

# The Assistant Pastor

*March, 1945*

He is arisen! Glorious word!  
Now reconciled is God, my Lord;  
The gates of heaven are open.  
My Jesus did triumphant die,  
And Satan's arrows broken lie,  
Destroyed hell's direst weapon.  
Oh, hear What cheer!  
Christ victorious, Riseth glorious,  
Life He giveth ---  
He was dead, but see, He liveth!



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## The Assistant Pastor

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## Church Directory

N. S. Tjernagel, Pastor

### SAUDE CONGREGATION

Trustees: Carl Swenumson, Juel Natvig, Martin Borlaug.  
Treasurer: Odell Natvig.  
Secretary: Arthur Anderson.  
Cemetery Committee: Oscar Natvig, Henry Borlaug, N. S. Tjernagel.  
Ladies' Aid: Miss Johanna Ellingson, president; Mrs. Tom Swenumson, secretary; Mrs. Ned Borlaug, treasurer.

### JERICO CONGREGATION

Trustees: Selmar Aasen, Tom Roberson, Carl G. Johnson.  
Secretary: Kenneth Fossen.  
Treasurer: Ole J. Johnson.  
Ladies' Aid: Mrs. Tom Roberson, president; Mrs. K. C. Johnson, secretary; Mrs. Edwin Johnson, treasurer.  
Cemetery Committee: Mrs. Sever O. Johnson, Mrs. Carl Landsverk, Mrs. Ole J. Anderson.

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## AN EASTER MESSAGE

### To Our Men in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps

Wherever you are, you are in your pastor's thought and prayer as he writes these words. Some of you are continents away; indeed there is scarcely a continent that has not by now been touched by some boy from Saude or Jerico. Some of you have seen the terrible ferocity of war, all of you have seen sin, seen the world at its worst. Most of you had not dreamed, I am sure, how wicked this world really is until you got away from home, until you got into the company of the many who have no faith, and to whom vice is grievously familiar.

In your movements to camp, overseas, to the combat areas you have been able to take with you very few personal things. You have your battle equipment, not much more. But you who came from Saude and Jerico and from other Christian communities could carry with you something that takes no space in a duffel bag. You had in your hearts and in your minds the remembrance of things learned in childhood from Christian parents. You had in your minds the simple truths you remember from that precious book, your Catechism. You had in your possession the eternal truths of Scripture you had learned during your instruction for confirmation.

You remember the story that comes so vividly to us at Easter. It is the story of an empty tomb, and of an angel saying, "He is not here, He is risen!" Without this message of Christ's resurrection Christmas would be just a lovely legend. Without the resurrection Good Friday would be a grim tragedy. Christianity would be a hollow superstition. If Christ had not risen you would have nothing to fight for, we would have nothing to live for.

But "He is risen." The message sounds forth again so loud, so clear, so true that it is heard above the din of war. In its glorious sound is our hope of victory, yes, our assurance of eternal salvation.

"Come and see" the angel says, "Come and see the place where they laid Him." Yes, it is an angel that brings this momentous news to the women, Jesus' friends, who had come to embalm His body.

It was an angel that had told the shepherds years before that He was born in Bethlehem. It was an angel that had told Mary she should be His mother.

The ghastly, the sickening injustice of Friday had been done. Jesus, deserted by His friends, reviled by His people, maltreated by the Roman citizens, was dead. With two criminals He had been crucified. With them He had endured the racking torture of death resulting from sheer pain. There had been a gesture of friendliness shown by two of the Jewish Sanhedrin. One, Joseph of Arimathea, had furnished a burial place; another, Nicodemus, had provided ointments to embalm His sacred body.

But He was dead. Not until the morning of the first day of the week could those women who had held Him in so great esteem come to complete the customary procedure of annointment and embalming. They came early, Mary, Mary Magdalene, Salome and others, carrying sweet spices. How strange that they brought these spices. Had He not so often spoken of His resurrection from death on the third day. He had prophesied it in clear words, yet the fact that they came with sweet spices shows that they expected to find His dead body in the grave.

The disciples had been told too. They had been with Him time after time as He spoke of His resurrection. But it was too much for them to believe. They forgot the prophecy completely. Only the enemies of the Savior remembered it, for they placed an armed guard at the gate, a guard that threw their weapons and fled when they witnessed the resurrection.

Is not their lack of faith a quality with which we should be familiar. God speaks clearly to us too through the pages of Scripture, but there are many things that we also fail to accept in faith. He tells us that He will provide for all our wants. Yet how we worry! He asks us to worship Him. But many of us are so busy with our work that we haven't time to worship Him. We fear we may starve if we should take an hour or two for worship on Sunday morning.

He asks us to help and befriend our neighbor. But how often do we find time, or the means. He asks us to share with Him the bounty He has bestowed on us. But with what poor measure do we mete out to Him who asks us to share with Him the task of bringing the Gospel with the people who live in darkness.

What is wrong with us? The same thing that was wrong with the friends of Jesus. That He should rise again was a thought too overwhelming even to be considered. In our day we are so concerned about our own affairs and our own livelihood that we don't see how we can possibly do the things God requires of us.

