

# The Assistant Pastor

*May, 1941*

## To The Confirmants

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I know that you all feel that your confirmation day is a most sacred and important one in your lives. On that day you are renewing your baptismal covenant. The promise that you made through the mouths of your sponsors you are now repeating and re-affirming. You know now what sin is, and what its consequences are. You know now who your great enemy is. You understand now what it means when you say, "I renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways."

You know now whom you are confessing when you say, "I believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost." You have acquired knowledge concerning your Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier as it is given in His Word, the Bible.

You have a weapon now, against sin, you have a shield against temptations of Satan. You have a rule to follow in your life, you have a guide to lead and preserve you in faith.

What would you think of a big game hunter who threw down his weapon, discarded his shield, and dismissed his guide in the middle of the jungle? You would wonder if anyone could be guilty of such folly. But many are. We need look no further than into the records of our own church to see that many a confirmant of past years has discarded his Bible, preferring, apparently, to live as natural man, unwilling and unable to serve God.

Our prayers are offered for you that you may truly keep your sacred confirmation pledge. It will not be easy, but, armed with God's Word as your weapon, you will succeed. A quotation from G. K. Chesterton that we recently read is in place here: "Christianity has not been tried and found wanting; it has been found difficult and not tried."



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## 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.

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## 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. Geo. Natvig, president; Miss Gladys Vaala, secretary; Mrs. John Natvig, 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 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.

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This issue of the Assistant Pastor was delayed so as to make it possible to bring you the picture of the confirmation class which appears above. Of these confirmants Oren Anderson, Richard Natvig, Carmen Miller, and Beulah Swennumson are members of the Saude Congregation, the rest belong to the Jerico Congregation. Harold Fossen, Richard Natvig, Sheldon Swenson, Wallace Johnson, and George Knutson were instructed by Pastor Oesleby in New Hampton and examined by him on May 28th. Confirmation services at Jerico were on May 25th, and at Saude on June 8th.

Lois Jean Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Robinson, was received into the Holy Christian Church by baptism on Sunday, May 11th, at the Jerico Church. Her birthday was April 22nd, 1941. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Robinson, and Joseph and Leona Vaala were sponsors.

Gayle Jean Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alert J. Johnson, was baptized in the Jerico Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 18th. He was born on May 5th, 1941. The sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Johnson, and Mr. and Mrs. Louie Paulson.

The next issue of the Assistant Pastor will include a report of the Synod meeting to be held at Bethany College, Mankato, Minn., June 12th to 18th.

## The New Hampton Mission

On Sunday, September 8th, 1940, the undersigned was ordained and installed as missionary pastor in New Hampton, by the Mission Board of the Norwegian Synod.

Since that Sunday, the Word of God has been regularly set forth as the only rule of life and faith.

From September 15th to April 27th inclusive, we have met forty-three times in the American Legion Hall, with a total attendance of 1230 persons, an average of 28.6 per service. Some persons have been very faithful in their attendance, some have attended less regularly, some have been with us only a few times. Some have attended when they might have gone to Jerico or Saude, others have come who would not otherwise have heard the Word of God.

Special credit should be given to Mrs. A. A. Knutson who has been pianist at the services.

The Lord's Supper has been celebrated twice with a total attendance of 49 communicants.

Instruction for the children is at 9 a. m. Sundays. The enrollment is still small. There are those who should come, but do not.

Five confirmants have been regularly instructed throughout the winter in Bible History and the Catechism.

The pastor has officiated at two weddings and one baptism.

On January 7th, the Concordia Ladies' Aid was organized, and has met at two week intervals either in the hall or at the homes of members. Mrs. Clarence Erickson is president, Mrs. Caroline Vigdal vice-president, Mrs. John Kelley, treasurer, Mrs. John Anderson secretary.

The Pastor has called on unchurched, and sick. But there are many who have not been reached, and many who do not realize the great spiritual blessings which God wishes to bestow upon them.

A financial analysis of income and expenditures in our Mission shows that besides three collections for synodical purpose and two offerings for the pastor and organist, \$98.63 has been received to defray local expenses. The expenditures have been \$90 for a year's rent of the hall; and expenditures for fixtures, hymnbooks, and Sunday School material, etc., amounted to \$28.65, or a total of \$118.65. The pastor's salary has been paid by the Mission Board.

