



Seventy-fifth Anniversary

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Buxton, North Dakota
1881-1956



Pastor and Mrs. John Kronlokken, Naomi, Solveig,
Connie, Ruth, Susan, John David, and Rebecca.



Karl Stromme
1935-49



J. D. Kronlokken
1950-1957



E. O. Aahalt
1957-

75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Buxton, North Dakota
May 5, 1957

The Church's One Foundation

The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her
And for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth
One holy name she blesses
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With ev'ry grace endued.

Dedication

In memory and appreciation to
the men and women who founded and
built Immanuel Lutheran congregation,
this book is gratefully dedicated.
May we who are reaping the fruits of
their labors continue in the work to
the glory of God and salvation of souls.

No attempt has been made to give
singular credit to the many individuals
and groups who have contributed so much
to the heritage we now possess. Rather
we give thanks and praise to God for all
His blessings and look to the future in
trust and hope. In the spirit of
I Cor. 3:6 -- some planted, others
watered, but God gave the increase.

PREFACE

This historical booklet has been compiled for the 75th anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Buxton, N.D.

It has not been possible, of course, to include everything of interest in the long history of the congregations which now make up Immanuel. Possibly errors and omissions have been made, but we trust that they will be excused, for a sincere attempt has been made to compile as accurate and complete an account as possible from the records available to us.

We hope that this booklet will be of interest to all, especially the young people. We can begin to realize our heritage and see the responsibility yet left for us.

We realize that the important history of this congregation can be found only in the Book of Life. So we trust that the Divine Historian has recorded many names and deeds of love there.

ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS Sunday, May 5th

- 11:00 a.m. Festival Service
Sermon by J. M. Johnson
Dedication of several items
- 12:00 Noon - Dinner served by Ladies Aid
- 2:00 p.m. Informal Service
Talk by Alvin Stenberg
Greetings from other pastors and church officers.
- 3:30 p.m. Coffee and Social Hour followed by showing of film: "The Wedding of the Churches"

The Committee Room is being set aside for a display of historical pictures and exhibits.

The following will be dedicated at the 11 o'clock Festival Services:

- Reconstructed church building
- Parsonage
- Redecorated chancel
- Organ
- Paranents and communion linens
- Communicants' rail - in memory of Cornell and Casper Lilleboe
- Stained glass windows - in memory of Martin Spillum and Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Olson
- Candelabra - in memory of Ole P. Ashein
- Offering plates - in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Knud Ashein
- Altar vases - in memory of Herbert Thompson
- Guest book and Memorial book - in memory of Ole S. Ashein
- Missal stand - in memory of Sfc. Orlin K. Hagen
- Outdoor bulletin board - in memory of Gudmund Ashein

All other memorial gifts since the union (including the window fund from the former Buxton Lutheran Church) have been put into a special memorial fund. This fund has now been used to provide carpeting and redecorating of the chancel.

HISTORY OF NEW STAVANGER

New Stavanger congregation was organized in 1881 by Pastor Bergsvon Anderson, a traveling mission pastor of the Hauge Synod. Those present at the organization meeting were Orm Boen, Osmund Ramsfjeld, Gabriel Gunderson, Rasmus Riveland, Torger Ulledalen, Knute Lilleboe, Halvor Knudsvig, Peder Asheim, Osten Asheim, Osmund Thompson, Sivert Broe and Styrk Kvitne. The first regular pastor was Gustav O. Gjerstad who took up the work in 1885 and served until 1891. During Pastor Gjerstad's pastorate the church was built.

In the 1880's the congregation extended over an area of over twenty miles from east to west. The building of the church and organization of the congregation was a great achievement for these staunch early settlers. Circuit meetings and most of the other church activities were held in the church after it was built, but the laymen's meetings were still held in the homes. They were a source of deep fellowship as the members shared in Christian hospitality and prayer. In 1887 early records show a total of 136 souls in the congregation.

