

ARCHIVES

IOWA DISTRICT EAST

A History of Immanuel Lutheran Olive Township, Clinton County, Iowa

Of the 19 congregations within the Iowa District East of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod that have disbanded, or were absorbed into a neighboring congregation before 2013, I would like continue my project of putting together a history of some of these congregations. The first congregation I featured was St. Paul (Center Grove) in Clinton County. With this article, I would like to focus on Immanuel Lutheran which was located south of Calamus, in Olive Township, Clinton County, Iowa.

If some folks, during the early decade of the 21st century, decided to pull stakes where they had been living on the East Coast of the United States and head out west to settle down a couple of miles south of Calamus, in Clinton County, Iowa, they would find entering Iowa to be a breeze. U.S. Highway 30 would provide them with a nice bridge to cross over the moving water of the Mississippi River and give them a smooth ride on a multilane divided hard surface road at a legal speed up to 65 miles per hour. Barring any detours or vehicle breakdown, the trip from the Mississippi to Calamus, a distance of about 33 miles, might take half an hour.

Now turn the clock and the calendar back to the mid-1800s and try to re-run that trip west. First of all, remove the bridge over the big river and also the small bridges and culverts over the small streams. Stop thinking of roads and imagine foot paths and maybe some wagon trails following the contour of the land—up and down the hills and valleys—before getting to the more level land. Of course, you can forget the idea of paved or hard surfaced. Just original soil, standing water and rutted mud. If you are familiar with how that part of Clinton County looks today, then you also need to think less of open countryside and bring back the standing forests that disappears so long ago. Also bring back the swamps and sloughs that once filled the low areas with their mosquitoes and malaria. Now you are ready to crack the whip and get the oxen or horses to start pulling the wagon of souls and earthly goods to that new home in Olive Township at the record pace of a few miles per hour.

This is an attempt to put together a civil and ecclesiastical history of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olive township, Clinton County, Iowa, which had its beginning toward the end of the 1860s and then continued until 1945, at which time it disbanded and amalgamated with the sister congregation in Grand Mound. The reader may wish to take the time to read some background history of the area from an earlier history written on the disbanded St. Paul (Center Grove) Lutheran congregation in Center Township, Clinton County, Iowa.¹ The Center Grove congregation was once located about 24 miles east-northeast of Immanuel Lutheran, had its

beginning sometime after 1855 and, because of this, a lot of the history of the development of the area can be applied to both Center and Olive Townships.

While settlers ventured across the Mississippi from the east and started to settle in the Lyon (now Clinton) area, there were others who opted for another route. Roadways in early Iowa might have been land routes which were paths used by the American Indians of the region. But another “road” system was the river. Although not considered such a mighty river in our time, except during the time of Spring flooding, the Wapsipinicon River, flowing for about 100 miles from the Minnesota border, just north of McIntire, Iowa, past the west side of New Hampton, through Independence and Anamosa, passing by Calamus to the west by about 2.5 miles, then past the one-time village of Buena Vista and on to empty into the Mississippi River at the Clinton and Scott County boundary, was a big river to be reckoned with back in the mid-1800s. While some of those early adventurers trudged overland, others paddled their way up and down the Wapsie River. The road system developing westward from Clinton and the Wapsie River helped to bring settlers into the territory where Immanuel Lutheran eventually sprang up.

Olive Township Created

Minutes of the April, 1841 meeting of the County Commissioners indicate that Clinton County was made up of six townships—Camanche, Lyons, Elk River, Deep Creek, Clear Creek and Liberty.² Clear Creek Township included the area now known as Olive Township. The minutes also reveal that Territorial Roads had been established and were the lawful roads then in existence in the county. Road No. 2 was identified as from Lyons to Tipton, “but no plat or proceedings are on record concerning it. It was established by legislative act January 10, 1842.”³

In 1843, the citizens of Clear Creek petitioned that a township be established with the following boundaries: "Beginning at the mouth of Silver Creek, thence up said creek to the mouth of Clear Creek ; from thence up said creek to Abraham Folk's Mill ; thence westerly to the Wapsipinicon, so as to include fractional Township 81 north, Range 1 east, being that part of said township which is on the east side of said river, and from thence down said river to the place of beginning, and that said township shall be called Olive Township, and that the place of holding elections may be established at the house of Charles Dutton."⁴ The township was divided again in 1846.⁵ Twelve townships were established in Clinton County in 1852, and the Olive Township boundaries were adjusted several more times during that year.⁶ The last alteration to Olive’s boundaries seem to have taken place in April of 1856, when a meeting at the home of Lewis Sherwood tweaked the Olive and DeWitt Township boundaries so that “Olive Township will not extend further north than to the township line between Townships 81 and 82 north, but will embrace all of Sections 1 and 12 in said township.”⁷

Settlement Begins

With the Wapsie River on the south side of Olive Township, often overflowing and covered with standing timber, a historian noted in 1874 that “this township is mostly level and has considerable bog or swamp land, but drainage and cultivation is bringing nearly all of it into

arable fields. Much of this land was held out of market as mineral lands until 1850 to 1855, as there were considerable deposits of bog-iron ore, but never found in paying quantities.”⁸

“Among the early settlers in this township were Hiram Brown, Charles Dutton, Sr., Lorenzo, Charles, Jr., Leroy and Jerome Dutton, his sons, Lyman Alger, Joseph Alger, E. F. Owen, William Scott, Bennett Warren, Mr. Edgar, D. C. Curtis, Josiah Hill, Abram Hendrickson and others.

