

# The Assistant Pastor

December, 1929

## Christmas Spirit

Beware of the din, the insistent noise of the daily press and magazines and of journals for women, for farmers, for laborers, for mechanics and for everybody that eulogizes and goes into raptures, in poetry and prose, over the delightful Christmas Spirit that comes over all at this season of the year. If you are not thoughtlessly carried away by the pretty sentiment and rhythm of the din, you will detect that the Babe in the Manger plays a part, if at all, only as a mythical being.

"The Christmas Spirit," says one editor, "makes us feel the lift of peace on earth to men of good will. Hidden springs of good will and cheerfulness burst their bonds."

"Peace on earth to men of good will!" What a blasphemous imitation of the angel chorus. Let the children of the world delight in and eulogize their illusion if they will, but be not you, dear Christian, deceived. At its very best the world's Christless Christmas Spirit brings an orgy of pharisaism, a mere pretense of Christianity. It is a spirit that comes from the realms of eternal darkness. It is propaganda conceived and insidiously carried on by the arch enemy of your Savior and your soul.

We will sing praises only to that Christmas Spirit which can kindle the flames of faith and love to our Jesus, the son of God and of the Virgin Mary, the true flesh and blood Babe in the Manger. We will, by the grace of God, recognize no Christmas festival as such, but the celebration of the birth of God's Son, our Lord and Savior.

Our Christmas message of peace shall not be of peaceful, happy scenes before the family hearth and under the mistletoe, or of restful winter landscape scenes, or of peace between men or nations, but of that peace between God and man which passeth understanding, brought about by the Christ-child and enjoyed by all who believe the angel's Christmas message in its literal sense:

"Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."



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## The Assistant Pastor

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

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## Church Directory

H. A. Tjernagel, Pastor

### SAUDE

Trustees: Iver Ellingson, H. Larson, O. N. Anderson.  
Treasurer: A. G. Vaala.  
Secretary: John Natvig.  
Ladies' Aid: Miss Lena Landsverk, president; Mrs. T. Swennumson, secretary; Mrs. D. O. Natvig, treasurer.  
Cemetery Committee: Alf Vaala, H. O. Natvig, John Borlaug, Anna Vaala, Lena Landsverk.

### JERICO

Trustees: Alvie O. Knutson, O. Firkenstad, Fred Amman.  
Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.  
Secretary: J. A. Knutson.  
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. E. A. Robinson, president; Mrs. M. Dahlen, secretary; Mrs. S. O. Johnson, treasurer.

## Standing Services

### JERICO

First Sunday, Norwegian, 10:45 a. m.  
Third Sunday, English, 10:45 a. m.  
Saturday School every Saturday, 9:30 a. m.  
Confirmation class, 2 p. m. Fridays.

### SAUDE

Second Sunday, Norwegian, 10:45 a. m.  
Fourth Sunday, English, 10:45 a. m.  
Saturday School, 2 p. m.  
Confirmation class, 9:30 a. m. Fridays.  
*Fifth Sunday by special announcement.*

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## NOVEMBER CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Jerico: 197, 198; Thanksgiving Day 131.  
Saude: 45, 65.

## HOLIDAY SERVICES

Christmas Day: Saude, 10:45 a. m., Norwegian and English, Christmas tree festival, 7:30 p. m.

Second Christmas Day: Jerico, 10:45 a. m., Norwegian and English. Christmas tree festival, 7:30 p. m.

Sunday after Christmas: Jerico, 10:45 a. m., Norwegian.

New Year's Day: Saude, 10:45 a. m., English.

May God bless the Holiday season to us so that we with unmixed joy hear the angel's message and with the eye of faith "see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." We also pray that the season of festivities may bring old and young pleasures and pastimes becoming the children of God, unsullied by drunken gibberish, the sin-laden dance hall or other forms of entertainment sponsored by the enemies of our Savior.

## "A CHURCH PAPER IN EVERY HOME"

This is a standing slogan of every church denomination. It requires little thought or reasoning to discover why this is so. It is only the well informed members that are interested, active workers in any society, association or church. Little can be expected of a membership that is not well posted on the purposes, aims, and activities of its organization.

Our Synod is at the present time making a Synod wide effort to get our Church papers into every home and all are hoping that the effort will prove successful.

Of special local interest, in regard to this movement, is the resolution passed by the Saude Aid at its last

meeting. It voted to place the church papers in every home of the congregation. Some of the Saude readers of the Assistant Pastor who now are receiving the Tidende and Sentinel may have wondered how it is that the above named papers are coming to them regularly and marked paid up to January 1, 1931. The explanation is to be found in the above vote of the Aid.

In order that all might be treated alike, the Aid has advanced the subscription one year for all old subscribers—seventeen in number—as well as sent in 33 paid up new subscriptions.

