



# A Tour of Immanuel Lutheran Church Building

605 South Walnut St.

Seymour, Indiana

**A TOUR OF**  
**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH BUILDING**

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**INTRODUCTION**

*In January 1963, Immanuel dedicated the current church building. It is the third sanctuary that has served as the gathering place for worship since the founding of the congregation in 1870. As with all church buildings, there are items of significance and symbolism that are intended to enhance the worship life of those who gather. This booklet was originally written to serve as a guidebook for tours, to describe and explain these for the edification of the reader and visitor.*

**BELL TOWER & GARDEN**

This strong symbol is free-standing tower of steel construction and stone veneer with four anodized aluminum louvers. Each louver contains a speaker for the carollonic bell system. The tower stands 56' high. An 8' cross has been placed atop the tower. Overall height is 64'. A fountain in the shape of a Baptismal Shell reminds worshippers they enter the church having been cleansed with the Living Water, Christ.

**SYMBOL PANEL**

The panel is 14' x 10' and made of steel shiny monel and copper and placed in the front and to the north entrance to the church. The panel was designed and constructed by Clark Fitzgerald of Castine, Maine.

Using the name of the church, Immanuel, as the springboard for his ideas, Fitzgerald turned to the Book of Isaiah and used the Scripture references, primarily ones foretelling the coming of Jesus.

Predominating the panel is a figure of the Christ Child, with outstretched arms, inviting all, "Come Unto Me." Below this figure is the symbol of a plant with roots depicting the words of Isaiah, "There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." (Isaiah 11:1) Above the plant are the words, "For Unto Us A Child Is Born."

Above the figure of the Christ Child is a scale and crown. The scale refers to God's justice and judgment and to Christ as the Judge.

Weighed in the scale are two figures, black and white, meaning that in God's sight all men are equal. The crown refers to Jesus as the Prince, the King. On the extreme right are the words "Prince of Peace" and "Sing O Heavens" (Isaiah 49:13). A symbol of wheat and grapes on either side of the Christ Child represents bread and wine, the earthly elements in Holy Communion.

The word "Counselor" is in the top center of the panel. In the center are the words "God With Us." This is the translation of the word "Immanuel." To the upper left of the panel six brass wings stand out prominently. This symbol is taken from Isaiah 5:2, the vision of Isaiah, in which he saw the seraphim (angels) each one having 6 wings. In the lower left of the panel can be seen a symbol of a pair of tongs with a glowing coal in its grip (Isaiah 6:6-8) where Isaiah saw a "seraphim with a live coal in his hand which he had taken from the altar."

Surrounding this symbol are the words "Here Am I, Send Me." This is what Isaiah answered to the Lord when, in this same vision, God said, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Another symbol is that of water depicting the Water of Life (Isaiah 55:1).

In the upper left are the words, "Come, now let us reason together (Isaiah 1:18). At the far right hand lower corner is a symbol of a cornerstone, below which are the numbers 1962. This is symbolic of Christ Jesus, the Church's true cornerstone. The symbol of a rose represents Christ, "The Rose of Sharon." The triangles in the panel represent the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The hexagonal sections represent the Star of David, the six days of creation.

### **CHURCH**

The church building is of contemporary architectural design. The building is 180' long, 60' wide and rises 44' from street level to gable.; 40' from the nave floor to gable. The exterior is of split faced Bedford limestone and painted cypress wood trim. The roof is of slate 3/16" to 1/4" thick. The covered canopy from the narthex to the north entrance of the over-flow is 8' high and 8' wide. The outside doors are 3/4" polished plate glass. All cut glass windows were taken from the old church. The glass in windows along side the Nave is Kokomo colored glass. All trim work on the steps and walls is granite.

### **NARTHEX** *(The lobby leading to the Nave of the Church.)*

The Narthex is 32' deep and 60' wide. A cloakroom in the southwest corner of the Narthex contains a restroom. Two offering boxes have been placed in the Narthex with a bronze door bearing the building campaign theme "Lord, What Wilt Thou Have Me Do?" Offering boxes are also in the Chapel area. Those are made of oak to resemble the wood structure in the church. The marble corner stone placed in the wall on the north side of the cloakroom was taken from the first church building for Immanuel Congregation which was erected in 1870. It bears the German inscription "*Deutsche Evangelical Lutheran Kirche A.D. 1870* (German Evangelical Lutheran Church, AD 1870).

A canopy and parking were added to the south side in the 1980s.