“The Dutton family came early into the township. Their total possessions were about \$60 in cash and a few household effects. They purchased a pair of cattle, and the first season broke about ten acres of prairie and sowed white winter wheat. This crop was harvested and hauled to Davenport, through sloughs and mud-holes, the load having frequently to be unloaded to get out, and was sold for 30 cents per bushel, one half in store pay, and a part of the balance in cash articles, which meant groceries. The store pay was calico and similar dry goods. In 1849, they hauled pork to Dubuque and sold for \$1.75, three-fourths store pay and the balance cash.”⁹

“In 1839, there was a trail known as Boone's Trail, over which a man named Boone drove cattle from Missouri to Galena, by way of Maquoketa. His usual crossing-place on the Wapsie was on Section 5, Township 80 north, Range 2 east [about two miles southwest of where Immanuel Lutheran finally located]. The first ferryman was an old pioneer of the name of John Shook, who had a small flat-boat which would just take on one team and which was run by a rope. R. I. Jencks succeeded him, whether by purchase or by entry of the landings, is not certainly known. He named the ferry Buena Vista, after that celebrated battle had been fought. He also succeeded in securing a post office here, which was called Buena Vista, which has since been removed to Rothstein's Mill, but still bears the same name. Jencks sold out the ferry franchise to George Atherton in 1849, and a few weeks later he sold out to Dr. Amos Witter, a gentleman who was emigrating to California overland, but when he had reached this point had wearied of his journey. He afterward died in the service as a Brigade Surgeon. Dr. Witter sold out to a man named Edgar, some time previous to 1854. J. E. McArthur succeeded him and ran the ferry until 1858, when he sold to James Merritt, and, in the spring of 1859, he sold to Jerome Dutton, who continued to operate it until the spring of 1865, when the land on the Clinton County side was sold to J. W. S. Robinson and James Dumphy, Mr. Dutton still owning the lands on the Scott County side, and the ferry was discontinued. This had been one of the most profitable ferries on the Wapsie for many years, and particularly during the Pike's Peak excitement in 1859, but the erection of the Rothstein bridge destroyed its value. Lyman Alger also had a ferry in this township for many years and is one of the first settlers of record to whom license was issued to keep a ferry across the Wapsie. The Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad also temporarily operated a ferry for the transfer of passengers on the stage-route until the railroad was completed across the river.” In 1860, the total vote polled in the township was 140.¹⁰

Buena Vista Post Office

As mentioned above, there was a settlement along the Wapsie River, which developed into an unincorporated village once located near the present-day junction of 178th Ave and 29th St. It received the Post Office name of Buena Vista in 1849. It is said that this name was chosen in

memory of the Battle of Buena Vista which took place on 23 February, 1847, when the United States Army used artillery to repulse the Mexican Army in the Mexican-American War. This took place near the village of Buena Vista, in the state of Coahuila, in northern Mexico.¹¹ Since this post office was just a couple of miles southwest of Immanuel Lutheran Church, the congregation used it as their mailing address. The village had a mercantile business,¹² a ferry crossing the Wapsie River, and there appears to have been a Methodist Episcopal presence in Buena Vista, out of DeWitt, around 1853.¹³ The post office was closed down in 1914.¹⁴

Territorial Development

Around a decade before there was even any thought of establishing a German Lutheran Church in Olive Township, it is interesting to note how the area was getting populated with folks east of the Mississippi River. In 1854, the population of some of the townships was as follows: “Lyons, 1,148; Camanche, 1,275; De Witt, 981; Elk River, 722; Center, 516; Waterford, 348; Liberty, 321; Bloomfield, 776; Olive, 289; Sharon, 270; Orange, 140; Deep Creek, 211; Spring Rock, 203. The respective villages numbered: Camanche, 569; Lyons, 513, having doubled in eight months, and De Witt, 243. There were in the county 15 colored persons, all at Camanche.”¹⁵

Calamus Post Office

A post office was established in 1858. Joseph D. Fegan was deputized to go there and establish the office. No one could suggest a name. Mr. Fegan said, ‘Is there no creek or anything?’ ‘Yes, Calamus Creek.’ ‘Then let it be Calamus.’ The creek takes its name from the great quantities of ‘sweet flag’ growing in it.”¹⁶

As the railroads pushed westward, the Chicago & Northwest Railway passed through Clinton, DeWitt and Grand Mound. Although Immanuel Lutheran Church was located 2 miles east and 4 miles south, the village did play a part in the life of the congregation. So just a little history about Calamus. It was platted “by R. S. Dickinson, who owned the land on the north side of the railroad, and Milo Smith, who owned that on the south. It was replatted in 1865. James Keith opened the first store here, a small stock of groceries and notions. R. S. Dickinson and his son A. L., in 1861, built the first store of consequence, and opened a large and complete stock of general merchandise, and engaged in grain-buying. Two or three years later, R. E. Houck opened a small store, and has continued in trade there since, building up a successful business.”¹⁷

The original settlers belonging to Immanuel Lutheran Church probably depended a lot on their own resources to provide for their daily needs. However, one can imagine the horses and wagons rolling across the terrain as they headed to the “city” to trade their products and buy their supplies. By 1874, “the following persons represent the present business interests of Calamus: H. Brezee, boots and shoes; S. Brehm, meat market; Buck & Martin, wagonmakers; James Brown, harness-shop; Leroy Cushman, barber; Damon Brothers, general store; Robert Daschler, general store; R. E. Houck, general store; John Hand, Northern House; Mrs. Hoover, Farmers’ Home; J. W. Libler, groceries and lumber; M. W. McCartha, hardware; George Morgan, blacksmith; D. Merritt, livery; E. F. Owen, Justice; F. H. Richards, blacksmith; Mrs. E. Smith,

millinery; William Scott, hardware; Chester Stroud, boots and shoes; S. B. Walker, Postmaster, drugs and furniture.”¹⁸

