

EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE AND FAITH

BY CHRISTIANA EHNI SCHOCK



Christiana Ehni Schock (1880 – 1957)

14 February 2022

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OVERVIEW

Christiana Ehni Schock expressed love of God, family and friends through letters and poems during the span of years from 1931 through 1947. This booklet became possible via respect and love by Emma Schock Whitaker and Reinhold (Reiny) Schock for their mother, who was fondly known as Christina. During the years following the passing of Christina, they took great care of her diary and other personal written documents. Emma eventually transcribed Christina's German handwritten script into a German typed script. The originals of documents were initially held and carefully bound by Emma who gave them to Reiny late in the decade of the 1980s.

After dad's (Reiny's) passing in 2013, possession of these documents was transferred to me. I subsequently arranged for English translations with Jonathan Green. Upon conferring with cousin Christe Ann Whitaker McMenemy (Emma's daughter), we felt that some documents should be shared with the descendants of Grandmother Christiana.

Martin Reinhold Schock



Emma Schock Whitaker and Reinhold Schock
(Celebrating her 95th birthday)

"Mother's Hands" by Christiana Ehni Schock

Mutter-hände

Mutterhände zart u weich
überall da sind sie gleich,
Wollen immer spenden geben.
Bitten flehend um dein Leben,
Streichen kosend dir die Wangen.
Und erfüllen dein Verlangen.
Betten abends dich zur Ruh,
Schatten für dich immerzu!
Diese zarten weichen Hände,
Sind der Anfang dir u Ende,
Schau solange sie sich rühren.
Werden sie dich aufwärts führen.
Doch wenn welk sie einst erschlaffen
Dann vergelte du ihr Schaffen,
Und versuch sie zu erhalten.
Das sie nicht zu früh erkalten,
Denn es wird dir nie im Leben
Solch ein Schatz noch mal gegeben!

MOTHER'S HANDS

(delicate & soft)
(at all times; immediately)
(always willing to give)
(Imploring - praying)
(stroking, carressing your cheeks)
(satisfying your desires)
(praying you to sleep)
(always laboring for you)
(tender - soft hands)
(beginning and end for you)
(behold, so long as they can move)
(lead you upwards)
(withered, wrinkled; they grow slack)
(reward their labors)
(try to preserve, uphold)
(they not grow cold too soon)
(won't find in life)
(such treasure, wealth or love)

A LETTER TO FRIENDS FROM HER DIARY

[1]¹ **First, a letter of thanks to the members of the congregation for our silver anniversary celebration in the Lenten season in the year 1931.**

For the Lenten season. 2 Corinthians chapter 6, verses 1 to 10

We admonish you as co-workers that you do not receive the grace of God “in vain.” Christians, redeem the time, for these are evil times; make the most of every opportunity, for it is a precious time.

For I battle with myself, but I fight the good fight of faith and grasp hold of the word of salvation. Before one says “in vain,” o what is that for a word, “in vain”? A horrible word, this word. Do you see the Savior there before the throne of God, and tears are running from his eyes? Why are there these tears? It is the pain about this one word “in vain,” about our souls. How often have I wanted to gather you in, but “in vain,” you did not want to. So that it won’t ultimately need to be called “wasted time,” now is the Lenten season, the season of grace. Now is the day of salvation. But one can also receive God’s grace “in vain.” One can miss out on and fail to make use of the season of grace. O terrible possibility! Horrible word, this word “in vain.” What then? O dear soul, your salvation depends on it. Do not miss out on the season of grace. O dear soul, what must you do so that [2] this Lenten season, your life time, doesn’t become a wasted time? You must allow yourself to be given the grace of Jesus, free and at no price. Listen to the call of the holy Lenten season. Come to the Savior, come today; but above all else, take hold of the shield of faith, with which you are able to extinguish all the flaming darts of the Adversary, and take up the helm of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, for the Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, and it penetrates until it cuts soul and spirit, and marrow and bone, and is a judge of the thoughts and ponderings of the heart. We are ourselves responsible for our actions, for the Holy Bible is lying in our hands. In the golden language of Luther: “Take and read.” But we claim to have no time. In the end, the priest will read it. He has time; one has time for everything that one wishes for, to which our hearts and conscience drive us. “Take and read.” Read it also with the people close to you, at any time, even if it’s only

¹ Numbers inside brackets are diary page numbers.

a little. The learned don't like that the chapters are hacked into single verses. I like [3] these verses; one can grasp them so easily and take them for oneself. "Take and read." Just take one at a time; it is enough. Fire and strength emanate from it. "Take and read." If only we can overcome for a quarter of an hour, the profit to the heart will not fail to appear. The Word of God is not a school Bible that one only studies until the fourteenth year of life and then sets down to rest in the dust. One should not in old age forsake what one has taken care to do as a child. Keep the book of this covenant on your lips always. "Oh, if your Word should no longer hold true, on what will faith be founded? I care nothing for a thousand worlds, but for doing your Word."

