

The Assistant Pastor

March-April, 1944

"A Serviceman's Prayer"

*"Dear Saviour, I have left my home
And all whom I hold dear.
Guide Thou me with Thy loving hand
And be Thou ever near.*

*So let me live, from day to day,
In steadfast love of Thee,
That I may never grieve the hearts
That pray at home for me.*

*Keep me from every harm and sin,
That never I may roam
From Thy pure Word, which I have learned
In my dear Christian home.*

*Grant me success in all I do
If Thou wilt have it come;
But let me value more than this
My Christian faith and home."*

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

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. Cutsforth, treasurer.

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

ANNUAL MEETING

Saude Congregation

The Annual Meeting of the Saude Lutheran Congregation was held on Wednesday, January 19, 1944. The meeting was opened by devotion conducted by Rev. N. S. Tjernagel.

The following pastoral report was read and discussed:

Membership of the congregation, 173; Communicant membership, 142; Voting membership, 57.

Official acts: Baptisms, 4; Confirmed, 2; Marriages, 2; Burials, 4; Communed, 269; Number of services, 40; (this does not include special services).

Average attendance at services, 73. Average communion attendance for the year, 1.9.

The minutes of the last Annual Meeting and of special meetings held on Dec. 17, 1942, April 11, May 30, and Nov. 8, 1943, were read by the secretary and approved.

The financial report was read by the treasurer and accepted.

The Cemetery report was read by Oscar Natvig and accepted.

Resolved to elect a Financial secretary.

Resolved to create a Board of Elders and to elect them in the same manner as the trustees.

The following officers were elected:

Fred Steensland, Secretary.

Milton Boleng, Treasurer.

Melvin Hereid, Financial Secretary.

Carl Swenumson, Trustee for South District.

Chris Treider and Andrew Vaala, Auditors.

Harold Borlaug, Carmen Miller, Oren Anderson, Kenneth Natvig, Ushers.

The Cemetery Committee was re-elected as follows: Henry Borlaug, Oscar Natvig, N. S. Tjernagel.

Elders were elected as follows: Henry Borlaug,

3 years; Nels Ellingson, 2 years; Ole N. Anderson, 1 year.

Resolved to let the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College decide on the most opportune time for the opening of a Seminary for the Norwegian Synod.

Resolved to nominate Dr. S. C. Ylvisaker and the Rev. G. O. Lillegaard for the two professorships of the proposed new Seminary.

Resolved to authorize the pastor to announce an offering for the Assistant Pastor and the Christian Day School in September in case the same arrangement is made for the pastor's assistance and the school as prevailed this year.

Resolved to continue the pastor's present salary for the coming year.

Resolved to instruct the officers of the congregation to hold regular quarterly meetings on the first Monday in March, and on the first Monday in every third month following.

The matter of the congregation's responsibility as legatee in the matter of the Emma Munson Legacy was discussed at length. The matter was tabled and a decision postponed until a later meeting.

Resolved to take part in the plan for the equalization of the travelling expenses of delegates to the Synod meeting as suggested by the delegates attending the last Synod meeting.

Meeting adjourned and closed with prayer.

Fred Steensland, Sec.

ANNUAL MEETING

Jerico Congregation

The annual meeting of the Jerico Lutheran Congregation was held at the Jerico church basement on January 21, 1944.

The meeting opened with Scripture Reading and prayer conducted by the pastor.

The pastor read and commented on the following pastoral report:

Membership of the congregation, 413; Communicant membership, 319; Voting membership, 128.

Official acts: Baptisms, 6; Confirmed, 7; Marriages, 3; Burials, 1; Communed, 562; Number of services (not including special services), 46.

Average attendance at services, 116. Average communion attendance for the year, 1.75. This means that the average communicant received the Lord's supper less than twice during the year.

Resolved to elect a body of three Elders for the congregation, one to be elected from each district.

Resolved to instruct the officers of the congregation to hold regular quarterly meetings on the first Tuesday of March, and on the first Tuesday of every month thereafter.

Dr. S. C. Ylvisaker and Prof. C. A. Moldstad were nominated by the congregation for the two professorships of the proposed Theological Seminary of the Norwegian Synod.

Resolved to contribute the sum of \$31.90 (ten cents per communicant) requested by the delegates

attending the last Synod meeting for the equalization of the travelling expenses of delegates to the next Synod meeting.

The following officers were elected:

Alfred N. Anderson, Secretary.

