

# The Assistant Pastor

*May, 1943*



Thomas Borlaug



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## **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.

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## **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 Elingson, 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. Tollef Knutson, president; Mrs. Alvin Johnson, secretary; Mrs. Andrew J. Johnson, treasurer.  
Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Carl A. Knutson, Mrs. M. A. Robinson, Mrs. C. O. Vigdal.

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## **CONFIRMATION, 1943**

### **Jerico, May 16**

Donna Roberson, Luella Knutson, Juel Knutson, Lowell Vigdal, Paul Johnson, Eldred Johnson, Lester Johnson.

### **Saude, May 23**

Ruth Anderson, Gayle Miller.

## **CONFIRMATION SERMON**

### **Ps. 31, 3.**

In Christ Jesus, dearly beloved confirmants.

By the grace of God, you, dear confirmants, have come into a precious possession, a priceless inheritance. This most valuable possession is your religion. God has given you this religion, this hope, through Jesus Christ your Savior. Let us think of your religion as a possession. That possession consists in knowledge, the knowledge that you have acquired through the religious instruction that you have received at home since your birth, and which has now been amplified in the instruction you have received out of God's Word during your confirmation instruction. That knowledge is something that is yours now. It belongs to you.

But in order better to understand the value and purpose of that knowledge, let us make a comparison. Let us compare this knowledge, this religion which you possess to a farm. Let us say that you own a farm. That is a worthy and valuable possession. But it is not like a basket of groceries that you can eat, or a suit of clothes that you can wear. No, your farm is valuable only in so far as it is a possession from which you can produce and earn the things that you need to eat and to wear. In other words your farm is like a chest of tools. Its value lies not in what it is, but in what you get out of it.

Let us say that you received on this day the title to a well improved and fertile farm. Suppose then that you were to sit back rejoicing over your possession, but should not use it. Very soon your

farm would become overrun with weeds, the buildings would decay and collapse for want of care, and soon your farm would be a disgrace to you, and an eye-sore for all who were to look upon it. For lack of cultivation, your farm would soon be valueless, and you would soon be a pauper.

Your religion is like that, dear friends. You have it now and it is of priceless value. But your religion is something that must be used in order to benefit you. Your religion is like a farm that must be cultivated, like a chest of tools whose value lies in the use to which they are put.

But let us be specific. What are the tools of our religion? They are three in number, God's Word, Baptism, and The Lord's Supper. These, as you have learned, are the Means of Grace, the means through which we receive the forgiveness of our sins and the salvation of our souls. Consider first the Word. Perhaps you will say "I know God's word, and I know how to be saved, namely through the merit of Jesus Christ, my Savior." But let me remind you of the devil. The Word of God which is now your possession is a beautiful green field. But Satan wants to destroy that field, so he plants weeds, that is sin, in it. If you will now cultivate your field you have God's promise that with His aid you will be able to keep those weeds, that sin, out. But if you do not cultivate this field of knowledge, your religion, then you have God's warning that the Devil will soon succeed in getting such an abundance of weeds started, that the fruit of your field will be choked out and finally destroyed. Your religion will then be destroyed, and your hope of salvation lost. God forbid that should happen. May he make you a constant reader and hearer of that Word which you have learned.

Consider your Baptism. Through it you were born again, you were made a new and holy person in Christ. You received in it a new life, and a new desire to do that which is pleasing to God. But you have also learned that in order to remain in the grace of your baptism you must daily shun sin, and cleave to Jesus as your only Savior from sin.

Consider the Lord's Supper. In it you receive the true body and blood of your Savior which was given and shed for you for the remission of your sins. By partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ you receive strength to believe that Jesus is your Savior, and that your sins are forgiven. But this precious gift, the Lord's Supper, is only of value to you in so far as you use it for the edification of your mind and soul.

Pray now, therefore, that you may use your religion for the salvation of your soul, and that it may not become valueless and a curse by disuse. Confess with the Psalmist; "Thou art my rock and my fortress". Pray now with the Psalmist, "For thy name's sake lead me, and guide me". As a farm is valueless without the sun and rain that God graciously sends down to earth, so the religion which is yours today will be valueless to you unless your Sanctifier leads and guides you. Satan is too powerful a foe for you to vanquish alone. But with God's help, you shall surely be able to use the religion, the knowledge He has given you for the salvation of your immortal soul. May God give you an earnest will and desire to serve Him. May He, your Rock and Fortress, lead you for Christ's sake. Amen.



## THOMAS BORLAUG

The deceased, Thomas Borlaug, son of Ole O. and Solvei Borlaug was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, on May 17, 1857. He was baptized into the Christian faith by the Rev. H. A. Preus, one of the early leaders, and for a long time president of the Norwegian Synod. The church in which the family held membership was at Norway Grove, Wisconsin.

When the child, Thomas, was three years old in 1860, he emigrated with his family to Vermillion, South Dakota, where his father staked out a claim and established a home. The family remained there for three years, then returned to Iowa, remaining in Calmar for one year, and then settling in the Little Turkey community, where it remained from the year 1865 to the present time. Only one of the children now remains, namely a sister of the deceased, Mrs. Ole Natvig.

