

Dr. E. E. Stauffer Dies at Age of 79

Noted State Lutheran Leader Ill Long Time

Dr. E. E. Stauffer, aged 79, prominent for more than 50 years in Kansas religious, educational, government and civic activities, died Saturday morning in Wesley hospital following an illness of several months.

The widely-known clergyman devoted much of his life to service to the United Lutheran church, but became a leader in many other



DR. E. E. STAUFFER

fields. Among important posts he once held were the presidencies of the Kansas Council of Churches, the Wichita Council of Churches, the Lutheran synod of Kansas and adjacent states, and Midland college in Fremont, Neb. He also served a term in the Kansas legislature.

Dr. Stauffer, whose residence was 1219 Franklin, was born Aug. 15, 1872, in Napierville, Ill., the seventh son of John Kinsey Stauffer and Martha Engle Stauffer. The family moved to Abilene, Kan., in 1878, and a few weeks later moved to a farm near Hope, Kan.

Traveled with Bryan

In the fall of 1891 he enrolled in Midland college, a Lutheran school then located in Atchison, Kan. In 1898 he was graduated from the Western Theological seminary in Atchison, and in July of that year accepted his first ministerial call—at St. John's Lutheran church in Wellington. During his 4½-year service in Wellington he married Miss Elizabeth Becker, of Atchison.

From Wellington Dr. Stauffer went to Lawrence to become pastor of Trinity Lutheran church. He served there for more than 16 years. In 1915 he was elected to represent Douglas county in the Kansas legislature.

Dr. Stauffer traveled with William Jennings Bryan, the "silver-tongued" orator, in the height of the Chautauqua lecture period in the early 1910's. Both were associated with the Redpath-Horner Chautauqua circuit.

Dr. Stauffer's service at Lawrence ended when he was elected president of Midland college and the Western Theological seminary. Soon after going to the college he headed a committee which negotiated to move the institution to Fremont.

While president of Midland the

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minister made a trip to Edinburgh, Scotland, to attend a convention of Rotary International.

Four years after his election as college head, Dr. Stauffer resigned to accept a call to become pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church in Wichita. He was installed in August, 1922. In his 25 years as pastor at St. Paul's the congregation grew from fewer than 200 to more than 1,200 baptized members.

It was while minister at St. Paul's that Dr. Stauffer was elected president of the Kansas Council of Churches, and served two terms as head of the Wichita council.

Other positions he held in Wichita were as a member of the Community Chest board for seven years, member of the Public Health Nursing association for 23 years and president for four years, member of the first board of regents at the University of Wichita and later board president, and member of the board of the Wichita home for the aged for 20 years, including service as board president. He also was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Knife and Fork club and the Garden club.

Retired in 1947

In 1947, after completing 50 years in the ministry and 25 years as pastor of St. Paul's church, Dr. Stauffer retired. Dr. T. Benton Peery succeeded him, and Dr. Stauffer was named pastor emeritus.

Dr. Stauffer's retirement did not end his ministry, for in the remaining years of his life he traveled widely in the state preaching guest sermons. He also continued to assist in special services at St. Paul's until illness prevented his participation. Four years ago he received the LL.D. degree from Midland college.

Besides his wife, Dr. Stauffer is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Madge Lockstrom, of Lindsborg, Kan.; a son, Norris Stauffer, of route 6; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by the Broadway mortuary.

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