### **BASEMENT UNDER NARTHEX**

This part contains the Choir Room 19' x 36' with storage for robes and music. Adjacent to the Choir Room is a Ladies' Lounge 10' x 16'. These two rooms have asphalt floors. Ladies' and Men's' Rest Rooms, cloakroom and hallway have terrazzo floors. The blower for the organ is in a utility room adjacent to the Men's Rest Room.

### **BALCONY AND ORGAN**

Ascending the spiral stairway from the basement to the balcony (directly above the Narthex) is the chamber of the organ. The balcony is 32' deep and 48' wide. The organ is erected freestanding in the rear of the balcony and occupies a floor space 24' wide and 12' deep and rises 25' above the balcony floor to the gable. The organ designed by Paul Bunjes of Concordia Teachers' College, River Forest, Illinois, in consultation with the builder, Casavant Organ Co. of Quebec, Canada is designed in classic style with low wind pressure. The organ has a bright, clear tone associated with the great organs of past centuries.

A total of 2270 individual pipes of various sizes and composition make up the organ tonal resources of 43 ranks. A rank of pipe consists of a set of pipes alike in shape and appearance but each pipe differing in scale so that all the notes on the keyboard will sound different pitches. Most of the pipes are displayed without case in compliment to the circular window in the wall behind them. The organ is in four divisions: The Ober-work enclosed in a case at the top of the organ; the Great immediately below it; the Chor forming a frame for the circular window; the Pedal, forming the left side of the organ and the back.

The console, or keyboard of the organ, is a choirmaster model, set to face the choir. It consists of three keyboards and pedal to play each of the divisions above. All of the woodwork on the console and organ case are of oak stained to match the woodwork of the church. The carollonic control box and player unit has been placed to the left of the organ. This unit consists of 25 English bells and 25 harp bells, plus facilities for the automatic playing of recorded rolls. (These rolls are similar to a player piano roll.) A time clock can be set to play at various times and can be heard inside or outside or both. *Additional ranks, a zimbelstern, and a new console and carillon were added later to the organ.*

**NAVE:** *(the part of the church where worshippers are seated)*

The word "nave" is derived from the same Latin word that underlies such words as "navy," and means "ship." The church is called a nave or ship because, as with Noah, his family, and the animals, it is God's chosen vessel of grace designed to bring comfort, life, and salvation from the turmoil of life and sin, and to bring rescue from the wrath due for our sin by bringing us to faith, and ultimately to the shores of eternal life.

The Nave is 57' wide and 115' long. The Nave is finished in exposed laminated wood timbers and stained 4" decking. The wood timbers are placed 16' apart. Suspended from the ceiling are 16 chandeliers, each containing four white cylindrical lights and one brass cylindrical fixture. The light fixtures were manufactured in West Germany. The lighting in the Nave has been placed on a rheostat to brighten or dim the lights as desired. The 80 pews are 20' long and will seat 1008. The pews are made of Appalachian red oak and manufactured by the Ossit Church Furniture Co. of Janesville, Wisconsin. The floor of the Nave is terrazzo.

**CHANCEL** *(The part of the church containing the Altar and Pulpit.)*

The overall dimensions of the Chancel are 32' deep and 57' wide. The floor of the Chancel is flagstone of random design. The primary symbol of the Altar is that of "Great Stone Table." This form is, at one and the same time, a symbol of The Old Testament Altar of Sacrament. The Altar is of buff Bedford limestone and weighs approximately 10 tons. The two rough stone supports symbolize the two Testaments. The old is alluded to as the rock of Aaron which spews forth water of life symbolized with the waving lines projected across the front to the Mensa or table top. The rock is marked with the symbol for Christ, the Chi Rho.

Incised on the face of the Mensa is the Greek word, "NIKA" meaning "victor" in the language of The New Testament. The reference here is to the victor over sin and death who fulfills the Law of The Old Testament for us who were condemned by it. For as water in the desert saved God's

children of The Old Testament, so the victor of the cross washes us clean in the new. The waves continue around the corner of the Mensa and spill into a chalice, for we are nourished by the blood of the Lamb in the blessed Sacrament of the Altar, just as the children of Israel were refreshed by the water in the desert. Resting on The New Testament rock are two Eucharist lights further emphasizing the Sacramental nature of Christ's work, i.e., the grace that God gives to us as recorded in The New Testament.