A library owning a hundred thousand books, calling out, "take and read" — truly, I would not want that. But to be an angel of God along the way and to give each wanderer the holy Bible and say, "Take and read," I would like that. Do not let yourselves be misled, for evil idle talk ruins good morals. But if Christ is not resurrected, then the sermon is "in vain." So too is our faith "in vain." Thus, it should be a joyful word and angel's rest that [4] this word, "take and read," gives you. Take your Bible and read. This is written to honor God, and for the dear Christians in gratitude to God, and all people who have taken part in this glorious feast. "Yet again" our profoundest thanks to all. Oh, how glorious it is when unity prevails. May God reward all for it and preserve us all in memory this day, for Jesus was also invited to the wedding feast.

"And if the world were full of devils and wanted to swallow us all, yet we would not be so afraid. God will not let it succeed." Oh, how glorious and how fine it is to be a lamb of Christ. Then spread out both wings, o Jesus my joy, and accept your little church with this little flock of yours. If Satan wishes to swallow us, let your angels sing; the place will remain unscathed.

O all you dear friends, especially the pastor—for I call you all dear friends out of love and gratitude to God—Oh, when I think of this evening, it will remain in my memory [5] as long as I live. Oh, if you only knew what kind of a feeling it is when something like that comes over you, or if I could give it to you, I wouldn't wish to stop shouting and giving thanks at all, for I would be able to write an entire book full without ceasing and shout into each person's ear so that it penetrates into their heart. See how lovely and how fine it is when the members are peaceful and when their actions are beneficial, without deceit, deception and guile. If it could only be so always! Can't we struggle with ourselves, when the Adversary is before us, and say, like Jesus, "Be gone, Satan; you should worship God alone and serve him"? If

we are able to do that, then the Sun of justice will rise for our time. Let dawn break in your church so that the world can see it, because in this way, we let it go very deep into our hearts, and let it be seen in our actions. For the Word of God will, shall and must be victorious. For it is like a sounding brass and a ringing bell that this word, "take and read," gives you.

[6] Now this should be a reminder to everyone and remain so for all eternity, amen. For what the mouth cannot do, the pen must do. O dear Lord Jesus, give your aid so that your seed that here is sown will sprout, penetrate all our hearts and fall on good soil and bear fruit a hundred fold, and that the devil may not come and scatter his tares among them.

May God make it so, amen.

Your friend, Christina Schock

THE ENGLISH ISSUE FROM HER DIARY²

[Written March 1932]

I would also like to say a few words about “the English issue,” as our people who are so against the introduction of the English language in our worship services call it. We have an English worship service every other Sunday. That means in the language of this country, and German and also English Sunday School every Sunday, which many do not approve of. For my part, I consider it our Christian duty because there are many children there who otherwise do not belong to any congregation and are not [11] yet baptized and also not confirmed, whom one can in a certain sense consider as heathen. Why send missionaries out into the wide world when one can do the best missionary work at home through the Sunday School? And I think it is nothing but Christian duty to instruct these children in the Word of God, whether in our German language or in the language of this country, which is only a means to an end. The Gospel is taught to those in foreign lands in their mother tongue, after all, and for that, many pastors and missionaries are trained and sent out. So, I thought if we have enough heathens in our midst, then one should first open the church for them and bring the Gospel to them in their language so that they too come to Jesus. The Gospel is not bound to one particular language, as some apparently still refuse to believe. As I heard, 14 children are now being confirmed, and they say 9 of them are also to be baptized. In my view, that’s quite wonderful, but there are people who in their own [12] family have English daughters-in-law or sons-in-law and yet are dead set against English and any English worship service, or that their children should recite proverbs in the English language. And I say that’s fair; these people want to go to Heaven, but they don’t want to let their children in. You can’t expect the English daughter-in-law or the English son-in-law to attend the German church where, as born Americans, they don’t understand

² The backdrop for Christiana’s shared thoughts follows. She had been a member of the rural Peace Lutheran congregation; most other members were also immigrant Germans. Their church was located northeast of Turtle Lake. They likely worship using their mother tongue, which was the German language, and likely used Bibles and hymnals printed in German script. The church was destroyed by a wind storm about 1923 and, subsequently, they met in homes for a few years as did a group of immigrant Norwegians located west of Turtle Lake. The two groups merged about 1930 to form the Peace Lutheran congregation of Turtle Lake where they constructed a church. This merger likely resulted in use of English in worship services.

