



**HISTORY OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH, ROLLA, MISSOURI**

FIRST 100 YEARS

Peace, Elk Prairie church was established by several families of German heritage.



Led by Johann Friedrich Haas (pictured at left) they built the “little white church” in 1884 officially named Peace Lutheran Church, Elk Prairie. Rev. George Mueller from St. James served as the first pastor. There were about 10 families in the initial

membership including the Haas, Sachs and Benads extended families. Mr. Haas was the leader of this effort.

The pastors who served Elk Prairie used to stop in Rolla to preach to the faithful Lutherans here. The earliest recordings of assembly of Lutherans in Rolla were in 1866 with Candidate C. Friedrich Lieb who established a meeting place in a local theater.

The Pastors who served the Rolla Area before the first Immanuel constitution were:

Candidate Friedrich Lieb

Pastor J. L. Gehrman from St. James church from
1889 – 1892

Pastor George A. Mueller from Elk Prairie from
1892 – 1894

Pastor J. F. Ruff from 1895 – 1898

Pastor Theodore Siek from 1898 – 1900 who died
in a hotel fire in St. James

Pastor E. J. Lehmann from 1900 – 1902

Pastor August Bartz from 1903-1909 who lived in St. James

Pastor Karl Haller from 1909 – 1914 who lived with the Haas family, met with the Lutherans in the Rolla Presbyterian Church and “paid” rent for the church with firewood.

Reverend Ottomer Krueger from 1914 -1917.

Pastor Krueger lived in the parsonage across from Peace, Elk Prairie. The congregation at Elk Prairie had lost some of its membership to other congregations due in part to the language barrier since services were conducted in German. He started having English services twice a month but noted that it was too late to regain those who had been lost to other denominations by then. He commuted between Elk Prairie and Rolla on a regular basis in mid-week in order to conduct confirmation classes and hold services in various places including the movie theater, a men’s clothing store and the Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Krueger wrote the original Immanuel Lutheran Church Constitution. He left in 1917 which caused a 2 year vacancy at Elk Prairie. This was during WWI which was hard times for churches as well as the country. Pastor A. C. Weber came in 1919. His salary did not allow for a vehicle so he had to rely on others for his transportation to communities outside Elk Prairie.

He managed to come to Rolla twice a month during warm weather and once a month in the winter. Near the end of Pastor Weber's service at Elk Prairie the congregation there bought a Model T for pastoral use. When Pastor Weber left there was about a year vacancy that was filled by St. Louis seminary students when possible.



Pastor O. D. Meyer was then assigned to Elk Prairie but had rather severe allergy problems and wasn't able to fully serve the congregations since he had to remain in St. Louis and commuted for services. Pastor Meyer wrote: "My ordination and installation took place on the last Sunday in August (1922) We had services every Sunday morning and also Sunday School in Elk Prairie, and services twice a month in Rolla, at that time a very small mission congregation. Since the Rolla congregation had no church building of its own at that time, services were held in the Presbyterian Church in Rolla. The attendance at our services at both places was always very good." By the time Pastor Meyer left it was recognized that the small group of German speaking Lutherans in Elk Prairie could not sustain a full time pastor so the congregation at Peace, Elk Prairie and Immanuel Lutheran Church applied for a new pastor jointly. Immanuel had 18

members at this time. The application for a new ministerial graduate was made in the spring of 1925. The Board of Assignments at Concordia declared that this new Pastor must reside in Rolla where the mission possibilities were better. Rev. Edmund F. Schildt was assigned as the first residential Shepherd to Immanuel Lutheran Church. Pastor Schildt wrote:



“..In Rolla we worshiped in the Presbyterian Church ... The congregation in Rolla was organized, but did not have a church edifice...however, the congregation at Rolla resolved to build their own house of worship. We canvassed the congregation for volunteer

workers and among those who worked on the church building were Emil Mesko and Billy Mitchell as brick layers. Emil Mesko’s eldest son also had a hand in laying block and brick. The only son of Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Duerr mixed the “mud” for the brick layers. Henry Haas was the foremen of the carpenters, and among those who worked with him were his uncle William and his cousins. Henry Benad came with horses and plows and scrapers and wagons to dig out the basement. Quite a number of members of the church gave a hand in this work.

Sometime later, we resolved to build a parsonage. This work was also undertaken by

volunteer workers of the church. A basement was dug. Wm. Adam loaned a team for the work. As I remember it, there was considerable hard-pan in one corner. The walls were soon up, and the carpenters set to work.”

