

The Assistant Pastor

June 1938

**"If in this life only we hope in Christ, we are
of all men most miserable"**

1 Cor. 15:19.

The lot of the child of God on earth is "much tribulation," Acts 14:22. "These are they which came out of great tribulation" is said of the saints in heaven. Rev. 7:14. Jesus says to his disciples, John 16:20, "Ye shall weep and lament, but the world shall rejoice."

Woe to the Christian whose hope is primarily concerned with the life that now is; he is, indeed, "of all men the most miserable." Woe to him whose gospel of salvation has a heaven on earth as its goal. Always, when almost attained, that heaven vanishes as a mirage leaving the hopeful traveler disappointed.

The "social gospel" — all this gush, great display of sentiment, about abolishing poverty and misery and a general uplift of humanity through education, etc. as a first essential function of the Church, is a snare and a delusion which is sponsored by the father of deception and lies and the wrecker of mankind.

The Church's God-given primary concern is heaven not earth, eternal life not temporal life. Seeking the primary blessing of Christ and Christianity, the forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation, the secondary blessing, temporal peace, joy, and happiness will also be found. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. The reverse never works out. Seeking first the good things of this life never brings "the Kingdom of God and his righteousness" as a by-product.

The believer's joy and certain hope of forgiveness of sin and eternal life casts its reflection on his temporal life and makes it, too, joyous and happy just as a beautiful sunset is reflected in the dark waters of a lake or ocean below it. "As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things," II Cor. 6:10.

Have a care, dear reader, that you may on judgment day stand in the robe of righteousness dyed in the blood of Jesus Christ, not in the faded and flimsy covering offered by the manufacturers and distributors of a popular social gospel.

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. Firkingstad.
Treasurer: Neis 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, May-September, 10:00 a. m.
Third Sunday, English, May-September, 10:00 a. m.
Saturday School every Saturday, 10:00 a. m.
Confirmation class, Fridays, 2:00 p. m.

SAUDE

Second Sunday, bilingual service, May-September, 10:00 a. m.
Fourth Sunday, English, May-September, 10:00 a. m.
Saturday School, 2:00 p. m.
Confirmation class, Fridays, 9:30 a. m.
Fifth Sunday by special announcement.

Mrs. Jeff. O. Knutson entertained the Jerico Aid at the Church Parlor April 27th. The receipts of the meeting were sent to the Lutheran Hour.

Mrs. Ole K. Olson entertained the same Aid at the same place the 11th of May.

Mrs. Carl G. Johnson will be hostess to the same Aid at the same place May 25th.

The Saude Aid will be entertained at the Saude parsonage May 26th.

Confirmation services will be conducted at the Jerico Church on Sunday, May 29th. Services begin at 10 o'clock a. m. Lowell Douglas, Allan Knutson, Alvin Paulson, and Paul Ronnei will be confirmed. The Lord's Supper will be celebrated at 2:30 p. m. of the same day.

Ole Ellingson and Knute Roberson have been chosen to represent the Jerico congregation at the 1938 convention of our Synod to be held at Bethany College June 10th, 10 o'clock a. m., to June 16th, 12 o'clock noon. John N. Anderson and Fred Amman have been elected to serve as alternates. The Saude delegates have not at this writing been elected.

Our Saturday Schools closed for this school year on May 21st. The attendance throughout the fall and winter months was very good. The spring

months, however, cut down the average attendance for the year rather badly due to sickness.

Speaking in general, the children have come with lessons well prepared. There have been slips, and with some children more frequently than with others. There is a reason when a normal child does not learn a reasonable or fair lesson. Rather there are two reasons, the father and the mother. Sometimes we teachers wish they came to school so that we could scold the guilty ones instead of the relatively innocent child.

Norma Knutson and Henry Munson were united in marriage at the parsonage on Wednesday evening, May 18th. There is nothing we can say about this couple that you do not already know. Both are born and reared in the Jerico community and have lived their entire lives under your eyes. We are very glad to know and to tell you that they expect to establish their home in our midst.

The Saude Cemetery Committee gave a dinner on Sunday the 15th of May for the purpose of replenishing their treasury. The day was pleasant and practically every member, and a few others, turned out to enjoy the dinner and an afternoon visit with friends. The gathering was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Iver Natvig.

We shall try to get the Convention Offering envelopes distributed in time so that the Jerico congregation may bring its offering in on confirmation Sunday as the confirmation offering.

What is the Convention Offering? The Rev. C. J. Quill answers the question in the May 12th issue of the Sentinel as follows: "It is the offering lifted every year on Sunday during the annual convention. It is the offering not only of those present at the convention, but of all the congregations throughout the Synod, who place their offering on that same altar by their delegates or pastors.

"Now is not that a beautiful thing? In that festive hour the whole Synod may be assembled in spirit, in united praise, thanksgiving and prayer to God from whom all blessings flow.

"To be vitally interested and actively engaged together in our great common cause — the support and promotion of our dear Synod and its work — is the principal purpose of this offering. Now is not that a veritable good thing? What power to accomplish, if we all lift in the Lord, at the same time, in the same spirit, in the same cause? The cause is the Lord's. And is it not ours also? Then let us all be up and doing together. Our Lord who promises and says: 'Give and it shall be given unto you,' will abundantly bless. His promise faileth never. This we believe. This we know. And now in His name this cause is again hopefully and prayerfully before us. The Lord is calling."

