



The Assistant Pastor

September, 1935

What is Your Life?

"It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4, 14. And then what? Judgment. "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom, prepared for you from the foundation of the world"; or, "Depart from me, ye cursed, in everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." The decree is final. Eternity rolls on and on and on — endlessly; the blessed continuing blessed forever, the cursed remaining eternally cursed.

How trivial a thing is not this short, temporal life, and this material world, which shall soon pass away, as compared to eternity and the imperishable treasures of heaven! Jesus emphasizes this when He asks: "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

What is your answer, dear reader? Is it work, fret, and worry to lay up earthly treasures, where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal, or, is it an earnest endeavor through the grace which is in Christ Jesus, to lay up treasures in heaven which are incorruptible and eternal?

Do you know that your Heavenly Father is aware of all your bodily needs and that Jesus has said: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"? And do you know, furthermore, that godliness is not only profitable for the life that now is but it also has promise of that life which is to come? "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance," says the Holy Spirit, 1 Tim. 4, 8.

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 CONGREGATION

Trustees: Thos. Swennumson, John Borlaug, E. Firkningstad.
Treasurer: Oscar Natvig.
Secretary: Ole N. Anderson.
Cemetery Committee: Martin Borlaug, Chris Treider, Mrs. Andrina Munson, Mrs. C. O. Natvig, Miss J. Ellingson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Nels Ellingson, president; Mrs. N. Hereid, secretary; Mrs. John Natvig, treasurer.

JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: S. T. Roberson, Ole J. Johnson, J. A. Knutson.
Secretary: A. N. Anderson.
Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Olof Roberson, president; Mrs. S. T. Roberson, secretary; Mrs. W. Mettner, treasurer.

Standing Services

JERICO

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

SAUDE

Second Sunday, bilingual service, Oct.-April, 10:45 a. m.
Fourth Sunday, English, October-April, 10:45 a. m.
Saturday School, 2 p. m.
Confirmation class, Fridays, 9:30 a. m.
Fifth Sunday by special announcement.

Well, Well, Well!

Unannounced and unlooked for, our Assistant Pastor has returned. He herewith begins his monthly rounds to all homes in our congregations. Will you give him a hearty welcome, a little of your time, and a kind "come again"? With that he will be well pleased and ask for nothing more.

Save Your Copy

We are going to look around and try to find some inexpensive covers suitable for filing the Assistant Pastor. If we succeed, we shall let you know.

Our Advertisers.

We might as well be frank about it: We could not publish this paper and send it to you for nothing if our advertisers did not believe it to be to their advantage to buy advertising space from us. They solicit your business in their respective lines.

Mission Festivals

We hope to be able to make arrangements for our annual Mission Festivals, the third Sunday of this month at Jerico, and the fourth Sunday at Saude.

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The treasury of the Jerico Cemetery Association needs replenishing. The Ladies' Aid is taking the matter in hand. When those Jostedal women take something in hand, be it a broom or anything else, it is taken in hand. Come to the church basement on Sunday evening the 8th and see what you see and hear what you hear and taste what you taste.

As Per Agreement

In the May, 1930, issue of the Assistant Pastor can be found the terms of a certain agreement. The last paragraph reads: "If on or before June 1, 1935, cash sufficient for the purpose just named (liquidation of the entire Bethany College debt) and subject to the immediate call of said treasurer, is not at hand, the money herewith subscribed and actually paid in shall be returned to the respective donors without interest." The money thus conditionally subscribed and paid in, and held in trust by L. S. Roberson, was "returned to the respective donors" on Tuesday, the 27th of August, that is, checks were then issued by Mr. Roberson.

This does not mean that the Bethany indebtedness is a hopeless burden and that we have given up trying to pay it. It means only this that the effort started in 1930 to pay the whole and entire Bethany debt on or before June 1, 1935, has failed. It is not only possible, but entirely probable that if the slight pinch we felt in the spring of 1930 had not grown to such a serious pressure, our Bethany College would today have stood free of all indebtedness.

It should be and surely is a source of satisfaction to all that in spite of the back-breaking depression of the past five years, our Synod has not defaulted one single interest payment on its bonds or other debts. Our Synod's financial status is, therefore, relatively very good. For this we owe our Heavenly Father sincerest praise and thanks.

Life Insurance

The following is reprinted from The Bond, official publication of The Lutheran Brotherhood, a legal reserve insurance company:

"Think of insurance in terms of protection for your loved ones, should permanent disability reach you, education for your children, a home kept together, personal estate, last expenses provided for, financial safeguards not equalled by any other investment, an income when earning years are over, peace of mind in every emergency of life. All these, and more, are bound up in the miracle of life insurance protection."

May we ask: One who so thinks of the "miracle" of life insurance, will his dependence upon God in heaven as protector and provider tend to grow or decrease? Can there, we wonder, be a relation between the present day increase in life insurance and godlessness; between seeking "the miracle of life insurance protection" and ignoring the miracle of divine love and protection merited for sinners by Jesus Christ?

