III. Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Kasson, Town of Maple Grove, Manitowoc County, Wisconsin (1873-1944)

Early in the 1860's, Rev. Edward Bockemuehl headed a movement to develop new Evangelical congregations branching out from the Two Rivers Circuit, Fond du Lac District, Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association. In 1863 to 1864, Rev. Edward Buckmuehl, who was head pastor of the Two Rivers Circuit, was first assisted by Rev. William Horn from 1862 to 1863 and was next assisted by Rev. Peter Speich from 1863 to 1864. During this time, Rev. Bockemuehl and his assistant pastors began to preach to small groups of people in their homes in the Kasson settlement in the Town of Maple Grove, Manitowoc County. (Fritsche, G., 2003 translation)

Rev. Edward Bockemuehl, who was born October 27, 1829 in Prussia, was received as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association in 1861, was ordained Deacon in 1864 and ordained Elder in 1867. He died in Hartford, Wisconsin in 1877. (Fritsche, G., 2003 translation, p. 3, 5)

Rev. William Horn, who was born near Siegen, Westphalia, Germany on May 7, 1839, was licensed as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference in 1862, ordained Deacon in 1864 and ordained Elder in 1866. He was ordained Bishop at the General Conference of the Evangelical Association in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1891.

Rev. Peter Speich, who was born October 18, 1841 in Switzerland, became a preacher in 1862, was ordained Deacon in 1864 and ordained Elder in 1866.

The Maple Grove Circuit was created in 1864 by the 8th annual session of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Association. The Maple Grove Circuit included the congregations of Maple Grove, West Cooperstown and Morrison, which were detached from the Two Rivers Circuit, and the Town of Brillion (Forest Junction), and Town of Rockland from the Chilton Mission. Rev. Zellhoefer, who had previously been pastor of the Lomira Circuit, was appointed pastor of the newly created Maple Grove Circuit, which had its headquarters at the parsonage at Lark, Morrison Township, Brown County. (Haese, Robert, 1941, p. 5)

George Zellhoefer was born April 1, 1818 in Bavaria. He was living in Jefferson County, Wisconsin in 1851, when he joined the Evangelical Association and became a licensed pastor of the Wisconsin Conference in 1860. He was ordained Deacon in 1862 and ordained Elder in 1863. Rev. Zellhoefer served as pastor of the Maple Grove Circuit from 1864 to 1866 and from 1868 to 1869.

Rev. Johann “John” Koch served the Maple Grove Circuit from 1866 to 1868. He was born June 19, 1924 in Bavaria. He was received as a preacher of the Wisconsin Conference in 1865, was ordained Deacon in 1867 and ordained Elder in 1869.

“Working westward from the Maple Grove area into the Town of Brillion, pioneer circuit riders, the Rev. George Zellhoefer and the Rev. Johann Koch, organized a group of converts.”
This group of Christians organized as the congregation of what became known as Zion Evangelical Church in Forest Junction. In 1870, the Forest Junction Church was separated from the Maple Grove Circuit and assigned to the Calumet Circuit. At that time, the Maple Grove Circuit became the Morrison Circuit. In 1873, the Maple Grove church was placed in the Calumet Circuit. The Forest Junction Circuit, which was established by the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Church in 1896, included the churches in Forest Junction, Maple Grove, the village of Brillion and Kaukauna. Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Brillion was separated from the Forest Junction in 1915, while the Maple Grove church remained in the Forest Junction Circuit until 1941. In May 1941 while meeting in Neenah, the 85th session of the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Church detached the Maple Grove church from the Forest Junction Circuit and assigned Maple Grove to the same circuit as Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Brillion. (Brillion News article, May 25, 1941)

On February 13, 1873, the Maple Grove Evangelical congregation voted approval to build a church structure and to lay out a cemetery on land which was donated by David Fisher. Up to that time, the congregation had been holding worship services in a vacant blockhouse on land owned by Rudolph Krahn, near to where the new church would be built. The new church, which was named Emmanuel Evangelical Church, was completed in 1874 while the Rev. Julius Kahl served as pastor. Charter members of that church were the families of Johann Daniel Koerth, Martin Degner, Frederich Haise, Sr., August Schilling, Jacob Heinrich and David Fisher. (Haise, Esther, 1976)

The primary source of information about the charter members was Ancestry.com, which provided access to United States census records, 1895 and 1905 State of Wisconsin census records and military records. Another helpful source of information was “cemetery transcriptions” for Emmanuel Evangelical Cemetery in the Town of Maple Grove and the Kasson Evergreen Cemetery, Town of Maple Grove as found on internet site www.2manitowoc.com. Finding the charter members in the census records was most challenging because the spellings of the surnames and sometimes the first names varied considerably from one census year to another.

