

The Assistant Pastor

September and October, 1929



Andrew Ellingson

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.

Church Directory

H. M. Tjernagel, Pastor

SAUDE

Trustees: Iver Ellingson, Carl Swennumson, O. N. Anderson.
Treasurer: Nels Ellingson.
Secretary: Chris. Treider.
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, Severt Fossen, Fred Amman.
Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.
Secretary: J. A. Knutson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. L. A. Robinson, president; Mrs. Carl J. Johnson, 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.

Your Assistant Pastor is again on a monthly round visiting every home in our congregations. Should he pass by some home, it is not intentional but due to a mistake somewhere by somebody. Please help him as best you can to find every home.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

June: First Sunday, Jerico 161, Saude 77. Second, no services — Synod Sunday. Third, Jerico 162, Saude 50. Fourth, Saude 75. Fifth, Saude 68, Jerico 76.

July: First Sunday, Jerico 167. Second, Saude 94. Third, Jerico 165, Saude 43. Fourth, no services — Conference Sunday.

August: First Sunday, Jerico 212. Second, Saude 104. Third, Jerico 192. Fourth, Saude 109.

September: First Sunday, Jerico 193. Second, Saude 98. Third, Jerico 132. Fourth, Saude 74. Fifth, Saude 72, Jerico 233.

BAPTISMS

Eldred Orvis, May 5th. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Alvie T. Johnson. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Johnson, Gertrude and John Attleson.

Gayle William, May 12th. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Miller. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Alf Vaala, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Natvig.

Paul Lowell, August 18th. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Johnson. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Sever O. Johnson, Alvie and Esther Johnson.

Juel Norman, August 18th. Parents: Mr. and Mrs.

John O. Knutson. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Carl O. Knutson, Mrs. Mary Natvig, Ingval Knutson.

Orlo Julien, August 4th. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Jeff. O. Knutson. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Alvie O. Knutson, Amy Vaala, Alfred Robinson.

Adolph Lester, September 1st. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnson. Baptized at Elma hospital by Dr. Hastings. Baptism confirmed by pastor September 2nd.

Robert, September 28th. Died same day. Baptized by Mrs. T. Thompson. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Johnson.

Fern Maxine, September 29th. Parents: Mr. and Mrs. Carl J. Landsverk. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Martin Robinson, Harriet Hoffland, Alfred Robinson.

DEATHS

Mrs. Hans Anderson died at the Cresco Hospital July 21st and was interred at Jerico July 23rd. In the absence of the pastor Rev. M. O. Dale officiated.

How matter-of-fact such lines. How cold and heartless they seem to the bereaved ones in the motherless home! May God comfort the lonely husband, bless little Alice who must now take mother's place as best she can, and may He help the boys who will not have a mother's love to warn and guide them.

Andrew Ellingson died at his home August 9th and was buried at Jerico on the 11th.

To tell the life story of Grandpa Ellingson is to tell the story of many newcomer boys of fifty and more years ago: Work, love, home, children, struggles, joys, griefs and always indomitable courage to carry on, and though at middle age a competency, and at old age plenty, if not opulence, yet never too wise for the old Catechism and Hymn book nor too independent to need the God of the Bible.

Robert Johnson came on the 28th of September, received the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, administered by his grandmother Thompson, and departed the same day to enter into possession of his inheritance, a mansion in Heaven.

Our own High School, Bethany College, Mankato, has two pupils enrolled from our congregations this school year, namely: Arthur Anderson and Lars Tjernagel. This is an increase of two over last year. Sincerely hope this rate of increase will continue for a number of years.

The Strandeabarm Christian day-school is in session with seven pupils in attendance. Miss Jeanette Jordal of Manchester, Minn., a Normal School graduate of the Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.

As a matter of record rather than a news item, it is told here that the fall meeting of our circuit was entertained by the Saude congregation, September 10-11. The pastors present were: P. Ylvisaker, J. A. Petersen, C. J. Quill, J. B. Unseth, H. A. Preus, M. O. Dale and E. Brewer. The subjects discussed were Math. 10, 34-35 and Christian Burial introduced by Rev. P. Ylvisaker and Rev. J. A. Petersen, respectively.

