

1934

1959

Rev. Titus Lehmann



"Humility and love are the essence of true religion"

ON HIS

25th Anniversary

AS PASTOR OF

United Evangelical Church

EAST AVENUE AND DILLON STREET

BALTIMORE 24, MARYLAND

SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 1959

REVEREND TITUS LEHMANN

Today we are honoring a man who has dedicated himself to the service of Christ. Too often we, as a congregation, do not take the time or trouble to recognize this and express our gratitude to our Pastor. This recognition today is our small and humble way of showing our appreciation to the man who has served our church so faithfully and so well.

Rev. Lehmann is a graduate of Elmhurst College and Eden Seminary. Upon being ordained, it was his intention to serve as a missionary in India; but this was prevented by the outbreak of World War I. As an alternative he dedicated himself to serving missionary churches in this country where he ministered in San Antonio, Texas; Chilicothe, Ohio; Buffalo, New York; Jackson, Missouri and Indianapolis, Indiana.

Rev. Lehmann received the call from German United Evangelical Church in January, 1934; and he and Mrs. Lehmann arrived in Baltimore on April 19, 1934. Thus began 25 years (and many more, we hope) of sincere, loyal, and devoted service to the largest Protestant church in our section of Baltimore.

These were some of the most difficult days in the history of our country, as we were in the middle of the great depression and this condition was compounded to an incoming pastor by the fact that our church was just beginning a program to build a new Sunday School building and parsonage. In addition there was the matter of the confirmation class (Easter was rapidly approaching) which was not adequately instructed to qualify as confirmands on Palm Sunday. The confirmands were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday in 1934 (rather than on Palm Sunday), and the Sunday School and Parsonage were completed in 1937 (at a total cost of \$66,000.00).

With the outbreak of World War II there was the responsibility of keeping contact with the servicemen from the church. During the war Rev. Lehmann corresponded with 429 men who were in the service and of this total 423 returned home safely.

The most recent project with which he has been absorbed has been completion of our new church. This was begun in April 1956 and completed in December 1957 at a cost of approximately \$300,000.00.

His service to his congregation has influenced and affected the entire community and the following statistics will help point out how far reaching this effect may be. In his ministry here, he has performed 3,331 baptisms, confirmed 2,039 persons, united 5,896 persons in holy wedlock, conducted 2,226 funeral services, given holy communion to thousands, and made thousands of visits to the sick and the troubled.

Did you know that . . .

Rev. Lehmann's parents were both missionaries.

Rev. Lehmann was one of nineteen children, most of whom are buried in foreign countries. One brother is buried on the Gold Coast of Africa.

Rev. Lehmann was confirmed by his brother, Timothy, at St. John's Church in Baltimore.

Rev. Lehmann's first assignment was as a circuit rider in Texas where he served four churches, one of which was located in a school-house. The altar of this church consisted of a teacher's desk covered by a white cloth. The children for confirmation knelt upon a soap box which had been covered with a horse blanket.

Rev. Lehmann is a great believer in promptness but his own wedding was a half hour late. Reason—The bride was late.

Rev. Lehmann's first formal church was in San Antonio, Texas. Upon arrival at this church he and his new bride were met at the train and taken to the church for a reception. Here he was informed that he must spend the night attending a wake with one of the members of the congregation whose husband had just died. Without even seeing his living quarters, he went to the wake while his bride went to prepare the home.

Rev. Lehmann's complete inability to say "no" to anyone resulted one night in Mrs. Lehmann's making up two beds on the floor of the church where he was serving. Two friends had telephoned, stating that there was no lodging available in town; so he invited them to spend the night with him. His own living quarters at the time consisted of one bedroom with a member of the congregation.

Rev. Lehmann stated that he (1) would never serve a church where there were no trees, (2) would never serve a church with a large congregation, and (3) would never serve a church located within a City.

Rev. Lehmann's most harrowing experience in Baltimore probably was when he convinced a young man (who had been a member of his church in Indianapolis) that he should return home and give himself up to the authorities. This young man had just murdered his wife and was arranging to leave the country.

Rev. and Mrs. Lehmann celebrated their forty-fifth wedding anniversary on February 26th of this year.

Rev. Lehmann has 6 grandchildren—Theodore and Larry Lehmann and Brent, Jed, Derek and Karuth Fleckinger.

T wenty five long years of labor
I n the service of the Master
T rusting always in his guidance
U ndismayed – an humble pastor
S ervice in your great ambition

L ove foregoes who know but sadness
E ver doing good for others
H elpful in dispensing gladness
M ay God bless your every effort
A lways help you serve your neighbors
N ever leave you nor foresake you
N ever fail to bless your labors