

The Assistant Pastor

February, 1943

Communion Services

Jerico: March 7, 10:30 A. M.

New Hampton: March 7, 8 P. M.

Saude: March 14, 11 A. M.

Communion Prayer

Gracious Lord Jesus Christ, in divine love hast Thou instituted for me Thy Sacred Supper, in which Thou offerest to me the very means by which Thou hast procured for me my salvation, Thy holy body, and Thy precious blood. In this way Thou assurest me of the reality of Thy death and its blessed fruits, the redemption of the world and the forgiveness of all our sins. I thank Thee with joyful heart for this pledge, testifying that sin and death have been overcome, and that for all men, and for me, too, the gates of heaven have opened wide, and that no man can shut them. As the hour is approaching when I am to be a guest at Thy Table, grant me Thy Spirit's guidance to be truly repentant. Make me fully aware of my personal unworthiness and my many transgressions. Lead me to rely altogether on Thy merits and to look forward with gratitude to receiving Thy heavenly gifts. Give me grace to dedicate my entire life anew to Thy service. Hear me for the sake of Thy bitter suffering and death. Amen.

(Lutheran Book of Prayer)

TO OUR MEN IN SERVICE

A Comfortless Philosophy

There is a manner of thinking, not new by any means, that has gained rather wide currency during these war times. We have heard it in stories coming from much bombed London, from Bataan and Corregidor, from Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands. It is that "if that bomb or bullet flying toward me has my name written on it I'm done for; if it hasn't I'm perfectly safe and what's the use to worry."

That is a philosophy that will do only for those who are not Christians, and for those who do not think carefully. It is an easy philosophy in which danger to body and soul is cast off with a shrug of the shoulder. It is a philosophy that ignores the presence of a God above us "in whom we live and move and have our being." It assumes that occurrences, great or small, that take place in life are purely accidental. But Christians in this world believe that there is a God who plans and manages the universe, and that no accidents happen. We believe that a wise and just and gracious God has His hand and will in the things that happen to us.

Christians are not forgetful of the fact that if your name is on that bomb or bullet it is there because God put it there. And if He has put your name there it is for one of two reasons. It may be because He has graciously determined to take you, a believer, to heaven, and to remove you from further suffering and adversity in this life. If your name was written on that exploding missile for that reason it is because He loved you, and your death becomes an act of love and grace on His part. An act of love because He is giving you a life that will be far better than that you live on earth; and an act of grace because He took your life at a time when you were prepared for the coming of His heavenly angels to take you from earth to heaven.

On the other hand, your name on that shell fragment may simply be an act of divine justice. It may be that you have rejected Him and His Gospel, and that He justly condemns you to death.

Every day of life that God gives us is a new day of grace and mercy, a new and added opportunity to prepare for the day when we must face eternity. What, then, should our preparation consist in? Only a few words are needed to answer that question. Christians prepare for their last day by learning from God's Word that they are sinners, and that Jesus Christ is their Savior from sin. From the Christian's knowledge of his sin arises the penitence in which he prays for forgiveness. From the Christian's knowledge of Christ comes, under the Holy Ghost's guidance, the faith in Jesus which brings us to salvation. Scripture is plain as to both facts; that we are sinners, and that faith in Jesus saves us. "There is none that doeth good, no, not one." "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

We know, to our grief, that many of you will be in serious danger before this war ends. When your hour of distress comes we hope you will not be shrugging your shoulders with the comfortless and useless philosophy of the world, but that you will pray. Pray, then, for the forgiveness of your sins, fully believing that Jesus, by His death has for-

given them. Pray, if you will, that God may spare your life, but let that prayer come out of a heart that earnestly desires more time to prepare for eternity. It may be that God, in His infinite mercy, will extend your life just so you may come to a better knowledge and a stronger faith in your Savior and Redeemer.

DOES PRAYER HELP?

In spite of the eminence attained by the shepherd-boy David who became King of a great nation we know that he was in trouble during his entire lifetime. How much he prayed is evident in the Psalms. That God answered his prayers is evident from his history.

