

The History of Immanuel Lutheran Church

On **November 30, 1925**, the first services were conducted by Rev. Oberndorfer in the basement of the Charleston Public Library with 27 people present.

On **January 3, 1926**, the congregation, consisting of 18 communicant members, was formally organized.

In **October of 1927** Immanuel was formally accepted as a member of the LCMS.

Early in **1928** a site for a church building was purchased at 9th and Lincoln.

In **June 1929**, the cornerstone was laid and the new church was dedicated in September of that year.

By the mid **1950's**, growth of the church, community expansion, and a new highway made it necessary to consider relocating. A five acre tract of land on the corner of 9th and Cleveland was purchased. A grant from CID was instrumental in helping our dreams become a reality.

On **July 5, 1960**, groundbreaking ceremonies were held. The contractor allowed Immanuel's members to supply volunteer labor which made it possible to save money.

On **March 26, 1961**, Immanuel voted to sell the previous church to the Newman Community Center. Fortunately the parish hall of the new church was close to completion so that services could be conducted.

In **June of 1961** the construction of the parsonage began.

The church dedication service was held **September 24, 1961**.

In the **1970's** a Braille Workshop was initiated and printed and shipped over 50,000 books in many languages to over 120 countries. At that time, a preschool program was also begun at Immanuel for ages 3 and 4 year olds. Immanuel's programs continued to grow and in 1985 the former parsonage was converted for use as an Education Annex.

On **October 26, 1986**, a mortgage burning ceremony was held.

In **1997**, the growth of Immanuel caused us to embark on revitalizing and expanding our facilities in order to better serve our congregation and this community. During Phase I we were able to expand the preschool to include more classrooms and update the Education Annex into a Student Center for college students.

In **2018** we began a care and compassion ministry by welcoming Rachel, our LCC K9 Comfort Dog, who along with her handlers and team serves a wide range of needs.

Throughout our history, Immanuel has been blessed to share God's grace, mercy and love with those we serve.