the German language. That is entirely natural and cannot be changed. I myself put much value in German because I can't speak English and only understand a little. Of our children, five have been confirmed in German, and the sixth will be confirmed in German this spring, because otherwise I wouldn't have understood any of it. When the children learn German, they always have to ask what this or that means, but in English, they know it right away because they learn that language nine months long all day at school, but German only every [13] Sunday for an hour, and they don't put a lot into it precisely because they don't understand it well, no matter how fervently the parents are for it. Some children don't even learn to read German until they leave school. But if the time is there, they really should be confirmed in German, whether they understand anything of the language or not apart from some scraps of colloquial language. This is why I say again: why not allow the children the language that they can understand the best? Our children come almost every day and ask to learn in English. Often one does not know what to think. If only I could understand it better! But if they don't understand it in German and we nevertheless want to bind them to it, then it's our own fault if our children are lost. After all, I also go to the English worship service every Sunday, but not for the reason, as some people claim, that I was simply in the church. No, and no again! I go to gather the few scraps that I understand and that fall from the Lord's table. After all, one almost always understands the text [14] and when I come home, I look up and read again in the Bible what the Lord says. Yesterday, on Easter Sunday, we also had an English worship service, and the text was Matthew 28:1-10, and now everyone can look up and see what kind of a worship service we had. But now I have to draw to a close.

A LETTER TO HER CHILDREN FROM HER DIARY

[DIARY COVER] To my children

You will find your mother's prayer here in my diary. O, if I could give it to you in other words so that you might understand it better! I would write it in your soul with a stylus of iron so that it would burn forever and you might never forget it. But, may God be with you so that you understand it correctly.

Your mother

Christina Schock née Ehni

I give to you everything good and noble to be found in this world—the pure and unsullied Word of God.

30 November 1933

[35] For my children, from their mother, a prayer

O Lord Jesus, to whom shall I lament it? As a stag calls for fresh water, my soul, o God, calls to you that I have erred and neglected to lead my children to you early. But, Lord Jesus, what I have neglected, I now ask and implore from you. Hear and answer my pleading, Lord Jesus, and let it not remain unheard, and make them useful tools, for I commend them into your hands. Oh, that my beseeching may not be made in vain. My heart trembles and becomes apprehensive when I think of them. Oh, that you might be dead for sin and alive for righteousness. If I could only write it in your souls with an iron stylus, for with words, it is almost impossible. Oh, when I think on it: everything simply cannot be lost! It cannot be, impossible, it cannot be! Oh, what do these words say to you? When you read them, keep still and contemplate what they say to you. I, poor wretch, poor sinner, stand here before the face of God. O God, o God, deal gently and do not take me to judgment. My God, I ask by the blood of Christ, only let my end be good.

Oh, where should I flee to, when I am so heavy laden [36] with so many weighty sins? Where should I find salvation? I gaze up to you to see if I see my Father, the Heavenly Father above, who looks down on me from above. O dear Father, stand by me and I will be eternally grateful to you.

3. [Sic] God, give me a pure heart and give me a new, steadfast spirit. Do not cast me out of your presence or take your Holy Spirit away from me.

1. [Sic] Here I am, Lord. You call to me; you pull me and I follow you. You require of me my heart and mind. My Creator, take, oh take it. 1. [Sic] Soul, go to Golgotha. Sit down beneath the cross of Jesus and consider what it is that impels you to penance. If you will remain unfeeling, you are more than a stone.

1. [Sic] What makes me clean of sin? Only the blood of the Lamb Jesus. Where might salvation be for me? Only in the blood of the Lamb Jesus. My beloved children, listen to me. Learn wisdom and take note in earnest of my words, which I have said to you so many times already, for I wish to give you certain doctrine: "Holy Scripture," which teaches you with clarity. Therefore, follow the Word of God [37] and do not let yourselves be led astray. Bend your knees and do not rest easy, even if it is only the knees of the heart. Praise the Lord, my soul, and do not forget him. Do not forget the poor when you have a cheerful day, and then joy will also come to you. And bring the Lord his offering as is his due, in church and for mission and wherever else it is needed. Give gladly, and you will also receive again in this fashion and grant your soul a boon from above. My child, do not forget who gives this to you when other times come, when she who faithfully remembers you will one day be taken from you: it is the mother who gladly gives her life if she gains salvation for the child. She looked for a pledge of love to truly enliven your heart, and it seemed to her that her eye could never glimpse anything better for you than this wellspring of the light of joy that God himself offered to his children, which I commend to you with heartfelt urgency. Draw from it diligently even in the hour of parting. Look towards Heaven. With joyful tongue, confess the faith that was taught at the hearth in your home. The mother taught it to her child.

