAR ENTERPRISE

5¢ in advance

SAINT ANSGAR, MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1924

## FROM AUSTRALIA

ends of the former pas-  
sirs. Wm. Janzow, were  
ive the opportunity to  
during the past few  
ar him at the dedica-  
Sunday. It is a lit-  
ghteen years since he  
arly that long since he  
rk in Australia. Since  
that country he has  
of conditions and has  
g things to tell, so  
at he has been deliv-  
er since he came back  
telling large audiences  
derful country.  
newer land than ours,  
at the opposite corner  
as it is several degrees  
uator the north part  
nest, having a tropical  
Janzow is located at  
south, and that has  
to that of California.

## GRAND CHURCH DEDICATION

At St. Ansgar, Iowa  
by  
Immanuel's Lutheran Congregation

Favored by a bright fall day, Sun-  
day, November 9, Immanuel's Luth-  
eran Congregation dedicated its beautiful  
new church, one of the neatest and  
most substantial churches in this part  
of the state. It measures 93x48 feet  
over all with two blunt towers 50 and  
60 feet high. The footings, foundation  
and all basement walls are of solid  
concrete, the superstructure of hollow  
tile and Autumn Leaf rug faced brick,  
trimmed with Kasota cut stone. The  
windows are of art glass, showing in  
the three large ones the scene of the  
Resurrection, Christ in Gethsemane,

## DEATH OF MRS. MARTIN MOE

Mrs. Martin Moe, wife of the former  
publisher of the Enterprise, died very  
suddenly last Saturday evening, short-  
ly after nine o'clock. Mrs. Moe had  
not been in good health for some time,  
and she had been suffering from a sick  
spell, but was apparently getting bet-  
ter. She was up and down stairs  
that day, and in the evening her  
daughter, Mamie, assisted her in get-  
ting to bed and she went to sleep,  
but, after sleeping a short time, woke  
up with a bad spell, and died in a  
short time, before the doctor had time  
to arrive.

Mrs. Moe will be missed, not only  
by her family, but by a large circle of  
friends, as she was one of the best  
known and best liked women in St.  
Ansgar, always ready and anxious to  
perform a good deed or kindly act.  
The sorrowing family have the sym-  
pathy of all.

## DEATH OF P. A. HJORTH

Word has been received here  
our former townsman, P. A. Hjorth,  
died at the home of his daughter,  
O. O. Donhowe, in Chicago, last  
day night. His remains will  
be brought to St. Ansgar and the fu-  
neral will be held at the First Luth-  
eran Church on Friday afternoon at  
two o'clock.

Mr. Hjorth was in his ninetieth  
year. He came here in 1870 and, for  
more than twenty years, was one of  
St. Ansgar's prominent merchants.

## AUXILIARY PARTY

The Auxiliary is to have a card  
party at the Legion room on  
Thursday, November 20, at  
seven o'clock. All Auxiliary and Le-  
gion members plan to be present, but  
do not forget to bring your friends. All  
Auxiliary members bring one covered  
for refreshments. Remember the  
party on Thursday, November 21st, 1924.

# GRAND CHURCH DEDICATION

At St. Ansgar, Iowa  
by  
Immanuel's Lutheran Congregation

Favored by a bright fall day, Sunday, November 9, Immanuel's Lutheran Congregation dedicated its beautiful new church, one of the neatest and most substantial churches in this part of the state. It measures 93x48 feet over all with two blunt towers 50 and 60 feet high. The footings, foundation and all basement walls are of solid concrete, the superstructure of hollow tile and Autumn Leaf rug faced brick, trimmed with Kasota cut stone. The windows are of art glass, showing in the three large ones the scene of the Resurrection, Christ in Gethsemane, and Christ blessing little children, and in the smaller ones the symbols of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, the Parable of the Sower, and the Life of Christ from Bethlehem to Calvary. The interior is furnished with solid oak altar, pulpit, and pews. A concealed pipe organ furnishes wonderful music, and from the large tower a new 1500 lb. bell calls the worshippers. The pews will comfortably seat 450 people.