In the year 1892 Rev. M. G. Hanson took over the work. The same year the church building was completed and dedicated on the 26th of November. Early records show that 15 services were held during the first year the church was in use. After five years of service, Pastor Hanson left and was succeeded by Rev. D. T. Borgen, who served until 1908.

During these early years one of the most important activities for the congregation was the parochial school. This instruction was held each summer in the

different districts of the congregation's area. The entire family cooperated to make the closing day picnic one to be remembered by all. The men would build the platform for the program in some member's grove of trees. The ladies furnished food and everyone took part in the programs. These preparations were made considerably more complicated because everything had to be done by horse and buggy, but it was a "day of days" for the children, for it was one of the few occasions during the year when everyone was together. Sunday School was also held, but early records concerning this activity are incomplete.

As in the case of most congregations, one of the most helpful organizations of the church was the Ladies Aid. Because of the large area of the congregation, the Ladies Aid was organized into four groups: the West, the Town, the North, and the East. All four societies combined in an annual festival held in the town hall each fall. The day's program consisted of a dinner, afternoon devotional, and an auction sale of the articles which had been sewed and knit during the year. During the early history of the Ladies Aid, all proceeds were devoted to mission work and charities.

Each group met in the homes and centered its meeting around Scripture reading by the Pastor or some other member. The afternoon was devoted to sewing little girl's dresses, aprons, knit socks, mittens, pillows, and an assortment of other things. Most of the groups met for the entire day, arriving at the hostess's home as early as 9 o'clock in the morning. One of the interesting articles that was manufactured was men's shirts. According to one history, there were no patterns, so one of the most perplexing problems concerned shirt collars.

Throughout the day mission news was shared. One of the groups supported a Bible woman in China at a cost of 30 dollars a year. To these small groups of pioneer women meeting in each other's homes, worship and service were blended in a deep and rich experience.

Later the groups united to form one society, and after 1913 the meetings were usually conducted in the church.

The young people of the congregation became members of the Luther League when they were confirmed. The programs were usually planned by adults and occasionally a reading or song was given by the Luther Leaguers. A King's Mission Bnad for boys and girls and the Pigeforening for the young ladies were also active for a time.

Succeeding Pastor Borgen, Rev. J. S. Halvorson began his ministry in June of 1909. At this time the congregation added a parsonage to their property. Records list a total of 244 souls in 1914. When Pastor Halvorson left in 1916, he was succeeded by Pastor J. C. Hjelmervik in the same year. Pastor Hjelmervik served until the spring of 1921, when Pastor M. B. Lokkesmoe took his place. Because of Pastor Lokkesmoe's illness, the congregation was served by visiting pastors, mostly by Rev. Ole Nelson of Grand Forks.

Pastor J. M. Johnson was installed by Rev. J. H. Johanson on August 19, 1923. In 1927 the basement for the church was built. When Pastor Johnson left in 1935, Pastor Karl S. romme was installed on September 8, 1935, by Rev. O. T. Noss.

The Church was remodelled in the summer of 1940. This work was sponsored by the Ladies' Aid. New windows, balcony, light fixtures, altar hangings, and the relining of the interior were completed at a cost of \$2,200. In 1941 the congregation held a 60th Anniversary celebration October 11 and 12.

BUXTON LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

On January 13, 1889 Chas. Berg, Ole Hong, L. O. Myhre, Syver Sorenson, Lew. Thompson, P. L. Odegard, E. R. Nestoss, O. B. Olson met at the Chas. Berg drug store in Buxton to make plans for organizing a new congregation. In March of 1889 a call was issued to Gustav Oftedal, who came to Buxton in the fall, and on November 11, 1889 the church was organized. Besides the families of the above-mentioned men, the Ole Davis, Waldy, and K. K. Knudson families were listed as the membership. When organized at this time there was a total of 35 souls.

