

# The Assistant Pastor

December 1937

## The Christmas Message

If we leafed through the Bible and noted down the various and varied requirements and demands of God to you, this page would soon be filled and then another and another. If you took every demand as seriously as God is serious in giving them, you would be stunned and terrified by their weight. And well you might for, "cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them."

You would look in vain for relief from the crushing burden by trying to conform to the more concentrated form of God's demands, the Ten Commandments. At every step and every new effort you would be met with, "Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

Nor would you find any help if all of God's demands were still further compressed, boiled down, so that only one word remained. That one word would be LOVE. "*Love* is the fulfilling of the law." Then you would be faced with, "Thou shalt *love* the Lord thy God, with *all* thy heart, and with *all* thy soul, and with *all* thy mind." "Thou shalt *love* thy neighbor as thyself." "*Love* your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you."

Now you cannot mistakenly find hope and comfort, even for a moment, in the external observance of God's law. This definitely focuses His law with a penetrating, burning ray at your heart, and you know very well that your heart is by nature honeycombed with disobedience and sin against God.

You cry out in despair: "O God, I am lost. That keen, sharp point of the law pierces my heart and condemns me to eternal death. I have not and I cannot meet the demand, LOVE."

Listen, dear contrite heart, "thou shalt not die." The fulness of time has come, God has sent forth His Son Jesus Christ, "made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law." He has in your stead perfectly fulfilled the law. Rest assured His love was perfect. He loved God with all His heart, soul, and mind and He loved His enemies and gave His life to atone for their sins. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law being made a curse for us."

Believe your Savior when He says: "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgression for my own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Sing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."



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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 CONGREGATION

Trustees: Chris Treider, Ned Borlaug, E. Firkingstad.

Treasurer: Nels Ellingson.

Secretary: G. G. Vaala.

Cemetery Committee: Martin Borlaug, Chris Treider, Mrs.

Andrina Munson, Mrs. C. O. Natvig, Miss J. Ellingson.

Ladies' Aid: Mrs. T. G. Vaala, president; Mrs. Elmer Natvig, secretary; Adelia Natvig, treasurer.

### JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: Geo. N. Anderson, Ole C. Johnson, Olaf Roberson.

Secretary: A. N. Anderson.

Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.

Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Alve O. Knutson, president; Mrs. Olaf Knutson, secretary; Mrs. H. A. Knutson, treasurer.

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## 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.

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## Christmas Services:

Saude, Christmas Day.

Jerico, 2nd Christmas Day.

**Norman Lowell**, a child of Carl G. Johnson and wife Alvina, née Amman, born October 9th, was baptized in the Jerico church November 9th. The sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Alvie T. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred T. Johnson.

**Jerome Lester**, born November 9th, was baptized in the same church on Thanksgiving Day, November 25th. Parents: Alert J. Johnson and wife Coral, née Paulson. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson, Orvin and Lucille Paulson.

**Fourteen children** have thus far this year been entered in the Book of Life as heirs of God, co-heirs with Christ. Through baptism, "the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost," they were made the children of God. Whether their names will stay in the Book of Life or be blotted out when and if they grow up, will, to a very great extent, depend upon their parents. God has placed the solemn duty upon them to "bring up your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Children are not only a God-given gift, but also a God-given responsibility. It must be the parents' earnest concern to love, cherish and care for the immortal soul as well as for the mortal body.

**The Thanksgiving Day offering** at Jerico was \$101.85 and at Saude \$76.75.

**Don't forget** to tune in WMT, Waterloo, at 3:30 Sundays. The Lutheran Hour originating at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is then on.

**Elouise Walters and Harvey R. Roberson** were married at the parsonage October 14th. The bride is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan J. Walters of New Hampton. The groom is a son of S. S. Roberson and a native of Jerico community. Harvey has always had a smile on his face, but you ought to see the smile now! And good reason he has.

The young couple fits right snugly into the S. S. Roberson home. In due time, we are confident, they will be among the pushers in all our church activities.

You young couples can hardly realize how deeply we older folks are interested in you and how earnestly we hope and pray that you may live happily and do well. You are our hope for the future of our church and community.

**Did you know Fred Grundeland** of Calmar? He and his wife and mother were almost always over when we had special doings in our churches. If you remember him you will know he was a fine, upstanding type of a man nearing middle age; that he radiated joy and cheer and was proud of his church and synod. In his strength and vigor and joy of living there was nothing to remind one of grim death. Yet, presto, a crossroad, — a gravel truck, — a crash, — and Fred was lifeless. See in this, dear reader, the uncertainty of life.

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved wife and mother and to the Calmar congregation, which has lost a most active, able, and willing worker.

**The Saude Aid** held a very well attended meeting at the home of its president, Mrs. T. G. Vaala, November 9th. The following week, on Thursday the 18th, the members of the Aid turned out in full force again, this time to the home of Mrs. Andrina Munson. At this meeting it was decided to hold a pre-holiday party at the parsonage about the middle of December. Although this meeting will be recorded as a regular meeting of the Aid, it will offer some extraordinary features. Come and see what you see. Take this tip from your editor you men, young or old, who keep steady company with a member of the Aid: See to it that you escort your lady to that meeting. We dare not promise that you will be admitted to the party, but we can assure you that the latch string of the log cabin will hang outside and that flames will crackle and play in the fire-place for your cheer and comfort.