The basement contains a social room, 54x40 feet for the various societies, also a kitchen, furnace room, coal bin, toilets, and cloakroom. The building is equipped with a fan system of heating and ventilating, so that the atmosphere in the church can be changed every ten minutes.

All the members cheerfully assisting in the hauling of sand and materials, excavating and grading, and doing many odd jobs, also by the donation of various articles by individual members, it was possible to complete and equip the church for approximately \$15,000.00.

Long before the hour set for the ceremonies throngs of people gathered at the old church, where a farewell service was held, in which Rev. Brammer, the local pastor, officiated. From there the congregation, headed by the architect, the contractor, the officiating pastors, the building committee, the deacons, the choir, and the Sunday School, proceeded to the new church. After a hymn by the congregation, the contractor handed over the keys to Rev. Brammer, who opened the door with a few appropriate words. Accompanied by the joyful peals of the new bell, the people soon filled the large church to its utmost capacity, and many not even finding standing room had to go home again. Prof. Wm. Kirchoff of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, presided at the organ and led the congregation in singing. Rev. A. Schwidder of Wall Lake, Iowa, assisted by Rev. Brammer and Rev. Stephan, spoke the dedicatory prayer, and delivered the German sermon. Rev. W. Janzow of Adelaide, Australia, former pastor of the church, then gave an English address.

In the afternoon service eloquent anniversary sermons were delivered by Rev. T. Stephan of Vincent and Rev. Theo. Frese of Osage. In the evening Prof. Wm. Kirchoff gave an organ recital which pleased the packed house so much that many requests for a repetition were received.

Thanks to the systematic arrangements of the ladies about one thousand people were furnished a free lunch in the basement in one and one-half hours at noon, and again to 700 in the evening.

This being the fiftieth anniversary of the church, we take the liberty of adding a few historical notes:

The beginning of Immanuel's Evangelical Lutheran Church at St. Ansgar was small and primitive. In 1870, the German Lutherans in Mitchell county were few and far between, but the current of immigration, once started, continued to increase. Though the times were hard and money was scarce, yet these brave and sturdy old German pioneers, being of a religious mind, called upon German Lutheran field missionaries to administer to their spiritual wants. Rev. Mertens and Rev. Doescher responded to this call at intervals, preaching in the homes of the people or in the "old stone school house" of St. Ansgar. There were about eight families in attendance at these services. The heads of these families were: C. L. Tessman, L. Rosel, Aug. Nienow, Geo. Rosel, Fred Hartwig, H. Kuehl, C. Mueller and Christ Zerck.

Knowing the surrounding territory to be a promising field for a mission, among the German Lutherans, if

(continued on page 4)

[This newspaper article from the St. Ansgar Enterprise, November 12, 1924, is transcribed on the following pages.]



## GRAND CHURCH DEDICATION

(continued from page 1)

resident pastor could be secured for St. Ansgar, this small congregation extended a call to Rev. E. Wiegner, a graduate of Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo. He accepted this call and was installed here the eighth Sunday after Trinity (July 26, 1874) by Rev. L. Craemer. Besides St. Ansgar, Rev. Wiegner preached at Northwood, Riceville, Clear Lake, Garner, Rudd, Rock Creek, Osage, Rockwell and other places. But even during his absence, the work in the home church went on, one of the lay members reading a sermon to the congregation from some foreign post.

August 30, 1874, the congregation organized, C. L. Tessman and L. Rosel being elected elders, the latter was also to serve as chairman and secretary.

In the fall of the same year C. Zerck and C. Mueller were admitted to membership. October 31, 1874, the congregation bought its first church property from S. J. McKinley, lots 5 and 6, in block 32, with a fair sized residence, for the consideration of \$450.00. This building served as a parsonage and church until October 18, 1882, when the congregation bought the church property, which it owns to this day.