Concerning the early history of the family we quote from the February, 1930, issue of the Assistant Pastor. "The Civil War had broken out (at about the time when the family moved to Vermillion) and there was unrest and disturbance in the air all over. The bloody Indian outbreaks at Spirit Lake, New Ulm, Willmar, and other places occurred. The new settlements in South Dakota were fearful of a like fate, but were at that time unmolested. The day came, however, a year or two later, when they, too, fled for their lives. The old covered wagon, sunbaked and rickety, was hurriedly loaded, the oxen hooked on, and the flight, at snail's pace, was on. Among the refugees was the Borlaug family. Some of those who fled from South Dakota at this time became the founders of the Crane Creek settlement while the Borlaug wagon rolled slowly on till it reached Calmar. Here it rested only a year. The oxen were again hooked on and in a day or two they reached the young settlement known as Little Turkey. About a mile and a half northwest from the hub of the settlement, the Prairie Schooner was anchored."

The deceased was confirmed into the Lutheran faith by the Rev. U. V. Koren, another great leader and president of the Norwegian Synod. He remained a member of Saude Lutheran Church until his death, and remained his entire lifetime on the soil which his family began to till in 1865, the year of the close of the Civil War.

He was married to Johanne Swenson in September 1885. Many of his friends in the community heard his oft repeated remark, "My children had a good mother." To this happy union were born ten children, of which two, Selva Gurina and an infant child preceded their father in death. Mrs. Borlaug entered into eternal rest on November 9, 1921.

His children who remain to mourn his passing are, Karl, Simon, Olis, Thomas, Anna, Hanna (Mrs. Norman Nelson), Sena, and Vilmar; also one sister, Mrs. Ole Natvig, and two grandchildren, Sigrid Johanna Nelson, and David Olis Borlaug. All reside in this community.

Though he had been somewhat infirm for some time because of his old age, his final illness was brief, and his death peaceful and serene. He passed

away on April 12, 1943, at the age of 85 years, 10 months, and 26 days.

Blessed be the memory of this Christian father!

## SERMON OUTLINE

### 1 Pet. 1, 3-5

This is an occasion for mourning, yet we who are Christians will make it an occasion to bless the "God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ".

We praise Him because "according to His abundant mercy" has given us a new birth through baptism, and a new life in His Word; "hath begotten us again to a lively hope." It is a "hope of an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." For you dear friends, as well as for him who has now departed this life.

This inheritance in heaven has been won and assured for us by "the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

We now, as well as our departed friend, are "kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Be comforted, dear children, by the fact that your father knew His Savior, and that the faith which he so faithfully and piously gave you by his example and by his fatherly instruction gave him the strength to die peacefully, and the comfort that only God can give to sinners.

## MEN IN SERVICE

Attached to this issue of the Assistant Pastor you will find a Communion Card. This card is made out and signed by your pastor, and will identify you wherever you are as a member in good standing of the Synodical Conference, the church conference that our Synod belongs to. When you present this to a Chaplain or pastor of our faith anywhere it will serve as a letter of introduction from your home church, and will make you eligible to receive communion wherever you may be worshipping. The pastor who communes you will record your communion attendance on the card.

We had previously requested that you return this card to your home pastor when it became filled. One of our men in service has already done that. Now I would like to ask that you return your old card even though it may not be full, as soon as you receive this one.

The reason for this request is that though you may be worshipping away from home, you still are members of your home congregation, and your communion attendance should properly be recorded in the records here at home. When I receive these cards I will be able to make the proper entries in the records of the congregations to which you belong.

The Jerico Ladies Aid is looking forward to the time when it can give the interior of the church a thorough cleaning, and has begun a Fund which is to serve that purpose. Mrs. Carl G. Johnson and Mrs. Olaf Knutson have been elected as a committee to be responsible for collections for the Fund. You will always find them at meetings of the Aid prepared to receive your contribution. If you are not a regular attendant at meetings we invite you to mail your contributions to either of the ladies mentioned. There is a total of \$112.45



in the fund now, of which \$36.60 has been collected this year.

**Annetta Kay**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orvin Knutson was baptized at the Jerico Church on April 4, 1943. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Severt Fossen, J. O. Knutson, and Edna Knutson. Her birthdate was Feb. 18, 1943.

**Lana Mae**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred N. Anderson, born on April 5, 1943 was baptized in the Jerico Church on May 2, 1943. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson and Geraldine and Ronald Anderson.

**Ronald Gene**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Omar Roberson, born on April 29, 1943, was baptized at Jerico on May 16, 1943. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Roberson, Norman Roberson, and Stella Knutson.

**Virgil Anderson** and **Edna Knutson** were united in holy matrimony at the Saude parsonage on May 12, 1943. The wedding couple were attended by Paul Ronnie and Eva Mae Vigdal. May God bless the bridal couple.