Work was begun on building a church in 1892, donations varying from \$150 to \$10, reaching a total of \$1,685. The New Stavanger church was rented for services until the Buxton Lutheran was completed shortly thereafter. An interesting side-light reveals that the income for 1893 was \$303.40, of which \$300.55 was spent, leaving a balance on hand of \$2.85.

The Sunday School was organized November 29, 1889, the first superintendent being Osmund Thompson. The first year after the church was completed, Pastor Oftedal was superintendent and later Mrs. O. B. Olson served in that office for a number of years.

As early as 1897 we find that the Buxton choir sang at the dedication of the North Prairie church. The cemetery was started in May of 1898.

Meanwhile the ladies had also been busy becoming organized. As early as the fall of 1886 a society for spiritual welfare was organized by a group of ladies at the home of Mrs. Charles Berg. This was an inter-denominational organization called the Community Ladies Aid, and when the various denominational groups began to build their churches, this society lent its influence to each. Among their projects was the usual sewing, even including the making of three full double bed size mattresses (containing the regulation amount of best grade white batting, tied and boxed in a most professional manner.)

This community organization continued until November 28, 1889 when a group met at the home of Rev. Oftedal to organize a "Kvindeforening" to work specifically in the local congregation. When the church was built, the women lent their financial support, and paid at least \$756 toward the new structure. Most of the money raised by the society went toward the building fund, but in 1893 we notice a gift of \$10.85 for a cupboard for the Hospital in Hillsboro. A group of the younger women decided that they would work for and pay for the bell of the church. Other charitable interests were the China missions and children's homes. Up until 1903 there had been a second organization known as the "Mission's Forening", who worked entirely for missions. This disbanded in 1903, and after that money for missions was taken directly from the treasury of the Ladies Aid in this proportion: 1/3 to the China Mission, 1/3 to the Madagascar Mission, 1/3 for the local church.

Pastor Oftedal resigned from Buxton on February 20, 1902 and was succeeded by Pastor O. T. Nelson. He in turn was succeeded by Pastor T. J. Gronningen in 1905. During the years of Pastor Gronningen's pastorate several improvements were made on the church and an organ and piano were purchased. Statistics list a total of 100 souls in 1914. In 1917 the church was electrified and the altar was presented to the church by the Luther League.

In 1921 Pastor Lokkesmoe arrived to take over the parish. It is of interest that he was the first pastor to serve the four congregations which came to comprise the Buxton parish: Buxton Lutheran, New Stavanger, North Prairie, and Hyllestad. Pastor Lokkesmoe's pastorate ended in 1923 when Pastor J. M. Johnson became pastor.

One memory concerning Ladies Aid activity concerns the supper and sale planned for November 20, 1930. On the day of the supper a heavy coat of sleet covered everything. Electricity was cut off and as the hour of the supper approached, all basements and attics were ransacked for gas lamps, lanterns, kerosene lamps, etc. A large crowd turned out in spite of the inconvenience.

Pastor Karl Stromme arrived in October 1935 to succeed Pastor Johnson, who left in July of the same year.

Plans to erect a Dining Hall were begun in 1937. At this time the question of union with New Stavanger came up for consideration, but was later set aside. In June 1938 the Ladies Aid secured permission from the congregation to build a Dining Hall

just west of the side room (attached to the original building) and work was begun at once. In less than five weeks it was completed at a cost of \$1,409.21. Mr. Geo. Faleide was the carpenter in charge, assisted by five local men and much volunteer labor on the part of all. On the day of dedication July 21, 1938, the men served a roast beef dinner. The note for the Dining Hall was burned at a Ladies Aid meeting on November 7, 1940.

HISTORY OF IMMANUEL CONGREGATION

Union negotiations had been going on for some time between Buxton Lutheran and New Stavanger congregations. Intensive work was done by the union committee and Pastor Stromme, who had always been in favor of the union. Dr. G. M. Bruce of Luther Theological Seminary assisted in the amalgamation of the two churches. The incorporation date for the new congregation was November 16, 1948; the first congregation meeting was December 11, 1948.

