

The Assistant Pastor

January 1938

Nineteen Thirty-eight

As we enter this new year, we cannot be unmindful of the fact that the world is violently agitated. It is not a mere phrase, but a sad reality that the world is a threatening, rumbling volcano. Will the rumblings subside harmlessly, or will the eruption come? We do not know. But we do know that the principalities and powers which are not of flesh and blood, the rulers of the darkness of this world, are fanning the flames of hatred and aggression and of godless selfishness in high and low places. Evil days are upon the Church, the State, and the world at large.

Woe unto the miserable soul that has no sure place of refuge. Woe to everyone who sets his hope for safety on parliaments or congresses or on any council chamber of men or league of nations. Their treaties and agreements are as beautiful and abiding as glittering ice on the streams and lakes of Iowa and their promises are as many and as permanent as snow flakes.

There is, however, a sure place of safety to everyone who will flee to it. It is at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ; it is described in that one word Jesus, which means Savior. Christian believers joyfully sing of it in the words of the 46th Psalm: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be removed, and the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah. . . . The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah."

To the alarmed virgin in Nazareth He said: "Fear not," and to the frightened shepherds He said: "Fear not." To His troubled children in this ominous year, 1938, He says just as truly and certainly: "Fear not," for all things shall "work together for good to them that love God."

If thou but suffer God to guide thee,
And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength what'er betide,
And bear thee through the evil days;
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.

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, Ned Borlaug, E. Firkingsstad.

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.

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.

1937 Ministerial Acts

Baptisms: Saude 1; Jerico 14

Confirmed: Saude 5; Jerico 8

Marriages: Saude 1; Jerico 3

Burials: Saude 1; Jerico 2

Communed: Saude 218; Jerico 347

Public worship evenly divided, 58.

Do not forget the Lutheran Hour. Tune in WMT Waterloo, every Sunday at 3:30 p. m.

Another Golden Wedding. It is fifty years since Rasmus Knutson and Gunhild Anderson were married. A majority of my readers will, perhaps, ask, "Who is Rasmus Knutson?" Answer: He is the man you know as Rob Knutson. (Now hold on while we take a detour. Time has laid a heavy hand on the good old Norwegian names. They are now in the discard almost entirely. Few of our children today bear a Norwegian name. There seems to be no effort anymore to perpetuate grandfather's or grandmother's name and, maybe, it does not matter; Birdella will do as well as Brita or Borghild, and Pat as well as Ole or Lars. But, just the same, something stirs within us at the thought of it. Perhaps it is our old fashioned loyalty to ancestry and a lingering innate love for the rugged "Land of the Midnight Sun" and its heriolic history.)

It is with much satisfaction we record time and again the celebration of silver and golden wedding anniversaries. And we do not forget to rejoice that

the divorce evil has not yet broken into any of our homes since the founding of our congregations.

A very large number of friends and relatives met at the Jerico church basement after services on December 5th to celebrate the rare anniversary with Mr. and Mrs. Rob. Knutson. The bride's maid, Mrs. Halvor Ronnei and the groom's man, Albert J. Knutson, were on duty again.

The friends and relatives served a real wedding dinner to all present. The groom's brother, J. S. Knutson, made it all very realistic by providing a large and beautiful wedding cake. The happy couple received a present in cash money which totaled much more than a little pin money. Scripture reading and prayer, and a short talk by the pastor constituted the program.

Mr. and Mrs. Knutson: When your friends and relatives gather about you again in such large numbers, it will likely to be to carry you to your graves. Accept your Savior's love and guidance as offered to you in His Word and that day will be the most blessed of all your days.

The Saude Aid pre-Christmas party on December 16th was well attended. Fitting devotional exercises were held which included the singing of a number of Christmas hymns from memory. "Her kommer dine arme smaa" was one of them.

A present costing no more and no less than twenty-five cents was literally drawn from an adjoining room by means of a string picked up at random from many lying on the floor. It is lots of fun to see how readily older folks revert to childhood under favorable circumstances, and to hear how much more noise they make than noisy children when they forget to guard the dignity of advanced years and that they are parents and grandparents and not children.

Every one present contributed to the lunch served, consequently the table looked like a study in variety. In one respect, however, it displayed a decided sameness namely, in the choice of quality of everything offered.

This last Aid meeting of the year reflected, we dare say, the unity and amity of all the old year's meetings and, we trust, also the spirit that will, by the grace of God, prevail during the new year.

We, that is, the editor, was hardly done with talking about the pleasant affair of December 16th, when the Jerico Aid gave a party on December 29th. This was like the other only in one thing: It, too, was delightful. The party was in honor of our 14 1937 babies and their 14 mothers. (We regret very much that 4 of them could not be present.)

