

The Assistant Pastor

January 1940

Think It Over

Communists have no place for God in their order of things. Where Communism is in power, deliberate and systematic effort is made by laws and regulations to cleanse the state and the hearts of the people of worship of God. Churches are closed as houses of worship and are turned to other uses. Holy things are ridiculed and laughed at. The Bible is wholly discarded. Children are taught to deny and to curse God.

We shudder at the thought of the openly avowed purpose of dethroning the living God from the hearts and homes of men, women, and children. How successful such drastic efforts are in doing away with worshipful thoughts, faith, hope, and trust in the living God and His Son we do not know. Perhaps many are thereby brought to cling all the more closely to their God and Savior; to pray for and with their children and to speak to them daily about their Savior and the heavenly home prepared for them.

We are not so sure that Communism and similar anti-Bible movements have hit upon the surest way of getting away from faith, love, and trust in the Triune God of the Bible and of our salvation. Though not so spectacular and though it might seem to work more slowly, we wonder if, perhaps, the following might not be the more cunning, crafty, and effectual procedure:

Speak well of the Bible, brag about it as "the best seller" and the book most commonly found in every home of rich and poor alike, but don't make a habit of reading it.

Though you have the liberty to do so, do not erect Family Altars and practice daily family worship in the home. Do not use any of your valuable time to teach your children prayers and to talk to them of sin and grace, of heaven and hell, let the pastor attend to that.

Be proud of your beautiful well kept church, but don't attend services if there is something else you prefer to do, or if the day is above average warm or below average cold, or if the sky is not perfectly clear.

Speak piously of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier and of His Church, and of the prevalence of sin and of salvation from sin when you can not gracefully avoid it, but have no concern about showing faith by your works and behavior in your daily life in the home or among your associates.

We ask: Is the godlessness of Communism more to be deplored than "the form of godliness" that "draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me"? Is a hypocrite less of an abomination to the Lord than an open enemy?

In these days of strong and justified denunciations of Communism and of the deliberate efforts of others to return to paganism, we do well in watching ourselves that a "beam" of hypocritical godliness does not lodge in our eyes and we thus by a subtle and insidious influence win in the race towards the anti-God objective of Communism.

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: Fred Steensland.
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, Lloyd Roberson, Olaf Roberson.
Secretary: A. N. Anderson.
Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.
Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Theo. Knutson, Mrs. Thos. Roberson, Mrs. Carl A. Knutson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Alfred Knutson, 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.

A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR

Baptism: Gene Arthur, a son of Sever Johnson and wife Martha, née Kimbal, born July 11, baptized December 3. Sponsors: Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Roberson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl G. Johnson.

Mrs. T. G. Vaala entertained the Saude Aid at her home December 7.

The Saude Aid gave a pre-Christmas party at the parsonage December 14. Instead of the usual Aid lunch a lutefisk dinner was served garnished with cakes and cookies and pies and other works of culinary art. Following the dinner an appropriate devotional exercise was conducted by the pastor and Christmas hymns were sung.

Then, presto, the party, both men and women, forgot their ages and their gray hair and were children again. Presents were exchanged, chatter and a jolly good time prevailed. Had children and grand children been present, they would surely have put their foot down and said: Mother! grandpa! don't be so noisy!

Mrs. Sever Fossen entertained the Jerico Aid December 6 at the church parlor.

Mrs. Tom Munson entertained the same Aid at her home December 19. Both meetings were well attended. Mrs. Munson has had a way of bringing on bad weather for her Aid meetings the past several years and she almost did it this time too. There was a change of weather that day, but it did not turn bad enough to keep many away.

Christmas Services at Saude on Christmas Day were well attended. We have seldom, if ever, seen the church so well filled excepting at funerals. A great many of our young people who are scattered about as teachers and students were in the audience. It did the hearts of us home folks good to see you. The children's Christmas tree program which was combined with the preaching service, added much to the joy and blessedness of the service. There is something about the confessing of Christian children through song and speaking that touches the heart strings of us elders.