All who now receive the papers are welcome to them as a gift from the Ladies' Aid. However, all who can and wish to are invited to hand the subscription price to the treasurer of the Ladies' Aid, Mrs. D. O. Natvig, or to any member of the Aid, who will gladly bring it to the treasurer at any regular meeting of the Aid.

We are, furthermore, very glad to report that the three women of the Jerico congregation who have so willingly solicited their respective districts for subscribers, have done very well. Now, may God bless the reading of the papers to the quickening of interest in His Church at home and at large.

## EN JULESAMTALE

Ikke langt fra Frelserens krybbe i Bethlehem boede den fromme olding Hieronymus, noget over 300 aar efter Kristi fødsel. Kort før sin død skriver han: "Saa ofte jeg betragter dette sted, saa har mit hjerte en sød samtale med det lille Jesu-barn. Jeg siger: Ak, Herre Jesu, hvor skjælder du, hvor haardt ligger du der for min saligheds skyld, hvorledes skal jeg nogensinde kunne gjengælde dig det! Da tykkes det mig, som om det lille barn svarer: Jeg begjærer intet andet, min kjære Hieronymus, end at du skal synge: Ære være Gud i det høieste! Lad det kun behage dig, jeg vil blive mere nødlidende paa Oljehjerget og paa det hellige kors. Jeg siger videre: Kjære Jesu-barn, jeg maa give dig noget, jeg vil give dig alle mine penge. Det lille barn svarer: Himmel og jord er dog i forveien min! Jeg behøver dem ikke; giv fattige folk dem, det vil jeg anse, som det var vederfaret mig selv. Jeg siger videre: Kjære Jesu-barn, jeg vil gjerne gjøre det, men jeg vil dog ogsaa give dig noget for din person, eller jeg maa dø af sorg. Barnet svarer: Kjære Hieronymus, da du er saa gavmild, saa vil jeg sige dig, hvad du skal give mig: Ræk mig hid dine synder, din onde samvittighed og din fordømmelse. Jeg siger: Hvad vil du gjøre dermed? Jesu-barnet siger: Jeg vil tage alt paa min skulder, det skal være mit herredømme og min herlige gjerning, saaledes som Esaias forud har talt, at jeg vil bære din synd og borttage den. Da begynder jeg, siger Hieronymus, bitterlig at græde og siger: Lille barn, kjære lille barn, hvor har du rørt mit hjerte! Jeg tænkte du vilde have noget godt, saa vil du have alt, hvad der er ondt hos mig. Tag da hen, hvad mit er, og giv mig, hvad dit er, saa er jeg fri for mine synder og forvisset om det evige liv!"

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"In Palestine it not unfrequently happens that the entire Khan-Inn, or at any rate the portion of it in which the animals are housed, is one of those innumerable caves which abound in the limestone rocks of its central hills. Such seems to have been the case at the little town of Bethlehem-Ephratah, in the land of Juda. Justin Martyr, the Apologist, who, from his birth at Shechem, was familiar with Palestine, and who lived



less than a century after the time of our Lord, places the scene of the nativity in a cave. This is, indeed, the ancient and constant tradition both of the Eastern and Western churches, and it is one of the few to which, though unrecorded in the Gospel history, we may attach a reasonable probability. Over this cave has risen the Church and Convent of the Nativity, and it was in a cave close beside it that one of the most learned, eloquent, and holy of the Fathers of the Church spent thirty of his declining years in study, and fast, and prayer."

"St Jerome — Hieronymus — settled in Bethlehem the year 386 and died 420. His allusions to the sacredness of the spot are very touching, and the most splendid offers of preferment were insufficient to tempt him away from that holy ground."—Farrar's Life of Christ.

#### SAUDE TREASURER'S REPORT

For fiscal year ending November 18, 1929.

##### *Receipts for Current Expenses.*

Balance in treasury January 1, 1929.....	\$508.17
Iver Natvig, Ole N. Anderson, G. G. Vaala, Lars Vaala, T. G. Vaala, each.....	40.00
A. G. Vaala, Geo. O. Natvig, each.....	35.00
John Leifson, Mrs. J. L. Natvig, H. O. Natvig, Muns Munson, each.....	30.00
Andrew Natvig.....	28.00
John Borlaug, D. O. Natvig, Oscar Natvig, Ole Natvig, each.....	25.00
Elling Ellingson, Rolef Hagen, Henry Elling- son, Larson Bros., Nels Ellingson, Ole Holta, each.....	20.00
B. J. Vigdal, John Natvig, each.....	18.00
Oscar Borlaug, Mrs. J. Swennumson, each....	16.00
Mrs. Hans Hoffland, Alf O. Vaala, each.....	12.00
Ned Borlaug, Tom. Borlaug, each.....	11.00
Mrs. N. Offerdal, Julian Natvig, Anna G. Vaala, Carrie G. Vaala, Mrs. T. O. Vaala, John Treider, Geo. Miller, Martin Borlaug, Henry Reinhart, Entus Firkenstad, Mrs. Otto Hanson, Chris Treider, Mrs. Anna Anderson, J. C. Swennumson, Wesley Kratz, Ole Borlaug, Henry Larson, Mrs. P. J. Landsverk, L. J. Natvig, Mrs. Mary Natvig, C. O. Natvig, each.....	10.00
Nels Paulson.....	8.00
Elmer Natvig.....	6.00
Carrie Natvig, Mrs. Ida Swenson, Thos. Swen- numson, Arthur Natvig, Mrs. Olena Natvig, Orin Vaala, Gregory Vaala, John Vaala, I. Ellingson, each.....	5.00
Ole Thompson.....	4.00
Halvor Ronnei.....	3.00
Carl Miller, Johanna Ellingson, Sever Ronnei, Henry Ronnei, Norman Borlaug, Alfred Hoffland, each.....	2.00
Viola Vaala.....	1.00
Henry Borlaug.....	15.00