That same year land was purchased at the corner of Spring Avenue and W. 12th Street. The design for the church was worked out on Henry and Gladys Haas’ kitchen table with the help of the Meskos, Benads, and other dedicated church members. This property was on the sparsely populated west side of Rolla only a block away from the present site of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Construction of the church began in the fall of 1925 with design, labor, and materials substantially provided by the members of Peace, Elk Prairie and Immanuel Lutheran Church. Dedication for the first Immanuel Lutheran Church building was held on July 11, 1926. Immanuel’s official affiliation with Missouri Synod happened in 1928. A parsonage was built in 1929 for a cost not to exceed \$2400, again with similar cooperation with Elk Prairie.

An interesting anecdote from Pastor Schildt: “In these days the highway program of the State of Missouri had not yet reached its present stage of development. The roads were rocky and rough through those Ozark hills, and bridges were not too numerous. On the 45-mile trip from Rolla to

Summerfield no less than 13 creeks had to be crossed, and not one of them had a bridge! We shall never forget the Sunday afternoon in 1927 when we took our young bride along to make the hazardous trip in our high-wheeled Studebaker coupe of ancient vintage.

On the way home after the service one of the larger creeks was “way up”. We made it to the middle of the stream but water and gas won’t mix. With engine dead and water rising above the floor boards there was but one solution: get the bride on top of the seat and have the preacher get himself on top of the car. As he remembers it today after 32 years, from that watery pulpit he let out the most ear-piercing yell of his whole ministerial career. Way down the holler they heard him. Members who lived close by the creek came with log chains and a powerful Dodge. Never was a preacher more ingloriously perched mid raging waters, nor more gloriously rescued.

And, speaking of roads in those days, who in the Elk Prairie community will ever forget the hazards of Granger’s pond on the road between Salem Road and Licking Road: In spring the place was simply impassable. But frequently the pond won the duel with whatever vehicle fell into its clutches. The Highway Department never did pay for members of Elk Prairie nor their preacher for many hours spent one summer in hauling rocks from the nearby creek and dumping them into the soft roadbed by the

truckloads. On our modern highways the sign read "Soft Shoulders". In those days the sign at Granger's road should have read, Soft road. Strong Shoulders Will Help."

Pastor Schildt was very successful in encouraging Sunday school and Walther League.



The first pastor to occupy the new parsonage was Rev. Paul Streufert who succeeded Pastor Schildt in 1929. When Pastor Streufert was looking back on the history of this church he wrote: "through many years the history of Peace Church is closely associated with the history of Immanuel Church in Rolla. Peace congregation was only ten years old when its pastor the Reverend J F. Ruff began to serve the Lutherans in and around Rolla in 1894. For twenty-two years thereafter the two flocks were served by Pastor Theodore Siek, E. Lehmann, August Barz, Carl Haller,, and Ottomar Krueger. While serving Peace Church, Pastor Krueger organized Immanuel Church in 1916. This dual parish arrangement under one pastor continued until more recent times. It was our privilege to serve this parish during the years 1929 to 1937."

Pastor Streufert wrote: "The pastor ... will never forget their arrival in Rolla on Wednesday, June 26, 1929 The next three days were moving days. The members of our new parish had sent trucks from the community to haul the furniture. Since these were not professional movers the pastor's family marveled how well household goods had been preserved during the perilous trip over the rocky Ozark roads.

Toward evening on Wednesday the pastor arrived ... a new parsonage was erected at 709 West Twelfth Street... As the family drove up on that Wednesday in their Chevrolet, which was packed to the ceiling, they noticed a car parked in front of the parsonage. Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Haas ... and Mr. Gottlieb Haas welcomed the new pastor and his family. After the first hearty handshakes all of us stood on the sidewalk and looked at the parsonage. It had been painted a very dark gray color. The very color gave one gloomy thoughts. Our welcoming committee must have noticed this. Their big smiles and hearty laughs dispelled doubts. "Reverend" one of them said, "don't be worried! That's only the undercoat. The house will be painted soon." That was a great relief! With joy we entered the new parsonage to begin our ministry of eight happy years."

Peace, Elk Prairie supported several communities. When Immanuel was given the permanent pastor assignment it took over a large role in different

communities. Pastor Streufert wrote: "The Mission Board of the Western district had combined Zion Church of Lanes Prairie with the Rolla parish for a number of years prior to our coming. We began serving also this church on Sunday, July 14, 1929, and continued until the end of 1931, when Pastor Paul Meleher of Owensville was requested to combine the congregation with his parish. According to plans submitted to us at the time we were to serve Lanes Prairie once each month in the afternoon.