The old church was originally built for the Baptists, and turned over to them June 1, 1878. But in 1882 John N. Rhames claimed the property, including four lots and the church building, and having the title cleared, sold it to Immanuel's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation for \$975.00. It was rededicated as a Lutheran church the twenty-third Sunday after Trinity, 1882, and, with but slight structural changes only, has served as such to this day.

March 18, 1880, the congregation was incorporated, for the first time, papers being signed by L. Rosel, C. C. Moeller, H. Hoppe, Geo. Rosel, Aug. Niemann, F. Roening, C. L. Tessman, Er. Ruechel and J. P. Moeller.

November 10, 1876, P. H. Benson and Herm. Treichel donated half an acre of land each to the congregation to serve for cemetery purposes.

In 1879 the congregation formally joined the "Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states", the largest Lutheran church body in America, C. C. Moeller being the first delegate.

From the beginning the congregation made it a point to have their children educated in the faith of their religious school, erecting a special building for this purpose in the fall of 1884.

Rev. Wiegner having died in the spring of 1890, the congregation gave his wife the free use of the house in which she lived, and at once made preparations to build the parsonage on the present site. Later on Mrs. Wiegner bought this property.

Although of the charter members, only two are still in our midst (Henry Kuehl and Augusta Tessman), yet of those that joined in the five years following the organization of the church, quite a few are still with us, who saw the congregation develop from a "mustard seed to a large tree".

The congregation now consists of 105 members (voting) and 480 souls. The following are the pastors of the congregation and the periods of their pastorate:

Rev. E. Wiegner, from July 1874 to May 1890.

Rev. T. Hantel, from October 1890 to April 1896.

Rev. J. Drexler, from June 1896 to November 1879.

Rev. W. Janzow, from July 1900 to July 1906.

Rev. Paul Brammer, from August 1906 to the present day.

The congregation having outgrown the capacity of the old church the members decided in 1923 to erect a new building to accommodate the worshippers, and on December 11, 1923, they awarded the contract for the present structure to Messrs. Schradle & Clark of Austin, Minn., the building to be a memorial for the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation, August 30, 1874. Ernest H. Schmidt of Mankato, Minn., furnished the plans and specifications \*\*\*

# GRAND CHURCH DEDICATION

At St. Ansgar, Iowa

By Immanuel Lutheran Congregation

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places. But even during his absence the work in the home church went on, one of the lay members reading a sermon to the congregation from some good postil. [A postil is a short Bible commentary]

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The old church was originally built for the Baptists and turned over to them June 1, 1878. But in 1882 John N. Rhames claimed the property, including four lots and the church building, and having the title cleared, sold it to Immanuel's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation for \$975.00.

It was rededicated as a Lutheran church the twenty-third Sunday after Trinity, 1882, with slight structural changes only, has served as such to this day.

March 18, 1880, the congregation was incorporated for the first time, papers being signed by L. Rosel, C. C. Moeller, H. Hoppe, Geo. Rosel, Aug. Nienow, F. Boening, C. L. Tessman, Ed. Ruechel and J. P. Moeller.

November 10, 1876, P. H. Benson and Herm. Treichel donated half an acre of land each to the congregation to serve for cemetery purposes.

In 1879 the congregation formally joined the "Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states", the largest Lutheran church body in America, Mozler being the first delegate.

From the beginning the congregation made it a point to have their children educated the faith of their religious school, erecting a special building for this purpose in the fall of 1884.

Rev. Wiegner having died in the spring of 1880, the congregation gave his wife the free use of the house in which she lived, and at once made preparations to build the parsonage on the present site. Later on Mrs. Wiegner bought this property.



Although of the charter members, only two are still in our midst (Henry Kuehl and Augusta Tessman), yet of those that joined in the five years following the organization of the church, quite a few are still with us, who saw the congregation develop from a "mustard seed to a large tree".

The congregation now consists of 105 members (voting) and 480 souls. The following are the pastors of the congregation and the periods of their pastorate:

Rev. E. Wiegner, from July 1874 to May 1890.

Rev. T. Hantel, from October 1890 to April 1896.

Rev. J. Drexler, from June 1896 to November 1899.

