

The Assistant Pastor

February, 1937

Spontaneous Combustion.

Perhaps all our readers are aware of the possibility of fire by spontaneous combustion and thus know that a self-generated fire can break out when and where favorable conditions exist.

Do we all know that the flame of Christian faith and love is **never** a result of spontaneous action? That regeneration and the new life in Christ Jesus is **never** a self-generated transformation? There is nothing innate (inborn) in fallen man that ever under any condition whatsoever can generate the faintest spark of faith in Jesus and consequent salvation.

A fire is in the vast majority of cases traced to some external cause: a match, lightning, a cigar stub, or the like, but sometimes to spontaneous combustion. The "tongue of fire" resting upon the disciples of Jesus Christ **always** traces to an external cause, never to an innate or self-generative condition. And the cause responsible for the holy flame of faith and love in the believer's heart is **always** the Holy Ghost working through the means of grace, the Word of God and the holy sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. And be it remembered too, there is no fuel that can keep up the flame in the heart excepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ applied by the same Holy Ghost.

Do you know this and do you believe it? You answer "yes." Then, may we ask, what does it tell you of yourself if you neglect and do not use the means of grace, the Word and the Sacraments? Your answer should be: "That my heart is closed against the sanctifying work of the Holy Ghost." If, on the other hand, you diligently and prayerfully use the Word of God, what may you most firmly hope? The answer is: "That the Holy Ghost will enlighten, sanctify, and keep me in the true faith in Jesus unto life everlasting."

Woe to the many poor deluded souls who wait for spontaneous conversion.

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. H. 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 Ronnfeltd, 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.

A Triple Baptism

Mary Ione, born December 14th, Gary Edward, born December 28th, and Louann, born December 30th, were baptized in the same water January 17th. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Betts, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Thompson, and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Paulson, respectively, are the parents.

Three new names entered in the Book of Life; three added to the family of God's children; three who have gained a right and access to all the riches and glory of heaven through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost. Yes, the simple rite of baptism that you saw and heard administered on Sunday the 17th means all that to the baptized ones.

Will the names remain in the Book of Life? Will they surely gain possession of the heavenly inheritance? If they die in childhood, they most certainly will. If they live beyond the early years of childhood, our answer must be: "That will to a very, very great extent depend upon the parents, also to some extent upon the older brothers and sisters and to a considerable extent also upon their friends and associates. The child that does not have Christian parents and is not "brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" and that has evil companions and friends, has small show of continuing as a child of God in possession of the gifts of God through faith in Jesus Christ as it grows up. Parents, your responsibility is heavy, but you can through Christ Jesus carry it, for He will give you the strength if you seek Him.

So many remarked that they had not witnessed the baptism of three children at one service before

that our curiosity was aroused. We turned to the record of baptisms for the past thirty years and found that Palmer Anderson, Irwin Ellingson, and Maynard Douglas were baptized May 26th, 1918. December 6th, 1908, four were baptized, namely: Carl Roberson, Oscar Nystel, Norman Nelson, and Elmer Wangsnes.

The Jerico Aid was entertained by Mrs. T. W. Munson at her home January 20th. The attendance was not large due to recent snow-fall and consequent doubtful roads.

A Correction. To the list of contributors to the Teacher's Salary and Synod Funds, please add Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Treider, \$2.50, Gunhilda Treider, \$1.40. The names were left out by mistake. There is a possibility that the printer made the mistake, but the probability points an accusing finger at the editor. We won't do it any more — maybe.

Repeal of Prohibition does not include repeal of God's warning, "the drunkard shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven." The repeal of prohibition has not changed the answer to the questions: "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?" (Prov. 23:9). The answer still is, "They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine." The repeal of prohibition has not taken the serpent's bite nor the adder's sting out of excessive use of liquor. The repeal of prohibition has made tippling in the home, in restaurants and "taverns" respectable and within the law, but drinking alcoholic drinks in moderate quantities frequently — tippling — remains good training for drunkenness. How many of our girls and boys are in training? Are you taking the course, dear reader? Parents, look after your sons and daughters and, first of all, yourselves in this matter.

Dancing ranks high as an agency in the moral breakdown of society. Every house of ill-fame knows it, every home for fallen girls knows it, every seducer of women knows it, and it has been proclaimed by hundreds of voices that know whereof they speak and by thousands of pages of printed testimony. The public dance hall stands indicted by all social and moral welfare workers, police departments, Salvation Army, welfare societies, institutions of correction, and all church denominations, as a menace to that which a good government and good citizens try to build up.

Yet the citizens of our country have been urged, and urged, again and again the past weeks by voices that have resounded throughout our entire land, yes, the great of our nation have appealed to us to go to the "presidential ball" in our home community and "dance that others may walk." It was all but made a patriotic duty to go to the "president's ball" and thus show Christian charity. Great preparations were made for the president's nationwide birthday dance on earth and in hell. Disease of whatever name can wreck only the mortal body, the dance hall can and does wreck immortal souls.