Civil War in the United States

Before there was even a draft into the military to fight in the Civil War, “seventy-nine men had volunteered into the service, mostly in the Second, Eighth and Twenty-sixth Infantry, and the First and Seventh Cavalry. This was conceded to be the banner township in the State.”¹⁹ “In 1862, it was determined to raise a full regiment in the county, to be known as the Clinton County Regiment. With already depleted numbers, it seemed as if this was a sacrifice beyond the ability of the people to bear. To do this was to call for the service of every third able-bodied man within the limits of the county. However, recruiting began at once, and, on the 30th of September, 1862, the Twenty-sixth Iowa Infantry was mustered into the service with full ranks. The roster of the field and staff officers was as follows : Colonel, Milo Smith, Clinton; Lieutenant Colonel, Samuel G. Magill, Lyons; Major, Samuel Clark, De Witt; Surgeon, A. F. Hudson, Lyons; Assistant Surgeon, William McQuigg, Lyons; Additional Assistant Surgeon, George F. Wetherell, Lyons; Chaplain. Rev. John McLeish, Clinton; Quartermaster, Joseph H. Flint, Lyons.”²⁰ It may be of interest to this Immanuel Lutheran history in the following: “Company F was raised in De Witt, Olive and Orange Townships principally. Its officers were : Captain, Joel B. Bishop, De Witt; First Lieutenant, William R. Ward, De Witt; Second Lieutenant, Silas Freeman, De Witt.”²¹ The enlisted men of 26th Iowa Infantry were mustered out at Washington, DC on 06 June, 1865.²²

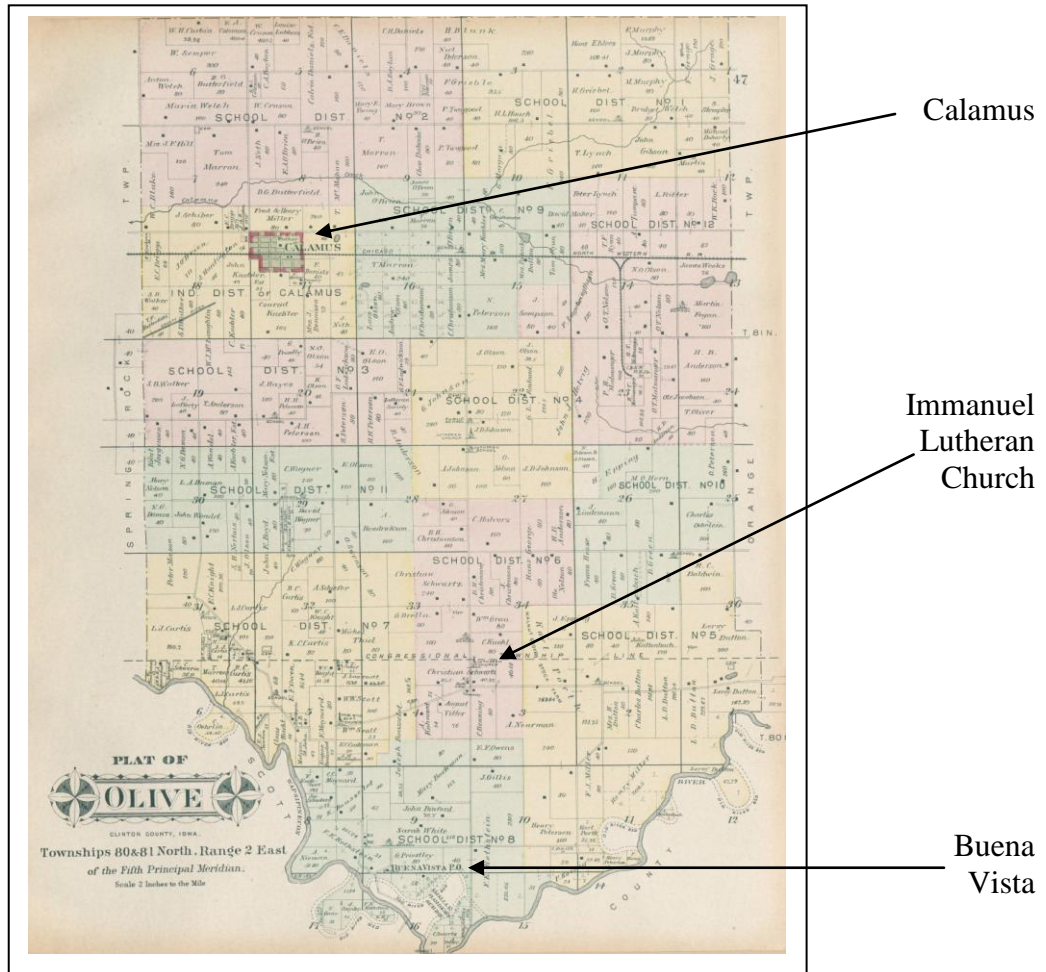
Establishment of Churches

As the townships opened up for settlement, churches were soon to follow. In 1841, a small town was started about 7 miles east of where Immanuel Lutheran-Olive Township eventually established itself. At first, the village was named Vandenburg; then, in 1842, it was changed to DeWitt.²³ One might assume that church life in this village affected the surrounding farmer settlements. People would travel to and associate themselves with one or the other of those churches, or the ministers of those congregations might travel out to interested families to hold services in their homes or rural public school buildings