O, the day is terrible to see when God no longer permits the supplication of your mother. [38] And remember that it was also the scribes who crucified Jesus. They too believed that they understood scripture the best (like many still do today) and yet were full of the devil, and the greatest enemies of the Savior, insisting that he had to be crucified. Therefore, ponder and remember what you have learned: the pure and unsullied Word of God. You will find it nowhere better than there where you are and have learned it. Do not let it be stolen from you, for it is true and certain. And when they come and seek to challenge it, do not believe them, for I have fought a good fight for you. Jesus Christ is your savior and do not let him be stolen from you. Say, "This faith is also my faith, Jesus Christ," and act and strive for it. That is all that I can do for you. Ask and constantly ask again and follow him, and then there is help for you.

Listen, there's a knocking at the door. Just listen! He is still standing outside. He stands beseeching at the door. He will give you true joy. Let him in. Let the Savior in. He will lead you to green meadows and guide you to fresh water. Amen.

[LOOSE WRITING: no date]

O GOD HAVE MERCY
“For instruction, relief and sanctification”

To all you dear Christians and people.

Have we ever really seriously thought about what we’re striving toward? Oh, it’s a very serious time and a time for all of us to stop and examine ourselves to see if we aren’t walking two different paths. Oh, let us examine ourselves very seriously and hold very still before continuing on and say, “O dear soul, you cannot serve God and also Mammon. Follow the right path and seek Jesus and his light. Anything else won’t help you.” But please examine seriously while the Savior is calling and before it is said, “in vain.” Oh, how many times have I wanted to gather you, but “in vain,” you have not wanted it. O terrible possibility, o terrible word – that one word “in vain.” O dear soul, hold still and ask yourself quite seriously whether you have not walked down a great many perverse paths. Oh, it is grave and serious when we stand still and truly see our actions. Let us beat our breasts and say, “O God, have mercy on me poor sinner” – and earnestly pray daily:

Oh, poor me, poor sinner, I stand here in God’s presence.

O God, o God, be gentle and do not take me to judgment.

My God, I pray by Christ’s blood, just let my end be good.

Oh, where shall I flee to when I am so weighed down

With so many grievous sins? Oh, where shall I find salvation?

I look to the heights to see if I can see my Father.

The Father in Heaven above looks down on me from above.

O dear father, stand by me and I will be eternally grateful to you.

O God, create in me a pure heart and give me a new certain spirit. Do not cast me out from your presence and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

And then:

Here I am Lord, you call to me. You pull on me, and I follow.

You demand my heart and soul from me. My Creator, take it, oh take it. Amen.

And if we pray this and ask earnestly, then surely our Heavenly Father will hear us and he will not forsake us in everything we start and we ask him, truly ask him earnestly, so that in the end we can say, “Oh, when the Lord calls his own, I will be there.” O Lord Jesus, we choose you as our advocate and helper in all distress, and you will certainly help us, because you have always helped so earnestly. Therefore, you will also help us on this path where we have chosen you as our guide and companion. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

John 3:16 – God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Verse 36: Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life. Whoever does not believe the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

If Christianity is lacking in the life of the mighty ones of the world today,³ whose fault is it that Christians fail to deepen their faith and enrich their knowledge!

Each one of us has learned at some point what makes human souls happy and redeems the world. But when the religion lessons end – for many, Christian instruction comes to an end with confirmation. Instead of entering the Sunday School of the saints, they enter the world. The Word of God is forgotten. Earthly lust is inhaled and faith dries up. Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, don’t be satisfied with just hearing the sermon. Read the scriptures for yourself. You read so much about time – read about eternity too, because it is very serious. Don’t merely listen to the word of the preacher, but earnestly pray individually for the spirit of truth, and that it may begin a spiritual life of its own in us. Therefore, seek Jesus and his light – nothing else will help us.

A Christian who earnestly pursues the stated goal must seek a firm knowledge. He must not follow his own spirit, but allow himself to be illuminated by the Holy Spirit and must search the scriptures continually so that the will of God may be known more and more clearly to us, and that is not so easy. We have to fight for it because the devil has to be defeated, and he doesn’t want to do that because he doesn’t want to lose us. And if we

³ Translator’s note: I’m reading the German text as “Wenn es in unseren Tagen am Leben der Weltmächtigen das Christentum fehlt...”

follow everything that is good, then the devil no longer has any rights over us and he doesn't want that – he wants to have us.

