

The Assistant Pastor

March, 1942

Our Honor Roll

- Sgt. Orlo Natvig,
Security Detachment, Air Corps Basic Flying School, Waco, Texas.
- Pvt. Nels J. Anderson,
Troop B, 113th Cav., Camp Bowie, Texas.
- Pvt. Kenneth A. Knutson,
Co. I, 184th Inf., A. P. O. 40, Los Angeles, Cal.
- Pvt. Palmer O. Anderson (37109267)
Hdqs. Co., 718 M. P. Bn., ~~S~~ Postmaster General, San Francisco, Cal.
- Pvt. Alorth Nelson,
65th C. A. (A. A.), El Segundo, Cal.
- Corp. Davis W. Natvig,
51st Bn. Hdqs., 11th Tng. Reg., Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Arkansas.
- Pvt. Maynard Douglas,
Hdqs. 3d Cavalry Brigade, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Pvt. Andrew Douglas
Service Battery, 210 F. A., Camp Forest, Tenn.
- Pvt. Jens Anderson
Detachment Med. Dept., Station Hosp., Annex,
Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyoming.
- Pvt. Robt. C. Anderson,
122nd Field Art., 3rd Platoon, Battery E, Camp Forest, Tenn.
- Pvt. Aden Anderson,
3rd Platoon, Co. D, 88th Inf. Tng. Bn., Camp Roberts, Cal.
- Pvt. Paul Landsverk,
Flight B, 562, Tech. School, Sqd. S, Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo.
- Alert Anderson, U. S. Navy,
U. S. Naval Training Station, Co. 126, Great Lakes, Ill.
- Pvt. A. C. Meyerhoff,
Battery A, 56th Field Art., Tng. Bn., Camp Roberts, Cal.
- Pvt. Rolf Tjernagel,
Headquarters Co., Ft. Des Moines, Iowa.
- Pvt. Vern A. Johnson,
Co. C, 32nd Armd. Div., Camp Polk, La.
- Donald Knutson, U. S. Navy,
~~Jefferson~~ Co. 208, U. S. Naval Tng. Sta., Great Lakes, Ill.

Nearest of kin to these men in service are requested to keep me informed of changes that may occur in the above addresses, and to notify me of any corrections that should be made in the above list. Please let me know the addresses of new boys who may enter the service as soon as their place of training has been established.

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 Orslevy, Pastor

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

WHO IS A CHURCH MEMBER?

Our Explanation answers the question thus: "All those are truly members of the church who truly believe in Jesus, and confess Him by word and deed." The Scriptures teach clearly that everyone, everywhere who believes and lives in accordance with his faith is a member of that spiritual body which we call the Church, and that no one, anywhere, who does not thus believe and live can claim membership in the church.

When we speak of the Saude and Jerico churches we have in mind the believers who live in these particular communities. Outwardly they become members through baptism or confirmation, or through being accepted as members of the congregations by vote of the congregations themselves. Actually they are members only in the true sense of the word if they are believers.

Your Pastor has a list of those persons who in one manner or another have become members. He has no list of those who really are members because of their faith. Only the Holy Ghost knows who they are.

But when your pastor looks at the membership list of the two congregations which he serves he becomes rather suspicious that there are some on his official list who are not of the Communion of Saints. What arouses those suspicions?

First, the church attendance at both churches. The regular Sunday services at Jerico so far this church year have averaged an attendance of 111 persons per service. In other words, the average attendance has been 28% of the membership. An average of 72% of the Jerico members have stayed at home every Sunday. The average attendance at Saude has been 64, or 40% of the membership. What do you think of those figures? They are not pretty, are they? What keeps you at home? Can't you get your Sunday morning chores done on time? Or did you get so little sleep on Saturday night that you have to make it up during Sunday services? Or do you stay at home because you have to make a company dinner on Sunday. Or is the real reason the fact that you are not interested, that you do not care to worship? Whatever the reason, can you blame your Pastor if he suspects that some of you who are listed as members are actually not members in the sense that the Holy Ghost speaks of Church members in the Third Article. If all the members of the Saude and Jerico congregations really were believers, it is difficult to see how so many of them can be absent from Sunday worship so regularly.

Secondly, your Pastor has reason to suspect that not all of you are truly believers because some of you never come to communion. Our explanation asks this question, and gives the following answer: "Do those who will not receive the Lord's Supper commit a sin? Yes. Those who will not receive the Lord's Supper, sin greatly against the Lord whom they slight, against themselves, and against the believers." Surely, if all our members were truly believers they would receive the Lord's Supper, and would receive it regularly.