A Congregational Church was started in DeWitt in 1842.²⁴ The Christian, or Disciple Church began its first preaching outreach in 1848.²⁵ The Roman Catholic Church began serving the DeWitt area out of Dubuque in 1850.²⁶ The Baptists organized themselves in 1852.²⁷ Circuit riders of the Methodist Episcopal Church travelled the DeWitt area as early as 1840, but no church was built until 1850.²⁸ Work by the United Presbyterian Church got its start toward the end of 1854,²⁹ the Episcopal Church in 1858,³⁰ and, in 1868, the Free Methodist established itself in DeWitt.³¹

By 1862, the small village of Grand Mound, in Orange Township, was beginning to emerge between DeWitt and the Olive Township settlements. The Methodists got organized there by 1869.³² The Baptists also began holding services, but eventually that ceased. However, a Free

Will Baptist Church did spring up on the south side of the Congressional Line in the southeast quarter of Section 05 in Olive Township, just one mile to the southwest of Immanuel Lutheran's site. The United Presbyterian and the Roman Catholic churches also had a presence in Grand Mound, but their arrival was either just around the time of Immanuel Lutheran's appearance, or shortly after.³³



Plat Map of Olive Township³⁴

Lutherans in Olive Township

Among the many settlers with different denomination loyalties, Lutherans also began to show up in Olive Township. In 1861, Norwegian immigrants from Hardanger Fjord, Norway established a Lutheran congregation just north of the Congressional Line in the southwest corner of Section 22.³⁵ They put up a church building, a parsonage, a school and sustained a pastor who preached to them in the Norwegian language.³⁶

At about this same time, German Lutherans started to arrive in the township from Hampton Bluff, Illinois. "Among these pioneer families were those of Mr. Henry Mueller, Sr., Mr. Fred

Mueller, Sr., and Mr. Henry Wendel. Shortly after they had established their homes around 1863, the general missionary of the Missouri Synod in this District, Pastor [J.F.] Doescher, contacted them [out of Iowa City, about 40 miles to the west-southwest] and began holding services and performing other essential ministerial acts in homes and schools. Apparently because of the tremendous field that the missionary had to serve, his visits to these families were somewhat erratic and services were usually conducted in the next six years by two public school teachers, Mr. Norman Kuckland and Mr. Edmund Lutz, who read the sermons.”³⁷

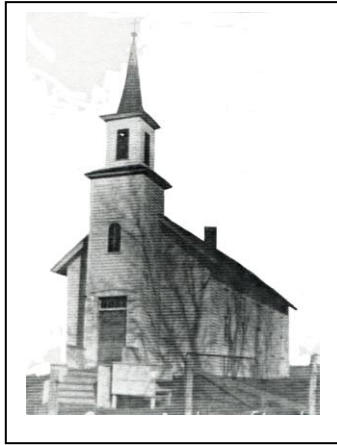
There seem to be no surviving records of the early interaction between the German settlers and Pastor Doescher. No doubt, the missionary to these people kept some kind of records as to whom he baptized, who participated in any holy communion offered, and notes on anyone for whom the pastor conducted the burial service. There are no official listings of such events until 04 January, 1868, the Articles of Incorporation of the congregation are dated 26 September, 1868,³⁸ and by then Rev. Claus Seuel was making the entries into the official church records.

“It seems that Mr. Lutz encouraged the Rev. C. [Klaus/Claus] Seuel, of Lyons, Iowa, to become interested in the small group, and under his direction and guidance the congregation was formally organized on April 16, 1871, with nineteen voting members, the names of which were: Henry Wendel, Fred Mueller, Sr., Henry Luethje, August Magerkurth, Claus Kuehl, Edm. Lutz, John Koenig, Gottlieb Vetter, Adolph Wendel, Mitt Elend, Claussen Schmidt, August Kohnert, Henry Mueller, Sr., Geo. Dralle, Sr., Chris Kuehl, Fred Wendel, Detlef Kuehl, Marx Kuehl, Herman Flohrs. The first recorded election names the Messrs. H. Wendel, A. Wendel, and Fred Mueller, Sr., as Elders, with Mr. H. Wendel also elected Treasurer.”³⁹

How Immanuel Lutheran Developed

First official acts by a pastor are noted in the Church Records as follows: Seven **baptisms** were administered in 1868: Albert Wilhelm (baptized 12 Jan), son of Friedrich and Wilhelmine Müller; August Friedrich (bapt. 14 Apr), son of Heinrich & Margaretha Lüthje; Wilhelmina Aveline Emilie (bapt. 07 Jun), daughter of Gottlieb & Anna Vetter; Heinrich August (bapt. 23 Aug), son of Claus & Maria Schmidt; Heinrich Johann Adolph (bapt. 20 Sep), son of August & Anna Maria Magerkurth; Eleanore Caroline Margaretha (bapt. 20 Sep), daughter of Adolph & Caroline Wandel; and Carl Heinrich August (bapt. 13 Dec), son of Friedrich & Wilhelmine Müller. On the 4th Sunday after Trinity, 1868, twenty-two individuals attended the only **holy communion** offered that year. Communing were Claus Schmidt and his parents; H. Wehmann; Mr. & Mrs. H. Wendel; Mr. & Mrs. Fr. Mueller; his parents; Mr. & Mrs. H. Luethje; Mr. & Mrs. A. Magerkurth; Mrs. Jenner; Born; Mr. & Mrs. G. Vetter; Mr. & Mrs. A. Kohnert; Fr. Mueller, Jr.; and J. Koenig. The first **confirmation** did not take place until 1880 which consisted of six confirmands: Juergen Kuehl (born 1864 in New York), Joachim Mueller (born 1865 in Rock Island Co., Illinois), Fredrich Haemer (born 1865 in Rock Island Co., Illinois), August Vetter (born 1866 in West Prussia), Auguste Elend (born 1864 in West Prussia), Helene Wendel (born 1865 in Rock Island Co., Illinois). The first **marriages** registered were in 1873: Marx Kuehl & Elisa Meier on 12 January; August Kerl & Dorothea Teuer on 28 September. There were three **funerals** for infants in the year 1868. Albert Mueller, August Luethje, and [Karl-?] Schmidt.