Above the Altar is a figure of the redeeming Christ, the Crucified Savior. It is, however, the victory of the cross that redeems, and in this figurative symbol, the unspeakable act of atonement is projected, but with a glimpse of conquest. Christ is nailed to the tree but not overcome by it. His body assumes the form of the cross just as He, in divine intention, allowed Himself to be satisfaction for the sins of many. His head is bowed, not in anguish, but in compassion for the sons of men. His face shows no torment, but the intent of love. His right hand forms the sign of blessing around an accursed nail. The crucifix directly behind the altar was made by Ernest Schwidder of Elgin, Illinois.

There are seven candles lighted for all services. The number seven is significant, symbolizing the presence of God, the seven days of creation, the seven last words of Christ and seven gifts of the Spirit. The two candles to the right of the Altar are lighted for communion services to indicate the presence of Christ's body and blood.

#### **BAPTISMAL FONT**

The Baptismal Font is also of buff Bedford limestone. The font has a built-in drain that allows baptismal water to soak back into the soil. The living rock of the font is in itself symbolic of the chief cornerstone. Hewn into the stone is a dove, the symbol of the Holy Spirit who works through the blessed Sacrament. At the baptism of Christ, the Holy Spirit descended in the form of the dove. The three candles signify the Triune Name into which we are baptized. These candles are lit for a baptism.

#### **PULPIT**

The pulpit was manufactured by Architectural Bronz Co., St. Louis, Missouri. The main symbol of the pulpit is in its structural elements. The supporting bars are shaped in the form of the cross which, at the base, form the traditional symbol of the four Evangelists. The reference here is to the written word and the preaching ministry of the church. This emphasis is echoed by the pulpit hangings which are in the form of the stole, the most ancient symbol of Christian teachers.

#### **SACRISTY**

The Pastors' sacristy, working sacristy and vestibule are off the south side of the Chancel. The working sacristy is used for communion supplies and paraments. A wine disposal cabinet has been built in the west wall to dispose of unused communion wine that has been blessed. The wine goes down a drainpipe and soaks directly into the soil.

#### **OVERFLOW - CHAPEL**

The size of the overflow wing is 65' x 23.' The overflow is separated from the Chancel and Nave with folding wood doors. A small Altar on the east end is of buff Bedford limestone. The figures on

each side of the Altar were taken from the altar in the old church and placed on limestone pedestals. The overflow seats about 100.

### **OFFICES**

The Church Offices are directly north of the Chapel. In 1996, the office area was expanded to provide space for additional staff.

### **ABOVE CHAPEL**

The class room area on the second floor is used for Sunday School and for Quilting.

### **SOCIAL ROOM**

A multi-purpose room 34' x 63' will dine 200 or seat 300. It is also used for Sunday School openings and a variety of functions.

Also on this level are rest-rooms, utility storage, and access to the elevator and new rooms added in 1995.

### **LATER ADDITIONS TO THE CHURCH**

In the late 1980s, an entrance protected by a canopy was added to the south side of the narthex, together with a driveway for dropping off and picking up passengers. In the 1990s, the houses south of the church were purchased and moved and a parking lot built.

In 1995, the church was air-conditioned and the boiler heating system replaced with an HVAC system.

In 1996, a fully-accessible addition to the north of the sanctuary was dedicated, which included offices, Fellowship Hall with modern kitchen, meeting rooms, Sunday School rooms, youth room, nursery, and connecting hallway, atrium, and an elevator to assist with access.

In 2006, the sacristy entrance was made wheel-chair accessible with a power operated door to assist the elderly.

In 2012, the windows and doors of the narthex were replaced with energy-efficient glass and a stained glass window, "The Welcoming Christ," was donated, facing the west entrance.

### **ATRIUM**

The historic stained glass windows from the 1890 church that depict the life of Jesus were moved from the rear of the Chapel to a more visible and secure area in the atrium. A rose window from the original church building was also added to the atrium to link together the three sanctuaries that have served the congregation over the years.

This area also provides handicap-accessible restrooms as well as an elevator and stairs that reach the second floor and basement levels. The second floor includes classrooms, meeting rooms, and a Heritage Room which displays historically significant pictures and memorabilia. The basement includes classrooms and a nursery.

### **THINGS YOU PROBABLY DID NOT KNOW UNTIL NOW**

There are approximately 1 1/4 miles of piling driven in the ground under the foundation of the church.

Four miles of electrical wiring were used in the church.

Two tons of nails were used on the church roof and decking.

The decking is 4" thick and 6" wide and 16' long. If the decking were laid end to end, it would cover a distance of 8 miles.