**The Assistant Pastor** gratefully acknowledges the following contributions: Mrs. Mae Fossen, \$1; J. P. Landsverk, \$1; S. T. Roberson, \$2; J. N. Anderson, \$1; John S. Roberson, \$1; Martin Dahlen, \$1; Tom Borlaug family, \$5; Oscar Natvig, \$1; Nels Ellingson, \$1; Henry Borlaug, \$1; Iver Natvig, \$1.

**The Saturday School** closed on May 22. It was a good year. The great majority of the children attended regularly, and learned their explanation lessons well. We began the use of a new series of pamphlets for the instruction of Bible History. The work of the children in their Bible History lessons was not as uniformly good as the work done in memorizing the Catechism and Explanation, but we hope that as the new method of instruction becomes more familiar the work will improve. The members of the three Explanation classes will receive grades for the work they did during the year. However no grades will be given to children who are behind in their lessons. Those who have lessons to make up may come to the Jerico Church on Saturday June 12 at 10 A. M. If it is more convenient, children may come to the parsonage. Please make an appointment by phone if you come to the parsonage.

The Bible History lessons used continue through the year, and we request that parents help their children to keep up with the weekly lessons through the summer.

**The Jubilee Thankoffering** of the Jerico congregation will be acknowledged in the next issue of the Assistant Pastor. If you are able to pay your unpaid pledges to treasurer Alfred N. Anderson in the near future, your contribution will be acknowledged then.

## JUBILEE CONTRIBUTIONS

### Saude Congregation

(To May 23, 1943)

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Mrs. Anna Anderson .....           | \$ 10.50 |
| Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Anderson ..... | 31.50    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Ole N. Anderson ..... | 38.40    |
| John Anderson .....                | 10.80    |
| Nels J. Anderson .....             | 20.00    |
| Oren Anderson .....                | 5.70     |

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Boleng .....               | 6.00     |
| Mrs. Clara Borlaug .....                      | 1.20     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Martin Borlaug .....             | 31.50    |
| Mrs. Emma Borlaug .....                       | 16.75    |
| Oscar Borlaug .....                           | 10.00    |
| Thos. Borlaug, Sr. ....                       | 7.00     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Henry Borlaug .....              | 28.00    |
| Alice Borlaug .....                           | 1.50     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Ned Borlaug .....                | 1.00     |
| Mrs. E. Ellingson & Johanna .....             | 4.40     |
| Henry Ellingson .....                         | 14.75    |
| Iver Ellingson .....                          | 10.00    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Nels Ellingson .....             | 31.75    |
| Eleanor Ellingson .....                       | 1.10     |
| Doris Ellingson .....                         | 1.30     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Omer Ellingson .....             | 6.75     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Enus Ferkingstad .....           | 40.00    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Rollef Hagen .....               | 10.80    |
| Mrs. Otto Hanson .....                        | 11.25    |
| Mrs. Hannah Hoffland and Fred .....           | 15.10    |
| Ole Holta .....                               | 200.00   |
| Halvor, Alfred and Isabelle Larson .....      | 38.12    |
| John Leifson .....                            | 500.00   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller .....                | 10.00    |
| Mr. and Mrs. George Miller .....              | 20.00    |
| Mrs. Andrina Munson .....                     | 50.00    |
| Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Natvig .....               | 21.00    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Natvig .....             | 11.50    |
| Carrie J. Natvig .....                        | 106.00   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Natvig .....                | 1,000.00 |
| Juel and Adelia Natvig .....                  | 51.00    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Iver Natvig .....                | 100.00   |
| Mr. and Mrs. John O. Natvig and Godfrey ..... | 54.40    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Ole Natvig .....                 | 200.00   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Odell Natvig .....               | 1.25     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Natvig .....               | 46.50    |
| Kenneth Natvig .....                          | 6.00     |
| Pearl Natvig .....                            | 15.00    |
| Pearl Paulson .....                           | 1.00     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Reinhart .....          | 6.00     |
| Mr. and Mrs. Fred Steensland .....            | 25.00    |
| J. Carl Swenumson .....                       | 20.00    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Swenumson and Beulah ..... | 96.50    |
| Rev. N. S. Tjernagel and Mrs. ....            | 104.00   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Treider .....             | 10.00    |
| Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Vaala .....                | 100.00   |
| Gregory Vaala .....                           | 25.00    |
| Carrie Vaala .....                            | 203.00   |
| G. G. Vaala .....                             | 503.00   |
| Lars G. Vaala .....                           | 103.00   |
| Mr. and Mrs. Theo. G. Vaala .....             | 100.00   |
| Mrs. Hannah Vaala and Gladys .....            | 15.00    |
| Orin Vaala .....                              | 10.00    |
| Mrs. John Vaala .....                         | .50      |
| Mrs. Caroline Vigdal .....                    | 8.50     |

\$4,117.82

Of the pledges made to Rev. Galstad, \$49.50 remains to be paid.

M. G. Boleng, Treas.