Ole J. Johnson, Treasurer.

Alvie Ellingson, Financial Secretary.

Carl G. Johnson, Trustee for Dist. No. 2.

M. A. Robinson, School Com. for Dist. No. 2.

Ole Ellingson, Elder.

George N. Anderson, Elder.

L. S. Roberson, Elder.

Calvin Anderson and Clifford Ferkenstad, Ushers.

James Roberson and Cletus Anderson, Alternate Ushers.

Thom Thompson and J. A. Robinson, Sextons.

Meeting adjourned with benediction.

THE ELDERS OF THE CONGREGATION

One of the most important matters brought before the congregations at the annual meetings was the matter of Elders for the congregation. After the matter had been explained by the pastor, the congregations both decided to elect a Board of Elders. We would like to explain here more fully the purpose of such a Board, and say something about their duties.

We have a board of trustees as every incorporated body is required to have. These men are the legal representatives of the congregation in any legal matters that might arise. The congregation entrusts them with responsibility for the care and maintenance of the property of their church. Such property usually consists of a church building and the adjacent grounds, also of a parsonage. Thus the trustees are the stewards of the physical property of the congregation. They may also have other duties connected with the outward management of the congregation such as the collecting of funds for various purposes. In short, they are managers of the business affairs of the congregation.

The duties of the Board of Elders is quite different. Where the trustees are responsible for the outward business affairs of the congregation, the elders are chosen as assistants to the pastor in the spiritual affairs of a congregation. Every congregation has many problems that are in no way connected with its business affairs.

Indeed the principal function of a congregation is to preach the Gospel, to administer the Sacraments, and to admonish the erring. These duties are entrusted to the pastor whom the congregation has called. But it frequently happens that in carrying out these duties the pastor finds himself in need of help such as might be given him by wise and discreet and respected members of the congregation. Should the pastor go to this or that member for help he would invariably be accused of having favorites among the members to whom he went for help and advice. Should the time come that such persons would need to be asked to do something they might properly say that it is not their duty to become involved in the matter in question.

For these reasons most congregations elect Elders, to whom the pastor may go for assistance in carrying out the spiritual work of the congregation. They can be of invaluable assistance in many ways in advising their pastor in the many problems that are presented in the spiritual life of a congregation.

They also have another important responsibility. No pastor is by any means infallible. The best intentioned pastors are guilty of errors in judgment, and they have many failings which may be evidenced in every field of their labors. The Elders should consider it their very special duty to talk to their pastor about his failings and shortcomings with an earnest desire to help him to be a better steward of the souls entrusted to his care.

It is the prayer of your pastor that the election of a Board of Elders may be a very great blessing to the congregations.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

Another resolution, which we believe will mean much in the congregational life of both congregations, adopted at the annual meetings was one which instructs the officers of the congregation (nine men in each case) to hold regular quarterly meetings.

We are sure that this will result in a better carrying out of the work of the officers of the congregation. It will also give the pastor a better and more frequent opportunity to discuss with the officers the problems of the congregations.

Matters of current importance will be discussed at these meetings, and the pastor will always have some matter to discuss at greater length.

There is so little time at the annual meetings to discuss anything but the most pressing questions. There is no time to discuss calmly and with sufficient time the many things that are so vital to a congregation's welfare.

We hope that the officers will attend these meetings faithfully, and that they will frankly present to these meetings any matter which they feel to be in the best interests of their congregation's welfare.

OBITUARY

Knute J. Knutson, son of Jetmund Knutson and his wife Anna Vanberg Halvorson, was born in Dane County, Wisconsin, on the 18th of February, 1860. When he was six weeks old, his parents immigrated westward in a covered wagon to establish a home at Vermillion, South Dakota. But, as was the case with so many other families, the Knutsons were obliged to leave their new home hastily after only three years' residence in South Dakota because of the spreading and bloody Indian uprisings of those times. After a perilous trip, the family stopped at the present site of Cedar Falls, Iowa, and sought to build a new home there. But after two years, the Knutson family was obliged to move again. This time it was because the family could no longer be content to dwell in a community where there was no church of their faith. It was for that reason that they moved to the Jerico community,

where the family became members of Jerico Lutheran Church, in which church the second, third, and fourth generations of Knutsons still hold membership. The deceased was baptized in Wisconsin, and confirmed by Rev. J. Moses, pastor of the Jerico Lutheran Church.



