

The Assistant Pastor

October 1940

The Means of Grace

I.

God Employs Certain Outward and Visible Means to Bring His Gift of Grace to Sinners

The Holy Scriptures teach that by the sin of Adam all men have come under eternal condemnation. But it also teaches that through the righteousness of Jesus Christ all men are justified. These truths are plainly taught in Romans 5, 18: "Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men unto condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men until justification of life." In simple words, then, Jesus Christ has won for all sinners the grace of God.

The question then arises as to how God brings this gift to us and how He makes us partakers of it.

In our study of the Means of Grace we must first be clear on this point that God does employ certain outward and visible means to bring His gift of grace to sinners, and that this gift is not brought to men apart from and without the Means of Grace.

The command that the Means of Grace be employed in bringing salvation to sinners is clear. Of the Word, God says, "Search the Scriptures"; of Baptism, He says, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them"; and of the Lord's Supper He says, "This do."

The Lutheran Confessions are clear on the doctrine that God employs visible means to bring salvation to sinners. In them we read as follows:

Formula of Concord: "The Father will not do this (that is draw anyone to Himself) without means, but has ordained for this purpose His Word and Sacraments as ordinary means and instruments."

Smalcald Articles: "In those things which concern the spoken outward Word we must firmly hold that God grants His Spirit or grace to no one except through or with the preceding outward word."

Augsburg Confession: "They (our churches) condemn the Anabaptists and others who think the Holy Ghost comes to men without the external Word, through their own preparations and works."

Let us who confess that we are sinners, and who recognize Jesus Christ as our only Savior, know beyond a doubt that the Grace of God is brought to us only through the outward and visible instrumentality of Word and Sacraments.

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.

Farewell

On May 10 the ladies of the Saude congregation and the children of the Saude Saturday School gave a surprise farewell party to Miss Bertha Tjernagel. May 13 a similar party was given by the ladies of the Jerico congregation. On each occasion a purse was presented to Miss Tjernagel.

Miss Tjernagel came to the parsonage at Saude in November, 1924, to lend assistance at the sickbed of Mrs. H. M. Tjernagel. After the death of Pastor Tjernagel's wife she remained to become mistress in the parsonage, companion to her brother, mother to his children, and to serve in the role of pastor's wife.

How well she served, and how unstintingly she gave her life to the new tasks she so willingly assumed is well known to all of us.

And all of us say now, "Thank you, and God bless you!"

"Blessed be Their Memory"

In this year of our Lord, 1940, three pious women among us have departed to dwell in the mansions above. All of them had spent the greater part of their lives among us, and have left an ineffable imprint in the communities in which they lived.

Mrs. Inger Natvig became ill and died suddenly during the illness of her pastor, the Rev. H. M. Tjernagel, on February 3 at the age of 80 years. She was laid to rest in Saude cemetery on February 6. Her life had been visible evidence of her faith.

Mrs. Lars O. Aasen died on June 7 at the age of 59 years after an illness of nine months. Her pastor who had ministered to her during a brief acquaintance preceding her death found her a humble

Christian, strong in faith, and eager for communion with her Savior in heaven. Burial was in the Jerico cemetery, June 10.

Mrs. Ida Swenson departed this life on September 7 at the age of 81 years. Many calls at her bedside revealed her Christian character built on the solid rock of true faith in her Savior. She endured uncomplainingly the distress of her illness, hoping for peace in Christ after death. She was laid to rest in Saude cemetery on September 10.

Praise be unto the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the memory of these God-fearing mothers.

A New Pastor

On Sunday, January 28, the Rev. H. M. Tjernagel preached his last sermon, services on that Sunday being in the Saude church. He entered Lutheran Hospital at Hampton, Iowa, the following day. Death came on Tuesday, February 13, and he was buried in the Saude cemetery on February 16. Thus the Almighty God whom he had served brought his ministry to a blessed conclusion.

And now under divine guidance the Saude and Jerico congregations have called a new pastor to succeed him. For over ten years he had edited the Assistant Pastor. With this issue his successor desires to resume the month by month history of the congregation which had been an important part of the service rendered by the Assistant Pastor previously. We shall resume that history now where the late Pastor H. M. Tjernagel concluded it in the February issue of the Assistant Pastor, the last under his editorship.