Festival services in observance of the amalgamation were held on December 12, 1948, with Dr. Bruce and the Reverend J. A. Aasgaard, at that time President of the Synod, present. Dr. Bruce installed the new officers and Dr. Aasgaard preached the sermon.

Pastor Stromme resigned June 5, 1949, to take up duties in connection with the Home for the Aged in Grand Forks. Pastor H. J. Hansen of Fargo served as interim pastor during the winter of 1949-50.

At this time, the parish was also realigned to include Norway congregation, so that the new parish consisted of Immanuel, North Prairie, and Norway congregations. The present parsonage was purchased in September of 1949 for \$5,000. A fund drive brought in \$3,513; a Ladies Aid supper and sale netted \$632.

On April 16, 1950 Pastor John D. Kronlokken was installed as pastor by District President Stoove. The early summer of 1950 saw the intensive and complete remodelling of the parsonage kitchen.

On August 1, 1950 a meeting was held which quite literally started the church moving. The day had been set aside for painting the exterior of the white church and for a congregational meeting. Ladders, tractors, paint brushes and buckets made a bustling scene as the men went to work. The ladies provided dinner and lunches. At the afternoon business meeting, it was voted unanimously that the former Buxton Lutheran Church should be moved from its present site and attached to the former New Stavanger church. During the following weeks there was much to be done to prepare for the actual moving: trenches were dug and foundations poured on the new site; the bell was removed August 12 and found to weigh 1560 pounds; the bell tower was razed. Actual moving got under way in September. Never to be forgotten is the weekend when the church was left at the parsonage corner until work would be resumed the following Monday. However, rain and the soft condition of the roadbed caused a delay of at least two weeks before forward progress could be made.

Quoting from the October issue of the Pastor's News Letter, "Our moving church

has at last come to rest." But work continued inside and outside to fill in the foundation, build the kitchen, remodel and redecorate the interior. Crews of men continued work on a voluntary basis most of the winter. An oil furnace was installed in fact the following schedule was met the day of the Sunday School Christmas program: furnace completed 3 p.m.; outside chimney completed 4 p.m.; entire remodelled church used for the first time for the program in the evening. The kitchen was used for the first time, although incomplete, at the New Year's Wake.

Work has continued through the years on the church building. Other improvements have included rearrangement of the chancel, building of the new south entrance, laying of sidewalks etc. Throughout the building projects, a good turnout of men has been on hand to provide volunteer labor. The ladies have given their support in the form of dinners and lunches.

The congregation was saddened by the sudden death of Pastor Stromme in October of 1951. Funeral services were held in United Lutheran in Grand Forks October 27.

In 1952, the choir presented the congregation with a Hammond spinet organ. The reed organ formerly in use was sent to Missionary Laura Olson in Madagascar.

After North Prairie congregation had disbanded in December of 1954, Highland congregation became a part of the parish in March of 1955.

The fall of 1955 was the time set for the Preaching-Teaching-Reaching Mission of the Grand Forks Circuit. Pastor Paul Tolo was the guest speaker for the series of meetings held for a week in November. Other activities connected with the mission included a religious survey of the community, and visits and invitations by couples from the congregation. Pastor Allen Lee, the wheel-chair evangelist, was the speaker at a series of special meetings in the spring of 1956.

The congregation is organized around a Church Council, composed of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, six Deacons, six Trustees, meeting with the Pastor. Each fall an every member canvass is conducted to secure pledges of financial support for the following year. Total baptized membership, as of 1956, is 511; confirmed membership is 368.

As this booklet goes to print, much of the activity of the congregation is centered in planning and preparing for our anniversary day. It is hoped that it will be a day of real inspiration and blessing to all who take part.

Pastor Kronlokken has resigned from this parish to accept a call to Clermont, Iowa. He will be succeeded by Pastor E. O. Anhalt of Minnewaukan, North Dakota.

We trust that God will bless and prosper the work among us, and that He will truly open our eyes and hearts to full service in Kingdom building.

