

The Assistant Pastor

Vol. 1

Candy-Coated

"The drug store is becoming a symbol of the times. Bitter medicines that once decked its shelves are fast disappearing. In their places are numerous candy-coated substitutes. 'Easier to take' the druggist explains; and his explanation echoes the general demand of the people. For all harshness, all bitterness, must be strained out of the life of today. Modern life must be made candy-coated.

The great glossing process begins with the training of youth. Discipline is now largely a matter of suasion. Force, punishment, have been ruled out. Indulgence is the keyword. Education must be made as pleasant as possible. And it leads—this great glossing process—quite naturally to the vitals of the nation. All penalty for crime must be candy-coated.

Most interesting, however, of the phases of this glossing process is its inroad into the church. The stern, uncompromising religion of our ancestors has been treated to a diet of sugar and cream. Hell has lost its terrors and heaven its rewards. The doctrine of eternal punishment has passed from the pulpit to the stage—where it is bandied as a joke. Those who cling to the old faith are butts of ridicule. Those who have ready explanation and make easy allowance for all shortcomings seem the real leaders of the day . . ."—Dearborn Independent.

"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." This will be the final terrible reality to all who imbibe the present-day candy-coated religion.

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THE ASSISTANT PASTOR.

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H. M. Tjernagel, Editor.

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CHURCH DIRECTORY.

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CHURCH SERVICES.

JERICO: First and third Sunday, 10 a. m.
Saturday school every Saturday, 2 p. m. Confirmation class Fridays, 2 p. m.

SAUDE: Second and fourth Sundays, 10:45 a. m. Saturday school every Saturday, 10 a. m. Confirmation class, 9:30 a. m. Fridays.

Andrew Foss, Ole Fossen, Ned Borlaug, Nels Ellingson and the pastor attended the regular fall meeting of our circuit at Scarville, Iowa, September 29-30.

The congregation at Scarville consists of 15 families who have since 1918 built a very respectable church and have furnished the church as well as basement with all necessary furnishings. They have also acquired the finest residence in the village as a parsonage. And now they entertained the circuit royally.

Two papers were read at the meeting. One on 1 Peter 2:1-10, the other on Matthew 18:1-6. The former by your pastor; the latter by the Rev. Norman Madsen. Both provoked lively and edifying discussion.

The pastors present at the meeting were: J. A. Peterson, H. Ingebritson, C. J. Quill, A. J. Torgerson, H. A. Preus, J. B. Unseth, A. Harstad, S. Sande, N. A. Madsen, Chr. Anderson and H. M. Tjernagel.

Your pastor and delegates were exposed to serious danger on the return trip from the meeting, due to criminal negligence on the part of some highway official. At about eight in the evening we were rolling along pleasantly at about 25 miles per hour on a straight, graveled highway—No. 9—when, without warning, we found ourselves on slippery clay road. The next instant we were flung into the ditch. Calmly and quietly the car stood there and all passengers in place in their seats. When we got out of the car to survey our location we could only wonder how it could have happened without serious injury to car and passengers.

The driver can not take any blame for the occurrence for he was driving at a moderate rate of speed considering the firm, straight, graveled road. Neither can he claim any credit for injury prevented. It was God's almighty hand that held that ton and more of dead weight upright in spite of the ever-ready power of gravity.

After about an hour's delay we proceeded on our way and reached our respective homes about midnight. We expressed surprise to each other that we could feel so calm and little upset after so threatening an occurrence. I thought: "The shattered nerves will likely announce themselves later, perhaps when I try to go to sleep." It did come the next morning when my little girls awoke and hurried to tell me that they had new words to the song "Merrily we roll along, roll along, etc." "We sing," they said:

Papa's coming home tonight,
Home tonight, home tonight;
Papa's coming home tonight
In the nice new Dodge."

No, papa will not come home if God does not bring him home. Do we, dear reader, constantly realize as we should that we are dependent upon the care and protection of our Heavenly Father every moment? I know a mother whose husband's work called him away from home often, who taught her children to pray: "Dear Jesus, take care of papa and bring him safely home to us." Even the baby folded its hands and said "papa" if nothing more. Are you such a mother?

The pastor has been asked to take part in a two day meeting at Parkland, Wash., October 15 and 16, and to preach a mission sermon on Sunday, October 17. Although he dislikes leaving his work and home at this time, yet he anticipates great pleasure in seeing again the scenes of his first years as pastor.

On the return trip he will stop off at Mayville, North Dakota, to preach at Mission Festival, Rev. Emil Hansen's church, October 24. This will mean absence from home from October 11 to 26. Rev. J. E. Thoen has promised to preach at Jerico the 17th at 10 a. m., and Rev. H. A. Preus at Saude, Sunday the 24th at 2:30 p. m.

Rev. J. E. Thoen, representing the Bethany College corporation, will solicit subscriptions to Bethany College, and will also gladly render services in case of sickness, or otherwise, during the pastor's absence.