In June of 1931, the Mission Board requested us to resume work in Calvary Church of Summerfield, a congregation we had served during our pastorate at Meta from 1927 to 1929. We again served this Mission station in addition to the three other churches of the parish until December 6, 1931, when Pastor C. Scheiderer of Drake took over the work. For a short time the Rolla parish was a four-church parish." And: "A fair example of the number of services conducted in the combined parish during this period is the record of the year 1931, which shows that 154 services were held in the parish, with 12 services held in other parishes for a total of 166 services: Elk Prairie (English) 25; Elk Prairie (German) 9; Rolla (English) 72; Rolla (German) 5; Lanes Prairie (English) 22; Summerfield (English) 19, and other parishes 12."

Pastor Streufert also commented on the hardships during the depression. He included this about the members of parish: "How wonderful was the kindness of the people in those days in bringing many supplies from their farms to the parsonage. During the summer it was berries and garden produce in abundance. In autumn it was fruit and sweet potatoes. In winter it was cordwood for the furnace. And with winter came butchering time. The parsonage never lacked a good supply of fresh meats and sausages. What a luxury in the midst of the Depression! The people had hearts of gold."

. By 1932 the state Walther League convention was hosted with 500 in attendance. Due to strong beliefs about Christian education Pastor Streufert , supported by Henry Haas and other leaders encouraged Immanuel to start a Christian Day School. Plans came together and a Christian day school was implemented in 1933. It was started in the basement of the church with 25 students in 8



grades with one teacher. Children for both parishes attended. Mr. Rudolph Baerns who had attended River Forest was the teacher for the

first year.

Pastor Streufert would don his “funny little cap” and drive an old school bus 50 miles every day to



pick up students while the teacher drove the pastor’s car in another direction to pick up others. A car pool brought some from the Newburg area. Within 3 years enrollment increased to 66.

The first church bulletin was printed in 1935. That was the first time announcements were made other than from the pulpit in the Sunday service. This is also the time of the first annual church picnic.

A separate building was needed for expansion of the school in 1936. A portable



building was purchased for \$90 that was in the

slums of St. Louis. The members of Immanuel loaded this building up and moved it to Rolla. As with the school, Immanuel members rebuilt this into a school and it was dedicated in May of 1936. Growth of the congregation was impressive during this time. An example is 1935 when 27 were confirmed in a single service (17 adults and 10 children) with 16 baptisms in that same day. It was a sad day in April, 1937 when the congregation said their farewells to "Pete and Polly" as Pastor Streufert and his wife were fondly referred to.



By July, 1937 Rev. William Bachert had accepted Immanuel and Elk Prairie's divine call. The school teachers during this time were Seminary students from St. Louis or teachers in training at one of the Concordia colleges. Some of these spent their "vicarage" as the teacher but didn't have much time for anything other than teaching since there were 60 or more students with a single teacher. The pastor taught the religion and confirmation classes.

Several significant changes happened in 1941 and 1942. The school budget and church budget were combined. New hymnals were needed and the church purchased 80 of them for 80 cents each.

The congregation entered into the Synodical Pension Plan for the pastor. Pastor Bachert resigned to become a chaplain in the military during the height of WWII.



Rev. G.B. Seager accepted Immanuel's divine call in late 1942. This call was with the understanding that Rev. Seager would serve Immanuel as a single parish instead of a joint parish with Elk Prairie. The parsonage had been owned jointly with Elk Prairie so Immanuel bought Elk Prairie's share for \$2,000 when this call excluded them. Mr. Bernard Gorentz was the teacher in 42/43 but times were getting hard. Lee Steffen was the next teacher. Immanuel's school was growing fast in 1943 but it was difficult to get teachers at the point in WWII and it was becoming very difficult to get Seminary students as teachers. Lydia Adam, a member of Immanuel, stepped in to teach in 1944/45 but left before the end of the school year to be with her husband who was in the armed forces. Gladys Haas, another member of Immanuel, finished out the year and then taught in 1945/45. Due to problems after the war obtaining a teacher, the school was temporarily closed.

Gamma Delta began as an association of Lutheran students at Missouri School of Mines (MSM) in 1947 with the intent of becoming a fraternity.

Pastor Seager accepted another call in 1947. Rev.



Norman Ellerman accepted Immanuel's call and was installed in January of 1948. In this post war era, Immanuel was very active ministering to the Lutheran servicemen in central Missouri. It was said that Pastor Ellerman's house resembled a Lutheran USO

on the weekends. The Ellerman's lost a daughter in a car accident while they were in Rolla. Pastor Ellerman accepted a call in California in 1953. He returned to Rolla in later life and passed away here in 1994 at 86 years old and his wife passed away in 2011 at 102 years old.

A Wurlitzer organ was purchased through the efforts of Miss Martha Ott and her committee. In 1950 Immanuel gave financial support to a group trying to start a Lutheran congregation in Salem, Mo.