But can prayer really help us? To ask that question is to ask whether God can help us, for are our prayers not directed to God? The Savior Himself has said, "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." But He has also said, "Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss." All our prayers must be offered with faith in the Savior, or there is no promise that they will be heard and granted.

Every prayer that is directed toward the welfare of our eternal souls, directly or indirectly, will be heard and granted. Not always when we wish, or even as we wish. But they will be answered. You pray God to save your life. Be sure that if the sparing of your life today will serve the Glory of God and your soul's welfare, that your life will be spared.

A valuable lesson in the power of prayer has recently been given us in the story of the rescue of Captain Rickenbacker and the men adrift with him in three small life-rafts. They prayed for food and a gull settled on the Captain's shoulders. They prayed for deliverance, and a plane sighted those three infinitesimal specks on the limitless Pacific. When asked to what they attributed the good fortune of their rescue they answered, "To the fact that we prayed, and God answered our prayers."

Yes, dear boy, God will hear you too when you pray in your hour of peril, anguish, and need.

DON'T WAIT!

Don't wait until the hour of danger before you seek communion in prayer and worship with your Lord. Your church, the Norwegian Synod, is co-operating with the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran church in bringing God's Word, and spiritual guidance to you during the time you are in training, as well as while you are in the combat zones. Use the prayer book which you have received, and use the daily devotional booklets which are mailed from time to time. If you are located where you can not attend services, then the leaflet "Loyalty" which contains a full order of service, will be most welcome.

If there is a chaplain of the Missouri Synod in your camp he will try to find you, but it will be much easier for you to find him. You can very readily find him by asking his whereabouts of the Post Chaplain where you may be stationed.

Your pastor has mailed you an identification card for use when you attend communion. This will show your Missouri Synod pastor or chaplain that you are of his denomination.

In many cases you will not find a Missouri Synod chaplain in your camp. In that case the booklet you have received showing the addresses of service pastors will help you. This book gives the names and addresses of pastors who are located near enough to the camps so the boys in training can attend their services. These men are called Key Pastors, and will give you the same help as a Chaplain.

Please let me know if you have failed to receive your communion card or any of the literature referred to above.

And remember that your church is doing its utmost for your spiritual welfare during the time you are in the service. It remains for you to make use of these services and helps. From the response we have received from you, we are sure you are.

"MUST I?"

The question is propounded by an inquirer, "Must a Christian go to church regularly?" That is begging the question. As well ask, "Must a living creature eat regularly?" The question may have been sincerely asked, but we wonder by what chain of reasoning one who wishes to be known as a Christian could possibly come to any other conclusion than that a Christian will attend church services regularly. Nor do we like the word "must" in the inquirer's sentence. It smacks of legalism and sounds as though one is looking for a "law" that would excuse us from being regular in our attendance. The Christian attitude toward worship is not one of *must* but one of *desire*. There is no law, no precept that compels the Christian to go to church regularly. His presence at divine worship is demanded by his new life; his faith in Christ compels him to "be about his Father's business"; his love for the Gospel, the word of reconciliation, like a mighty magnet, draws him to the place "where God's honor dwelleth" and where His wonders are proclaimed. With the Psalmist he confesses, "Lord, I have *loved* the habitation of thine house," and again, "I was *glad* when they said unto me: let us go into the house of the Lord." That is the attitude of a believing child of God. He loves that place where the Gospel is preached because that Gospel is the very element by which that new life is sustained. Take a fish out of its element—water—and it must die; take the Christian out of his element—the Gospel—and his new life, his faith must die.

We don't like the word "regularly" in the question. Broadly our answer would be, "Yes!" By this we do not mean that if a Christian would miss a Sunday at church he is damned. However, if a Christian is able to attend divine services and for no good reason fails to do so one is inclined to question his sincerity. We say again, is it necessary to encourage a normal, healthy, hungry individual to eat? The Christian simply will want to be there where the children of God are gathered to hear the Word of God. "He that is of God, heareth God's Word," said the Savior to the Jews of His days in the flesh. It is a self-evident thing as far as the Savior is concerned for a child of God to hear God's Word, that is, hear it gladly, always, as often as the opportunity presents itself, and that is *regularly*. There is no law driving or forcing him; it is the desire of the new man that draws us to the house of God.