Having said the above about attendance, we should say the following too. We have seldom, if ever, seen a regular service at Saude so poorly attended as the service on Sunday, December 31. True, that morning brought our first zero weather of the season, but the roads were clear as summer roads and the sun was shining. We have heard of some who were all ready to go to church but could not get the car started. We hope all have valid reasons for their absence.

Christmas services at Jerico were held on the second day of Christmas. The seating capacity of the large church was taxed. Would that all who were there and heard the angel's Christmas message would come again every time the saving Gospel of the Savior was preached! The children's Christmas tree program was combined with the regular service. After the close of the services a great many presents were brought out from under the tree and handed out as designated on the several packages.

New Year's Eve a goodly number gathered in the Jerico church parlor on invitation by the Y. P. Society. A program was first rendered: A clarinet solo by Paul Munson, an appropriate reading by Irwin Ellingson, a talk on life at Bethany College by Roy Roberson, and a piano selection by Borg-hild Tjernagel.

At about ten o'clock all were comfortably seated at tables and an oyster stew or two, and maybe three, was served to each one. That was followed by cake and coffee. A very pleasant social hour was spent at the tables. Then followed another enjoyable period of chatter by the women, young and less young, and the clatter of pans and dishes in the kitchen. Meanwhile the men and boys folded up the tables and placed seats in position for the final part of the evening's program.

At 11:45 all were seated and took part in a short divine worship. A few words were first spoken by the pastor, then a hymn was sung. This was followed by Scripture reading and a prayer appropriate to the closing of the year. As the prayer was ended, the clock struck 12 and the church bell rang out the old and rang in the new year. While the bell rang the Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison by the assembly. Finally a New Year's hymn was sung and wishes for a Happy and Blessed New Year was expressed. With that all went home, we hope, with the sins of the old year forgiven by the grace of God in Christ Jesus, and with hope and determination in the heart to renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways in the new year and to grow in faith and good works.

Our Books of Records for 1939 show the following:

Baptisms	Jerico	15	Saude	2
Confirmed	Jerico	9	Saude	0
Marriages	Jerico	1	Saude	2
Burials	Jerico	7	Saude	1
Communed	Jerico	398	Saude	162

We name the seven who were laid away in the Jerico cemetery during the past year in the order of their ages: Nels Anderson, 85; Ole Iverson, 78; Chris Roberson, 73; Hans Anderson, 62; Ole O. Anderson, 39; Raymond Knutson, 14; Alna Johnson, 11. Let it be impressed upon all that neither childhood, youth, nor middle-age holds insurance against death. May we also remind you that the ones aged 85, 78, 62, and 39 died suddenly from what we commonly call heart failure. *Four out of seven!* Our 14-year-old boy met death through the accidental discharge of his gun while out hunting. **FIVE OUT OF SEVEN!** The lesson: Keep oil in your lamp. Matt. 2:1-10.

We note further that we had no deaths in 1939 due to automobile accident. Let not our reaction to that be pride but gratitude to God and a renewed determination not to endanger our own lives and the life of others by careless driving during the new year.

The Envelope Offerings during 1939 brought in the following amounts:

	From Jerico	From Saude
Lenten Offering	\$124.72	\$119.15
Convention Offering	75.81	97.45
Thanksgiving Offering	121.05	103.75
L. & S. Offering	163.30	201.42

While on this subject we will try to make clear our system of soliciting contributions for synodical purposes by repeating what we have said before.

First we have the small monthly envelopes. This comes to you together with your copy of the Assistant Pastor. It is very modest in its request. From husband and wife together it asks for 25 cents; from a child up to 5 years old it asks for 1 cent; 5 to 10 years old, 5 cents; 10 to 18 years old, 10 cents; 18 years old and up, 15 cents. These amounts are suggested as the minimum contributions.

This then is the way our contributions to the Bethany Teachers' Salary Fund and the Synod Fund are gathered. We call this our L. & S. collection for short. L. & S. stands for the old Norwegian term "Lærerlønns- og Synodekassen." In March your parish paper will not bring you a small envelope, but a larger one which will solicit a Lenten offering from you. We will speak more fully of this in our March issue. In June again a larger envelope will crowd out the regular smaller one. This special offering is called the Convention Offering. Of this, too, we will speak fully when the proper time comes. In November the Thanksgiving Offering envelope will have the right of way.