Victor Moritz was the first son of Immanuel who became an ordained Lutheran minister in 1952. He

was ordained at Immanuel in June and accepted a call to Messiah Lutheran in New Orleans, LA. A chapter of Beta Sigma Psi Lutheran Fraternity was founded at MSM.



The vacancies over the years started to take a toll on the school. It seemed that Pastoral leadership was needed to procure good teachers. After a year of vacancy Pastor William J. Friederichs accepted a call to Immanuel in 1954. The membership ranks expanded and MSM Lutheran student attendance expanded with up to 130 attending church on some Sundays. It was evident from the folding chairs in the aisle and vestibule that Immanuel needed to expand its facilities. The church purchased 5 building lots about a block away on 11th street in anticipation of this expansion. Committees were formed to study and make recommendations on the best use of this land. They initially recommended a school expansion but the difficulties in procuring a teacher led to a closing of the school all together.

Once Pastor Friederichs got settled, the expansion of the church was reconsidered. It was going to be an expensive undertaking and there was still some debt associated with the existing facilities. A “Campaign for Christ” fundraising effort was

started once the decision was made to build a new church that could hold up to 400 parishioners. Two extra building lots were purchased so we would have room to expand to a new educational facility in the future.

In 1955 Immanuel purchased a copy of the movie "Martin Luther" for \$150 and showed it to the public at the Rollamo movie theater. The church choir under DeLores Hippler was formed this year also.

The Immanuel Informer was first published in 1956. It was an annual publication until it became monthly in 1962.

A kindergarten was opened in the existing schoolhouse in 1955. DeLores Cordes was hired as the teacher with 15 students enrolled. The strategy was to expand this school to more grades in following years and build from the lower grades up. The architectural firm of Froese, Maack and Becker was hired to design a new church. Plans were approved and bids were accepted in 1957. Coy Marlow won the contract at a maximum cost of \$130,260. Groundbreaking was in May, 1957 with the cornerstone laid in October.

Immanuel wrote and accepted a new constitution in 1957. A card system replaced the direct pastoral

contact for announcing members intention of taking communion.



Dedication of the new church was on May 18, 1958. More than 1000 people attended the three services that were held on that dedication day. Many of these people attending the service that started in the old Immanuel Church and then they marched to the new church for the conclusion. Some members remember talk of starting a “sister congregation” during this first day at the new church.

By 1959 the church and school had expanded enough that a part time secretary was needed. The first was the wife of one of our students and she stayed in the position for only a few months. Erma Jean Haas became the long term secretary at that point (with bookkeeper duties added about 3 years later). She served in this position as secretary for

33 years but retained the bookkeeper duties for 7 more years.

In 1959 the old church, school and parsonage were sold. This caused some instability in the congregation since we would lose the school and have to find somewhere for the Pastor to live. Pastor Friederichs decided to buy his own home and rented a house in Rolla Gardens in the interim. Scouting was allowed into Immanuel about this time and was active for many years. An education building was planned and built on the property already owned by Immanuel. It was finished in January of 1960 at a cost of approximately \$40,000.



Mrs. Jerry Vie and Mrs. Helen Groves were teachers for the 1958/59 school year. Mrs.

Vie resigned in March so Mrs. William Smith finished out the term. Plans were made to bring in two full-time teachers for four grades for 1959/60.

A \$20,000 grant was received from Missouri District for campus work. That was used to build and furnish a campus lounge in the downstairs of the church. A \$9,500 grant came from the LWML to be applied to the Church. Classes began in the

new school in January, 1960 with Helen Groves, Ann Wolters, and Vivian Block as teachers. Pastor Friederichs received 3 calls in 1960 but decided his work was not completed in Rolla yet.

Neil Sandfort was called to be Director of Christian Education in 1961. Mary Gruenhagen was the new teacher that year and also served as the Director of music. Kay Bender was brought in to teach the new separate Kindergarten. In 1962/63 the school was established as a K-6 Elementary School with an added library and office facility. The library was dedicated as a memorial to Richard Mesko.



By 1964 the District recognized that Immanuel needed more support for the Pastor due to the added workload of university students

and granted the congregation \$3000 for ministerial support to be used to bring in guest preachers once a month. Pastor Friederichs celebrated his 10th anniversary at Immanuel when he was surprised by the gift from the congregation of a brand new Oldsmobile.

Miss Berniece Kirch (AKA Mrs. Berniece Strandberg) was added to the school staff as a first and second grade teacher as well as music director.