Soon after the funeral of Pastor Tjernagel, N. S. Tjernagel was made vacancy pastor. Student Elmer Stubenberg was secured to serve under the direction of the vacancy pastor. He served from March 5 until June 26, Miss Bertha C. Tjernagel remaining at the parsonage to lend him valuable assistance in carrying out his work.

On March 4, 1940, the voting members of the Saude and Jerico congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church assembled in the Saude church for the purpose of calling a new pastor. The meeting was presided over by the Rev. J. B. Unseth, Visitor for the Iowa and Southern Minnesota District of the Norwegian Synod. As a result of that meeting it was decided to extend the call to the Rev. N. S. Tjernagel of Northwood, Iowa. The following Letter of Call was duly signed by the trustees of both congregations and sent to Pastor N. S. Tjernagel at Northwood:

Letter of Call

Saude, Iowa, March 4, 1940.

In the name of the Holy Trinity, God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Having called upon the Lord, our God, for guidance we, The Jerico Evangelical Lutheran Congregation and the Saude Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, in lawful meeting assembled on March 4, 1940, have decided to call you, Rev. Neelak S. Tjernagel, to be our pastor and curate of our souls.

We pray God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ to convince our pastor-elect that the call which we herewith extend to him is a divine call, and to bless his sacred ministry among us, to the glory of His name, to the salvation of ourselves and our children, and to the advancement of His glorious kingdom

We authorize and obligate our pastor-elect to proclaim to us, jointly and severally, the Word of God in its full truth and purity as contained in the canonical writings of the Old and New Testament and professed in the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church;

To administer the Holy Sacraments in accordance with their divine institution;

To serve the congregations as an example by his Christian conduct and by the grace of God to do all that is possible for him to do, within the limits of his calling, for the upbuilding of our congregations and for the general advancement of the kingdom of Christ.

On the other hand we obligate ourselves to receive our pastor-elect as a minister of Jesus Christ, to accord him the honor, love, and due obedience we owe him as such according to the Word of God, and to support his ministrations among us with our diligent and faithful prayers;

To provide for his decent maintenance according to our ability, and to that end pay him promptly and regularly a monthly salary of \$100.00, besides offerings on the three great church festivals. In addition the pastor is to have free use of the parsonage and the twenty acres of land connected therewith.

Signed this 4th day of March, 1940, in the name of the congregations by their trustees.

Saude congregation:	Jerico congregation:
Chris Treider	Olaf Roberson
Enus Ferkingstad	Clarence Cutsforth
Ned Borlaug	Lloyd Roberson

Acceptance and Installation

Within thirty days after receiving the call your present pastor submitted his acceptance of the call to the officers of both congregations assembled in meeting at the parsonage at Saude. He was given permission to continue serving his congregations at Northwood and Somber until his successor should be secured there.

On June 2 your pastor-elect was installed. Services at Saude were at 10:00 A. M. and at Jerico at 2:00 P. M. Visitor Unseth conducted the installation service. On the following Sundays a generous installation offering was tendered the new pastor by both congregations.

A Personal Word

The sudden death of my father was a shock beyond expression. In childhood and youth he had given me everything a father can give a son; a fine example of Christianity and faith, an education, and a pattern for me to follow in my ministry. He had been my constant counsellor and always trust-

worthy adviser, and his passing takes from me a vital and real part of the structure of life that I have lived until now.

With his death there came to me in a very great measure the responsibility for the sister and dependent children he left behind, a wish that I might counsel and advise them well in the hours that lie before them when they will need the help he gave so generously and wisely.

With grief and responsibility weighing so heavily upon me there came the necessity of giving answer to the call extended to me by you. And let me say at once that I looked upon the call to become his successor as a very great and special honor, and as a great token of your affection for him. But I could not but be mindful of the staggering responsibility of serving as pastor in the largest parish in the Norwegian Synod. Nor could I be unmindful of the particular difficulties and problems inevitably present where a son succeeds his father.

