

# The Assistant Pastor

*September, 1942*

## War Hysteria

War hysteria can become an ugly thing. In the last war it reared its head in the form of excesses of which we are now ashamed. One of the manifestations of war hysteria with which we are now being confronted again is the evil philosophy that we must hate our enemy in warfare in order to be able to fight him effectively. This false theory is being given rather wide publicity, and just as an example I quote from the newspaper column, "Over the Coffee," written by Harlan Miller, which appears in the Des Moines Register. Harlan Miller's words follow: "I see by the papers that Admiral Ghormley, our fightingest Admiral in the Pacific, really hates the Japs. . . . Another warrior who hates the enemy is General Campbell, who told an arsenal full of workers a few days ago, 'You've got to get hate in your hearts to hasten the return of peace' . . . We're not going to win this war as quickly as we might unless we . . . throw off the comfortable old American taboo against hating anyone. . . . Most of us have been taught not to hate. . . . For the duration we must forget the fat and plushy tolerance toward our enemies we learned too well in the safe old days. . . . Alas, we have forgotten how to hate. . . . If we hate them (the enemy), I am sure we will be forgiven. Especially if it shortens the war a couple of years."

In the first place, we deny Mr. Miller's contention that we will win the war sooner if we hate the enemy. Read the stories of the Royal Air Force pilots. They are not fired within by hatred. They have work to do, a duty to perform, and they do it the best way they know how. Ask the boys in the last world war if their hearts were filled with hatred toward the enemy at which they had to point their guns. Self-preservation was their first instinct in the field, and very few of them would fire on the enemy whom they could safely take a prisoner.

If we can fight our battles now without hatred for our enemies we will be likely to bring about a peace that will not just represent a victory, but rather a desire to live at peace with other nations on earth. If our warfare is inspired by hatred, then our peace will be certain to be one which will only breed new wars in the future.

In the second place, Christians will not forget Christ's words regarding hatred. "Whoso hateth his brother is a murderer." "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you: That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven." In other words, hatred is sinful. It is the anti-type of Christianity. Hatred is the essence of the character of Satan, while Love is the essence of Christ's and the Christian's character.



If we must use hatred as a weapon in the present war, then we shall have descended to the level of our enemies, and the war will not be worth winning. We shall have lost, before the war's end, the very thing we are fighting for, namely freedom, decency, and the hope of a lasting peace to come. If we must sacrifice Christian principles while we are fighting this war, we might as well surrender now.

However, our contention is that a Christian can fight effectively without hatred, and if we desire to restore sanity to a world gone mad with lust, then we must preserve our Christianity now at whatever cost.

On February 27, 1942, a 22-year-old Dutch boy met his death before a German firing squad in Holland. Before his death he wrote a letter to his father which was printed in the February Reader's Digest. We quote a few words of that letter: "I have been able to pray much, and have the firm conviction that I may look forward to a death in Christ. . . . God knows that our cause was a just one. . . . I have confessed all my sins to Him and have become very quiet. . . . Therefore do not mourn, but trust in God and pray for strength. . . . Thank God that we may have the certainty of His grace. . . . We are courageous. Be the same. They can only take our bodies. Our souls are in God's hands. That should be sufficient consolation. Have no hate. I die without hatred. God rules everything."

We leave it to you to judge between the philosophy of Columnist Harlan Miller and that of the Dutch boy executed, innocent of crime, in Holland. You will recognize instantly which is Christian and which is heathen.

## ITEM TWO

Throughout the history of our church we have held steadfast to the Scriptural principle that we will not pray or worship together with those who do not teach God's word in its truth and purity. We can and do live in a friendly and cooperative spirit with those of other faiths; but we will not worship with them. The Bible is very explicit on this point. Rom. 16:17: "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." 1 Tim. 6:3-5: "If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . from such withdraw thyself."

We have also adhered to the Scriptural principle of a separation of Church and State. Scripture is clear on this point also. Matt. 22:21: "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things which are God's."

