

HISTORY
of the
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEDOR, TEXAS

My Church, my Church,
My dear old Church,
My fathers' and my own.--

On March 11, 1870, a group of Lutherans who had settled near the "Long Prairie, on the Yegua, in Burleson County" organized a confessional Lutheran congregation which they named "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church." Twenty-two members, mostly from the mother church at Serbin, Texas, joined together to form this congregation. Visitor Pastor Brohm of the Western District of the Missouri Lutheran Synod had come from St. Louis to Serbin and from there, together with Prof. Leubner, he came to the meeting in which the organization was effected. The name Fedor came up later. But there the old congregation still exists and intends to give special thanks to Almighty God for all His spiritual blessings which He had showered on this congregation the past 70 years.

The original signers of the constitution have all departed this vale of tears many years ago, but some of the descendants are still represented in the congregation's list. Here are the names of those signing the first constitution: A. Handrick, A. Symank, C. Dube, P. Pahn, A. Suchy, A. Bluemmel. Mr. G. Boback had bought a league of land in the Yegua territory and presented the congregation with about 50 acres of his property for a church plot. Later the congregation acquired an acre more to the northwest, the hill on which the church was erected in 1875 and on which most of the buildings of the congregation still stand. The aforementioned Mr. Boback does not seem to have signed the constitution, but he, together with A. Lehmann, and G. Schroeder are mentioned as the first board of elders of the church.

The church had no resident pastor for the first year and a half. But Mr. John A. Proff taught the Christian Day School which was at once established, became the first

Pastor of Trinity Church. He resigned, however, in the year 1875 and founded a second congregation with some of the members of Fedor at the northern edge of San Antonio Prairie, 2 miles west of Lincoln. That congregation soon dissolved and part of it went to the present Manheim, others to Lincoln. But Trinity congregation of Fedor continued its work.

The new Pastor whom the congregation called was none other than the aged patriarch, the Rev. G. Birkmann, D. D. who served the Fedor church for more than 40 years, not, however, without interruption; for after serving from 1876 to 1879, he was called to a flock in Dallas. But after Pastor Maisch had succeeded Rev. Birkmann, and in turn had been called to Walburg, the Fedor congregation again called Rev. Birkmann for its pastor; so in the year 1882 he was again the resident pastor, remaining then in Fedor until 1923.

The congregation has been able to carry on its church-work throughout its entire history without any financial aid from the church-at-large. It grew rapidly especially in the 80s.

An early transcript of the congregation's constitution, now yellowed and faded, bears these names: Aug. Lehmann, Wm. Wolf, And. Melde, Matt. Demann, Carl Wagner, Ch. Jakob, And. Kuntze, E. Lehman, Joh. Noack, And. Noack, And. Pillack, And. Symmank, Carl Dube, Peter Pahn, And. Handrick, Aug. Bluemmel, Aug. Bluemmel, Aug. Polnick, Jac. Moerbe, C. A. Patschke, Aug. Dube, Joh. Wuensehe, Ernst Winkler, Hy. Meyer, And. Symmank, Jr., And. Polnick, And. Falke, Joh. Zschech, Peter Urban, Chas. Michalk, And. Falke, Jr., Traugott Patschke, Herm. Urban, John Krautschick.

In the late 90s an exodus of alarming proportions left for Thorndale. Those left behind really feared the congregation would have to disband. But these fears were unfounded, others came to take the places of those who had left.

The congregation gave Pastor Birkmann an assistant for a

while, the Rev. P. Brauer, who came in 1918, but soon left again.

When Pastor Birkmann left, Pastor Seidel took his place, but he also left after a scant 2 years in office at Fedor. Also Pastor Lugenheim, his successor, left in 1928. The Rev. W. E. Dorre moved up from Swiss Alp to take over the work of the ministry, only to leave for St. John's Church of Houston after 2 years' of service. There followed a brief vacancy, until the present incumbent of the holy office, Rev. A. F. Michalk began his ministry in Fedor in May, 1930. He had helped in the school as a student in 1916-1917.

The Christian Day School had as its first regular teacher Prof. Nehrling, who later became a noted naturalist. Perhaps it is not so generally known that also the venerable Doctor Birkmann had large collections of butterflies, bugs, beetles, and snakes which he took to the World's Fair at St. Louis and there received the gold medal.

Prof. Nehrling's successor in the school was the well-known Prof. G. M. Schleier, now living in retirement at La Grange. But the list of teachers that follows is a formidable one. For longer or shorter periods the following teachers taught in Fedor: Rhode, Doepke, Daenzer, Redeker, Leubner, Schweder, Roesse and Wieting, Then Prof. Theo. Schroeder came from New Orleans in the year 1924 to take over the school. He had a number of assistants all these years until Prof. R. G. Buuck arrived in the fall of 1931. Now the two able men have worked together at Fedor ever since 1931.

In the 70 years of its existence Trinity congregation at Fedor saw 1447 baptisms performed, 869 confirmed, 331 marriages solemnized, and 419 burials. The congregation is to this day quite active. It numbers almost 500 souls, 110 voting members. It has contributed last year (a short cotton crop) about \$3,000 for running expenses, \$1,100 for the work of the church in its mission fields, and also made repairs on the church building costing more than \$800.

Maps do not even show a spot where Fedor is. When you hear a train whistle, you know it's going to rain or get cold — the sound usually does not travel so far. But in this quiet hinterland, the Lord and Bishop of His flock has all these years performed great miracles on human hearts by His Word and Sacraments. In the entire history of the church the few divorces that took place could be counted on the fingers of one hand, and these were not between member and member. There is no record of a murder having taken place. Theft and arson are very rare. Now Fedor people are no better by nature than other people. If their record stands unique in this crime-ridden age, all glory belongs to the blessed Gospel of Christ Crucified "who is of God made unto us Wisdom, and Righteousness, and Sanctification, and Redemption." I Cor. 1. 30.

"Abide, O dearest Jesus,
Among us with Thy Gra.
That satan may not harm us,
Nor we to sin give place."

JUBILEE SERVICES

Commemorating the
70th ANNIVERSARY

of the Founding of

Trinity Lutheran Church, Fedor, Texas
Sunday, Feb. 23, 1941

10:00 o'clock Morning Service in the German language.
Sermon by the Pastor of the Church.

2:30 o'clock Afternoon Services.

Sermon by the Rev. G. W. Fischer (German).

If the weather is favorable and many attend who cannot understand the German, a short address and summary will be given in the English language by the Pastor.

Choir sings: "Fahré fort!" ("Zion, March On!")

7:30 o'clock Evening Services in the English language.

The Rev. R. Nerger preaches the sermon.

Choir sings "Thy Presence, Gracious God, Afford."

The Thanksoffering of the Day has been designated for Missions in heathen lands left stranded by the war and in desperate need.