However, I believed, and still believe, that it was the will of God that I become the pastor of the Synod congregations of Saude and Jerico. I can only say with a brother pastor who found himself in similar circumstances: "I shall hope and pray that God's blessing upon my ministry here may prove that my decision was right in the sight of God."

I wish to express here my gratitude to the Synod congregations of Northwood and Somber for their kindness and understanding in granting me a peaceful release, and to the congregations of Saude and Jerico for the fine and gracious reception they have given to me and to my family in our new home.

Confirmation

On July 21 five boys and three girls of the Jerico congregation presented themselves for confirmation. They had all been baptized in their infancy, now after a period they came to be examined in the fundamentals of Christian doctrine and to renew their baptismal covenant. On that day their pastor spoke to them on the basis of Matthew 27, 22, the words which Pilate addressed to the Jews: "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" He called to their attention the fact that everyone must answer that question, and on their answer hinges their happiness on earth and their blessedness in heaven.

These Christian boys and girls were: Richard Knutson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Knutson; Clare Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John N. Anderson; Charles Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Johnson; Spencer Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Johnson; Calvin Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Johnson; Madonna Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred L. Johnson; Lola Cutsforth.

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cutsforth; Mavis Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Anderson.

May God bless these boys and girls and keep them firm and strong in the confirmation promise!

BAPTISMS

Jerico

Gary Allen Knutson, born January 20, 1940, baptized February 11, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Knutson; sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Jeff A. Knutson.

Grace Violet Betts, born May 27, 1940, baptized June 9, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Betts; sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ronnei, Leonard Betts and Lauraine Anderson.

Muriel Clarence Johnson, born July 21, 1940, baptized August 11, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvie James Johnson; sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnson, Marjorie and Henry Attleson.

Lowell Gene Johnson, born September 4, 1940, baptized September 22, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred T. Johnson; sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred N. Anderson.

Saude

Marilyn Marie Hereid, born May 22, 1940, baptized June 23, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nelvin Hereid; sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Sever Johnson, Gertrude and Gregory Vaala.

Two Happy Sundays

On June 2, 1940, Leonard Cunningham Culbert and Charlotte Olga Borlaug were united in holy matrimony in the Saude church. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Culbert of Cresco, Iowa; the bride, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Borlaug of Saude. The church was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and filled to capacity. Our best wishes go out to this happy couple. May God bless their marriage!

A few weeks later, on July 14, in a similar setting, but this time in the Jerico church, Walter Frederick Grosser and Edith Norma Anderson made their nuptial vows. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Grosser of Cresco, Iowa, the bride a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Anderson of Jerico. It is our earnest prayer that the Lord of the Church may grant them lifelong happiness and prosperity.

Our New Schedule of Services

At the first meeting of the board of officers of both congregations the request was made by one of the trustees that there might be services every Sunday. At the next meeting the matter was taken up for further discussion and the present time for services was agreed upon. We believe that it is a fine step forward for the Saude and Jerico congregations. Distances have been shortened so much in our days by automobiles and good roads that every-Sunday worship is possible for both pastor and congregation now, where it was impossible only a few years ago. I know that we are all happy that we can gather in our respective houses of worship on every Lord's Day.

NEW HAMPTON

Ordination Service

After several years of thinking of the fact that "something out to be done in New Hampton," Sunday, September 8, brought to realization one of the dreams of your former pastor. On that day Candidate Nils Oesleby was ordained into the holy ministry by Rev. J. B. Unseth at the American Legion Hall. 175 persons were present.

There was a very churchly and solemn atmosphere about the service as it approached the climax of the candidate's vow. The order of service for ordination made a most impressive setting for the beginning of the candidate's ministry of the Gospel. It is our earnest prayer that the God of Grace will make him an effective instrument in the ministry of the Gospel.

Assisting Pastor Unseth in the ordination were Pastor Wunderlich of the Missouri Synod and Pastors E. Hansen, S. Sande, M. Galstad, H. A. Preus, and N. S. Tjernagel of the Norwegian Synod. Mr. Milton Robinson was at the piano, and two vocal selections were rendered by the male choir of the Synod Lutheran congregation of Sombra, Iowa, which Candidate Oesleby served one year as Christian Day School teacher.