Johann Daniel Koerth or Korth must have usually gone by his middle name because research by this writer did not reveal any Johann Daniel Koerth. Daniel Korth, as his name is inscribed on his gravestone, was born August 16, 1824 in Brandenburg, which was located in the western part of Prussia. His wife, Wilhelmine was born May 13, 1828 in Brandenburg, Prussia. Their children included: son, August J., born August 16, 1853, Brandenburg; daughter, Otillia, born about 1858, Brandenburg; daughter, Pauline, born about 1862, Wisconsin; daughter, Wilhelmine, born about 1864, Wisconsin; daughter, Amelia, born about 1868, Wisconsin and daughter, Carolina, born about 1870, Wisconsin. Daniel Korth and his family were operating their family farm in the Town of Maple Grove on June 2, 1870 when the U.S. Census was taken. The surname Korth was spelled Kjort in the 1870 census. Daniel Korth was deceased on April 25, 1871 and buried in the Kasson Evergreen Cemetery. Daniel Korth served at the rank of Private in Company E, 13th Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War.

Wilhelmine Korth and her family continued to reside in Maple Grove Township after her husband’s death. When the U.S. Census was recorded on June 17, 1880, her son, August was
operating the family farm. Otillia and Pauline were grown and no longer living at home. Wilhelmine’s mother-in-law, Louisa Korth, born about 1801 in Prussia, was living with the Korth family in 1880. The surname was spelled Koeirth in the 1880 census. Wilhelmine Korth was deceased on October 18, 1901 and was buried in the Kasson Evergreen Cemetery.

Martin Degner was born on October 12, 1821 in Pomerania, which was located in the northern part of Prussia. His wife, Ernestine was born August 13, 1831 in Pomerania, Prussia. Their children included: daughter, Maney, born about 1852, Pomerania; son, Julius C., born November 21, 1858, Wisconsin; son, Edward, born about 1864, Wisconsin; daughter, Pauline Laurie, born about 1868, Wisconsin and son, Heinrich, born about 1871, Wisconsin. The family of Martin Degner was engaged in farming in the Kasson area of the Town of Maple Grove in 1870 and 1880 when the U.S. Censuses were taken. Martin Degner, who had served in Company H, 6th Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War, was deceased on July 24, 1896 and was buried in the Kasson Evergreen Cemetery. Ernestine Degner continued to reside in Maple Grove Township after her husband’s death. She was deceased on May 12, 1917 and was buried in Kasson Evergreen Cemetery. The various spellings of the surname Degner in the census records included Dignor, Dagner and Doegner.

Friedrich C.H. Haise, Sr. was born September 27, 1826 in Pomerania, Prussia. His wife, Henrietta was born October 29, 1833 in Pomerania. Their children, who were all born in Wisconsin, included: son, Friedrich, born December 1864; daughter, Ernestine, born about 1867; daughter, Paulina, born about 1873; and twins, son Heinrich “Henn” and daughter, Wilhelmina, born February 2, 1875. In 1870 and 1880, the family of Friedrich, Sr. and Henrietta Haise was residing in the Kasson area, where Friedrich was farming. Heinrich Haise, son of Friedrich and Henrietta Haise, died on November 28, 1882 and was buried in the Kasson Evergreen Cemetery. Friedrich Haise, Sr. was deceased on January 19, 1893 and was buried in the Kasson Evergreen Cemetery. The surname is spelled Haise on the gravestones but is spelled Hase in both the 1870 and 1880 U.S. censuses, Haese in the 1900 U.S. Census, and Haise in the 1910 and 1920 U.S. censuses. Various spellings of the name Friedrich, which were encountered in census records, were Frerich, Frichrich, Fredrick and Fred. Henrietta Haise, wife of Friedrich Haise, was deceased on August 16, 1922 and buried in the Kasson Evergreen Cemetery.