“Meanwhile Pastor Seuel had also just previously assisted Lutheran families in organizing the Trinity Lutheran Church at Lowden, Iowa. He suggested that the two newly-formed congregations form a parish and call its own pastor. In accordance with this suggestion, the Rev. H. **Engelbrecht**, of Iowa City, Iowa, was called, the Immanuel Congregation promising \$150 per annum as their share of his salary. Services at Immanuel were conducted every two weeks on Sunday mornings and every fourth Sunday afternoon.



“At the time of its organization the congregation purchased an acre of land six miles south-east of Calamus, and shortly thereafter resolved to build its first church. The cornerstone of this church was laid in September 1872, and members hauled lumber from Davenport and assisted in the building of the church, which was dedicated with much joy to the Glory of God on March 23, 1873 by the little flock. This original church together with a large shed which was erected about the same time was completed at a total cost of about \$925.00, of which \$280.00 was subscribed immediately. The congregation also set aside a part of its property to be used as a cemetery, regulations for which were adopted almost immediately. This cemetery is maintained to this day under regulations revised in 1937.

“Pastor Engelbrecht ministered to the congregation but two years when he accepted a call to Chicago. Immanuel again joined the Lowden congregation in calling sainted Rev. J.H. **Brammer**, from Denver City, Colorado. Thru his consecrated and able leadership the Immanuel congregation began to grow quite rapidly. Within two years it had grown to such a size that it felt that it was ready to support its own pastor. Great joy reigned in the congregation when Candidate W.W. [Wilhelm W.] **Mallon** accepted its call, and was ordained and installed as its first resident pastor in July 1875, by Pastor Brammer. With the advent of their own pastor the congregation erected a parsonage at a cost of \$520.00 on an additional half acre of land which adjoined its property. Pastor Mallon remained with the congregation only two years and then accepted a call to Magnolia, Iowa.

“The congregation again called a candidate from the Seminary at St. Louis, the Rev. C.A. [Carl August] **Bretscher**, who was ordained and installed in the spring of 1878. Pastor Bretscher ministered very faithfully and with visible divine blessings for the next four years. The year after which he was installed, the congregation joined the Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, at the convention of the Iowa District at Ft. Dodge, in 1879. Mr. Fred Mueller, Sr., was the lay-delegate of the congregation to sign the District Constitution.

“Pastor Bretscher accepted a call to Hanover Township, Iowa, in March of 1882, and the congregation extended a call to Pastor **Alexander**. After serving but a year and a half in the congregation he had to resign from the ministry because of poor health. His successor was the Rev. W.J. **Baehr**, of Dexter, Iowa. In these years financial difficulties pressed hard upon the congregation. Much of the indebtedness of its original church property remained to plague the congregation; interest charges ran as high as 15%. Internal dissensions also developed and a number of families moved away. Thus when Pastor Baehr left in 1886 the congregation was so

sapped of strength that it could not support its own pastor and once more called upon the Lowden congregation to share its pastor. In the following ten years Pastor **Brammer** again restored unity in the little flock and, despite the pressing duties of his own congregation and difficulties of travel, served the congregation with a faithfulness and success which can hardly be fully appreciated.⁴⁰

Grand Mound Mission Affects Immanuel

A bit of civil history might be in order just to get a feel of the origins of the place where Immanuel Lutheran members eventually ended up after the disbanding of their country church. Grand Mound is a result of the coming of the railroad. In 1856, the Chicago, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad built laid track from Clinton to Cedar Rapids, and later the Chicago & Northwest Railroad leased that line for themselves.⁴¹ Grand Mound developed on both sides of the track. However, even before then, in 1852, Roman Catholic priests were serving their people in the Grand Mound area.⁴² Methodist Episcopal was present by 1868.⁴³ The Baptists were organized for a while, but after some time the work was discontinued. The United Presbyterians also eventually constructed a church building in Grand Mound.⁴⁴

When John R. Merrill settled in Grand Mound in 1862, there were only two houses nearby. “He was the station agent, the first Postmaster, represented the town in the Board of Supervisors and has held other offices. In 1867, he, with Claus Weise, built the store now occupied by G. R. Nowels, and put in a stock of general merchandise, and dealt also in grain, continuing in this business until 1873. In 1873, Roger Kelsey removed from De Witt, and engaged in business here, dealing in groceries, boots and shoes, grain and cattle, building up a large and lucrative business.”⁴⁵ By 1874, these business houses were listed: “J. R. Merrill, general merchandise; Roger Kelley, groceries, boots and shoes; Kahler Bros., extensive dealers in general merchandise, grain and live stock; M. Bricken, hotel and livery; Muhs & Co., saddlery; Claus Weise, agricultural implements; M. H. Merrill, grain-dealer; H. D. Miller, Postmaster and drugs and books; Jones & Jensen, general merchandise; Tuttle & Sunderlin, hardware; Sunderlin & Hansen, bakery and confectionery; G. R. Nowels, general merchandise; Miss B. E. Kelley, millinery; Utof & Hahn, carpenters and wagon-makers; G. W. Ingram, blacksmith; E. L. Barnes, Justice and harness shop; Harmon & Twiss, wagon and carriage builders; W. J. Bonesteel, physician; J. A. Carson, homoeopathic physician; Lewis Artis, Phenix House.”⁴⁶

