

The Assistant Pastor

November 1937

Thanksgiving

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that has made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good, his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations." (Psalm 100.)

Who should "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" if not we? We must indeed be the "sheep of his pasture". What blessing has He withheld from us? Our haylofts are full and our feed bins are not empty. He let drought threaten us to teach us to realize our dependence upon Him, but left no one hungry. Relatively many were laid on hospital beds, but all were allowed to return to their homes, stronger of body, and, we hope and believe, drawn closer to Him. Not a few have experienced the hazards of the highways and have been within a split second of instant death, yet no mangled bodies have been buried in our cemeteries. Our dead have died at home ministered to by their dear ones and their pastor, in body and soul. Strikes and riots have not disturbed the peace of our communities. All of ours have had work and have been undisturbed in their daily tasks. The whine of bullets, the explosion of shells and the roar of bombing planes have not filled our days and nights.

Towering above all these manifestations of God's love to us, as the great pyramid towers over the sands of the desert, is His continued grace and mercy in Christ Jesus to us sinners. To us the message of forgiveness of sin and salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ, rings as true and dependable today as it did the day Jesus said to the penitent robber on the cross, "Today thou shalt be with me in paradise". His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endureth to all generations. Be thankful unto Him and bless His name.

Will you pray God to give you mercy to do this, dear member? Or will you on Thanksgiving Day "make a joyful noise" at the saloon bar or in the dance hall? If you do you are serving Satan "with gladness" and you shall reap eternal grief, weeping and gnashing of teeth. This is not mere bluff or a scare, it is eternal truth. "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6, 23).

Dear friends, let us serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing, for "the gift of God is eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord".

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: 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. T. G. Vaala, president; Mrs. Elmer Natvig, secretary; Adelia Natvig, 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.

John Adolph, a child of Thomas Roberson and wife Edith, née Munson, was born September 11th and baptized October 3rd in the Jerico church. The sponsors were: Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Munson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Roberson.

The Jerico Aid was entertained by Mrs. Henry A. Knutson October 13th and by Mrs. Henry O. Knutson the 27th. Both times in the church basement.

The Saude Aid, entertained by Mrs. Ned Borlaug and Mrs. Henry Borlaug, filled the Ned Borlaug home on the 14th of October. The question of seating the Aid when it meets, is no longer a problem. The Aid has purchased three dozen substantial folding chairs with leather covered seats.

On the 28th, the Saude Aid was entertained by Mrs. E. Ellingson and Mrs. Johanna Hoffland at the former's home.

Lois and Anna Tjernagel of Thornton, Iowa, spent three days at the parsonage lately. And that's something. Not every father has had the distinction of entertaining twin granddaughters.

Among the contributors to the U & I Club listed in our last issue, Mr. and Mrs. Tollef Knutson should have been named as contributing \$2.15 and Bessie Ellingson \$1.75.

Pride goeth before fall. We were quite proud to know that the above errors could not be laid at our

door. No sooner had we located the source of the errors and with pride and satisfaction cleared ourselves, than a kind woman accosted us and said: "You mentioned all the others that had been married this summer, but you did not say anything about Ruth and Lloyd."

Down tumbled our pride. Just think of it! Neglected to tell our readers about a church marriage witnessed by 400 people and a wedding dinner served to about 150. Some newspaper this is! Well, just the same, Ruth Munson and Lloyd Roberson were married June 2nd and have lived happily ever after. Your unworthy editor has been entertained for dinner at their very cozy home three miles north and one mile west of Jerico.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. D. O. Natvig was born May 31, 1867, in the original Vaala log house. Eleven years earlier, 1856, the Rev. V. Koren conducted the first Lutheran services held in the Saude community in this same log house. Her father, Gregor O. Vaala, was the youngest of the organizers of Dale menighed, later called Little Turkey, and now known as the Saude congregation.

Mrs. Natvig was baptized by Rev. V. Koren July 11, 1867, and was confirmed by Rev. J. T. Moses in 1883. Her classmates were: Andrew Jakobsen, Hans Svennungsen, Jens Torvildsen, Ola Ingebrigtsen, Lars Lassenes, Tosten Torstensen, Julius Hansen, Gjertrud Tøgesen, Sigrid Jensen, Anna Andersen, Karoline Johnsen, Marie Offerdal, Jane Sørensen, Kari Torstensen, Martha Andersen. To our knowledge, not one of them are among the living in our community today. How quickly the scenes and the actors on the world's stage change!

Mrs. Natvig, though she helped her brother, G. G. Vaala, in the Saude store for some years, never left the old home until she was married, and then she moved only a few rods. She married D. O. Natvig October 18, 1905. Mr. Natvig became a member of the firm Vaala & Natvig and established a home near the store. The union was blessed with two children; one died in infancy, the other, Margaret, grew to womanhood and is now Mrs. Nelvin Hereid.

Mrs. Natvig spent her entire life at the hub of the Saude community and was, therefore, very well known to all who frequented Saude and, it is entirely safe to say, was respected by all. No one doubted her sincerity as a Christian nor questioned her loyalty to her church.

