

The Assistant Pastor

February, 1941

The Means of Grace

IV. Summary.

There are three Means of Grace: God's Word, the Sacrament of Baptism, and the Sacrament of the Altar. In the paragraphs that have appeared on the front page of the Assistant Pastor for the months of October, November, and January we have made an effort to show what the Means of Grace, considered together, are, and what they do.

We have seen that they are the means that God employs to bring salvation to sinners, and that no one can be saved except through the Means of Grace; that no one can enter into salvation who refuses to employ the means that God has established for that purpose. Refuse to read or hear the Word, refuse to be baptized, refuse to partake of Christ's true Body and Blood in the Sacrament of the Altar and your soul is surely lost.

We have seen that the Means of Grace are a wonderful spiritual power which enlightens the spiritual darkness within you, cleanses your soul through the forgiveness of sins, and destroys the power of death and the devil within you.

We have seen that the Means of Grace perform a twofold miracle within us in that they first restore spiritual life in our souls, and then give salvation to all who believe the truths and promises which the Means themselves proclaim.

It had been our plan to continue these front page paragraphs by speaking separately, and in greater detail, of each of the Means of Grace, beginning with the Word. But we have decided to reverse the order, and to begin by speaking of the Sacrament of the Altar because we believe that our congregations and membership have suffered because of a lack of proper appreciation and use of Holy Communion.

This is true in the greatest degree of those who time after time permit communion services to pass without receiving its blessings. But it is also true of those who have communed regularly twice each year, for the example of Scripture, the words of Luther, and our own personal need cries out that we should receive this blessed benefit more frequently than twice a year.

Therefore, in order to bring this matter more fully to your attention I shall set aside the Sundays during Lent to preach concerning the Sacrament of the Altar. The subjects of this series of sermons will be as follows:

- 1) The Essence of the Sacrament of the Altar. (Saude, February 23; Jerico, March 2.)
- 2) The Promised Benefits and Blessings of the Sacrament of the Altar. (Saude, March 9; Jerico, March 16.)
- 3) The Salutary Use of the Sacrament of the Altar. (Saude, March 23; Jerico, March 30.)

Please determine to be present at every one of these services. You need to hear what the Word of God teaches in this vital matter of your relation to the Sacrament of the Altar.

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, 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. Carl Miller, president; Mrs. Fred Steensland, secretary; Mrs. Otto Hanson, treasurer.

JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: C. Cutsforth, Lloyd Roberson, C. O. Vigdal.
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 Sunday, Bilingual Service, 10:30 A. M.
Third Sunday, English Service, 10:30 A. M.
Fifth Sunday, by special announcement.

SAUDE

First Sunday, Norwegian Service, 2:30 P. M.
Second Sunday, English Service, 10:45 A. M.
Fourth Sunday, English Service, 10:45 A. M.
Fifth Sunday, by special announcement.

NEW HAMPTON

Nils Oesleby, Pastor

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

The Assistant Pastor can scarcely pretend to be a newspaper, since much of the "news" it brings its readers is often pretty old news. So far as news is concerned its purpose is rather to keep a record of things that happen within the Saude and Jerico congregations. The last two issues were concerned with reporting on the business affairs of the congregations, and some of the "news" items which are printed in this issue were crowded out of the last two issues. In order to keep the record complete we give them to you now.

The Jerico Ladies' Aid held a Christmas party in the church parlors on December 18. The ladies of the Aid had prepared and presented an excellent program consisting of vocal numbers and readings. It was most pleasant to hear the variety and the quality of the talent that the committee offered for the entertainment of its guests.

The program was as follows:

Hymn 195 sung in unison.
Scripture reading (Matt. 1:18-21), N. S. Tjernagel.
Vocal Solo: "Silent Night," Mrs. Alvin J. Johnson.
Reading: "Getting Ready for Christmas," Mrs. T. W. Munson.
Vocal Trio: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," Mrs. Carl J. Johnson, Mrs. Alvie Knutson, Mrs. Henry Munson.
Piano Solo: "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," Mrs. J. C. Johnson.

Reading: "Room for Jesus," Mrs. Ole J. Johnson.
Vocal Duet: "Star of the East," Mrs. Alvie Iverson, Mrs. K. C. Johnson.

Reading: "Et velsignet Nytaar," Mrs. S. Fossen.
Vocal Quartet: "The Happy Christmas Comes Once More," Mrs. Andrew Johnson, Mrs. Ole J. Anderson, Mrs. Ole C. Johnson, Mrs. Alvin J. Johnson.
Reading: "A Little Gray Lamb," Mrs. T. Roberson.
Address: "The Detroit Deaf Mute Institute," N. S. Tjernagel.

Piano Solo: "The Merry Christmas Tide," Mrs. T. O. Knutson.

Song: "Shout the Glad Tidings," by a group of the ladies.