**Mrs. Carl Roberson** entertained the Jerico Aid Wednesday, November 10th, in the church basement. At this meeting the idea of dividing the Aid into so-called Circles was brought up. A committee of six was elected to study the matter and to report their findings to the next meeting.

**Mrs. Carl A. Knutson** entertained the Aid November 23rd. The committee mentioned above reported adversely to the idea of Circles. A main purpose of the proponents of Circles was to try in that way to make inactive members more active. It was not



denied that too many have fallen into the bad habit of not attending the Aid meetings regularly. However, it was quite generally doubted that Circles would improve that condition. No change in the way of running the Aid was made.

Let all be reminded of the fact that it is one of the easiest things in the world to fall into the habit of not having time for anything but one's daily tasks and so, little by little, become a hermit and recluse, a stranger to one's own Aid, and congregation, friends and neighbors.

**The Annual Business Meetings** of the congregations were held on the 17th and 19th of November. The routine business was attended to. The financial reports showed a deficit, not large but enough to be annoying and uncomfortable, just as a small grain of gravel in one's shoe. With just a little exertion on everyone's part, the one annoyance could be removed as easily as the other. Here is a suggestion: Ask the trustee of your district (do not wait for him to approach you) how much, in fairness, would be required of you that your congregation might enter the new year with a financially clean slate. We dare say you will be surprised at the small amount he will name and you will realize how unnecessary it is to carry over a deficit.

At Jerico the treasurer and secretary, J. A. Robinson and A. N. Anderson, were reelected. At Saude Nels Ellingson succeeds Oscar Natvig as treasurer and G. G. Vaala relieves Ole N. Anderson as secretary. Due to enfeebled health, John Borlaug resigned from the Saude Board of Trustees. Ned Borlaug was elected to fill the unexpired term. Enus Firkingstad was reelected to the Board and Chris Treider holds over. At Jerico Olaf Roberson succeeds Jeff A. Knutson on the Board and Geo. N. Anderson and Ole C. Johnson hold over. The best janitors in the state of Iowa, Martin Borlaug and Tom Thompson, were retained. Let no one for a moment think that their work is not very important to the successful carrying on of our church work. The entire Saude Cemetery Committee, Martin Borlaug, Chris Treider, Mrs. Andrina Munson, Mrs. C. O. Natvig, and Miss Johanna Ellingson, was reelected. Jerico named Ole K. Olson and Tom Thompson as sextons, and authorized the Ladies' Aid to appoint a committee to care for and beautify the cemetery. This committee is not as yet named.

It is a generally admitted fact among all churches that a regular publication, an official organ, is a necessity. No church body is without one or more. It is an undisputed fact also that the benefits of such publications are not realized unless they reach the homes of the membership and are read.

Our papers are the *Sentinel* and *Tidende*. As far as we know, every home does now receive one or the other or both of these, thus, in that respect, there is no room for improvement. Improvement, however, is possible in the handling of the subscriptions and paying for same. The most convenient way is to place the church papers on the congregational budget. This has been practiced for a number of years in the Jerico congregation, in a number of the congregations of our Synod and in

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many congregations of our sister Synods. At its meeting the 17th of November, the Saude congregation resolved to adopt this plan and it will go into effect January 1, 1938.

The pastor will now attend to the list of subscribers and see to it that no home in the congregations is overlooked. He will also attend to change of address when such change is necessary, etc., etc. *The treasurer of the congregation will make payment for all subscriptions.*

You who receive the paper will have only this to do: Report to the pastor if it does not reach you regularly and add a reasonable amount annually to your regular contribution to the current expenses of the congregation to cover this added item on the budget.

Bear in mind from now on: *Don't* write to Rev. S. E. Lee regarding your subscription. All he can and will do is to send your letter to your pastor.

*Don't* send subscription money to Rev. S. E. Lee, the business manager of the papers, nor to your pastor. Pay your subscription to your trustee together with your contribution to current expenses. Just as you do not, in making your contributions for current expenses, say: "This is for pastor's salary," "this is for coal," "this is for janitor's and organist's salaries," so you need not specify: "This is for the church paper." You are merely asked to bear in mind this added item of congregational expense and to act accordingly.

We who are charged with the duty of putting out the papers are constantly striving to make your church paper a real influence for good in your home, your church, and in your personal Christian life.

#### THE BIBLE.

"The Bible is all in all mankind's greatest treasure. A few men have crowns, and a few may have fortunes; fewer still can enjoy either. But everyone may have the Bible, and everyone who will may enjoy it with a great happiness."

"But, of course, no one can enjoy it if it stands dusty on the shelf or dusted on the living room table. It must be read."

"Do not be disturbed if there are passages you do not understand. You live on God's glorious earth, but He doesn't expect you to know every valley of the Himalayas or every port in the Seven Seas. There is nothing in the Bible essential to the soul's deepest joys and greatest growth, that is not open to a true and earnest heart. Come to your reading with an open mind and prayerful heart and give the Bible a chance to speak to you. It is not simply a record; it is a message."

"When you are in sorrow, in anxiety, in fear, go to the Bible. It can bring marvelous help in life's emergencies. But it is not primarily a shelf of medicines; it is a daily food for daily needs."

"For in God's providence, this is your book. Men have labored incessant hours, spent all they had, gone footsore and weary to an exile's rest, died in agony a martyr's death, that you might have it."

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