

# The Assistant Pastor

*November, 1943*

## Prayer

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O LORD OF HOSTS, STRETCH FORTH  
THINE ALMIGHTY ARM TO STRENGTHEN  
AND PROTECT THE FORCES OF OUR  
COUNTRY IN EVERY PERIL OF SEA, LAND,  
AND AIR. SUPPORT THEM IN THE DAY OF  
BATTLE, AND IN THEIR HOURS OF IN-  
ACTION KEEP THEM SAFE FROM MIS-  
CHANCE. ENDUE THEM EVER WITH  
LOYALTY AND COURAGE; AND GRANT  
THAT IN ALL THINGS THEY SERVE THEE  
WITHOUT REPROACH, THROUGH JESUS  
CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR. AMEN!

## 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. W. 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. Cutsforth, treasurer.  
Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Carl A. Knutson, Mrs. M. A. Robinson, Mrs. C. O. Vigdal.

The very year in which Mr. and Mrs. Hagen established their new home in this country they suffered the grief of the loss of a nine month old son, Halvor. Later they were to lay to rest two other sons, Gustav, who died at the age of four and a half years, and Alfred who died when he was five years old. In her old age a similar grief was to come to her as she saw a grandson, Alton Gene Anderson, taken from this life. The only other member of her family to immigrate to this country was her brother Lars, who died at Dawson, Minn., eight years ago. Mrs. Hagen is survived by her husband Rollef Hagen; by two daughters, Alice, Mrs. Henry Reinhart, and Gena, Mrs. Alfred N. Anderson. Also by three grandchildren, Geraldine, Ronald, and Lana Mae Anderson. She had been in ill health for many years preceding her death, during which time she was cared for by her daughter Alice. She held fast to her Lutheran faith throughout her whole life accepting the trials of this life with true Christian fortitude. She died peacefully on November 8, 1943, trusting for salvation in Jesus, her Savior. She had reached the age of eighty years, and four months. Burial was at Saude Lutheran cemetery on November 10.

## OBITUARY

Gunild G. Larson Skogen was born in Hitterdal, Telemarken, in Norway, on June 7, 1863. She was one of six children, having three brothers and two sisters. She was baptized and confirmed into the Lutheran faith at Hitterdal, Norway. On October 6, 1887, she was united in marriage to Rollef Hagen. They immigrated to America on May 28, 1888. Mr. and Mrs. Hagen settled at the Torsten Nerison



Mrs. Rollef Hagen

home near Saude, where they remained for a short time until they moved to Howard County, where they established a home on a site across the road from the present Hagen home.

## SECOND JUBILEE DRIVE

### (Jerico)

Selmar and Lloyd Aasen .....	\$37.50
Stella Knutson .....	5.00
Carl O. Knutson .....	5.00
Mrs. Jack Johnson .....	10.00
Ole J. Johnson, Paul and Calvin .....	25.00
O. N. Ferkenstad and family .....	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Amman .....	10.00
Otto Melver .....	2.00
John S. Roberson .....	10.00
Carl Roberson .....	5.00
Carl G. Johnson .....	8.00
John O. Johnson .....	5.00
John O. Knutson .....	5.00
J. A. Robinson and Milton .....	25.00
Alfred T. Johnson .....	5.00
Alvin J. Johnson .....	1.00
M. A. Robinson .....	5.00
H. O. Knutson .....	7.00
L. S. Roberson .....	20.00
Mrs. Ole Iverson .....	2.00
Lena M. Iverson .....	2.00
Kenneth Fossen .....	5.00
Severt Fossen .....	10.00
Knute Knutson .....	10.00
James Dahlen .....	5.00
John N. Anderson .....	15.00
Edwin Johnson .....	5.00
L. Meyerhoff .....	2.00
Knute Roberson .....	50.00
Andrew Anderson .....	15.00
J. A. Knutson .....	6.25
Arthur Cutsforth .....	5.00
Harvey Roberson .....	15.00
Tom Roberson .....	5.00
George Anderson .....	10.00
Tollef Knutson .....	10.00
Omar Roberson .....	10.00
Alfred N. Anderson .....	15.00
Sever O. Johnson .....	3.00

The above acknowledgment is herewith made of contributions made by members of the Jerico Congregation in the second Jubilee drive. We hope that every contributor in the Jerico congregation will make his contribution for this purpose. At a recent business meeting the congregations resolved to request the members of the congregation to bring their contributions to the pastor, thus saving the gasoline that would be required to make personal calls on you. We are confident that all will cooperate in this matter.