Although you, no doubt, have read this in the Sentinel we reprint it here for it is well worth re-reading. We hope the cheerful gospel spirit of the appeal will move all hearts to participate "in united praise, thanksgiving and prayer to God from whom all blessings flow" and in that spirit bring a convention offering.

The Jerico Aid has expressed itself willing to entertain the next meeting of our N. Ia. and S. Minn. Circuit. We may, therefore, look forward to having the Circuit invited to holding its next meeting in our midst sometime in September or October.

"We have circuit meetings," said the essayist, Rev. Paul Ylvisaker, at our Thornton meeting, April 27-28, "to warm our love for great truths of our blessed Christian doctrine." In his introductory words he said further: "May the truths clear our spiritual vision, melt the ice of our naturally cold hearts and enthuse us in the privilege of being pupils in the school of the Spirit."

In answering the question, "What is Christianity?" which was the subject of his essay, he said that "the Christian religion is not the sum total of doctrines wherein is told what to believe or do, but rather the glad news of what God has done for us." "The brief epitome," he said, "of the entire Christian religion is John 3:16: 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'" "If your heart is not made of stone," he declared, "laugh with joy. For if we really believe, what except good need we expect? If he loves us, he can not wish us evil. What a picture of God this is in John 3:16."

In stating the purpose of Christianity the essayist said: "Christianity is more than education, more than reformation. Christianity is salvation. And not from ignorance, as ordinarily understood, or from misfortune. Christianity is salvation from damnation. 'This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus is come unto the world to save sinners,' II Tim. 1:15."

The Rev. E. W. Brewer of Buckeye, formerly of Thornton, also read a paper at our Thornton meeting. "Church and State" was his subject. A great many who see no difficulty in properly separating the two, nevertheless frequently offend against the scriptural as well as the state principles of the complete separation of Church and State. There is much muddled thinking and a great deal of befuddled practice in this matter. That the Roman Catholic and Reformed Churches teach and practice falsely here must be expected, for it is their birthright, they were conceived and born in a faulty conception of this question. That Lutherans tend more and more to follow them in their mixing of Church and State, is a disquieting sign of the times. We are inclined to propose this or some related subject for discussion at the next Circuit meeting, which we hope will be held at Jerico.

Sunday Disease.

I. P. F. in the Northwestern Lutheran, clipped the following from the Lincoln Journal and Star: "In the Westminster Messenger this week is this delightful discussion of a disease, 'Morbus Sabbaticus,' which weekly makes inroads in the ranks of churchgoers:

"A Sunday illness peculiar to churchgoers; symptoms vary, but never interfere with normal appetite; attack never lasts more than 24 hours; physician never needed; intermittent attacks at first, then chronic, malignant and fatal in order named.

"The attacks come suddenly every Sunday morning; no symptoms felt on Saturday night; patient sleeps well until late Sunday; eats hearty breakfast, but about church time complains and feels the dis-

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ease coming on. Difficulty passes just in time for patient to eat hearty dinner and go for afternoon walk, or auto ride. Similar occurrence comes at time of evening church service. Patient sleeps well on Sunday night and has no further signs or symptoms until the following Sunday morning."

"The above," says I. P. F., "may appear to be humorous, but it treats of a serious matter. The church member who can see the time for church services approaching or hear the church bells ringing out their call to worship and to hear the Word of God, and then lightly disregard it, should take warning that he is dying spiritually."

"Jesus said to His disciples, and that applies to all who preach the Gospel, 'He that heareth you, heareth me, and he that despiseth you despiseth me.'" Lightly staying away from the church service is not so much a refusal to serve God as turning the back upon the service which God wants to render man. Losing interest in the Word of God is, as a rule, a gradual process, which, if not halted in time, will lead to complete loss of faith and forfeiture of the eternal inheritance in heaven, purchased at such a tremendous cost with the precious blood of the Son of God."

THE LUTHERAN NEWS,

published monthly by the Lutheran News Company, Vinton, Iowa. The Rev. W. D. Oetting, pastor of our Immanuel Church in Waterloo, is the editor, that is, everything submitted for publication is censored by him.

The Lutheran News is confined strictly to the Synodical Conference. It will be distributed to our members by some method; it may be placed in a rack in the church entrance for every one to take a copy if he wishes, it may be handed out at the church door, or it may be sent by mail. We are not yet decided what method to use.

The paper contains news from Synodical Conference pastors and congregations in our section of Iowa. It costs your pastor nothing and it will cost our members nothing. Your pastor has entered into no obligations whatsoever with the publishers other than to distribute the papers, when received, as long as he wishes to do so. If anything objectionable appears in its columns whether it be in the advertising columns or in the reading matter, he will promptly cease distributing it.

Your pastor may if he wishes send in news items and will likely do so from time to time. He has nothing to do with securing ads in his territory. Should he learn that the representatives of the publishers use high-pressure methods and misrepresentations or other objectionable means in soliciting ads from the business men of our territory, he will forthwith cease distributing the paper and will so inform the publisher. Your pastor will be the sole judge relative to what is objectionable in soliciting ads within his territory. We sincerely hope that The Lutheran News will be so conducted editorially as well as from our business point of view that we can welcome it.

The Lutheran News will not supplant or take the place of The Assistant Pastor. God willing, the Assistant Pastor will continue being published as before.

Your Assistant Pastor herewith signs off until September when he hopes again to make his monthly call.

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