

The Assistant Pastor

October 1938

Obituaries

LARS O. AASEN was born in Jostedal, Norway, July 5, 1869, and died at St. Joseph's Hospital, New Hampton, Iowa, September 11, 1938. He had not been in robust health for many years but in his last illness was confined to his bed for only twelve days.

The deceased was a son of Ole and Eli Aasen. As a young man he emigrated to this country and community. February 29, 1904, he was united in marriage to Sigrid Kjærvik who also was an immigrant from Jostedal. Together they built a good home for themselves where they provided well for their children, soul as well as body.

Mr. Aasen is survived by his wife and seven children: Mrs. John Gordon (Ella) of the home community, Mrs. Arthur Guitzkow (Gertrude) of Madison, Wis., and Oscar, Charlotte, Selmer, Lloyd, Hanna, and Merle; also by one sister, Mrs. Carrie Nelson, of Madison, Wis. One daughter passed away in infancy and one son, Melvin, in 1925 at the age of 13 years. His wife and children, excepting Gertrude, and Rev. Tjernagel were at his bedside when he passed away.

Mr. Aasen was a faithful member of our Jerico Church and always responded cheerfully to the support of his church. He was interred in the shadow of the church on Wednesday, the 14th of September.

SEVERT ROBERSON was born in Jostedal, Norway, July 26, 1880, and passed away suddenly, due to heart failure, Thursday, September 22, at the age of 58 years. He was the son of Søren and Brita Roberson, who with their nine children came to this country in 1882. Severt was the youngest child.

Mr. Roberson was united in marriage to Anna Sophia Hildahl June 15, 1905, at the Jerico Church. To this union seven children were born. Mrs. Roberson died five years ago, and Clarence, a son, eight years ago. The remaining six children were mourners, namely: Mrs. Theo Haugen (Bernice), Omar, Norman, Harvey, and Pearl, all of the home community, and Roy, a student at Bethany College, Mankato, Minn. He also leaves two grandchildren, Bernard Haugen and Kathleen Roberson. In deep mourning is one sister, Mrs. Andrew Basteson, and two brothers, John and Knudt of New Hampton, and two brothers, Christ and Louie of the home community.

Mr. Roberson was a faithful communicant member of our church and a liberal supporter of the congregation and the work of the Synod. He was interred on Sunday the 25th in the presence of an unusually large assembly of friends and relatives.

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: 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. Otto Hanson, president; Mrs. Carl Miller, secretary; Mrs. Oscar Natvig, treasurer.

JERICO CONGREGATION

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

Secretary: A. N. Anderson.

Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.

Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Fred Amman, Mrs. L. A. Robinson, Mrs. S. T. Roberson.

Ladies' Aid: Mrs. M. A. Robinson, president; Mrs. K. C. Johnson, secretary; Mrs. Harvey Roberson, treasurer.

Standing Services

JERICO

First Sunday, Norwegian, October-May, 10:30 a. m.

Third Sunday, English, October-May, 10:30 a. m.

Saturday school every Saturday, 10:00 a. m.

Confirmation class, Fridays, 2:00 p. m.

SAUDE

Second Sunday, bilingual service, October-May, 10:45 a. m.

Fourth Sunday, English, October-May, 10:45 a. m.

Saturday school, 2:00 p. m.

Confirmation class, Fridays, 9:30 a. m.

Fifth Sunday by special announcement.

Correction: The god-parents of Sandra Joanne Swenson are Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Knutson and not, as reported in our last issue, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Roberson.

The Saude Aid was entertained by Mrs. Omar Miller and Mrs. Oscar Natvig at the former's home at New Hampton. The attendance came near breaking the record as well as the poorer-half of the hostesses.

Mrs. Thomas Swennumson entertained the Saude Aid September 22nd at the old John Landsverk farm where the Swennumsons now reside.

Mrs. L. Douglas was hostess to the Jerico Aid August 31st.

