

The Assistant Pastor

May, 1927



THE ASSISTANT PASTOR.

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H. M. Tjernagel, Pastor.
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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.

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BAPTISMS IN JERICO CHURCH.

February 6: Lois Marie, daughter of Theo. O. Knutson and wife, Tillie. Sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Alvie O. Knutson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl O. Knutson.

March 6: Lavonne Genevieve. Parents, Olaf O. Knutson and wife, Pauline. Sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Knutson, Olena and Orval Landsverk.

April 3: Harold Olai, son of Severt Fossen and wife, Sina. Sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Borlaug, Elmer Fossen, Genevieve Flatjord.

May 1: Irving Arnaldo. Parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Johnson. Sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Severt O. Johnson.

Julien Richard, a child of Julien Natvig and wife, Ruth, was born March 10 and baptized at home the following day.

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The circuit meeting announced for the 25th and 26th of May at Calmar will be held on the 26th and 27th. The change of date is necessary on account of the annual meeting of the Bethany College Corporation. We trust that very many of our members will be able to attend the meetings at Calmar. Papers will be read by Rev. G. A. Gullixson and Rev. A. J. Torgerson of Chicago and Northwood, respectively. Rev. C. J. Quill of Albert Lea will preach a mission sermon. At the evening session of the 26th, Rev. Chr. Anderson of Minneapolis and Rev. A. Harstad of Thornton, Iowa, will speak. It is reported that Missionary Lillegaard of China will be at the meeting. If present plans materialize Samuel A. Miller, one of my former parishioners at Gresham, Wis., will also be present. If this list of speakers can't give us something

worthwhile, I give it up. Should anything more be needed to bring you to the meeting I might say that it is quite likely that Rev. Norman A. Madson of Princeton, Minn., will also be with us.

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The annual Convention of our Synod will be held at the Lime Creek Church, Rev. Ingebritson's charge, which is located on the Wilson Highway, 5 miles northeast of Lake Mills, Iowa. The dates: June 16-22, both days, inclusive. Via Alta Vista, Elma, New Haven, Osage, Manley, Kensett, Joice and Lake Mills it is a 4 to 5 hour drive from here. Lay your plans so that you can spend some time at this meeting. On Sunday, the 19th, we hope to see dozens of Saude and Jerico cars drive up to the Convention church.

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The annual get-together of the Young People's Association and Choral Union, will take place at the Jerico church August 19-21. We look forward to a large crowd and a lively meeting. The principal speaker will be Prof. Th. Graebner of St. Louis. Prof. Graebner was at one time teacher at our Red Wing Ladies' Seminary and was the first editor of The Christian Herald, the English organ of the former Norwegian Synod. He is at present one of the editor's of the Lutheran Witness besides being Professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis.

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At its meeting April 27 the Jerico Ladies' Aid took the bit between their teeth and went ahead to get trees and shrubs planted on the church yard. It was granted that it was the men's business to attend to this, but they have proven themselves so conservative and careful that they have not moved at all, therefore, the ladies now took drastic action. They were not unmindful of the fact that their determination to act might cause consternation among the sterner sex, but, realizing the power of the broom, each one undertook to make at least one man harmless thus leaving the possible number of active complainants negligible.

On May 4, just a week later, trees and shrubs of various kinds were planted. The Broom Brigade has again demonstrated its efficiency.

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Seed time is here. Father is out in the big field with horses and machinery preparing the ground and planting the seed. When he has finished seeding and planting he leaves God to attend to the growth. He realizes that the mystery of germination and growth is in the hands of a power infinitely above his own. As soon as the corn shows in rows across the field he is there again to destroy everything that might be a hindrance to the growth of his crop and also to encourage, by cultivation, the development so as to bring the richest possible harvest. In due time he harvests bread, butter, milk, beef, pork, and clothing for his family.

Mother is busy in the kitchen garden. She is on her hands and knees burying little pellets in the ground. Sometimes it is little particles that look like dry chaff that she carefully covers

with earth. In a week or ten days she sees green rows across the garden. From now on she is often seen there bent over the hoe, and frequently she stoops to remove something that her practiced eye has discerned as a danger to the plants she is nursing. Not many weeks later her faith and labor is rewarded. Vegetables galore are served on her table. Vitamines from A to Z give rosy cheeks and vigor to her children.