RADIO.

The radio is becoming common in our homes. It is one of the marvels of our age. One merely turns a dial and the home is flooded—flooded with that which is trivial, sensual, degrading, destructive, or with that which is dignified, refining, ennobling, instructive. A turn of the dial may shut off the appeal to the passions of some orchestra; it may shut off the ranting of some so-called scientist and bring in a Lutheran gospel sermon or a Christian lecture or other useful secular knowledge.

Parents, "Stop, Look, Listen!" The radio can as effectually destroy your home as a train can crush your auto and all in it. Let your receiving set bring the filth and godlessness, now

daily broadcasted, into your family circle and sooner or later you will realize that your home is wrecked. One can not without danger play or hob-nob with sin and godlessness, whether it comes to one through the phonograph, radio, by word of mouth or actual contact. Evil contaminates in whatever form it comes or by whatever agent it is brought to you. Guard well, therefore, the dials of your radio. And, be you, yourself, in control of them.

"Well, but," says someone, "I can't always watch the children and what they tune in on." Will you say the same as to a loaded gun in the house? You know very well that the gun must be under perfect control or you will not tolerate it on the premises. When it is a question of danger to your child's life and body then you are wide awake, but where the immortal soul is endangered you easily find excuses for your lack of watchfulness and sincere concern. No wonder Jesus said: "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." Luke 16:8.

You all know of Station KFUE, "the Gospel Voice" owned and controlled by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. You also know that reception from that station is, as a rule, not good. Last winter the authorities in charge asked the listeners in if they would be willing to contribute to a stronger and better KFUE. I made the promise that if they could better their service so that it reached our community, I would donate \$5 and also try to get \$1 donations for all owners of receiving sets in my congregations. KFUE is now being moved and rebuilt to double its former strength. I may have to make good my promise; I hope so.

CLIPPINGS.

The Lutheran Witness urges us to add the following, from an article by Clifford Bloom, to our collection of opinions regarding Lutheran church music. "Luther, a monk-musician, believed that the music of the church should be sung in the language of the people instead of in Latin, so he prepared a hymnal containing chorals, or hymns, in the German language, among which is one of his own hymns, the immortal 'A Mighty Fortress is Our God.' These same chorals were a short time later arranged and rewritten and presented to the world at large through the genius of Johan Sebastian Bach, and they stand today as the finest examples of pure church music that the world has ever known."

"Music in general is a language more far reaching and subtle than any other form of expression, and speaks the soul of the people, the period of history, the individual, and even the denomination which gives utterance to it. Thus in the historical progress of music, we find that its outpourings have always expressed the ideals, ethics and hopes of the particular period in which it sounded forth, so that today even the tragic debasement of the heavenly art to jazz and other distressing violations, is but that which this materialistic, orgiastic age lives and experiences.

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"When the Sun of the Reformation, therefore, kindled true spiritual life among men and nations, the art expressions reflected the renewed soul of mankind, so that, above all, those particular men who devoted their musical genius to the service of the Church of the Reformation, produced a musical literature which expressed just that faith, ideal and philosophy which the Church presented to mankind. In addition, by the grace of God, this music enjoyed the labor of the father of all great music, J. S. Bach, who definitely placed our Lutheran music at the pinnacle of the Temple of Music.

"Why should that music be retained and employed today? Should we not meet the taste of the day and swim with the tide? We cannot, as long as we realize that the Eternal Doctrine of the Church must stand unaltered above the vacillating meanderings of the minds of men. Just so our music, in order to fit that structure, must retain that same color and speech. For what is the purpose of music in Lutheran worship? To provide a fitting frame for the two essential elements in it: the message delivered by the Ambassador of Christ, and the worship, praise and thanks of the believers."

—Edward Rechlin, in the American Lutheran.

"The government of a country never gets ahead of the religion of the country. There is no way by which we can substitute the authority of law for the virtue of man. Of course, we can help to restrain the vicious and maintain a fair degree of security and protection by legislation and police control, but the real reforms which society in these days is seeking will come as a result of religious convictions, or they will not come at all. Peace, justice, humanity, charity—these cannot be legislated into being. They are the result of divine grace."—President Coolidge.

"The second family reunion of the descendants of Martin Luther was held at Eisenach, Germany, on June 12 and 13. There are now recorded 608 living descendants of Martin Luther, of whom 537 are descendants of Luther's son Dr. Paul Luther and 71 of his daughter Margaret, according to Pastor Sartorius, of Danelshausen, who has spent much time in locating these people and tracing their descent. In the near future, Pastor Sartorius will publish for the "Union of Lutherans" a new book, "The Descendants of Martin Luther through Four Centuries," which will list approximately 1200 members of the family, living and dead, proof of whose descent has been established up to date."

—Concordia Junior Messenger.

"The great end of education is to discipline rather than to furnish the mind; to train it to the use of its own powers rather than to fill it with the accumulation of others."

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