

JEN-977

Box 3

PACKET 34

IVERSEN, HENRY  
1873-1954

137

JEN 977-3  
Folder 3  
Subitem b

137 Henry Johnson

Individual Questionnaire for

Biographical Record of Ministers

of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (in America) and its parent synods:  
The United Danish Ev. Luth. Church, The Danish Ev. Luth. Church Association  
in America and The Danish Ev. Luth. Church in North America.

(Compiled for the Synodical Historical Archives)

Personal Data: (Please give all information you can)

Full name: Henry Iversen

Born when: May 17, 1873 where: Chicago, Ill. Son of Mr. Christian Iversen and wife Anna Smith.

Baptized when and where: as infant in one of our luth. churches in Chicago

Confirmed when and where: ? by whom: ?

If immigrant, date of arrival in America: located where:

Date of ordination: June 23, 1912 where: Kenmare, N.D. by whom: G.B. Christiansen

If not in above synods, when and where accepted as member pastor of our synod:

Retired from active ministry when: 1949 why: age

Located where: a few months at Eugene, Ore. then at Luck, Wis. occupation: found dead early in morning

If dead, what date: Sept. 16, 1954 where: Luck, Wis. cause: ~~swain~~ of heart stroke

Buried where: Oak Hill Cemetery at Neenah, Wis. date: Sept. 20, 1954

Marriage: (1) to whom Christine Nielsen date and place: Dec. 23, 1908, Neenah, Wis.

Wife's birthdate and place: Neenah, Wis. Neenah, Wis.

Her parents: Smith location: Neenah, Wis.

If wife is dead, give date died April 20, 1966 at Luck, Wis. 83 yrs old

(2) Second wife (if any; give same information about her)

Children (give names and other information of interest, as occupation, spouse, and present address): .....

Raymond Iversen, Eugene, Ore.

Edith (Mrs. Harold Lindgren, Luck, Wis.

Philip Iversen, Carlsbad, N. Mexico

Other information on family of historical interest, i.e., members in the ministry, missionary work, teaching and medical professions, etc.:

Educational Training: Give name of institution, location, and when attended.

High Schools: Folk High School at Elk Horn, Ia. (one year)

Colleges (Give also degrees attained): University of Nebr. at Lincoln (one year)

Dana College, Blair, Nebr. -1901

Theological Schools: Trinity Seminary, Blair, Nebr. 1901-04

Honorary Degrees received (give name of institution and date): .....

Other specific training: .....

Additional comment on above: .....

**Ministerial Service.** Please give in chronological order the names of congregations or charges served, and period of each.

Emmaus Church, Falmouth, Me. 1912-16  
 Emmaus Church, Kennard, Nebr. 1916-18  
 Emmaus Church, Eugene, Ore. 1921-26  
 Parish of Edmore, Sidney, and McBrides, Mich. 1926-31  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cushing, Wis. 1931-41  
 Parish of Spring and Turkey Valleys, Irene, S.D. 1941-43  
 Emmaus Church, Mc.Nabb, Ill. 1943-49

*Henry J. Jensen*  
~~Henry J. Jensen~~  
 Falmouth, Me. 1912-  
 Kennard, Nebr. 1916-18  
 Eugene, Ore. 1921-26  
 Edmore, Sidney, and McBrides, Mich. 1926-31  
 Cushing, Wis. 1931-41  
 Spring and Turkey Valleys, Irene, S.D. 1941-43  
 Mc.Nabb, Ill. 1943-49

Offices held in Synod and Districts, and when: (Give name of institution and date)

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.....  
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Other activities and official services-at-large (teaching, chaplaincy, editorial, etc., and period of each):

Instructor at Folk High School, Elk Horn, Ia. 1904-06  
Promoter of Bible Camp movement in Michigan and in Luck area.

Literary production (books and pamphlets): Give titles and when published.

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.....  
.....

Additional information of interest: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Did not apply for ordination upon

his graduation from seminary because of doubts in regard to his call and fitness for the ministry, thus postponed it until he found assurance that god could use him in the service as pastor.

After his two years as instructor at Elk Horn School he was employed in Chicago and also at Whiting, Ind. by the Standard Oil Co..

In the years 1918-21 he located at Buffalo, Wyo. in a new danish colonization project, because of poor health. He was member and active in the St. Luke congregation of our synod there.