HISTORY OF HYLLESTAD CONGREGATION

Hyllestad congregation, located six miles northeast of Buxton, was organized on February 15, 1889, when a group of people gathered at the community schoolhouse. B. Harstad, President of the Norwegian Synod, was present at the meeting. Charter members of the congregation were the Ole P. Tveden, Jorgen Broe, Knud O. Hovet, Thor O. Hovet, and Saare Brokke families. The first trustees were Knud O. Hovet, Ole Tveden, and Jorgen Broe.

In June 1889 Ole P. Tveden gave two acres of land on which to build a church. Donations to the building fund reached \$525. In 1893 the church was completed.

The following pastors have served this congregation: P. T. Hilmen, 1890-94; A. A. Oppegaard, 1894-97; K.S.J. Hovde, 1897-01; S. K. Thollehaug, 1901-04; L. A. Haatvedt, 1904-12; S. K. Thollehaug, 1912-1918; J. O. Hjelmervik, 1918-1921; M. B. Lokkesmoe, 1921-23; J. M. Johnson, 1923-35; Karl Stromme, 1935-51.

Hyllestad congregation was dissolved in 1952 and several members were received into membership in Immanuel congregation.

HISTORY OF NORTH PRAIRIE CONGREGATION

North Prairie congregation, located seven miles southwest of Buxton, was organized in 1879 with the following officers: Secretary, Theo. Thoreson;

Treasurer, A. J. Homstad; Deacons, Christian Nelson, Lars Skrattegard, and Elling Stoa; Trustees, Anton Thorstad, Martin Kjus, Syver Forness; Klokker, Elling Stoa. In 1885 the congregation numbered 55 souls; in 1914, 95 souls.

The Ladies Aid was organized November 24, 1890. Up until this time, services had been held in the schoolhouse now known as Wold No. 2. In the summer of 1896 the church was built, the Ladies Aid donating a good share of the money. The church was dedicated in June, 1897, at an all-day festival.

The following pastors have served North Prairie: M. J. Waage, 1879-82; C. T. Saugstad, S. L. Romsdahl, 1883-85; J. I. Lønne, 1886-89; G. M. Oftedal, 1889-02; O. T. Nelson, 1902-05; T. J. Gronningen, 1905-1921; M. B. Lokkesmoe, 1921-23; J. M. Johnson, 1923-35; Karl Stromme, 1935-49; John D. Kronlokken, 1950-1954.

North Prairie congregation was dissolved in December, 1954, and several members were received into membership with Immanuel congregation.

HISTORY OF IMMANUEL LADIES AID

Immanuel Luther Ladies Aid was organized on January 13, 1949. The officers elected were: President, Mrs. Jens Molvig; Vice-President, Mrs. George Natwick; Secretary, Mrs. Alfred Boe; Treasurer, Mrs. John Odegard. These ladies were

installed at divine services on the following Sunday. Membership at the organization meeting was composed of 71 active and 14 honorary members.

1950 proved to be a busy year for the Ladies Aid. Besides serving several special dinners, ladies were on the scene with lunch and help when the men gathered to work on many projects involved with moving and attaching the two churches. The church building project has received a great deal of aid from the Ladies Aid, both financially and in every other way possible. The greater part of the Ladies Aid's income each year has been turned over to the Building Fund.

The organization of the Ladies Aid centers in the Executive Board, made up of President, four Vice Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, and W. M. F. Department Secretaries. The membership is divided into four groups which undertake at least one fund-raising project each year. Each group also engages in a project of Christian friendship each year, such as visiting charitable institutions, remembering the sick and shut-in with gifts and visits, etc.

Regular meetings of the Ladies Aid are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 2:30 o'clock. Scripture reading and prayer open each meeting, just as they did in the earliest days of the Ladies Aid. Programs are planned to be educational and spiritual in character. Themes for the years have included: Bible study, W. M. F. departments, Missions, The Christian Woman, etc. Each year a special program is set aside to honor members who have reached their

seventieth birthday. A Cradle Roll program is also given each year. The Ladies Aid participates in Circuit W. M. F. projects such as donations toward Bible Camp, L. S. A., Old People's Homes in the area, and many others.