Rev. W. Janzow, from July 1900 to July 1906.

Rev. Paul Brammer, from August 1906 to the present day.

The congregation having outgrown the capacity of the old church, the members decided in 1923 to erect a new building to accommodate the worshippers, and on December 11, 1923, they awarded the contract for the present structure to Messrs. Schradle & Clark of Austin, Minn., the building to be a memorial for the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the congregation, August 30, 1874. Ernest H. Schmidt of Mankato, Minn., furnished the plans and Specifications.

[transcription from the November 12<sup>th</sup> 1924 issue of the St. Ansgar Enterprise]

### **After the Dedication:**

Office of  
Ernest H. Schmidt  
Successor to Schippel & Schmidt  
Architect

Mankato Minn.  
November 12, 1924

Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church St. Ansgar Iowa  
Dear Members,

As the erection of your new home of the Lord has been completed, I at this time wish to express my thanks for the trust you had in me through your committee. They have at all times had your interest in mind and have work hard to make this a reality. The different contractors and mechanics did their work well and it has been a pleasure to work with such men. They have put in good materials and workmanship.

Again thanking you for all trust and courtesies shown. I remain

Very truly yours

[signed] Ernest H. Schmidt

### Church Building Timeline:

1921 Congregation begins talking of needing a new and larger church

1923 Congregation decides to build a new church

May 13, 1923 Building committee elected and begins task of finding plans and cost

July 10, 1923 Selected the Architect firm of Schipple and Schmidt of Mankato, Minnesota to draw the blue prints

October 7, 1923 Congregation approved the plans for the new church.

October 9, 1923 Garnishment letter delivered by Sheriff Hungerford and project put on hold

October 18, 1923 Issue with architect firm resolved and project continues

November 27, 1923 Issue with city alley and direction of the church changes from facing east to facing north

December 11, 1923 Accepted the bid of Schradle & Clark of Austin, Minnesota as general contractors

December 20, 1923 Sale of old church and school, possession March 1<sup>st</sup>, 1924

December 21, 1923 161 loads of gravel and 96 loads of sand hauled to site

January 4, 1924 Accept J. F. Bernestein bid of \$558.86 for plumbing and accept





Campbell bid for heating

March 5, 1924 Signed contract with Ford-McNutt Glass for Art Glass Windows

March 10, 1924 Ordered face brick to be delivered

March 28, 1924 Signed contract with Fred Bercker for altar, pulpit, and pews

April 11, 1924 Wangerin Pipe Organ ordered

May 25, 1924 Laying of the cornerstone. The walls were built to the floor level of the sanctuary.

September 15, 1923 Ordered Superior Fixture C. of Des Moines Iowa

September 1924 Pipe organ delivered and installed

October 11, 1924 1500 brass bell ordered from McShane Bell Foundry, Baltimore Md.

October 23, 1924 Arrival of 40 crates of church furniture by rail

November 9, 1924 Grand dedication of church, bell and organ

The men serving on the building committee were very thorough and paid attention to many details about the church and the bills submitted. Beginning in October 1923 through the dedication they often met weekly, sometimes daily. The building committee continued to meet through May 1925 to handle final details and bills dealing with the building of the church.

<b>Other Donations</b>		Total cost of church as it stands, with donations, \$48,393.92. This does not include a vast amount of labor done by the members in grading and cleaning up.
(Not handled by the Building Committee)		
Organ .....	\$3,000.00	
Bell .....	1,000.00	
Cross .....	63.00	
Candelabra .....	75.00	
Carpet .....	134.00	
Altar Cover .....	15.00	
Mother's Room Furniture and Pulpit Lamp .....	100.00	
Linoleum in Vestry .....	25.00	
Rubber Matting .....	85.00	
Lectern on Altar .....	30.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$4,527.00	

Part of page 2 of the Report of Building Committee



# Immanuel's Evangelical Lutheran Church

ST. ANSGAR, IOWA NOVEMBER 1, 1925

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Total Subscriptions -----	\$35,348.50
Subscriptions Paid -----	\$34,333.50
Delinquent -----	\$ 1,015.00

