

At this time other Lutheran synods started mission work, namely, the Synod of Missouri and other States, the Synod of Ohio and other States, and the General Synod. At present the German Lutheran Church consists of four Synods:

The Synod of Iowa and other States, with 132 active pastors, 262 congregations, and 32,000 members.

The Synod of Missouri and other States, with 98 pastors, 152 congregations, and 22,000 members.

The Synod of Ohio and other States, with 64 pastors, 96 congregations, and 8,000 members.

The General Synod, with 35 pastors, 40 congregations, and 6,000 members.

The Lutheran church in Iowa maintains the following educational institutions:

A theological seminary at Dubuque with five professors, and about one hundred students.

A college at Clinton with nine professors and about one hundred and twenty students.

A parochial teachers' seminary at Waverly, with four professors and fifty students.

A co-educational academy at Waverly with six professors and about one hundred and twenty students.

The Lutheran Church also maintains the following charitable institutions:

An Orphans' Home at Waverly with about one hundred children.

An Orphans' Home and Home for the Aged at Muscatine, with about sixty children and forty aged.

A hospital at Sioux City with about eighty beds.

From this can be seen that the German Lutheran Church has done and is doing much for the spiritual and educational welfare of the citizens of Iowa.

#### THE ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH IN IOWA.

BY A. B. LEAMER, D. D.

The English work of the Lutheran Church in Iowa was begun in the year 1848 by Rev. Jacob Scherer, who was commissioned as "Missionary of the Northwest" by the Synod of Illinois.

The first church was organized in Lick Creek Township, Van Buren county. In 1850 Rev. Jacob Scherer was joined by Rev. C. Conrad Keuhl, and together they established an itinerary of preaching points, covering the eastern portion of Iowa as far west as Knoxville. It seems that they also touched Council Bluffs and Sioux City in their zeal for the preaching of the gospel to the scattered Lutherans of the State.

In 1854 the first Conference was held at Knoxville on the 10th day of February. There were four pastors present. At this Conference the matter of establishing a college within the State was discussed, and a committee was appointed, charged with the duty of selecting a location as near the center of Iowa as possible. The committee settled upon Fort Des Moines, now Des Moines, and the name of the school was the Central College of Iowa. This institution had a varied experience and was eventually sold to the Baptist Church by the Baptists under the name of the Des Moines College.

The educational work begun by our Synod is still carried on

The third Conference of the Illinois Synod met at Winchester on August 30, 1855, and proceeded to the organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa. The officers elected were Rev. Geo. W. Schaeffer, president; Rev. J. G. Schaeffer, secretary; Rev. F. R. Scherer, treasurer. The other charter members were Rev. John Hoekenlively, Rev. D. Tuller, Rev. Geo. W. Scheide, Rev. H. F. Ely. The laymen were P. L. Kreigh, Samuel Gast, and Jacob Motern. The visiting clergymen present were Rev. L. F. Harkey, Rev. C. Witmer, Rev. D. Kurtz, and Rev. (Father) Scherer.

The second Convention of the Synod, held at Fort Des Moines, laid the cornerstone of the new college building and selected a faculty consisting of Rev. Reuben Weiser and Prof. Cupp, who opened the college for work on May 21, 1856.

The citizens of Des Moines contributed \$10,000.00 to this project and gave five acres of land. The tract comprised the ground between Sixteenth and Nineteenth streets north of Woodland Avenue.

The early days of the English work in Iowa were very trying. The president in his annual report to the Synod held

in the above year, speaks of conditions as "deplorable" not only for the school but for the general church work, and in a later report the president makes the statement that these conditions seem to be due to the fact that by the time the people coming from the east reach the Mississippi, the desire for wealth has become so intense that they "drop both conscience and religion in the Mississippi river as they cross it."

It is evident that large numbers of Lutheran people settled in Iowa, but many of them spoke a foreign tongue and at that early day it was impossible to interest them in the English-speaking church. As a result many of the fathers and mothers never united with the church and their children, growing up without the mother church influence, were lost to us and drifted gradually into other denominations. Many, however, were organized into congregations of their own tongues and have grown into strong, self-supporting churches, thus making it possible for the Lutherans to number a larger company than any other, except one, of the denominations. But while many churches were organized, the English Lutheran church lost more than it saved. However, we feel that the message delivered by these pioneers who insistently preached the gospel has had its very definite effect upon the children who followed them in the work of the Master.

The sixteenth session of the Synod was held at Tipton, Iowa, September 26, 1860, and showed an enrollment of forty-five congregations and sixteen preaching points. Sixteen pastors ministered to these congregations, totaling 1,179 communicants. The largest salary paid was \$800.00, and the least \$40.00 per year. The sixteen pastors received a total of \$2,719.25.

The Bohemian Lutheran Churches of Linn, Benton and Tama counties united with the Synod at this session. A committee from Marshall county submitted the proposition that the Synod take over the Marshall county high school and convert it into a college and seminary. The estimated value of this property was \$19,000.00. The property grew in value and the institution increased in usefulness for a number of years, at one time numbering ninety-six students, but jealousy

seemed to have entered the ranks of the Synod and proper support could not be secured for either this school or the one at Fort Des Moines. As a consequence we lost two of the most valuable assets of the church. Had those institutions remained under the control of the Synod we believe that our English Lutheran church in Iowa would far outnumber any of the foreign-speaking Lutheran churches, but our work seemed to be blocked at every turn. However, a brighter day is dawning. The last decade has been one of commendable progress and our work is being established on a permanent foundation that means success for the future.

#### THE DANISH AND NORWEGIAN LUTHERANS IN IOWA.

BY N. G. PETERSON.

The Danish Lutherans immigrated later than the Swedish and Norwegian Lutherans. The beginning of the establishment of Danish Lutheran churches in this State dates back to 1871 when the work was commenced by Rev. A. S. Nielson of "The Danish Church."

That Church has now eleven pastors and thirteen congregations with a membership of 4,370.

They have a college and theological seminary at Grand View, Des Moines, and at the same place they are completing an old people's home.

The other body of Danish Lutherans doing work in the State is "The Danish United Lutheran Church," having at present twenty-two pastors and thirty-three congregations, with a membership of 4,709. They have for years had a higher institution of learning at Elk Horn.

We have, then, of Danish Lutherans in this State, thirty-three pastors and forty-six congregations, with a membership of 9,079.

The work was begun among the Norwegian Lutherans by Rev. N. Brandt of the "Norwegian Synod" in the year 1851. That body has in this State at present twenty-five pastors and fifty congregations, with a total membership of 13,500. They are operating one of the best colleges in our State, Luther College at Decorah.

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