

# The Assistant Pastor

April, 1937

## Antidote and Antiseptic

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Earnest efforts are made to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Contagion is avoided as far as possible. Epidemics are feared and drastic preventive measures are often taken. Every bottle or container of poison must, according to law, display the cross-bones and skull and a list of antidotes on its label. Few homes today are without their medicine shelves more or less well stocked with tonics, sedatives, stimulants, antiseptics and antidotes. At the first sign of any physical disorder, first aid is usually promptly administered. Screaming loudly and protesting with hands and feet the child **must** take castor oil if mother so decrees, or have an antiseptic applied to that sore however much it may sting or burn. And all this is as it should be. The God-given body should be taken care of to the best of one's ability and understanding and that in spite of the fact that "it is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."

But what about the care of the immortal soul? Sin is the mortal disease of the soul. "The soul that sinneth it shall die." Sin is a communicable disease, it is contagious. Do you avoid, in as far as you can, contact with such as obviously carry the contagion, godless teachers among others? Do you stay away from the pleasures and places, e. g., the dance hall and sa'oon, where the contagion is bred? Do you fear and fight an epidemic of sin? "Sin is the transgression of the law" and is poison to the soul. Do you permit open transgressors to spew filth into your family circle over the radio? Does the poison concocted at Hollywood and sold to you and your children plainly bear the mark of the devil and hell on its label?

You may well shudder with apprehension, dear friend, at the thought of you and your children having to live in this universally sin infected, plague stricken world. But you need not perish. The Bible is an antiseptic and an antidote, a sure cure if its directions are followed. The Bible is all this because Jesus Christ, the resurrected Savior is there with all His love, mercy, and power of healing. He has never lost a patient. "Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none" (John 18:9). Though this is so, many do not use the Bible. "We do not have time for family worship." Little wonder that souls perish "thick as flies" from the raging epidemic, sin.



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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 CONGREGATION

Trustees: Chris Treider, John Borlaug, E. Firkingstad.  
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. Omar Miller, president; Mrs. Chris. Treider, secretary; Miss Martha Munson, treasurer.

### JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: Geo. N. Anderson, Ole C. Johnson, J. A. Knutson.  
Secretary: A. N. Anderson.  
Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.  
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. A. N. Anderson, president; Mrs. Herman Ronnfeldt, secretary; Mrs. Henry Robinson, 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, 10 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.

**Mary Lee**, a child of Mr. and Mrs. Alvie Iverson, was born January 8th and baptized March 7th. The sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Will Mettner, Norma Knutson and Orville Roberson. That the baptism was administered almost two months after birth was not due to carelessness or neglect, but to stormy weather and impassable roads on two previous dates set for the baptism. We are pleased over the fact that the parents in our congregations desire the baptism of their babies as early as is reasonably possible and that they wish the sacred act performed in the house of God, their church.

**Donald Duane**, a child of Mr. and Mrs. Severt Knutson, was born February 2 and baptized March 21. The sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Knutson and Mr. and Mrs. Ole Thronson.

The Jerico Y. P. S. held its first meeting of the present year on Sunday evening, March 14. Earlier meetings had to be postponed on account of discouraging roads and severe weather. Mrs. C. O. Vigdal and Mrs. S. T. Roberson served lunch at above meeting.

Due to the partially disorganized state of the society on account of the enforced vacation, no program was given at this meeting. The time was profitably spent in rehearsing the more complete ritual which is to be introduced in our English services. The postponed annual election of officers and standing committees was also held and resulted in the following elections: Loyd Roberson, Pres.; Kenneth Fossen, Vice-Pres.; Alert Nelson, Treas.; Norma Knutson, Sec.; Edith Anderson and Laurine

Robinson, Serving Com.; Cletus Anderson, Paul Munson, Bernice Dahlen, and Arlene Knutson, Program Com.; Clifford Firkenstad and Henry Munson, ushers.

The Jerico Aid has also been stuck in a snow-drift, but got out on St. Patrick's Day. On that day a goodly number of the marooned members flocked to the church parlors and were entertained by Mrs. Arthur Swenson. And this brings to mind that Mrs. Swenson entertained the first Jerico Aid attended by the present pastor. That was within a few weeks of 14 years ago. Time marches on!

## The 1937 Convention

All aboard for Madison, Wis.! The annual Synod Convention will be held there June 10, 11 o'clock a. m., to June 16, twelve o'clock noon. Let us see to it that each congregation elects two delegates and two alternates so that our charge may be represented from the opening to the closing session. We hope that many of our members will attend the Convention as guests.

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again" is generally considered a good idea. We have many times suggested that the congregations pay all or part of the expenses of their delegates to the Synod meetings and have as many times failed to bring about such an arrangement. Knowing that such a practice is general in all kinds of organizations, that it undeniably increases attendance at conventions, and that it is the fair thing to do, we cheerfully and hopefully "try, try again."

A meeting following a service will be called soon for the purpose of electing delegates. Let us at that meeting also decide for or against continuing our present practice of not paying the delegate's expenses.

## Spring

April is with us again. Winter is vanquished; the sun is riding high in the heavens proclaiming her victory. The birds are returning to their summer homes. Buds feel the urge to spring into new life and beauty. Our dear mother earth is bestirring herself and making ready to refill the emptied bins and storehouses of her myriads of children. New life is returning, it is nature's resurrection, and all of nature's creatures are happy.