August Schilling was born May 1850 in Prussia, and his wife, Ottilie (Koerth) was born March 1857 in Prussia. Their children, who were all born in Wisconsin, included: daughter, Emma, born February 1878; son, Daniel, born January 1880; daughter, Annie, born October 1881; daughter, Bertha, born October 1883; son, Walter Edward, born October 20, 1885; daughter, Nora Laura, born July 21, 1888; son, Jakob Samuel, born July 21, 1890; daughter, Esther Martha, born January 12, 1894 and son, George Silas, born January 21, 1896. The family of August and Ottilie Schilling resided in the Kasson area, where August was a farmer, as recorded in the 1880 and 1900 U.S. censuses. By 1920, August and Ottilie Schilling had retired from farming and were residents of Appleton, Ward 5. Their sons, Samuel, age 19 and George, age 14 were living with them. Church records show baptisms in the Town of Maple Grove of the following five children of August and Ottilie Schilling: Walter Edward, baptized December 6, 1885 by Rev. F. Nickel; Nora Laura, baptized September 16, 1888 by Rev. F.T. Eilert; Jakob Samuel, baptized September 7, 1890 by Rev. T. Schauer; Esther Martha, baptized March 11, 1894 by Rev. M. Gauerke, and George Silas, baptized March 1, 1896 by Rev. C.W. Wellso.
Jacob Heinrich was born March 5, 1838 in Hargesheim, Prussia, and his wife, Emilie was born September 1, 1852 in Hargesheim. (The cemetery transcription for Emmanuel Evangelical Cemetery shows 1838 as the year of birth for Jacob Heinrich, although from his age as reported in census records, his year of birth would have been about 1843.) When the U.S. Census was taken in 1870, Jacob Henry (Heinrich), reported as age 27; his wife, “Amelia”, age 17 and their son, Christian, age one month, were residing in Kasson, where Jacob was working as a storekeeper. In 1880, Jacob and his wife, “Emilia” and their children: son, Christian, age 10, born April 24, 1870; son, Jacob, age 6; son, William J., age 4; daughter, Adolphina, age 2 and son, Charles J., age 2 months, born April 1880, were living in the Kasson area where Jacob was then engaged in farming. Church records show the baptisms for three children born to Jacob and Emilie Heinrich: Arthur Benjamin, born July 18, 1886 and baptized on August 1, 1886 by Rev. C. Wiegand; Jesse Adolf, born August 16, 1889 and baptized September 15, 1889 by Rev. T. Schauer; and Emma Anna Louise, born January 5, 1894 and baptized January 19, 1894 by Rev. J.P. Dorau. The 1910 U.S. Census shows that Jacob and Emilie Heinrich were still residing in Maple Grove Township. Three of their children, who were living with them at that time were: Charles, age 29; Arthur, age 23 and Louise, age 16. Jacob was farming; Charles was a stone mason, and Arthur was a farm laborer.

Jacob Heinrich had served as a private in the 12th Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War from February 10, 1862, when he enlisted, to July 5, 1865 when he was discharged. Jacob was deceased on May 22, 1921, and his wife, Emilie was deceased on December 22, 1939. Both were buried in Emmanuel Evangelical Cemetery in the Town of Maple Grove, where two of their sons, who had died in infancy, were buried: Adolph J., born November 22, 1882, died July 17, 1883 and Jesse A., born August 16, 1889, died November 29, 1893.

David W. Fischer was born March 21, 1837 in Pomerania, Prussia, and his first wife, Laura was born in 1849 in Pomerania. In 1870, David and Laura Fischer were living in the Kasson area, where David was farming. Their children, all born in Wisconsin, were: daughter, Emilia, born about 1867; son, Heinrich, born about 1869; daughter, Caroline E., who died at birth on January 31, 1878; and an unnamed daughter, who was born January 11, 1879 and died on March 9, 1879. Laura Fischer was deceased in 1879, probably as a result of a difficult childbirth.

After the death of his first wife, David Fischer married Bertha, who was born December 17, 1857 in Wisconsin to German born parents. David and Bertha Fischer were residing in the Town of Maple Grove in June 1880 when the U.S. Census was taken. Living with them on that date were David’s children from his first marriage and two boarders, Henry and William Helm, who were carpenters. The children born to David and Bertha Fischer were: son, Wilhelm C., born September 9, 1880 and died November 28, 1882; daughter, Maria M., born January 7, 1883 and died on March 1, 1888; son, Charles A., born 1885; and daughter, Elsie, born October 18, 1886.

