

GIDDINGS IS HOST TO STATE CONVENTION

Jubilee Convention of Mo. Lutherans Now in Session

Open Air Services Sunday July 12 Celebrating 25th Anniversary

The 25th anniversary of the Texas District of the Missouri Synod will be celebrated Sunday with services both morning and afternoon. Prof. H. Stedtman of Austin speaking at 10 and Rev. J. W. Behnken of Houston speaking at 2:30. This will be a big day for Texas Lutherans, and a very large crowd is expected for the occasion.

The growth of the district during the past twenty-five years has doubled its strength. It now has 99 pastors, 82 affiliated and 64 non-affiliated congregations with 14,797 baptized members. Congregational property amounts to \$1,453,865. Private schools maintained by members amount to 64 with an enrollment of 4591, taught by 42 regular teachers, 27 pastors and students.

Giddings is located six miles from the original settlement, Serbin, where a colony of Germans settled in 1854 with their pastor Rev. John Kilian who left Germany for religious freedom. They traveled overland, many walked, from Galveston, suffered privations and endured the elements, especially one drought in 1857, established their church and school and helped to change this section from a cattle to a farming country. Through their persistence they passed on to their descendants the heritage for which they labored, and the Serbin church has been one of the bedrocks of the Texas District.

The Missouri Synod was organized in 1847 and these Texas Lutherans soon joined that synod. That body has now expanded into an international body subdivided into 30 districts in the U. S., Canada and South America with allied bodies in Australia, Finland, Poland, and missionaries in India and China. They will celebrate in 1932 an international meeting.

One of the important questions to come before the convention is whether the state shall be subdivided into a northern and southern district with the I. & G. N. Railroad as the dividing line. The proposed division is merely to increase the efficiency of the work over the state. There is no division in doctrinal questions, as all members are agreed as to the tenets of that faith. Mission work is also stressed very much and a good showing in that field was reported.

The sessions are well attended; standing room in the large church building is all taken with large overflow crowds in the yard. Meals are served the visitors in the school building, and Giddings people were well



Immanuel Luth. Church and Parochial School Building

where 25th Annual State Convention of the Texas District Missouri Luth. Synod is now in session



REV. G. W. FISCHER
Host Pastor to Convention



PROF. K. DUBE
Principal Private School



HERMAN BIAR
Elder, 26 years
Disbursing Officer, 39 years



AUG. J. BIAR
President of Board



PAUL NERGER
Treasurer

organized beforehand so that every detail of caring for the immense crowd is now working smoothly.

Important visitors have been Dr. P. Pfotenhauer, Chicago, president of the general synod; Prof. H. J. Stosworth of St. John's College, Winfield, Kan.; and Dr. Theo. Laetsch of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis who lectured on "The Person of Christ" throughout the convention. Rev. J. W. Behnken of Houston, a step-son of Rev. G. Birkmann, will feature the anniversary service Sunday afternoon.

A memorial service was held Thursday morning, dedicated to the memory of two pastors and one teacher who during the past years were called to their reward. Rev. L. Heilmeler,

Rev. G. Buchschacher and Prof. H. Schroeder. These men were well known in Giddings and were respected by all who knew them for their consecrated Christian lives. They were landmarks here.

An educational service was held Thursday evening, stressing the necessity and the benefits of Christian education. This work is carried on in their private schools and in their Sunday schools. Rev. P. B. Miertschin of Taylor delivered the sermon. All missionaries were called upon to give an account of their work Thursday morning, also a discussion of their problems. That afternoon Rev. L. Meyer of St. Louis addressed the synod on Finance and Missions. Today's (Friday) sessions will consider school matters. The committee is to report at length. This evening a special sermon will be for the pastors of the synod.

MISSIONARY TO CHINA ORDAINED HERE SUNDAY

The special mission services of the Lutherans, assembled here in convention, will find a very fitting climax in the ordination of Rev. Alvin C. Diers, a recent graduate of Concordia Seminary of St. Louis. The young man is a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Diers of LaGrange. He is a product of the Christian Day school of La Grange, taught at the time by his pastor Rev. A. E. Moebius, and of the college at Winfield, Kan. and the seminary, spending in all ten years in his preparatory work for the ministry. A call to China has been extended to him by the Missouri Lutheran Synod and he has accepted. After the sermon Sunday afternoon by Rev. J. W. Behnken, his pastor, assisted by many prominent ministers, will read the charge to him.

The Immanuel Luth. church of Giddings is host to the annual state convention of the Missouri Synod this week and until Tuesday of next week. Giddings has made ample preparations to take care of several hundred visiting pastors, teachers and lay delegates. This is probably the last time this body will be assembled because the question of sub-dividing the state convention into two sections with the I. & G. N. Railroad as the dividing line will be determined at this meeting.

Giddings is known for its hospitality and doubtless the visitors now in our midst will realize before they leave why this section is the home of the most of the best of life. Its citizenship is hospitable, its homes are inviting and everything is done that the visitors' sojourn is a pleasant one. Giddings prides itself on its welcome to the stranger, and newcomers are soon made to feel at home in Giddings.

Giddings and adjacent territory has been one of the pioneer sections of Texas in more than one way. It is one of the very first sections to take up the idea of diversified farming and that line of effort has been an active one during the past 24 years. Giddings has pointed the way in the face of adverse agricultural conditions and now its farmers are thrifty, prosperous and able to weather any financial storm.

Its good roads provide direct connection with each city in Texas, also giving an outlet for disposing of all products grown here. Its railroad connections are the best to be found anywhere and but few shipping points are as good as those provided by Giddings. Its opportunities along industrial lines are promising.

Giddings is a healthy place, free from any of the contagious diseases and planned to a scale whereby it can develop into a city many times its present size. Its abundance of good water, good schools and churches, splendid winter climate, all varieties of truck and vegetable, field, garden and orchard crops along with the even tenor of its citizenry to live together in a manner that promotes the the best interest of all concerned, make Giddings an ideal place for a home.

The many visitors who are in our city for the first time, are expected to be one of us while in our midst. They are invited to mix and mingle freely with the people of Giddings and to make themselves as much at ease as the hot weather will permit. The weather clerk seems to have turned on the wrong valve during the time, so we can only say that it is hot everywhere just now.

May your stay in Giddings be one of profit and interest to you both from the point of serving your church and of spending a while among the friendliest people to be found anywhere.