

The Assistant Pastor

September, 1941

Prayer For a Pastor

Lord, when he sets his foot upon the pathway
Upon which Thou hast willed that he should go,
Pour down into his heart Thy benediction,
And through Thy mercy, health and strength bestow.

Whene'er he searches in Thy Word most holy,
Fill Thou his heart with wisdom from above,
In moments of temptation, hold him safely
Within Thy Everlasting Arms of love.

Grant unto him a great and glorious measure
Of Faith, which is alone a gift from Thee;
That, should the thorns of trial prick and pain him,
He may the roses of Thy mercy see.

Whene'er in prayerful spirit, lowly bending,
He prays for strength and courage on his way,
Help him to rise refreshed with holy fervor,
Thy Great Commission humbly to obey.

Each time he mounts the pulpit in Thy temple,
Mount Thou with him, and all shall then be well;
Prompt Thou each thought and word he humbly utters,
That joyfully he may Thy Gospel tell.

Help him to bring Thy promises and comfort
To those whom pain and anguish have cast down,
That they, too, may behold, through tear-stained vision,
The Cross of Jesus and the promised crown.

In liturgy, in sacraments and service,
He is Thy servant, willing to obey:
He plants the seed and waters it with patience:
Make many flowers of faith to grow, we pray:

That on the Day of Thy return, dear Savior,
He may some living gems before Thee bring.
May he then shine as do the stars in heaven (Daniel 12:3)
While angel choirs Thy praise forever sing.

Adeline Weinholz
— the Northwestern Lutheran

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. Geo. Natvig, president; Mrs. Elmer Natvig, 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. 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 Osleby, Pastor

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

Thank You

During the past year I said and wrote a great deal about the Sacrament of the Altar, and about our communion attendance. I urged you to consider the wonderful blessings that the Sacrament offers, and to receive it more often. I wondered what your reaction would be to my appeal, and whether there would be any response. My wondering betrayed a weakness that most pastors are subject to. They preach the Word of God and then wonder whether it will do any good. They wonder, when Scripture says that the preaching of the Word always brings results. Is. 55:10, 11, "As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." I should not have wondered. I should have been certain that preaching God's Word with respect to the Lord's Supper would bear fruit.

We recently celebrated the last Communion scheduled for the present church year, and it is pos-

sible to see now from the communion attendance record for the year just how this year's record compares with that of last year.

For the Jerico congregation communion attendance last year was 349; this year it was 643. That represents an increase of 84%. Last year 80 persons did not attend at all, this year there were only 34. Last year no one attended more than twice, this year ten persons attended four times, and 98 persons attended three times.

For the Saude congregation communion attendance last year was 153; this year it was 263. That represents an increase of 72%. Last year 36 persons did not attend at all, this year there were only nine. Last year no one attended more frequently than twice. This year one person attended four times, and 39 persons attended three times.

This is indeed a marvelous improvement for both congregations. I had expected it to take several years to bring about as great an advancement as this. I can truthfully say that nothing has happened during the eight years I have been in the ministry that has been as gratifying to me as your response in this matter. I have not before seen quite so visibly and clearly the results of preaching the Word of truth. The work of the Holy Ghost who gives power to the Word, and acceptance of it to its hearers, is here clearly evident.

However, we must not rest on our laurels. There still are some who are not communing at all. And there still are some who commune less frequently than they ought and need to. The average communion attendance of the members of both congregations is still slightly below twice for each year. And that is considerably less than the "four times" which Luther spoke of as the minimum number of times that a Christian needs to commune each year. We have made a fine improvement this year. Through continued prayer and preaching we shall hope that the improvement begun this year may continue in future years.

Our Children

To many of us God has given a great and grave responsibility. I am thinking, of course, of our children, and I would like to speak to you about them. They come to us a precious little bundle with five undeveloped senses, without knowledge or experience. They are quite helpless, and we resolve to do our utmost to care and provide for them. As soon as possible we bring them to church to receive the cleansing waters of Holy Baptism.

What is our responsibility from that point and on? It is to provide them with the necessities of life, food, clothing and the many other things that are a part of living. Almost no one is negligent about those things.