Acknowledgment of contributions in the Saude congregation will be made in a later issue of the Assistant Pastor.

### *PUBLIC SCHOOL RELIGION*

Recently a lady appeared in the public schools of Chickasaw County to introduce a "Rural Bible Crusade" sponsored by the Christian Business Men's Committee of Waterloo, Iowa. She distributed leaflets to the children with the request that they memorize the Bible passages given, and promised prizes to the children for their participation in the "Crusade."

Your pastor immediately warned the members of the Saude and Jerico congregations of this so-called "Crusade." We would like to amplify here the remarks that were made at the close of services as to this subject.

We warned of this because our church has steadfastly maintained that nothing but harm can come from introducing religion into a State school. In the first place it is one of the cardinal principles of the Constitution of the United States that Church and State are to remain separate, each holding to its own specific sphere. Teaching religion in public schools is a clear violation of the most important one of the "Four Freedoms." The pupils in the public schools are of many religious faiths, and no religious instruction can be given that will be acceptable to all. As soon as a child is compelled to study a religion that he does not profess, his religious freedom has been violated.

We warned against this "Crusade" in the second place, because its literature contains false doctrine. It is true the children are only asked to memorize the Scripture passages given, but they are grouped in such a way as to be completely misleading. Moreover the headings under which they are listed contain false statements.

It is stated that "Sin brought its curse upon man." That much is true. But then to prove that statement, Gen. 4:8 is quoted in which the murder of Abel is recorded. It is also true that Cain murdered his brother Abel, and that this crime was a consequence of sin. But the curse of sin is eternal condemnation, not, as this leaflet intimates, merely suffering on this earth. Mention of eternal punishment in Hell is scrupulously avoided in this literature.

The leaflet states that Jesus is able to save and keep all who are willing to come to Him! But in the Third Article we say, "I believe that I can not

of myself believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him." We can not even make ourselves "willing" to come to Him. We are given our faith by the Holy Ghost, and only He can make us willing to come to Christ. Further, we believe that Jesus is not merely "willing" to save us, but that He **has** suffered and died for the sins of the whole world. "He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." I John 2:2.

Let us remember that we shall have religious liberty only so long as we can keep Church and State separate. There will always be those who are indifferent as to religion but who feel that we ought to have **some** religion who will try to get religious instruction introduced into our public schools. It has taken a consecrated effort to keep Church and State separate. We must not relax our efforts. Nor must we relax our efforts in the direction of giving our children instruction in the true religion. Only persons of our own faith are qualified to give that instruction.

Let us safeguard our children, and protest this un-American "Rural Bible Crusade" by refusing to permit our children to participate in it.

**Mr. and Mrs. John S. Roberson** were the happy celebrants of a golden wedding anniversary at the Jerico Church on Sunday October 24th. Their wedding took place in the Jerico Church on October 20th in the year 1893. Pastor Wold officiated, and the following were the attendants at the wedding; L. S. Roberson, John T. Severson, Carrie Roberson (later Mrs. Erick Nystel), and Anna Thompson (later Mrs. Hans Foss). Fifty years have passed since that happy wedding date, and the Roberson's have seen many changes in the world. They have had their toil and burdens, but God has blessed them richly. And chief among those blessings are the five children whom they taught God's Word, and who now remain loyal members of their church. All the children were present at the anniversary, as well as all eleven grandchildren except one. The one absent was Kenneth Knutson, now serving in the United States Army. A son of the Roberson's, Severt, served in the first world war. A number of the granddaughters prepared and presented a pleasing program in honor of their grandparents. The pastor spoke a few words appropriate to the occasion, and presented a purse to the couple celebrating their anniversary, a gift from their many friends in the community.

**The Jerico Ladies Aid** held its annual business meeting on September 22, 1943. During the course of the year the following entertained: Mrs. Orval Landsverk, Mrs. Sever Fossen, Mrs. Tom Munson, Mrs. Olaf Knutson, Mrs. Olaf Roberson, Mrs. Henry Robinson, Mrs. Jeff O. Knutson, Mrs. George Anderson, Mrs. Carl A. Knutson, Mrs. Henry A. Knutson, Mrs. Mark Robinson, Mrs. Oscar Vigdal, Mrs. Louie Robinson, Mrs. Clarence Cutsforth, Mrs. Tollef Knutson, Mrs. Henry O. Knutson, Mrs. Tom Roberson, Mrs. Alfred Johnson, Mrs. Sever Roberson, Mrs. Fred Amman, Mrs. Albert Haugen, Mrs. Carl G. Johnson, and Mrs. Cletus Anderson. Mrs. Will Mettner made a

contribution to the Aid in lieu of entertaining.

