

DORCAS CLUB (80 year) HISTORY-1940-2020

By Barb Larson

Before the 1940's, there was only one woman's organization at Immanuel. That was the Ladies Aid. Some women believed there was need for more. Esther Stoltz & Elsie Holst were instrumental in forming, first the Priscilla Club (this group dissolved many years ago), and second a club which would adopt the name DORCAS. The ladies who helped organize the Dorcas Club were: Agnes Johnson, Melda Fisk, Evelyn Zabel, Margaret Reiter, Gladys Winters and Elsie Holst. The first meeting was held January 10, 1940 at the home of Gladys Winters. There were 15 charter members.

The name DORCAS was chosen at the March meeting. Act 9:36, "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called DORCAS. This woman was full of good works and alms deeds, which she did. Dorcas was a believer in Christ, and, like her Lord, she loved the poor and helped them by her work, and her gifts." The purpose of DORCAS was to raise money for Lutheran Charities and the home church, with the money to be spent as voted by members. Dues were set at 15 cents per month (now they are our offering & it has been \$1.00 a month & a \$1 for our birthday). Membership was limited to 18.

Over the 80 years the Dorcas has had Flower Shows, Pie Socials, and for the last several years we have had Ice Cream Socials. We have helped with many things in the church and school. We purchased the "Christ Healing the Sick" painting on the east wall to complete the wall that we as a Congregation are still enjoying. The lists go on and on with the donations to funds and purchasing of gifts or needs of the church.

We have seen many ladies join our group and resign as they needed. We have always had a Bible Study, and sometimes long meetings with much discussion or little to discuss, and always a delicious lunch with lots of good chatter. The last few years we have enjoyed Brent Wohlers as our Bible Study leader and we have studied many parts of the Bible & Catechism. This was so appreciated, and we enjoyed our time together studying God's word. Thank you! We also want to thank Green Prairie Place for allowing us to come in for our meetings. Thank you! We have lost 3 of our long-standing members in last year and there are only 6 of us left. We feel that it was time to dissolve our Dorcas Club. Our leftover funds are going to help our PEM Food Shelf and our own Secret Angel program here at Immanuel. We want to thank the Congregation for all the support you have given us over the years, and may God continue to bless Immanuel, our beloved Church!

Dorcas Group – 10th Anniversary - 1950



Front row: Evie Zabel, Margaret Walker, Pauline Schuchard, Paula Ploof, Amanda Liebenow, Marge Koepsell
Second row: Lillian Senst, Gladys Winters, Eleanor Boelhke, Viola Schultz, Maybell Buckingham, Bertha (Bud) Timm, Agnes Johnson
Back row: Royla Blowers, Vera Schuchard, Ina Thorpe, Bertha Schwantz, Adelaide Schultz