Richard Thur served as the first Vicar at Immanuel from 1965 to 1966. After a new teacher was called in 1965, the full school staff was Neil Sandfort as principal and 5th and 6th grade teacher, Phyllis Foreman as 3rd and 4th grade teacher, Berniece Kirch as 1st and 2nd grade teacher, and Kay Bender as the Kindergarten teacher. The Concordia Retirement and Welfare Plans were adopted for all full time church workers at Immanuel.

The Western District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) was divided up in the 1966 District convention. Immanuel became part of the Missouri District of LCMS at that time. William Weeks was to serve as Immanuel's vicar for 1966/67 but was reassigned when Pastor Friederichs accepted a call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Des Peres, MO in April, 1967. Immanuel purchased Pastor Friederichs' home to become the new parsonage when he left.

The University of Missouri at Rolla was growing a lot during the late 60's when the Viet Nam war was in full swing. The District Commission on College and University Work recognized a growing need for Campus Ministry at Immanuel. When the new Beta Sigma Psi Lutheran Fraternity was dedicated in 1967 it became obvious that Immanuel was going to need more man-power. The District Mission Board informed Immanuel that they had adopted a

resolution encouraging plans for an additional ministry in the Rolla area.



After Pastor Friederichs accepted another call, Rev. Howard R. Hilsabeck accepted a Divine Call to Immanuel and was installed on December 3, 1967. Pastor Hilsabeck's area of focus was obviously evangelism. The Dorcas Society was very active in Immanuel since 1926 and had supplied funds for many projects over the years. In 1968 they funded the carpeting of the chancel and center aisle of the church. Air Conditioning was a much welcomed addition. Linda Heimsoth and Alma Baden were two new teachers this year. More thought was given to a second Lutheran congregation at this time.

Miss Louise Williams from Immanuel graduated as a deaconess from Valparaiso University and was consecrated at a special worship service at Immanuel on Aug 20, 1967. She was assigned to St. Peter's Lutheran in Edmonton Alberta, Canada.

Beta Sigma Psi Lutheran fraternity dedicated a new Fraternity House in 1967.

Due to the work load, the congregation again applied for a Vicar. Donald Langhoff, a student at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, IL was assigned to serve in 1969/70. He met his future wife while at Immanuel.

A branch Sunday School was opened on the south side of Rolla. The success of this effort was evident in January of 1972 when 15 children were baptized, many of them from that effort.

Dr. Paul Rosel, Professor of Music at CTC, Seward, Nebraska presented a recital on April 5, 1970 to dedicate Immanuel's new Wicks Pipe Organ. A second pastor was discussed at this time, but Immanuel decided to request another Vicar. Dan Nietfeld served as our last Vicar in 1970/71.

Woman suffrage was a hot topic in 1970 at voter's assembly. No action was taken other than a statement of support for the Synodical position as stated in Women's Suffrage in the Church. Even with this statement of support women's suffrage was still not passed at Immanuel at this time.



In 1971 Rev. Warren Schmidt was called to serve as Associate (campus) Pastor. This was made possible when the

Missouri District granted Immanuel a subsidy to support a second pastor based on the need for more work with the University students. Immanuel purchased a house at 715 West 11th to serve as the parsonage for the Associate Pastor. The then current student lounge was remodeled into the Associate Pastor's office.

Contemporary services were initiated on the 2nd and 4th Sundays that were intended to attract UMR students. In September, 1972 a third Sunday service at 11:15 was added which included contemporary liturgies and religious music. Congregational voter privileges were extended to 18 year olds.

The congregation was outgrowing facilities and more talk about a sister congregation was getting serious. Money was set aside in 1973 for acquisition of land for this future congregation. By 1974 Immanuel's membership had grown to 645 communicant members and 945 baptized souls. Immanuel's budget surpassed \$100,000. Immanuel was ministering to over 300 Lutheran students at UMR. Immanuel Lutheran School had 4 classrooms with over 80 students.

The long range planning committee sent out a questionnaire to determine an interest in starting another full scale congregation in Rolla. 152 out of 236 questionnaires returned supported going

ahead with planning another congregation within the following 2 years and supported the idea that it be located on the south side of town along highway 72. Several of Immanuel's long time faithful members agreed to be the nucleus for this new venture of faith. The new church was organized as Redeemer Lutheran Church in 1975. Rev. Francis Lieb was the first called pastor for this new ministry. They originally worshipped in the Lion's Club Den and at Peace Lutheran, Elk Prairie until their own House of Worship was built on Highway 72.

The Immanuel Lutheran School needed the support of both congregations to thrive so a school association was formed and the new organization was called "Rolla Lutheran School". This reorganized school did not work out as anticipated for many reasons and was eventually re-organized in 1990 to again become the "Immanuel Lutheran School". At that time there were 92 children enrolled. The Lutheran Education

Assistance Fund (LEAF) was starting around this time to help with tuition and other costs.



