

# The Assistant Pastor

*April, 1930*



Mr. and Mrs. Knute Steensland



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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. M. 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. L. A. Robinson, president; Mrs. M. Dahlen, secretary; Mrs. S. O. Johnson, treasurer.

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## 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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## BAPTISMS

Since our last issue, three souls have been received into membership in the Church of God and our congregations by baptism.

Wayne Laverne: Born February 1st, baptized March 9th. Parents: Elmer Natvig and wife Alice, nee Munson. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Chris Treider, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller.

Ann Marie: A child of Oscar Natvig and wife Berthilde, nee Steensland, born February 6th, baptized March 9th. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Ole Natvig, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Natvig.

Cletus Duane: Born to Carl J. Johnson and wife Alvina, nee Amman, February 27th, baptized April 6th. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Amman, Alert and Esther Johnson.

We all, parents, pastor, relatives, friends and fellow Church members, welcome you as priceless treasures and pray God that we may not through neglect, thoughtlessness or evil example lay stumbling blocks and hindrances on your pathway through life, but that we may serve as helps to you in reaching life and happiness eternal.

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## MRS. HALVOR NELSON

a wife and mother, a member of our Jerico Church and a very active worker in the Aid, died at the Oakdale Sanitarium March 8th and was buried in the Jerico Cemetery on the 10th. An unusually large number of friends attended the funeral.

Mrs. Nelson, nee Bertha Olson, was born in Big

Stone County, Minn., March 31, 1888. Her father and mother were born and raised in the Jerico settlement. In 1901 her mother returned to her birthplace on Crane Creek a widow with a flock of fatherless children. Her husband had been let down into a well to do some work. As soon as he reached bottom he signalled to be hauled up again. When he reached the surface he was dead. Oh how many are the tragedies in this vale of tears!

April 15, 1913, Bertha was united in marriage to Halvor Nelson. One son, Alert, was born to them.

We are very glad to know that a pastor of the Missouri Synod gave Mrs. Nelson regular spiritual care during the year that she spent away from home at the Sanitarium and that he was with her to comfort her with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament when a severe hemorrhage of the lungs announced unmistakably the near approach of death.

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## MR. AND MRS. KNUTE STEENSLAND

A little boy born in Hjelmeland near Stavanger, Norway, July 24, 1851, came with his parents, one older brother and three older sisters, to the Stavanger settlement near Ossian in 1857.

A little girl, 18 month old, had three years earlier been brought by her parents to Racine County, Wis., from Lerdal, Sogn. Her name was Mari Thronndson. The boy's name was Knute Steensland.

Knute's parents were mindful of their duty to bring up their children in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord." When Knute reached the age for confirmation it was decided that he should go and live with a sister who had become the wife of one of the pioneer boys of Little Turkey, Alv Vaala. In this way the boy came to this settlement and was confirmed by Rev. V. Koren. After he was confirmed he stayed on and worked for his brother-in-law for a number of years.

The little girl and her parents remained in Racine County, Wis., only four years. In 1858 they moved to the Spirit Lake country settling just across the line in Minnesota. The Spirit Lake Indian massacre had taken place the year before. In 1861 the Indians were again bent on exterminating the whites. At the first report of danger, the settlers made haste to gather at a certain fort. All who reached this place were saved from the murderous tomahawks. After the sudden and fierce but short raid was over the men were ordered out to look for possible victims of the Indians. Mr. Thronndson was among these searchers. When he returned to his family in the evening after a day's search he said: "This has been the hardest day of my life. We have buried twelve men, many of them our friends and acquaintances. We brought back with us three women and nine children who had succeeded in hiding from the Indians."

Little wonder that he was ready to pull up stakes and move again. That same fall, 1861, the Thronndson ox team was headed east. Reaching the vicinity of Charles City, Iowa, the prospect of some employment and a house to live in over winter offered itself and was accepted. During the winter Mr. Thronndson looked about for a place to make



permanent settlement preferably among people of his own nationality and religion. He decided upon the Little Turkey neighborhood. The next spring, 1862, the family was brought to said settlement, now known as Saude.

And so it came about that when the little boy from Hjelmeland came here to be confirmed the little girl from Lerdal was already here. And in due time, February 14th, 1873, they were married by the local Lutheran pastor, the Rev. John Moses.