David and Bertha Fischer were residents of the Town of Brillion, Calumet County when the 1895 and 1905 Wisconsin Censuses were taken. Living with them in 1905 were their son, Charley and daughter Elsie. On June 13, 1913, David, Bertha, Charles “Karl” and Elsie Fischer
transferred their memberships from Maple Grove Emmanuel Evangelical Church to Emmanuel Evangelical Church in the Village of Brillion. (See Chapter I.) David W. Fischer had served at the rank of private during the Civil War in Company E, 26th Regiment, Wisconsin Infantry from the date of his enlistment on August 15, 1862 to his discharge on July 6, 1865. David W. Fischer was deceased on June 13, 1915, and his second wife, Bertha was deceased on August 20, 1936. Both were buried in the Maple Grove Emmanuel Evangelical Cemetery. The surname, Fischer was spelled Fisher in the 1870 U.S. Census and the 1890 Veterans Schedule, and was spelled Fischer in the 1880 U.S. Census, 1905 Wisconsin Census and in church and cemetery records.

The earliest list of the members of Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Maple Grove Township dates to 1887 or earlier. The list as printed below was copied from the Calumet Circuit records. An asterisk has been placed in front of those names who are believed to have been charter members of the congregation.

*August Schilling
*Ottie Schilling
*Martin Degner
*Justina (Ernestine) Degner
Julius Degner
Edward Degner
August Korth (Koerth)
Ida Korth (Koerth)
Minna Korth (Koerth)
Friedrich Kamke (Died 1890)
Minna Kamke
*Emilia Heinrich (wife of Jacob)
Anna Degner
Julius Krueger (Transferred to Village of Brillion)
*David Fischer
*Bertha Fischer
*Friedrich Haise, Sr.
*Henrietta Haise
Justina Haise (Transferred in 1889)
John Schnell (Died 1890)
Louise Schnell
Maria Schnell
Heinrich Schnell
Louise W. Schnell (Transferred in 1888)
Theodor Haase
Bertha Haase
Lena Schmidt
Adam Schnell
Caroline Schnell
Carl Perske (From Spring Creek)
Augusta Perske (From Spring Creek)
Friedrich Haise, Jr.
Augusta Bochert
Wm. Schnell
Wilhemmina Kaflisch (Caflisch)

The Kasson School district was organized in 1855 in the Town of Maple Grove. The first schoolhouse, which was built of logs, was located less than one mile east from the settlement of Kasson. "The second Kasson schoolhouse was built in 1875 on land purchased from G. Stern for $25". It was a one-room wood frame structure, which received a 12-foot addition in 1887-1888 to accommodate more students. The third Kasson school building, constructed in 1909, was a brick structure, which had a full basement, one classroom, cloakrooms and two entrances. The third Kasson school was closed on July 1, 1961, and the Kasson school district was divided between the Brillion and Reedsville school districts. (Brillion, Wisconsin, The First 100 Years, Zander Press, Inc., 1985, p. 32)

As mentioned above, Jacob Henry (Heinrich) was working as a storekeeper in the hamlet of Kasson in 1870. John A. Horn was a general merchant in Kasson in 1880, as reported in the U.S. Census. The Brillion Historical Society has a picture of the J. A. Horn Store, which was taken around 1880. The store where Jacob Heinrich worked in 1870 and the J. A. Horn store of the 1880’s are believed to have been an earlier structure than the general store and saloon called the Kasson House. In her unpublished History of Emmanuel Evangelical Church, Town of Maple Grove, written in 1976, Esther Haise states that the Kasson House "consisted of a store, Post Office, saloon and an upstairs (hall) for entertainment". Esther Haise was the granddaughter of Friedrich, Sr. and Henrietta Haise, who lived in the Kasson area in the 1870’s and 1880’s. Hattie Haase, daughter of Theodor and Bertha Haase, who had farmed in the Kasson area until moving to the Village of Brillion in 1901, was reported as employed at the Kasson House in an article in the Brillion News dated July 3, 1908. Some other area residents recall that the Kasson House had also served as a hotel and that dances had sometimes been held in the upstairs hall. In its final years, the Kasson House was known as the Kasson Tavern. The home of Rod and Barb Hintz now stands where the Kasson House once stood.

The Kasson Post Office was established sometime between 1856 and 1866, according to Ralph Gordon Plumb, author of A History of Manitowoc County published in 1904. Census records show the Kasson Post Office was in existence in 1870. Maps of the Town of Maple Grove, which are dated 1878 and 1893, show the Kasson Post Office located in the store and saloon across from Emmanuel Evangelical Church. In 1904, the U.S. Postal Service began Rural Free Delivery, which resulted in the closing of the Post Office at Kasson.

