



All Saints
Cemetery Walk

A Quasquicentennial Event of
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Danville, IL

May 30, 2021

We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him. 1 Thessalonians 4:14

Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:4



Area #1 Red

1. **Wilhelm Engle (1877-1901)** died at age 24 and was one of young Pastor Berthold's first funerals in the Lutheran Cemetery. The attached newspaper article tells of tragic circumstances involving this burial.
2. **William Zeiter (1833-1917)** was the first teacher in our school and first secretary of Immanuel and the father of the man who operated Zeiter's grocery store of Griffin and Fairchild (now Dale's Tavern).
3. **Carl Wendt (1846 -1912) and John Freese (1846 -1912)** were lifelong friends born in Germany and came to this country on the same ship. Both lived on Plum St and worked at the C&EI shops. They were both killed by a switch engine and were given a double funeral by Pastor Berthold in both German and English. John Freese is the great grandfather of Sam Van Camp.
4. **John Bahls (1845-1912)** was the first chairman of Immanuel's Voter's assembly, then an all-male voting body of the congregation. Old minutes indicate that the next assembly meeting was chaired by a different person.

Note: row 17 is all babies one of which is Pastor Berthold's son Gerhard (1912-1913).

Area #2 Blue

1. **John Koehn (1864-1958)** (b: Germany), a charter member of Immanuel, was known to drive a buggy pulled by a white horse. People knew it was John from a distance because of his horse.
2. **Fred Wahlfeldt (1861-1956)** (b: Germany) was another charter member. The charter members selected for marking today lived at the time Immanuel celebrated the 50th anniversary of the congregation. Daughters: Minnie & Mildred.
3. **Harvey Shields (1925-1944)** was the only member of Trinity killed in WWII in Normandy, France.
4. **William Timm (1865-1948)** was the 18th of the 142 men to sign the first roll of the congregation on March 9, 1896.
5. **Pvt. George Huckstadt (1916-1944)** George died at the young age of 27 and was the only member of Immanuel killed in WWII. He is the uncle of Wayne Mann. His sisters were Caroline Mann and Marian Freese, longtime secretary of our school. Immanuel's funeral pall is a memorial to Marian.
6. **Agnes Nicklas (1905-1979)** is remembered by many of our present members and was a teacher in our school. Agnes had three children, Elmer, Eleanor, and Arthur.

Area #3 Green

1. **Arthur Seils (1891-1985)** is remembered by some current members who attended Immanuel School while he was a teacher. Immanuel School was then located at the corner of Griffin & Fairchild. He had once son, Waldemar.
2. **Louis Seidler (1901-1979)** had a unique role in the building of our present church. The old church and school bells, the two lower bells in the bell tower, had to be tuned to harmonize with our new dedication bell, the top bell. Louis took the bells to Cincinnati, Ohio for that purpose. He had two sons, John and William (Bill) Seidler.
3. **Pastor Delmar Krueger** served as Immanuel's pastor from 1971 to 1993. This Lutheran cemetery will be his resting place when God calls him home.
4. **Roy Seibert (1910-1992)** served the congregation faithfully over his years as elder and treasurer. He was treasurer of the Building Committee for our present church. Father to Roger & Dianne.

