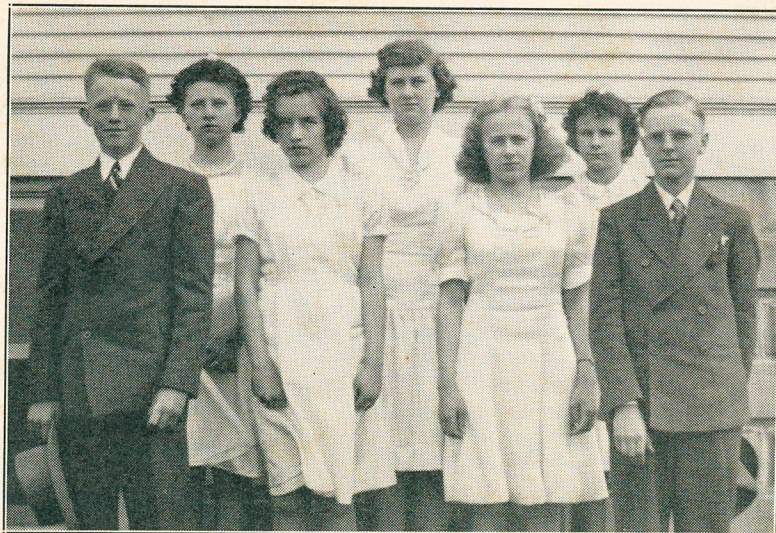


The Assistant Pastor

June, 1942



The 1942 Confirmation Class

Jerico, May 10, 1942

Sande, May 17, 1942

Left to right: Harold Borlaug, Adis Knutson, Elaine Douglas,
Colleen Knutson, Joan Roberson, Betty Knutson, Merle Aasen.

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.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Borlaug were honored on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, May 24th. Dinner was served to a large gathering of people at noon. In mid-afternoon all gathered again for lunch and for the purpose of extending good wishes to the bride and groom of twenty-five years ago. The pastor spoke briefly calling attention to the goodness of God from whom all blessings flow. The festivity of the occasion was heightened by the fact that this was the first time the new church basement at Saude was used for a gathering of this kind. It seemed most appropriate that Martin Borlaug, who has had so much to do with the construction, and his wife should be the first to be honored in a public gathering held there.

Mr. and Mrs. Ned Borlaug were similarly honored on the occasion of their 25th Wedding Anniversary on June 21st. The pastor spoke a few words appropriate to the occasion at the close of the morning service. Immediately after the service a dinner was served at their home.

Allan John, son of Mr. and Mrs. Odell Natvig, born on March 5, 1942, received Christian Baptism at the Saude Church on April 5th. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Omer Ellingson and Godfrey and Ora Natvig.

Marvin Gavle, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. Boleng, born on March 18, 1942, was baptized in the Saude

Church on Sunday, April 12th. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Swenumson and Mr. and Mrs. Ned Borlaug were sponsors.

Jerry Alan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vaala, was baptized on May 17, 1942, at the Saude Church. He was born on April 2nd. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Robinson and Mr. and Mrs. Orval Landsverk.

This is the last issue of the Assistant Pastor until September. If you have not made your contribution for the support of your parish paper, please bring your envelope to the next service. The books for this year's Assistant Pastor accounts will be closed on Monday, July 13th, so please make your contribution before that time.

The Jerico Ladies' Aid is sending packages containing treats in the line of home-made delicacies to the boys in the service. Letters from them have shown their appreciation of the kindness of the ladies at home.

The Saude Ladies' Aid has resolved to send a New Testament and a carrying case with name imprinted which will hold the service men's prayer book and Testament to each of the Saude boys in the service.

THE 1942 SYNOD MEETING

The 25th Annual Convention of the Norwegian Synod has just come to a close. This is to be your pastor's report to you of the highlights of the meeting. The convention was opened on Thursday, June 11th, at 10:30 A. M., with a service conducted by Rev. J. R. Runholt of Ulen, Minn. He based his discourse on the words of Scripture, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Twenty-five voting and five non-voting pastors and twenty delegates were present at the opening service. A few more pastors and delegates arrived later.

The president delivered his annual report and message at the beginning of the afternoon session. Points emphasized by him were as follows: 1) We have a marvelous privilege in the Means of Grace, Word and Sacraments; 2) In order to expand our mission activities we must not only have funds, but also candidates for the ministry; 3) The conditions of our times are a solemn warning to us. Let us guard against deceptions, and seek the shelter and protection that God's Word affords.

The president reported that during the past year one pastor, Rev. G. Guldberg, had been called to his eternal reward. He reported the application for membership made by two congregations, Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Sioux Falls, S. D., and Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church of New Hampton, Iowa. Both congregations were later received into membership. It was reported that Rev. S. A. Dorr of Story City and Forest City, Iowa, has accepted a call to Tracy, Minn.; that Rev. G. O. Lillegaard has been called by the Center, Scarville, and Forest City congregations; and that Rev. Nils Oesleby has been called to Sioux Falls, S. D. The congregations of pastors Lillegaard and Oesleby have not yet acted on the calls sent to their pastors. The president also reported official acts performed by him during the year, and the instal-

lations of pastors which have taken place. After the reading of the President's Message and Report, the Synod took up its routine business. Under the following headings you will find a summary of the most important matters that were discussed, and a few words about the most important resolutions that were passed.