About a year after the wedding, they bought 80 acres of virgin prairie two miles east of the Little Turkey river. There they remained for forty-one years building a splendid home and rearing nine children. From time to time acres were added to the original tract until the present large estate was acquired.

Mr. and Mrs. Steensland were all the time active members and willing supporters of our Saude congregation as well as the Synod to which they belonged. They found a way to give all of their children some schooling aside from the common school. John is a graduate of Luther College. Alfred and Gurina (Mrs. Iver Natvig) attended Breckenridges at Decorah. Henrietta (Mrs. Baker), Ingval, Clara (Mrs. Treider), Fred and Berthilde (Mrs. Natvig) have been students at Luther Academy, Albert Lea, and Synneva at the Lutheran Ladies' Seminary, Red Wing. Though they had a large family to raise they also cared for Mr. and Mrs. Thronson in their old age.

In 1914 Mr. and Mrs. Steensland bought a home in Calmar and retired from the farm, renting it to their son Fred and son-in-law Chris Treider. They transferred their church membership to the Calmar congregation.

November 21, 1929, Mr. Steensland died and was interred at the Saude Cemetery on the 23rd, his pastor, the Rev. H. A. Preus, officiating. He reached the age of seventy-eight years three and a half months.

#### THE STORY OF A HYMN

More than half a century ago a young girl was preparing for a grand ball, soon to be given in her native town. Full of gay anticipation, she started out one day to her dressmaker's to have a fine dress fitted for the occasion. On her way she met her pastor, an earnest, faithful man, and in the greetings that passed between them he learned her errand. He reasoned and expostulated, and finally pleaded with her to stay away from the ball. Greatly vexed, she answered, "I wish you would mind your own business!" and went on her wayward course.

In due time the ball came off; and this young girl was the gayest of the gay. She was flattered and caressed; but after dancing all night, laying her weary head on her pillow only with returning light, she was far from happy. In all the pleasure there had been a thorn, and now conscience made her wretched. Her pastor had always been a loving, cherished friend, and her rudeness to him rankled in her mind. More than all, the truth of his words came to her heart, impressed by the Holy Spirit, and would give her no rest. After three days of misery, during which life grew almost insupport-

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able, she went to the minister with her trouble, saying:

"For three days I have been the most wretched girl in the world, and now, oh, that I were a Christian! I want to be happy. What must I do?"

We need not to be told that the pastor freely forgave her for her rudeness to himself, nor that he joyfully directed her to the true course of peace.

"Just give yourself, my child, to the Lamb of God, just as you are."

This was a new gospel to her. She had never comprehended it before.

"What! Just as I am—" she asked. "Do you know that I am one of the worst sinners in the world? How can God accept me just as I am?"

"That is exactly what you must believe," was the answer. "You must come to Him just as you are."

The young girl felt almost overwhelmed as the simple truth took possession of her mind. She went to her room, knelt down, and offered God her heart, guilty and vile as it was, to be cleansed and made fit for His own indwelling. As she knelt, peace—full, overflowing—filled her soul. Inspired by the new and rapturous experience, she then and there wrote the hymn, beginning:

"Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God I come."

Little did Charlotte Elliott think of fame, or of the immortality of the words she had written. It was simply putting her own heart on paper; and therefore the hymn, born of a mysterious experience, appeals to other hearts needing the cleansing power of the blood of the Lamb.

Charlotte was possessed of literary gifts, and when the editor of the *Literary Remembrance* died she took charge. In making up her first number, she inserted several of her own poems anonymously; among them was "Just as I Am." It immediately attracted attention, was widely copied, and passed into the hymnology of the Christian Church.

It seems as if the hymn had been permitted to have a peculiarly holy and tender mission. The following is one such instance.

A poor boy once came to a city missionary. Holding out a bit of paper, all torn and dirty, he said:

"Please, sir, father sent me to get a clean paper like that."

Straightening the paper, the missionary found it was a leaflet with the hymn "Just as I am, without one plea." Inquiry brought the story.

"We found it, sir," said the boy, "in sister's pocket after she died. She always used to be singing it while she was sick, and she loved it so much that father wants to get a clean one, and put it in a frame and hang it up. Won't you give us a clean one, sir?"

The hymn had been given to the girl by some unknown hand. By the blessing of God it brought her to Christ, and her ransomed soul gained a free entrance into the home of the redeemed.

—Reprint from the Northwestern Lutheran.

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