Because of our long adherence to these religious principles, we were very much grieved to read in the county newspapers that a public affair in New Hampton had been opened by prayer offered by a Roman Catholic priest, and closed by prayer offered by a Lutheran minister. There can be no objection to the ceremony itself; that was praiseworthy in every way. A group of civic organizations in New Hampton has erected an Honor Roll of the Service Men in Chickasaw county. The master of ceremonies was a State Senator, and

the principle speaker was an attorney. There was community singing, and patriotic numbers rendered by the New Hampton High School Band. All that was commendable, and perfectly proper. We object only to the fact that a religious element was improperly injected into a public ceremony, and we are especially saddened to know that a Lutheran minister appeared on the same platform as a Roman Catholic priest.

We are grateful for the constitutional provisions which keep Church and State separate in our country. Let us keep them separate. And let us continue to keep our religion separate from those who teach otherwise than Scripture teaches.

## BAPTISMS

**Thelma Ruth**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Dahlen, born June 24, 1942, received Christian baptism at the Jerico Church on July 19. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Boleng were sponsors.

**Marvin Dean**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Njus, born on July 5, 1942, received Christian baptism in the Jerico Church on August 2. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Swenson and Mr. and Mrs. Severt Knutson were sponsors.

**Marvin Dale**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvie Iverson, born on July 4, 1942, was baptized in the Jerico Church on August 2. Mr. and Mrs. T. O. Knutson and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson were sponsors.

**Donald Lee Attleson**, recently adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Attleson, was baptized on August 9, 1942. He was born July 17, 1935.

**Larry Clifford**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Benz, was born on July 28, 1942, and baptized in the Saude Church on September 6. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Chris Treider and Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Natvig.

**The Fall Circuit Meeting** will be held at the Saude Church on October 6th and 7th. Sessions will open at 10:00 o'clock the first day, and 9:00 o'clock the second day. The noon meal will be served by the Saude Ladies' Aid on both days. Rev. Martin Galstad, of Northwood, Iowa, will read an essay on the subject, "The Power of God in the Means of Grace." Rev. H. Ingebritson, of Lake Mills, Iowa, will read an essay on the subject, "The Christian as a Missionary."

Very often it is impossible for you to attend our very edifying Circuit Meetings because of the distance. But this year the members of Saude and Jerico congregations will have the meeting right at home. So set those two days aside for your attendance. You will not only enjoy the meeting, our people always say they do that, you will also profit by it. Do not stay away just because you may not have been chosen as a delegate. Come anyway. Everyone is welcome.

**The furnace installation** has been completed in the Jerico Church. Sunday, August 30, was set aside by the Trustees of the Congregation for an offering to pay the cost of the installation. Everyone was highly pleased with the results, since \$363.00 was contributed that day. When those who were not present that day, and were unable to bring



their contribution then have made their remittances to the respective district Trustees, the full amount that the furnace cost should be at hand. The Ladies' Aid added much to the general festivity of the day by the fine dinner they served immediately after the service. Receipts for the dinner amounted to \$56.00 which is being set aside for the purpose of giving the interior of the church a thorough cleaning.

**You have received receipts** acknowledging your contributions for the first half of the year 1942. These were mailed to members of the Saude Congregation by its treasurer, M. G. Boleng, and to the Jerico contributors by Harvey Roberson, financial secretary. If you find an error on your receipt, please call it to the attention of the one of these men who may be concerned. They have the envelopes used on file, and it is an easy matter to check up on any suspected errors. Nothing is easier than making errors in recording figures, and these men will be glad to cooperate in correcting errors that they may have made.

**Rev. and Mrs. Oesleby**, formerly of New Hampton, are now comfortably situated in their new home and field of labors. Since their departure, your pastor has held evening services for Redeemer congregation in the Legion Hall in New Hampton. Representatives of the Home Mission Board, which has sponsored the work in New Hampton, met with the congregation in August in order to arrange to have the vacancy left by Rev. Oesleby filled. Since no Candidate of Theology was available for a call, it was resolved to secure the services of a Theological Student from Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Missouri. Since these students are not authorized to do pastoral work on their own responsibility, your pastor was called to be pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Congregation, with the understanding that the student who is secured will work under his supervision.