**\$35,348.50    \$35,348.50**

Cash Receipts	Disbursements
Subscriptions Paid ----- \$34,333.50	Checks issued ----- \$41,728.26
Sale Old Church Building-- 1,010.00	
Sale Old School Building-- 235.00	
Sale Old Bell ----- 294.00	
Sale Altar and Pulpit ---- 12.00	
Sale of Rock ----- 25.00	
Sale Seats, Stove, Crtg. --- 51.50	
For Wall Brackets ----- 185.00	
For Altar and Pulpit ----- 1,339.20	
For Art Windows ----- 2,100.00	
For Hymnboard ----- 26.00	
Balance of Labor Fund --- 24.10	
Collections at Cor. & Ded. 884.40	
Interest ----- 392.46	
Borrowed ----- 820.00	Cash on hand ----- 3.90
<b>\$41,732.16</b>	<b>\$41,732.16</b>

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Expenditures	Payments and Credits
General Contract ----- \$32,075.00	Paid by Checks ----- \$41,728.26
Extras on same ----- 464.57	<b>Other Credits:</b>
Sand and Gravel ----- 295.00	Hauling Sand
Architect's Fees ----- 1,125.45	and Excavating \$1,075.00
Plumbing and Fixtures --- 565.92	Discounts ----- 459.60
Electric Wiring ----- 942.70	Labor B & T ----- 410.45
Electric Fixtures ----- 655.25	By Changes ----- 190.00
Heating Plant ----- 1,801.00	Donation ----- 1.00
Windows ----- 2,190.97	Overpaid ----- 2.44
Altar ----- 865.00	Discrepancy --- .17    2,138.66
Statue ----- 98.00	<b>\$43,866.92</b>
Pulpit ----- 316.20	
Organ Panel ----- 60.00	
Pews ----- 1,929.20	
Hymnboard ----- 25.00	
Wall Painting ----- 187.75	
Freight and Express ----- 7.75	
Miscellaneous Expenses --- 262.16	
<b>\$43,866.92</b>	

NOTE: When this report was made, we still owed \$820.00 of borrowed money. If the delinquencies of \$1,015.00 were paid, we would have a balance of \$198.00 in the Building Fund.

Respectfully submitted by the Building Committee:

H. E. Falk.	R. C. Mueller.
H. A. Rosel.	Otto Boening.
Otto Simmering.	H. A. Borchardt, Pres.
O. G. Schroeder.	Paul Brammer, Sec.
A. C. Janzow.	

The undersigned have audited the books of the Treasurer and Secretary of the Building Committee and have found the above Report to be correct.

Signed:

E. R. Tessman.  
C. J. Mueller.  
Wilmer Rosel.

(OVER)