That's why we're told to fight and fight with earnestness. May we renounce all the evil paths where we have walked until now.

Some people might have thought: "I don't need that, because I wasn't that bad, after all." Oh, we don't know how serious our Lord Jesus is about us. Why can't we fight for the good too? We also do it for evil – but fighting for evil is much easier. We don't have to fight for that. It comes naturally because Satan forces his way in with all his might. He'll make sure that he doesn't lose us – because he always says when we go somewhere, "That's not a sin, and that's not a sin either." But let us ask our Lord Jesus precisely for wisdom and understanding. He will certainly open our eyes and let us see where we have often failed without our knowledge and understanding.

That's why scripture tells us, "They have eyes and do not see, and ears and do not hear." That's why we have to fight, and continually fight, and strive diligently towards the good. May God the Father help us by grace, Amen. If we do what is written here, then we can also love our neighbor and trust him with all our heart and not always have such wrong thoughts in us when something happens, because that is what so-and-so has done – if the person isn't suspecting any evil pitfall that will cause anything like that.

And now I believe we have all had enough and can examine for ourselves whether it isn't so in truth.

[DIARY: 38+1] Turtle Lake, 2 February 1934

Lenten season musing

Since this time, it took a long time until I got to writing, may everyone be heartily greeted with the greeting of love, of the true love of Jesus Christ. And since now again the holy Lenten season is approaching when Jesus was nailed on the cross for us, I ask you out of love for our Savior: make a journey to Golgotha with me in prayer every day until the Crucifixion to the foot of the cross of "Jesus." Soul, go to Golgotha. Sit down beneath the cross of Jesus and think on what it is that impels you to penance. If you want to be unfeeling, then you are more than a stone. See the picture of misery hanging between Heaven and Earth and how the blood wells up in streams, and that all his strength has vanished. What makes me clean from sin? Only the blood of the Lamb Jesus. Where can there be salvation for me? Only in the blood of the Lamb Jesus. And so on.

[38+2]

This is my wish for you this holy Lenten season in love and gratitude to our Savior, and for a blessing and salvation for our souls. If we do that every day and journey to Golgotha and also contemplate Jesus hanging there on the cross and ask and plead, "Lord, remember us when you enter into your kingdom," he will surely not forsake us. And someday we will see ourselves yonder in blessed eternity. That is everything that I can wish you for the year 1934. If we journey to Jesus the whole year, it surely cannot get worse each day, like the year that has passed. But don't forget to journey to Jesus each day (and we have to do that if we would be true Christians), including at work and wherever else it may be. But now I have to stop. Otherwise, it will perhaps seem to you that I don't want to do anything else but to instruct you. [Above line: we should] That is what is said about Jesus, after all. If only I could do that forever! I want to try, as God wills, as much as is in my power, to journey with Jesus before ... on the [ENDS]

[LOOSE WRITING] 14 January 1940

A meditation “written for the holy Lenten season”

Oh, Lord Jesus, before I begin to write, I sigh to you that your word will not be written in vain and be lost to all those for whom it is written before it is read and before it has had a powerful effect on young and old. Your power, Lord Jesus, is mighty in the weak; therefore, hear me, Lord, hear me and accept my sighing.

And may God aid me in this in grace. Amen.

O precious word from the mouth of God that bears pure blessing, intercede at this time that it might move heart and mind. Lord, show me everything that I cannot rightly comprehend.

Remember your teachers who spoke the Word of God to you. Look to their end and follow their faith.—Hebrews 13:7

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to have compassion with our weaknesses, but one who is tempted on all sides just as we are, but without sin.—Hebrews 4:15

For the word from the cross is foolishness to those who are losing their way, but to us who are on the path of salvation it is the power of God.—1 Corinthians 1:18

No one can lay another foundation except the one that has been laid, which is Jesus Christ.—1 Corinthians 3:11

Don't you know that you are God's temple and the Spirit of God dwells in you?—1 Corinthians 3:16

[2] But he who endures to the end will be saved.—Matthew 24:13

For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.—1 Corinthians 4:20

And because unrighteousness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.—
Matthew 24:12

For our tribulation, which is temporal and light, brings about an eternal
glory whose weight is beyond measure.—2 Corinthians 4:17

For you yourselves know of a certainty that the day of the Lord will come
like a thief in the night.—1 Thessalonians 5:2

For I do not do the good that I desire, but the evil that I do not desire, that I
do.—Romans 7:19

I, wretched man—who will redeem me from the body of this death?—
Romans 7:24

The world has gone off track
And the spirit of the age threatens revolution.
Everything else has fled away,
even faith, loyalty and honesty.