Members of the Saude and Jerico congregations will find a warm welcome at the services conducted by Pastor Oesleby each Sunday at 10:30 A. M. at the Legion Hall.

Pastor Oesleby

Pastor Oesleby was born July 20, 1910, in Port Arthur, Canada, where his father, the Rev. S. R. Christensen Oesleby, was pastor of the Norwegian Synod Church.



Pastor Nils Oesleby

In 1913 his father accepted a call to Staten Island, New York City. Pastor Oesleby attended and was graduated from public school No. 20, Wagner Lutheran High School, and Wagner Lutheran College, New York City. He attended Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., for one year, and finished his theological preparation at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

At various times he has had experience in different lines of secular work. He has worked in grocery stores, in a garage, in a post office, and as a messenger in Wall Street. He has been employed as ship-fitter in three shipyards, working for two and a half years on the U. S. S. Mahan, a navy destroyer, and during the past summer on the light cruisers San Diego and San Juan, at Quincy, Mass.

Upon his graduation at Concordia Seminary in June, 1940, he was called by the Home Mission Board of the Norwegian Synod to serve in New Hampton.

Saude Parsonage
October 16, 1940

Dear Reader

With this second issue of the Assistant Pastor I should like to acknowledge your contributions toward the cost of publishing it. The receipts to date as acknowledged below are \$40.90. Many thanks for your generous support.

You may be interested to learn that the printing is done by Decorah Posten, at Decorah. The cost is about twelve dollars per issue. 200 copies of each issue are printed.

I wish to correct a bad mistake that appears in this issue. The child of Mr and Mrs Alvie James Johnson is Muriel Clarene, a daughter.

N.S.Tjernagel

Contributions for Assistant Pastor

2.00 Mr and Mrs L.S. Roberson	50 Carl Swenumson
2.00 Mr and Mrs J.A. Robinson	50 Chris Treider
1.50 Jim Anderson Family	50 O.N. Anderson and Family
1.00 Mr and Mrs Geo. Miller	50 J.N. Anderson and Family
1.00 Carl and Bessie Ellingson	50 Robt. Knutson
1.00 Milton Robinson	50 Mr. Mrs O.J. Johnson
1.00 Selmar Aasen	50 Mr and Mrs Olaf Roberson
1.00 Knute Roberson	50 Alfred N. Anderson
1.00 Mr and Mrs S.T. Roberson	50 Ole Knutson
James and Sibyl	50 Lena M. Iverson
1.00 Mr and Mrs Harvey Roberson	50 Clifford Ferkenstad
and Diane	50 Mrs Emma Borlaug
1.00 Mr and Mrs Geo. Natvig	50 Otto Dahlen
1.00 Mrs Mae Fossen	50 Ole Natvig
1.00 Mr and Mrs Ole C. Johnson	50 G.G. Vaala
1.00 Mr and Mrs O.N. Ferkenstad	50 Carrie Vaala
1.00 Mr and Mrs Andrew Foss	75 Halvor, Alfred and Belle
1.00 Mr and Mrs Mark Robinson	75 Fred Amman Larson
50 Mrs Caroline Vigdal	35 Johanna Ellingson
50 Mr and Mrs J.C. Johnson	35 Mrs Ellingson
50 Pearl Paulson	25 Mrs Ole A. Anderson
50 Mrs Anna Anderson	25 Calvin Johnson
50 Henry Ellingson	25 Gunilda Treider
50 Ned Borlaug Family	25 Mrs Ole Overboe
50 Mr and Mrs Henry Robinson	25 L. Vaala
and family	20 Mrs Ole Ellingson and Mrs
50 Elling Ellingson	10 Erwin Ellingson
50 Mr and Mrs John B. Dahlen	10 Alvie Ellingson
and Carlton	10 Marjorie Ellingson
50 Mr and Mrs Carl G. Johnson	5.70 Unsigned Contributions