Jubilee Thankoffering

The most important business matter discussed at the 1942 Convention was the Jubilee Thankoffering. At the Convention in 1943 the Synod is to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the Norwegian Synod, and the 25th anniversary of the re-organized Norwegian Synod. We have been wonderfully blessed in being permitted to retain the true Gospel while many others have lost it. And in due gratefulness the members of the Synod are contributing this year to a fund that is intended to pay our debt.

The Thankoffering Committee made its report to the Convention. It called attention to collections for the Thankoffering which are being made in many congregations by means of banks and envelopes, and recommended that, in addition to the use of banks or envelopes during the coming year, a supplementary plan be adopted by the Synod.

The Committee also announced the publication of a Jubilee Booklet which is to be distributed throughout the Synod. Many of our people have wondered how large the debt of the Synod is, and how it has been accumulated. The Jubilee Booklet is published with a view to answering those questions. It is a small illustrated pamphlet of 32 pages. It gives a summary of the accomplishments of the Synod during the last twenty-five years, with pictures of churches which have been helped by the treasuries of the Synod. It shows clearly that in view of our accomplishments our debt is not large. The total debt as of a year ago was \$76,875.03. The national debt amounts to many hundreds of dollars per person. The Synod's debt amounts to about twelve dollars per communicant.

The new Jubilee booklet calls attention to the fact that the present war emergency arose after our Jubilee Thankoffering was planned. Many persons may find it difficult to buy their quota of War Bonds and also contribute substantially to the Thankoffering. All those are invited to contribute a part of their War Bonds to the Thankoffering.

You will naturally ask, "How much should I contribute to the Thankoffering?" The Synod offers the following suggestion to you. It reminds you that the government has suggested that you buy War Bonds in the amount of one-tenth of one year's income, and asks if you would be willing to contribute two and one-half per cent of one year's income to the Thankoffering. In other words the suggestion is that if your quota of War Bonds is one hundred dollars, that you give twenty-five dollars to the Thankoffering. Or if your quota of War Bonds is four hundred dollars, then your contribution would be one hundred dollars. The Synod prefers, of course, contributions in cash, but the donation of War Bonds is also acceptable. The reason for this is that cash contributions can be applied on our debt now. War Bonds can be applied on the debt only after their maturity.

In order to make collections for the Thankoffering

as effective as possible the Synod is offering to the congregations the services of a solicitor to make personal calls at all homes in Synod congregations. The treasurer, Rev. Martin Galstad, has been asked to do this work. In order to prepare for the coming of the solicitor every pastor is requested to speak to his people about the needs of the Synod in connection with the Thankoffering, and to distribute the Jubilee booklet.

At the proper time, meetings of the Saude and Jerico congregations will be called to decide on the part that you are willing to take in doing your share in the Jubilee Thankoffering, and you will all receive a copy of the Jubilee booklet.

In the meantime please make an effort to contribute liberally and regularly to the Thankoffering by using the Jubilee envelopes in your package of envelopes.

Synod Finances

At the 1942 Convention the treasurer was able to report that contributions were substantially better than the previous year. A year ago contributions for all Synod purposes were \$16,082.92. This year they were \$19,942.73. That represents an increase of \$3,859.81. These figures do not include contributions for the Thankoffering.

The treasurer's report, as printed in the Lutheran Sentinel for May 27, 1942, also shows a marked increase in the contributions of the Saude and Jerico congregations. Last year, May 1, 1941, to April 30, 1942, the Saude congregation remitted \$1,079.29 to the Synod treasury, and the Jerico congregation remitted \$1,275.57. These figures include remittances for the Jubilee Thankoffering. Your contributions are most heartening indeed, and show your loyalty to the Synod and your devotion to the work of the Kingdom of God. But perhaps we should say that while most of you are doing well in your contributions, there still are some of you who only return a very few of your envelopes for Synod purposes, and some of you never return any. Each year you receive twelve envelopes for your use in giving so that the work of the church outside the home congregation can be done in a God-pleasing manner. No one tells you how much to give in each of the twelve envelopes. But this much we can say, that you ought to place *something* in each one of them. God has blessed all of you, and no one of you can say that you cannot afford to give something for His work once each month.

The Synod contemplates no new projects this year, since it is determined to employ its fullest energies in collecting for the Jubilee Thankoffering. However it does ask that you make an effort to contribute as much the coming year to regular Synod expenses as you did last year; it does not ask you to give more. It suggests that you apply what you can give in excess of last year's contributions to the Thankoffering.

