

The Assistant Pastor

November 1940

The Means of Grace

II.

The Means of Grace Are a Power of God Unto Salvation

All of us are familiar with certain physical ideas of power and strength. The creatures of creation, man and beast, fish and fowl, even trees and plants have certain powers and abilities. There are things requiring bodily exertion that they can do. We are aware of the power of gravity and momentum. The great power in electricity and gasoline is used by most of us every day of our lives. The warring nations are employing the great and dreadful power in explosives.

We are also familiar with the mental powers of the mind of man. A good speaker is often able to make an audience think and believe as he does. He may present facts unknown to his hearers which will make them change their minds as to one or another matter. Or he may appeal to the sympathies and emotions of those listening to him. In any event he is using the power of oratory, the power of words and ideas, to accomplish his purpose.

But the power of the Means of Grace is something entirely different from such physical and mental powers. The Means of Grace are an eternal and almighty power.

The Means of Grace are concerned with our soul and its eternal welfare, not with things of this world. Electricity will light a lamp. The Means of Grace will enlighten our eternal souls. Water may be used to cleanse our bodies. The Means of Grace cleanse our sinful souls through the forgiveness of sins. Explosives are used to destroy the enemy in war. The Means of Grace lead the way to the destruction of Satan in your soul. Physical and mental powers are effective during your life on earth, but they end with your death. The power of the Means of Grace is effective in your spiritual and eternal life, the results of its power will live to all eternity.

Men employ their mental and physical powers to gain health, wealth, power, and the comforts of life.

Christians employ the Means of Grace, namely the Word and the Sacraments, to gain forgiveness of sins and everlasting life. Scripture teaches plainly that the Means of Grace are able to work salvation for us. Rom. 1, 16. "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation." Gal. 3, 27. "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." "This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins."

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

N. S. Tjernagel, Pastor

SAUDE CONGREGATION

Trustees: Chris Treider, Ned Borlaug, E. Ferkingstad.
Treasurer: Nels Ellingson.
Secretary: Fred Steensland.
Cemetery Committee: Olis Borlaug, Juel Natvig, Miss Carrie Natvig, Mrs. John Natvig, Mrs. Otto Hanson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Carl Miller, president; Mrs. Fred Steensland, secretary; Mrs. Otto Hanson, treasurer.

JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: C. Cutsforth, Olaf Roberson, Lloyd Roberson.
Secretary: A. N. Anderson.
Treasurer: J. A. Robinson.
Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Theo. O. Knutson, Mrs. Thos. Roberson, Mrs. Carl Knutson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. S. T. Roberson, president; Mrs. Thos. Attleson, secretary; Mrs. Jeff O. Knutson, treasurer.

Services

JERICO

First and third Sundays 9:00 A. M.
Second and fourth Sundays 10:30 A. M.
(First Sunday Norwegian.)

SAUDE

First and third Sundays 10:30 A. M.
Second and fourth Sundays 9:00 A. M.
(First Sunday Bi-lingual Service.)
Fifth Sundays by special announcement.

New Hampton

Nils Osleby, Pastor

Sunday School, 9 A. M.
Services, 10:30 A. M.

Fiftieth Anniversary

of the Saude Lutheran Ladies' Aid

On November 21, 1889, at the very beginning of the ministry of the Rev. J. G. Ness, at Saude, the Saude Lutheran Ladies' Aid was officially organized. Its 50th anniversary which was November 21, 1939, was celebrated on Sunday afternoon, September 29, 1940.

Meetings of the ladies of the Saude congregation had been held in 1888; but Rev. and Mrs. Moses entertained the first meeting on record. This was held at the parsonage in January, 1889.

September 29, 1940, was Mission Sunday for the congregation. The Rev. Chr. Anderson of Belview, Minn., conducted the morning service, and preached the Mission Sermon. At noon the Ladies' Aid served dinner to the large crowd present.

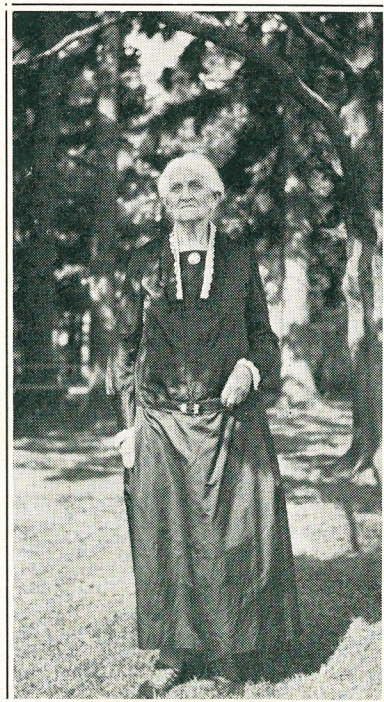
At two o'clock in the afternoon all returned to the church to participate in the observance of the 50th anniversary of the Ladies' Aid. Rev. N. S. Tjernagel conducted the altar service and the Rev. Christian Anderson preached a sermon that was very fitting for the occasion, based on a text from the Epistle to the Hebrews. He told us how women in the church are privileged to serve as well as men, even though they are not pastors and officers of the church. He reminded us how the grandmothers, mothers, and aunts of the present Aid had seen the opportunity, and fifty years ago had begun their work. He said it is for us, the present members, now to carry on the work they started. He also stressed the urgent need for mission-work at the present time when only about a third of the people in our country have a definite church affiliation. He also reminded us that all too often children of the second and third generation of our early church do not receive enough instruction in the Word of God and their only knowledge of the Scriptures is received in non-Lutheran Sunday Schools and other institutions. In all, he left us with the thought that there is much work, especially in the field of Missions, for the Ladies' Aid to do.