Knute J. Knutson

Mr. Knutson resided for 79 years at the home from which death has now taken him. The eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Jetmund Knutson, he continued to live in the old homestead until the present time. Through a long life that extended nine days past his 84th year, the deceased enjoyed a rugged health. Six years previous to his death he suffered from a serious infection of the blood stream, and a few weeks ago he had undergone a minor operation. During these later years of his life he suffered from the infirmities of old age. On February 24, he had risen from bed as usual, but soon after breakfast he was stricken suddenly by a stroke from which he did not regain consciousness. Death came peacefully to him in St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital, at New Hampton, on Sunday morning, February 27, 1944.

He is preceded in death by his parents, by two brothers, Albert who died in 1941, and Ole who died in infancy; by four sisters, Mrs. Eli Bastesen, Kari, Johanna, and Anna.

He is survived by his beloved niece, Mrs. Sever Fossen, whom he brought up and cared for, and who, with her husband, gave him loving care during his declining years; by one brother, Ole, who resides at Jerico, and a sister, Mrs. Lena Moen, of Cresco, Iowa. Also by a number of cousins, and by many nieces, nephews, as well as many grandnieces and nephews.

He lived a faithful member of his church, and God gave him all the things He promises to His children, the things needful for this life, and the blessed assurance of salvation in Christ after this life. Blessed be his memory!

Interment was at Jerico Lutheran Church on February 29, 1944. The funeral sermon was based on the words of Joshua 23, 14.

We regret very much errors in the financial report of the February Assistant Pastor which failed to credit properly the following contributions: A. W. Olson, \$10.00; J. A. Knutson, \$10.00; Mrs. J. A. Knutson, \$5.00; J. C. Johnson, \$11.00.

Gerald Natvig, according to word just received, has been killed in action in the South Pacific. Our sincere sympathies go out to the saddened family which has given its son in the defense of our country. An appropriate memorial service will be held after the expiration of the customary thirty days after the notification of death.

Mr. and Mrs. Sever O. Johnson were guests of honor on the occasion of their Silver Wedding Anniversary which was observed in the basement of the Jerico church on Sunday, February 6. A dinner was given in their honor by their host of friends and relatives, after which the following program was given:

Song, "Congratulations", Norman and LaVonne Johnson.

Address, N. S. Tjernagel.

Duet, "O Perfect Love".

Reading, Alice Johnson.

Address, Judge Thomas Beardsmore, of Charles City, Iowa.

Duet, "Count Your Blessings".

Hymn, "God Bless Our Native Land", in honor of the seven nephews of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson serving in the armed forces of the United States.

Presentation of a purse given Mr. and Mrs. Johnson by their friends and relatives.

Your pastor and family wish to thank the congregations most sincerely for the improvements that have been made in the parsonage. The whole second floor has been papered, and painted, and a new furnace is in process of installation.

Odus Landsverk was received into communicant membership in his church by the rite of confirmation on April 23, 1944. The ceremony was at the Deaf-Mute Institute at Detroit, Michigan. His mother, Mrs. Orval Landsverk, his sister Helen, and aunt, Mrs. Olaf Knutson, made the trip to Detroit to be present at the ceremony. We have reason to be very proud of this boy who, in spite of his handicap, has made good use of the opportunity given him to learn the way to salvation. We thank God for the privilege we have had in being able to support so fine an institution as this school at Detroit.

Virginia Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Anderson, received Christian baptism at the Saude church on April 2, 1944. Her birthday was March 1, 1944. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Alva O. Knutson and Mr. and Mrs. Ole N. Anderson.

Betty Ann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Roberson, born March 30, 1944, was baptized into the Christian faith at the Jerico church on Sunday, April 23, 1944. Sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Omar Roberson. Witnesses, Mr. and Mrs. Theo. Haugen.

Wayne Everett, son of Pvt. and Mrs. Everett Borlaug, born April 24, 1944, was received into the church by baptism on April 24, 1944, at the Ned Borlaug residence. Sponsors, Norma Borlaug and Kenneth Fossen. Witnesses, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Ugland.

Confirmation Services will be held at Saude on May 14 at 10:30 a. m. Communion Services will be at 8 p. m., the same evening. Confirmation services at Jerico will be on May 21, at 10:30 a. m., with communion services the same evening, at 8 p. m.

The Altar Offering at both confirmation services will be our annual convention offering which the Synod delegates will place on the altar at the Synod Sunday service in June. Please use your blue offering envelope for May.