Mrs. T. O. Knutson was the accompanist at the piano throughout the program.

After the program a fine lunch was served and a collection totalling \$19.60 was taken for the Deaf Mute Institute at Detroit. The ladies of the program committee and those who participated in the program are to be commended for the fine entertainment and the pleasant afternoon they afforded us.

The Saude Ladies' Aid held its annual Christmas party at the parsonage on December 19. The members of the Aid and their guests arrived a little before noon, and it was not long before a piping hot chicken dinner was served. As soon as things were put in order after dinner, the whole company assembled to hear the Christmas Gospel as read by Rev. Nils Oesleby, in the absence of Pastor Tjernagel. Everyone had brought a small gift, and these were placed in a "pond" so that everyone had his turn at "fishing." It was a happy and festive occasion for all who were present.

We shall all be looking forward to next year's Christmas parties, and especially so your pastor, since the pleasure of attending the Jerico Aid party was marred somewhat because automobile trouble made him late to arrive, and because duty called him elsewhere on the day of the Saude party.

The Children of the Confirmation Class and the Jerico Saturday School presented a program under the direction of the Pastor in the Jerico Church at 8 P. M., December 23. The weather was favorable and a large audience filled the church. The usual treats were given the children together with the distribution of gifts which was supervised by a committee elected by the Ladies' Aid.

The program was as follows:

Opening Devotion (as conducted before school each Saturday).

Morning Prayer.

Psalm One.

Hymn: "Jesus, Priceless Treasure."

The Creed.

Introduction:

Versicles and Responses: Pastor and Children.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7, by the Pastor.

Hymn: "Thy Little One's, Dear Lord, Are We."

The Ten Commandments: Primary Class.

Scripture Readings:

Jeremiah 23:5-6, Ann Roberson.

Galatians 4:4-5, Donna Mae Johnson.

Luke 1:5. 11-17, Luella Knutson.

Matthew 1:18-23, Donna Roberson.

Luke 1:39-45, Joan Roberson.

Luke 1:46-55 (The Magnificat), sung by all the Children.

Luke 1:57-63, Colleen Knutson.
 Luke 1:67-69, 76-79, Donna Knutson.
 Hymn: "Silent Night."
 The Three Articles: By the Intermediate Class.
 Prophecy and Fulfillment: Saturday School and Confirmation Class.
 Hymn: "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice," by the Confirmants.
 Prophecies: Recitations by Confirmants.
 The Christmas Gospel: The Confirmants in unison.
 Vocal Duet: "Where Are You Going, Children Dear?" by the Confirmants and Saturday School.
 Hymn: "Now Let Us All With Gladness Cheer," Confirmants and Saturday School.
 The Petitions: By the Senior Class.
 Closing Devotion:
 Evening Prayer.
 The 23rd Psalm.
 Hymn: "Lord Jesus Christ, My Savior Blest."
 The Lord's Prayer.
 An offering totalling \$32.63 was taken up for Hans Bleken at this service.

The Saude Saturday School Children presented a program similar to the above but in abbreviated form at the Saude Christmas service. The following took part: Harvey Knutson, June Anderson, Ruth Anderson, Ann Marie Natvig, Norma Borlaug, Anna Sylvia Borlaug, Lowell Vigdal, Harold Borlaug, Wayne Natvig, Fern Landsverk.

Lorraine Ann Nystel received holy baptism at the Jerico Church on Christmas Day. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Nystel. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Roberson and Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Christenson.

Mr. and Mrs. Jens Anderson enjoyed the rare privilege of celebrating their golden wedding anniversary in the Jerico church parlors on Sunday, December 29. They were married by Rev. Ness in the Jerico Church on December 29, 1890. Mrs. Anderson's maiden name was Ellen Samson, her home had been at New Oregon, Iowa. Mr. Anderson's home had been the local community. Their children were: Sarah (Mrs. Twedt) of Seattle, Wash., who died two years ago; Miss Anna Anderson of Madison, Wis.; Sena (Mrs. Merle Mosby) of Harrisburg, Penn.; Ole J. of the home community; Agnes (Mrs. Pete Ofsthethun) of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Miss Clara Anderson of Davenport, Iowa; Elmer, at home; Henrietta (Mrs. Ole Thompson) of New Hampton; Jimmy, at home; and Evelyn (Mrs. Macha) of New Hampton. Mrs. Randolph Sly of Saginaw, Mich., a daughter of Sarah, was present as well as most of the others of the twelve grandchildren of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson.

The guests of honor, the bride and groom of fifty years ago, were seated with their family and Pastor and Miss Bertha Tjernagel at a beautifully decorated table. But there was more than beauty at that table. After grace had been said waitresses began to load it with all manner of good things. Relatives and friends present not seated at the honor table were served cafeteria style in the same abundant manner.

