

Pastor E. Gutkewitsch – 25th Anniversary in Office

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Pastor E. Gutkewitsch on his 25th Year in Office Anniversary

Pastor Erich Gutkewitsch celebrated his 25th year in office anniversary on Sunday, 24 August, 1924. Not only the Kishinev congregation, the Evangelical clergy and outlying district of Bessarabian Germans, but also representatives of the military, the Orthodox Church, State and City authorities came together on this day in Kishinev for a huge festive event and above all for a festival worship service.

Pastor Gutkewitsch is 52 years old. He is the son of German-Baltic parents and comes from the city of Wenden, in Livonia. He was educated in one of the few German school institutions in Russia, in the highly acclaimed State Secondary School at Birkenruh (Livonia). After completing Secondary School, he attended the Dorpat University and studied theology. After the university, E. Gutkewitsch came to Moscow as a candidate for the ministry, where he completed his probationary year in accordance with the provisions of the Church Constitution. Thereafter, he was called as



assistant to Provost Faltin at Kishinev and there began to gain the love and trust of the congregation. Later, after working as a rural pastor in the Kiev *Gouvernement*, as Provost Faltin went into retirement in 1904, he was once again called by a unanimous vote as pastor to Kishinev. Of his 25 years in office, 20 of them were served uninterrupted in the capital city of our province as a faithful caretaker of the souls (*Seelsorger*) of his congregation, his fellow

citizens and people of his race (*Stammesgenossen*); as an always helpful, reliable and trustworthy adviser and friend. Besides the city of Kishinev, the city of Bendery and 16 smaller country congregations belonged to his church parish; and for a time, after 1918, he also served Jassy. In a motion by the Evangelical General Consistory in Saint Petersburg, in recognition of his faithful service, Pastor Gutkewitsch received the gold pectoral cross.

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