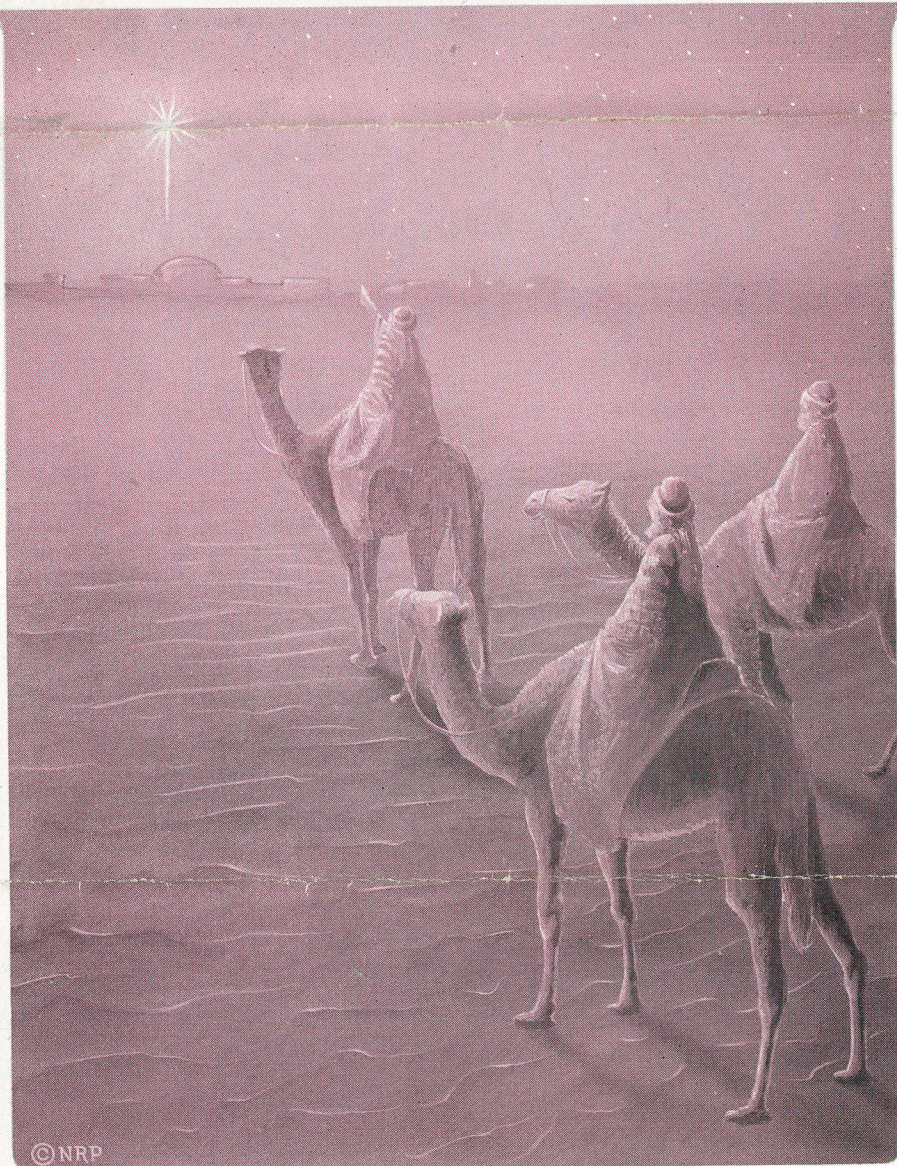


# The Assistant Pastor

*Saude & Jerico, Iowa*

*December, 1926*



“and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them,  
till it came and stood over where the young child was”



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### THE ASSISTANT PASTOR.

Published monthly by the pastor of the Jerico and Saude Lutheran Churches affiliated with the Norwegian Synod of the Synodical Conference.

H. M. Tjernagel, Pastor.

Subscription price, 50 cents.

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### CHURCH DIRECTORY.

H. M. Tjernagel, pastor.

#### Saude.

Trustees: Andrew Vaala, Oscar Natvig, Carl Swennumson.

Treasurer, D. O. Natvig.

Secretary, J. P. Landsverk.

Ladies' Aid:

Mrs. C. O. Natvig, president.

Miss Lena Landsverk, secretary.

Mrs. Iver Natvig, treasurer.