Regular reports have been made to the Mission



Board each month, and on March 15 Pastor Tjernagel and Pastor Oesleby were present at one of their meetings and discussed the matter of organizing a congregation in New Hampton. The Mission Board decided to leave this in the hands of the missionary pastor.

When the apostle writes, "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together," he is not urging church membership and attendance as a drudgery or unprofitable task, but to provoke one another "to love and to good works" (Heb. 10:24), and to "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering."

First of all, the Christian should have a love for his own soul. Jesus says, "If ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed." It is the duty of the pastor to bring a message from Scripture of admonition, comfort, and instruction. So also it is the duty of the Christian both to read the Word of God in private, and to hear it publicly proclaimed.

The Christian has a duty toward those whom God has entrusted to his care. The Christian parent will diligently seek to instruct and to have instructed his children, not only in those things which pertain only to this world, but also in those which pertain to the future life.

The Christian has a duty and responsibility over against his unchurched neighbor. In the story of the Good Samaritan, Christ shows us that our neighbor is every man who needs our help. Most certainly the Christian has something which every unchurched person needs, for all men are by nature sinners, whose righteousnesses in the sight of God are but as filthy rags. Though our neighbor have health, wealth, and wisdom, yet he is poor, sick, and unlearned, if he does not know Jesus, the priceless treasure, the physician of the soul and the Wisdom of God. Toward every person who has not accepted Christ as his Savior the Christian has a definite responsibility, for Jesus says, "Make disciples of all nations," and Paul writes, "How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?" This responsibility is fulfilled by personal testimony, by invitation to church, and by the example of a Christ-centered life. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father which is in heaven."

The Christian has a responsibility over against his fellow Christian. "If thy brother trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone. If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother." If the erring brother resists the admonition of one and of two, then he is to be re-proved by the congregation. "Tell it to the church," Christ says. Church organization is also necessary to provide for regular and most efficient preaching.

The Christian has a definite responsibility toward his fellow Christian of other denominations. This is especially true of the Christian who belongs to the Synodical Conference, who has been taught the Word of God in all its truth and purity, who has been taught the whole counsel of God with nothing added and nothing subtracted. Just as it is the duty of every Christian to be an example to others, so it is the duty of every Christian congregation to be an example to other congregations. This is especially necessary in our country, where there are so many denominations differing from one another.

and differing from the Word of God in one or more respects.

There are in our country, congregations which permit their pastors, and even encourage them to depart from the Word of God. Some deny that all Scripture is the Word of God, some deny that we are saved by grace alone, through faith, without the deeds of the law. Some deny that the government has been given authority and power over our property, bodies, and lives. Some deny that all disciples of Christ should be baptized. Some deny that all who have examined themselves, and seek the forgiveness of sins, may drink of the cup at the Lord's Table. Some deny that marriage is honorable for all. Some deny that we should avoid those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine of the apostles. Some deny that a congregation should admonish a weak brother, or reject one who is obstinate.

To all such Christians who in one or more ways depart from the teaching of God's Word and substitute for it the teachings of men, whether in doctrine or practice, the Christian of the Synodical Conference has the responsibility of showing that God's Word is clear and plain in all that pertains to our faith and life, that a Christian can by the Grace of God use it as his guide and standard, that a Christian can and will repent of his offenses, privately of private sins, publicly of public sins. That he will both learn and teach, do and omit to do, admonish and be admonished, cling to the truth and reject error, and thus as a member of the royal priesthood, show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of the darkness into His marvelous light.

By Nils C. Oesleby.



Mrs. John B. Dahlen

The Jerico community was shocked on May 8th, to hear of the sudden death of Mrs. John B. Dahlen. She had given her life to bring her first child into the world. Funeral services and burial were at Jerico Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 11th.



## Funeral Sermon, John 11, 25-26

Mrs. John B. Dahlen

An overwhelming sadness fills our hearts this day as we behold before us the stilled, silent remains of a bride of less than a year ago. The smile of that happy day is gone from her face, her husband's joy is turned to ashes.

All of us have turned our outstretched hand to him, all our lips have sought to find words to comfort him. And we have all felt, how helpless am I to cheer him, how empty my consoling word.