Date Sept. 30, 1954 Signed *P.C.J. from Obituary & other source*

**NOTE:** Our previous biographical records were lost in the tragic fire that destroyed the office building of the Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr., Febr. 15, 1953, where the synodical historian also had his office. This accounts for the detailed questionnaire now. In the case of deceased members of our clergy we are largely dependent upon living members of their family for correct data. Be assured all cooperation in gathering this historically important data will be highly appreciated. Please fill in what you can, perhaps with the assistance of others acquainted with subject. Furthermore, if you have clippings or other material about the person concerned, especially a photo or picture of him, and we may either have it or borrow it, please send it along. All our collection of cuts was also ruined in the fire. If you can refer us to any person, book or paper that can inform us further, we shall be very much obliged to you.

Return this report as soon as possible to

REV. P. C. JENSEN  
STATISTICIAN & HISTORIAN  
UNITED EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BLAIR, NEBRASKA

Obituary of Rev. Henry Iversen Sept 20, 1954

The funeral service of the Rev. Henry Iversen, who died at his home in Luck Thursday morning, September 16, was held at the Luck Lutheran Church on Monday, September 20, at 2 p.m. Messages at the service were brought by Pastor Anker M. Jensen, who also conducted the service, by Pastor Otto Nielsen of Cushing and North Luck, and by Pastor N.B. Hansen of Hutchinson, Minn., on behalf of the Minnesota District, of which he is president. N.B. Hansen was also designated by synodical president Dr. Hans Jersild to bring a message on behalf of the synod.

The choir of the Luck Lutheran Church sang two songs: Blest Is He Who Cries to Heaven, and The Old Rugged Cross. Two songs were sung by Mrs. Millicent <sup>Wallace</sup> Skene. The Lord Is My Shepherd, and The Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Tony Horby was the organist. Scripture selections were read by Pastors Aster Neve, C. Krogh, and J.P. Andreasen.

Pall bearers were Pastor Aster Neve of Milltown, Pastor Otto Nielsen of Cushing, Pastor N.B. Hansen of Hutchinson, and Pastors C. Krogh, J.P. Andreasen, and Anker M. Jensen of Luck.

A short service, followed by committal, was held at Neenah, the Rev. Paul G. Rasmussen in charge. <sup>Interment</sup> was at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Henry Iversen, son of Christian and Anna (nee Smith) Iversen, was born in Chicago, Illinois, on May 17, 1873. He was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith in Chicago.

At the age of 18 he moved with his parents to Elk Horn, Iowa. ~~xxxx~~ There he was an active participant in the work of the church, especially in the Sunday School, where he worked with eager and hearty earnestness. Reared in a happy Christian home, he experienced the knowledge of God at an early age, and the thoughts of God and His heaven, and of Christ and the angels occupied a prominent place in his mind and heart. The need for pastors and missionaries ~~was~~ weighed upon him, and he realized that God was calling him into His service. After an intense inner struggle, he joyfully responded to this call, and proceeded to prepare himself for the ministry. For one year he attended the college which the United Evangelical Lutheran Church at that time maintained at Elk Horn, Iowa. The next year he attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. The remainder of his preparatory and theological training he obtained at Dana College and Trinity Seminary at Blair, Nebraska.

Meanwhile, inner conflicts and doubts had developed. Upon completing his training, therefore, he did not immediately seek ordination, but went to Elk Horn College as an instructor for two years, and then to Chicago and Whiting, Indiana, where he was employed by the Standard Oil Company.

~~xxxx~~ On December 23, 1908, he was united in marriage at Neenah, Wis., to Christine Nielsen, the Rev. J. Soe officiating. To this union, three children were born, all of whom survive.

During the period in Chicago, his inner conflicts were resolved, and he resumed his plans for entering the office of the Holy Ministry. He was ordained as a pastor of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church at the synodical convention in Kenmare, North Dakota in 1912, and shortly thereafter proceeded to his first parish in Falmouth, Maine. Other pastorates followed: Kennard, Nebraska; Eugene, Oregon; McBrides, Edmore, and Sidney, Michigan; Cushing, Wisconsin; Turkey Valley and Spring Valley, near Viborg, South Dakota; and McNabb, Illinois. After retiring, he also served Cushing and North Luck during a pastoral vacancy. Following his second pastorate, because of ill health, he withdrew from the active ministry for

three years, which were spent at Buffalo, Wyoming.

Following his retirement in 1949, he and his wife went ~~throughout~~ for a few months to Eugene, Oregon, where they had contemplated retiring, and then to Luck where they have resided since.

Pastor Iversen served his parishes with devotion, ~~and~~ zeal, and self-sacrifice. He was a thorough Bible ~~scholar~~ scholar, a competent teacher, and a gifted leader. ~~One~~ One of the fields in which he was particularly interested was the Bible Camp movement. He was instrumental in beginning this work in his circuit both in Michigan and in Polk County, Wis. His devoted ministry brought blessings of immeasurable riches to many souls.