Among the memorable events in the Ladies Aid activities have been the annual mission festivals at which a speaker on missions is featured at the morning service and dinner served by the Aid. Fall suppers featuring lutefisk and lefse have been served to many from the surrounding area. A very successful Circuit W. M. F. Convention was carried out in the Spring of 1953.

In the summer of 1954 several volunteers from the Ladies Aid undertook the redecorating of the parsonage. They moved in with paint-brushes and ladders and painted the entire interior of the parsonage. In the spring of 1955 a refurbishing of the Dining Hall took place. Sewing machines were brought to the Dining Hall and new drapes sewed. The Dining Hall has been the scene of many happy events: wedding receptions, anniversaries, showers, and many other community activities.

From the earliest histories of Ladies Aids in any community, testimony is amply borne out that Ladies Aids are indeed service organizations in the highest sense of the word. In helping to promote the growth and spiritual welfare of the local congregation, the Ladies Aid finds its joy and true reason for existence.

Immanuel Ladies Aid at present has 93 members, of which 18 are honorary.

ALTAR GUILD

On January 28, 1953 a group of five ladies met at the Church to organize an Altar Guild for the purpose of caring for the altar and studying related subjects. The first meetings were devoted to a study of symbolism, liturgical colors, the making of altar cloths and communion linens, etc. Sewing was begun on the green paraments, which were finished and in use for the W. M. F. convention April 29, 1953. The violet paraments were completed for the Advent season, and the white for Christmas of the same year. In February of 1954 plans were made to build a cupboard for the paraments. This project was carried out by interested men, and the women of the Altar Guild did the finishing.

Baptismal towels, hemmed and embroidered with a Greek cross, have been presented to each infant baptized in church. The fair linen for the top of the altar and other communion linens have also been hemmed and embroidered by hand. The most recent project of the Altar Guild was the planning and supervision of the chancel redecoration carried out in the fall of 1956. Much of the actual painting of the chancel was done by the ladies themselves.

The present membership numbers 14. Two members serve each month to care for the altar and chancel area. Regular meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month. An important part of each meeting is the continued study of the entire worship experience. This organization has been a definite help to the pastor and congregation. It has also been a source of spiritual growth to its members. Not a fund-raising organization, the Guild receives its funds from memorials and honorary memberships.

LUTHER MEN OF BUXTON

When merger became a reality, and the Ladies Aid was reorganized in the new church, the men too wanted to continue to work and fellowship together within the church. Organizational information was obtained from the Synodical Brotherhood office and a Brotherhood was organized in 1949 under the first presidency of Methune Faleide.

A constitutional committee presented a constitution in March of 1949 but in a spirit of Christian fellowship, a motion was passed to exist without a constitution. This informal spirit and tradition has prevailed.

In April of 1950 when new officers were elected, an interest project of a fishing trip developed. A bus was chartered, intensive plans made, and 31 men left for Lake of the Woods Bible Camp. Pastor John secured a pastor for services in Buxton and the men had Sunday morning services at the camp. The trip was a real success, in both fish and fellowship, and a tradition was begun; several succeeding annual fishing trips were enjoyed.

Another real contribution to the church and community has been the Winter Workshops. When it was realized how possible it was and what fellowship to have from 20 to 50 men present most of the day for over a period of two months when the church buildings were blended together, the idea occurred, "Why not a winter school for the men?" Ideal subject matter was the Rural Life Program of

the National Lutheran Council. Dr. E. W. Mueller of Chicago and Mr. O. Leonard Orvedal of Bismarck were secured as faculty. Another whole chapter should be written on these "Winter Workshops" -- snowstorms and all -- but the impact of these men on our church will not soon be forgotten. A later workshop dealt with Mental Health, and featured Chaplain Bjorn B. Nilson of the State Mental Hospital and Pastor Carl Turno, at that time connected with Lutheran Welfare.