Pastor Hilsabeck and Pastor Schmidt accepted other calls in 1977. That same year, Pastor Garth L. Baker and Pastor.



Laverne Janssen accepted calls to Immanuel. Pastor Baker was an experienced pastor and Pastor Janssen was a recent graduate. These pastors served the longest times of any pastors at Immanuel with Pastor Janssen staying for 15 years and Pastor Baker for 20.

District subsidy for the Associate Pastor for campus work was well spent. Students became much more active and a contemporary service was reinstated that appealed to the students. Pastor and Betty Janssen were very hospitable to the students and the campus ministry thrived.

Neil Sandfort left Rolla in 1978. He was very respected and did a lot of work to get the school restarted in the early days of his stay in Rolla. He was the Principal at Immanuel Lutheran School for 17 years. In 1979 the school had an enrollment of 91 students including 62% of the eligible children for the two congregations. In 1981 there were 11 preschoolers enrolled.

Planning for an extension of Immanuel's facilities to include more educational facilities and an expansion of the church facilities continued for several years. There was a need for more classroom space, a gym, expanded Bible Class

room, a lunch room, an expanded Narthex, expanded staff offices with privacy, College student areas, and just more space for activities. The congregation wanted to expand the school and church buildings simultaneously with work on the basement of the church to follow when funds were available. The school expansion was called "The Family Life Center". A very successful program called "Building to Proclaim Christ" started in 1988 and brought in commitments to fund this project that led to a loan being obtained from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Mike Glasscock Construction Co. was chosen for this project that was completed and dedicated on July 23, 2000.

In the Fall of 1992 Erma Jean Haas took advantage of her retirement and answered an invitation to become part of a pilot program from the Missouri District Office of LCMS that trained lay people to be Human Care Ministry Consultants. The Leisure Lutherans were started as a result of this training and has become a glowing example of how these consultants can benefit their congregations and surrounding community.



Pastors Mark McIntyre (left) and Doug Ochner (next page) served Immanuel from 1997 to 2001. Pastor Mark went to a parish in St. Petersburg, Florida on Sept.



16, 2001. Pastor Doug was appointed Vacancy Pastor.

In 1999 there was almost \$15K set aside for the renovation of the church basement. By Oct 2001 the Leisure Lutherans helped expand that fund to over \$26K and a project was planned by John Petrikovitsch and awarded to Don Hilgers with assistance from Charlie Elliott. The old inefficient ugly basement was transformed to a modern attractive Fellowship Hall with a renovated kitchen. Existing appliances from the old kitchen were moved to the Family Life Center and the Leisure Lutherans raised funds that were matched by the Lutheran Brotherhood to purchase a new range for the church kitchen. A PA system was also installed and new exterior doors were installed. Many of the Leisure Lutherans and other church members also assisted in this project. This area has been extensively used for Leisure Lutheran activities, Bible classes, choir practices, international student activities, Men's Bible Breakfast, receptions for marriages and funerals and many other activities.

Kindergarten was expanded to all day in 2001.

Pastor Ochner was the vacancy pastor in 2002 but was given help by Pastor Alvin Lange who came to

Rolla every week to visit shut-ins and preached every other Sunday. Pastor Baker retired in the Rolla area and also provided assistance during this year.



Pastor Steven Kamprath accepted a call to the senior Pastor position at Immanuel in 2003. Immanuel applied for our normal campus ministry subsidy and was refused. Pastor Ochner left Immanuel to become an Army Chaplain in May 2003. Without the subsidy

Immanuel was unable to support a second pastor for campus activities. Pastor Kamprath had already built a strong rapport with the UMR students and decided he could incorporate the campus ministry into his work with the church. The Bible Classes were consolidated into a single class led by Pastor Kamprath after he came to Immanuel. The Pastor's class was well accepted by the congregation and has continued to have great attendance usually numbering between 75 and 100 participants. The first time any guest pastor comes to Immanuel the look on their face is usually astonishment when they walk into a Bible class of this size considering the size of our congregation..

In 2004 Immanuel investigated the Stephen Ministry program to aid the church and community by caring for those who were undergoing some level of crises in their lives. Immanuel became a Stephen Ministry congregation and sent Dan Canfield and Julie Crews to training to become the first Stephen Leaders who would supervise and train other members to become Stephen Ministers. There have been three training classes that graduated 10 Stephen Ministers with 7 still serving. Many congregation and community members have been helped through this program.

By 2008, Immanuel Lutheran School had added a 7th grade and by 2012 an 8th grade was added on a pilot basis. ILS alumni have become pastors, teachers, doctors, dentists, nurses, soldiers, and even race car drivers. And, most importantly, Christian men and women.

