

**The Giddings News**

May 20, 1932

**WALBURG LUTHERAN  
CHURCH CELEBRATES  
50th ANNIVERSARY**

The 50 years of history of the Walburg Lutheran church was published in the Williamson County Sun (Georgetown) last week, and it contained reference to numerous persons who are known in Lee County. That church was organized in May 1882 at the home of John Neitsch, with the following charter members: John Schultze, Karl Streich, Aug. Dohre, Albert Ramm, Albert Krause, Andreas Schneider, Wilhelm Andres, John Neitsch and Jacob Schomber. The first church building was 20x30, 10 ft. high and Rev. J. H. Maitsch was the first pastor. In 1883 he was called to the orphans home in New Orleans and Rev. Birkmann ordained and installed Rev. L. Ernst Dec. 10, 1883.

June 19, 1886 a severe storm struck the neighborhood and almost every home was damaged. The hail storm destroyed the entire crop, and there followed a long dry spell which was a great disaster to that community. Most of the farmers who had bought land had to give up their land and become renters. Dec. 12, 1886, Rev. Ernst accepted the call to the Evergreen (Lincoln) church. Rev. J. H. Sieck became the pastor Sept 1890 and was installed by Rev. Buchschacher Oct. 12, 1890. The church building was now too small and it was enlarged and dedicated June 2, 1892. A church band was organized Jan. 1, 1901. A new church building was dedicated April 21, 1901. A pipe organ was installed and a two-teacher school was being taught. C. Schwartz was a teacher, who went to the Lincoln school in 1919. The church was enlarged in 1921.

During the fifty years there have been baptized 768 children and two adults, 428 confirmed, 186 marriages, 149 burials. There are now 88 voting members and 325 communicants.