We need each other, we cannot live happy, normal lives independently of each other. This need has led to the formation of our federal, state, county, and township organizations. Who would want to live independently, a man without a country? Even the wildest savages do not so live. It is an inborn need of all creatures to congregate with creatures of their own kind. This is true of the higher as well as lower forms of life. Note the **herds** of buffalo that ranged our plains, the **droves** of wild horses, and the prairie-dog villages. Also the **flocks** of geese, the **schools** of fish, the ant-hills and the beehives. Notice further that among all there are duties and obligations towards the organization.

Let the citizen of a state refuse or neglect to pay his taxes, or an Indian brave show unwillingness to fight with his tribe, or an ant omit the work allotted to it, or a working-bee stay in the hive and eat instead of going out to gather honey for the common store, in either case the hard hand of prevailing laws will fall heavily. In the case of the ant and the bee it is prompt execution.

The same natural urge to be together with one's kind prevails also in the spiritual world and here, too, entails duties and obligations. Christians seek to congregate with Christians, and it is, indeed, a definite will of God that His children in different localities shall congregate and worship together. He warns us not to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together." Similarly individual congregations have found it desirable to seek closer association with congregations of their faith and language for the better performance of their common duties. Synods have been formed in answer to this need.

If there are too many disloyal citizens of a state; too many unwilling "braves" in a tribe; too many drones (a bee that does no work) in the hive, neither can thrive nor long endure.

Are you a drone or a working-bee in your congregation and synod? If you are a worker, you will be active in promoting the soul-saving work of both. Among other things, you will not neglect to bring your penny, nickel, dime, quarter, or dollar in the envelopes provided for a given purpose by resolution of your congregation. Be a happy worker, not a drone, in your church. Go to church, use the Word of God diligently, pray that the Holy Ghost may through faith in Jesus Christ inflame and charge your heart with zeal for the preservation and spread of the kingdom of God on earth.

LARS NATVIG,

born August 8th, 1889, was baptized September 29th, 1889, confirmed April 24th, 1904, died January 13th, 1937, and was interred January 16th.

Lars, best known as "Louie Jim," was the youngest child of Jens Natvig and wife Anna, nee Hoffland.

Jens Natvig was a son of Lars Jenson Natvig and wife Marie Helgesdtr Ve. Mr. and Mrs. Lars Natvig and family came to our settlement as refugees from the Spirit Lake Indian massacre. They raised three sons, Jens, Helge, and Lars, and two daughters, Carrie and Mary. Christopher was a brother of Jens, not a son, as stated in the Assistant Pastor of March, 1936.

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Jens was the only one of the above named that married. He became the father of seven children. Two died in infancy. Three daughters, Mary, Minnie, and Anetta died in the bloom of young womanhood. And now Louie passed away in his 46th year. One daughter, Carrie, is living. She is now alone, of near relatives, to care for the graves of her grandparents, uncles, aunts, parents, brothers, and sisters who are all resting 'neath the sod of our Saude cemetery. She has stood over the death-bed of many of her departed dear ones and, some might add, "has many heart-rending memories." But no, it is not so, quite the contrary: she has more than many beheld the peace and joy of dying in the Lord, and that means blessed, faith strengthening memories.

She and her many friends are especially grateful that it was granted her to reach Oakdale Sanitarium in time to be with her brother the last day of his life and hear his last hopeful words and witness his peaceful, happy, Christian death.

O what a Savior we have who can turn weakness into strength, suffering into rejoicing, death into life! In Jesus' name the believer can indeed defiantly say: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" With one accord let us all say, "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Speaking of Arthur Brisbane, the great newspaperman lately deceased, I. P. F. in The Northwestern Lutheran, says: "Brisbane's writings were always chaste and clean." Towards the close of the article we read: "But as in the case of other learned critics of the Bible, 'professing themselves to be wise, they become fools.' Some ten or twelve years ago he wrote that, if God made Eve out of Adam's rib, as the Bible says, then man must have one less rib on one side of his body than on the other, a fact which could easily be disproved by counting the ribs of a skeleton in the nearest museum. If this argument were correct, then the children of a father who had a leg amputated would all be born with one leg.

"The arguments of the Bible critics are not always so transparent, but often have a certain glamour, especially when they flow from a pen so facile and interesting as that of Brisbane. There is no doubt that in these hectic times, when most of the reading is confined to the newspapers, such writers exert a powerful influence upon the ideas and views of our generation. If such columnists and newspapermen would confine themselves to secular matters, we would have no quarrel with them, but when they invade the realm of spiritual things and try to undermine the everlasting truths of God, it becomes our duty to counteract and warn, so as to preserve the faith once delivered to the saints.

"One of his favorite sops of cheer and comfort to those who might be frightened by the teaching that the end of the world is near was this that all astronomical information pointed to the fact that this world was still good for many millions of years."

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