We miss Rev. Oesleby a great deal. He was always willing and ready to make calls at the hospital in New Hampton on members of Saude and Jerico Congregations. He was always willing to assist at Communion Services, and to substitute for your pastor where it was necessary. But above all was the feeling of security your pastor had when away, knowing that any sudden emergencies and sick calls would find a ready response in Rev. Oesleby.

However, we hope that the vacancy in New Hampton will be filled soon, and that the work so promisingly begun there may continue to have God's blessing.

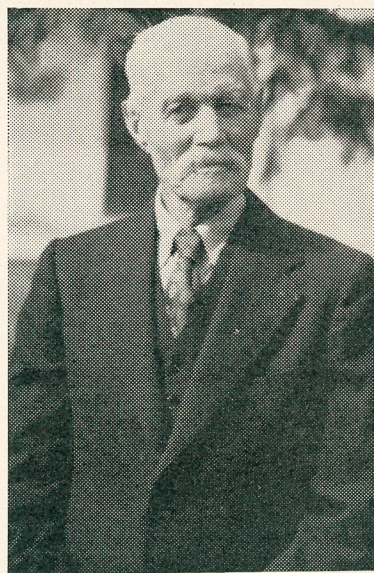
**The Assistant Pastor** makes its first appearance this month for the year 1942-43. As you know, it is no longer supported by advertising, and is dependent upon your support for its continuing existence. Last year receipts for the Assistant Pastor totalled \$113.25. This income was principally from contributions made by you in the envelopes sent out a year ago. Part of the income also came from remittances made to pay the extra cost of printing pictures of deceased members of the congregation. These cuts have usually been paid for by the families concerned. The total expense of publishing the Assistant Pastor, including printing, postage, and cuts, was \$176.69. Accordingly, the re-

mittances fell short by \$65.44 of meeting the expense of publishing your parish paper. This difference was paid out of the general funds of both congregations. From the above figures you will see that it costs about one dollar per family to send the Assistant Pastor to you. We enclose your envelope for this year, and hope you will continue your support of your parish paper. You may drop your envelope in the collection plate any time that is convenient for you.

## JOHANNES LEIFSEN

### Obituary

Johannes Leifsen was born at Calmar, Iowa, on September 28, 1854. He was one of six children of Leif Leifsen and his wife Ragnhild. The family moved to this community in Chickasaw County, when the deceased was a child. Except for a short period when he lived in North Dakota, Mr. Leifsen has made his home in this community. He was baptized and confirmed by the Rev. U. V. Koren, walking to the parsonage at Washington Prairie for his confirmation instruction. He was a communicant member and a faithful and loyal supporter of Saude Lutheran Church his entire lifetime.



*Johannes Leifsen*

He was married to Tone Christensen at the Rollef Elefsen home on September 8, 1887, by the Rev. John Moses. To this union were born four children, of which one son died in infancy, and a son Theodore, died in 1917 at the age of 23 years. Six years after their marriage Mrs. Leifsen departed from this life, on December 3, 1893, leaving her husband with the responsibility of bringing up his three small children.

He died at his home in Chickasaw County where he had resided for 55 years, after an illness of only a few weeks' duration. He had been active and interested in the welfare of his family, his grandchildren, and his church until the last. Death came on August 3, 1942. He had reached the age of 87 years, 10 months, and 6 days.

He is survived by his daughter Rachel (Mrs. Ole Anderson), and Hannah (Mrs. Otto Hansen), and nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild,



## 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.

all of this community. Also by nieces and nephews residing outside this community.

Burial was at Saude Lutheran Cemetery on August 6, 1942.

We cannot refrain from adding a word of appreciation to the bare facts of the above obituary. The Saude congregation owes Mr. Leifsen a debt of gratitude for his long service to the church. In his own pious and humble way he supported his congregation and his Synod not only by his regular contributions, but also by his great interest and concern for their welfare. He was a fine example to his fellow church members in his regular attendance at worship, and in his concern for the spiritual welfare of others. We pray that the Lord will continue to give Saude Lutheran Church such outstanding Christian members as Johannes Leifsen.