By 2012 ILC had 535 baptized members, 466 communicant members, and an average attendance of 230 members at Sunday services. Finances had become very tight with dwindling ILS enrollment and the loss of the Campus subsidies.

The church budget became strained over the years due in large part to the expense of the school and loss of the campus subsidy. By the spring of 2015 it was apparent the school funding was not sufficient to continue as it was. The school was reduced to

Kindergarten and first grade only with the rest of the facilities used for REACH (Rolla Lutheran Early Childhood Christian) (AKA Rolla Lutheran Early Childhood Christian Education Center) to meet a pressing need for care for children from 6 weeks old to preK.

Pastors over the years:

- 1916-1917 - Pastor Ottomer Krueger (wrote Immanuel constitution)
- 1919-1921 - Pastor A. C. Weber (as circuit rider)
- 1922-1924 - Rev. O. D. Meyer
- 1925-1929 - Rev. E. F. Schildt (first Pastor specifically assigned to Immanuel)
- 1929-1937 - Rev. Paul W. Streufert
- 1937-1942 - Rev. William Bachert
- 1942-1947 - Rev. Gilbert B. Seager
- 1948-1953 - Rev. Norman C. Ellermann
- 1954-1967 - Rev. William J. Friederichs
- 1967-1976 - Rev. Howard R. Hilsabeck
- 1971-1975 - Rev. Warren Schmidt (first associate/campus pastor)
- 1977-1997 - Rev. Garth Baker
- 1977-1992 - Rev. LaVerne Janssen (associate/campus)
- 1993-1997 - Rev. Mark McIntyre (associate/campus)
- 1997-2001 - Rev. Mark McIntyre (senior pastor)
- 1998-2002 - Rev. Douglas Ochner (associate/campus)
- 2002-present - Rev. Stephen Kamprath

Principals at Immanuel Lutheran School

Neil Sandfort

Howard Voelker

Ken Greimann

Jim Schmidt

Rick Krumland

Barbara Watkins

Sammye Elliott

Dawn Koenig (Director of REACH and blg admin)

