

## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH 300 E. North Line Road

On November 26, 1863 the First Christian Church was organized with eighteen members. They met in the Court House and the grade school until the first building was built in 1865 at the corner of Court and Houghton Streets. The first minister was David Walk. From printed records in 1895, the current building at Court and Houghton Streets was erected in 1892 at a cost of \$12,000. On November 7, 1964 the Jim McCumber and Brinda Ruby wedding was the last wedding in this church.

The dedication of the present building on North Line Road was held January 17, 1965. Participants on the building committee were Lee Allison, Garland Strohl, Max Summerlot, Fonzie Reed, Orville Fry, and Harley Teel. The church has not only progressed in building, but in evangelism at home and on the mission field. The church supports several missions in the United States and around the world. Approximately 420 members carry out the mission of *Saving the Lost and Strengthening the Saved*.

Ground was broken in the spring of 2006 for building on the new property recently purchased on Egyptian Trail and Church Street. Present elders: Clayton Harriss, Todd Bickers, Gary Foltz, Mike Otto, Allen Reeder and Mark Smith.



**1892-1964**



**1965-Present**



### Church Staff

Sr. Minister, Scott Zorn, Worship Minister, Benji Mauer, Youth Minister, Phil Davis, Associate Minister, Dawn Davidson.



### 2006-FUTURE SITE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH EGYPTIAN TRAIL AND CHURCH

## **FORTY MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

### **201 E. Van Allen Street**

#### *Legend of the Forty Martyrs of Sebaste*

The Forty Martyrs were soldiers in the Roman army stationed in Lesser Armenia at Sebaste, modern Sivas, Turkey. Legend recalls that when the soldiers were ordered to worship idols, these forty refused to comply. After threats and beatings failed to shake their faith, they were stripped naked and herded into the middle of a frozen lake. A fire was built with a warm bath to tempt them to deny their faith.

*Thirty-nine stood firm, but one broke and ran to the shore and the warm bath. He died immediately upon entering the warm water. One of the soldiers standing guard had visions of angels ministering to the remaining thirty-nine, so he stripped off his clothes and ran to join them. They welcomed him and so the number of martyrs remained at forty. By morning all were dead of exposure.*

#### **HISTORY OF FORTY MARTYRS PARISH**

1865 Fr. Thomas Mangan came from Paris, IL to minister to 5 families. Fr. Michael Quinlian succeeded him. 1875 Fr. J. B. Diepenbrock came from Arcola and offered Mass in homes. 1880 the first church was built. 1901 Fr. Thomas Moore from Hume came for Mass every other Sunday. 1906 Fr. William Quattman lived at the Tuscola hotel. He then built a rectory and also constructed a church in Villa Grove to be a mission of Tuscola. 1908 A new rectory was built in Tuscola. 1917 Fr. August Hohl came to Tuscola. Now about 30 families.

1926 the present church was built at a cost of \$40,000. The parish had grown to about 200.

1927 Fr. J. P. Jordan; 1936 Fr. James Casey; 1949 Rectory destroyed by fire and rebuilt;

1962 the school was built; 1966 Fr. Vincent Heraty; 1978 Fr. John Moore; 1986 Fr. Martin Mangan; 1991 Fr. Joe Ring; 1995 Fr. Michael Mullink and Sr. Phyllis Schenk; 1998 Fr. Samuel Weber; 1999 Fr. Allen Kemme; 2000 Rectory purchased north of school; 2005 Capital Fund Drive for new roof on Parish Hall.



## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

### 600 E. Northline Road



First Immanuel Lutheran Church



Rev. Martin Freche



Altar – circa 1960



Altar - Present



Immanuel Lutheran Church Parsonage

**July 18, 1897** – “The German Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation” of Tuscola, Douglas County, Illinois, was organized. Rev. Peter Clausen was the first resident minister (1897-1900).

**1898** – First church was built and dedicated. Its location was on East Pembroke Street.

**1900-1919** – Congregation was served by ministers from Broadlands and St. Paul’s, Macedonia.

**1919** – Rev. Carl Nolting (1919-1922) was installed as second resident minister. During his tenure, the first parsonage was purchased. Ladies Aid, Choir, and Young People’s Society were organized.

**1921** – Tuscola church was incorporated under the name of “Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Congregation.”

**July 9, 1922** – Rev. Peter C. Krey (1922-1923) was installed as Pastor.

**1923** – Rev. H. Hagist (1923-1925) was installed as Pastor.

**January 9, 1926** – Rev. Martin Freche (1926-1961) was installed as Pastor.

**1928** – St. Paul’s, Macedonia merged with Immanuel, Tuscola.

**1931** – Tuscola church enlarged and remodeled using lumber from the dismantled Macedonia church. Parsonage also repaired and remodeled.