An 1893 plat map of the Town of Maple Grove shows a cheese factory, which was located in the village of Kasson. An old cheese factory that is no longer operating is still standing in that same location. The first cheese factory built in the hamlet of Kasson may have had connections with the Henry Horn family, according to Esther Haise. An 1878 map shows a large tract of land owned by H. & F. Horn in the southeast portion of Section 6 of the Town of Maple Grove. The cheese factory and J. A. Horn Store were located on land that was or had been owned by the Horn family, who were residing in the Kasson area in 1870 and 1880. Henry Horn, Sr. was born March 12, 1797 in the German state of Saxony, and his wife, Charlotte was born June 28, 1803 in Saxony. The children of Henry, Sr. and Charlotte Horn were: son, John, born about 1837, Saxony; son, Henry, born about 1840, Saxony; and son, Frank, born about 1845, Saxony.
In 1880, Henry Horn, Jr. and his wife, Emilia, born about 1864 in Prussia, had two daughters: Carolina, born about 1876 in Wisconsin and Henrietta, born about 1879 in Wisconsin. Also living with them were Henry, Jr.'s mother, Charlotte, age 77; brother, John, age 45 and brother, Frank, age 35. Henry, Jr. and Frank Horn were operating their farm, and their brother, John A. was a general merchant, who owned the J. A. Horn Store. Henry (Heinrich) G. Horn, Sr. was deceased on March 17, 1876, and his wife, Charlotte Dorothea (Schmidt) Horn was deceased on September 14, 1888. Both were buried in the Kasson Evergreen Cemetery.

In addition to Emmanuel Evangelical Church, two other churches were established near the hamlet of Kasson. Holy Trinity Catholic Church was located about one mile southwest from the Kasson settlement in the northwest corner of Section 18 in the Town of Maple Grove. Holy Trinity Catholic Church was established in 1875 as a mission church in connection with the Church of the Assumption, which was built by Bohemian (Czech) Catholics in 1866 in the settlement of Reedsville. As a mission church, Holy Trinity Catholic Church near Kasson had no resident priest, so the priest serving the Church of the Assumption in Reedsville also served Holy Trinity Church. After the congregation of Holy Trinity Church grew to over eighty farm families, the church building was enlarged and a steeple added. The congregation of Saint Mary's Catholic Church in the Village of Brillion, which was also established as a mission church of the Reedsville Church of the Assumption, built their first church structure in 1881 and their first school in 1885. Holy Trinity Church never had a school, so the families of Holy Trinity sent their children to St. Mary's School in Brillion. In 1961, the congregation of Holy Trinity Church was consolidated with the congregation of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Brillion. The Holy Trinity Church structure was then razed, and all that remains is Holy Trinity Catholic Cemetery. (Ghost Parishes and Cemeteries of Manitowoc County, Manitowoc County Historical Society, 1982, p. 7)

St. Bartholomew German Lutheran Church was located less than one mile west from Kasson in Section 1 of Brillion Township, Calumet County. The congregation, which was established June 15, 1858, built their first wood frame church structure in 1866. Their second church building was constructed with a brick exterior in the Town of Brillion in 1899. The St. Bartholomew congregation relocated to the City of Brillion in 1967, when their third church structure was completed. (Brillion, Wisconsin, the First 100 Years, Zander Press Inc., 1985, p. 37-38)

Before people had automobiles, they walked to church, rode horseback or rode in carriages, wagons or other horse drawn vehicles such as sleds or sleighs, depending on the weather. Therefore, Kasson Emmanuel Evangelical Church provided shelters on the church property where people could leave their horses during worship services. The church cemetery was located on the far back side of the church property. The east portion of the cemetery was donated by the August Giese family and the west portion was from the David Fischer family.