But we are also to provide for the nourishment of their souls. How? We must give them a Christian home to grow up in, a home in which God's Law is respected and obeyed, a home in which the Gospel of Jesus Christ is clearly evident. For better or for worse, your home is going to influence the life of that little mortal that grows from infancy through childhood. You can not expect your child to become a better Christian than you are. You can not expect him to develop beyond the level of his home surroundings. You are the pattern after which his life is going to be moulded.

You know the Gospel of Christ; the story of the salvation won for us by the Savior's death. You know that we are saved through faith. Your child needs a knowledge of that Gospel, too, so that knowing it he too may believe it and be saved. Holy Scripture tells us how to give that knowledge, Deut. 11:18, 19. "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your souls. . . . And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." That means daily prayers, daily devotions, daily instruction in God's Word. It is the very opposite of the condition that prevails in many so-called Christian homes where there are no prayers, no devotions, no instruction, and where the Word of God is tabu in daily conversation.

You yourself must answer before God for the manner in which you carry out your duty toward your children. He has entrusted them to you, and you will be required to give an accounting to Him.

The congregation also has a responsibility toward your child. And it can carry it out best through conducting a week-day school where the child has daily instruction in God's Word while it is learning the less important secular branches. Geography can not be taught truthfully and accurately unless one takes into account in teaching that subject the part that God has played in the world's geography. Neither can a true picture of history be given the child without teaching the manner in which God's hand is everywhere evident in the history of the world. But congregations which for one reason or another have not yet established such schools must do the best they can with whatever substitute measures they can devise.

The Saude and Jerico Lutheran congregations have entrusted to their pastor the responsibility of giving their children formal instruction in Luther's Catechism, the Explanation, and Bible History. That instruction is given in Saturday School, and in the course of instruction for Confirmation.

There are a few things connected with this work which I would like to discuss with you here. The question is often asked, "When shall children begin to attend Saturday School?" It is difficult to lay

down a definite rule, but in general I should say as soon as the child has advanced so far in school that it can read a little, and is able to memorize.

The greatest problem of all is to determine when the child has advanced sufficiently, both in years and in understanding, so that it is ready for final instruction preparatory to Confirmation. Last year, as well as this year, some children were enrolled who in my judgment were not yet ready for Confirmation. All those entered this year attended Saturday School last year, so I am in a position to judge whether or not they were qualified. I had intended to discuss each individual enrolled with their parents so as to try to persuade some to wait another year, and for that reason I asked those who intended to enroll a child to come and see me at the parsonage before sending their children to class. But that did not seem to work out very well since most parents concerned did not comply with my request. So for this year I have accepted all the children who have enrolled, but on the condition that the children concerned keep up with the class, and are able to do the work.

The public schools have adopted, and have followed for many years a graded system. For each of the eight grades there is a definite amount of ground which the child is expected to cover. If the child does his work well he is through the grades in eight years. But if he does not cover the ground required in any given year he must take the same grade over again. When the child has his eighth grade diploma he is qualified to enter High School, but not before. In any case the teacher is the sole judge as to whether the child is to be advanced to the next grade or not.

If this system works in the public schools, there is no reason why it can not be made to serve for our religious instruction. We have adopted such a plan for our Saturday School this year so that we will not be confronted every year with the problem of children entering the Confirmation Class before they are ready for it.

Under this plan all children up to and including those in fourth grade in Public School will use the Small Catechism for their memory work. Fifth graders will memorize the first half of the Explanation. Sixth graders will memorize the second half of the Explanation. Seventh graders will review, memorizing the whole Explanation. Thus a child who does his work well will have gone through the Explanation twice, and be ready for Confirmation Instruction during his eighth grade of Public School. However, anyone who does not do his work well enough any given year will have to take the year over again, and his confirmation is thereby put off by one year. Here, as in the public schools, the teacher will be the judge as to whether a child has passed his grade or not, and whether he is prepared to advance to the next grade. I am sure you will all see the wisdom of following this course.

This course will make the diligent child ready for Confirmation instruction during his eighth year in public school. However, that does not mean that we will insist on confirming him that year. Many parents have seen the wisdom of keeping their children out of school the year they are receiving their Confirmation instruction. As we have

said before, that is a very wise thing to do, and the child will gain greatly from it.