Front page of Report of Building Committee

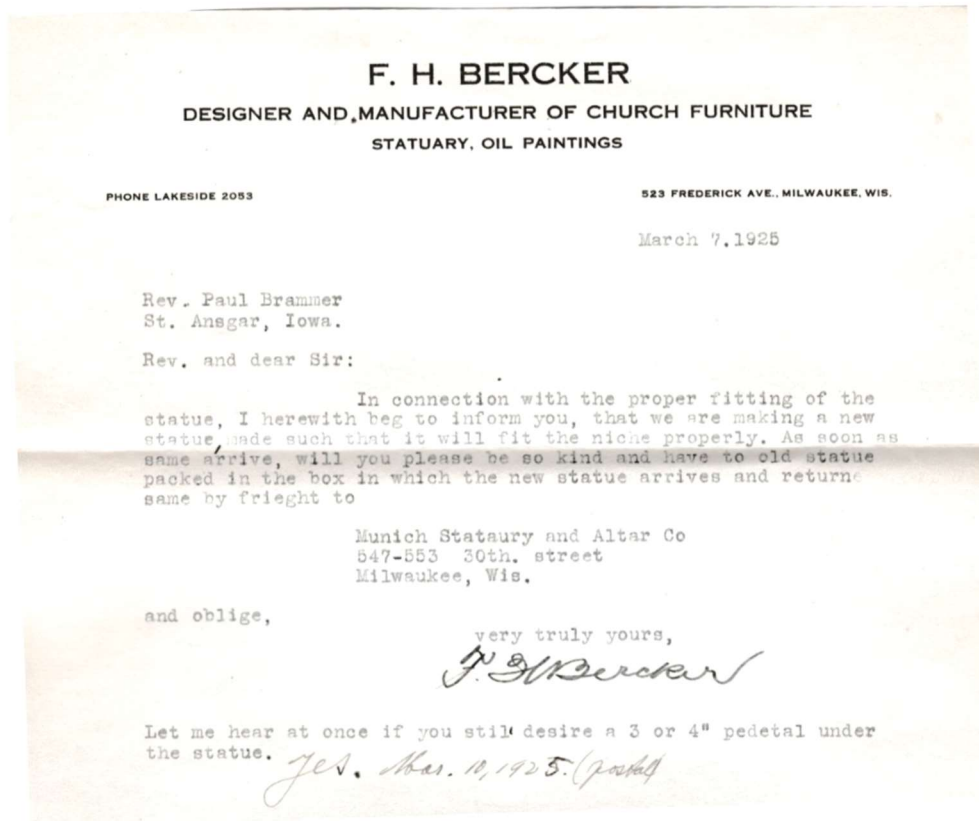
December 3, 1925

Report of Treasurer and Secretary read aloud, "When this report was made, we still owe \$820.00 of borrowed money. If the delinquencies of \$1,015.00 were paid, we would have a balance of \$198.90 on hand."

The Committee accepted the report and each member of the committee signed it.

## Problems with the Statue

The statue of Jesus shipped with the church furniture didn't fit properly in the niche in the altar. It was too large and wasn't centered in the opening. One suggestion was to carve some of Jesus robe away. NO ONE would attempt that solution. Eventually the company sent a slightly smaller statue (4 ft. 6in.) and the board accepted it on May 11, 1925. The company requested the original one would be shipped back in the packing box to Munich Statuary and Altar Co in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.





May 13, 1925.

F.H. Bercker,  
MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Dear Mr. Bercker:-

The new statue arrived and we put it in place last evening. It fits into the niche, and the committee accepted it and ordered it paid as well as the entire ballance which is enclosed by check. This makes our account look like this:

IR Altar, Oak	865.00	10% paid down	317.84
Statue	98.00	Freight on furniture	77.00
Pulpit	318.20	" "Statue	4.02
Organ Panel	60.00	By Check	1021.36
Pews	1229.20	Telephone for shortage	2.30
Hymnboard	25.00	Express & Dray "	1.47
Total	3293.40	By Check	850.00
		Freight on new Statue	3.25
		By Check	1016.16
		Total	3293.40

Hoping that our figures may agree with yours, I remain

Yours truly,  
Paul Brammer,  
Sec. Bldg Com.  
Immanuel's Lutheran Church  
St. Ansgar, Iowa.

P.S. We are sending the old statue as directed and enclose Bill of Lading.

P.S. This P. S. is just a personal note and does not belong to the above letter. I just wanted to give you a hint on the statue. "It fits in the niche", but the old statue was more like a "Thorwaldsen". If on the old statue the gown part on the left side had been taken in about 4" it would have gone into the niche, the spread of the hands could have remained the same; but the proportions of the new statue to the whole altar are better.

Form 140  
Chicago and North Western Railway Company

MILWAUKEE WIS Station JUNE 2 1925 192

MUNICH STATUARY & ALTAR CO  
547 30th St  
MILWAUKEE WIS

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ST ANSGAR IOWA

Dear Sir:

We are holding a shipment of 1 BOX COMP STATUE

made by IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

from ST ANSGAR IOWA

covered by IC (Line reads waybill) 5/14/25-192 Waybill No. 14

consigned to MUNICH STATUARY & ALTAR CO

at MILWAUKEE WIS which arrived MAY 21 1925

Shipment is UNCLAIMED (State reason for non-delivery)

STORAGE IS ACCRUING DAILY

Please furnish disposition for this shipment as promptly as possible.