Convention Devotions and Services

Each morning session of the Synod meeting was opened with a devotion stressing the Scriptural doctrine of the Church. A Pastoral Sermon, addressed principally to the pastors present, was conducted by Rev. Emil Hansen of Albert Lea, Minn. He based his discourse on 1 Cor. 4, 1-5, showing what St. Paul has to say about the minis-

ters of the Gospel. He called attention to two questions, "How is a pastor to be regarded?" and "What is required of a pastor?" In answer to the first question he showed on the basis of the text that a pastor is to be regarded as a servant of Christ, whose call is as divine as that of the Apostles. It is the pastor's duty to sow and water, and leave the rest to God. Ministers are stewards, not proprietors, of the means of grace; for the church cannot exist without the Word and Sacraments. In answer to the second question, he showed that it is required of a minister of the Gospel that he be faithful to God and to God's Word. The Gospel has the same power now as in the days of the Apostles. A pastor is responsible to God for the flock over which he has been placed; he is expected to perform faithfully the duties of his office.

The communion service at the convention was conducted by the Rev. A. Strand of Chicago, Ill.

A highlight of the convention was the Convention Sunday service at which Rev. A. M. Harstad of Madison, Wis., preached the festival sermon. Rev. Harstad based his sermon on 2 Cor. 1, 2 and employed the text to commemorate the 25th annual convention of the Norwegian Synod. He reminded his hearers that at the first convention, as now, the resources of the world were organized for killing. Then, as now, the Synod's resources were organized for the purpose of spreading the life-giving grace of God's Word. St. Paul, in the words of the text, rejoiced in the testimony of his conscience. And similarly, our rejoicing now at our twenty-fifth convention lies in the testimony of our conscience which tells us that we have done right before God in our striving for pure doctrine. Paul had been persecuted, but still he could rejoice. Paul says in the text that he had acted in simplicity, in uprightness. Our forefathers in the Norwegian Synod acted thus too. It was no pleasure for them to separate from brethren of long standing, but they could not say there was agreement when they knew there was none. They were unwilling to place side by side, as in Opgjør, doctrines as different as "yes" and "no." They formed a new Synod in uprightness and simplicity. Their acts were done in sincerity, and it was a godly sincerity. Paul the Pharisee, persecutor of the Christians, was sincere. But it was not a godly sincerity. Our spiritual forefathers did not use fleshly wisdom in making their decision to continue in the old paths. Other courses would have been more pleasant twenty-five years ago. It was not easy to leave friends, institutions, and even churches behind to follow the course they took. Paul took no personal credit for the course he followed. It was due solely to God's grace. And that is our attitude now. The members of the Norwegian Synod are not one whit better than any one else. We belong to the company of condemned sinners. We are not perfect; but by God's grace our doctrine is. We acknowledge the total depravity of man, and accept God's full grace as the sole basis of our salvation. Rev. Harstad concluded his sermon quoting the well-known verse, "God's word is our great heritage, and shall be ours forever."

The Norwegian Convention Service was conducted by Prof. C. A. Moldstad, of Mankato, Minn., and was based on Psalm 46, from which Luther received his inspiration for the hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God."

Miscellaneous

Later in the summer you will be able to purchase the printed and complete report of the 1942 convention. When you do so, do not fail to read and study carefully the two essays on the Inspiration of the Bible which were read by pastors T. N. Teigen and C. M. Gullerud. It is very popular in these days to minimize the importance of the word of God, and, as an opening wedge toward destroying the Word completely, denial is made of the verbal inspiration. It is said that men wrote the Bible, that they may have, and often did, make mistakes. But we well know that as soon as one passage in Scripture becomes doubtful, the rest of it becomes uncertain. Our strength lies in the fact that nothing in all Scripture is doubtful. We believe it all.

Considerable time was spent at the convention discussing our shortage of pastors. The only way that the situation can be remedied is by sending boys to school to study for the ministry. Do you have a son or relative that could serve his church as a pastor? Some attention was given to the thought of giving our Norwegian Synod boys one year of their Seminary training at Bethany College. The Board of Regents of Bethany College will be studying this matter.

The Army-Navy commission reports that 225 Norwegian Synod boys are now in the armed forces of the United States. Everything possible is being done to provide for the spiritual welfare of those young men. If one of those boys comes from your home, urge him to be careful lest he is harmed by the false preaching that is to be heard in many camp services. Urge him to find a chaplain or service pastor of the Missouri Synod. We have the same faith as this branch of the Lutheran Church, and it has a well organized system of camp services for our boys.

Rev. N. A. Madson of Princeton, Minn., is the new president of the Synod. Rev. Martin Galstad was reelected treasurer, and Rev. Geo. Lillegaard was reelected secretary.

Mr. Henry Ellingson of Saude and Mr. S. T. Roberson of Jerico each spent half a week at the convention as delegates. However, your pastor was disappointed that there was not a better delegation from his congregations. Each congregation is entitled to two delegates at the convention. It is their duty to take an active part in the deliberations of the convention, and to vote on the matters that are before the Synod for consideration. The remark is often heard that the Synod's financial affairs are not always well managed. Perhaps they would be better managed if more lay people were present to take their active part. When a church begins to be managed, in its business affairs, entirely by pastors, then difficulties are ahead. You, the members of the Synod, must do your share in managing its affairs.