But it was true! The stone was rolled away when they came. There, in the sepulchre was an angel clothed in the long white garment of purity who said to them: "Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen; He is not here: behold the place where they laid Him."

Indeed they were affrighted. What mortal is not affrighted in the presence of heavenly purity and righteousness? The shepherds were. The contrast of the angelic brightness revealed their sin so harshly. The women stood back, but the angel's voice was reassuring, "Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth." Indeed, that was the disparaging name that He



had often been called by those who asked what good could come out of Nazareth.

"He is risen, He is not here!" That was their message. It was a message too profound, too deep, and at the same time too simple to have been brought to these women by mortal men. The messenger had to be an angel. A human messenger could not have given the message so simply. He would have confused the simple greatness of it with explanations and rationalizations. Only an angel could have stated the biggest news story so simply and directly. What more needed to be said. God's promise was fulfilled. He had promised Adam and Eve a Savior born of their seed. He had repeated the promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and to all the prophets. Christ Himself had said, "Whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

It was enough to say, "He is risen." What that means should be clear to every reader of the Old Testament, to every worshipper of God's truth in the New Testament.

The words spell pardon, freedom, life! And that not to just one, or to a few privileged offenders, but to the whole world. We are free.

It is Life everlasting, and forgiveness to all. But see the gentleness of Jesus who guided the angel to say, "Go your way, tell His disciples and Peter." Yes, and Peter. Jesus knew how Peter needed to hear that message. How Peter had ached because of his sin. How Peter would rejoice to know of the resurrection.

"Come and see," the angel had said; now he says, "Go and tell."

We know the message, we have seen the empty tomb, we have seen the risen Jesus. But is that enough? Has not He who invited us to come and see also commanded us to "Go and tell"? There is a crying need in this world, a crying need for Christians who will live like Christians, and who will tell the glorious Gospel which holds the only possible hope for our war-torn world.

No other message can save souls. No other message can unite men into a bond of fellowship in which warfare will have no place.

There is no hope for us that does not have its origin in the blessed words of this message, "He is risen!" But we have that message, we have it in its simplicity, and in its overwhelming greatness and grace. It is ours to keep.

Yes, ours to keep. But this precious truth is one that we can only keep by giving it away. Lock that message in your heart and it will die there and you with it.

Open your heart and lips and let that great truth go forth from your soul to others. Filling their hearts with this imperishable truth you enlarge your possession.

Christians have received the gift of life through Christ's resurrection. But Christianity consists in giving, giving this truth to others. Let the Easter message inspire us to open wide our hearts and hands.

We have seen, now let us go and tell. Amen.

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Roberson

The regular order of the day recently seems to have been the celebration of Silver Wedding Anniversaries.

The first of a series of three of these was held Sunday, February 18, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Roberson. A large gathering of friends and relatives assembled in the church basement where a fine dinner was served. The table was beautifully set in honor of the occasion at which the bride and groom were surrounded by their children and families.

After the dinner had been served the bridal party, including Mrs. C. O. Vigdal, the bridesmaid, and Olaf Roberson, best man, became the center of attraction during the program that was given. There were piano solos by Eva Mae Vigdal and Mrs. Howard David. Leone and Joan Haugen sang "O Perfect Love." Addresses of greeting were given by Mr. Albaugh of the Chickasaw County Board of Supervisors, and Sheriff Murray, who were associated with Mr. Roberson during his tenure of office as county supervisor. Mr. Howard David, a business associate of Mr. Roberson, also spoke a word of greeting. After a few words by the pastor, and presentation of a purse to the Bride and Groom, the program came to a happy conclusion.

### Mr. and Mrs. Severt Fossem

On the following Sunday, February 25, we found ourselves gathered again in the Jerico church basement for a similar anniversary festival. The spotlight was turned this time on Mr. and Mrs. Severt Fossem. On this Sunday it was they who wore the flowers and with the attendants at their wedding sat at the table of honor. Their two sons were present to celebrate with them as well as relatives from the home community and some who had come from Sumner, Iowa. The basement was filled to capacity, and as usual a bounteous dinner was served.

The afternoon program consisted of a vocal solo by Miss Arldine Halvorson, sacred and secular songs by several children of Saude Lutheran School who were there. Our assistant pastor and teacher, Mr. Armin Keibel, spoke a few well-chosen words of greeting to Mr. and Mrs. Fossem. The audience also had the pleasure of hearing from Mr. Martin Potratz of Sumner, Iowa. The pastor spoke words appropriate to the occasion, and presented a purse given the bride and groom by friends present on the occasion.

### Mr. and Mrs. Enus Ferkingstad

Twenty-five years ago the first world war was over. Soldiers were returning home. Many of them returned to their families. But Enus Ferkingstad came back to claim as bride his sweetheart who had waited out the duration for him. Their marriage was solemnized by Rev. M. K. Bleken on March 9, 1920. Their Silver Wedding Anniversary was celebrated on March 11, 1945, in the basement of Saude Lutheran Church. The basement was filled to capacity with the friends and relatives who came to wish them well and to enjoy the dinner served in their honor.

