

The Assistant Pastor

February, 1942

God Bless and Help Our Native Land

"The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him"

(2 Cor. 16:9).

In 1492 an adventurer came to this country. He was looking for a shorter sea route to the fabulous wealth of the Indies. He landed on a group of islands near America, and called them the West Indies. He returned home to tell of the wonders he had found, and soon after adventurers were sailing from many countries to explore the land of promise, the newly discovered paradise that was called America.

These voyages of exploration were historically important, but the adventurers that made them came only in search of wealth and glory. Of far greater importance to us was the immigration of the colonists who came here to make their homes. It is most significant that they came to find neither wealth nor glory. They came to find something far more important than either. They were in search of a place where they could establish homes and worship freely according to the dictates of their consciences. They came in search of religious liberty.

Those people formed a government which was, to quote Abraham Lincoln, "conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created free and equal." This idea, that all men are created free and equal, was rather a new idea in the world. No such principles had been enunciated by great nations before. Even the Israelites, the chosen people of God, had considered themselves far superior to the other peoples of the earth. Great rulers had been accustomed to looking upon themselves as inherently superior to the "common people." Slaves were spoken of as cattle. The feudal Lords of the Middle Ages never considered themselves in any sense on an equal basis in a civil or spiritual sense with the vassals who farmed their lands.

But the principle of the freedom and equality of man, absent though it had been from the thinking of men in this world, was not a principle that our forefathers in this country conceived. It was and is a divine principle, a principle enunciated by Christ, and clearly taught by the Holy Scriptures. We have Christianity to thank for the lofty ideal that all men are created free and equal. We have Christianity to thank for the freedom and liberty that the people of the United States have enjoyed since July 4th, 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was signed and adopted.

The country founded under the principle that all men are free and equal became strong. Its people prospered under the blessing of God, for He had given them a land rich in almost every natural resource. In an amazingly

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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 Orslevy, Pastor

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

short time the fertile lands from East to West were being farmed, mines and oil fields were developed, a network of railways spread over the continent as by magic, and telephone and telegraphic communication was established to every remote corner of the land.

Pioneer hardships were accepted and faced by the strong men and women that built the nation. In 1812 a war was fought to maintain the freedom of the seas; fifty years later another war was fought to maintain the Union of States. In 1917 our nation engaged in another war. Something sinister appeared to be afoot in the world, but we did not understand what it was, nor were we quite sure why we were fighting. After the war was over we still were wondering why we had been in it, and what we had accomplished by our participation.

Now as the second world war gets under way we begin to understand. Now we begin to understand that the principle upon which our nation was founded is being questioned and attacked; namely this, that all men are created free and equal. Now we realize that we are fighting an ideology which is in opposition to the principle of equality of men, and which denies freedom to men, and is reverting to the ancient barbaric idea that the common people are merely slaves and puppets of their rulers and governments. Now we know, and again we appropriate the words of Lincoln, that we are fighting that "this nation of the people, by the people, and

for the people, shall not perish from the earth." We have one simple and basic war aim; that we may survive as a free people.

We believe implicitly that our cause is just. And with that faith we are gathered today to pray for our country and our people. We are assembled here today to pray that God will give wisdom and courage to our President and his advisors, that He will give skill and determination to our Admirals at sea, to our Generals in the field, and to our officers and pilots in the Air Corps. We are gathered to dedicate ourselves wholeheartedly to the task of supporting by our sacrifices and our labors, every Soldier, Sailor, and Marine fighting our war for us in the vast theatre of this terrible war. We are gathered to pray for divine grace and blessing in the cause we have undertaken.

But it behooves us to pray on bended knee. Because we have not appreciated the marvelous blessings God has showered upon us. He gave us an incredibly rich continent on which to build our homes, and our wealth has merely made us proud and self-sufficient. He gave us religious liberty and we have merely become indifferent to religion.

We read in the Bible, in the words of our text, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

Now we are praying that He would be strong in our behalf, but we must shamefacedly confess that we have been far from "perfect toward Him." And we should have been. He gave His Son Jesus Christ to save us from the tyranny of Satan, to free us from sin, and to bring us to heaven. He made us perfect, for He gave us the perfection of Jesus Christ Who had assumed our sin, and suffered death on the cross because of it. He saved us from a worse tyranny and a worse death than our feeble minds can imagine.