In closing, I want to commend the parents for their faithfulness in making the Saturday School attendance record so good. I hope you will be equally faithful in helping and spurring your child on to greater and greater diligence in learning their lessons well.

Obituary

Mrs. John Robinson, baptized Anna Ellingson, daughter of Andrew and Mary Ellingson, was born in Howard County, Iowa, on March 4th, 1884. She was confirmed by the Rev. Carl Xavier. On February 26, 1907, she was united in marriage to John A. Robinson at the parsonage of the Norwegian Synod Lutheran Churches of Saude and Jerico, by the pastor, Rev. J. G. Rugland. They were the parents of two children, Marian Syneva, who died in infancy, and Milton Arthur, who resides with his father at their home in this community.



Mrs. John Robinson

Besides her husband and son, she is survived by four sisters and three brothers. They are, Olena, Mrs. Andrew Foss; Bessie; Christina, Mrs. O. N. Ferkenstad; Ida, Mrs. M. A. Robinson; Elling, Ole, and Carl. All reside in this community.

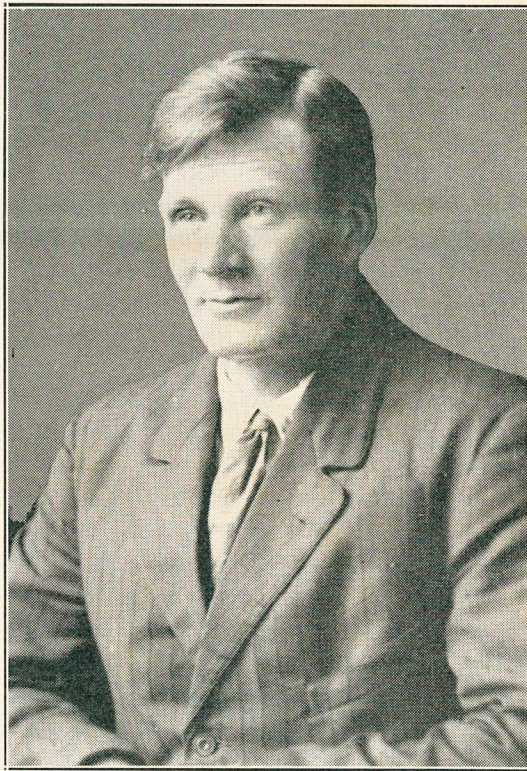
She suffered from a lingering illness for the past four years, but death came very suddenly at her home on Wednesday evening, June 25, 1941.

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Her congregation will miss her sorely. She was always the very personification of willingness. When there was work to be done she was in the forefront of things. She served as organist in Jerico Lutheran Church, and in many others ways was active in promoting the interests of her church. She rendered active service as a member of the Ladies' Aid. A true servant of the Lord has departed from our midst. Blessed be her memory.

Obituary.

Ole K. Olson was born at Jerico, Iowa, on May 30th, 1874. His parents were Knute and Martha Olson. He received Holy Baptism at Jerico Lutheran Church. He was confirmed at McFarland, Wis., where he made his home with his parents for a short time. After a few years in Wisconsin, he returned to Jerico where he made his home the greater part of his life.



Ole K. Olson

He was married to Anna Johnson in Cresco in April, 1898. Five children were born of this union, of which two died in infancy.

His family which remains to mourn his death is as follows: Mrs. Ole K. Olson of Lawler, Iowa; his three children, Clarence of Michigan; Mrs. Andrew Olson of New Hampton; and Melvin who resides at home. Also Clara and Lawrence Olson who have made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Olson since the death of their mother in infancy.

Mr. and Mrs. Olson had made their home in Lawler for the past year. He died Sunday, June 8th, at his home, from an illness of 6 months' duration. He was laid to rest in the Jerico Lutheran Cemetery on June 11, 1941.

* * *

Mr. Olson died a truly Christian death. In His mercy God gave the deceased ample warning of the coming of death. Doctors had told him he could not recover. But he was neither fearful of death, nor unwilling to die. The appointed hour was approaching and he confessed his sins to God, and turned to the Savior for forgiveness. To the very end he was cheerful and happy.