

The Assistant Pastor

December, 1941

Our Country is at War!

The dreadful fear that has lurked in our hearts for so long has become a staggering reality. Slowly we become conscious of what it means; inconvenience and minor hardships at best, at its worst death, and destruction of our property.

We, as loyal citizens of the United States, will now cheerfully lend our hands in the task that is before us. We will be completely obedient toward the government and the leaders that God has set over us. We will gladly accept the restrictions and regulations under which we shall inevitably be placed. We shall send our sons and brothers into the armed forces of our country without murmuring or bitterness.

And as we do we shall pray that God in Heaven will bring this conflict to a speedy and victorious conclusion. We shall pray that God may spare our homes from the death and desolation of warfare. We shall bear in our hearts pity, not hatred, toward our enemies.

God help us all.

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: Carl Miller, Ned Borlaug, John Natvig.
Treasurer: Milton Boleng.
Secretary: Fred Steensland.
Cemetery Committee: Olis Borlaug, Juel Natvig, Miss Carrie Natvig, Mrs. John Natvig, Mrs. Otto Hanson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Geo. Natvig, president; Mrs. Elmer Natvig, secretary; Mrs. John Natvig, treasurer.

JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: J. N. Anderson, Lloyd Roberson, C. O. Vigdal.
Secretary: A. N. Anderson.
Treasurer: Jeff A. Knutson.
Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Theo. O. Knutson, Mrs. Thos. Roberson, Mrs. Carl Knutson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. O. J. Johnson, president; Mrs. Henry Munson, secretary; Mrs. H. 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 Oesleby, Pastor

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

Donald Wilferd, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Johnson, received Christian Baptism at Hastings Hospital in Elma on December 1, 1941. Donald was born on November 30th.

Mr. and Mrs. Theo. O. Knutson were honored by their family and friends on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary, at the Jerico church on Sunday, November 30th. A dinner was served, and the wedding couple was presented a silver gift by their family, and a purse by friends present.

A Church Basement at the Saude church is rapidly becoming a reality. It has been planned and talked about for as long as anyone can remember. There was a most gratifying response to solicitation for funds and now under the aggressive leadership of Martin Borlaug, the builder, and an energetic building committee the work is well under way. There was also a fine response at the request of the building committee for volunteer help on the project. The foundation walls and floor and all outside work is complete, and it remains only to complete the interior construction.

The Ministerial Records of the Saude and Jerico congregations are complete from the first official

act performed by the Rev. U. V. Koren in 1857. They are in safe keeping in the congregation's safe at the parsonage. But there are other records that should be in the safe and are not. Do you have any records of value to the congregation lying about in your home? If so, please bring them to the parsonage. Record books of former secretaries and treasurers of the congregations that are filled should be in safe keeping. Also records of Ladies' Aids. Or perhaps you have papers and documents of interest and value to the congregation. If so, let us keep them in safety in our safe.

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church

On Sunday evening, November 30th, 1941, a number of those persons who have been worshipping in the Legion Hall in New Hampton under the ministry of Rev. Nils C. Oesleby, formally organized a congregation. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the name Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church was chosen. Officers were elected, and application was made for membership in the Norwegian Synod. The duplex weekly envelope system was adopted, and other matters of importance attended to. The last business matter before the congregation was a resolution, which was passed unanimously, to call Rev. Nils C. Oesleby as the congregation's Pastor.

Thus has God blessed the work that has been done in New Hampton, and brought to pass this enlargement of His Church on earth. May the Lord of the Church bring future blessings and prosperity to this new congregation.

By Resolution of the congregation the following letter is addressed to the Saude and Jerico Congregations:

A Letter to the Saude and Jerico Lutheran Congregations:

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Hampton, Iowa, sends greetings to its sister congregations at Saude and Jerico.

We wish to acknowledge our gratitude to God for the interest which your former Pastor, the sainted H. M. Tjernagel, took in us.

Also we wish to thank your present Pastor, the Rev. N. S. Tjernagel, for his interest in our welfare.

We are indebted to the Saude and Jerico congregations for their gifts to the Home Mission Treasury of the Norwegian Synod, for these gifts have, in part, made it possible for us to have a missionary Pastor in our midst.

Especially do we thank those members of The Saude and Jerico congregations, living in and near New Hampton, who though they could easily have attended worship in their own churches, nevertheless by their presence and contributions at the New Hampton Mission, gave encouragement and support to us and to our Pastor.

To these and all others we extend a cordial invitation to attend our services as often as it is convenient and desirable for them to do so.