In 1910, the original structure of Kasson Emmanuel Evangelical Church was remodeled. An enclosed entry was added with rooms on either side, one for the ladies and one for the men. A steeple was added above the new entry way. Drinking water was carried in a pail from the Henry Horn farm across the road from the church. The water pail and dipper for church attendants use was kept on a small table near the ladies' side room.
Additional families of the congregation of Kasson Emmanuel Evangelical Church in succeeding generations, as mentioned by Esther Haise, were:

Mrs. Charlie Brandt Arthur Heinrich
Arthur Caflisch Christian Heinrich
John Caflisch Charley Heinrich
Julius Degner August Koerth
William Degner Frank Korb
Henry Fischer William Korb
August Giese Charles Schnell
Fred Gussert George Schnell
George Gussert Dan Schilling
Theodor Haase Claus Thiel
Fred Haise

Of the twenty one heads of families of church members shown in the above list, eight were sons of charter members: Julius Degner, son of Martin and Ernestine Degner; Henry Fischer, son of David and Laura Fischer; Fred Haise, Jr., son of Fredrich, Sr. and Henrietta Haise; Arthur, Christian and Charley Heinrich, sons of Jacob and Emilie Heinrich; August Koerth, son of Daniel and Wilhelmine Koerth; and Daniel Schilling, son of August and Ottilie Schilling.

The members of Maple Grove (Kasson) Emmanuel Evangelical Church congregation in 1896-1915 as shown in the Forest Junction Circuit records from Zion Evangelical Church were:

Carl Bernard Emilie (Mrs. Jakob) Heinrich
Edna Bernard Emma (Mrs. Christ) Heinrich
Caroline Caflisch Helena Heinrich
Wilhelmina (Mrs. John) Caflisch Lillian Heinrich
Anna (Mrs. Julius) Degner Louisa Heinrich
Ida Degner Augusta Korb
Justina Degner Bertha Korb
Robert Degner Delmer Korb
Wilhelm Degner Ella Korb
Bertha Fischer Elmer Korb
Carl Fischer Herbert Korb
David Fischer Ida (Frau) Korb
Elsa Fischer Irma Korb
Heinrich Fischer Lorena Korb
Lena Fischer Wilhelm Korb
August Giese Holdine (Mrs.) Schilling
Bertha Giese Irmind Schilling
Fritz Gussert Carl Schmidt
Minna Gussert Ema Schmidt
Johan Haese George Schmidt
Laura Haese Maria Schmidt
From the above two lists, attention will now be focused on the members who transferred their memberships to Emmanuel Evangelical Church in the Village of Brillion. The family of Theodor and Bertha Haase, including Herman, Fritz, Edmond, Elenor, Clara and Helene transferred their memberships to the church in Brillion about 1910. The family of David and Bertha Fischer, including Charles “Carl” and Elsa, transferred their memberships to the church in Brillion on June 15, 1913, as shown in Forest Junction Circuit records. Members who transferred their memberships to the Brillion church by 1920 were: Wilhelmina and Caroline Caflisch; August and Bertha Giese; and William and Augusta Korb.

Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Kasson was a vital, thriving congregation as revealed from the number of baptisms involving children and grandchildren of the members from 1886 to 1935. The Maple Grove Circuit records show forty nine baptisms of children of that congregation that took place from 1886 to 1935. Shown in the Forest Junction Circuit records were another sixty four baptisms of children of that congregation that occurred from 1896 to 1928. By 1935, the population of the Kasson area began to decline as the older farmers retired and many of their children found employment in the cities.

Fred Haise and Daniel Schilling served as leaders of the Sunday school for many years. Emma Haise, daughter of Fred Haise, Jr. played the reed organ for worship services for about thirty years in that church. In December 1942, the membership of the Kasson Emmanuel Evangelical Church was diminished to the point where it was difficult for them to financially support a pastor, so the congregation voted to discontinue as a church. Following that action, the Wisconsin Conference of the Evangelical Church, in 1944, transferred the members to Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Brillion. The Brillion church, commonly known as the “Little White Church”, was being served at that time by Rev. Harvey T. Brandt. (Esther Haise, 1976)

Those who transferred their memberships to the Evangelical Church in Brillion sometime from 1920 to 1944 included: Anna Degner, Wilhelm “William” and Della Degner; Fred “Fritz” and Maria Haise, Emma Haise, Ella Haise, Esther Haise and Edward Haise; Claus Thiel, Clara Thiel; Mrs. Christian Heinrich; and Mrs. Charles Schnell.

Julius and Anna Degner were farming in Maple Grove Township near Kasson when the 1905 Wisconsin Census was taken. Julius was age 46, and his wife, Anna was age 42, born October 4, 1862 in Wisconsin to German born parents. The children of Julius and Anna Degner included: son, Carl Edward, born November 24, 1885; son, Wilhelm Johan, born October 16, 1887; daughter, Mary, born about 1890; son, Robert Julius, born October 20, 1894; son, Ervin Freddie, born October 18, 1900 and died January 30, 1901; son, Leonard Arthur, born December 5, 1901 and died March 6, 1902; and son, Frank Elmer, born January 18, 1903. Julius C. Degner
was deceased October 19, 1906 and was buried in Kasson Evergreen Cemetery where his sons, Ervin and Leonard were also buried. The baptisms of all of the children shown above, except for Mary, have been found in church records.