Area #4 Orange

1. **Pastor Ernest Berthold (1873-1956)** was the first pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church and spent his entire ministerial career with our congregation. He was tragically killed by a car while crossing Fairchild Street. The accident occurred on May 30, 1956, exactly 65 years ago today.
2. **Pastor Carl Hellman** was not a Pastor of Immanuel. He and his wife came to Danville after his retirement from a parish in Arlington, Nebraska, to be nearer to his daughter, Helen Schendel. He is remembered as a devout and gentle person. He visited shut-ins and preached on occasion for Immanuel and assisted at Immanuel in Loda, Illinois.
3. **Rev. Albert Bernthal (1888-1968)** served Trinity congregation from 1930 to 1953.
4. **Chaplain Gerhard Leverenz (1914-1970)** served as Chaplain at the V.A. Hospital and assisted Pastor Dorow during his ministry prior to 1970. He was tragically killed in 1970 by a patient of the hospital. His widow, Betty, is Mrs. Ray (Preach) Eissfeldt.
5. **Lowell Hendrickson (1919-2000)**, a member of Trinity who was also a POW. Lowell was a member of the Air Force and shot down over Germany.
6. **Roy Huckstadt (1920-1998)** ex POW, was held 8 months in German prison camp from November 1944 to June 1945. He was tragically killed in his home in 1998.
7. **Zora Drews (1907-1994)** was Immanuel's first Kindergarten teacher, first teaching in her home until the Education Center was complete. She taught into the 1970's and her teaching career lasted 28 years. A scholarship for Immanuel Lutheran School was established in her honor.

Area #5 Yellow

1. **Howard Koehn (1905-1976)** served Immanuel as President of the parish, an elder, and chairman of the building committee for our present church. His influence in the congregation is still respected.
2. **Dorothy Grabenstein (1917-1979)** served Immanuel as organist in the late 60's and early 70's while we worshipped in the gymnasium. The notes on her tombstone are the "Hallelujah" from the "Hallelujah" chorus of Handel's "Messiah."
3. **William (Bill) Schendel (1938-1976)** died of cancer at age 38. He was a faithful and gregarious member of the congregation and was the builder of our present church. His wife was Helen Schendel and their children are Scott, Steve, Janis, and Jeff.
4. **Arthur Schendel (1911-1964)**, a building contractor and active member of Immanuel, was the builder of our present school building on Bowman Avenue. He is the father of Bill Schendel.