THE B. & B. STORE

for BEST buys

MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING, FURNISHINGS
AND SHOES

When you need a Cream Separator, buy an

IOWA

from

VAALA & NATVIG

SAUDE, IOWA

LARKIN-KNUTSON

Furniture and Undertaking

NEW HAMPTON

RUGGLES GROCERY

NEW HAMPTON—CRESCO

Phone

97

Phone

57

YOUR DEPENDABLE FOOD STORES

JOHN LAUCK

ALTA VISTA

Dealer in General Hardware, Stoves and
Ranges, Paints and Oils, Heating and
Plumbing, Maytag and ABC Washers.

First class repair shop in connection

E. L. BRADLEY & SON

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Ambulance Service

Mrs. E. L. Bradley, Assistant.

CRESCO, IOWA

The above is intended to give you a general idea of our system of gathering contributions for our synodical work. Let no one think that synodical work and the support of same is immaterial. No congregation can long endure that does not enjoy the benefits of synodical affiliation and does not take part in synodical work. You will find it to be a fact that members who show a live interest in the church body to which they belong are also the most active in the home congregation. Dollars and cents that are withheld from the work of the Synod are seldom found rolling into the treasury of the home congregation. Show us a negligent contributor to synodical work and we will show you a very conservative contributor to the home congregation and one whose pew is quite often empty. Note: We said "negligent contributor." That does not mean one who is willing but unable to contribute.

The following is a summary of the receipts and expenditures of the congregations for the last fiscal year:

SAUDE RECEIPTS

Interest on Emma Munson Legacy.....	\$ 20.00
Interest on Mary Natvig Legacy.....	5.50
Interest on the Anna G. Vaala Legacy.....	15.00
Contributions, North District.....	373.00
Middle District	388.00
South District	193.50
Contributions for painting parsonage.....	79.34
Mission offering less \$5, expense of speaker	45 07

SAUDE EXPENDITURES

Insurance	\$ 19.88
Church paper	40.50
Pastor's salary plus \$65.00 back salary.....	
Charging of church batteries.....	4.00
Organist	40 00
Janitor	40.00
Painting parsonage	75.40
Repairs at parsonage	24.06
Paid to Cemetery Committee.....	40.50
Painting church steps.....	2.00
Loan paid	150.00
Mission offering to Syned treasurer.....	45 07

JERICO RECEIPTS

Balance brought forward.....	\$844.27
Contributions, North District.....	361.00
Middle District	387.25
South District	479.00
Saturday School, North District.....	12 00
Saturday School, South District.....	25.00
Mission Festival Offering.....	47.07
Mission Festival dinner.....	32.25
Balance of U. & I. Club funds.....	4.28
Amount borrowed	300.00

JERICO EXPENDITURES

Pastor's salary, including \$245 back salary..	\$995.00
Janitor	100.00
Organist	50.00
For Saturday School.....	98.00
Insurance	23.96
Coal and lumber.....	72.06
Gasoline and oil.....	6.70
Furnace repairs	4.30
Interest on note.....	212.00
Church papers	81.75
Painting and other labor.....	40.00
Paid Alta Vista Bank.....	240.00
Remitted to Synod treasurer.....	144.44

LEUTHOLD-O'CONNOR CO.

NEW SUITS AND TOPCOATS
Freeman Sport Oxfords, Oshkosh Overalls,
Wolverine Work Shoes, Stetson Hats.

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA

HALVOR and ALERT NELSON

AUTO HOSPITAL

Gasoline, Oil, and Greasing

JERICO, IOWA

We take pride in giving honest service.

SHEAKLEY & KENNEDY DEPT. STORE, Incorporated

NEW HAMPTON

Distributors of dependable and trustworthy
merchandise for over fifty years.

Your trade solicited.

Perry Furniture and Funeral Service

H. A. Perry, Prop.

Mrs. H. A. Perry, Licensed Lady Assistant

L. T. Lewison, Licensed Assistant

Phone 91—Res. 182

NEW HAMPTON, IOWA