By an ingenious contrivance by some of our local

wizards, electric light was made available and an evening session was held when the Rev. Quill enlightened his hearers on Lutheran Church architecture, ritual, etc., etc. and the various phases of our Synod's work was touched on briefly by various speakers. After the session lunch was served in the various pantries round about in the community. Rev. Quill also preached the mission sermon during the meeting and an offering to Home Missions was laid on the altar. Besides the pastors, delegates and guests from the various congregations of the circuit helped make the meeting an event in the history of the congregation.

Are you a subscriber to Luthersk Tidende or Sentinel or both of them? If not, why not? These two papers are the official organs of our Synod. Tidende costs \$1.00 per year. Sentinel same price. Both of them for one year, \$1.50. Hand your subscription or renewal to your pastor or, better still, to Rev. H. A. Preus, Calmar, Iowa. You cannot be posted on the activities of your Synod without reading one or both of these papers.

THE SERMON

*Preached at the funeral of Andrew Ellingson
August 9, 1929.*

The life story of another of the builders of this community is completed. Through 78 years chapter has been added to chapter as childhood, youth, manhood, old age, death passed successively one after the other.

We are met to enact the closing chapter, the commitment to the grave. And shall we then write "The End"? Yes, the end of earthly toils and cares, joys and griefs; the end, indeed, of earthly existence but not, after all, the end.

Death, dear friends and mourners, is a beginning. Beginning of what? It marks the beginning of torture in the place where "the worm never dies and where the fire shall never be quenched" or the beginning of life and happiness eternal with God and the saints in Heaven where all tears are forever wiped away.

Here is an inexorable *either or*. Death is either the entrance into bliss unending or into torment unspeakable and also unending. The step as taken at death can not be retraced. "As the tree falleth so shall it lie."

The wisdom that towers above all wisdom as the mountain over the valley is therefore, obviously, the wisdom how to die a blessed death. The learning that is as much higher and greater than any other learning as the sun is higher and brighter than a candle is the learning that guides souls on the path to the eternal mansions in Heaven.

This wisdom, this learning is not the product of man's mind; the fruit of human philosophy, of study, and research. Never was or could it be conceived by the mind of man "that God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." The great truth that Jesus is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" is revealed by our Heavenly Father, the proprietor of the Heavenly Mansions. The way to salvation is in very plain simple words told us by Him in Ephesians 2, 8-9. "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast."

How are we to understand these words? They are to be understood just as they read. There is nothing

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figurative about them; there is nothing that needs explanation. A straightforward statement: "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." We are to understand these words according to their plain literal sense as the hymn writer did when he wrote:

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin would not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring;
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly:
Wash me, Savior, or I die.

Anyone who thus understands the words of our text, reads and understands them correctly. Anyone who with this understanding believes them and in such belief dies, "dies in the Lord." Unhesitatingly, with full assurance and confidence we apply to such a one the words of Rev. 14, 13, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, from henceforth."

We said *anyone* who correctly understands and believes the words of our text and in such belief dies, "dies in the Lord" and is eternally saved. By *anyone* we include also thieves, robbers, murderers, harlots as well as all other sinners of whatever kind or degree. The blood of Jesus Christ is able to and will cleanse everyone who flies to the fountain of grace, foul though he be, and persistently begs: "Wash me, Savior, or I die."

Let it be known also, and may it be imprinted on the heart as with a branding iron, "he who believeth not shall be damned." He who in the service and love of sin rejects the grace of God through Christ Jesus; he who in his self-righteousness denies the need of the atoning, the cleansing blood of the Savior, or he who through negligence and indifference is found sleeping when the Bridegroom comes, shall never enter the gates of Heaven but must as one cursed depart from Jesus into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

Dear mourners, sons, daughters, and grandchildren seek comfort in your bereavement where comfort may be found, not in opinions of mine or anyone else's but in the words and judgments of the living God. There is comfort for you and reasons why you should not mourn as they that have no hope. Even though the unalterable decree of the judge is: "he that believeth not shall be damned" there is hope for sinners for it does not say: "he that has sinned shall be damned." If it did who could then have hope, for all have sinned, all have become filthy. "All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned everyone to his own way." But glory be to a gracious God and a loving Savior: "The Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all." "With His stripes we are healed."

God grant us all to believe and love our Redeemer, to serve Him in life and to die happy in His arms. Amen.

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