

The Assistant Pastor

THE MEANS

THE COPPER WIRE is the m e a n s by which electric current is carried from the central generating plant and distributed to the various homes in our cities and villages. By a contrivance called the switch, the current is turned on and off. When turned on, the lamps glow with light; when not on, darkness prevails.

PIPES, larger and smaller, are the m e a n s of bringing water to the various homes, from a central reservoir. The contrivance that brings the ever-present water supply into actual possession for use, is called faucet.

THE WORD OF GOD, BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER are the m e a n s through which enlightenment from the Holy Spirit and Water of Life from the ocean of grace, is brought to the individual sinner. Yet many, right in the midst of Christian Congregations, famish in spiritual darkness. The switch—Faith—is not installed. And even where it is, many suffer in gloom. The switch is not turned on. The hand that turns the switch—prayer—is limp.

As in the modern home, light will instantly flood the rooms when the switch is on, and water immediately flow when the faucet is turned, so will grace and forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, flow to every sinner who prayerfully, in faith uses the Means of Grace.

The man who neglects or rejects the Word of God and the sacraments, is like unto a city dweller who would cut the electric wire and drive a plug into the water pipe.

"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptibl, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever." 1 Peter, 1, 23.

"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." John 3, 5.

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you."

"Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins." Math. 26, 26, 27.

MAY, 1928

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.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

H. M. Tjernagel, Pastor.

Saude

Trustees: Oscar Natvig, Carl Swennumson, O. N. Anderson.

Treasurer: Nels Ellingson.

Secretary: Christ Treider.

Ladies' Aid: Mrs. J. Natvig, president; Mrs. Nels Ellingson, secretary; Mrs. Iver Natvig, treasurer.

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

Jerico

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Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.

Secretary: Jeff Knutson.

Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Tom Thompson, president; Mrs. Oscar Vigdal, secretary; Mrs. S. S. Robertson, treasurer.

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, 10:45 a. m.; Saturday school 2 p. m.; confirmation class, 2 p. m. Fridays.

Fifth Sundays by special announcement.

THIS ISSUE

of our paper, going to the homes of voting members, will contain an addressed postal card. The purpose of this is to learn the sentiment of the members of the congregations, regarding the installation of a Delco-Light plant at the parsonage. I believe that in this way a truer expression of the wish of the congregations can be secured than at meetings for the purpose, where, we know from experience, many, if not all, are backward in expressing themselves, few are present and fewer still vote.

That the present occupants of the parsonage desire such light and power, is admitted. There are several reasons for such desire. At present two gasoline lamps are used. Having been accustomed to electric light for many years, we have not been able to adapt ourselves again to the dim light of kerosene lamps, although we are always, more or less, afraid of the high test gasoline. On occasions of larger gatherings at the parsonage, the lack of light, inside and outside, is keenly felt. The annoyance of a buzzing gasoline lamp on a study desk is not easily overcome and discourages work in the study. From my boyhood days at home and to this present day, excepting the years away at school, I have spent Monday mornings at the washing machine and the wringer. Now I have the promise of an electric Maytag washing machine, as a gift, as soon as I can make use of it. After about 35 years of service, I confess willingness to retire, without pension, from the laundry room.

The Delco-Light plant is not something new and untried. About a million are in use. If such a plant was installed now, while other improvements of the parsonage are being made, I would assume the responsibility of raising the money to meet payments, and I would promise, as do dentists, painless extraction.

Following is the question I take the liberty of submitting to you for your answer:

"Do you favor authorizing the joint Board of Trustees to install a Delco-Light plant in the parsonage; provided, the present pastor assumes the responsibility of raising the money to meet payments; provided further, that he personally pays the interest on deferred payments. These provisions to apply as long as said pastor occupies the parsonage, or until all payments are made."

Let all the voting members, in each home who favor this, write "Yes"; those who do not favor it write "No" on enclosed postal card. You are not expected to sign your name.

Respectfully,

H. M. TJERNAGEL.

Mankato, Minn., March 30, 1928.

Dear Brother:

We are all looking forward to a big and important Synod meeting in June. The committee on arrangements wants to make ample provision for the comforts of all guests. But before the committee can do this intelligently, it needs to know approximately how many guests it must provide for.

Will you kindly assist us in this matter:

1. By calling the attention of your people to the Synod meeting to be held at Bethany College, Mankato, Minn., June 14 to June 20 inclusive, and inviting and encouraging all who can to attend the meeting.

2. By announcing that arrangements are being made to provide beds and meals at nominal prices to all guests who send in their names betimes. (Wherever possible guests are requested to bring with them one or two blankets).

3. By securing at once and forwarding to the committee the names of all in your congregation or community who are planning to attend the Synod meeting. The names may be sent to Holden M. Olson, Bethany College, Mankato, Minn.

Thanking you for your kind co-operation, and with a sincere prayer for God's blessing upon our forthcoming Synod meeting, I am,

Fraternally yours,

(Signed), HOLDEN M. OLSON.

