

Timeline and Major Events**September 1, 1875**

The Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad station opens!

The village of Norwood, eight and one half miles from Philadelphia, has grown up entirely since the route of the railroad changed in the early 1870's.

- Norwood was a small country town established by Mr. John Cochran, who purchased a tract of ground here and laid it out into lots. It had a few, mostly summer, homes along Winona, Amosland, Chester Pike, Mohawk and Delaware Avenues, surrounded by farmland. People would come to Norwood to spend their summer and fall in the country, then return to their homes in Philadelphia. The railroad made this possible. The town began to grow as more people moved here permanently. They could commute by train to their work in Philadelphia. There was a school, but no churches. Soon there was desire for one.
- June 1888: A Lutheran Sunday School was organized and held in the public school building.

July 28, 1888

First steps were taken toward organization of a congregation.

September 1, 1888

After a survey and some meetings, Pastor Elijah S. Morrell was commissioned by the Board of Home Missions to come to Norwood and organize a congregation.

September 30, 1888

Formal organization took place with 23 members.



Rev. Elijah Morell

- October 1888: Lot was purchased at the corner of Chester Pike and Winona Ave.
- November 24, 1888: Services were held in Norwood Hall. Sunday School classes and meetings were held in many different buildings in Norwood, including the Fire house.

**May 1, 1889**

Cornerstone for the first church was laid. The cost of the two level frame church was \$4,605.00 The Eastern Pennsylvania Synod contributed \$500.00 and the Board of Church Extension donated \$500.00 toward the cost of the first church.

- November 7, 1890: A Mite Society was organized and it functioned until 1924. Its purpose was to promote sociability among members, to aid the revenues of the church and to maintain the parsonage.
- 1891: First weekly envelopes were introduced.
- 1895: The Christian Endeavor Society began with 36 members.
- 1899: Norwood grew to a community of 269 families.
- 1900: Men's Christian League met for prayer before the morning church service.
- 1900: Active in helping start mission churches in Darby and Lester.
- 1901: Parsonage purchased on 21 (24) Huron Ave.



October 17, 1902

Extension Society was organized to help build an addition to the church and they kept in touch with the sick and shut-ins.

March 8, 1903

Dedicated the Annex to the church as there was a need for more room for classes and activities.

- 1910: Norwood grew to 384 families.
- November 3, 1911: Help to start a mission church in Crum Lynn (This is now St Matthews in Woodlyn).
- Circa 1912: There was a fire caused by lightning that burned away the steeple of the church.
- 1900's: Adult Sunday school classes were organized: The Men's Brotherhood class and the Queen Ester class.
- 1910: The Gleaner's Class was organized.
- 1912: The Carnegie Foundation donated \$500.00 for the purchase of an organ.
- 1913: Adjoining lot on Winona Avenue was purchased.



April 5, 1915

Building committee was formed. Population growing and the membership.

November 28, 1925

Laying of the cornerstone for the present church.

October 23, 1926

Present church was dedicated. Value of the property was \$180,000.000

- 1929: Stock Market crash and Great Depression. Church was in debt through 1944.
- 1930's: Fidelis and Dorcas Classes were organized.
- June 7, 1931: A large cross, electronically lighted, was given as Memorial and placed on the church tower.
- 1934: Quilting began to sell. They were \$3.00 each and many were sold. On Thursdays luncheons were made for the community, many businessmen came. Cost was 25 cents.



1939 Mural in church painted by Mrs. Miriam Tindal Smith (a member) was dedicated after 2 years of work.



- September 1945: Lutherettes Class organized.
- November 1, 1949: Sister Zedena Ross, Deaconess came. She was here until February 1, 1961.



December 1951 First year the Nativity Scene in the church yard was set up. Naomi Hazel painted the figures. First figures were Mary, a chicken and a squirrel. Other figures were added over the years. Some wood for the manger came from the old Norwood RR station.



- January 14, 1952: Purchased property at 8 West Winona Avenue and it continued to be rented.
- 1953: Mortgage of 29 years burned. Church clear of debts.
- September 4, 1957: Property at 8 Winona Avenue destroyed by fire then demolished.



1957

Building committee appointed to prepare plans for Parish Education Building.

March 13, 1960

Ground breaking ceremonies for Parish Building. Cornerstone laid.

June 18, 1961

Parish Building was dedicated at the cost of \$115,000.00



- April 19, 1961: Dedication ceremonies for the Memorial Carillon. Mrs. Fred Hazel gave it in memory of her husband. Said to be among the best in the Commonwealth.
- 1961: The parsonage at 21 (24) Huron avenue was sold to Dr. Baer after his retirement.
- September 1, 1961: Vicar Program instituted, ran until 1977.
- 1961: Permanent stone church board installed on front lawn given by Robert and Effie Horne.
- 2001: Lay Eucharist Ministry is started to provide Communion visits to shut-ins.
- 2019: Celebrated the 67th birthday of the Nativity scene during Advent in the front yard.

June 2019

Became a Reconciling in Christ Congregation (RIC) which recognizes congregations across several denominations as places where all people are sincerely welcome regardless of their background, ethnicity or gender orientation, including LGBTQ individuals and diverse races.



- October 2019: Rededicated the Tindal Mural celebrating its 80th year.
- November 2019: Host the Southeastern Pennsylvania Lutheran Historical Society's Pilgrimage and Annual Meeting.

(This historical overview of Immanuel was created for the November 16, 2019 LHS event. It is based on the timeline, facts and photographs collected over the years by our long time member/historian Sylvia Hunsberger, edited by Karl McClellan.)