

# The Assistant Pastor

*December, 1944*



From God in heaven, through the sacred pages of Holy Writ, the blessed Christmas message comes to us again. Peace is restored between God and sinners. Peace is ours through the gift of God's Son, Jesus our Savior. The heavens which opened to send forth an angel choir to sing this message to us will open again to receive all who accept the message and the Savior that it brings to us.



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## The Assistant Pastor

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## Church Directory

N. S. Tjernagel, Pastor

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Trustees: Carl Swenumson, John Natvig, Martin Borlaug.  
Treasurer: Milton Boleng.  
Secretary: Fred Steensland.  
Cemetery Committee: Oscar Natvig, Henry Borlaug, N. S. Tjernagel.  
Ladies' Aid: Miss Johanna Ellingson, president; Mrs. Tom Swenumson, secretary; Mrs. Ned Borlaug, treasurer.

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Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Carl A. Knutson, Mrs. M. A. Robinson, Mrs. C. O. Vigdal.

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## YOU AND YOUR BIBLE

Nearly two thousand years have passed since that Holy choir sang on earth. Yet we still have that message, we still have the happy Christmas story. Do we appreciate as we should the Book that keeps that story so true and fresh before us? Do we keep clear in our minds the fact that this precious story was written by the sacred writers under the guidance and inspiration of God Himself? Have you really acquainted yourself with this priceless volume?

### Priceless

Yes, the Bible is priceless, because of all the countless volumes that have been written since the beginning of time, this is the only one that has been given to us by God Himself. Think of it! The Bible is written by the same being who created the whole marvellous universe. The Supreme Being who has watched over the course of history since its very beginning has written a volume that contains history. What a history book that ought to be. He who established the laws of nature and put them in motion has caused to be written a book that contains scientific facts and statements. What a scientific treatise that should be. He who so lovingly created man in his own image, only to see him rebel and bring a curse upon himself, has written a book that tells man how he may be saved in spite of his sins. What a book of religion that ought to be. It is indeed a great book. As great as we should expect a book to be with so great an author as God Himself.

### Truthful

The Bible is truthful too; it contains nothing but perfect and flawless truth. We can depend on its truthfulness because it was written by an omniscient and all-knowing God. Yes, God knows everything; what was, what is, and what will be. The revelation of such an author should be perfectly truthful; and it is. When historians write a history book they are obliged to depend on what people in times past have written about the times in which they lived. They must depend upon the inferences they may make from ruins of past ages for the manner in

which people lived. But the inferences historians make are often wrong. The records of the past that they read are always colored by the particular writer's bias. Therefore history books must constantly be brought up to date by new researches and studies. Scientists are constantly studying the laws of nature in order to discover why things are as they are. But new discoveries and new research are constantly making new and revised textbooks in science necessary.

Men have sought through the ages for the answer as to how the universe came into being. They have reached many different conclusions. But all of them are wrong. The simple truth is to be found in the Bible. Men have studied the question of morals from the beginning of time. But they could have been spared their brain-ache, because the best system of morals, the best answer as to what is right and wrong is given in the Ten Commandments. Men have studied human nature in the science called psychology in order to learn why people act and behave as they do. They would have found a simple answer to the problem of human behavior in the Bible. What they have written, these scientists, moralists and psychologists, have been their own frequently erring opinions. In fact every book ever written which purported to give facts has had to be revised in order to keep abreast of new findings. None of these volumes will ever be perfect.

The Bible alone has stood unchanged through the centuries. And the simple reason has been that it was true from the beginning. A book that contains perfect truth never needs revision. Many revisions of the Bible have been made, but the outstanding thing about all of them has been the fact that they themselves have been in need of further revisions. None of them will ever be good revisions until they are revised back to the original form of the Bible.

### A Living Word

The Bible differs also from all other books in that it is a living book, its word a living word. Just as God, who gave us the Scriptures, is a living God, so the book of religion which He has given the world is a living and life-giving word. St. Paul speaks of the Gospel as a "power of God unto salvation". Jesus at the well of Sychar spoke to the Samaritan woman, saying, "Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst". The water that He referred to there was God's Holy word. That water, He said, "shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." It is as different from all other forms of the printed word as a live wire, charged with electricity, is different from a dead wire. The live wire has the power to run motors, to light lamps, and keep in motion the great wheels of modern industry. A dead wire is just a piece of wire. The dynamo or generator sends electric current invisibly through the wires that conduct it. The Bible is charged with life and power by the God who gave it to us. And, wonder of wonders, this marvellous volume is not merely something which we have read about, but something we may read. It is ours, and it is in the possession of all of us. Just think how curious and anxious you would be to have a chance to read the Bible if you had not seen or read it before and someone would tell you about it and about all its wonderful divine properties. It is as accessible to



us as water, and perhaps as little appreciated, and yet, we can scarcely live a week without water. No more can we live spiritually without the knowledge given us in the Scriptures.