Let all who can, plan to make the Synod Convention one of the summer's outings. Bethany College is yours. The buildings are massive and substantial. The location is beautiful. To see it is to be proud of it. The fellow Christians you will meet and the friends you will make, will make your life richer. The business matters of the convention will broaden your knowledge of your church and its activities and will increase your interest in same. Work for your church will become, not an arduous task, but a pleasure. The doctrinal papers and discussions that you will hear may mean to you the difference between a passive assent and the ac-

tive possession of the power of God unto salvation. Every one who comes possessing this Pearl of great price, the Gospel, will be strengthened in his determination to guard it zealously.

Therefore, I say again, let all who can, plan to attend. If you do so plan, please communicate your intentions as above requested. Should something occur to force you to change your plans, no harm will have been done. It will be far less annoying to the committee that one who is announced does not come than that one who is not announced does come.

Sunday, May 20th, God willing, our Mission festivals will be celebrated. The Rev. S. C. Ylvisaker of Madison, will preach the sermon at Jerico, while the Rev. J. A. Moldstad of Chicago, will officiate at Saude.

Immediately following the service, the Jerico women will, according to time honored custom, serve dinner in the basement of the church. The Saude women will, as formerly, serve dinner under the pines and oaks of the parsonage.

In the afternoon, the monument erected to the memory of Rev. and Mrs. M. K. Bleken, will be unveiled. The plan is to gather in the Calmar church at three o'clock, where the Rev. Ylvisaker will deliver a memorial sermon. Following this, the assembly will gather about the graves. Your pastor will then unveil the monument and the Rev. Moldstad will respond on behalf of the orphaned children.

We believe that only the most imperative reasons will cause the absence of anyone from the festivities and services of this day and, therefore, confidently look forward to large assemblies forenoon and afternoon if the Lord sees fit to provide pleasant weather.

* * *

The committees will in due time give full report to the congregations of receipts and disbursements on account erection of monument.

A very general complaint, I dare say, in all congregations of our Synod is: "Our minister does not call on the people enough." A complaint among ministers just as general is: "I cannot get around among my people as much as I should like to."

What's the trouble? Let us investigate some particular parish, we, naturally, choose our own.

In a year there are 52 Sundays. We know how the pastor is occupied then. There are 52 Mondays, which we will, in fairness, give to the pastor as his day of rest. When the Aids are operating properly, there will be about 45 Aid meetings. About 40 Fridays are occupied by instructing the confirmation class; another 40 days by Saturday school. At least 52 days should be set aside for sermon preparation. Two Circuit meetings, the annual convention and annual conference, and, say four committee meetings, will require 26 days. Getting out an issue of the Assistant Pastor will average two days; ten issues 20 days. And it is reasonable to allow six days for a visit to the old home and another six days for an occasional day's outing during the summer. During the Fall, Winter and Spring seasons we will estimate 20 days that the roads are very discouraging if not impossible.

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Now let us add up and see how many days are occupied, 359.

Where will we find time for urgent sick calls, funerals, funeral sermon preparation, for trying to help our editors a little with an occasional article, for preparing papers for circuit meetings, Synod meetings, or conference and for the much desired calls to the various homes?

We find that we must draw on the 52 Mondays, the pastor's Sunday, or day of rest. We may also find some time on the 45 Aid days; and the 52 days set aside for sermon preparation must be invaded. On the 20 days of bad roads we will work on our paper for conference, etc., and do other work in the study. In other words, we want our parishioners to know that it is one of the difficult problems of the average pastor, how to find time for the much desired personal work among his parishioners without neglecting other work expected of him.

LANGUAGE LESSON NO. 2.

Transgression—overtraedelse.

Original sin—gjerningssynd.

Iniquity—misgjerning.

Rebuke—irettesaette.

Tribulation—traengsel.

Deluge—syndfloden.

Grace—naade.

Adversary—modstander.

Providence—Forsyn.

Godhead—Guddommen.

Mediator—midler.

Ransom—losepenge.

Anoint—salve.

Humiliation—fornedrelse.

Corruptible—forkroenkkelig.

Immoral—udodelig.

Resurrection—opstandelse.

Visible—synlig.

Invisible—usynlig.

Sanctifier—helliggjører.

Two of our young men are, in a modest way, entering politics. Arthur Swenson is seeking nomination on the Republican ticket as County Recorder and Julian Natvig "chooses to run for the office of County Clerk. Both are well qualified for the positions they seek.

We are in such haste to be doing, to be writing, to be gathering gear, to make our voice audible a moment in the derisive silence of eternity, that we forget that one thing, of which these are but the parts, namely, to live. We fall in love, we drink hard, we run to and fro upon the earth like frightened sheep. And now you are to ask yourself if, when all is done, you would not have been better to sit by the fire at home, and be happy thinking; to sit still and contemplate—to remember the deeds of men without envy, to be everything, and everywhere in sympathy, and yet content to remain where and what you are—is not this to know both wisdom and virtue, and to dwell with happiness?—Stevenson.

Darkness and loneliness make a man feel his littleness.

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