The total receipts for the year were \$199.24. Of this amount \$98.55 was contributed to charities, as follows: \$73.80 to the New Hampton Mission, \$14.75 to the Deaf Mute Institute, \$5.00 for a memorial wreath in memory of Mrs. Ole Overboe, and \$5.00 for the purchase of Red Cross kits.

The devotions for the year consisted of the reading and discussion of a portion of Old Testament Bible History.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Mrs. Gilman Robinson, President; Mrs. Clarence Cutsforth, Treasurer; Mrs. J. C. Johnson, Secretary.

**The High School Class** which your pastor has conducted in New Hampton has proved to be a great success. Twenty-three pupils are enrolled, and meetings have been held every Wednesday noon at the Library Basement. The pastors who are conducting these classes have been given specific directions as to the manner in which the classes are to be conducted, and grades given. We were told at the outset that the courses given were to be of a standard appropriate to the abilities of High School students. No intimation was given that this, because it was a course in religion, was to be an easy course. Following instructions given, your pastor is frank to confess that he has not given an easy course. Your children have had to work in order to get passing grades. But what pleases me so much is the fact that they have worked, and they have been doing well. I can assure the parents that these young students have been learning much.

In Saturday School and Confirmation instruction the emphasis was placed on memory work. In the course being given now the children are using the knowledge they already have to study the Bible directly. The emphasis now, rather than on memory work, has been on a study of Scripture itself. Our course is a study of the life of Christ as given in the four Gospels. The text book used has been a New Testament with explanatory foot-notes.

Nearly a full day is required of the pastor's time for giving this course. It takes nearly half a day to prepare for the class, and another half day to correct the weekly papers, in addition to the drive to New Hampton every Wednesday. But the results of this work are well worth the effort. And if those attending the class really are obliged to work diligently, they will realize that what they get out of the course will be measured by the amount of work they put into it.

**Christmas Contributions** for eradication of tuberculosis, and the relief of its victims has become a national custom. The method which has gained general acceptance is the sale of Christmas Seals, to be used on Christmas mail. Each County has an organization which distributes these seals, and receives the contributions made by people of all faiths.

We hope you will support your County campaign as before. But we wish also to remind you again of our own Lutheran Sanatorium at Wheatridge, Colorado. There is no finer, or better equipped Sanatorium of its kind anywhere. It is supported by our own Church body, the Synodical Conference, and welcomes all sufferers from tuberculosis. It is our own institution, and is supported by our

purchase of Christmas Seals. In former years booklets containing these seals were distributed. The past two years a new method of distribution has been found successful. Each family receives a sheet consisting of a hundred seals. It is suggested that you use those hundred seals on your Christmas mail, and that you use the envelope enclosed to make whatever contribution you may wish to make. These seals will be sent to you after Thanksgiving, and you may place your contribution in the collection plate, or mail it to your pastor.

**Christmas Greeting Cards** are another custom that has gained universal favor. Almost everyone sends such cards to their friends during the Christmas season. The publishing house from which we secure most of our church supplies offers a set of Christmas Cards to be sold exclusively by children. These cards are very attractive, and we have secured some of them. They will be sold by the children of the Saturday School and Saude Lutheran School. There is a small profit, and that profit will be added to our Christmas Charity. The children will be pleased to take this part in spreading the Christmas Gospel.

**Communion Services** will be held at the Jerico Church in the Norwegian language on December 5, and in the English language on December 19. There will be a Communion service in the Saude Church on Sunday December 12. Several members of the congregations have not communed previously this year. We hope they will take the opportunity here given.



Tech. Sgt. Orlo G. Natvig

Early in October Mr. and Mrs. Carl Natvig were informed that their son was missing in action, since September 27, 1943.

On Sunday October 10, the family united with the Saude Congregation in prayer for Orlo's safety. That prayer was answered, for soon after, the family was informed that their son was a prisoner of war in Germany. Since then a post card has arrived in Orlo's own handwriting, stating that he was entirely unharmed, and well. We thank God who has thus heard and answered our prayers.