

The Assistant Pastor

December, 1943

The Prince of Peace

"The happy Christmas comes once more." Yes, happy are we who see at Bethlehem more than merely the birth of an infant child. We see there the Prince of Heaven, the Son of God, descending from His heavenly mansions to put on the feeble frame of a new-born babe to dwell among us. "He shall be called the Prince of Peace," the mighty prophet Isaiah foretold. The Prince of Heaven becomes the King of Glory, for by His victory over sin, death, and the devil He triumphs over evil, making us, His children, the heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. There was peace in heaven, but havoc and destruction on earth. Now the Prince of Peace comes to us to make peace between man who sinned, and God who cursed sinful man. Now there is peace on earth, and a good will radiates from God's heavenly throne toward men on earth. By becoming like unto us and dwelling on earth among us, He has made us like unto Him. Through His poverty we have become rich. By His suffering we are made righteous.

God give you all the Christmas joy that comes from the knowledge that we now possess the peace that "passeth all understanding," the peace that has restored us unto life in the heavenly kingdom. God give our boys who are absent from home in the service of their country the faith to know that despite war and bloodshed there is "peace on earth."

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
R. E. Wiechmann, Assistant

SAUDE CONGREGATION

Trustees: Carl Miller, John Natvig, Martin Borlaug.
Treasurer: Milton Boleng.
Secretary: Fred Steensland.
Cemetery Committee: Oscar Natvig, Henry Borlaug, N. S. Tjernagel.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Arthur Anderson, president; Mrs. Omer Ellingson, secretary; Miss Adelia Natvig, treasurer.

JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: J. N. Anderson, Tom Roberson, C. O. Vigdal.
Secretary: Alfred N. Anderson.
Treasurer: Jeff A. Knutson.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Gilman Robinson, president; Mrs. J. C. Johnson, secretary; Mrs. C. Cutsrorth, treasurer.
Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Carl A. Knutson, Mrs. M. A. Robinson, Mrs. C. O. Vigdal.

CHURCH DEDICATION:

Sunday, November 28, 1943, has become an important milestone in the history of Redeemer Lutheran Congregation, New Hampton, for on that day the congregation was privileged to dedicate a new place of worship.

Redeemer congregation was organized during the ministry of Rev. Nils Oesleby on November 30, 1941. Mission work had been begun in New Hampton on September 8, 1940, when Rev. Oesleby was called and ordained by the Home Mission Board of the Norwegian Synod. The ordination took place in the Legion Hall, which was used as a place of worship from that time until the dedication of the new place of worship.

From the beginning the work in New Hampton has had both the moral and financial support of the Home Mission Board of the Synod. Now, when an opportunity was offered to secure a more suitable place to hold services, the pastor of Redeemer congregation consulted with the Church Extension Board of the Synod, asking its advice as to whether it would be advisable to purchase the residence property that was available. A representative of the board came to New Hampton to inspect the property, and approved it, urging the congregation to make the purchase, promising the fullest support of the Church Extension Fund.

Immediately upon receiving this advice, the congregation acted to purchase the property. \$100 available in the treasury was applied on the purchase. \$400 was borrowed from the Church Extension Fund. The balance, \$1,800, was borrowed on a first mortgage at 4 per cent interest. Part of the house has been rented out a rental that will approximately cover the interest payment and expense on the property.

During the coming year the members of the con-

gregation will make the greatest possible effort in making contributions to reduce the amount of the mortgage.

Some time during the year 1944 the pastor will also solicit contributions from members of the Saude and Jerico congregations for the assistance of Redeemer's congregation's building fund. Redeemer congregation is, in every sense of the word, Saude and Jerico's daughter congregation, and will, I am sure, give it the same support a parent might give its daughter. Such solicitations have not been made now, because the pastor did not wish to interfere with solicitations for the "Second Jubilee Drive." That members of the Saude and Jerico congregations will receive kindly the request that they assist this daughter congregation has already been shown by the fact that \$220, entirely unsolicited, has already been contributed by four donors, all members of the Jerico congregation.