Mrs. L. Betts entertained the same Aid September 15th.

Mrs. J. C. Johnson and **Mrs. K. C. Johnson** served the lunch at the annual meeting of the Jerico Aid September 28th.

The financial report was heard and accepted and showed a healthy financial condition. Twenty-two meetings were held during the year. The secretary and treasurer were present at every meeting; the president missed three meetings on account of sickness. The pastor was absent from one meeting. The new officers elected are: Mrs. M. A. Robinson, president; Mrs. K. C. Johnson, secretary; Mrs. Harvey Roberson, treasurer; Mrs. C. O. Vigdal and Mrs.

Otto Tjernagel, revisors. Mrs. Fred Amman, Mrs. L. A. Robinson, and Mrs. S. T. Roberson were re-elected as members of the cemetery committee.

The Fall Meeting of the Northern Iowa and Southern Minnesota circuit of our church will be held at Jerico the latter part of October. The exact dates are not as yet decided upon.

The principal essay to be read and discussed will offer instruction on the supremely important doctrines of Universal Justification and Personal Justification.

The always efficient Aid will have charge of the physical needs and comforts of the meeting. Mrs. O. C. Johnson, Mrs. C. O. Vigdal, and Mrs. L. A. Robinson are elected to draw up plans for the proper entertainment of the expected guests.

Sermon at Lars Aasen Funeral.

"Fear not, I have redeemed thee; I have called thee by thy name; Thou art mine." Isaiah 43:1 b.

The words of our text were spoken to old Israel by the prophet of the Lord, Isaiah. They are fully applicable also to the New Testament Israel. It is not only a general message to a group, it is a special message to every individual. As such let us meditate upon it, accept it and, dear mourners and friends, be comforted by it.

The words "fear not" presupposes danger. Where, what is the danger? Danger a plenty. You are submerged in sin against God. When you can enumerate and count your sins in thought, desires, words, and deeds and your sins of omission you will also be able to count the sands on the seashore and the stars in the heavens. And the devil, that old experienced, cunning deceiver, is ever alert with his deceptive snares and pitfalls to cause the unwary to sink ever deeper and deeper into sin. And death is the wages of sin. Surely there is reason enough for fear.

But the clear, distinct voice of God in the Word says: "Fear not." That in itself is reassuring and He gives besides three reasons why you should not fear. First, "I have redeemed you." Every child knows how He redeemed old Israel out of bondage in Egypt with a mighty hand; how He led and guided, provided and cared for them on the way back to Canaan. Us He has as definitely redeemed from sin, death, and the devil through His only begotten Son Jesus Christ who "gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people (eiendomsfolk) zealous of good works." "Christ Jesus gave himself a ransom for all." Secondly, "I have called thee by name." He knows not only a given group, but he knows intimately every individual. "The hairs of your head are counted." He knows you by name. Thirdly, "Thou art mine." You belong to Him by right of purchase. The price He paid for you was His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, who "was made a curse for you to redeem you from the curse of the law." Gethsemane and Golgatha reveal the weight of that curse and the price He paid for you.

Thus you have again heard the blessed message of redemption through Christ Jesus and everyone, there are no exceptions, that rejoices in it possesses the safety and security it guarantees for time and eternity.

But, alas, there are many who are not aware of danger and are, therefore, not thrilled by the almighty God's reassuring "fear not." Many do not acknowledge their personal need of redemption from sin and satan and therefore do not rejoice in God's declaration: "I have redeemed you." The many who seek happiness and pleasure in the things of the world and in the service of sin, find no joy and happiness in that God says: "I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine." At heart they have a dread of the living God and flee from Him; they do not want to be His.

Just as many of the Israel of old desired to return to the flesh pots of Egypt and did murmur against God, so many of the redeemed of today desire to remain under the curse of the law and in the bondage of sin and satan. They that wanted to return to Egypt in spite of the assurances given by Joshua and Caleb, were not forced to enter Canaan but were doomed to perish in the wilderness. Likewise they who choose to remain in the service of sin and to enjoy what the devil has to offer, will not be forced into heaven. All others, however, will be safely ushered into the heavenly Canaan.