Leading Up To Immanuel’s Amalgamation With Grand Mound

In 1946, the following information was written in the 75th Anniversary history on the Immanuel congregation. “It was while Pastor Brammer was shepherding the Immanuel congregation in these years that Lutheran families settled around Grand Mound and De Witt and required the ministry of the Gospel and the Sacraments. The Rev. H.P. [Herman P.] **Greif**, who was called as Assistant Pastor in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Davenport also for the express purpose of serving the scattered Lutheran families in Scott and Clinton Counties, broke the Bread of Life to some of the families around Grand Mound and De Witt. Beginning in 1892, the Rev. H. [Henry] **Niemand**, of Charlotte, Iowa, also began conducting services near Grand Mound.

“When it seemed wise because of circumstances, to have a resident pastor at Grand Mound Pastor Brammer suggested that the Immanuel Congregation join this field in calling its own pastor. This was done and on April 12, 1896 the parish was formed, and in the following August Candidate **C. Broecker** was ordained and installed. The enthusiastic and consecrated efforts of Pastor Broecker began to show results almost immediately. The Immanuel congregation began to grow so rapidly that a sixteen foot addition had to be added to the church in 1902. Realizing at this time that the children and young people were not attending services as faithfully as could be expected because of the German language, he therefore introduced the English language into services and confirmation instruction. Meanwhile he had also been very successful in his mission work around Grand Mound, and on the day that he left the parish to accept a call to Milwaukee, Jan. 3, 1903, he organized the Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Mound with ten voting members, one of whom, Mr. Edward Jenses, is still living in the parish.

“After three unsuccessful attempts to secure a pastor, the Rev. F.O. [Friedrich O.] **Lothringer** was called and installed in the parish on August 2, 1903 by Pastor Brammer. Pastor Lothringer continued to build up the internal and numerical strength of the Immanuel congregation and at the same time labored with visible success in Grand Mound. Up to this time services in Grand Mound had been held in private homes, schools, and the Methodist Church. Shortly after Pastor Lothringer arrived plans for a new church were adopted, and it was with great rejoicing that the Trinity congregation dedicated its house of worship to the Glory of God on December 15, 1905. The cost of this structure was \$3500.00. The official minutes of the Trinity congregation were stolen from Pastor Lothringer when he was taking them to a District Convention during which the congregation was accepted into membership in the Missouri Synod. In 1911 the Trinity congregation erected the present parsonage in Grand Mound at a cost of \$2500.00. Because of the fine development of the parish during the twelve years of Pastor Lothringer's ministry, it was with a great deal of regret that he was given a peaceful release to accept a call to LuVerne, Iowa. He preached his farewell sermon on Maundy Thursday, 1915.

“On April 7, 1915, the Immanuel and Trinity congregations joined in calling the Rev. Louis **Eschbach**, of Glidden, Iowa, and he was installed on May 30, 1915. For twenty two years, the longest any pastor has served in the parish up to this time, Pastor Eschbach labored with a zeal and effectiveness which is apparent even to this day, especially at Grand Mound. He was privileged to confirm regularly quite large groups of adults, and thus the congregation began to develop its numerical strength. During his ministry the transition from German to English was finally accomplished, and before he left the English language was used exclusively in the parish. The Golden Anniversary of the Immanuel congregation in 1921, and the Silver Anniversary of the Trinity congregation in January of 1928 were fittingly celebrated. After his many years of faithful service in the parish, Pastor Eschbach resigned his pastorate in June, 1937. He is now retired and living on a small acreage at Ames, Iowa.

“The Rev. H.F. [Herbert F.] **Glock**, formerly of McGregor, Iowa, was installed in the parish in July of 1937, and for two and a half years worked zealously and with manifest success to instill a more active interest and life within the parish. In the fall of 1939 Pastor Glock was called as Professor of Concordia College at Oakland, California, and it was with deep regret that the congregation released him to serve his Master in this larger field.

“The present pastor, the Rev. N.C. [Norman C.] **Ellermann** was installed on December 10, 1939. Due to the fine ground work laid by preceding pastors and zealous personal mission efforts of the members, the Trinity congregation began to grow quite rapidly in the early 40's. It was this rapid growth and consequent increasing demands upon the Pastor's time that moved the Trinity congregation in the fall of 1944 to petition the Immanuel congregation to consolidate the parish into one congregation. After months of consideration of the matter, the Immanuel congregation recognized the value of the suggestion, and in a meeting early in May 1945, unanimately decided to move its organization to Grand Mound where it was joined by the Trinity congregation. The last service of the Immanuel congregation in its original church was held on May 27, 1945, and the first service of the consolidated congregation was held in its new church home in Grand Mound on the following Sunday, June 3, 1945.”⁴⁷ The Buena Vista church was taken down in 1950/51 and used in remodeling the Grand Mound Church.⁴⁸