The Lord did not institute public preaching for His sake or for the Word's sake but for us that through the preaching of the Word our inner life may be sustained, that the gift of the Holy Ghost may be renewed and increased in us to the strengthening in faith, to the growth in grace and knowledge and to the hope of everlasting life. Where is there a Christian who does not, with his whole heart, desire this? To neglect the public preaching may mean to turn our back on God and His proffered gifts and to despise the Word. To lose interest in the preaching of the Word of God usually begins gradually; few have suddenly quit hearing the preaching of the Word. Knowing this the Christian must ever be on the alert to catch the first symptoms of the deadly disease of neglect of the Word, or disinterest in preaching. If this is not checked in time it may lead to loss of faith and our eternal inheritance above.

W. J. S.

(From Northwestern Lutheran)

FOR THE RECORD

On looking over recent issues of the Assistant Pastor we find that a few of the official acts performed in past months have not yet been listed. We give them here to make the record complete.

Mary Jane Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Anderson, born on August 30, 1942, was baptized at the Jerico Church on September 30. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Anderson, and Omer and Anetta Robinson were sponsors.

Gary Lewis Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Art. Johnson, born October 19, 1942, was baptized at the home of his parents on December 3, 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Johnson, Mrs. R. Alvord, and Lelan Johnson were sponsors.

Lawrence Durwin Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Robinson, born October 19, 1942, was baptized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Foss on December 20, 1942. Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Knutson, and Mr. and Mrs. Ole J. Anderson were sponsors.

Iola Dahlen and Arnold Myren were married at the Jerico Church on September 11, 1942. Richard Myren and Bernice Dahlen were the attendants.

Leona Vaala and Stanley Nelson were married at the parsonage on New Year's day, 1943. They were attended by Orville Roberson and Doris Ellingson.

SYNOD CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions for Synodical purposes this year, as acknowledged in the last issue of the Assistant Pastor appear to be somewhat smaller than last year, but that is only because your contributions for the Jubilee Fund are not listed. They will be printed when the pledges have been paid.

According to the listing given, 14 members of the Saude congregation made no contributions for Synod purposes, and at Jerico the number was 74. That is too bad, although some of them may have made contributions for which they are not credited because they did not use the envelopes provided.

Your package of weekly envelopes contains one Synod envelope for each month. We hope you will use all of these envelopes, even though you may not desire to use the weekly envelopes for current

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, John Natvig, Martin Borlaug.
Treasurer: Milton Boleng.
Secretary: Fred Steensland.
Cemetery Committee: Oscar Natvig, Henry Borlaug, N. S. Tjernagel.
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Carlyle Natvig, president; Mrs. Nels Ellingson, Secretary; Mrs. Martin Borlaug, 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. Alvin Johnson, secretary; Mrs. Andrew J. Johnson, treasurer.
Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Carl A. Knutson, Mrs. M. A. Robinson, Mrs. C. O. Vigdal.

expenses, as some have done during the past year. Some of these envelopes are used at offerings on specified Sundays. The rest of them you may place on the collection plate on any Sunday during the month for which they are designated.

How much money does the Synod need to carry on its work? That question is very readily answered. The Synod needs the very modest amount of one penny a day from each confirmed person within its membership. This year and last the Synod has been making collections for the Jubilee Fund, a fund designed to pay the Synod's debt. That debt has accumulated because the members of the Synod, on an average, have contributed considerably less than a penny a day during the last twenty-five years.

In order to prevent the development of a new debt in future years your Pastor respectfully requests that you consider whether you could not manage to contribute at least the penny a day needed. If you will place thirty cents in each of your twelve Synod envelopes you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you, at least, have contributed the minimum required to carry out the Synod's important missionary program.

During the past year a number of persons placed a dollar in each of the twelve envelopes, some even did more. Perhaps the Lord has blessed you so that you can afford a dollar or more a month for the work of expanding His Kingdom on earth. Think it over. The more you give, the more you gain. Your gifts are the "treasures in heaven" of which the Scriptures speak in Matthew 6, 19—21.