Redeemer Evangelical Luth. Congregation,
New Hampton, Iowa

Charter Members

The charter members of the New Hampton congregation are as follows, and those of them who formerly held their membership in the Saude and Jerico congregations have been given their release:

Mr. and Mrs. John A. Anderson, Mary Lou, Ardis and Laura; George Braham; Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Johnson, Bernice, Vernä, Leland, Wallace, Allan; Mrs. John Kelly; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Knutson and George; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ronnie, Paul and Luella; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Swenson, Arlene, Sheldon, Rocile, Marolyn, Arthur and Sandra; and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Erickson, Shirley and Martin.

A NEW FINANCIAL SYSTEM

At the annual meetings of both congregations held this year, a new financial system was adopted for the Saude and Jerico congregations. It is the purpose of this issue of the Assistant Pastor to explain that new system.

Why Adopt a New System?

In the past the home expenses have been paid through a system of semi-annual collections. As you know, the Trustees made two calls a year on the members to solicit the contributions for the home expenses of the congregations.

In most congregations this old system has been found inadequate to provide for their needs. In the past years there has been ample evidence that the old system was failing at Saude and Jerico also. During the past few years since the depression, while farm prices and general incomes have been steadily increasing our church contributions have been steadily decreasing. The failure of the old system is also evident when we compare our contributions for home purposes with that of other congregations in the Norwegian Synod. If we study the figures in the Annual Report of the Norwegian Synod for the year 1940, we will find that the average communicant in the Norwegian Synod contributed \$9.94 that year for the support of his home congregation. But the average communicant of the Saude congregation contributed \$6.74, and the average communicant at Jerico only \$4.06 in the same year, for home expenses.

The story that these figures tell us is this, that if the people at Saude had done as well as members of other congregations in our own Synod the total contributions for home purposes last year would have been \$1341.96 instead of \$904.00, which was actually contributed. If the people at Jerico had done as well as members of other congregations in our own Synod the total contributions for home purposes last year would have been \$3320.56 instead of \$1316.75 which was actually contributed.

These comparisons do not by any means indicate that the people at Saude and Jerico are any less willing or able to support their church than people in our own Synod elsewhere. Instead, the comparisons rather indicate that the system of contributing is out of date and inadequate.

What Is the New System?

The new financial system is the so-called "Weekly Envelope System." It is not a new plan that is

merely an experiment. It is the financial system that is now used by most congregations of all denominations in this country. Congregation after congregation has lifted itself "out of the red" by installing the Weekly Envelope System in place of the old system of church collections. The Annual Report of the Synod shows that contributions are generally highest in those congregations that use the weekly system.

Can This System Be Made to Work at Saude and Jerico?

There is no reason to believe that it cannot be made successful in our congregations. In the first place, conditions in our communities are not different in any important respect from conditions in other communities and congregations. In the second place, the monthly envelopes that we have used for about ten years for our contributions to the Synod have demonstrated the value of the envelope system in our congregations. Attention has already been called to the fact that contributions for home purposes have decreased in the past few years. On the other hand, it is remarkable that during that same period contributions for Synod purposes have steadily increased. And that increase is clearly due to the use of monthly envelopes for contributing to the Synod. So there is every reason to believe that the weekly envelope system will be successful in its use for home purposes.

What Are the Advantages of the New System?

The first advantage of the weekly envelope system is that it will give every communicant member of both congregations an opportunity to contribute. In the past very many communicants have not been contributors. The fault is not theirs, they have simply not been asked to contribute. They would doubtless have done so if requested. Every confirmed member of the church is regarded as a contributor, and should do what he is able toward the support of his church.

The second advantage of the weekly envelope system is the well known fact that it is easier to pay small sums of money than large ones. That principle is the basis of modern business methods. Charge accounts and payments on contract are an accepted part of business practice. Thus in adopting the weekly envelope system the church is merely employing sound business methods in the management of its business affairs.

Many communicants in the Saude and Jerico congregations would consider it beyond their means to contribute \$25.00 a year for home purposes under the old method of collections, but some of them might not consider it unreasonable or beyond their means to pay 50 cents a week under the new system. A contribution of 50 cents a week will total \$26.00 a year; 25 cents a week will total \$13.00 a year; 10 cents a week, \$5.20; and 5 cents a week, \$2.60. Thus it will be seen that many who have not been able to contribute before will be able to do so now. Others may find it possible, under the new system, to increase their contributions for the support of their church.

INSTALLING THE NEW SYSTEM

The following paragraphs are written to explain to you how the envelope system works, and to show you how you may use them. It should be remembered, however, that every member is privileged to give as he wishes toward the support of his church. It goes without saying that no one is compelled to use the envelopes, and no one is going to be told how much he is to give. But we hope that even though you may be a little skeptical of the value of the new plan, that you will give it a trial. That is all we ask; that this plan that has been proved so successful elsewhere be given a fair trial at Saude and Jerico.

1. Some time before January 1st you will receive a package containing 52 envelopes for your use in contributing to home expenses. The new plan will go into effect beginning January 1st.

