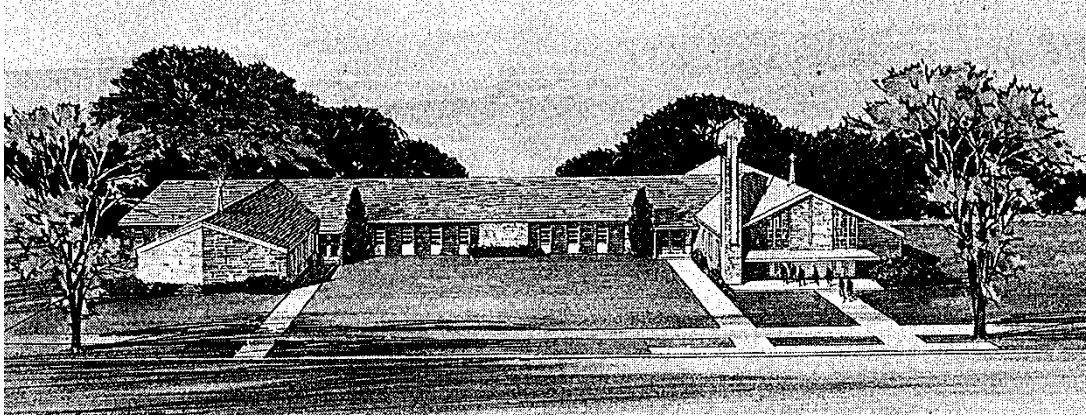


North American Baptist Heritage Commission

Church Histories

**Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, Illinois**

Ten people! That is the number of people who banded together in 1864 for the purpose of starting what is now the Immanuel Baptist church! On March 12th of that year those ten people organized the church and pledged the amount of \$320 to purchase a chapel which was owned by the Episcopal church. The name they chose: The First German Baptist Church of Kankakee.

Remember, back then in 1864 those were War Days, and yet in spite of that, the church developed with a steady and healthy growth, so that by 1889 the members were able to build a new church at a cost of \$6,000. By 1904 the church was able to build a parsonage.

Various changes took place within the congregation. In 1916 the church voted to change from the traditional single communion chalice to individual cups, not an easy transition for some. And up until 1918 the German language had been used in whole or in part in the carrying on of the Lord's work, but later the language was changed to English only. Also on January 1, 1918 the church name was changed to *Immanuel Baptist Church*.

By 1923 the members undertook an extensive remodeling project of the church building and this remodeling was carried out well and in a spirit of harmony. By May 1960 church growth made a new building abundantly necessary and this was accomplished. In addition the church reached out with zeal for outreach in support of missionaries.

Now we can look back on 150 years of church life for the Immanuel Baptist Church and give praise to the Lord Who has guided the members through the years and has blessed the church, for His glory.

Adapted from *Heritage Horizons*, Vol 21, No 2, Fall, 2014

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1864

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50th Anniversary program 1864-1914 (German)

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News articles at time of centennial