In mid-afternoon those present were seated to

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take part in the service of thanksgiving for the celebrants. Pastor Tjernagel spoke briefly on Luke 2:25-40. That text speaks of the aged Simeon and Anna who came to the temple in Jerusalem to worship and adore the Christ-child. Both had been frequent visitors at the temple, and now with the Savior shown them they gave thanks to God for the many blessings they had received at His hands. In the same way, it was brought out, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have not been strangers in their church. And now they had returned to give thanks to God for the fifty years He had blessed their marriage. In their behalf their pastor read an appropriate prayer of thanksgiving.

Daughters of the Andersons, and a granddaughter, Mrs. Sly, who no longer live in the community, spoke briefly expressing their thanks for the honor done their parents, and for the privilege of meeting old friends. Mr. Hutchinson, the first rural mail carrier on the Anderson route, spoke a few words of greeting. Finally a gift of a purse from friends present was presented by Pastor Tjernagel, and as a concluding ceremony, Mrs. Anderson cut the beautiful wedding cake.

Christian Christenson

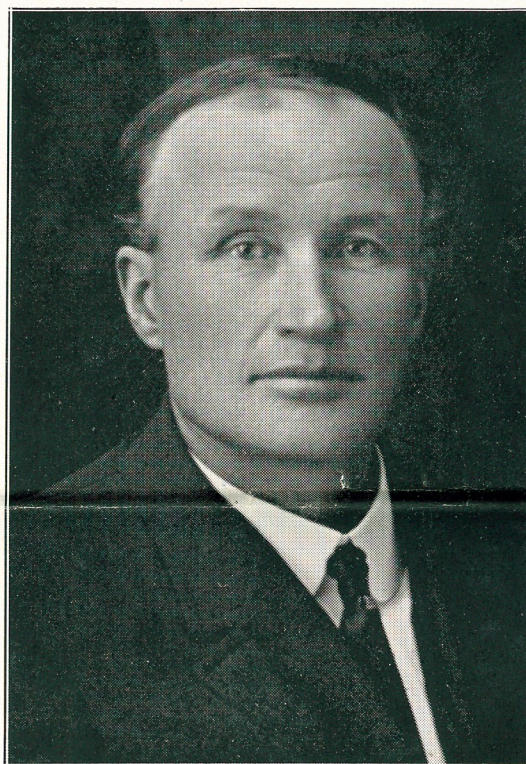
Christian Christenson was born on June 11, 1865, at Sogn in Norway. He was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Hendrick Christenson. He came to this country in 1870 at the age of 5 years, and arriving in Lawler, lived there for three years, and then moved to Republic with his family where he lived for thirty years. Then he came to the Jerico community where he has lived since. He was confirmed by the Rev. John Moses and was a lifelong member of the Jerico congregation. He had made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Henry Robinson for the past few years. Both his parents died about fifty years ago. He suffered a stroke of paralysis on Monday, December 9, and died at St. Joseph's Hospital in New Hampton on December 16. He was 75 years old.

Funeral services were held in the Jerico Church on December 19. The funeral sermon was based on the words of Phillipians 3:20-21: "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Albert J. Knutson

One of the stalwarts of the Jerico congregation, Mr. Albert J. Knutson, died on February 5, and was laid to rest in the Jerico cemetery on February 8. He was a sturdy character in his community, and a conspicuous success in his chosen occupation. Not many serve their church as faithfully and well as he did. He saw his work, and he performed it as he thought it should be. God gave him five sons and two daughters and he brought them up in accordance with the precepts of the Word. No higher praise can be given anyone.

He was born at Cedar Falls, Iowa, on September 7, 1864, the son of Jetmund and Anna Knutson. When he was 2 years old his family established their residence on the old homestead east of Jerico. He was married to Martha Anderson on June 23,



Albert J. Knutson

1888, and they made their home on the present Knutson farmstead. Mrs. Knutson died on August 2, 1933. He is survived by his children, Anna (Mrs. Carl Slindee) of Lawler, Jeff of the home community, Ole of New Hampton, Carl of the home community, Clara (Mrs. John Amble) of Saude, Alfred of New Hampton, and Henry who resides on the home place; also by one sister, Mrs. Lena Moen of Cresco, and two brothers, Knut and Ole of the Jerico community; and by sixteen grandchildren; and by three great grandchildren.

When old age began to tell its tale about two years ago, Mr. Knutson was not surprised. And during the past months when it became clear to him that his days were drawing to a close he was content. He had lived and worked in his community for a lifetime, and his work there was done. He had been a member of his church since baptism in infancy, and he had a religion and he believed in it. Now he was content to meet his Creator with the knowledge that though his own sins were as scarlet, they were cleansed and blotted out in the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.

He was confined to his bed for about three months and died peacefully at the age of 76 years, 4 months, and 28 days.

Funeral services were held at home, and at the Jerico Church; the funeral sermon was based on the words of Romans 14:7-9: "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living."