In 1920, Anna Degner was living in Maple Grove Township with her son and daughter-in-law, Frank and Stella Degner, who had been married for about three years but had yet had no children. Living on the farm next to Frank and Stella Degner was the family of William Degner, son of Julius and Anna Degner. William’s wife, Della C. (Schnell) was born December 1, 1889 in Brillion Township. William Degner and his wife, Della had three daughters: Lydia, born November 7, 1910; Clara, born July 27, 1913; and Cora, born June 21, 1916. Their baptisms were written in the Forest Junction Circuit records. Anna Degner and her son and daughter-in-law, Wilhelm “William” and Della Degner transferred their memberships to the Evangelical Church in Brillion in 1944. Anna Degner, wife of Julius Degner was deceased April 24, 1947 and was buried in Kasson Evergreen Cemetery. Her funeral service was conducted by Rev. Kenneth Knoespel.

Fred Haise, Jr. was born December 26, 1864, and his wife, Mary, daughter of Ludwig and Wilhelmina Mittelstadt, was born March 5, 1872 in Germany. In every U.S. Census from 1900 through 1930, Fred and Mary were reported as residents of Brillion Township where Fred was farming. Their farm was located near the intersection of County PP and County K. The children of Fred, Jr. and Mary Haise were: daughter, Emma, born January 1897; daughter, Ella Louisa, born April 13, 1900 and baptized May 6, 1900 by Rev. F. Krueger; daughter, Esther Elsa, born October 28, 1902 and baptized November 23, 1902 by Rev. F. Krueger; and son, Edward Robert Heinrich, born October 6, 1905 and baptized October 22, 1905 by Rev. G. Friedrich. All of the Haise family members transferred their memberships to the Brillion Emmanuel Evangelical Church in 1944. None of the children of Fred and Mary Haise were ever married. All of the members of the Haise family were devout Christians who generously supported their church. Fred Haise, Jr. died January 8, 1947 and was buried in the Brillion Cemetery. Rev. Kenneth Knoespel officiated for the funeral of Fred Haise, who was survived by his wife, Mary, three daughters and one son. Mary Haise was deceased October 6, 1959 and buried in the Brillion Cemetery. Rev. V.R. Miller officiated for the funeral of Mary (Mittelstadt) Haise, who was survived by her four children.

Christian “Christ” Heinrich, who was the oldest son of Jacob and Emilie Heinrich, was born April 24, 1870 in Wisconsin, and his wife, Emma was born October 6, 1873 in Germany. Christ and Emma Heinrich resided in Maple Grove Township where they farmed, as reported in the U.S. Censuses from 1900 to 1930. The children born to Christian and Emma Heinrich included: daughter, Anna Paulina who was born March 22, 1896 and baptized April 5, 1896 by Rev. G. Scheible; son, Elmer, born about 1897; daughter, Esther Imma who was born August 27, 1899 and baptized October 1, 1899 by Rev. F. Krueger; son, Edward who born May 24, 1902 and baptized August 17, 1902 by Rev. F. Krueger; daughter, Emma Martha who was born February 8, 1905 and baptized April 9, 1905 by Rev. G. Friedrich; and daughter, Lou Linda who was born August 27, 1907 and baptized November 1907 by Rev. Johannes Trautmann. All of the children were born and baptized in Maple Grove Township. Emma Heinrich, wife of Christian Heinrich was a member of Emmanuel Evangelical Church in 1946. She was deceased on January 8, 1950 and buried in the new Brillion Cemetery. Rev. Kenneth Knoespel officiated
for the funeral of Emma Heinrich. Christ A. Heinrich was deceased December 25, 1957 and buried in the new Brillion Cemetery.