Besides the tremendous project of the volunteer labor on the church property -- painting, building, foundation and sidewalk laying -- the "Luther-Men" have tried to keep specific projects before them for work each year. Waffle and ham suppers were sponsored for project funds. So far the Luther-Men have provided the church public address system, sponsored Boy Scout work and camp chaplaincy, and underwritten the dining hall insulation and the purchase of a 16 mm. projector as some of their project work. Other events of regular or occasional interest have been Ladies Night and special speaker programs.

The name Luther-Men of Buxton has developed in usage from the idea of witnessing to our heritage yet open to all men of the community for fellowship on the basis of the group's purpose.

LUTHER LEAGUE

An organization for youth from the seventh grade through High School is the Luther League. Its aim is that of the entire international Luther League: To Win and to Hold Young People for Christ.

Many fine events are planned by and for the young people each year. The Bible Camp held annually at Red Willow Lake has been an inspiration. Another highlight conducted at the Camp each year is a week of leadership training, to which two or three youth leaders are sent by the local congregation.

Biennially the International Luther League holds its convention. Raising funds with which to send as many youth as possible has been the goal of the local League. Recent conventions in Seattle and San Francisco have inspired a number of unusual fund-raising projects such as: a potato dumpling supper, lunches served at auction sales, a hobby show, spring yard clean-ups, food sales, napkin sales, and numerous others. Currently the young people are working on a trip to the Missoula convention.

The local Luther League holds two meetings a month, one a youth night and one a family night. Youth night programs usually center around Bible studies; occasionally social events such as hayrides and other parties are planned. Family nights are open to the entire congregation, often in the form of a potluck supper and film or program presented by the Leaguers. Members of the Luther League are active as choir members, ushers, and students in the High School Bible Classes. They stand ready to serve the congregation whenever they can.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

From the earliest days of the Church, the education of youth in spiritual matters has been considered of primary importance. It is an absolute necessity for children to be well-grounded in the Bible and knowledge of the Church and its work. Confirmation instruction has always been an important part of Lutheran education of its young people. At Immanuel this instruction covers a period of two years.

Beginning with pre-school kindergarten classes for four and five year olds and extending through High School, the Sunday School seeks to supplement the religious instruction of the home. This work is conducted by a group of sincere and consecrated teachers, to whom the entire congregation is deeply grateful.

To promote good reading and encourage the establishment of Christian libraries in the homes, the Sunday School has introduced an award system by which each student receives a Christian book when he has been present a prescribed number of Sundays. The Sunday School offerings are given directly to the mission work of the Church.

Present statistics:	No. of pupils below grade 1	22
	No. of pupils in grades 1 - 8	72
	No. in High School Bible classes	31
	Total Sunday School pupils	125
	Total teachers and officers	19

CHOIR

The Immanuel Choir has grown out of a long heritage of love for music in church. Mrs. Roald B. Halvorson was its director until she moved away from Buxton three years ago. Since that time Pastor Kronlokken has been its director. Mrs. Ray Kloster has served as accompanist.

Each year the Choir has presented a choral worship on Good Friday. "The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross" by DuBois has been presented several years. A candle-light service to begin the Advent season was also presented last year.

Besides appearing regularly at the morning services, the choir sponsored and raised most of the funds to purchase a Hammond spinet organ which was put into use during the winter of 1952. Organist since the merger has been Jeanette Hovet.



G. C. Gjerstad
1885-91



M. G. Hanson
1892-98



D. T. Borgen
1898-08



J. S. Halvorson
1908-1916



J. C. Hjelmervik
1916-1921



M. B. Lokkesmoe
1921-1923



G. M. Oftedal
1889-02



O. T. Nelson
1902-05



T. J. Gronningen
1905-1921



J. M. Johnson
1923-35