He is survived by <sup>his widow, and by</sup> three children: Raymond, of Eugene, Oregon; Edith (Mrs. Harold Lindgren) of Luck; and Philip, of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Six grandchildren survive: Audrey Anne and Gail Lindgren; Rhonda Rae, & Duane, and Ronald Iversen; and Paul Iversen. One sister survives, Mrs. Christine Rasmussen of Elk Horn, Iowa. Three brothers and a sister preceded him in death: Louis, Carl, Theodor, and Marie (Mrs. Niels Hansen).

Two and one half weeks prior to his death, Pastor Iversen conducted a church service at English Lutheran Church, Grantsburg, in the absence of the pastor. He was scheduled to preach there again the following Sunday, Sept. 5, but was told by the doctor on Saturday that he should not do so because of the condition of his heart. ~~Although~~ However, he was able to be up and around until the night he died, and attended church as usual at Luck, where he was a member, on the Sunday before his death.

derved ødelægger Livet for hinanden. Gud vil, at vi skal arbejde de seks Dage i Ugen, men den syvende Dag gav han os fri, fordi han ved, hvor let Livet forkrøbles for os, hvis vi forsømmer den Stilhed, som Guds hellige Ord skaber i os.

Sabbaten, der for os kristne hedder Søndag, er ikke et Aag, der blev paalagt os, men en Gave fra Gud. Det er godt og naturligt at respektere Søndagens Hellighed ogsaa derved, at man gør den til en Hviledag — naar bare vi husker, at Søndagen ikke er givet os saa meget for vor egen Skyld som for vor Næstes Skyld. Det forstod Farisæerne ikke. De havde gjort Sabbatoverholdelsen til et Princip, der skulde overholdes til Punkt og Prikke. Saa fik det gaa med alt og med alle andre, som det bedst kunde.

Jamen er det da ikke godt at have faste Principper for sin Livsførelse?

Jo, men kun naar man ikke lader sig tyrannisere af dem.

Et Princip er kun godt, saa langt det tjener Livet, og ikke en centimeter længere.

Der er Folk, der er meget stolte af at have et Princip, som de altid har fulgt uden at skele til højre eller Venstre. Det lyder jo godt, men hvem i Alverden har sagt, at vi ikke skal skele til Højre og Venstre? Der er virkelig en god Portion sund Ræson i den gamle Vending om, at „Principper er til for at brydes.“

„Man bør altid sove paa det, før man træffer en vigtig Beslutning.“ Det er et godt Princip. Det er vel værd at følge i 99 Tilfælde, men bare ikke i Tilfælde Nr. 100, for da kræver Livet af os en øjeblikkelig Afgørelse nu og her, og da kan det være dødsensfarligt at sove paa det.

Man bør ikke forstyrre sin Nabos Nattero. Det er et fornuftigt Princip, som Radioen ustandseligt indskærper de altfor larmende Højtaltare. Ja vel, men er der Ildløs i Huset og din Nabo er i Fare, da gælder det større Ting end Overholdelse af et Princip.

Der er Folk, der har det Princip aldrig at gaa i Kautio for andre, fordi de har en Familie at tage Hensyn til, og derfor finder det uforsvarligt at vove sig længe ud, end de kan bunde. Det kan være meget fornuftigt, men det er ikke et Princip, du skal prale af altid at have fulgt. For en skønne Dag staar du maaske overfor et Menneske, som skal hjælpes og som kun du kan hjælpe. I den Situation er det ikke et Princip, du har med at gøre, men det, der er større: en Broder i Nød.

Saadan er det med alle Moralregler — selv de bedste. Saa snart de kræves overholdt uden Hensyn til Næsten, bare for Regelens egen Skyld, bliver de umoralske. Al Moral har kun en eneste Mening: hvad der gavner vort Medmenneske.

Det var derfor Jesus stødte sammen med Farisæerne og blev anset for at være umoralsk. Han brød et Princip. Han sætte Mennesket over Sabbaten og Livet over Loven.

Jesus vidste jo godt, at det var Sabbat den Dag, han sad til Bords i Farisæerens Hus, men for ham var Sabbatsbudet ikke en Paragraf i en Lovbog, men noget le-

vende — nemlig i dette Tilfælde en stakkels vattersottig Mand, der skreg efter den Barmhjertighed, der er Ledetraaden i alle Guds Bud.

Hvor ser man det hele levende for sig.