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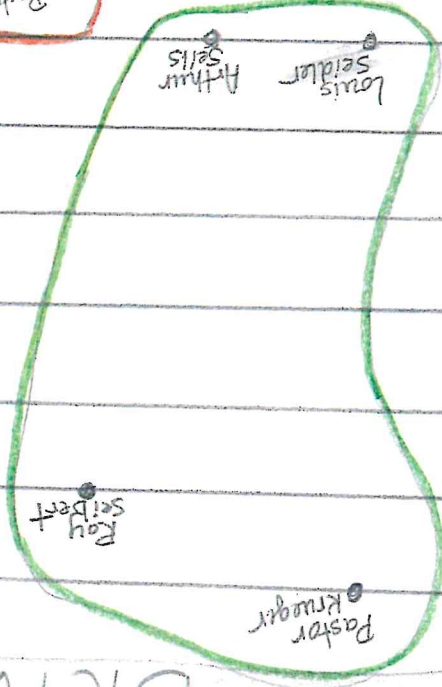
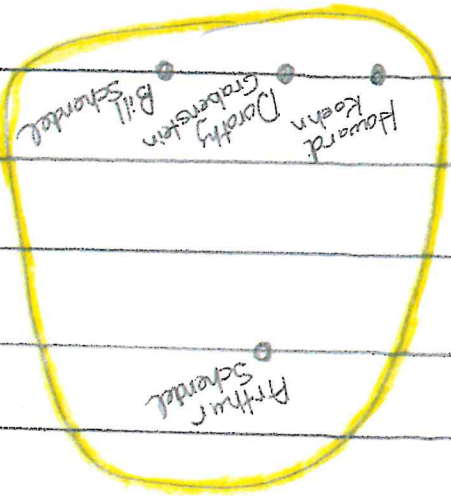
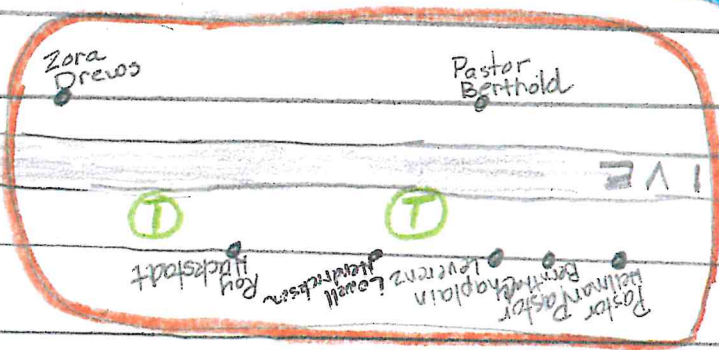
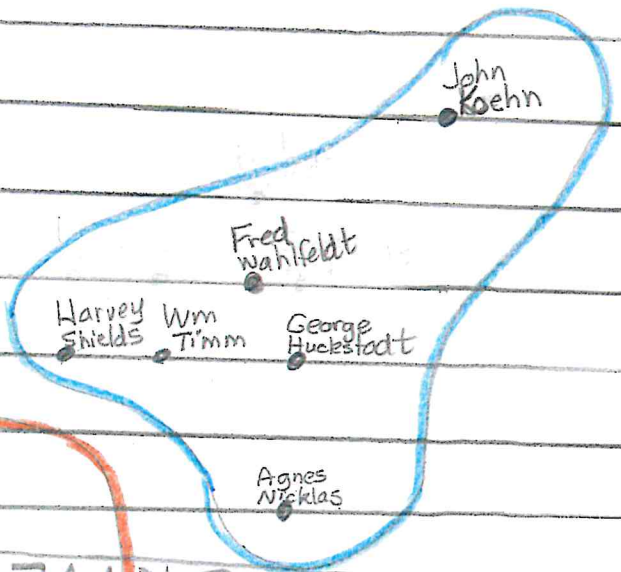
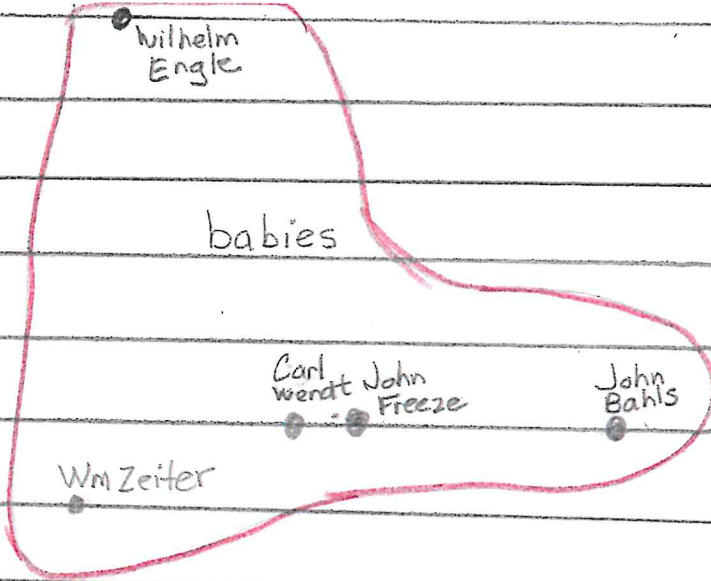
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The Lutheran Cemetery
Texas Avenue
Danville, IL

Its Purpose

Dating from the rise and growth of Lutheranism in Danville during the second half of the nineteenth century The Lutheran Cemetery originated and has been maintained out of a desire to provide a common burial place for the loved ones of our common Lutheran faith. The cemetery, those who administered it, and those whom it has served have testified of a strong and mutual faith in Jesus Christ, the Resurrection and the Life.

A short history of our Lutheran Cemetery . . .

