

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN
THE COUNTRY; A STUDY,
AN EXPLANATION, AN
ATTEMPTED SOLUTION**

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The Lutheran church in the country; a study, an explanation, an attempted solution by G. H. Gerberding

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G. H. GERBERDING

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THE
Lutheran Church in
the Country

A STUDY
AN EXPLANATION
AN ATTEMPTED SOLUTION . . .

BY
G. H. GERBERDING, D.D., LL.D.

AUTHOR OF
New Testament Conversions, The Lutheran Pastor, The Lutheran
Catechist, Problems and Possibilities, The Way of
Salvation in the Lutheran Church, The
Life and Letters of Passavant.

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TO

All Faithful Country Pastors

Who Love the Country;

Who Love Country People;

Who Love the Country Church;

Who Appreciate its Importance;

Who Believe in its Possibilities;

Who Believe that Lutheranism will Survive in the Country

BECAUSE IT IS THE FITTEST;

This Book is Affectionately

DEDICATED

PREFACE

Some one has said: "If it were not for the stream of fresh, pure, uncontaminated blood flowing into them from the country the cities would rot in their own iniquity." We are sorry to be compelled to believe that this is true. But the good, pure and purifying blood does not all come into the city from the country districts of our own land. Many of the much maligned "foreigners" from the country districts of the old world are a saving salt of no small importance.

This book wants to help the reader to understand country people and to appreciate the worth of country character. It desires to help the country pastor to remove what hinders and hurts country character. It would fain assist him to get a right understanding of his community and to use his church for its uplift. It hopes to contribute toward the saving and strengthening of the Lutheran Church in the country.

The country problem is peculiar. Its solution is difficult. The work is often depressing. The Lutheran pastor needs a better understanding of the situation.

Much has been written on the country church problem by men outside of our church. We can learn from these writers. We have used them in preparing this book. But there is much in them that we as Lutherans cannot use. After all, we are different. The Lutheran Church has principles, doctrines, conceptions, methods, and a spirit that are all her own. We need to look at the country church from our own viewpoint.

The problem is not as acute among us as it is among others. But there are clouds and rumblings on our church sky also. In some spots the Lutheran Church is also declining in the country. If we do not study the situation and guard against the dangers then we also will have to suffer. Forewarned is forearmed.

Our prayer is that this book may assist and encourage our country pastors. Their work is important. Their opportunities are great. Their sky is big with promise. God bless them.

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