And the day is terrible to see when God no longer permits the supplication
of your mother. Read it through more than once. “Remember your mother
when she is no longer there—how she prayed for you and was concerned for
your salvation.”

Written so that you will all be able to read it, and also your children, in
memory of your mother. Keep this in your Bible.

[DIARY LAST PAGE: no date]

An Easter Song

1. What makes me clean from sins? Only the blood of the Lamb Jesus. Where can there be healing for me? Only in the blood of the Lamb Jesus.

Chorus: Oh, precious is the blood that makes good all harms. My soul rests here in the blood of the Lamb Jesus.

2. What redeems me from guilt? Only the blood of the Lamb Jesus. What gives me the Father's grace? Only the blood of the Lamb Jesus.

3. What overcomes sin and the world? Only the blood of the Lamb Jesus. What turns me into God's hero? Only the blood of the Lamb Jesus.

4. What cancels out all earth pains? Only the blood of the Lamb Jesus. What leads up to Heaven's heights? Only the blood of the Lamb Jesus.

[LOOSE LETTER] 15 September 1941

ANOTHER LETTER TO HER CHILDREN

“Your mother’s only wish and prayer is: ‘Take your Bible and read.’”

Take the Word of God and do not neglect it. It is as if the Savior is reaching out His hand to us from His Word and saying: “No one comes to the Father but by me.” Therefore, take your Bible and let the Word speak to you, for it is God Himself who is talking with you. And if you cannot properly understand it, then ask: “Lord God, Heavenly Father, have mercy on us and give us the proper wisdom and strength so that we can properly understand and comprehend and can live in the true life of faith. Amen.” — O God, create in me a pure heart and give me a new and steadfast spirit and cast me not out from your presence and do not withdraw your Holy Spirit from me.

The Heavens are open. My heart, do you know why?

Because Jesus has fought and bled for it.

But this is the true faith that says: “If I only have you,” and “Who comes to me, I will not cast out.” Shouldn’t I belong to him who gave his life for me? Shouldn’t I swear loyalty to him, loyalty unto death and the grave?

I also want to ask:

What is conversion, or what does it mean? Answer: Faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit, which the Lord has poured out abundantly over us; and that we can come to him and ask him like the dear children ask their dear father. And if you know that—and every schoolchild should know that, or it should be learned—[2] then you can—if someone should ever ask concerning faith or conversion, which frequently happens—then you can ask, “What is conversion, or what does it mean?” and then give the answer straightaway: faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and the renewal of the Holy Spirit and so on, so that we might be justified by His grace and heirs of eternal life according to hope. That is certainly true.

And then let us all journey every day in spirit to Golgotha to the foot of the cross of Jesus and say, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner," and the Our Father. We can do that much, can't we? Then the Lord will not cast us out.

Oh, if it weren't for Jesus,
How would things go?
And because he came
To protect the devout;
For he suffered the stabbing pain
For me on the cross.

Your mother

So that you know that you have a mother you warned you about all evil. And pray this each evening or as often as you have time.

Yes, God is good. He harbors me securely. A strong rock in the wild tempest.

[LOOSE COMPOSITION: no date]

Poem [no name]

NO. 1

1-

Noch einmal in meinem ganzen Leben
möcht ich so gern meine Eltern sehn,
Alle Schätze wird ich darum geben
wenn dieses könnte noch einmal geschen!

2-

Mutter die mit Schmerzen mich geboren,
Ich weiß gewiß sie liebte mich recht sehr:/
Auf immer hab ich sie durch Tod verloren,
Und auch mein Vater lebt schon längst nich mehr

3-

Ich war vergnügt von morgen bis zum Abend
Denn damals ging es mir ja freudig gut:/
Da wußt ich nichts von Bang u Gram und Sorgen,
Da ward mein Herz von aller freude voll :/

4-

Wenn ich gedenk an jene frohe stunde,
Da ich noch so bei meine Eltern war,
Welche Freude hab ich da empfunden,
Da ich mein Stückchen Brot mit ihnen aß:/

5-

Sieh der Tod hat sie mir weg gerissen,
Die einst mein ein und auch mein alles war:/
Heiße Tränen die um sie jetzt flüßen,
Sie werden flüßen noch so manches Jahr:/"

1-

I'd give all I own, if I could see my parents
just once more .