- In 1872, 5 acres of land was purchased by Trinity Lutheran Church for \$625.00.
- In November 1872, 2 acres (hillside) were sold back to the original seller for \$125.00.
- On October 11, 1937, 3 more acres were purchased from William and Edna Syrcle.
- In 1945, paperwork was filed stating that the cemetery is now jointly owned by Trinity and Immanuel congregations.
- In the year 2000, Gene Bahls (Carol Johnston's brother) donated the concrete pad.
- In April of 2002, the west parcel was purchased for 14,000.00 from the estate of Margery Miller. It is 3.25 acres.
- The shelter was erected in 2012 by Tom Burmeister in memory of his parents, Jack and Katharine Burmeister.
- The oldest stones date back to the 1870's and are in German and German script.
- Both Immanuel and Trinity Lutheran contribute to the upkeep of the cemetery.
- The graves in the east section of the cemetery were all members of Trinity. To our knowledge, none of Immanuel's members were buried in that section.
- Many of you may remember the large butternut tree in the center of the cemetery, rare in the area, and now sadly gone.
- There are about 150 veterans buried here and Memorial Day services are held here each year.
- The origins of the Bible opened to Psalm 23 are a bit of a mystery. If you can provide any information, let us know.

What do the coins left on veteran graves mean?

It is not clear when the practice of leaving coins on the graves of veterans began. However, many believe that the practice began in earnest after the Vietnam War.

Each of the four US coin denominations have a distinct meaning, according to tradition.

- Penny – signifies that someone (veteran or civilian) has visited the grave.
- Nickel – signifies that the coin-leaver attended boot camp with the veteran.
- Dime – signifies that the coin-leaver served with the veteran in some capacity.
- Quarter – signifies that the coin-leaver was present when the veteran died.

The higher the coin denomination, the closer and more personal the relationship to the deceased veteran.

Why do people put rocks on headstones?

Explanations suggest that placing a rock on a headstone honors the deceased because it shows others that the individual buried there is cared for and remembered, with each stone serving as a “someone was here” nod.

The usual explanation for this custom, especially in Jewish culture, is that, unlike flowers, rocks are permanent, so they remain on the grave as a memento forever and symbolize that you will never forget the deceased.

An example of this custom can be seen at the end of the movie “Schindler’s List,” when the people Oskar Schindler saved visit his grave and each places a stone upon it.



We hope that you have enjoyed our Cemetery Walk and will always appreciate and honor those that have gone before us, who now rejoice in the presence of God. Please come back and visit and remember.

OLD MAN FOUND DEAD IN A GRAVE

One Death and Three Heat Prostrations Were Sad Accompaniments of Funeral Yesterday.

CHARLES DREWS DEAD IN GRAVE HE DUG

For Another Man—Mourners Compelled to Finish the Digging After His Body was Removed—Was a Much Respected German Citizen.

The dead body of Charles Drews, the grave digger at the German Lutheran cemetery southeast of the city, was found in a partially dug grave in which he had been working yesterday afternoon about 2:15 o'clock.

The discovery was a sad feature of the funeral of William M. F. Engle, the unfortunate young man who lost his life in a mine accident Tuesday. The Engle funeral services were held at the German Lutheran church, corner of Jackson and Harrison streets, Rev. Martens, the pastor officiating at 1:30 p. m., and was attended by his many relatives and other friends.

After the arrival of the funeral cortege at the Lutheran cemetery the mourners were shocked and saddened still more by discovering the body of an old grave digger laying in the grave which was intended to contain the remains of Engle.

The body was lifted out and Dr. Becker summoned, but life had been extinct for some time. The body was then removed to his home on Griggs street, Germantown. During the excitement attending the finding of the old man's body four of the mourners were prostrated by the heat and required the services of Dr. Becker. They were Otto Strebing, William Menck and John Spearing. All of them soon recovered sufficiently to go to their home. Otto Baker was also

Strebing fell at the cemetery gate and the others just after getting inside.

Otto Baker, residing on Voorhees street, near Griffin, condition serious.

Charles Spearing, residing on East Fairchild street, slight.

Otto Strebing, 811 Seminary street, slight.

Mr. Drews had been working hard during the day to get two graves dug in time for the funerals. He was seen at work about 12:30 p. m. and it is thought that he succumbed to the terrible heat soon afterward. He had dug out all but about one foot of the dirt necessary to be removed, and the work was finished by mourners, after which the Engle funeral proceeded and the mourners came to their homes and told of the sad occurrence. It is probable that an inquest will be held today over the remains of Mr. Drews.