You are further notified that this property will be subject to sale under terms of Section 4 of the bill of lading if not promptly disposed of.

If you desire shipment returned, the name of the consignee or destination changed, please furnish your instructions, attaching the original bill of lading.

Yours truly,  
W J SULLIVAN Agent

After being informed by the railroad of the storage fees accruing, Pastor Brammer contacted Mr. Bercker, who contacted the statue company to collect the returned statue and pay for the storage.

The replaced statue fits nicely in the niche and is the one we see today on the altar.

## Miscellaneous Issues

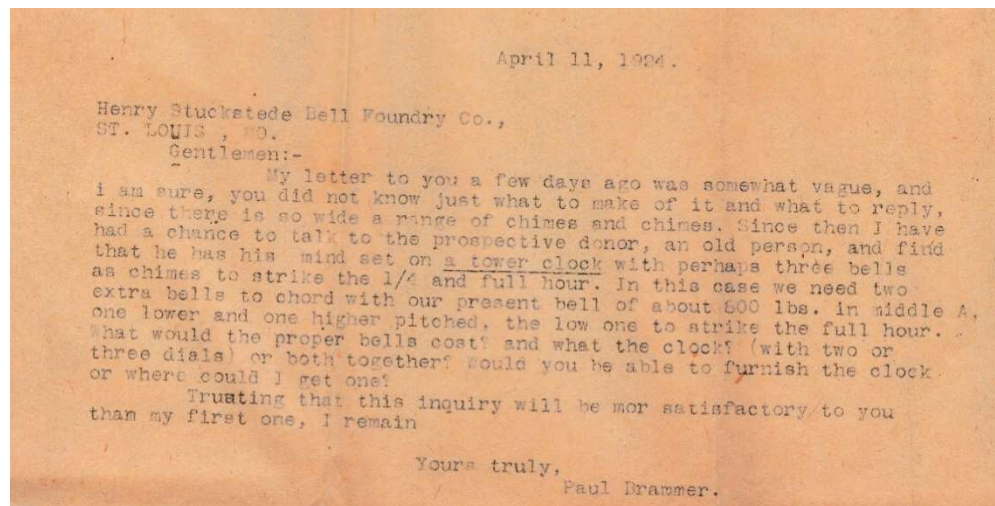
### Clock tower proposal

April 11, 1924

Henry Stucketele Bell Foundry Co  
St. Louis, MO  
Gentlemen

My letter to you a few days ago was somewhat vague, and I am sure, you did not know just what to make of it and what to reply, since there is so wide a range of chimes and chimes: Since then I have had a chance to talk to the prospective donor, an old person, and find that he has his mind set on a tower clock with perhaps three bells as

chimes to strike the ¼ and full hour. In this case we need two extra bells to chord with our present bell of about



*April 11, 1924 Letter to Henry Stucketele Bell Foundry from Paul Brammer*

600 lbs. In middle A. one lower and one higher pitched. The low one to strike the full hour. What would the proper bells cost and what the clocks with two or three dials or both together? Would you be able to furnish the clock or where could I get one?

Trusting that this inquiry will be more satisfactory to you than my first one, I remain

Yours truly, Paul Brammer –

Committee minutes July 17, 1924

3. Resolve to place matter of tower clock before congregation in special meeting next Monday 8 P.M

And a letter from the architect Ernest Schmidt:

July 18, 1924

Dear Rev Brammer,

Enclosed find a sketch of the alteration of tower to take care of the clock.

I think that the dial of the clock should be not more than 4 ½ feet. This would make the design better. I have added on 5 ½ ft. and think this will be plenty. I don't think the proportions will be slighted in increasing the height. The small tower need not be increased. I find that heightening the small tower effects the design.

I am please to hear that the trusses are there. Let me hear of the outcome of the clock.