If the fields and gardens had been left to themselves to produce what they chose, a bountiful crop of burdock, quack grass, pidgeon grass, bull-thistle, Canadian thistle, rag weeds, milk weeds, etc., would have been the harvest.

Would to God fathers and mothers as diligently planted good seed in the hearts of their children.

Take a good long look at the picture on the front page. Can there be anything more beautiful on earth than a mother and child? What greater honor or joy can come to any man than to be called husband and father and to say in return, "my wife and my child."

As I look at the young mother's face in our picture I see a love written there that would not hesitate to attack mountains if they threatened evil to her baby; she would single handed fight ocean breakers to protect her child.

I wonder what she is thinking about? Don't you think she is raising her eyes to heaven in thankful acknowledgement of the "washing of regeneration" through the holy sacrament of baptism; that she is, without words, eloquently thanking for the "gracious water of life" through which her baby was made a child of God?

There is a peace and quiet happiness resting over the mother, yet there is something that makes us feel that tears are not far away from her or from us. There is a certain sadness about her face. What can it be?

I believe I know. With the hands that press the little one to her bosom she feels the heart beats of her precious burden and is reminded of the sin and evil that lies dormant there awaiting its chance to grow and bear fruit in a life of sin and an eternity of pain and grief. God tells her in His word that the seed of the noxious weeds godlessness, profanity, disobedience, murder, unchastity, theft, covetousness and the like, are planted there and are ready to spring into vigorous growth. Cause enough, indeed, for sadness.

But she is determined to thwart the growth of these evils. She is going to pray ceaselessly to the heavenly gardener of hearts. At the first signs of spring, that is, of understanding in her child, she will plant the good seed the Word of God in the little heart, and will carefully cultivate the ground thus seeded. She will endeavor to nip every evil in the bud even though it should require the "rod" to do it. She will bear in mind, on wash-day as well as Sunday, that she is coming and going, working and resting, in short, living before a camera that is constantly photographing her. In other words, she knows that her waking child is as sensitive to impressions for good or evil as a camera film is

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sensitive to impressions when exposed. She will, therefore, not overlook the mighty power of example and environment in bringing up her child.

Oh, for a country full of such mothers, and fathers to match! The gallows would soon be idle, the penitentiaries would lack recruits and hell yawn in vain for victims.

But, alas, such parents are scarce in our country and, I fear, in our communities. The child is considered innocent, therefore, no measures are taken to forestall the evil slumbering in its bosom and no good seed sown in its heart. Little or nothing is done to smother or check the growth of evil in their depraved natures, but much, very much, in homes, amusements and schools to encourage it.

Is it any wonder that a wave of crime and lawlessness is sweeping our fair land? Indeed not, it is as natural as muddy roads after a rainy spell.

"Well, what are we going to do about it, we can't reform the country." Maybe not, but we can do something very definite and very effective so that our communities will not raise volunteers for the powers of darkness. Each and every father and mother in our congregations can, by the grace of God, plant and cultivate, in faith and obedience, the soil of the children's hearts entrusted to them, as intelligently and zealously as they do their fields and gardens.

Failure to do so causes rejoicing among the demons of hell, for they know, with malicious satisfaction, what it means when parents neglect the divinely imposed duty of bringing up their children in the "nurture and admonition of the Lord."

My children love to sing the following verses at the breakfast table:

Now the shades of night are gone,
Now the morning light is come;
Lord, may I be Thine today,
Drive the shades of sin away.

Fill my soul, O Christ, with light,
Banish doubt and cleanse my sight,
In Thy service, Lord, today.
Help me labor, help me pray.

Keep my haughty passions bound;
Save me from my foes around;
Going out and coming in,
Keep me safe from every sin.

When my work of life is past,
O receive me then at last!
Night of sin will be no more,
When I reach the heavenly shore.

This song is 540 in our Hymnary and was written by Samson Occum, a full blooded Mohican Indian, in the year 1770. We are now learning it at Saturday school. When it is learned, will you let your children sing it at the breakfast table in your home? Please do.

Just imagine this song, or a similar one, sung at the breakfast table EVERY MORNING IN EVERY HOME in our congregations! Do you think God could turn a deaf ear to such a united prayer?

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