Crunching the Numbers

In an attempt to see the life of the congregation through the numbers provided to the synod on an annual basis, the IDE Archives collection of Statistical Year Books only goes back to 1890, so I had no immediate access to the statistics prior to that year. One needs to keep in mind that when it comes to statistics not all congregations are faithful in providing accurate numbers on an annual basis. Sometimes the one submitting the numbers may have resorted to giving estimates. Sometimes, no statistics were submitted at all, so the numbers of the previous years were used when putting together synod's Statistical Year Book. Regardless of the manner of submitting the numbers, this is what stands in the official records concerning Immanuel-Olive Township:

1890 – 90 souls; 60 communicants; 15 voters
 1891 – 94s; 61c; 15v; 16 students-pastor is teacher
 1892 – 89s; 59c; 15v; 16st
 1893 – 80s; 40c; 13v; 16st
 1894 – 91s; 41c; 14v; 16st
 1895 – 93s; 52c; 14v; 14st
 1896 – 100s; 61c; 17v; 07st
 1897 – 128s; 69c; 22v; 08st
 1898 – 125s; 74c; 23v; 10st
 1899 – 125s; 78c; 23v; 10st
 1900 – no stats
 1901 – 156s; 81c; 29v; 12st
 1902 – 156s;p 88c; 30v; 00st [address listed for first time as Buena Vista]
 1903 – 140s; 84c; 29v; 11st
 1904 – 139s; 78c; 27v; 13st
 1905 – 118s; 120c; 26v; 10st
 1906 – 143s; 104c; 27v; 00st
 1907 – 148s; 105c; 27v; 17st
 1908 – 152s; 63c; 27v
 1909 – 145s; 77c; 30v
 1910 – 160s; 70c; 28v

1911 – 157s; 79c; 32v
 1912 – 169s; 76c; 34v
 1916 – 149s; 84c; 30v; 23ss
 1919 – 181s; 107c; 31v; 10st
 1920 – 145s; 88c; 31v; 00st; 25ss
 1925 – 151s; 93c; 29v; 41ss
 1926 – 156s; 92c; 32v; 36ss [address now shown as Calamus]
 1927 – 131s; 85c; 29v; 29ss
 1928 – 159s; 91c; 27v; 28ss
 1929 – 147s; 89c; 29v; 23ss
 1930 – 151s; 90c; 26v; 24ss
 1931 – 174s; 91c; 28v; 31ss
 1932 – 142s; 93c; 29v; 31ss
 1933 – 154s; 96c; 30v; 30ss
 1934 – 145s; 106c; 33v; 33ss
 1935 – 146s; 108c; 31v; 30ss
 1936 – 138s; 99c; 30v; 29ss
 1937 – 138s; 103c; 31v; 29ss
 1938 – 126s; 93c; 36v; 23ss
 1939 – 120s; 93c; 18v; 32ss
 1940 – 123s; 92c; 33v; 13ss
 1941 – 118s; 90c; 23v; 21ss
 1942 – 126s; 89c; 32v; 00ss
 1943 – 281s; 180c; 29v; 73ss [??-maybe dual-parish figures]
 1944 – 139s; 99c; 29v; 19ss
 1945 – [not listed because congregation disbanded]

LCMS Pastors Who Served Immanuel-Olive Township⁴⁹

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1866-1871 | Seuel, Klaus (resident of Lyon) |
| 1871-1873 | Engelbrecht, Herman (resident of Lowden) |
| 08 Nov 1873-1875 | Brammer, Juergen Henry (resident of Lowden) |
| Jul 1875-1877 | Mallon, Wilhelm W. (2 cong & 5 preaching stations) |
| Jan 1878- | Mennicke, C.A. (serving vacancy) |
| 11 Aug 1878- 07 May 1882 | Bretcher, Carl August (went to Hanover Twp, Crawford Co.) |
| 18 May 1882-1884 | Alexander, A. (resigned due to poor health) |
| 1885-1886 | Baehr, W.H. (resident of Dexter) |
| 1886-1892 | Brammer, J.H. (resident of Lowden) |
| 1892- | Grief, A.D. (vacancy, residing in Davenport) |
| 1892- | Niemand, Henry (vacancy, residing in Charlotte) |
| Aug 1896-1903 | Broecker, C.L. (went to Wisconsin) |
| 02 Aug 1903-1915 | Lothringer, Friederich O. (went to LuVerne, Iowa) |
| 30 May 1915-Jun 1937 | Eschbach, Louis (resident of Grand Mound; resigned) |
| 1937-1939 | Glock, Herbert F. (resident of Grand Mound; went to California) |
| 10 Dec 1939-1945 | Ellerman, Norman C. (resident of Grand Mound) |

Gleaning from First Decade of Immanuel's Church Minutes

1870: Edmund Lutz was elected as recording secretary and instructed to obtain a book to records the minutes of voters' meetings. Mr. H. Lüthje acknowledged obtaining the wood to be used for the church and the school over the winter months at a cost of \$12.50.

1871: Chairman for a Voters' Meeting elected at the opening of each meeting. On Good Friday, a lay-reader service to take place in the school house. An annual sum of \$1.00 to be paid for rent of the cemetery. Income up to 17 September--\$88.50 salary; \$10.07 offering. Expenses--\$74.50 pastor's salary; \$13.50 wood; \$4.25 miscellaneous.

1872: Mr. Hans Greve to construct a church for \$175. Purchase of lumber amounts to \$340.

1873: Dedication of the church to take place in March (Laetare Sunday) with Pastors Mennicke and Seuel invited. Motion to put up an enclosure for horses on the church yard measuring 80' long, 10' wide and 6' high. Cemetery regulations adopted.