Dear mourners, in the earnest desire to comfort you today there is a temptation to eulogize (love-praise) the deceased. And, judged as far as friends and neighbors and pastor are able to judge, who could be more deserving of a beautiful eulogy than the husband and father, the friend and neighbor, the parishoner and fellow church member whom we mourn today. But rather than distract your thoughts with a man-made eulogy we choose to leave with you the abiding comfort of the divine words: "I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by name; thou art mine."

Sermon at S. S. Roberson Funeral.

Mark. 13:35-37.

A death message, unexpected as lightning from a clear sky, stunned our community last Thursday afternoon. The good father of a large family, a very dear brother, an exemplary member of our congregation, a useful citizen, a neighbor without reproach was found lifeless beside his cornbinder and team which had stopped and stood still when it no longer had a driver. Hale and hearty at noon, suddenly dead at about 4:30. The cause? Heart failure, said the doctor.

What about his soul? Did he die in the Lord? Such questions crowd in upon us. Dear mourners, it is not within your power or knowledge nor mine to give a definite yes or no. But, praise God, we do know that he had not lived a godless life. We know that he as a father sought to bring up his children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We know that he did not by word or deed lead away from the church but to it. We know he did not reject the Word and Sacraments, but that he was a regular church attendant and communicant. We know too that he did not bring offerings to the dens of vice and drunkenness but that he liberally gave of his means to the support of the work of the Kingdom of God. We recall these facts now, not as meritorious works. Salvation can not be earned. Heaven is given away. Eternal life is the gift of God through Jesus Christ our Lord, Rom. 6:30.

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No, these things from the life of the deceased are not mentioned as meritorious works but as evidences of where his heart was and on which we base our hope that he was not found sleeping when the bridegroom came. And we are happy to remember in this connection that God is good, He is merciful and gracious, and righteous in all His ways. With this let us leave the deceased in the hands of a judge who in Gethsemane sweat blood under the burden of his sin and ours and who on Galgatha suffered death for his guilt and ours.

We turn to the living, to ourselves. What if one was called by sudden death out of life in sin? One who in life was only rarely seen in the house of God, or one who, though he seemed to worship God on Sunday, yet openly served sin in drunkenness and other sins and vices on week-days and freely passed his means over the saloon bar, while very sparingly, if at all, gave to the support of the Kingdom of God? In such a case where could the mourners look for comfort? How could a Christian congregation and pastor find justification for giving Christian burial to such a one?

How could we hope that one who through a sinful life has given evidence of rejecting grace, should through sudden death come into possession of the gifts of grace, the forgiveness of sin and eternal life?

If one has chosen to serve sin in life, why should not the wages of sin, death, be his reward?

We who are living need to think on these things, not only with an occasional passing thought, but seriously and often.

We are fully aware that there are few willing servants of sin who will not say: "Oh, I want to be different before I die. I know I can't carry on in sin and yet expect to be saved. I'm going to turn to God before I die." Thousands have slipped into hell on just such slippery ground.

Do you who are depending on "some other time" to change your sinful life and to begin earnestly seeking God and to serve Him, do you know at what hour He will call you? Will it be at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrow, or in the morning? Your answer must be that you do not know. What other course of wisdom is there then left for you than to heed the Savior's warning who says, "Watch therefore . . . lest coming suddenly, He find you sleeping?" Sleeping, spiritually sleeping, living in sin; no oil of faith in your lamp.

The five foolish virgins who took no oil in their vessels with their lamps, awoke with a start from their sleep when the coming of the bridegroom was announced, and while they went to buy, the bridegroom came and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: *and the door was shut*. Afterward came also the other virgins saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. "But He answered and said, verily I say unto you, I know you not." "Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of Man cometh." Amen.

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