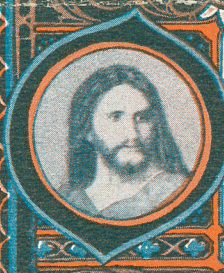


The Assistant Pastor

February, 1927

OUR FATHER which art in heaven. **H**allowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. **A**men

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY.

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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.

LOIS MARIE, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theo. O. Knutson, was enrolled as a child of God and heir of eternal salvation through the rite of baptism as instituted by Jesus Christ, on Sunday, February 6. Mr. and Mrs. Alvie O. and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Knutson were the sponsors.

On Monday, January 31, Mrs. Martha Anderson was laid to rest in the Jerico cemetery. Deceased was born in Norway, July 29, 1833. As the bride of Sjur Anderson, she emigrated to the New World and in due time the industrious couple became owners of a choice portion of it. For 52 years they shared the joys and sorrows, the disappointments and successes of life. Mr. Anderson died in 1919 leaving an only son to continue his work as provider in the home he had established. Mrs. Susie Sperley faithfully watched over and cared for the aged widow.

Mrs. Anderson reached the ripe old age of 93½ years. As I entered this death and burial in the church records, it occurred to me to look up the records to find if there were others who had lived so long. The more I delved into the past, as revealed in our church records, the

more interested I became. And then the thought came to me that perhaps the rest of you also would be interested, as well as profited, by such an investigation of, not only what we set to find, but other things as well.

Our records, as now found in the parsonage, go back only to 1874. Whether records from the earlier years, the late fifties and up to '74 exist, and can be found or not, should be ascertained.

Since 1874 there have been 402 burials in our cemeteries. Of these 126 died before reaching the age of five years.

Nineteen died between the ages 5-10 years.

Eighteen died between the ages 10-20 years.

Thirty-five died between the ages 20-30 years.

Twenty-four died between the ages 30-40 years.

Twenty-seven died between the ages 40-50 years.

Twenty-five died between the ages 50-60 years.

Thirty-six died between the ages 60-70 years.

Forty-six died between the ages 70-80 years.

Thirty-four died between the ages 80-90 years.

The following died 90 years or more:

B. Peterson, died 1879, 90 years old.

Toge Olson, died 1881, 90 years old.

Halvor Halvorson, died 1887, 90 years old.

Hans Nilson Offerdal, died 1887, 94 years old.

Guri Halvorson, died 1888, 92 years old.

Marie Jakobsd'tr Offerdal, died 1889, 91 years old.

Synneva Vigdal, died 1905, 94 years old.

Johanna Olsd'tr Sabo, died 1911, 93 years old.

Gjori Dybevig, died 1916, 98 years old.

Nils Hanson Offerdal, died 1921, 92 years old.

Brita Halvorsd'tr Vanby, died 1922, 97 years old.

Martha Anderson, died 1927, 93 years old.

This tells us that among the four hundred and more that have moved from our midst to the Silent City, there were many dear little babies in their baptismal dress and many who were toddling about lisping their first words, wonderful little boys and girls whom the doting parents knew were quite extraordinary. There were splendid children not yet in their teens; there were boys and girls, light hearted and carefree, to whom life's end seemed very distant, indeed; young men and young women who saw nothing but life and success ahead of them. There were happy young husbands and wives; fathers and mothers; middle aged parents, so necessary to the support and bringing up of their flock of children. And, too, there were some who were getting old and tired and longed for rest.

In other words the ones that have left are just such a gathering as we see at any of our services, or on other occasions, when we all get together.

Death has not in the past shown any marked preference for sex or for any particular age excepting the very young.

Youth, young manhood and middle-age are inclined to say to the old: "You are next." On

strength of the statistics compiled right here and that certainly should apply here, the old can answer: "Maybe so, God only knows, however. It may be yon happy child, or that buxom young girl, or, who knows, that busy mother of many children or, that prosperous young father, whose strong brawny arms are so useful, that will be called next."

As we visit God's Acre, the resting place of our departed ones, giving rein to memory and thus visit friends and dear ones, it surely is a source of satisfaction that our movements are not hindered by a tangle of noxious weeds, or by ground hog excavations, gopher mounds and the like. Our cemeteries are the neatest and best kept spots in our communities; with pardonable pride we say it. But still there is lots of room for improvement, especially at Jerico.

Saude is so fortunate as to have had the help of a most competent landscape gardener in its Church yard. Several hundred years ago He planted an oak near the centre of the cemetery which was old and venerable when the first grave was dug under its branches. Other splendid oaks He also planted and that now are grand and majestic trees giving the cemetery that home-like, restful air that trees alone can give.

Jerico: the sun is again climbing higher and higher in the heavens; seed time is soon here. Let not another spring pass without getting some trees and shrubs planted in and about the otherwise pretty and well kept cemetery.

Thinking, as we have now, of that little throng of over four hundred that has departed this life from among us, during the past fifty years, and of the places where their earthly remains rest, it would be strange if our thoughts should stop with that. They do not, they go on and do not rest till they reach the New Jerusalem where "twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the Glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." Rev. 21:21-23.

Such is the city of the white robed throng "before the throne and before the Lamb" from whose eyes tears are forever wiped away; "and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain."

As we tread softly among the granite sentinels in our church yard, we love to think of the guarded ones as eternally safe in the Celestial City described above, with "palms in their hands" singing songs of praise to the God of their salvation.

But, dear reader, how dare you have such ambitious hopes for your departed loved ones? Do you not know that they were conceived in sin and born in iniquity? When "the Lord looked down from Heaven upon the children of men" (Psalm 14:2) what did he find? "They

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are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Psalm 14:3.)

"Ah, yes, that is all too true," says a sobbing mother who has just decorated the grave of her child, "but, right there, in that church," and now her voice is firm, "my baby was made a child of God 'by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost'. My Savior says: 'Whosoever believeth and is baptized shall be saved.' I know that my baby was baptized and I know that it believed in Jesus for He says the little ones believe in Him. I know, therefore, that through Jesus, my baby is among the saints in Heaven."

"I know," says a son, "that, though my father was a very good father to me, he was a sinner and without merit of his own before God, but, he used the Word of God at home and also went to church to hear it, sought the forgiveness of sin as offered in the Lord's Supper and on his sick bed often requested and received the ministrations of the pastor of the church. Jesus came to save sinners and my father was a sinner. I will not believe that his penitence was mockery and his confession of faith hypocrisy. On the strength of the gospel I hear preached at every service in our church and the promises I read in the Bible, I firmly believe that my father, as a penitent sinner, has reached the mansions prepared for him."

Pointing to the church as the administrator and dispenser of the means by which sinners are brought to salvation, all answer quite the same who speak up in answer to the question how they dare hope that their departed ones are saved.

— — — — —
This being true, that the Church is God's life saving station on earth and that without it you could not have the blessed hope you do have when thinking of those who have passed away, what is there on earth as priceless to you as your church? Have the sacrifices, the work, the money spent on it been in vain? Have the strifes to keep its doctrine pure been useless? Would you continue living in the community if your church and its work was discontinued? Is there on this earth another place as indispensable to you, as dear to you as your house of God, your Church? Most certainly not.

— — — — —
The chapter telling of the New Jerusalem has also this to say: "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone."

God grant that this fearful truth, these terrible words may strike terror to all sleeping souls and that no peace be found until it is found in the blessed assurance that "the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin." (1 John 1:7.)

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