2. When you open the package you will find a "pledge card." We ask that you write on that card your pledge for the coming year. That means that you are asked to decide for yourself what you wish to try to give toward church support during the year. We recommend that you make that pledge on the basis of what you intend to give each week. If you intend to give 25 cents a week, just write that on the blank provided, and then drop that card on the collection plate at the first service you attend after January 1st. If you do not wish to use the weekly envelopes, but plan to contribute twice a year as before, please indicate on your pledge card how much you plan to give for the year. It is very important that these pledge cards are returned promptly by all. The trustees will call to take up all pledge cards that have not been brought in by February 1st.

3. In your pack of envelopes you will also find an "Initial Offering" envelope. If you wish you may place 15 cents in that envelope to pay the cost of your package of envelopes.

4. In each package of envelopes there is one white envelope for each Sunday in the year 1942, beginning on Sunday, January 4. Each of these envelopes is dated and numbered. As you use the envelopes it is not necessary for you to write your name on the envelopes, because the officials have all names of contributors, with their numbers, properly recorded. But we do request that you write on the envelope the amount of money enclosed. You will save the officers of the congregation a great deal of work if you write the amounts enclosed in each envelope. After you have decided on the amounts you wish to contribute each week, we hope you will faithfully bring your envelopes every time you come to church. However, if you should miss a service you need not bring two envelopes the next Sunday. Suppose your weekly pledge is 25 cents and you have missed one Sunday. The next Sunday you may bring one envelope enclosing 50 cents, and destroy the other envelope.

By adopting the weekly envelope system the congregations have naturally had to adopt a new system of bookkeeping. Because of that new bookkeeping system we ask that if you intend to pay twice a year as before that you would place your semi-annual contributions in envelopes taken out

of the package mailed to you. You will assist the officers of the congregation greatly if you will comply with this request.

As a necessary part of the envelope system a collection plate will be passed by the ushers at every service. Those who may have forgotten their envelopes on any Sunday, or those who do not use the envelopes will be welcome to drop a coin in the plate as it passes them. We are sure that our members will welcome the opportunity thus given them to contribute toward the work of the church each time they gather to worship. The children of Israel never came empty-handed to the Temple at Jerusalem. And we too shall be happy to bring our offerings to our place of worship.

THE MONTHLY ENVELOPES

for Synodical Purposes

Our monthly envelopes for Synodical Purposes have proved such a success that no important change is to be made in regard to them. These twelve envelopes will not be mailed to you with the Assistant Pastor any longer, you will find them enclosed in their proper places in your carton of weekly envelopes. This will effect a saving in mailing costs, and it will also save the Pastor the trouble of handling and mailing each of those envelopes. For the reason that those envelopes are now contained in the cartons of weekly envelopes we urge you to accept and keep your carton even though you do not intend to use the weekly envelopes, because you will want to use the monthly Synod envelopes as you have done before. These monthly envelopes may also be laid on the collection plate, except in the case of those offerings which are placed on the Altar. These monthly envelopes will be as follows:

January: Teachers' Salary and Synod Fund.

April: Lenten Offering for Home Missions.

June: Convention Offering on Confirmation Sunday for Bethany College.

August: Church Extension Offering.

October: Home Mission Offering.

November: Thanksgiving Offering for Synod Fund.

One change will be made in regard to these monthly envelopes. As you know, the Norwegian Synod will celebrate its 90th Anniversary in the year 1943. In connection with that observance the Synod has resolved to bring a Thankoffering for the payment of the Synod's debt. This resolution was made with the thought that we ought to pay our debts in these days of prosperity so we will be prepared for the days of depression which seems so certain to come. The Synod has urged that collections for this Jubilee Thankoffering be begun at once. Therefore the envelopes for February, March, May, July, September, and December will be designated for the Jubilee Thankoffering Fund. Please place these envelopes on the collection plate during the designated months.

SAUDE and JERICO CHURCHES

Norwegian Synod of the Synodical Conference

N. S. TJERNAGEL, Pastor

Address: Lawler, Iowa

Residence: Saude

December 20, 1941

Dear Friends:

The cover page of the Assistant Pastor for December was to have contained a Christmas Greeting from your Pastor and his family. But as you see a word as to the shocking reality of war has taken its place.

But let us remember that the words, "Peace on earth, good will toward men!" were not spoken in vain. There is peace on earth, a peace for our souls that is assured by the Christmas message which promises eternal peace in heaven after the struggle and warfare of this world is finished.

Your Pastor and his family wish to thank you for the many kindnesses you have shown during the past year, for the many gifts given us, and for the very friendly spirit that you, the members of the Saude and Jerico Congregations, have shown us.

Best wishes for a blessed Christmas,

Pastor and Mrs. Tjernagel and family.