Charles Drews was 68 years and 11 months old and had resided in Danville for the past seventeen or more years. He was an industrious and good citizen and his death will be mourned by a large circle of relatives and other friends. He leaves an aged wife and four children, two of whom live in Germantown. They are Charles Drews, Jr., and Mrs. Augusta Kirchoff, Griggs street.

The funeral will be held tomorrow at 2:30 p. m. from the Immanuel Lutheran church on East Fairchild street, Rev. Bertholdt, the pastor, officiating, and the interment will be in the cemetery where he died.

MOTHER PROSTRATED.
Mrs. Joe Clark, wife of the Palace restaurant man, was called to

Saturday
June 22nd 1912

Sabote
Press

SATURDAY

TWO MEN KILLED BY SWITCH ENGINE

John Freeze and Carl Wendt Run
Down While Going to Work
Yesterday Morning.

Following a custom of nearly twenty-five years, John Freeze and Carl Wendt, started from their homes in Plum street yesterday to go to work at the Oaklawn shops. Conversing cheerily, as was their custom, with the comraderie born of acquaintanceship lasting since boyhood, the two men walked along the tracks toward their destination. They were run down at the head of Cronkhite avenue and instantly killed by engine 220, running light after being detached from train No. 6 at the Collett street station.

The two men became alarmed by the sound of approaching engine, No. 220, which was backing toward the Oaklawn shops. They were crushed instantly and the pieces of their bodies scattered along the tracks.

Wendt and Freeze had been lifelong friends, having been born in Germany and having come to this country on the same ship. With them came John Schumaker, who was killed about a mile from the place where yesterday's accident occurred, about a year ago. It had been their custom, since being employed at the Oaklawn shops, to go to work together every morning.

Wendt lived at 525 Plum street, while Freeze lived in a house at 710 Plum street.

The two men were prevented from seeing the approaching engine by a cut of cars and were unable to hear its approach because of the multiplicity of reverberations occasioned by the engine which they had just escaped crossing several switch tracks.

Engineer Hardesty and Fireman Townsley of engine 220, saw the two men almost as soon as they stepped onto the tracks, but were unable to stop the engine in the ten or twelve feet intervening between them and the hapless men. The engine, it is said, was traveling at a rate of about 10 miles an hour as it was being backed into the shops. Immediately after the accident the engineer and fireman hastened back, only to find the mangled bodies of the two lifelong companions lying across the tracks.

Freeze was employed as boss of the laborers in the back shops at the Oaklawn shops of the C. & E. I., while Wendt was employed as a laborer on the scrap pile. Both men had been in the employ of the company ever since coming to this city, many years ago. Freeze was formerly baggage master at the Collett street station but resigned that position to take the one which he held at the time of his death. At that time the position was a more responsible one than at present, as all the engines were then lifted by hand and a capable and experienced man was needed to superintend the operation. The position has lessened in importance since the introduction of the huge overhead cranes, which are used for that purpose.

Coroner Cole was called immediately after the accident and, after viewing the bodies, ordered them to be taken to an undertaking establishment for preparation for burial and announced that an inquest would be held at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. A coroner's jury returned an open verdict finding that the two men met their death by being struck by C. & E. I. engine No. 220. Trainmen testified that the accident was entirely unavoidable as Engineer Hardesty was unable to stop his engine in time to avoid hitting the two men.

Freeze was the father of three sons, all of whom are engaged in railroad work. Fred Freeze, yardmaster, Jack Freeze, his assistant, and Carl Freeze, who was killed on the C. & E. I. about nineteen years ago, were his sons.

Large numbers of railroadmen and shop employes viewed the two bodies at the Callahan morgue where they lay last night.

Double funeral services will be held at 2:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon from the Immanuel Lutheran church. The Rev. Mr. Barthold, pastor, will deliver the funeral oration. The services will be conducted in German and in English, so that all may understand. Interment will be made in the Lutheran cemetery.