A beautifully decorated table was set for the guests of honor. When the guests were seated, devotional exercises fitting the occasion were conducted. The pastor, standing at the head of the table, could, on divine authority, assure every mother that she held one of God's saints in her lap, and the assembled friends that 14 children of God had been added to the membership of our congregation through baptism during the year. He also stated that the large number of babies and our gathering in their honor is our answer to the godless birth-control propaganda of our evil days.

Each member of the Aid had brought along a taste of her very best Christmas baking. Only the very strong of character and of self-control could say "No, thank you" when it should be said, as the delectable goodies were offered and reoffered during the serving of the lunch.

Even the best and most obedient of children will forget and again and again need to be reminded of what is expected of them. This being true of grown up children too, we are not discouraged because some of our readers seem to have forgotten the request we made some years ago. Our patience is entirely unruffled and we shall repeat the request, knowing that it will be heeded and, perhaps, remembered longer this time.

If for any reason you come late to church, please remain standing at the entrance door if the pastor is offering the opening prayer at the altar or if he is chanting the opening collect or reading the epistle lesson. If the pastor is in the pulpit when you arrive, please do not go to your pew while he is offering prayer nor while he is reading the text.

When a baptism is to be performed, we request that the sponsors come forward during the singing of the last half of the usual hymn verse, and that the men sponsors do not come straggling along by themselves and remain standing way down the aisle leaning on a pew end, as if reluctant to serve.

It will add dignity to the occasion that the sponsors come together from the rear of the church and that the men come as far forward as to the front pews and remain standing side by side. In returning after the baptism is performed, let the men make room for the women sponsors to pass between them and take the lead as all march by twos back to the rear of the church. It does not look well that the men fall out of the procession and drop into pews as soon as they can.

Christmas Day was a beautiful winter day. Services were held at Saude with very few members absent. Many of our young folks scattered about as teachers or students, were seen in the festive assembly.

The children's Christmas Tree program was merged with the regular services. The program was so planned and executed, in our judgment, as to be a very appealing and instructive part of a joyous Christmas service. Nine children took part in the program. After the close of the service the worshippers remained while the conventional Christmas boxes were distributed to all children present and while the presents that had accumulated under the tree were distributed.

Second Christmas Day the Jerico congregation gathered for worship. The church was filled. Here, too, the children's program was a part of the regular services. Three of the 39 children were prevented from being present. Two on account of sickness and one on account of car trouble. The program was practically identical with the one at Saude and was carried out in much the same way.

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individual depositor.

As a matter of record we will set down here just how it was done. The children were gathered in the basement. After the organist's usual opening prelude, the children sang "Silent Night," beginning softly and increasing in volume as they progressed from verse to verse. In the auditorium above the dropping of a pin would have startled the listeners. Following "Silent Night," the children sang "Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We," as a processional, that is, singing while they marched up into the church. By a little neatly performed maneuvering they took their places before the altar where each child in plain prose told a part of the blessed Christmas story. Beginning with the prophecies they advanced to the fulfillment and closed with an earnest admonition. They followed a Christmas Hymn by the congregation, the sermon, another hymn by the congregation, the closing collect, etc., etc., and finally the announcements. After that the lights on the Christmas tree were turned on, the children sang "Beautiful Savior," apples and candy bags were passed around to all children present, Christmas gifts were distributed and finally the congregation and children arose and sang "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow." The entire service was, perhaps, about thirty minutes longer than a regular service.

We herewith gratefully acknowledge and give credit to Teacher A. J. Felton of Shawano, Wis., a former Wisconsin neighbor and friend, as the compiler of the prose Christmas story as told by our children.

Did it not give you a thrill to see the pews so well filled at our Christmas services? Would the same services have been equally festive, encouraging and joyous if there had been many empty pews and many missing faces? Has it not added to your Christmas happiness to know that practically every one of your fellow church members were present with you at the services and sang together with you the beloved Christmas hymns and heard the saving message of a Savior born as proclaimed by our children and by the pastor from the pulpit? We know what your answer is. Many have said: "That's the way our church ought to be filled at every service."

And that, dear friend, is just exactly what would happen if every member would attend every service when not hindered from doing so for valid reasons. We do not deny that there are reasons, valid before God and man, for missing a service or even many services. But if only those stayed away who have such reasons, it would, as a rule, be very few. They who noticeably cut church attendance are they who stay away without valid excuses and are busy trying to manufacture flimsy excuses with which they fool themselves and try to fool God.

"Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is" (Heb. 10:25). May the strife, turmoil and unrest in the world cause us, through the grace of God, to more diligently seek peace and rest for our souls by gathering regularly in our beautiful and peaceful houses of worship for mutual edification and encouragement, for united prayer, praise and thanksgiving.

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