

Language Proclamation Correspondence #1

*Sioux City, Ia., 6/1, 1918.
The Hon. Governor W.L. Harding,
Des Moines, Ia.*

My dear Governor:

Long before your proclamation regarding the use of the foreign languages in public meetings the St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Sioux City, Ia. Has been conducting their services in the English language, and these not only as a side issue. Every Sunday at 10 a.m. we had for those who could not get the full benefit of the English service [sic] the very same in the German, and right after this German Service we had the English service with the identical and very same sermon as in the German. Likewise in our parochial school the medium of the instruction was the English in all eight grades, and since I am pastor, we even introduced to be more in harmony with the public school the public school books, only those branches pertaining the religion were taught in the German. Your proclamation, therefore, was indeed [sic] a hard blow for our members who proved their 100% loyalty, and are not prohibited to worship and serve their Lord in communion according to their best ability and conscience.

I guarantee you, Governor, that not one word outside of the Scriptural Truth is brought before the hearers. We strictly adhere to the Lord's principle: "Render unto Ceasar[sic] the things which are Ceasar's [sic]; and unto God the things that are God's." Matth.22,21. Upon which principle even our constitution of this our God-blessed country is framed, where we and our children should enjoy the absolute separation of our state and [sic] church.

We belong to the Missouri Synod whose founders have left Germany just on account of oppression, and have therefor [sic] absolutely no connection whatever with the church in Germany which is not even Lutheran.

Encouraged by the enclosed letter, which I wish to have it returned. I, requested by my members who as before said proved themselves to be loyal, beg you to permit us to conduct our services in both languages.

Very respectfully,

L.A. Matthaides