Cemetery Committee: Alf Vaala, H. O. Natvig, John Borlaug, Anna Vaala, Lena Landsverk.

#### Jerico.

Trustees: Charley Johnson, J. N. Anderson, Sivert Fossen.

Treasurer, J. A. Robinson.

Secretary, A. W. Oleson.

Ladies' Aid:

Mrs. Halvor Nelson, president.

Mrs. S. Johnson, secretary.

Mrs. Fred. Amman, treasurer.

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### CHURCH SERVICES.

**Saude:** Second and fourth Sundays, 10:45 a. m.; Saturday School every Saturday, 10 a. m.; Confirmation class, 9:30 a. m., Fridays.

**Jerico:** First and third Sundays, 11 a. m.; Saturday school, 2 p. m.; Confirmation class, 2 p. m., Fridays.

Fifth Sundays by special announcement.

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Services on Christmas day, 11 a. m., at Jerico. Christmas tree exercises in the evening of the same day at 7:30.

Second day of Christmas, services at Saude at 10:45 a. m. Christmas tree program in the evening at 7:30. Divine services at Saude on New Year's day, 10:45 a. m.

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**Andrew Arvid**, a son of Ole A. Anderson and wife Ella, nee Thronson, was baptized at Jerico on Thanksgiving day. The sponsors were: Mr. and Mrs. H. Anderson, Alfred and Mae Anderson.

**Beulah Ruth**, daughter of Tom Swennumson and wife Myrtle, nee Young, was baptized at Saude on Sunday, November 28. Mrs. Anna Anderson, Carl Swennumson, Lena Landsverk and Fred Stensland were sponsors.

On Saturday evening, November 20, we had the old-time experience of hitching up the team and driving through and over snow drifts to a wedding. What a pity that weddings must now be classed among old-time things. Once safely inside the hospitable home of the bride's parents and enveloped by the aroma of all kinds of good things to eat and among the happy wedding guests, the snow drifts and Jack Frost were soon forgotten. And when we stood before the

blushing bride and the quietly jubilant bridegroom, we were made to feel that this must be a June day with sun, moon and stars all shining at once. Pauline Genevieve Landsverk was the bride and Olaf Gerhard Knutson was the groom.

How was the bride dressed? Don't know. The color scheme of the decorations? Can't tell you a thing about it. All we know is that everything was just grand and beautiful and the pumpkin pie was superb.

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The third Wednesday and the third Friday of November, respectively, the Saude and Jerico annual business meetings were held. The attendance at both meetings was discouragingly small.

Besides the routine business of hearing reports and electing officers and committees, Saude elected a committee to report on better lighting for the church. It was decided to buy fifty hymn books for the church, also that the services on the three great holidays of the church year, be conducted in the Norwegian language. This was unanimously carried in deference to the few remaining elderly members who can not be edified by a sermon in the English language.

At Jerico the resolution to place a hundred hymn books in the church and to shed the antiquated system of handling the finances of the congregation and inaugurate a certain up to date system, were among the matters favorably passed on.

In our January issue of the Assistant Pastor we hope to publish the treasurer's reports.

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And this reminds us, let us have care that we do not make the Christmas holidays a season of surfeiting—fraadseri. Surfeiting and drunkenness are mentioned in the same sentence in Scripture; the one is a sin as well as the other. To be sure, let there be popcorn balls, candies, nuts, fruits, cakes and cookies of all kinds and sizes, "lefse," "lutefisk," fancy cooking and nicely decorated tables all in honor of the Birthday Child but, must we therefore gorge ourselves? It is no manifestation of the Christian Christmas spirit that children and even adults lie around as do cows who have eaten unsparingly of a luxuriant clover field.

Surfeiting and drunkenness, over-eating and over-drinking, belong in the same category, namely, SIN. One is as dangerous to health and life as the other. Just as drunkenness has brought many an adult to an early grave so has indiscriminate eating indirectly caused the death of many a child. Innumerable parents would be horrified at seeing children help themselves to intoxicating drinks while they indulgently see their own children gorge themselves with candies and other sweets. And, O horrors! an intoxicated child! Yes, horrible, indeed, but

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### LOST OR STRAYED

somewhere between the Saude Parsonage and Grand Rapids, Michigan, the November issue of The Assistant Pastor. When last seen it was enclosed in a strong envelope properly addressed. Finder will receive no reward as he is of little or no value now.



what about a beautiful little girl writhing in pain from an overtaxed stomach and all because the adoring parents did not have the heart to say NO to the dear little thing. Friends, perhaps, especially parents, "it is high time to awake out of sleep" (Rom. 13:11), and recognize the danger of surfeiting to body and soul.

### THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

is eulogized in every paper, weekly and daily, whether of local, state or national prominence and importance. Every magazine has an editorial on the subject. Jew, heathen, atheist, agnostic, modernist, fundamentalist, Unitarian, Catholic, Reformed and Lutheran all hail Christmas and extol the Christmas spirit. All sing of the happy Yule-tide with its message of peace and good will. "Glory to God in the highest" resounds from synagogues, cathedrals, churches and halls of every creed and size.

By this seeming unity many are led to believe that all are joined in the same Spirit of Christmas, that all are celebrating the birth of the Child in the manger. Would it were so! But, alas, to the many the Christmas Spirit is a spirit of kindness, neighborliness, brotherliness, joviality and happiness, nothing more. With the expression "Merry Christmas" the glad-hand is extended. Nothing more.

"Glory to God in the highest" is, indeed, sung, but why? Ask the Jew; ask the Unitarian; ask the modernist; ask the myriads who celebrate Christmas and you will receive varied and strange answers, nearly all of them avoiding a reference to the Christ-child, the Son of God, born of a virgin.

What occasioned the singing of the first Christmas anthem? Here is the full and complete story in all its wonderful simplicity:

Luke 2:10 "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 "For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 "And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Be not deceived, dear friends, any Christmas spirit, be its manifestations ever so beautiful, if it is not born of joy over the birth of the incarnate Son of God, the Saviour of the world, it is pleasing to Hell but not to Heaven.

### CLIPPINGS

#### VIKINGS TURN TO PEACE.

The Vikings, once the most warlike of European peoples, seem now the most peaceable. For more than a century the North Countries—Denmark, Norway, Sweden—have not actually seen war, with the exception of Bismark's incursion into Schleswig-Holstein. Nor is this era attributable solely to isolation.

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The Balkan States are likewise at a distant corner of Europe, yet for generations they have been a breeding place for war. The same irritations which have brought conflict to other nations have also been faced by Scandinavia, but they have been faced and solved more honestly. Even when Norway decided to sever its traditional union with Sweden the break was accomplished amicably, and the two countries are still on the best of terms.

Norse blood once swept over most of Europe, conquering as it went, and Norse ships were undisputed rulers of the seas. And this bold spirit is not lost in the descendants; it is merely turned into other channels. Where the Vikings were once first in war, their sons are now first in peace. Where they once ventured into uncharted seas, they now venture into new realms of science, of literature, and of the fine art of citizenship. It is highly significant that the great Nobel Prizes, established by the Swedish originator of dynamite, are awarded to those whose work in science, literature, and furtherance of the world's peace is considered of most benefit to humanity."

The above is reprinted from *The Dearborn Independent*, for what it is worth, for the benefit of those among us who, intentionally or unintentionally, conceal the ancestry of their children by giving them names foreign to their fore-bears. What would you say of an Irishman or of a German who would choose to name his son Ole rather than Pat or Fritz? Enuf said.

#### THE PRIEST AND THE IRISHMAN.

Some time ago a priest, in visiting one of his parishioners, found him reading in his Bible. He explained to the poor Irishman that it was useless and dangerous for a layman to read the Bible. The man would not consent to this, and asked the priest for whom the Bible was really written.

"Ah," said the priest, "the Bible is for us priests and not for you unlearned people."

"Is that so?" answered the Irishman. "I read in my Bible that parents should teach the Word of God to their children, and priests have no children."

"But Mike," said the priest, "you cannot understand the Bible; it was not written for such people as you are."

"Ah, your reverence, whatever I cannot understand will do me no harm; and what I do understand does me a world of good."

"Look here, Mike," said the priest, "you ought to go to church, and the church will instruct you. The church will give you the milk of the Word of God."

"Yes, but where does the church get this milk? It gets it from the Bible, does it not? Ah, reverence, pardon me, but it is an old experience that those who handle milk often adulterate it. I'd rather have my own cow."—Selected.

The grandeurs of an oratorio are not appreciated by the tongue, nor is the beauty of flowers discerned by means of the ears. Likewise, the deep things of religion are not discoverable by the cold process of logic.

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