She died quite suddenly October 14th, from an illness of some years standing, and was buried the 16th. Eight nephews bore her to the grave.

We extend our sympathies to the mourners: Husband, daughter and son-in-law, and the four brothers. We sympathize in a special way with the invalid sister Carrie who is confined to her invalid chair and cannot now look forward to the cheer of Mary's daily calls.

Our Annual Business Meetings are held in November. Saude meets the third Wednesday and Jerico the third Friday. The dates this year will be the 17th and 19th.

Let all concerned note the dates. And, be it known, every member is concerned, not only the officers. The officers should have everything well in hand for the annual meeting so that they can make clean cut, clear reports. The members expect and have a right to find out the exact total of receipts and expenses for the year; not approximately, but just exactly how much has been paid in and how much has been paid out; just what and how much is unpaid or how much there is in the treasury after all bills for the year are paid. The officers are anxious to make such reports but are often hindered in doing so by negligent members.

Here is an example: A member promises to bring his dues to the trustee of his district before the annual meeting, but forgets to do it. Instead he brings his contribution along to the annual meeting and hands it to his trustee and the trustee in turn to the treasurer. If the trustee and treasurer enters it on this year's report it messes up the figures they had prepared for the meeting. If there are many negligent ones, mistakes are almost certain to be made in the mess. If they do not enter the belated contributions, the contributor will stand on the books as one who has not contributed. His contribution will not appear in the reports until next year's annual meeting. This makes him sore and a lot of explaining has to be done.

Let, therefore, every one note the date: Saude November 17th, Jerico November 19th, and let every one attend to his duty in good time so that business can be done and reported in a businesslike way at the annual meetings.

The Lutheran Hour over a nation-wide radio hook-up, is no new thing. To many in our communities, however, it is good as new, for we have not been able to tune it in. Now everyone who has a radio, even of the oldest and poorest kind, may tune in and hear it.

Tune in WMT, Waterloo, at 3:30 every Sunday afternoon and the pure Gospel message will flow into your home, also well rendered Lutheran hymns and anthems.

The voice you will hear comes from our theological seminary at St. Louis, station KFUE. The speaker is Prof. W. A. Maier. The message you will hear not only contains, but is "the power of God unto salvation". The entire service lasts just one-half hour. Plan your Sunday so that you can be one of the thousands of worshippers that half hour.

Remember the time, 3:30 every Sunday afternoon.

With the October issue of our parish paper, 100 of our families received a copy of a little booklet of daily devotions. We tried not to miss any family where there are children. We wish we could have sent a copy to every family.

In every happy family the members talk to each other. That, in fact, is one of the joys of family life.

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Is your God and Savior a member of your family, that is, is He present with you at your meals, at your work and in your play, and does He watch over you when you sleep? We dare say every one who professes to be a Christian will answer "yes" or "I hope so".

Do you talk to Him of your work, your ambitions, your griefs, your joys? If you have offended Him do you say "please, excuse me" or "I beg your pardon" as you do to the other members of the family? If He has been good and kind to you, do you say "thank you" as you do to others, even to strangers? Do you do this, or do you ignore His presence?

You will agree that there is nothing more crushing to you than to be ignored. Just think how completely joyless, empty, terrible life would be to you if the members of your family whom you love would ignore you from day to day, week to week, and month after month no one talked to you.

Is that the way you "walk with God"? Is that the treatment accorded Jesus in your home, He who has loved every member of the family unto death? If it is, what right have you to expect that He will continue with you and bless you and guard and keep you?

In the family it is not only when father and mother are alone together that they speak to each other, neither do brothers and sisters speak to each other by twos only. To be sure some of the happiest hours are spent that way when just two open their hearts to each other in intimate exchange of hopes and aspirations, of griefs and joys. Yet how strange and unnatural if they only spoke to each other by twos, while at meals, for example, when all were together all were mum.

Conversations (prayer and Bible reading) with God in "thy closet", "in secret", privately are indeed blessed and I would not for the world be understood to say anything contrary to Matt. 6, 6 and other Words of God urging individual, private talking (devotions) with God. But how strange if members of a family who individually pray, praise, and give thanks are mum when they are gathered together. How becoming is it not that a Christian family join their voices at least twice a day in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving and thus as a family unit talk to their Heavenly Father, Redeemer, and Sanctifier.

To help the timid get started with family devotions, we sent out the booklet "Walking With God". Where the family altar has not already been established, we urge that the head of the family look up the Bible verses referred to and read them. Then read the short page for the day, then turn to the prayer for the day which is found on one of the first pages, and finally let all join in praying the Lord's prayer. If father does not read very well, then let mother read. If she cannot read very well out loud either, then have the children read. One might read the Bible verses, another the devotional, and a third the prayer.

Whether you use the booklet sent or some other book of devotion matters little. The important thing is that you do not endanger your soul's salvation and your children's eternal welfare by neglecting daily home worship. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly."

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Mrs. E. L. Bradley, Assistant.

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