But today, dear mourning husband, your friends have gathered here to give you the comfort of God's Word. We have come to console her family and her intimate friends with the assurance of divine promise and eternal truth.

Let there be no doubt in your mind that there is a wise purpose in every act of God. He gave her birth and life. She grew to womanhood, but her life was vexed with illness, so that often it seemed she could not live longer. But under God's hand she recovered her strength and lived to see her wedding day. She lived to give brief joy to her husband, and to give birth to their child. Surely you can not doubt that God preserved her life through her youth for just this, that she might become your wife and the mother of your child.

There is nothing accidental or purposeless in the doings of the Almighty God. And we can not speak of this death as a misfortune. Her mission in life was fulfilled, her work done, and a gracious God has taken her, as we have no reason to doubt, into the beauty and bliss of eternity.

It is indeed a misfortune for us, as we consider it, and to you, her husband, it is a paralyzing shock. I can say nothing that will remove your feeling of lonesomeness, nothing that could persuade you that you have not suffered a staggering loss.

But I can say something that will fill every heart that loved her with a real joy, a joy that will rise above our own personal sense of disappointment, a joy that will be separate from our own personal sense of loss. For truly, our loss is a thousand-fold her gain.

Hear the Word of God as it is written in John 11:25-26: "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die."

Only recently we heard the Angel's Easter message. "He is risen." Today I bring to you for your comfort the Word of Christ Himself. "I am the resurrection and the Life." Then He proceeds at once to look at us and say, "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Grasp the full import of that word. Recall that we were all dead, all dead in trespasses and sins, all condemned to death, all the children of Satan. Realize with joy how readily life is to be had; simply for believing that Jesus is the resurrection and the life. We were dead; but if we believe in Him we shall live.

She who has been torn from us was dead, too, in trespasses and in sins. She *was* dead; but now we believe she lives. How contradictory this seems. We are mourning her death; and yet we say she *was*

dead but now she liveth. But it is true, that every sinner who comes to Faith through the Holy Ghost, has been raised from death to life, from spiritual death to spiritual life.

It is natural in us that we think most vividly of our bodily and physical life. We prize it, we protect and guard it, but how filled with misery are our lives. We strive wearily for a livelihood amidst griefs and pains. Contrast this life with the life in heaven where joy is supreme, where there is no sorrow or weariness. And behold that it is this blissful life in heaven, of which our Savior speaks when He says, "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live."

Your comfort now rests solely in your faith in Christ's promise of life for believers, and in your confidence that our beloved departed was numbered among those who have become children of God through faith.

Shed a lonesome tear if you will; grieve, as you must, in *your* misfortune, but every Christian among you will rejoice in her present blessedness. Yours is a loss indeed, but her gain is beyond our imagining. As surely as you are Christians you will willingly accept your loss for the sake of the gain that became hers when she died believing in the crucified and risen Jesus Christ our Savior. Has He not Himself said, "He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live"?

## Obituary

Agnes Thronndson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Thronndson, was born August 1st, 1912, in Jacksonville township. She was baptized and confirmed in the Crane Creek Lutheran Church. She received her education in the rural schools of Jacksonville township and the New Hampton High School. She had been a communicant member of Jerico Lutheran Church since her marriage.

On June 5th, 1940, she was united in marriage to John B. Dahlen at the Crane Creek Lutheran Church by the Rev. H. M. Finstad. To this union a daughter was born on May 7th, 1941, at St. Joseph's Hospital in New Hampton. Her death came very suddenly Thursday morning, May 8th, 1941, at 10:30 o'clock at the age of 28 years, 9 months, and 8 days.

She is survived by her husband and infant daughter — Janis Agnes — also her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Thronndson of Jerico, five sisters: Ruth (Mrs. John Anderson), Jeanette (Mrs. Halvor Nelson), Ella (Mrs. Ole A. Anderson), Christine (Mrs. Leonard Anderson), all of this community, and Leona (Mrs. George Salvhus) of McIntosh, Minn. Eleven nieces, eight nephews, and many other relatives and friends also mourn her departure.

Before her marriage she was a faithful member of the Luther League and choir of the Crane Creek Lutheran Church.

During her short span of married life she was a cheerful and devoted helpmate, always concerned about the welfare and happiness of those about her.

She will be greatly missed in this community where she has endeared herself to all through her many kindnesses and cheerful disposition.