### MEMORIAL WREATHS

To Home Missions: \$5.00 from Lars, Carrie and Gregor Vaala; Mr. and Mrs. Alva Knutson and Nels; Vina Leifson; \$2.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Fred Steensland and Mrs. Muns Munson; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ellefson and Carrie; \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Enus Ferkingstad; Mr. Andrew N. Anderson; Mr. and Mrs. Theo. G. Vaala and family; Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Anderson and family; Mrs. Otto Hanson; Mr. and Mrs. Tollef Knutson and Hazel; Mrs. Mary Attleson and Henry; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reinhart; Mr. and Mrs. Rollef Hagen; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson; Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Knutson; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred N. Anderson; Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly; 50c from Oscar and Emma Borlaug.

To Hans Bleken: \$2.00 from Mrs. Mae Fossen and Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Vigdahl and family.

To Army and Navy Fund: \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Alvie T. Johnson and family; Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Anderson; Mr. and Mrs. Ned Borlaug and family.

To Synod Fund: \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Walter Grosrer and Private 1st Class Palmer Anderson.

To Bethany College: \$5.00 from Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Anderson and family.

To Church Extension: \$2.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Swenumson and family; \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Mark Robinson; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Boleng and family.

To Deaf Mute Institute: \$1.00 from Mrs. Caroline Vigdahl; Mr. and Mrs. Olaf Knutson and Lavonne; Mr. and Mrs. Sever Fossen and family; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Anderson, Calvin and David.

To Church Extension: \$2.00 from Dr. and Mrs. G. L. Smith and Corp. Nels J. Anderson.

To American Red Cross: \$1.00 from Parent-Teacher's Assoc., Jacksonville School No. 1.

Total \$54.50

## OLE JOHNSON Obituary

Ole Johnson, one of twelve children of Ole Johnson Teigen and his wife Kari Knutson, was born on the 10th of September, 1891, in Howard County, Iowa. He was a lifetime member of Jerico Lutheran Church, and resided in Howard and Chickasaw counties his entire lifetime. He served in the armed forces of the United States from April 27, 1918, to May 8, 1919.

Death came to him at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in New Hampton, Iowa, on August 22, 1942,



Ole Johnson

after a brief illness. He had attained the age of 50 years, 11 months, and 12 days. He is survived by three brothers, Sjur, of New Hampton, and Alfred and John of Utica Township, with whom he had lived since his father's death. Burial was at Jerico Lutheran Cemetery on August 31, 1942.

### MEMORIAL WREATHS

To Home Missions: \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Johnson and Mrs. Anna Johnson; Mr. and Mrs. Halvor Ronnie and family; J. N. Anderson family; Mr. and Mrs. Alvie T. Johnson; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Paulson and family; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Amman; Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Gilbert; Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Gilbert; Pearl Natvig; Andrew N. Anderson; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Knutson and family; Mr. and Mrs. Nels Halvorsen and family; Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Anderson; Mrs. Mary Attleson; Mrs. Robt. Knutson and Edwin; Mr. and Mrs. Jens Anderson and family; Mr. and Mrs. Thom Thompson; Mrs. Clara Borlaug, Harold and Anna Sylvia, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Swehla and Charles.

To Army-Navy Fund: \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Alfred N. Anderson; Mr. and Mrs. Severt Johnson; Mr. and Mrs. Ole Ellingson and family; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Johnson and family; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred T. Johnson and family; John Johnson; Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Johnson and family; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Clynch; Mr. and Mrs. Alvie J. Johnson and family; Mr. and Mrs. Carl G. Johnson and family.

To Deaf Mute Institute: \$1.00 from Carl Ellingson; Elling Ellingson; Bessie Ellingson.

To Church Extension: \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Mark Robinson; Mr. and Mrs. O. N. Ferkenstad and Clifford.

To Synod Fund: \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Anderson and family; Mr. and Mrs. Alert Johnson and family.

To Lutheran Hour: \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. John S. Roberson.

To Hans Bleken: \$1.00 from Mr. and Mrs. John C. Johnson.

To Bethany College: \$1.00 from Knudt Roberson.  
Total, \$37.50.