Very truly yours, Ernest H Schmidt

P.S. Find out the right dimension and keep the tower as low as possible.







[No other mention of the tower clock so the congregation must have decided against adding it to the east tower.]

During the summer of 1924, while the church was under construction, Pastor Brammer became ill and was hospitalized for several weeks. His wife Clara kept up with details and correspondence so the project wasn't delayed.

One week after the Dedication service was the first wedding. Ernest Nelson and Laura Hackbarth were married November 16, 1924 by Rev. Paul Brammer. Attendants were: Orie Hackbarth, Alvin Nelson, Olga Bartz and Olga Nelson.

The first baptism was Wayne Ruechel, son of Carl and Josephine Ruechel on December 1, 1924.

### **Other Improvements since 1925**

The interior of the church was decorated in 1930 for a cost of \$1200. This interior finish was cleaned and restored in the spring of 1949 by the original decorator, C. A. Christiansen of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Protective glass was installed to protect the art glass windows.



The 1500-pound bronze bell cracked and was replaced May 11, 1951 with a used cast steel bell (2000 lb.). The cracked bell was scrapped.

In 1955 was begun a project to add book racks to the pews. They were made and installed by George Crouch. This was a circle project.

In 1956 the old parsonage was

moved 3 blocks east and replaced for \$37,476.76 with a five bedroom, two-bath with an office for the pastor. It was finished in 1957.

In 1956 the choir loft pews were changed from facing the congregation to facing the pulpit.

Chimes were purchased for \$657.35 and installed by the choir loft in 1961.

The Dodge property, south of the church, was purchased in 1963 for use as a parking lot. The cost was \$3,613.







June 13, 1971 was the groundbreaking for a new education unit which was dedicated on February 13, 1972. It included Pastor's office, a secretary's office, the lobby, restrooms, street level doors, a meeting room and 10 classrooms. The mother's room was removed and stairs from the unit to the sanctuary along with a second set of stairs to the basement were added.

The sanctuary was redecorated by Shettler Studio in 1973 for \$11,300.

The organ console was upgraded in 1973 by Eugene Doutt of Watertown, South Dakota.



November 2005 saw the addition of the gathering space and remodel of the education unit. A full-size elevator was added providing handicap access to the sanctuary and basement from the street level entrance. The restrooms were remodeled to be handicap accessible. The space was dedicated on





October 29, 2006. The remodel progress was delayed by a kitchen fire on August 1, 2006.



Building the south wall to add the stained glass window which had to be removed to place the elevator.



The courtyard before the addition of the gathering space.

The front steps were replaced due to water leaking into the basement. They had been repaired several times since 1924. Keith Horgen created new railings carrying out the arch design used throughout the church.



The interior of the sanctuary was repainted in 2010. Services were held in the basement while the scaffolding occupied the upstairs.



Close up view of the plaster work located near the ceiling of the main sanctuary.





The kitchen and basement were remodeled in 2014, offering a better traffic flow. The remodel also included a serving island in the main part of the basement with storage for the dishes, a venting hood over the stoves and a dish sanitizer.

The parking lot on the south side of the church was paved in 2018.



In 2020, the organ advanced to be an electronic solid-state instrument upgraded by the Reuter Organ Company located in Lawrence, Kansas. This allows the organist to pre-record music, transpose to a different key and there are fewer plastic parts to break.

After 100 years, the outside brick walls are showing their age and in 2023 Immanuel began a multiple year project to repoint the building. In 2023, the south side of the



church was tuckpointed and the roof over the chancel was replaced. The church roof, the towers and the rest of the church will be addressed in the future.

Members of Immanuel’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Ansgar, Iowa have valued and maintained this house of worship. A hundred years ago they made the best choices available to them to build our church. They used their time and talents to give us a wonderful place to worship. It is now our responsibility to continue the work of maintaining the building, adding improvements and wisely using our gifts and talents to share the saving message of salvation and eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ to future generations.



*yesterday* *Today* forever  
*Hebrews 13:8*