Charles "Charley" and Erna Schnell were residing in Brillion Township where they were engaged in farming, as reported in the 1905 Wisconsin Census and in the U.S. Census from 1910 to 1930. Charley Schnell was born in 1861 in Wisconsin to German parents, and his wife, Erna (Schroeder) was born June 11, 1873 in Forest Junction to German parents. The children of Charley and Erna Schnell included: son, David Walter who was born March 11, 1896 and baptized April 10, 1896 by Rev. C.W. Wellso; daughter, Viola Dora who was born February 5, 1898 and baptized April 3, 1898 by Rev. L.M. Sievert; daughter, Francis Emma who was born March 1, 1900 and baptized April 15, 1900 by Rev. F. Krueger; son, Elmer Carlie who was born February 14, 1903 and baptized March 27, 1903 in his parents’ home by Rev. F. Dite; and son, Effner Herbert who was born July 7, 1905 and baptized September 3, 1905 by Rev. G. Friedrich. All of the children were born and baptized in Brillion Township. Charley Schnell was deceased in 1934 and was buried in the new Brillion Cemetery. Erna Schnell, wife of Charley Schnell, became a member of Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Brillion. She was deceased on August 12, 1971 and buried in the new Brillion Cemetery. Rev. Edward F. Johnson officiated for the funeral of Erna Schnell.

Claus John Thiel, who was born October 22, 1865 in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, immigrated to America in 1871. In about 1895, Claus married Lydia, who was born October 1873 in Wisconsin to German parents. Claus and Lydia Thiel operated their farm in Morrison Township, Brown County, located a short distance from Kasson. They were reported as residents of Morrison Township in the 1900, 1910 and 1920 U.S. Censuses, but they had retired from farming by 1930 and were residing in the Village of Brillion. The children born to Claus and Lydia Thiel included: daughter, Clara Ida Augusta, born January 31, 1897 in the Village of Morrison and baptized March 21, 1897 in Maple Grove Township by Rev. L.M. Sievert; son, Elmer Ernest, born May 4, 1899 in Morrison Township and baptized June 4, 1899 in Rantoul Township by Rev. F. Reichert; daughter, Laurina Lydia Emilia, born April 3, 1903 in Morrison Township and baptized May 27, 1903 in Maple Grove Township by Rev. G. Friedrich; and daughter, Cora Ella, born May 22, 1906 in Morrison Township and baptized July 29, 1906 in Maple Grove Township by Rev. G. Friedrich. Laurina Thiel, daughter of Claus and Lydia Thiel died in childhood on February 7, 1909 and was buried in Kasson Emmanuel Evangelical Cemetery. Claus Thiel and his daughter, Clara were members of Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Brillion in 1946, as shown on the membership list. Lydia Thiel, wife of Claus Thiel, was deceased in 1943 and buried in the new Brillion Cemetery. Claus John Thiel was deceased June 18, 1947 and was buried in the new Brillion Cemetery. Rev. Kenneth Knoespel officiated for the funeral of Claus Thiel.

The wood frame church structure in the village of Kasson known as Emmanuel Evangelical Church had served the congregation of for seventy one years. The church was closed in 1944 when the remaining members were transferred to Emmanuel Evangelical Church in the City of Brillion. The church structure in Kasson was sold to August Haese, who razed the church and salvaged the lumber to construct some farm buildings. An era had ended, and today only the Emmanuel Evangelical Church Cemetery remains in the care of the board of the Town of Maple Grove.
Pastors Who Served Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Kasson, Town of Maple Grove

Two Rivers Circuit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastor</th>
<th>Assistant Pastor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1862-1864</td>
<td>Edward Bockemuehl</td>
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<td>1862-1863</td>
<td>William Horn</td>
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<td>1863-1864</td>
<td>Peter Speich</td>
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<td>1864-1866</td>
<td>George Zellhoefer</td>
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<td>1866-1868</td>
<td>John Koch</td>
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<td>1868-1869</td>
<td>George Zellhoefer</td>
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<td>1869-1870</td>
<td>George Harm</td>
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<td>1868-1869</td>
<td>Adam Kammerer</td>
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Maple Grove Circuit

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<td>1870-1871</td>
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Morrison Circuit

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Forest Junction Circuit

1896-1899  L.M. Siewert
1899-1902  F. Krueger  (Died December 28, 1902)
1902-1903  F. Ditte
1903-1907  Gustav Friedrich
1907-1912  John Trautmann
1912-1917  H.G. Koten
1917-1924  A.F. Haberman  (Died February 24, 1924)
1924      John Nickel
1924-1928  H.A. Franzke  (Became ill September 1928)
1928-1929  John Nickel  (Became ill July 1929)
1929-1930  H.P. Jordan and M. Gauerke
1930-1931  E.A. Lau
1931-1935  W.L. Zeller
1935-1941  Philip Schneider

Forest Junction Station

1941      G.L. Bursack