May we not look for new life and activity in our church work, too? Church work has been at low ebb through the winter. Let us all now with the coming of Spring take hold with new zeal and energy.

## A Silver Wedding

On the 26th day of February, 1912, Oscar Firkenstad and Christina Ellingson drove to the parsonage in a horse drawn buggy and were united in marriage by the Rev. Bleken. Mabel Firkenstad and Albert Robinson served as bridesmaid and groomsmen, respectively.

Twenty-five years later all buggies were sorry looking wrecks and their glistening, horseless successors were hopelessly snowbound. The bridal couple therefore spent their 25th wedding anniver-



sary in peace and quiet, undisturbed by friends and relatives.

The disturbance was, however, merely postponed. On Tuesday, March the 2nd, it broke loose. Friends and relatives came by circuitous routes. At a distance the oncoming automobiles looked much like boats heaving and dipping on a billowing sea. Though the going was rough and considerable tacking had to be done, all landed safely in the hospitable and commodious Firkenstad home. The bride and groom received many hearty congratulations on having reached the 25-year milestone, and many more years of marital happiness were wished them. When quiet was gained, all turned to God in thanks, praise and prayer, led by the pastor. Then the uninvited guests served a dinner. The menu offered all the good things we have ever heard about, excepting gammelost and lutefisk. The afternoon was pleasantly spent in chatting with friends.

God grant Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Firkenstad many more years of usefulness to their community and church.

#### Do You Know This?

A Christian congregation is, under the Lord, absolutely sovereign. No human authority is placed over it. It has one Ruler, Lord, and King. His name is Jesus Christ. "And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the Church" (Col. 1:18).

To this one and only ruler every individual Christian and every organized group of Christians owes allegiance and obedience. Whomsoever else that would rule Christians, individually or collectively, and exact obedience, be it pope, priest, pastor, conference, or synod, is a usurper and infringes on Christ's jurisdiction.

"Well, but," says someone, "Is not the pastor the head of the congregation?" No. Christ is the head, but, note well, He governs, keeps, and extends His Church by and through His Word, which He has sent His messengers to proclaim publicly and privately. "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season: reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2). "Feed my lambs. Feed my sheep, feed my sheep" (John 21:15-17).

Every pastor who thus truly preaches and teaches God's Word and not a popular theological-sociological-political concoction of his own make, is a minister of Christ" and "steward of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1). Steward, that is, one who administers the means of grace and thus dispenses the gifts of God's grace and love. To such a pastor Christ's declaration, Luke 10:16, applies: "He that heareth you, heareth me; and he that despiseth you, despiseth me."

The messengers of old, John the Baptist, the apostles and Evangelists, were servants of Christ who served, not ruled, His Church. In matters where Christ had spoken they must and did speak even though to do so cost them their heads or burning at the stake. Just as religiously they also observed the rule not to speak where He had not spoken.

In all things pertaining to the externals and the business affairs of a church organization, Christ

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has spoken only in general terms such as: "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14: 40). Also the general rule that the law of love must prevail in all things. A faithful pastor will impress these things also upon his congregation, but further than that his commission as pastor does not extend in matters of opinion or preference.

As every other voting member, the pastor has one vote. His voice should be heard according to the same rules that govern the right of every other member to a respectful hearing. The pastor, when on the minority side of any matter subject to decision by vote, must not neglect being a good example to his flock (1 Peter 5:3) by graciously wielding to the majority decision.

The desire to rule is strong in the human heart. Such desire, if allowed to develop, is fatal to a pastor in the proper and blessed exercise of his duties as "minister of Christ" and "steward of the mysteries of God." Note what the Lord says to the shepherds of Israel who fell into this snare of Satan: "Thus saith the Lord God unto the Shepherds, woe be to the Shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the Shepherds feed the flock? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed, but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost, but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them" (Ezekiel 34:2-4).

The Shepherds of the New Testament are, by the Holy Ghost, exhorted thus: "Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; neither as beings Lords over God's heritage, but ensamples to the flock."

Every successful attempt by pastors, or faculties, or Synods to "Lord it" in the Church is a definite and direct step back to Rome. Eternal vigilance is also here the price of liberty.

With Ezekiel 34:2-4 and 1 Peter 5:2-3 before us, we are constrained to ask: Can there be a more ignoble prostitution of the Church and the office of the ministry than to use them as a means towards personal advantage and gain? The young pastor, Timothy, is urged by the Holy Ghost to "flee" "the love of money as the root of all evil" and to seek "godliness with contentment" as the "great gain." Pastors must be examples to the flock also in the manifestation of a heart and mind which says: "Having food and raiment, let us be therewith content" (1 Tim. 6:8). Lest the pastor be tempted with worries and "thoughts for the morrow," the members of the flock must not neglect their duty according to 1 Cor. 9:14: "Even so hath the Lord ordained, that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel."

The above short essay was prepared some time ago for a given occasion. It is printed here now in the hope that pastor as well as members may be spurred to greater zeal and faithfulness in the great work of the Church, each in their respective positions.

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