**December 1961** – Rev. Darrel Hoerle (1961-1968) was installed as Pastor.

**1962** - New parsonage was built next to old parsonage.

**1965** – Immanuel’s second church building was erected on a five-acre tract of land on Northline Road.

**August 24, 1969** – Rev. M. D. Hilgendorf (1969-1977) was installed as Pastor.

**1970** – New parsonage was built on tract of land with the new church, on Northline Road.

**1977** – Rev. Frederick Greninger (1977-1984) was installed as Pastor.

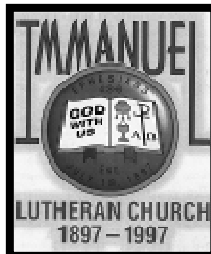
**1985** – Rev. Douglas Meyer (1985-1990) was installed as Pastor.

**August 1990** – Rev Virgil Kelm (1990-1995) was installed as Pastor.

**January 1996** – Rev Brian Hagler (1996-1998) was installed as Pastor.

**July 18, 1997** – Immanuel celebrates 100 years of God’s blessings.

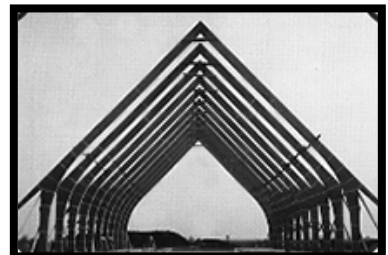
**May 23, 1999** – Rev. Michael Ruhlig (1999-present) was installed as Pastor.



Rev. Peter Clausen



Ground Breaking - 1965



Construction



Immanuel Lutheran Church - Present



Pastor Michael Ruhlig and Wife Tammy

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
202 S. MAIN STREET**

It was on May 8, 1858, that the Christian Pioneer, H. J. Venable and 16 laymen met together to organize the Tuscola Presbyterian Church. Samuel Daggy, whose name is attached to the street was elected Clerk of Session, a post he held for 15 years. In 1861, the Reverend Geo. D. Miller was called to be the first pastor. During this period, the first church building, a little frame structure, was erected for \$2,000 at the southwest corner of Main and Wilson Street. On November 30, 1902, a very attractive stone building was dedicated.

**CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION – 1958**

The record of the church showed that many important achievements had been experienced in the one hundred years and many serious difficulties, too. There were lean years and more prosperous years, years of depression and years when all expenses were met and major improvements made.

**CLOSING**

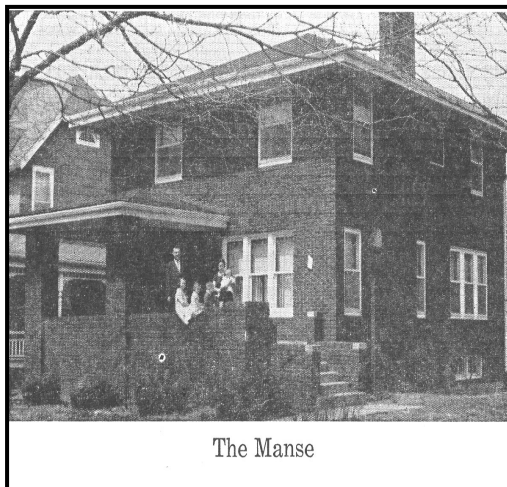
The last services were held in January, 1997. The building was sold at auction. The church worshipped and served Jesus Christ to the Glory of God.

**ROLL OF MINISTERS**

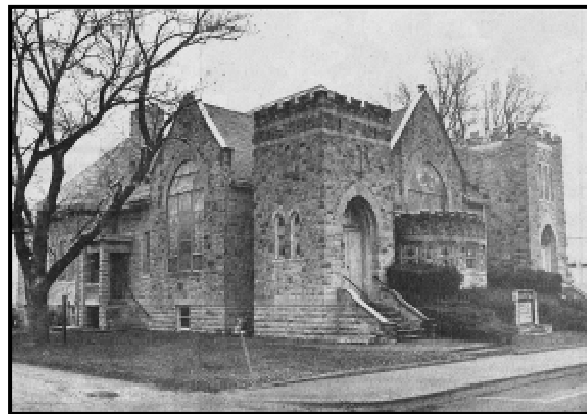
George D. Miller  
Edwin Black  
W. H. Presley  
A. W. Ringland  
O. M. Todd  
C. E. Jones  
E. P. Rankin  
E. L. Hurd  
O. H. Carmichael  
H. A. Thompson

R. B. Fisher  
Edwin Lord  
A. S. Keys  
George F. Bauer  
Harace Batchelor  
Thomas E. Williams  
Benjamin C. Kelly  
Glen Garber  
E. L. Steffey  
R. H. Barstead

R. B. McShane  
Albert G. Parker  
Robert G. Sterrett  
Wallace Wadland  
Warren Furnish  
William Bodmor  
Steve Ross  
William Bodmor



The Manse



**The First Presbyterian Church**