1875: Motion to build a parsonage and school house with Fried. Mueller, Heinrich Luethje and Claus Kuehl as the committee to locate a carpenter. Carpenter Hans Graef charging \$530 to build the school and parsonage. Emlie to be the mason. A parsonage, set upon a masonry basement, and a school building to be located on one-half acre south of the church building which is to be purchased by the church elders. Approved for treasurer Heinrich Luethje to obtain a building loan of \$300 at 10% interest. Members to come up with \$600 in subscriptions to meet a goal of \$1,000. No levy on children of church members, but non-members to pay 50 cents per child toward school fund. Received for pastor's salary--\$108. Paid pastor \$119 for salary.

1876: Begin paying the pastor's salary on a monthly basis. Church Council to also serve as a Board of Directors for the school. Making use of Pastor Stephan's architectural plan for the stone construction.

1877: Trustees given approval to take out a building loan at 15% interest. Mr. Wandel has issues with Pastor Mallon in the middle of the year. Lowden contacted in October to see if Pastor Brammer would preach at Immanuel every fourth week. Claus Kühl to serve as lay-reader at the afternoon service on 21 October. Directed to Davenport to find vacancy pastor.

1878: Pastor Menike received monthly stipend. Voted to put up a well by the parsonage. Well to be dug by Fritz Mueller, Jr., Christ Kuehl and Phil. Koenig at a cost of \$24.

1879: Paint the parsonage. Build a barn for the pastor 10' wide x 16' long x 10' high with the lumber coming from Davenport. Discussed on 06 April to join the Missouri Synod and voted to join on 02 June. Agreed to once again conduct a free school (*Freischule*).

Pictures of Church Site in 2012

I made a trip to Olive Township to see for myself what evidence still remained of Immanuel Lutheran's existence. From Calamus, I drove about a mile and a half east on U.S. Highway 30, took a right turn and drove south on paved road Y52. Shortly after passing the Norwegian Lutheran Church on the left side of the highway, the pavement turns east. At that turn, I got off the pavement and continued south on a gravel road. In the distance, on the left side of the road, one can see some trees on the left side of the road where Immanuel Lutheran once stood. All that remains is the open ground on the west side of their property where the church, school and parsonage once stood. The east end of the property is occupied by the church cemetery.



Approaching Site from North



Viewed from SW corner of Site



Where church, parsonage & school stood



Viewed from south end of Cemetery

Allen E. Konrad
IDE Archivist
May, 2013

End Notes

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- ¹ http://lcmaside.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/St-Paul-_Center-Grove_IA_-Lutheran-1855-1921.pdf
 - ² *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*. Containing a History of the County, its Cities, Towns, etc., Biographical Sketches of Citizens, War Record of its Volunteers in the late Rebellion, General and Local Statistics, Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men, History of the Northwest, History of Iowa, Map of Clinton County, Constitution of the United States, Miscellaneous Matters, &c., &c. Illustrated. Chicago: Western Historical Company, 1879, Page 354
 - ³ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 355
 - ⁴ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 363
 - ⁵ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 364
 - ⁶ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 366-368
 - ⁷ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 370
 - ⁸ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 632
 - ⁹ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 631
 - ¹⁰ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 632
 - ¹¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Buena_Vista
 - ¹² *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 813
 - ¹³ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 560
 - ¹⁴ <http://iagenweb.org/clinton/places/towns.htm>
 - ¹⁵ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 658
 - ¹⁶ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 632
 - ¹⁷ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 633
 - ¹⁸ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 633
 - ¹⁹ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 632
 - ²⁰ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 457
 - ²¹ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 458
 - ²² *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 469
 - ²³ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 548
 - ²⁴ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 557
 - ²⁵ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 563
 - ²⁶ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 558
 - ²⁷ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 559
 - ²⁸ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 560
 - ²⁹ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 561
 - ³⁰ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 563
 - ³¹ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 564
 - ³² *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 644
 - ³³ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 644-645
 - ³⁴ *Plat Book of Clinton County—1894*—Internet access:
<http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/cdm/compoundobject/collection/atlas/id/7816/rec/2>
 - ³⁵ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Savior%E2%80%99s_Kvindherred_Lutheran_Church_\(Calamus,_Iowa\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Our_Savior%E2%80%99s_Kvindherred_Lutheran_Church_(Calamus,_Iowa))
 - ³⁶ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 632
 - ³⁷ *Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Immanuel Lutheran Church – Grand Mound, Iowa – Sunday, June 16, 1946* – LCMS-Iowa District East Archives
 - ³⁸ *St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Clinton, Iowa 1855-1955 Historical Sketch – Published as a Memento of It's Centennial Celebrated in September, 1955*, pp. 32 – LCMS-Iowa District East Archives
 - ³⁹ *Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Immanuel Lutheran Church – Grand Mound, Iowa – Sunday, June 16, 1946* – LCMS-Iowa District East Archives
 - ⁴⁰ *Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Immanuel Lutheran Church – Grand Mound, Iowa – Sunday, June 16, 1946* – LCMS-Iowa District East Archives
 - ⁴¹ http://www.cnwhs.org/ch_cnw.htm
 - ⁴² *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 558
 - ⁴³ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 634

⁴⁴ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 644

⁴⁵ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 644

⁴⁶ *The History of Clinton County, Iowa*, page 644

⁴⁷ *Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Immanuel Lutheran Church – Grand Mound, Iowa – Sunday, June 16, 1946* – LCMS-Iowa District East Archives

⁴⁸ *St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – Clinton, Iowa 1855-1955 Historical Sketch – Published as a Memento of It's Centennial Celebrated in September, 1955*, pp. 32 – LCMS-Iowa District East Archives

⁴⁹ *1871-1996 – 125th Anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Buena Vista – Grand Mound*, LCMS-Iowa District East Archives