When Redeemer congregation is mentioned, we often hear the remark, "there are so few." But Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Because of this new mission congregation, many have been enabled to hear the word regularly where they were unable to do so before. As pastor of that little group, I can say it has been a blessed work. We pray that God will continue to bless this little flock. That God's blessing does rest upon it is shown by the fact that He has now enabled us to secure our own chapel where we may worship Him in surroundings more edifying than we have had in the temporary place of worship that has served the congregation during the past three years.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Christmas Service at Saude will be on Christmas Day at 11 A. M. The Jerico Christmas service will be on Sunday, December 26, at 10:30 A. M. The New Hampton service will be on Christmas Day at 10 A. M.

The Christmas Programs will be at Saude at 8 P. M. on December 22, and at Jerico on December 23 at 8 P. M. The Saude program will be given jointly by the Saturday School children, the confirmants, and Saude Lutheran School. The Jerico program is given by the children of the Saturday School and the girls of the confirmation class. An interesting feature of the Jerico program will be the use, as an introduction to the program, of the Common Service, or the second order of service that is given in the hymnary. The altar service will be performed by Mr. Wiechmann, with the children giving the responses of the congregation. We have had a special purpose in mind in using this order of service on this occasion. In recent years a number of our people have moved away from our home community and have joined congregations of sister synods. There they find this order of service in use. We are using it now so that if you should ever attend services in such congregations, you will not find the order of service entirely unfamiliar.

The Norwegian Synod congregations are using the order of service used in the Saude and Jerico churches. It has been our accepted order since 1899. The common service, however, is now being used by almost all other Lutheran bodies. Therefore we shall be wise in becoming at least somewhat familiar with it.

On Tuesday, December 21, the trustee in your district will call on you to give you your package of envelopes for the coming year. You will then have an opportunity to make your pledge for the support of your church during 1944. You will also have the opportunity to complete your contribution for the support of your church during the year 1943 if you have not already done so. The trustees will have at hand the amount of your contribution in the year 1943 that you have made so far, according to the treasurer's records. We hope that you will make it a point to be at home when the trustees call.

The Annual Meetings of the congregations will be held as follows: Saude the third Wednesday of January, Jerico the third Friday, New Hampton the first Monday.

Three Letters addressed to the congregations by officials of the Synod follow. Matters presented in these letters are to be discussed at the annual voters' meetings.

TO THE PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS OF THE NORWEGIAN SYNOD:

The Bethany Board of Regents, meeting Sept. 28, 1943, resolved to send an informative letter to the pastors and congregations of our Synod as to the progress being made to carry out the resolution of our Synod regarding the establishment of our own theological seminary.

The resolution passed at the Synod meeting in 1943 reads as follows: "The Synod authorizes the Board of Regents to establish our own theological seminary as soon as possible."

In compliance with this, the Board of Regents on July 12 resolved to establish a full theological department at Bethany and to make preparations to begin said course in the fall of 1944. A committee was elected to consider the course of study and other matters in connection therewith.

This committee reported to the Board Sept. 28. The Board acted favorably on the proposals, but wishes at this time to present them to you for your information. Since the Synod has asked the Board of Regents to establish a seminary as soon as possible the Board desires to have the whole hearted support of all the pastors and congregations in the proposed program. Our people have for some time felt the need of having our own seminary and this need has become more apparent as the years passed.

It has been proposed to have a set three-year's course and no electives. As many of the classes as possible shall be combined. It was agreed that it would be well to have the first year students come at the opening of Bethany College for orientation in certain proposed studies and that the second and third year students come two or three weeks later.

A full college course is to be required for entrance. In order that this may be possible, our Bethany graduates should attend Northwestern College for their A. B. degree for two years and then come back to our Seminary for three years theology. This would place our men on a par with any and all other candidates of theology.

It was also agreed that, for the present, students deficient in languages might attend the seminary at Springfield.

The annual charge for theological students should not exceed \$175 in order that those with limited means might not be hindered in taking up the study of theology.

It was found necessary to have two theological professors. This together with a possible cost of housing the theological students apart from the others would cost approximately \$4,500. But owing to the reduction of Synod's debt and the saving of interest charges our total budget would remain about the same.

