

LUTHERANS IN IOWA.

[On May 10, 1914, the Lutheran people of the State of Iowa presented to the State, in the Historical Department, a large oil portrait of Martin Luther, by Olof Frithiof Grafström. On this occasion a sermon on the life of Martin Luther was delivered by Gustav Andreen, President of Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, and this sermon has been added to the manuscript collections of the Historical Department. The historical sketches given by different ministers on the same occasion, of the various branches of the Lutheran Church in Iowa, are herewith presented.—EDITOR.]

THE GERMAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN IOWA.

BY REV. HENRY FLENTJE.

The history of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Iowa begins about 1840. Although there were many German Lutheran congregations in the eastern states at this time, there were only a few existing in the State of Iowa, at Keokuk, Fort Madison, and Burlington. Until 1852 the central, northern, and southern parts of Iowa were without congregations. In October, 1853, three German Lutheran pastors, Deindoerfer, Grossmann, and Schueller, with about twenty laymen, came from Michigan to Clayton county to do mission work for the German Lutheran Church. They organized the first Evangelical Lutheran Church in the central part of Iowa, and called their home "St. Sebald." Here it was also their intention to found a teacher's seminary, but this idea was given up. Later this seminary was built at Dubuque. From St. Sebald as a centre, Lutheran churches were organized all over Iowa. On the 24th of August, 1854, four pastors, Deindoerfer, S. Fritschel, Grossman, and Schueller, met at the parsonage in St. Sebald, and with about twenty laymen founded the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and other States. The growth of the synod was slow but sure. Many German Lutherans moved from the eastern states and joined existing congregations, or organized new ones.

In 1870, the Lutheran church in Iowa consisted of about ninety pastors, and one hundred and twenty congregations.

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.

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