The End of a Perfect Summer

Who can remember a more perfect summer than the one now drawing to its close? Where or how could it have been improved to better meet the requirements of our crops and conditions? Surely the vote to pronounce it a prize summer will be unanimous. We have had no heavy wind storms, no hail storms, no severe electric storms leaving a home here and a barn there a smoking ruin; we have harvested a good crop of oats, and a fine corn crop is well on the way. Bulge as they may, the barns just can't hold the hay crop. Our cattle have literally waded in pasture grass, and the cows have contentedly chewed their generous cuds and manufactured good looking cream checks. Added to this,

the general health has been very good and our members have been spared from serious accidents.

How easily all this might have been different. A hail storm could have totally destroyed all our crops in three minutes. In an instant lightning could have set your home aflame. You might as well have been picked up a corpse or a mangled body on the highway as the one you have read about meeting with such a fate.

Oh friends, can we love and serve, thank and praise the giver of all good gifts, our Heavenly Father, sincerely enough and often enough? And if we have thanked Him heartily for the above great blessings, we have still not thanked and praised Him for His greatest of all gifts, namely, the forgiveness of sin and salvation through Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord and Savior. Surely every heart should sing and every home resound with His praises.

Off to School

The schools of our land are again open. Vast armies of young men and women, youth and children have entered our state universities, colleges, normal schools, high schools, and grade schools. Let all who enter a state institution of learning, be it the highest or lowest, enter with eyes open to the fact that many textbooks and a heavy majority of the teachers, instructors, and professors ignore fundamental Bible truths and teach the changing theories of men instead. With eyes open and watching, one is not so easily deceived and lured into the snares of the unbelievers. And let parents faithfully watch over and pray for their children and help them to steer clear of the pitfalls laid in their way by misleading textbooks and the influence of unbelieving and anti-Christian teachers.

God grant our children the grace and courage to remain steadfast in their faith and loyal confessors, even in the school room, of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost of the Bible. "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven," Matt. 10, 32-33.

"Whosoever shall be ashamed of me, and of my words, in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when He cometh in the glory of His Father, with the holy angels." Mark. 8, 38.

Ashamed of Jesus! yes, I may,
When I've no guilt to wash away,
No tear to wipe, no good to crave,
No fear to quell, no soul to save.
Till then, nor is my boasting vain,
Till then I boast a savior slain;
And O may this my glory be,
That Christ is not ashamed of me.

A Worthwhile Definition

A young man, who sent the following definition of the word "money" to a London paper, won a prize. It might be well for us to memorize it: "Money is an article which may be used as a universal passport to everywhere except heaven, and as a universal provider of everything except happiness."

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True Indeed

A woman who was watching a potter at his work noticed how his one foot, with never slacking speed, turned the wheel, while the other foot rested on the ground. Sympathetically she said to the potter, "How tired your foot must be." Raising his eyes the man said, "No, ma'am, it isn't the foot that works that is tired; it is the foot that stands."

The people that do the least in the church do the most complaining about too much work; the people that give the least to God's kingdom complain the most about the great deal that is expected of them. The Christian who works seldom complains.

When I Die

"... Nor let the undertaker undertake a cosmetic work of art on those remains. I do not care to look like a movie actor, even when dead. And let the coffin be plain and inexpensive. Give no heed to the blandishments of the seller-of-coffins about this being 'the last thing you will ever do for him.' False pride and competition with the Joneses are out of place here. When death comes, I will move out of this house so marvelously constructed of hydrogen and oxygen and calcium and all the rest; this fleshly coat of the soul I will lay aside like a worn-out suit. When I have put on the celestial clothing, let no undue amount of pains be taken to preserve in some pagan fashion this cast-off terrestrial garment. Let the preacher's words, 'earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust,' be literally and naturally true.

And let that preacher pass by all eulogy and praise. Let him, in accordance with the good taste and tact expected of Lutheran pastors, omit all pulling of heart strings, all appeals to human ties, all mention of successes and accomplishments. For the more highly he would magnify my worth, just that much does he increase the sense of loss in those who survive me. Let the preacher remember that it is his task to proclaim, not eulogy, but evangel, not good words of praise, but good news of peace. Therefore let him repeat again into the ears of my friends and relatives the old, familiar promises of Scripture. Let him remind them of the Christian assurances of resurrection and life eternal. Let him speak to them again the comfort of the love of God the Father who for our sin gave His Son, the resurrected and ever-living Christ. Let him fill their minds not with memories of me but with memories of Jesus. So shall their hearts be comforted and I shall have had a 'decent Christian burial.' Reprinted from The Northwestern Lutheran.

Drowned in His Own Pond

There is an old parable of a man who had a pond of water on his land. He was always hoarding water, turning every little ditch into his pond, setting tubs and buckets under the eaves and spouts and carrying the water thither. He envied even the birds what they drank, fearing lest some day the pond would be dry and he would perish with thirst. But coming one day with an unusually heavy load of water, he slipped, and falling into the pond was drowned.

"Carve your name high over shifting sands
Where the steadfast rocks defy decay—
All you can hold in your dead, cold hand
Is what you have given away."—Sel.

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