



## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL 1921-2021

In 1875, the German Evangelical Lutheran Emmanuel Congregation was formed in Plainview, Minnesota. The new congregation showed concern for Christian education early in its history. In 1891, a school building was built behind the first church building and was used for confirmation instruction, Bible classes, and summer Bible school.

As the congregation continued to grow, Christian education continued to be a concern. The first discussion of hiring a full-time teacher began in 1901, but nothing was done until 1919, when they started talking about a school. The church had just built a new church (our present building) which was dedicated in 1916. In 1920, the congregation voted to open a school with a full time teacher. So, on September 6th 1921, the congregation opened its school, which met in the basement of the church. There were 32 children listed on the roster for the first day of school. The first teacher was Mr. Lewis Phillips, who stayed until 1924, when he was replaced by Mr. Louis Beyerlein. In 1927, Mr. Ernest Kalb was called to replace Mr. Beyerlein who took a new position elsewhere. Mr. Kalb held this position from 1927 until 1942.

The school went through tough times during the depression years and was in danger of collapse. The Pastor and elders made pleas to the congregation for support and encouraged parents to enroll their children in the school. The encouragement was successful! In 1938, a home was purchased for the teacher, a sign of confidence that the school would endure and prosper.

After 15 years, Mr. Kalb accepted a call to Brownton, MN. Viola Friedmann then served as teacher/principal. It became apparent that due to increased enrollment, that a second teacher was needed, so in 1943, Emily Block was hired and the Rock residence was purchased for additional class room space. In 1944, the voters began plans for a new school building and fund gathering began. In the years that followed, much time and discussion was given the new school and it became very controversial within the congregation. But the building fund continued, and after 6 years, the congregation made definite plans. The new school was dedicated in 1952. The cost of the new school was approximately \$45,000.

In 1953, the Board of Christian Education organized the Parent-Teacher-League (PTL), which is still going today! Under the auspices of the PTL, a hot lunch program was started in the 1953-54 school year.

The congregation continued to grow, and so did the school. In 1956 a third teacher was added to the school staff and also Kindergarten classes were included to the school program. The first Kindergarten class was held in the church basement with 20 pupils and was taught by Mrs. Ardell (Elthea) Schultz. In 1962 a 4<sup>th</sup> teacher was added and in 1967, a fifth teacher.

With the growth of the school in the late 1950's, expansion was again called for and the congregation began plans for an addition to the school. The 1961-62 school year showed an enrollment of 90 students. It was time for more space! So on August 23, 1964, to the Glory of God, a new addition to the school was dedicated. The cost of this new addition was \$111,350. All the school classes would now be held in the new addition. The two old classrooms would be used for release time and confirmation instruction.

In 1969, the public school invited Immanuel pupils to participate in the band program and to participate in the athletic programs of the public school systems. (With the interruption of Covid, these programs have been stopped).

During the 1970's, the school remained strong with awesome attendance with over 100 students enrolled during many of the years. In 1982, Immanuel School started a Preschool program under the leadership of Mrs. Ann Mussell, who remained the pre-school teacher until her retirement in 2018. In 2019, we implemented 5 day - half day Pre-K. Our preschool program has flourished over the years and has provided Christian education to many little ones who might not otherwise have received such training.

In the late 1990's, plans were made to build a Gymnasium/auditorium to be added to the school building. A campaign called "Christ Opens Doors" was established to begin the fund. Then in May of 1999, the new Christian Life Center was dedicated. Work continued until the spring of 2000, when it was completed. The first actual basketball game was played on February 11, 2000. The Christian Life Center (CLC) has been a wonderful addition to our school, used for so many school functions from sporting events, to school musicals, to wedding and anniversary celebrations, to church services in the summertime so we could be in an air conditioned environment.

Through the years, the school has set traditions of the last day of school carnival, which is enjoyed by many throughout the community. Toward the last day of school, all the children head to Carley State Park for a fun day outside. The Lutheran school children have put on numerous musicals through the past years. The children go on "all school" fieldtrips to places such as the zoo. Our children compete in all the sports - softball, soccer, volleyball, and basketball with other parochial schools in the area.

Immanuel took a leap of faith last spring when it voted to call a 7th & 8th grade teacher to allow our Principal time for principal duties and to grow the school. We also started a very successful Adopt-A-Student Program in 2017 to help our families with ever rising tuition. We have been blessed over the last few years to put in a new heating system, new windows on the east side of the building, and to update our playground equipment.

2019 brought many challenges to Immanuel with Covid, the retirement of Principal Alvin Lutringer after 25 years and the hiring of a new principal plus 3 other teachers. Our teachers excelled at getting online learning up and running within one day of the Governors shutdown of the schools and Immanuel was open all during the 2020-2021 school year. God has truly blessed us!!

Our school continues to be strong, although enrollment has slipped over the years. The current enrollment here at Immanuel is 52 in the Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. ILS continues to provide a wonderful Christian education for our children. Along with all the required education classes, our children learn about God in all these areas of our lives. They learn daily about the love of Jesus and how special each and every one of them are to Him.

Our current staff includes Principal Rick Arguto; 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher - Jacob Mikkelson; 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher - Pam Arguto; 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher – Dawn Schroeder; 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher - Shilo Braun; Kindergarten teacher – Karmen Clark; Pre-K teacher – Lindsay Wagoner; volunteer art teacher - Amanda Meyer; PARA - Kim Augustine; volunteer librarian – Ann Mussell. Our school cook is Jill Hayes, church/school secretaries are Debbie Eggenberger & Megan Erickson, and school janitors are Nancy McNallan & Robyn Pierce. We thank God daily for all these devoted teachers and support staff that keep our school a great place to learn and grow in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Please keep Immanuel Lutheran School in your prayers. We want to be here for another 100 years teaching children about Jesus!

Be sure to keep up on what's happening at ILS through the new website [www.school.immanuelplainview.org](http://www.school.immanuelplainview.org)