Our American forebears fought and endured privations in a strange land so that they could worship God and His Son Jesus Christ. What of us? Flimsy excuses keep half the Christians in this country from their places of worship every Sunday. Our forebears often walked, carrying muskets to protect them from real dangers that beset their paths to worship. Their Sundays were the great day of the week. What shame our lack of eagerness to worship our God!

We believe, indeed. But most of us are careless and indifferent. We do not deserve the blessings that God has given us because we have forgotten to prize freedom and liberty. We have lost sight of the value of our religion, and are well on the way to losing our God and reverting back to heathendom.

And what of our love for those fellow human beings whom Christ has redeemed? He who loved us unto death commanded, "Go ye therefore and preach the Gospel to every creature." How pitiful our efforts have been in this respect. How tightly we cling to the gifts and blessings God gives us, and how little we do to enable others to know the truth that makes men free. What wonders we could accomplish with a determined and consecrated missionary spirit. What a pity that spirit is so sadly lacking in most of us.

And look at our lives. How far they fall short of the example that Christ our Savior has left us.

Yes, we have failed. We have not had hearts "perfect toward him." Yet we do pray God to show Himself strong toward us. His mercy has been strong from the beginning of time. It is not too late for us today to bend our knees and confess our sin and shortcomings. He will forgive us. He will strengthen us in our determination to go hence in a worshipful love toward Him Who gave His Son on the cross for us. He will strengthen us in our determination to bring the Gospel to every creature.

Having confessed our sins and shortcomings, and having resolved to put away your carelessness and indifference over against our religion, we may turn to God and pray for victory in our present conflict. Remember the Israelites of the Old Testament. God was with them: He prospered them and blessed them in their land of milk and honey: He was with them to bring them victory in their conflicts. But when they turned from Him to worship idols, His blessings ceased, and the enemies of Israel began to overcome them. But time and again, seeing the wickedness of their ways they confessed their sins and worshipped Him again. And always He sent them a leader to overcome their enemies and lead them back into peace and prosperity.

Our government was founded upon the principle that all men are created free and equal. Remember that that is a Christian principle. If we let Christianity die among us freedom and liberty will also die. Freedom and liberty, and a government of the people, by the people, and for the people can live only where Christianity is the dominating force.

Once more God is showing us how precious our heritage of freedom is. He is calling us to arms to protect the things we hold dear. We have been careless about our gifts, and now we must fight to preserve them. But His mercy endures forever, and our humble contrite prayer will be heard. If we really want freedom and religious liberty God will give them to us and keep them intact among us. But if religion becomes an unimportant matter in our lives we shall lose both our freedom and our religious liberty.

Hear our confession and prayer, dear Lord, and grant us a speedy victory. Amen.

The above sermon was written for delivery on January 1, 1942, in compliance with the request of the President of the United States that all congregations dedicate that day to prayer for the welfare of the United States. Due to inclement weather on New Year's day the sermon was delivered in both the Saude and Jerico churches later in the month.

MRS. HENRY ELLINGSON

"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in His temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them

unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes."

These words were the subject of the funeral sermon at the burial of Mrs. Henry Ellingson on January 7th, 1942. She had lived a good life. Her service in the Saude Lutheran Ladies' Aid had been especially noteworthy. Her kindness and generosity in her community was well known to all. She died confessing her sin and professing faith in Jesus Christ her Savior.



Mrs. Henry Ellingson

Obituary

Written by Alf O. Vaala

Anna has gone to rest, that rest she so fervently prayed for, and is now safe harbored in the arms of Jesus.

"Safe on His gentle breast,
There by His love o'ershadowed
Sweetly her soul shall rest."

The subject of this sketch, Mrs. Henry Ellingson, nee Anna O. Vaala, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Vaala, now deceased, was born near Saude, June 2, 1879. After several weeks' illness she passed away at the Mercy Hospital in Cresco, Iowa, January 4, 1942.