2-

My mother bore me in pain, I know she loved me
dearly. In death I have lost her forever, My
father, too, has long been gone.

3-

I was amused from morning until night, it was
such a happy time. I knew nothing of fear, grief
and worry. My heart was only full of joy

4-

When I think of the happy hours when I was with
my parents. The joy that was mine as I ate my
piece of bread with them!

5-

Now death has torn them from me. They were my
one and all. The hot tears that flow now will
flow for many a year!

[LOOSE COMPOSITION: no date]

Poem "Christmas Song"

A Christmas song

1-

Der Christbaum ist der schönste Baum
Den wir auf Erden kennen
Im Garten klein im engsten Raum
Wie lieblich blüht der Wunderbaum
Wenn seine Blümchen brennen
Wenn seine Blümchen brennen
ja brennen!

2-

Denn sieh in dieser Wundernacht
Ist einst der Herr geboren
Der Heiland der mich selig macht.
Hätt er den Himmel nicht bebracht
Wär alle Welt verloren
Wär alle Welt verloren
verloren!

3-

Doch nun ist Freud u Seligkeit
Ist jede Nacht voll Kerzen
Auch dir mine Kind ist das bereit
Dein Jesus schenkt dir alles Heut
Gern wohn er dir im Herzen
Gern wohnt er dir im Herzen
im Herzen

4-

O laß Ihn ein es ist kein Traum
Er wählt dein Herz zum Garten
Will pflanzen in dem engen Raum
Den allerschönsten Wunderbaum
Und seiner treulich warten
Und seiner treulich warten
ja Warten!

1-

The Christmas tree is the loveliest tree that we know on this earth --in a small garden in the smallest space, how lovely blooms this magic tree when it's flowers are on fire!

2-

See! in this marvelous night, one day the Lord was born --the Savior who makes me blessed. Had He not opened heaven to us, the whole world would be lost.

3-

So now is joy and blessedness and every night full of candlelight. For you, my child, all has been prepared. Jesus gives it to you today and will gladly live in your heart!

4-

Oh, let Him in --it is no dream. He has chosen your heart as the small garden -in the smallest space He wants to plant this most beautiful magic tree so you will faithfully wait for him

APPENDIX

This appendix contains Christiana Ehni Schock's handwritten copies of original loose letters, some diary letters and one poem. The remaining diary letters are not included due to the bulk of pages that would be needed.

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Memorial Obituary

Mrs. J. Schock, Turtle Lake, Claimed by Death

TURTLE LAKE — Mrs. John Schock, Sr., long-time resident of the Turtle Lake community, passed away on March 30, 1957 at 5:45 a.m. at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Schock. She was 76 years, 3 months and 6 days of age.

Christina Ehni was born Dec. 24, 1880 to Johannes and Katherine Ehni in South Russia. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith.

On Feb. 16, 1906 she was united in marriage to John Schock.

In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Schock immigrated to America where they settled on a farm north-east of Turtle Lake. In 1943 they retired and moved to Turtle Lake.

In 1952 Mrs. Schock suffered a severe stroke which left her bedridden. Since April, 1953, Mr. and Mrs. Schock had made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Reinhold Schock.

Mrs. Schock was a charter member of Peace Lutheran church and a member of the first Ladies Aid of that church.

Her husband, six sons and two daughters mourn her passing. The children are Jake of Tuttle, Alex; Helen (Mrs. Jake Fueller); John Jr., and Reinhold, all of Turtle Lake; Daniel of El Monte, Calif.; Emma (Mrs. Geo. Whitaker), of San Gabriel, Calif.; Emil of Verendrye. She was preceded in death by one son, Gustav, who died in infancy. She also leaves 34 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services are being held from Peace Lutheran church on Thursday afternoon with Rev. L. R. Schultz officiating. Interment will be in the Turtle Lake cemetery.

Pallbearers are Walter Ru-

Obituary for Christiana Ehni Schock

Source: The Washburn Leader,
Washburn, ND, 4 April 1957.