Mens Farisæerne er blevet umoralske paa Grund af lutter Moral og umenneskelige paa Grund af alle deres fortræffelige Regler og Principper, saa taler Jesus Livets Sag overfor de døde Bogstaver. Han helbreder Manden uden Hensyn til de Frommes Protester:

„Hvem af jer vilde ikke, hvis hans Søn eller Okse faldt i en Brønd, straks drage dem op, selv om det var paa en Sabbatsdag?“

Og saa fortæller han med tydeligt Henblik paa Farisæerne, der mener i særlig Grad at have sikret sig Guds Velbehag, en lærerig Historie om, at Gud er saa mærkelig uberegnelig. Folk, der synes selvskevret til Hæderspladser, kan i hans Rige komme til at sidde allernederst, mens andre — tit af alle oversete — til stor Overraskelse for dem selv — skal høre Gud sige: „Ven, sæt dig højere op! Ti enhver, som ophøjer sig selv, skal ydmyges, og den, som ydmyger sig selv, skal ophøjes.“

Det er Evangeliet for de Fattige — for dem, der ikke har andet end Guds Barmhjertighed at haabe paa. De har ingen Fromhed at værne om eller uddybe og spekulerer ikke paa Hæderspladser, hverken her eller hisset. De ved til Bunden af deres Sjæl, at Brorson har Ret, naar han synger om Gud:

*Thi vilde han os lade ske  
kun efter vor Fortjeneste,  
da maatte vi fortabes.*

For dem er Fortabelsen ikke en mere eller mindre faretruende Mulighed, men selve den Virkelighed, hvori de staar.

De har kun et Haab, som Evangeliet rækker dem atter og atter — det Haab, at heller ikke Gud er videre stærk i at overholde sine Principper, fordi han elsker Menneskene mere end Principperne. Det er Evangeliets helt meningsløse Paastand, at vi har en Gud, der paa Trods af al Sandsynlighed og Rimelighed og Logik forbarmer sig over os, fordi han ophøjer de Ringe og sætter Mennesket over Loven.

Det er Troens inderste Væsen: at turde regne med Guds Uberegnelighed.

Efter Kr. Dagblad 1953

### ET KRUCIFIKS PAA JORDENS HØJESTE TINDE

Sir Edmund Hillary, Mt. Everest's Betvinger, fortalte en Presserepræsentant, at da han stod paa Toppen af Mt. Everest, havde han heroppe paa Verdens Tag rejst et lille Krucifiks ved Siden af en buddhistisk Offergave, som hans Ledsager Tensing havde anbragt i Sneen. Han havde faaet Krucifikset af Ekspeditionslederen Sir John Hunt forinden den farefulde Færds sidste Etaper, og da han stod ved Maalet, kom han pludselig til at tænke paa Krucifikset, som altsaa nu er plantet paa Jordens øjeste Tinde.

# Luthersk Ugeblad

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REDAKTØR: Pastor P. C. Jensen, Blair, Nebraska

## Fra vor Kirkemark

Minnesota Kreds afholder sit Aarsmøde i Edina lutherske Kirke, Minneapolis, d. 7.-10. Oktober. Alle Kredens Menigheder bedes sende Delegater og indmelde samme til Pastor Paul Keller, 4109 W. 54. St., Minneapolis 10, Minn. Bed om Guds Velsignelse over Mødet!

N. B. Hansen, Kredsformand;

Armin Hellnap, Kredssekretær

Edina Kommunitets lutherske Menighed indbyder herved alle paa det hjerteligste til dette Kredsmøde i vor Kirke. Vi betragter det som et Privilegium at være Vært dette Aar. Registreringskort er nu udsendt, og alle Delegater og andre bedes udfylde disse og sende dem tilbage til os før 1. Oktober. Tal med eders Præst om Sagen, og kom endelig og vær med i disse Mødedage.

Jack Bernie, Mgh.s Formand; Paul F. Keller, Præst

Pacific Kredsmøde afholdes i Bethesda Kirke, Eugene, Oregon, d. 13.-17. Oktober. Aabningsgudstjeneste Onsdag Aften Kl. 8 og Slutningsmøde Søndag Eftm. Kl. 3. Alle Kredens Menigheder bedes sende Delegater. Ethvert Menighedsmedlem, der har fyldt 21 Aar, kan tjene som saadan. Og enhver Menighed har Ret til at sende een Deleгат for hver 50 myndige Medlemmer eller Brøkdæl deraf. Alle Kredens Medlemmer er venligst indbudt til at overvære Mødet.

Christian Justesen, Kredsformand.

Bethesda Menighed indbyder herved hjerteligst alle Præster, Delegater og Venner af Pacific Kreds til at være med ved ovennævnte 50 Aars Kredsmøde, som holdes i vor Kirke her i Danebo ved Eugene, Ore. Lad os vide forud hvorledes I kommer — med Bil, Tog, Bus eller Plane. Send alle Indmeldelser til vor Registrationskomitets Sekretær, Mrs. Donald Madsen, 3378 Elmira Road, Eugene, Ore.

