

The Assistant Pastor

November 1939

A Prayer for Peace

Lord God, as the clay is in the hands of the potter, so are all nations in Thy hand. By Thy judgment, in well deserved punishment for their manifold sins and iniquities, almost all the nations of the earth have become involved in bloody warfare. We know that this dreadful scourge is to all the world an urgent call to repentance. We beseech Thee so to rule the hearts of all the people now at war that in acknowledgement of their sin and guilt they come to Thee with the plea for pardon through the suffering and death of Thy Son, our only Savior. Let the consolation of Thy gospel be brought to all in distress and agony; ease the suffering of the wounded, maimed, and dying, and give Thy divine peace into the hearts of all bereaved and sorrowing.

Since Thou art also the God that wakest wars to cease unto the end of the earth, we pray Thee, restore peace to the war-infested countries and let the voice of repentant joy and sincere thanksgiving again be heard in the lands now resounding with weeping and lamentations.

Particularly do we implore Thy mercy and continued loving-kindness upon our own country. For the sake of Jesus Christ, who reconciled the sinful world unto Thee, deal not with us after our sins nor reward us according to our iniquities. Keep from our shores the ravages of warfare, that we may not hear the sound of the trumpet and the alarm of war; that our cities may not be visited by destruction upon destruction nor our fruitful fields be turned into wilderness; that our young men be not cut off in the prime of their life on the battlefield, nor our people at home be consumed by sword and famine and pestilence.

We commend to Thee in these troublous times, our government and all that are in authority. Grant unto them wisdom and understanding, that in the midst of world-wide unrest and warfare they may rule with justice and equity. Bless all their efforts towards the preservation of an honorable peace with all nations and the reestablishment of peace and good will among the people at war.

In every time of trouble and anguish fulfill Thy divine promise, that Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee, for in Thee, O Lord Jehovah, The Rock of Ages, is everlasting strength. Hasten the great day of Thy coming unto judgment of the wicked, unto salvation for them that look for Thee. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

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: Olis Borlaug, Juel Natvig, Miss Carrie Natvig, Mrs. J. Natvig, Mrs. Otto Hanson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Ned Borlaug, president; Gertrude Natvig, secretary; Mrs. Ole N. Anderson, treasurer.

JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: C. Cutsforth, 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. Otto Tjernagel, president; Mrs. L. M. Betts, secretary; Mrs. Orval Landsverk, treasurer.

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.
Fifth Sunday by special announcement.

Annual Business Meeting, Saude, Nov. 15th, 1:30 p. m.

Annual Business Meeting, Jerico, Nov. 17th, 1:30 p. m.

Communion Service, Saude, Norwegian, November 12th.

Communion Service, Jerico, English, November 19th.

Communion Service, Saude, English, November 26th.

The Jerico Congregation celebrated its Mission Festival October 1. The Rev. B. W. Teigen of Fertile, Minnesota, was the speaker.

The Saude Aid was entertained by Mrs. Hans Hoffland and Mrs. E. Ellingson at the latter's home October 5th. The pastor was absent, due to attendance at the Circuit meeting held in the West Paint Creek congregation, Rev. Unseth's charge.

Mrs. Otto Dahlen was hostess to the Jerico Aid October 11th. The meeting was held in the church parlor.

The marriage of Rev. Torald Teigen and Olivia Tjernagel was solemnized in the Jerico Church at two o'clock on Tuesday, October 3rd. The Rev. Justin A. Petersen of Scarville, Iowa, officiated. An unpretentious and informal reception in honor of the bride and groom was given by the bride's father in the church parlor immediately following the ceremonies.

Carol Ann, a child of Norman Anderson and wife Pauline, born September 12th, was baptized October 1st. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Johnson, Jensine and Thurman Johnson.

The Jerico Aid held its annual business meeting September 28th, entertained by Mrs. Alert Johnson. The officers elected were: President, Mrs. Otto Tjernagel; secretary, Mrs. L. M. Betts; treasurer, Mrs. Orval Landsverk.

SILVER WEDDINGS.

Three of them.

July and August are the vacation months for the Assistant Pastor. In September he tries to make mention of the important events which took place during his absence. He realizes now that he missed recording the Mr. and Mrs. Ole N. Anderson silver wedding.

Ole N. Anderson and Ragnhild Leifson were united in marriage at the bride's home, June 3rd, 1914. The sainted Rev. M. K. Bleken officiated. Ida Ellingson was the bridesmaid and Theodore Leifson the groomsman. Sunday, June 4th, 1939, the twenty-fifth anniversary was celebrated in becoming style and manner at the old Leifson farm which is now the Anderson home. The two old fathers, John Leifson and Nils Anderson were there. And there were brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, and neighbors and friends, everyone wishing the bride and groom many happy returns of the day.

In the Saude book of church records we find this entry under marriages: September 30, 1914. Oscar Natvig and Berthilda Thalia Steensland. Witnesses: Arthur Natvig and Pearl Natvig; Fred Steensland and Olive Natvig. Place of marriage, the church. Officiating clergyman, Rev. M. K. Bleken.

Twenty-five years later, September 30, 1939, that event was still considered a joyous event, and as such the twenty-fifth anniversary was celebrated by the bride and groom and their many relatives and friends at their home near the head waters of the Little Turkey River.

Now we go about three miles farther west. There on Sunday, October 15th, shortly after the close of services at Jerico, we see car after car parking at the old Søren Roberson homestead. It's another silver wedding! L. S. Roberson and Annie Basteson have been happily married for twenty-five years, and friends and relatives are gathering to celebrate their wedding anniversary with them at their home.