Their pastor called to their attention on their anniversary day the Lord's promise to them on their wedding day, and offered them the sure hope that He who has provided in the past can provide in the future also. A measure of the esteem in which this couple are held in their community was shown by the many greetings they received, and by the fine nurse presented them in memory of their Silver Wedding Anniversary.



## OBITUARY

Mrs. Herman O. Natvig was born in Oslo, Norway, May 4, 1852, of the parents Marie Melvold and Jens Hanson Melvold who was a cavalry officer



Mrs. H. O. Natvig

in the army, stationed for many years at Akerhus Military Academy at Christiania. The daughter received the name Gunda and was baptized in early infancy. When she was eight years old the family emigrated to the United States and settled at Calmar, Iowa, where the father was engaged as a railroad worker. While at Calmar the deceased was confirmed by Rev. Vilhelm Koren. Later she together with her family moved to Saude, Iowa, where she was a member of the Saude congregation forty years, served by Pastors Ness, Xavier, Rugland, Bleken, and H. M. Tjernagel.

In 1891 Gunda Melvold was united in marriage to Herman O. Natvig by Rev. Ness, and was privileged to celebrate with him their Golden Wedding four years ago. To this union two children were born, Gertrude and Alvin, who together with the husband and 5 grandchildren survive.

She was an active church worker in the Saude Congregation, being a charter member of the Ladies' Aid, and a member of the choir for 25 years.

She came to Mankato, Minn., in the fall of 1932, where she has been a communicant member of Bethany Lutheran Congregation, and a member of the Ladies' Aid.

On Thursday, January 18, at 4:30 p. m., she suffered a dizzy spell and passed away a few minutes later without any apparent pain, at the age of 82 years and 8 months.

The family wishes to express its thanks to the Lord for a sincere and devoted life-mate and mother.

by Alvin J. Natvig.

## MEMORIAL WREATHS

### Mrs. Herman Natvig

Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle Natvig, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Natvig, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Natvig, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. John Natvig, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Natvig, Juel, Adelia, \$5.00; Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Vaala and family, \$1.00; Mrs. Mary Natvig and Ora, \$1.00; Mrs. Olena Natvig and Alert, \$1.00; Carrie, Lars, and Gregor Vaala, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Rosel, Mrs. Caroline Vigdal, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Iver Natvig and Sylvia, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. W. Kratz, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. C. O. Natvig, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Haugen and family, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Nels Ellingson and Eleanor, \$1.00; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Miller, \$1.00; Miss Carrie Natvig, \$1.00; Rev. and Mrs. M. Tweit, \$2.00; Thos. Swenumson and family, \$1.00; Saude Ladies' Aid, \$5.00; A. G. Vaala and family, \$2.00; Miss Pearl Natvig, \$1.00; from the grandchildren to the Ladies' Aid, \$5.00; Dr. and Mrs. O. J. H. Preus, \$1.00; Dr. and Mrs. O. W. Onallev, \$1.00; Prof. and Mrs. D. T.

Nelson, \$1.00; Prof. and Mrs. C. N. Evanson, \$1.00; Prof. and Mrs. N. L. Fadness, \$1.00.

**Iwo Jima** is a name that will long be remembered by the American people. Roy Roberson was wounded in that terrible battle while serving as a medical corpsman. Chester Johnson and Charles Johnson, who also doubtless were engaged in that bloody conflict, are, we confidently pray, safe and unharmed. S/Sgt. Maynard Douglas was wounded in action in the European theatre of war. He is recovering in a hospital in England.

**Capt. Nels J. Anderson and Pfc. Oscar Aasen** are at home on furlough after long periods of service in combat areas. May God speed the day when all our boys will return for good from the danger they are under now. Pfc. Kenneth Knutson, the first of our boys to return from duty overseas, spent Christmas with his parents.

**Church attendance** for the first three months of this year has been as follows:

	Jerico	Saude	Redeemer
Total membership .....	419	165	15
January 7 .....	63	75	8
January 14 .....	51	55	30
January 21 .....	40	45	18
January 28 .....	62	65	22
February 4 .....	75	75	16
February 11 .....	95	60	22
February 18 .....	99	70	25
February 25 .....	134	45	14
March 4 .....	113	80	23
March 11 .....	104	80	35
March 18 .....	117	75	29
March 25 .....	101	60	26
Easter Sunday .....	283	130	42

**"The Lutheran Church** emphasizes church attendance for valid reasons. First of all, it is God's command to attend public worship: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is" (Heb. 10, 25). The habitual staying away from divine services is a gross sin against God: man despises preaching and God's word.

"Secondly, the Holy Spirit can only enlighten, sanctify, and keep man in the true faith by means of the word that is heard. If a person does not hear the Gospel he remains in the darkness of his unbelief and will eventually perish in sin.

"Thirdly, it is the hearer himself who derives all the benefit from church attendance: he is blessed through hearing the word, for the Lord says: "Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it" (Luke 11, 28). One's soul is refreshed; faith in Christ is strengthened; and love is set ablaze to serve God and the neighbor better.

"And, fourthly, a frequent attendance at God's house produces a sound, virile Christianity, a fact to which every faithful pastor of the church can truly testify."

from Northwestern Lutheran