She has lived in this community practically all her life. She was a faithful member of the Saude Synod Lutheran Church, the church in which she was baptized, confirmed, and married.

November 10, 1910, she was united in marriage to Henry Ellingson. No children were born to this union. However, their whole life was wrapped up in the interest of others. They became especially attached to Alvie Natvig who made his home with them from childhood to manhood. It has been said that she who takes to her heart her own children may be a very ordinary mother, but she who takes to her heart the children of others is truly one of God's mothers.

She leaves to mourn her departure her devoted husband, Henry Ellingson, one brother, Alf, and seven sisters who kept constant vigil at her bed-

side during her long illness. They are: Mrs. Caroline Vigdal, Mrs. J. P. Landsverk, Mrs. Olena Natvig, Mrs. Mary Natvig, Mrs. Henry Borlaug, Mrs. Nels Ellingson, and Mrs. George Anderson. Two brothers have preceded her in death, namely, John and Theodore Vaala.

Gone from our midst, we shall sadly miss her, but we are comforted in the thought that she is now in the heavenly home with our dear ones, who have gone before.

MRS. JOHN O. KNUTSON

The Jerico and Saude communities were shocked on January 30th by the tragic death of Mrs. John O. Knutson at a railroad crossing in New Hampton. Driving the car, of which Mrs. Knutson was the only other occupant, was Leo Haugstad who also died instantly.

The thoughts of her Pastor turned immediately to the words of Romans 8:28: "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God."

"We know": there is no doubt in the minds of Christians concerning God's wisdom and love. All His acts are prompted by His love for sinners. And all His acts are wise. Nothing is accidental. Everything is determined by His love for us.

"All things work together for good." Yes, we believe that all things, even this tragedy, is determined by God's love and wisdom for a good purpose. Surely there is no doubt that death is a blessing for her who is now relieved of the griefs and labors of life, and is carried in angels' arms to everlasting blessedness in heaven.

It may be more difficult to understand how her death can be a blessing to her husband and children, but even that will be revealed to us. God promises that all things work together for good to them that love Him. As surely as God is our Father He will help, strengthen, and bless the believing family which He has now so sorely afflicted.



Mrs. John O. Knutson

Obituary

Mrs. John O. Knutson, baptized Alice Janet, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bauer Vigdal, was born February 11th, 1895, in Jacksonville Township, Iowa. She was baptized by Rev. Karl Xavier, and confirmed by Rev. J. G. Rugland. She was married on February 11th, 1919, to John O. Knutson at the home of her parents.

She died on January 30th, 1942, at the age of 46 years, 11 months, and 19 days. Mourning her departure are her husband, John O. Knutson, five children, Orvin, Edna, Juel, Karsten, and Laura, her mother, Mrs. Caroline Vigdal, one brother, Carl Oscar Vigdal, and one grandchild, Betty Ann Knutson.

She was laid to rest in the Jerico Lutheran Cemetery on February 1st, 1942. The eight brothers of her husband served as pallbearers.

Hildahl-Ellingson

On February 11th, 1942, at 7:30 P. M., Omer Ellingson and Mildred Hildahl were united in Holy Matrimony at the Nels Ellingson residence. The bridal couple was attended by Charles and Doris Ellingson. Gladys Hildahl was flower girl and Dennis Natvig ringbearer. The Ellingson home was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and a fine wedding dinner was served after the ceremony. The newlyweds will make their home at the Nels Ellingson residence in Howard County.

BAPTISMS

Gary Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Omar Roberson, born on December 28th, 1941, was baptized at the home of his parents in New Hampton on January 18, 1942. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Theo. O. Haugen and Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Roberson.

Jeannine Kay, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Culbert, born at Cresco, Iowa, on January 11, 1942, was baptized at the Saude Church on February 22, 1942. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Borlaug and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Behrens.

Your Pledge Cards

By now all of you have received your package of envelopes for church contributions. It is very important that you return your pledge cards. Please bring it to church next Sunday, or mail it to M. G. Boleng, Lawler, Iowa, of the Saude congregation, or to Harvey Roberson, Elma, Iowa, of the Jerico congregation. If you will comply promptly with this request you will save the trustees the trouble of driving to your home to call for your pledge card.