Special music at the afternoon service was furnished by Miss Sina Borlaug who sang, "Just As I Am"; and by a group of girls, led by Miss Borlaug, who sang "Somewhere a Voice Is Calling," and "Whispering Hope."

An anniversary offering for Home Missions was placed on the altar. This amounted to \$34.80.

Following the formal service, Rev. Tjernagel read a history covering the first 25 years of the Saude Lutheran Ladies' Aid, which had been written by Mrs. Alf. Vaala, now deceased, and had been read twenty-five years ago at that anniversary celebration. After reading this fine history, Rev. Tjernagel reminded us that the aim of the Aid is the same now as it was then, to further the work of the church, especially in the Mission Field.

Rev. M. K. Bleken was our pastor at the time of the 25th anniversary. He and his wife now rest in the Norwegian Lutheran Cemetery at Calmar, Iowa. Rev. H. M. Tjernagel followed Rev. Bleken as pastor of this congregation and served during the remainder of the second 25-year period. Rev. Tjernagel died in February, 1940, and was buried beside his wife who passed away in 1924. During the last 25 years, another of our former ministers, Rev. Xavier, and another former minister's wife, Mrs. Ness, have passed away. This leaves Mrs. I. T.



MRS. J. T. MOSES

Photograph taken under the evergreen trees Mrs. Moses helped to plant at the Saude parsonage.

Moses, and Rev. and Mrs. Rugland as the only living former occupants of our present parsonage.

Twenty-five years ago it was reported in the history prepared by Mrs. Alf. Vaala that nineteen members had been laid to rest during that period. During the second period of twenty-five years fifteen have been added to that number. And now on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Aid their names were read, and in recognition of their service to the Saude Lutheran Ladies' Aid, and in their memory, a memorial gift to Home Missions in the Norwegian Synod was announced by the present Ladies' Aid. Their names are as follows:

Mrs. Nels A. Amble Sr., Mrs. Ole Borlaug, Mrs. Tom. Borlaug, Mrs. M. K. Bleken, Mrs. Syneva Elefsen, Mrs. Iver Grinde, Mrs. Tom Lia, Mrs. Peder Landsverk, Mrs. J. K. Landsverk, Mrs. Swenum Larson, Miss Anne Vaala, Mrs. John Swenumson, Mrs. Ole Nerison, Mrs. Andrew Natvig, Mrs. J. G. Ness, Mrs. Lars Natvig, Mrs. D. O. Natvig, Mrs. Christopher Natvig, Mrs. Iver Oleson, Mrs. Nels Offerdal, Mrs. Mari Pederson, Mrs. Halvor Rue, Mrs. Ole Swenumson, Mrs. Knute Steensland, Mrs. Ole Sjobakken, Mrs. John Thronson, Mrs. Gregor Vaala, Mrs. Ole E. Natvig, Mrs. Ole Vaala, Mrs. Alf Vaala, Mrs. Nels Paulson, Mrs. H. M. Tjernagel, Miss Anna Munson, Mrs. J. L. Natvig.

About 25 members of the Aid have moved away, and are no longer members. The present membership is about fifty. During the first twenty-five years, 403 meetings of the Aid were held. Now that number has been brought up to 708. \$1,867.92 were taken in the first period; the total income for the Aid in the fifty-year period is \$5,468.66. This money has been divided between our church and church property at home and the various missions and charities supported by our Synod.

After these comments by Rev. Tjernagel, a personal greeting was addressed to Mrs. J. T. Moses, wife of Rev. Moses, our first resident pastor. She was presented with a gift of five dollars and a bouquet, through the president of the Ladies' Aid, Mrs. Carl Miller. Everyone was happy to have Mrs. Moses, who now lives near Decorah, with us on this occasion. She is now eighty-eight years old, but well and active, and was quick to recognize old friends, many of whom she had not met for over fifty years.

Then a greeting was addressed to the honor members of the Aid, those who have been in active service in the Ladies' Aid for twenty-five years or more. A corsage was pinned on each of them in recognition of their long service. They were:

Mrs. Elling Ellingson, Mrs. Henry Ellingson, Mrs. Hans Hoffland, Mrs. Muns Munson, Mrs. George Miller, Mrs. T. O. Vaala, Mrs. Carl Natvig, Mrs. John Treider, Miss Carrie Vaala, Mrs. B. J. Vigdal, Mrs. Iver Natvig, Mrs. Anna Anderson, Miss Lena Landsverk, Miss Johanna Ellingson, Miss Carrie Natvig, Mrs. Ole Natvig, Mrs. Andrew Vaala.

