

CHRISTMAS FEAST RABBI'S SUBJECT

Jewish Pastor Says It Is Primarily
Children's Day and De-
serves to Live.

At Temple Emmanuel last night Rabbi Lefkowitz preached at the last of the Chanukah services on "Chanukah and Christmas." He explained the origin of the Jewish festival, which is similar in character to the Christian Christmas and occurs at the same time of the year.

Away back, centuries ago, he said, the people began to celebrate on the 22nd of December the event of the lengthening of the days and the approach of the season of more sun, culminating in the harvest time. The original celebration was the heathen worship of the sun god, but it marked a time when friend rejoiced with friend, the rich were kind to the poor, the master was mindful of his slave.

The Jew was caught in the universal rejoicing and the plea of the rabbi was in vain. The celebration attached itself to the race and it has been retained to this day. It has been invested with a new character and given a new significance. By a clever maneuvering it has become a typical Jewish celebration, despite its heathen origin.

The rabbi compared the Jewish and the Christian celebrations and said they were both essentially children's festivals, that as observed religiously, the festival is much in the background. The rabbi made a plea for the continuance of the festival as it is celebrated for the reason that it is the festival of the children. Speaking of the purpose of the celebration and the influence of the sweetness and innocence of the children on the grown people, the rabbi said children are the most effective agents in keeping men and women from doing what is wrong and dishonorable. He said the desire of mankind to leave a name pure and spotless, one that will be an honor to their children, has had the greatest influence in keeping men and women from doing wrong.