Teachers at Immanuel Lutheran School

1. Rudolph Baerns

2. Walter Richter

3. E. T. Wegeman

4. William Shoech

5. Richard Popp

6. Lester Wolf

7. Catherine Gassner

8. Bernard Gorentz

9. Lee Steffen

10. Lydia Adam

11. Gladys Haas

12. Mrs. Charles Daetz

13. Don Holste

14. Eric VonBehren

15. Paul Schreivogel

16. Otto Wirgau

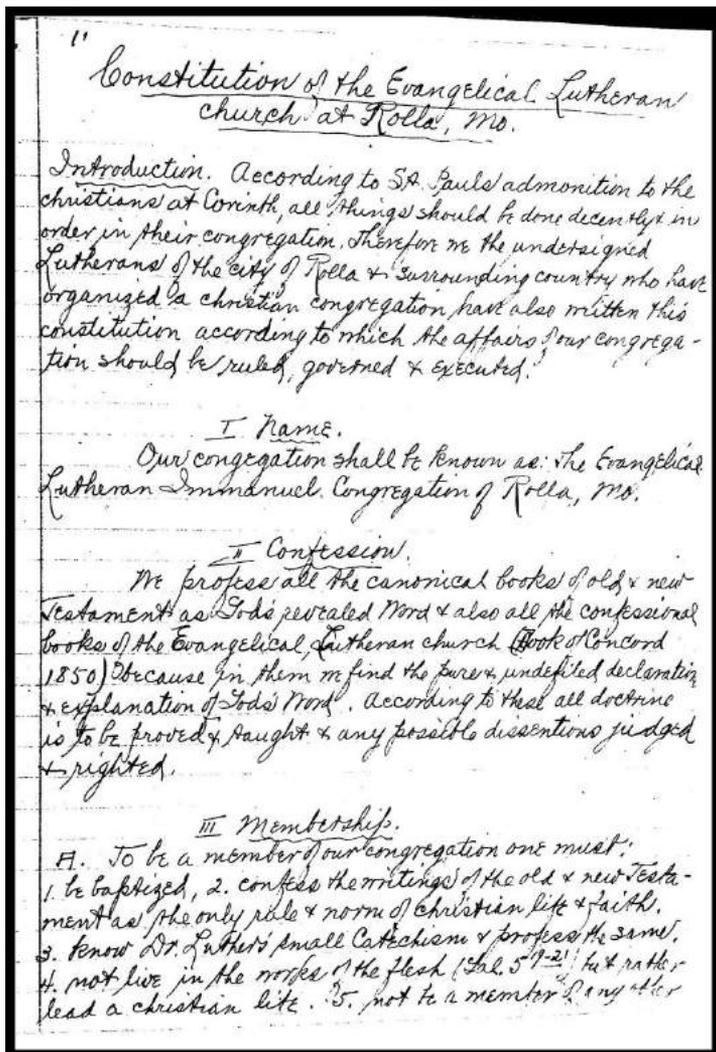
17. DeLores Cordes

18. Mrs. Jerry Vie

19. Helen Groves
20. Mrs. William Smith
21. Ann Wolters
22. Vivian Block
23. Neil Sandfort
24. Mary Gruenhagen
25. Kay Bender
26. Berniece Kirch Strandberg
27. Phyllis Foreman Otto
28. Leanora LaSell
29. Linda Heimsoth
30. Alma Baden
31. Susan Thomson
32. Fayleen Wessel Bruening
33. Treva Janssen
34. Nancy Offerman
35. Rhonda Beethe
36. Betty Janssen
37. James Schmidt
38. Gerry Brunton
39. Sue Burgdorf
40. Nelda Carney
41. Sammye Elliott
42. Cindy Fish
43. Helen Johnston
44. Patti Green
45. Rick Krumland
46. Lynn Krumland
47. Ellen Sandhaus
48. Cindy Miesner Sullivan
49. Melissa Owen

50. Dianne Brandt Siagian
51. Janis Fehlig
52. Mary Voelker
53. Howard Voelker
54. Linda Puchta
55. Christine Gaebler
56. Lois Warnsholz
57. Muriel Sandfort
58. Margaret Bastian
59. Ken Greimann
60. Gay Mockler
61. Linda Fabian
62. Catherine George
63. Charlene Homan
64. Chris Kamprath
65. Sue Kamprath
66. Tyra Rafter
67. Heather Kamprath
68. Allison Wehmeyer
69. Kent Golchert
70. Shawna Cochran
71. Barbara Watkins
72. Breena Abel Smith
73. Megan Crews Marett
74. Tabatha Payne

Original English version of the 1916 Constitution follow. It was also written in German.



religious denomination or secret order commonly called lodge, or become one after receiving membership in our congregation. ... b. subjects himself to & be governed by the constitution of the congregation as we here have it.

13. Those wishing to become members should present themselves to the pastor & give evidence of Christian character. Should there be no valid objection the person should be accepted as a member by the congregation after he had signed the constitution. Those who come from other Lutheran congregations need only show their recommendation from their former pastor or congregation.

IV Duties of members.

Each member pledges himself: 1. to observe his Christian duties towards his fellow Christians; 2. to be present at services & other meetings of congregation except it be impossible; 3. to have children baptized at earliest possible convenience & to diligently watch over their Christian education when grown up; 4. to help defray expenses of congregation, such as are: minister's salary, rental etc. & other expenses & debts which congregation may incur; to give his contributions punctually & as large a part as is right & just before God & men. (2th. 6th / Cor. 9^{th-14})

V Officers.

Only those who have reached the age of 21 & have signed the constitution have the right to vote in elections. It is the sole privilege of the congregation.

and such, to call a minister select its officers. The congregation shall elect Elders, Worshippers in the next year's meeting who shall serve 3 yrs. each. They are to be elected in rotation, so that each year one will step out, unless he be re-elected. One of these three shall be President & as such chairman of all meetings. Another shall be Treasurer, & do the necessary collecting as well as taking care of all church funds & receipts. The third shall be Secretary & keep in his possession all papers of congregation & tabulate the proceedings of each meeting & in separate books & keep these records.

VI Meetings.

Every meeting of the congregation shall be announced by the pastor. The congregation assembles every 3 months for a quarterly business meeting. In case of an extra meeting being necessary the meeting may be announced for any Sunday. Every regular meeting is opened & closed with prayer.

VII Exclusion.

Should any member give public offence the same shall be admonished according to Christ's precept, Matt. 18. In case he remain stubborn & will not repent he shall be expelled from our congregation according to God's Word. An expelled member or one who excludes himself loses all rights & privileges of membership until he repents & is accepted again.

VIII. Affiliation with Synod.

The congregation shall if possible seek admission into the Evangelical Lutheran Missouri Synod.

IX. Books.

All books which are used to it for services or instruction of children or for singing must be unpolluted Evangelical Lutheran books.

X. Language.

Although our congregation is now a German one nevertheless we shall have English services since some of our people require it & God's Word does not forbid it. However at present the German language shall be used in our congregational meetings as the official medium.

Acta No. 1916.
Thomas H. Hager.
Pastor.