### A Spiritual Word

It is a strange paradox that the Bible, though given by God to all men, is a sealed and closed book to many. That is because of the fact that unlike all other books it is a spiritual book. The Bible cannot be read as other books and grasped by the understanding. It requires the aid of the Holy Spirit to open our minds so that we receive what the Scriptures say. There is a blindness of the eyes. But there is also a blindness of the mind. Our understanding has been darkened, our minds have been made blind to the truths of Scripture by sin and Satan. In our natural unconverted state we are in such state that the Bible says of us, "The natural man receiveth not the things of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." We were dead in trespasses and sins. That is why we could not discern the truths of Scripture. But now, through the Holy Ghost working in us through Baptism and God's Word, we are made spiritually alive. Now we can read and grasp the sacred truths. That is why we should not treat the Bible as other books. We should approach it prayerfully, asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we read it. Only prayerful and devout reading can give to us the life and power that is ours in God's Word. The wisdom of the ages has failed to fathom the Bible; but little children may know the great message it contains. Would-be wise men who use their own intellects to try to judge as to the truthfulness and the value of the Bible find many things to criticize in it. They are like the young student of astronomy who thought he had found a new spot on the sun. His teacher showed him that it was only a speck on the lens of the telescope. So every criticism of the Bible is just another evidence of the weakness of the human mind which can not grasp the great things God has revealed to us. The Bible is open only to those who believe what God says. To them it is a well of eternal life. To them it is the world's greatest treasure.

### What Can Bible Reading Do for You?

It will make you better acquainted with Christ, for the Bible is the book about Christ. The better you know Christ, the closer you are to heaven. Christ is your Savior, the Son of God who was slain because you had sinned. The better you know Christ the more you will love Him, and the better Christian you will be.

The Bible is a guide to salvation and a rule of life. It shows, as no other book can, what God has done to save us. It shows, better than any other book, how we ought to live. The principal precepts of Scripture are humility toward God, and generosity toward our fellow men. Those two things are the secrets of a good life here and in eternity.

First and foremost the Bible shows you the way to salvation. But in the second place it makes you a better person. It makes you a better personality, a better citizen, a better parent, a better soldier or sailor; it makes you better in every respect.

If you have sinned it offers forgiveness. If you are in trouble it gives comfort. If you are weak it strengthens you.

### FOR MY DAILY DEVOTION

January 1	Luke 1	Psalm 1
January 2	Luke 2	Psalm 2
January 3	Luke 3	Psalm 3
January 4	Luke 4	Psalm 4
January 5	Luke 5	Psalm 5
January 6	Luke 6	Psalm 6
January 7	Luke 7	Psalm 7
January 8	Luke 8	Psalm 8
January 9	Luke 9	Psalm 9
January 10	Luke 10	Psalm 10
January 11	Luke 11	Psalm 11
January 12	Luke 12	Psalm 12
January 13	Luke 13	Psalm 13
January 14	Luke 14	Psalm 14
January 15	Luke 15	Psalm 15
January 16	Luke 16	Psalm 16
January 17	Luke 17	Psalm 17
January 18	Luke 18	Psalm 18 1-24
January 19	Luke 19	Psalm 18 24-50
January 20	Luke 20	Psalm 19
January 21	Luke 21	Psalm 20
January 22	Luke 22	Psalm 21
January 23	Luke 23	Psalm 22
January 24	Luke 24	Psalm 23
January 25	Romans 1	Psalm 24
January 26	Romans 2	Psalm 25
January 27	Romans 3	Psalm 26
January 28	Romans 4	Psalm 27
January 29	Romans 5	Psalm 28
January 30	Romans 6	Psalm 29
January 31	Romans 7	Psalm 30
February 1	Romans 8	Psalm 31
February 2	Romans 9	Psalm 32
February 3	Romans 10	Psalm 33
February 4	Romans 11	Psalm 34
February 5	Romans 12	Psalm 35
February 6	Romans 13	Psalm 36
February 7	Romans 14	Psalm 37
February 8	Romans 15	Psalm 38
February 9	Romans 16	Psalm 39
February 10	Acts 1	Psalm 40
February 11	Acts 2	Psalm 41
February 12	Acts 3	Psalm 42
February 13	Acts 4	Psalm 43
February 14	Acts 5	Psalm 44
February 15	Acts 6	Psalm 45
February 16	Acts 7	Psalm 46
February 17	Acts 8	Psalm 47
February 18	Acts 9	Psalm 48
February 19	Acts 10	Psalm 49
February 20	Acts 11	Psalm 50
February 21	Acts 12	Psalm 51
February 22	Acts 13	Psalm 52
February 23	Acts 14	Psalm 53
February 24	Acts 15	Psalm 54
February 25	Acts 16	Psalm 55
February 26	Acts 17	Psalm 56
February 27	Acts 18	Psalm 57
February 28	Acts 19	Psalm 58



