

Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Ansgar Iowa began with 8 families. They extended a call to Rev. Edward Wiegner who was installed July 26, 1874. The congregation was organized August 30, 1874.

To celebrate 150 years as a congregation and our church building being 100 years old, we'll be focusing on a special part of Immanuel each month. In January we remembered our baptism. In February we shared information about the Immanuel Cemetery, located one-fourth mile south of St. Ansgar at the corner of A-38 and Foothill Avenue.

November 10, 1876, Hermann Treichel and P. H. Benson each donated a half-acre to serve as the cemetery property. Other donations came from Herman A Borchardt, the heirs of the Dieterich Estate and Edward Feldt. In 2011 additional acres were purchased to expand the cemetery to the south.

Originally bodies were buried as they passed in individual plots. Later family plots were added. The earliest burial was a father Nathan Stacy age 28 and his son, Delbert Stacy, age 3 who died a day apart in 1859, before the cemetery became Immanuel's.

Early burials:

- Gunhild nee Hellicksdatter Benson on January 1, 1860 at the age of 25. Records show she was buried in the new cemetery south of town. Her brother donated one half-acre to the church's cemetery from his farm on the southside of the cemetery.
- Henriette nee Henning Hollatz, wife of John Fredrick William Hollatz died in 1870.
- There were ten graves in the small cemetery when it became Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery.
- Henriette nee Vocks Mueller, wife of Carl Mueller who died July 1, 1876 following childbirth was the first official Immanuel burial at the cemetery.
- Herman Treichel, who donated the north half-acre died August 30, 1878. He owned the farm on the northside of the cemetery. His son, also Herman, died in 1881 at the age of 14. 65 current members of Immanuel Church are direct descendants of Herman and Henriette Treichel.
- 43 children are buried in the oldest part. Three rows of the individual stones are graves of children only.
- Six pastors are buried at Immanuel: Robert A Grote, Edward Wiegner (Immanuel's first pastor who died in 1890 at the age of 45), George Ehlers, Herman Koepke, William Moeller, and David Luhrs.

Over 675 burials have taken place. 46 veterans from World War I and II, Korea and Vietnam wars are buried in Immanuel's Cemetery, including 29-year-old Dr. Gerhard Hartwig who was killed in Belgium during World War I and Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Arthur Beyer (WWII). Since 2017 the driveways are lined with American Flags year-round to honor our veterans. Jerry Beaver manages the flags.

An Endowment Fund for perpetual care was created in 1911. John Groth is the current cemetery sexton.

The American Legion place a flag pole in the middle of the cemetery in 1957. Members of the church built a structure to shade and protect a cemetery directory in 1999. The directory is updated annually to include recent burials. In 2004, Keith Horgan a member of our church, made the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery sign located in the northeast corner of the cemetery.