Jubilee Thankoffering

Receipts in the Jubilee Thankoffering to date are as follows: Saude, \$3,820.02; Jerico, \$1,631.35.

Service Men's Addresses

All of you doubtless know that our offerings for the Army-Navy Fund are used to send devotional literature to all our men in service. They receive a monthly pamphlet which contains a full service,

including a sermon. Every six weeks they receive a booklet of daily devotions. They also receive the Lutheran Sentinel and the Assistant Pastor. Many of the boys have written to tell us how much they appreciate these periodicals. I am calling your attention to this here in order to remind you of the fact that these boys are frequently transferred, and that they will not receive this mail which is sent to them unless you, the parents or nearest of kin, keep your pastor informed of the changes of address. So please drop us a postcard whenever a service man in your family notifies you of a change of address.

ASSISTANT PASTOR

We wish herewith to acknowledge receipt of contributions for the support of the Assistant Pastor. As you know, we are no longer depending upon advertisers for support, but depend directly upon your contributions. If you have not made your contribution yet we hope you will find it possible to do so soon. The congregations have undertaken to pay any amount that is lacking at the end of the year. The past two years there have been deficits of about \$60.00 each year which has had to be made up in that manner. If all of you will cooperate you can make that subsidy unnecessary.

Saude

Arthur Anderson, 1.00; Ole N. Anderson, 2.00; M. G. Boleng, 50c; Mrs. Emma Borlaug, 1.00; Henry Borlaug, 1.00; Martin Borlaug, 1.00; Mrs. E. Ellingson, 1.00; Henry Ellingson, 1.00; Omer Ellingson, 1.00; Enus Ferkingstad, 1.00; Mrs. Hannah Hanson, 1.00; Ole Holta, 1.00; Mrs. Andrina Munson, 1.00; Larson Bros, 1.00; Carl Miller, 1.00; Geo. Miller, 2.00; C. O. Natvig, 50c; Carlyle Natvig, 50c; Carrie Natvig, 1.00; Geo. Natvig, 1.00; John Natvig, 1.00; Odell Natvig, 1.00; Ole Natvig, 1.00; Oscar Natvig, 1.00; Kenneth Natvig, 50c; Pearl Natvig, 50c; Pearl Paulson, 1.00; Fred Steensland, 1.00; Carl Swenumson, 1.00; Thos. Swenumson, 1.00; Chris Treider, 1.00; G. G. Vaala, 2.00; A. G. Vaala, 1.00; Theo. G. Vaala, 1.00; Leonard Bigalk, 1.00; no name, 50c. Total, \$36.00.

Jerico

Fred Amman, 1.00; Mrs. Martha Iverson, 1.00; Knute Roberson, 1.00; Severt Knutson, 1.00; Alfred N. Anderson, 1.00; Jens Anderson, 1.00; J. N. Anderson, 1.00; Albert Haugen, 1.00; Carl G. Johnson, 1.00; Ole J. Johnson, 1.00; Jeff A. Knutson, 1.00; Louis Meyerhoff, 1.00; Mrs. Ole Overboe, 30c; Gilman Robinson, 1.00; J. A. Robinson, 2.00; Thom Thompson, 1.00; Olaf Johnson, 1.00; Otto Dahlen, 50c; Louis Douglas, 50c; Selmar Aasen, 1.00; O. N. Ferkenstad, 1.00; Severt Fossen, 1.00; Carl A. Knutson, 1.00; Mrs. Robt. Knutson, 1.00; Mrs. Anna Olsen, 1.00; M. A. Robinson, 1.00; Alfred T. Johnson, 1.00; Henry O. Knutson, 1.00; J. C. Johnson, 1.00; Cletus Anderson, 1.00; Alvie Iverson, 1.00; K. C. Johnson, 1.00; Ole C. Johnson, 1.00; Norman Nelson, 1.00; L. S. Roberson, 1.00; Lloyd Roberson, 1.00; Alvie T. Johnson, 1.00; Mrs. Jack Johnson, 1.00; Sever O. Johnson, 1.00; Harvey Nelson, 2.00; Alfred A. Anderson, 1.00. Total, \$41.30.