You are not a member of the church just because you pay your church dues. There are some who do so, yet never come to church or communion. Your attendance at services and communion is the only worthwhile evidence of your faith, of your membership in the church. If you do neither, then your Pastor, after he has exhausted all possible efforts to get you to mend your ways, will have to recommend that your name be stricken from the membership list of your congregation. I hope that will not become necessary in any instance. I am sure that all of you value your church and what it gives you, and have merely become careless. It is not too late for you to resolve to become church members in truth, and not in name only.

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF SPONSORS?

Before we answer that question we should be sure that we know what Scripture requires as to baptism. Only two demands are made, first that "all nations," that is, everyone, be baptized, and second that water be applied in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. No other demands are made in the Bible.

However, certain customs have arisen in connection with baptism. One of these is that, whenever possible, the child is baptized in church. Then the custom has arisen among us that we apply water with our hands to the child's head. We might pour

the water on the child out of a pitcher. It would still be a proper baptism.

We have also adopted a certain order of service, a certain form that we use in baptism. It includes reading certain pertinent passages from Scripture, and certain prayers for the child that are in order at the occasion. It also includes a series of questions which are addressed to the child, and answered by the sponsors. In these questions the child, through its sponsor, renounces the devil, and all his works and all his ways, and confesses his faith in the Triune God. All of this which we do and say in connection with baptism is appropriate to the occasion, but we should remember that only the application of water in the name of the Trinity is actually commanded by Scripture.

A similar custom among us is that of sponsorship. It is a custom that is God-pleasing, without any doubt, but is not commanded by Scripture. In other words, a child could be baptized without sponsors.

We have no thought of giving up that custom. But we should be sure that we understand what it means to be a sponsor, and what a sponsor's duties are. Our Explanation asks, "Why do we have sponsors at the baptism of little children?" This is the answer given: "Sponsors should serve as witnesses that the child has been baptized in the name of the Triune God; they should, moreover, pray for the child, and, to the best of their ability, provide for its Christian training, if it becomes an orphan."

So much is clear. One question remains. Who should we choose as sponsors for our children? In answering these questions we must remember what the duties of sponsors are.

First, the sponsor is to be a witness that the child has been baptized in the name of the Triune God. It goes without saying that anyone could serve as a witness, even though he may not share our faith.

Second, the sponsor is to pray for the child. Now we know that a God-pleasing prayer can only be offered by a believer. So we must be very careful to choose our sponsors from among those who are, according to our best knowledge, true believers.

Third, the sponsor is to provide for the child's Christian training if it becomes an orphan. Certainly this can only be done by one who shares your faith. If you die you want your child to be taught by one who believes as you do. Therefore it is clear that you should choose as sponsor some one who is a member of your congregation, or who belongs to another congregation that teaches as yours does.

Much as we regret it there are Lutheran Synods and churches which teach doctrines that are contrary to Scripture. We have been obliged to separate ourselves from them, lest we fall into their errors. We have taken our stand with the Norwegian Synod, because we are convinced that it teaches God's Word in all its truth and purity. We want our children to learn the doctrines we believe in. Therefore we should not choose sponsors even from Lutheran churches, when their doctrine is not in

agreement with Scripture. Many of you have relatives in these other churches, but you should not let that sway you from doing what you know is right and best for your child.

However, if any of you should request that a member of one of these other churches "stand up" at baptism for your child, I shall accept such persons as witnesses, but not as sponsors. A different order of service for baptism will be used which does not include the charge to the sponsors. I can do this because Scripture does not demand that sponsors be employed. If you will think this matter through carefully, though, I am sure you will want your child to have sponsors, and not merely witnesses, and you will be able to choose such as have your faith.

The problem of sponsors arose greatly as a result of the divisions of the Lutheran church, the last one which took place in 1917. As you know, I have accepted sponsors who were members of other churches, but it has always troubled me, just as it troubled the Pastor who served you before me. The time has come when I feel I should discuss the matter with you. I am sure that every thinking person among you will agree with what I have said. I realize that it will not be easy for you to refrain from asking that persons from other churches serve as sponsors. But I am sure that you will realize that for your child's sake you ought not do so.

Private Communions

There are a number of persons in both congregations whose health no longer permits them to attend services and to receive communion with their fellow members before the Altars of our churches. Such persons the Pastor calls on without necessarily having been called in, as is the case in emergencies. But he does not feel that he should come and tell them that "you should receive communion today." Everyone should decide for himself when he desires to receive the Sacrament. Therefore I am taking this opportunity to request that when you wish to receive the Sacrament, please phone or write me, saying when it would be convenient for you that I called to administer private communion. Do not hesitate, thinking that you do not want to trouble me. I am always glad to come. I might say, too, that when I am out calling I almost invariably am prepared to give communion, if requested.