After closing with a few remarks by Rev. Anderson on the future work of our Synod, and the singing of the doxology, all gathered at the parsonage where the Ladies' Aid served coffee.

(This account of the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Saude Lutheran Ladies' Aid was written by its secretary, Mrs. Fred Steensland.)

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Day services will be held in our churches in accordance with the President's proclamation. God willing, the service at Jerico will be at 9 A. M., and at Saude at 10:30 A. M. on Thursday, November 28.

We have spiritual blessings to be thankful for. God still causes the Word to be preached and taught among us in all its truth and purity. Many are the places on this weary and war-torn world where Christianity has been banished, and where Christians worship at their peril. Nor have we a state-church that prescribes what we must believe and how we are to worship. We live in a free country where our religious liberty is our most prized possession.

Yes, we live in a free country. Among our physical and earthly possessions is not that one which we ought to prize most highly. We see today in many, many instances what men are reduced to under the dictator governments of the world. They must think as they are told to think, they must do what they are told to do, they must not criticize their government or their leaders, they must simply submit to the laws that the few in power make for them. Some are sent away to wage war against neighbor nations, others remain at home to see their homes destroyed, to see their food supplies diminishing. All face a winter that threatens to bring with it terrible suffering from starvation, cold, and pestilence.

We live in a free country! Our granaries are full, our health is excellent, we have in store an ample fuel supply for the winter. We still have freedom of speech and a free press, we still have our religious liberty. Bombs are not raining down on our cities, our streets and countryside are not strewn with destruction.

If ever you were inclined to give thanks to God for his benefits and blessings, it must be in this year of war and suffering. I invite and urge you to fill your church to overflowing on Thanksgiving Day, and to raise your voice in thanksgiving to a merciful God who has been so good to you in this dark year in the world's history.

And when you bring your thanksgiving offering I know you will be given to a greater generosity than ever before. Even as we resolve to that every one of us will come to church on that day to give thanks to God, let us also resolve that our thank-offering will be larger than any we have brought before.

Circuit Meeting

The Fall Circuit Meeting of the Iowa and Southern Minnesota District of the Norwegian Synod was held at Forest City, Rev. Stuart Dorr's charge, October 9th and 10th. It was an excellent meeting, and we are sorry there was not a much better representation from the Jerico and Saude congregations.

The subject discussed at the meeting was "Christian Education, a Lifelong Process." The discussion was led by the Rev. A. Ranzau of Thornton, Iowa.

So many of us think of education as something that goes on during a child's school years, as something which we start and finish when we are in the school age. But your education started long before you walked into a schoolroom for the first time. Indeed it began before you knew how to walk at all.

Your mother, or some one else, began giving you your education when your mind began to function; and you were not very old then. You knew a great deal before you started school, and who of you is there that will not admit he learned a great deal after he quit school. Yes, your education goes on every day.

But we are not satisfied with just an education. We want and must have a Christian education. Simply stated, education is knowledge. And the most important knowledge that we must acquire is the knowledge that leads to eternal salvation. And that education, as was so well brought out in the meeting at Forest City, we must continue to acquire and perfect. We must continually strive to give our children a better knowledge of the truths and principles of the Bible; we must ever strive to learn more ourselves.

Young People's Convention

The Young People's Association of the Norwegian Synod held its third biennial meeting at Bethany College October 18th to 20th. This organization was formed in 1936. A preliminary meeting had been held in 1935; a constitution was adopted in 1938.

What is this association? That can best be answered by quoting the paragraph of its constitution which gives its aims. It reads as follows:

"The glorification of the God of all grace, and the promotion of the spiritual life of Christian young people shall be the objective of the society. To this end it shall serve the local societies by furthering the study and appreciation of the Bible, a deeper understanding of the history, principles, and activities of the Lutheran Church, and by offering practical lessons in Christian service, and assisting in the social phase of young people's work."

There is a danger period in the life of every Christian. It is the ten years after confirmation. The real and severe losses suffered by the church are in this danger period. Instead of being the beginning of an active participation in church work, confirmation so often is the time when a gradual slipping away begins. Look over the lists of those confirmed ten to twenty years ago. You will find that too many of them are no longer members at all, and some are extremely inactive, the kind of members who appear in church for the Christmas program, and who appear at the baptisms and confirmation of their children.

The Young People's Society has been an excellent agency for helping the young confirmed church member through that period. By its continued Bible study, and devotions, and through the blessing of associating in a social way with fellow believers it has helped many a young person through that time of one's life when it is so easy to slip away.

I look forward to the day when the Saude and Jerico congregations may also have active Young People's Societies which will take part in the work of the Synod's Young People's Association.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Jerico congregation will be held on Friday, November 15; that of the Saude congregation on Wednesday, November 20.

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