March 1	Acts 20	Psalms 59
March 2	Acts 21	Psalms 60
March 3	Acts 22	Psalms 61
March 4	Acts 23	Psalms 62
March 5	Acts 24	Psalms 63
March 6	Acts 25	Psalms 64
March 7	Acts 25	Psalms 65
March 8	Acts 26	Psalms 66
March 9	Acts 27	Psalms 67
March 10	Acts 28	Psalms 68
March 11	I Corinthians 1	Psalms 69
March 12	I Corinthians 2	Psalms 70
March 13	I Corinthians 3	Psalms 71
March 14	I Corinthians 4	Psalms 72
March 15	I Corinthians 5	Psalms 73
March 16	I Corinthians 6	Psalms 74
March 17	I Corinthians 7	Psalms 75
March 18	I Corinthians 8	Psalms 76
March 19	I Corinthians 9	Psalms 77
March 20	I Corinthians 10	Psalms 78
March 21	I Corinthians 11	Psalms 79
March 22	I Corinthians 12	Psalms 80
March 23	I Corinthians 13	Psalms 81
March 24	I Corinthians 14	Psalms 82
March 25	I Corinthians 15	Psalms 83
March 26	I Corinthians 16	Psalms 84
March 27	Mark 1	Psalms 85
March 28	Mark 2	Psalms 86
March 29	Mark 3	Psalms 87
March 30	Mark 4	Psalms 88
March 31	Mark 5	Psalms 89 1-24
April 1	Mark 6	Psalms 89 25-52
April 2	Mark 7	Psalms 90
April 3	Mark 8	Psalms 91
April 4	Mark 9	Psalms 92
April 5	Mark 10	Psalms 93
April 6	Mark 11	Psalms 94
April 7	Mark 12	Psalms 95
April 8	Mark 13	Psalms 96
April 9	Mark 14	Psalms 97
April 10	Mark 15	Psalms 98
April 11	Mark 16	Psalms 99
April 12	II Corinthians 1	Psalms 100
April 13	II Corinthians 2	Psalms 101
April 14	II Corinthians 3	Psalms 102
April 15	II Corinthians 4	Psalms 103
April 16	II Corinthians 5	Psalms 104
April 17	II Corinthians 6	Psalms 105
April 18	II Corinthians 7	Psalms 106
April 19	II Corinthians 8	Psalms 107
April 20	II Corinthians 9	Psalms 108
April 21	II Corinthians 10	Psalms 109
April 22	II Corinthians 11	Psalms 110
April 23	II Corinthians 12	Psalms 111
April 24	II Corinthians 13	Psalms 112
April 25	Galatians 1	Psalms 113
April 26	Galatians 2	Psalms 114
April 27	Galatians 3	Psalms 115
April 28	Galatians 4	Psalms 116
April 29	Galatians 5	Psalms 117 1-8
April 30	Galatians 6	Psalms 117 9-16
April 31	Philemon 1	Psalms 117 17-24

**The Bible** still remains the number one best seller on the book markets of the world. The sad fact is that most Bibles are just furniture, an ornament to grace the library tables of homes that wish to have some evidence of Christianity. Considering the great value of the contents of the Bible we ought to pick them up to read in them as readily as we pick up the daily paper. Christians ought to be well acquainted with the contents of the Bible. In order to help you to be more regular users of your Bibles I am placing in this issue of the Assistant Pastor a suggested schedule of Bible readings for every day for the next four months. I suggest that you cut this list of texts out and use it as a book mark in your Bible. Many of our boys are away from home serving in the armed forces of the United States. May I suggest that when you write to your boy next time that you tell him that you are going to be reading these passages at home and suggest that he do so where he is? Thus you can feel that you are having your daily family devotional with him. It will be a great comfort for both you and him.

**The Golden Wedding** of Mr. and Mrs. George Miller was celebrated in the basement of the Saude Church on November 30. Over a hundred guests were present to celebrate the happy occasion. Mrs. Miller wore her wedding gown of fifty years ago, and the attendants at the wedding, Mrs. Charles Reilly of Rockford, Ill., and D. O. Natvig of Saude, were guests of honor. A bountiful dinner was served at noon, and the Bride and Groom were presented a purse in honor of the occasion.

**The Silver Wedding** of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Robinson was celebrated at the Jerico Church on December 10. Many friends and relatives were present to do Mr. and Mrs. Robinson honor. A sumptuous dinner was served at noon, after which a program was given. Mrs. O. N. Ferkenstad and Mrs. C. O. Vigdal sang the hymn, "The Lord Is My Shepherd". The pastor addressed a few words to the Bride and Groom based on the words, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path". Mr. Thomas Attleson sang a solo, "When My Hair Is Turned to Silver". A former neighbor, Mr. Albert Blietz of New Hampton, Iowa, spoke a few words regarding past association with Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, and the pastor recalled incidents in connection with the very stormy day on which the wedding had taken place twenty-five years before. A gift was presented to the celebrants in honor of the valued place they occupy in the esteem of their friends and neighbors.

**Our Christmas Tree** offerings have customarily been designated for Bethesda Home, the institution in which Hans Bleken has his home. This year will be no exception. But this year Bethesda Home is asking for a special offering, due to the fact that they must have a new building to accommodate the applicants that need the care that can be given them there. The home has sent us a bulletin describing the work being done in their institution, and telling of their extreme need for a new building. This will be sent to you together with an envelope for your offering. You have supported this cause well in the past, and I am sure you will gladly make a generous contribution now for this building fund campaign.