Since it would be too late to wait until the Synod meets to elect the professors, and since the Synod has left the establishing and beginning of the seminary in the hands of the Board of Regents it is suggested that the pastors together with the congregations nominate two candidates for the professorships, and that the list of nominations be published in Tidende and Sentinel before the Board makes the selections.

For the Committee:

C. A. MOLDSTAD,

Bethany College, Mankato, Minn.

October 14, 1943.

Grace and Peace!

On October 14, 1943, a committee, appointed by the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College, sent a letter in regard to the proposed theological seminary to all pastors and congregations of the Norwegian Synod. This letter set forth the instructions given the Board by the Synod conventions of 1942 and 1943.

These resolutions read as follows:

"The Synod authorizes its Board of Regents to make the necessary adjustments at our Bethany College, to the end that our seminary students may be given their last year's training in our own school. If possible, this work is to be begun this fall (1942)." (Report of 1942, page 58, paragraph 9.)

The 1943 resolution reads: "The Synod authorizes the Board of Regents to establish our own theological seminary as soon as possible." (Report of 1943, page 74, paragraph 3.)

By these resolutions, the Synod has given the Board of Regents a definite mandate and the full authority to carry out the same.

As a result of the Synod's resolutions much time and thought and planning have been devoted to the subject the past two years, and finally on July 12, 1943, the decision was reached to begin a seminary in September, 1944. The letter of October 14 was intended to give you full information regarding the board's plans, to seek your advice and approval, as well as your whole-hearted support and full confidence. The proposed seminary is a large and important undertaking; it needs and must have the cooperation of every member of our Synod.

Must we have our own seminary?

1. If we are to continue to exist as a Synod, we must have our own seminary. If we are, as a Synod, to fulfill our God-given mission, we must have a seminary of our own.
2. We owe a debt of gratitude to our sister synods of Missouri and Wisconsin for their kindness and generosity in accepting our students and educating our pastors. We can best repay this debt by adding another seminary to stand side by side with the older seminaries and thus adding strength to the Synodical Conference.
3. The Synods united in the Synodical Conference are **one** in doctrine, though there may be differences in methods. We of the Norwegian Synod have certain requirements which our sister synods do not have.

Our first letter has been considered by smaller groups, as well as by pastoral conferences. Some congregations have already begun studying the subject; but we have been advised to send out this second letter, so that all may be fully informed and have an opportunity to take part in the planning. Hence we come to you with the request that you will please consider the plan at your congregational meeting and write us your opinion regarding the following questions:

- a. Shall we begin the seminary course in September, 1944?

- b. Or, is it wiser to wait till September, 1945, in order to gain time for the calling of professors, for their preparation, for providing quarters, arranging details, and a general consideration of the whole matter at the Synod of 1944?

The Synod has decided to establish the seminary. Time of opening and detailed plans were made the duty of the Board of Regents.

Please send your advice before January 25, 1944, to the Board of Regents, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota.

May God's blessing rest upon our Synod and the proposed seminary, and may all that we do be done faithfully unto His glory.

Mankato, November 25, 1943.

NORMAN A. MADSON,
President, The Norwegian Synod.

The Board of Regents:
By JOHN A. MOLDSTAD.

To the Synod Congregations

Very likely, you have read the report of the Lay Delegates' meeting, held on June 2, 1943, as it appears at page 75 of the report of the 26th regular convention of our Synod, that the undersigned was elected to write to the several congregations about the matter of equalizing the costs of transportation of the lay delegates attending Synod.

You understand and appreciate the vital need and importance that each and every one of our congregations be represented by at least one delegate at the annual meetings of Synod.

The Lay Delegates considered this problem at the meeting above referred to, and so, to enable such of our congregations — whose membership is small — to send at least one delegate, it was resolved that the delegates attending Synod present to their respective congregations the need of sending contributions to make up a fund, so that the costs of transportation of the lay delegates may be equalized and thus make possible to have a 100% lay delegate attendance at Synod.

It was suggested that the sum of ten cents (10c) per communicant member for each delegate of your congregation be contributed and sent to Synod with your delegate.

To comply with Synod's instructions, we are writing this as a reminder that so an important matter may not be overlooked, but to be considered and acted upon by your congregation at its annual members' meeting.

Cordially yours,

JOHN C. EICH.