##### *Lærerløns- og Synodekassen, Receipts, North District.*

Oscar Borlaug, H. O. Natvig, J. O. Natvig, Ole Natvig, E. Ellingson, each.....	\$ 5.00
Geo. O. Natvig.....	10.00
Oscar Natvig.....	4.00
Enus Firkenstad, Henry Borlaug, Mrs. Otto Hanson, R. Hagen, N. Ellingson, each.....	2.00

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Palmer School Graduate

### New Hampton

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Tom Borlaug, Geo. Miller, Iver Ellingson,  
Henry Reinhart, each..... 1.00  
Balance in treasury December 22, 1928..... 8.13  
The other two districts were not canvassed.

*Receipts School Fund.*

Balance in treasury December 22, 1928.....\$ 32.75  
Martin Borlaug ..... 4.00  
G. G. Vaala ..... 5.00  
Ole Borlaug, A. G. Vaala, Ole N. Anderson,  
T. G. Vaala, L. G. Vaala, each..... 3.00  
Ned Borlaug, Oscar Borlaug, D. O. Natvig,  
C. O. Natvig, each..... 2.00  
Henry Ellingson, Mrs. J. L. Natvig, each..... 1.00

*Other Receipts.*

Mrs. Hans Hoffland, for parsonage building  
fund .....\$ 12.00  
Jerico Church, for parsonage building fund... 108.00  
Christmas collection for Hans Bleken..... 30.23  
Storm damages paid by German Mutual In-  
surance Company ..... 40.00  
Jerico Aid, for cupboards in parsonage..... 40.00  
Jerico treasurer, for cupboards in parsonage... 25.00  
Mission offering ..... 90.74  
Saude Aid, for cupboards in parsonage..... 40.00  
Offering to Rev. Forseth in memory of de-  
ceased wife ..... 60.68  
Silver collection for Catechism folder..... 5.56  
Donations for graveling church road..... 70.16  
Received after books were balanced for  
current expense fund:  
Geo. Miller, \$10.00; Carl Miller, \$4.00; Tom  
Swennumson, \$10.00; A. J. Johnson, \$5.00;  
for gravel, Geo. Miller, \$1.00; T. Borlaug,  
\$1.00 ..... 31.00

*Disbursements for fiscal year ending Nov. 18, 1929.*

Webster Lumber Co., balance on material for  
parsonage .....\$392.73  
Webster Lumber Co., coal..... 18.20  
Synod treasurer, Rev. A. J. Torgerson..... 182.10  
Calmar Mfg. Co., for window damaged by storm 40.00  
Calmar Mfg. Co., lumber for cupboards..... 50.00  
Bieber and Knight, repair on parsonage furnace 2.95  
Martin Johnson, balance on cupboards..... 60.38  
John Lauck, balance parsonage plumbing..... 98.98  
Pastor's salary, \$750.00; school, \$50.00..... 800.00  
Vaala and Natvig, paint and hardware for  
parsonage ..... 136.94  
Martin Borlaug, janitor's salary and draying.. 84.73  
D. Bouska, graveling church road..... 69.16  
Paid on Catechism folder..... 5.56  
Rev. P. C. Forseth, offering..... 60.68

Present financial status: All bills paid. Cash  
balance, \$91.13. Due from Jerico congregation on  
joint expenditures, \$50.03.

NELS ELLINGSON, Treasurer.

Everyone concerned is invited to look for mistakes  
in these reports. By the time they reach your eyes  
they will have passed through many hands. All have  
tried to avoid making errors. To err is human, how-  
ever, and we are human. We dare hardly hope that  
no error has crept in somewhere, but we can assure  
you that we shall gladly correct, in the next issue, all  
mistakes reported to us.

## STATE SAVINGS BANK

OF LAWLER, IOWA

Capital and Surplus \$60,000

James O'Conner, Pres. Geo. Natvig, Vice-President  
F. A. Schuetz, Cashier J. J. Goheen, Asst. Cashier  
O. B. Taylor, Clerk

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