Ingvard Olsen, Mgh.s Præst

Carl M. Jensen, Formand

Pacific Kreds „Women's Missionary Society“ vil afholde sit 36te Aarsmøde i Bethesda Kirke, Eugene, Ore., under Pacific Kredens Møde der d. 14.-17. Okt. Forretningssessionen aabner Kl. 3:30 Fredag Eftm. og Opbyggelsesmødet afholdes samme Dags Aften, Kl. 8, med

Miss Ruth Jørgensen fra Fowler, Calif., som Taler. Delegater fra lokale Kvindeforeninger kan indmelde sig ved Ankomsten. Venligst Mrs. Anna Olsen, 4411 Royal Rd., Eugene, Ore., Sekr.

Pastor emer. Henry Iversen, som siden 1949, da han opgav aktiv Præstegerning, har været bosat i Luck, Wis., blev af sin Hustru fundet død Torsdag Morgen i sin Stue, hvor han laa paa Sofaen gennem Natten. Et Par Uger i Forvejen havde han haft et Anfald af Hjer-teonde, og man antager, at et lignende Anfald ramte ham medens han sov. Begravelsen fandt Sted fra Kirken i Luck Mandag d. 20 Sept. under Ledelse af Pastor Anker Jensen.

Pastor Iversen blev født i Chicago d. 17. Maj 1873 og omkring 1890 kom han med sine Forældre, Chris og Anna Iversen, til Elk Horn, Iowa. Her frekventerede han Højskolen, tog saa et Aar paa Nebraska Universitet, og fuldendte sin Præsteuddannelse paa Seminariet i Blair Aar 1904. Imidlertid var han kommet i en religiøs Krise om sit Kald og udsatte sin Ansøgning om Ordination indtil 1912, da han atter havde fundet Troens Hvile i Guds Kald til ham ved at bistaa Præster i Chicago, hvor han opholdt sig efter at have været Lærer et Par Aar paa Elk Horn Højskole. Efter sin Ordination d. 23. Juni 1912 under Aarsmødet i Kenmare, N. D., fik han sit første Præstekald i Falmouth, Me., 1912-16; senere faldt hans Virksomhed i Kennard, Nebr., 1916-18; Emmaus i Eugene, Ore., 1921-26; Edmore, Sidney og Mc-Brides, Mich., 1926-31; Cushing, Wis., 1931-41; Spring og Turkey Valley, Irene, S. D., 1941-43 og sidst i McNabb, Ill., 1943-49. I Aarene 1918-21 var han bosat i den nye danske Koloni ved Buffalo, Wyoming. I 1908 blev han gift med Christine Nielsen fra Neenah, Wis., som tilligemed deres Børn overlever ham.

Saa vidt vi ved, var Pastor Iversen den første hjemmehørende i Elk Horn Settlementet, der blev Præst i vort Samfund. I sin Vita skriver han, efter at have fortalt om sit lykkelige, troende Barndomshjem, at „jeg var et ganske almindeligt Barn, og har for Resten aldrig været andet.“ Dette gælder i Særdeleshed hans Gudsforhold; paa den kirkelige Rangstige naaede han ikke over det almindelige. Der, paa det jævne, er det jo ogsaa, at Livet har sat os Stævne, ikke i det himmelblaa. Men det vigtigste er jo ogsaa, at der tilsidst kan siges til os af vor store Overbiskop histoppe: „Vel, du gode og tro Tjener, du har været tro i Lidet, jeg vil sætte dig over meget. Gaa ind til din Herres Glæde! Det er Ære nok. Det tror vi vil lyde til vor hjemgangne Præstebroder.

Pastor og Mrs. Laurits Pedersen og deres 15aarige Søn Donald er lige kommet tilbage fra en Maanedes Besøg i Danmark og skriver, at de nød en meget fin Rejse med „Stockholm“ frem og tilbage, saavel som blandt Slægt og Venner i Danmark. Dog var det særlig hans 80-aarige Moder i Gadbjerg Besøget gjaldt. Hun sender Hilsen til gamle Venner herovre, hvor hun og Familie for ca. 50 Aar siden var bosat i Easton, Calif., og hun var igen herovre, da Pastor Pedersens var Præstefolk i Harlan, Ia. De bringer ogsaa Hilsen fra Pastor emer. Anders Jørgensens i Fredericia. Pastor Pedersen er ansat som U.S. Hospitalspræst blandt Krigsveteraner i Waukesha, Wis.