Circuit Meeting

The Saude congregation has invited the Iowa and Southern Minnesota Circuit to meet in its church on May 26th and 27th. The new basement is practically complete, and we shall be very happy to entertain guests from nearby congregations.

Lutheran Sentinel

The Saude and Jerico congregations, as you know, have subscribed for the Lutheran Sentinel for all their members. Just recently I corrected the mailing list and sent it to the business manager of the Sentinel. Every home in the congregation should receive their copies regularly. If you do not receive it, please let me know. It is so easy to make an error so that some one is omitted, or some subscription goes to the wrong address.

Duplicate Certificates

Many requests come to me for duplicate baptism certificates these days. If circumstances should arise so that you need one, please send your request to me by mail, stating the approximate date of birth, and the names of the parents. Often people meet me here or there and ask me to send a certificate, and it is so easy to forget those dates before I get home and can look it up. Therefore you would do me a favor by making such requests by mail.

Thank You!

Your Pastor wishes to acknowledge with thanks the increase in salary recently voted by both congregations. A thousand thanks also for the wholly unexpected promise to assist me in making payment for my new automobile.

Lenten Offering

The Lenten Offering envelopes are not being mailed to you with the Assistant Pastor this year. Each of you will find your envelope for this offering in your package of envelopes. If you have not returned this envelope yet, please do so at your very earliest convenience.

Correction

Through a slip-up which occurred somewhere, Edwin Foss was not credited as he should have been for his contribution of five dollars for current expenses for the Jerico congregation, as reported in the January Assistant Pastor.

"JUDGE RUTHERFORD IS DEAD"

It will, no doubt, be quite a shock to the two million admirers of "Judge" Rutherford, the leader of the sect know as the "Jehovah Witnesses" to hear that the man who proclaimed, "Millions now living shall never die," himself died at the age of 72 years. For many years he was the acting head of the shameless, fanatical, brazen sect, assuming the title of "Theocrat." He was the sworn enemy of organized Christianity which he named an "unholy alliance against the common people" and a "racket of the devil."

Little is known of Rutherford's earlier life. He was a former Missouri lawyer of no repute, was once elected or appointed a Justice of the Peace in some small town in Missouri whereupon he assumed the title of "Judge." He started his public career in 1896 as a campaign speaker for William Jennings Byran. Suddenly he attached himself to Charles Taze Russell, the organizer of the "Jehovah Witnesses," when Russell was badly in need of a lawyer. With Russell he believed and preached there is no hell, no eternal punishment, and the millennium with Christ's return to the earth to rule here for a thousand years.

Like Russell, Rutherford knew much about mob psychology. He knew how to impress and persuade the people, especially those who belong to the class of disgruntled, fanatics, emotional, and of generally low intelligence. Among them he reaped his harvest and gained his comparatively large following. His bait, of course, was the Scriptures or his mis-

interpretation of them. He claimed a following of more than two million in 36 countries. And, he had some ability to write, ever holding out the prospects to his dupes that they would reign with Christ at His coming to reign on earth. He pictured that fantastic condition as one wholly pleasant to the flesh and the natural desire of men which accounts for the fanatical zeal of the "Jehovah Witnesses."

His dupes supported him well. None ever knew what financial advantages he enjoyed, since no books were kept to show the figures. His claim that he sold his books below cost and that he received no financial assistance from his people evidently did not agree with the facts. He bought and paid for a palatial home near San Diego, Calif., and called it Beth-Sabin. He paid \$75,000.00 for it and it cost him quite a bit of money to rebuild it to suit his taste. Here, at this estate, he died, and his death was reported on January 11. It was his wish that his followers bury him quietly in a crypt on this estate, but the laws of the state frustrated this intention.

So passed out of this life to face the eternal and righteous Judge a man who led millions (if we can rely on this figure) astray from the truth of the Scriptures, a man who has many, many more lost soul on his conscience than he even admitted. He has met Him of whom he said, "He is not the eternal son of God, but a **creature** made a little higher than the angels but not equal with God and whom God elevated to Godship because of His obedience." Who will take over the leadership relinquished by this arch enemy of God is not known, but we can rest assured that they will find a leader, one even stronger, perhaps, than this man. The devil is not asleep at the switch.

Let us once more at this time sound a warning to all to have nothing to do with this sect that shamelessly and brazenly goes from house to house and carries on its nefarious work of deceiving the people. Let us cling mightily to the Word and these people will have no power over us. W. J. S.

(From Northwestern Lutheran.)