Our conduct of wedding anniversaries varies but little. A description of one will, therefore, describe them all. The guests bring common, ordinary looking market baskets from which tables are loaded with an unbelievable variety of tempting foods and delicacies. The bridal party is usually seated at a table. Before the dinner is served the pastor conducts a suitable devotional exercise with Scripture reading and prayer for God's continued blessing upon the bridal couple.

After dinner the women folks all pitch in and bring order out of the chaos caused by the feasting. The men, as usual, do nothing but stand around and talk "løst og fast". If you observe closely you

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may notice one or two moving about through the crowd as if on some mysterious, secret errand.

When the dishes are washed and a semblance of order attained, there is a lull during which the pastor gives a talk on the mercy and goodness of God through Christ Jesus, and the blessedness of His institutions, particularly the marriage estate, and urges that marriage be entered and continued in His name. The purse that has been, more or less surreptitiously gathered is now by the pastor presented to the silver haired bride. By this time the coffee pots are again steaming, the bride, with knife in hand, takes her stand by the wedding cake, not to protect it but to carve it and, together with her best smile, gives each guest a taste of the beautiful and massive cake. This is the closing number on the program.

What would Hollywood and the modern world say if told that there still are communities where the Word of God is taken seriously and marriage is held in honor as a divine institution and the admonition, "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" is heeded? It would likely be classed with Ripley's "Believe it or not" oddities, or a survival of back-woods superstitions.

What do we say? Let us sincerely thank God that His Word has been preserved among us and through its influence and power marriage and home is still a "bit of heaven" to us and our children, while divorce and wrecked homes is thought of with horror.

CHRISTIAN ROBERSON.

An Obituary.

Christian, a son of Søren and Brita Roberson, was born in Jøstedal, Norway, September 12, 1866, and died at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Basteson at New Hampton, September 28, 73 years and 16 days old. Between those dates lie the varied experiences of a useful and truly successful life.

Chris., as he was always called, was baptized and confirmed in Norway. From the rocky mountain side of Jøstedal that yielded only to hard, persistent labor, he learned to work along side of his untiring, faithful father and to exercise extreme frugality. He gained intimate acquaintance with privations in those early years of his life. This stood him in good stead when the days came that privations gave way to plenty. Plenty was appreciated and not so used as to bring about a return to privations.

The Søren Roberson family, parents and nine children, came to this country in 1882. All who were old enough went to work for the wages they could get when they arrived here. Chris worked for Mr. Reed, the founder of the present Geo. Natvig farm, for a number of years.

The family soon acquired land, and then more land in the Jerico community. Chris had his home practically all the time at the Roberson farm now for many years owned by Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Roberson.

The last twenty years or so, Chris suffered more or less all the time from various illnesses and accidents. A few years ago a bull all but crushed the life out of him, but, as he himself said, "The Lord intervened so I was spared from a violent death."

Due to aches and pains he was seldom away from home and was, consequently, not widely known. He was highly respected by those who did know him. He was a generous contributor to his church and Synod.

The last few months of his life was spent at the home of his sister Annie and her husband, Andrew Basteson, in New Hampton, where he received the very best of sympathetic care and was also more conveniently near medical attention when that was required. He was appreciative of the ministrations of his pastor and uncomplainingly bore the almost constant pain trustfully resigning himself to the care and keeping of his Savior.

Funeral services were held from the L. S. Roberson home and from the Jerico church September 30.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

Every day is thanksgiving day to all Christians, for "The Lord's mercies are new every morning." "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not."

It is, nevertheless, entirely appropriate that we gather on a given day for a public thanksgiving service and the bringing of a thankoffering. We will celebrate our Thanksgiving Day on the traditional last Thursday in November, which this year falls on the last day of the month. Services at Jerico will be held at 10:30 in the morning. At Saude, 2 o'clock in the afternoon. That friends and neighbors and family groups gather for a special dinner on that day is not unbecoming Christians. We hope there will be many such happy gatherings in our congregations. However, Christians who acknowledge God as the giver of all good gifts will not neglect to so plan their festive dinner that it does not cause anyone, hosts or guests, to "forsake the assembling of ourselves together" for thanksgiving services "as the manner of some is" (Heb. 10:25).

With this issue of your parish paper, you are receiving your Thanksgiving Offering Envelopes. Will you lay yours aside with the remark that you can not afford to give anything, not even a dime or a quarter? Many have done so in past years. It is really true that in spite of your best effort and will to do so, you cannot make it possible to lay aside anything for a thanksgiving offering? We find it hard to believe that you really cannot give anything at all. We can believe that you do not have much to give, but if your heart is truly grateful to God for His many blessings and great goodness to you, your state, and your country, you can and will find a way to set aside something as a thanksgiving offering to Him who has given us rain and sunshine the past summer and has produced bountiful crops for us.

THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

of the Saude congregation will be held at the church on Wednesday, the 15th of November, 1:30 p. m. The Jerico congregation will meet on Friday, the 17th, in the church parlor at 1:30 p. m.

Do not fail to attend. Do not consider the business affairs of your congregation something that does not concern you. Do not leave it to the pastor and the officers to hear their own reports, to con-

sider them and to accept them. Keep the date and the hour in your mind and plan your other affairs so that you can be present at the business meeting of your congregation. Do not prove yourself disinterested in your congregation by staying away from its important business meeting.

Wall Street and Religion.

"In the popular mind, Wall Street typifies everything hard-boiled and unsentimental. It comes with a pleasant shock of surprise, therefore, to read the following paragraph in the chief organ of the stock market money-above-all-else group, the Wall Street Journal:

'What America needs more than railway extension, western irrigation, a low tariff, a bigger cotton crop, or a larger wheat crop, is a revival of religion, the kind that father and mother used to have; a religion that counted it good business to take time for family worship each morning, right in the middle of wheat harvest . . .'

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