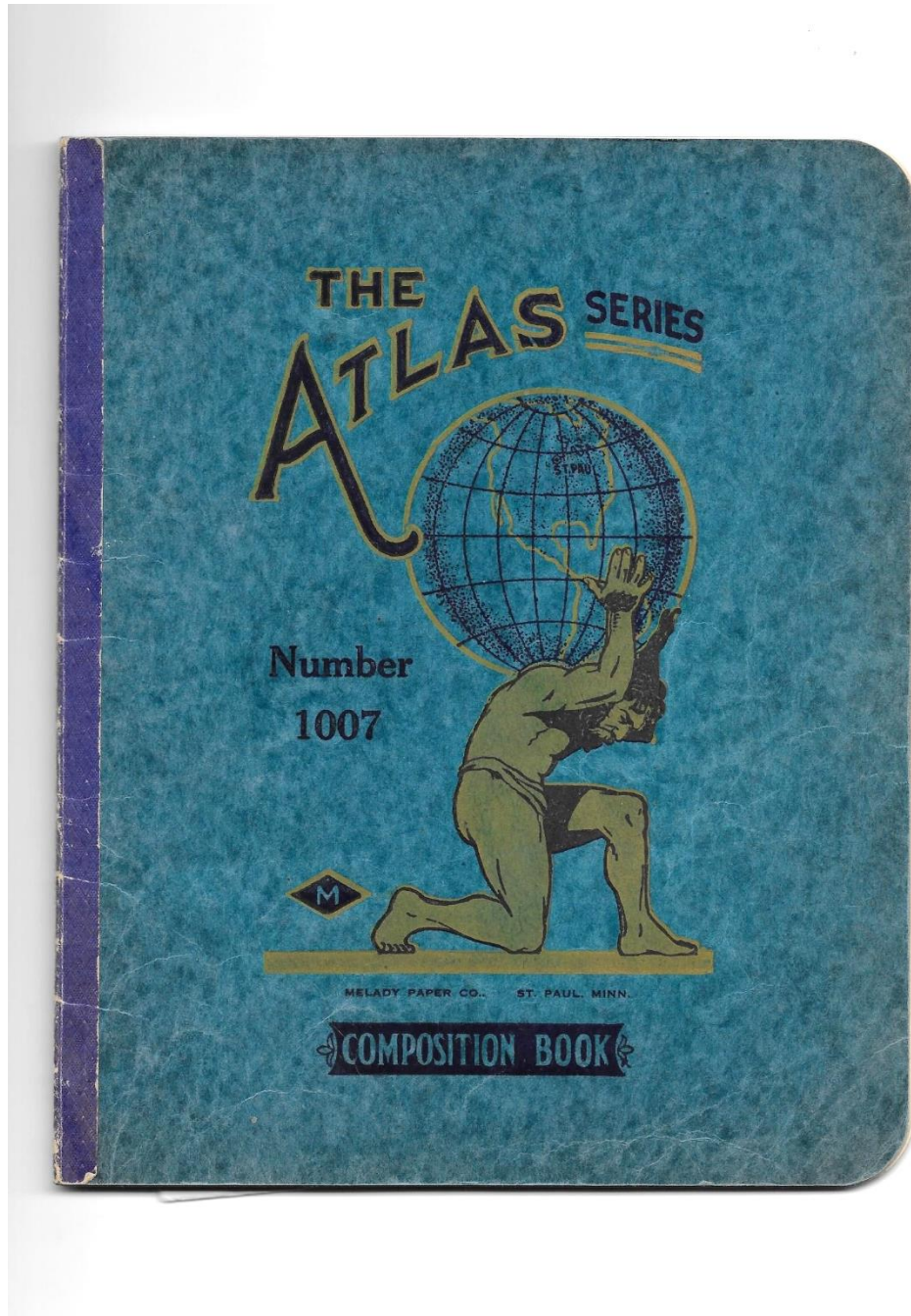
CONTINUED FROM REVERSE SIDE

dolph, Herbert, Alfred and Reuben Schock, nephews, and Marvin Fueller, grandson.

Honorary pallbearers are John Ruck, John Braun, Christ Wagner, Joseph Stadler, Israel Schilling, John Reiser and Jacob Hofer.

The Heinle Funeral Home of Garrison had charge of arrangements.

Diary Cover



so mit nicht Künigsein. Der wir alle die bösen
 Weyn abspinnen der wir sind nicht unverschuldet
 was sein, ~~will die Götter nicht mit uns~~ ~~spinnen~~ ~~und~~ ~~unverschuldet~~
~~haben~~ ~~das~~ ~~was~~ ~~zu~~ ~~den~~ ~~unverschuldet~~
 In der Zeit der Welt ist ein Menschen wird der befehlen ist nicht
 weil ist ein der nicht so pflicht unverschuldet O wie wir
 Gerecht wie auch es unser Gutes Gutes mit uns nicht
 Warum können wir nicht auch für die Gutes Künigsein nicht
 Spinn ab der wir sind der bösen. Und die ist zu viel bösen
 weil die Götter nicht zu nicht Künigsein. Und die ist zu
 dem selbst weil die Götter nicht sind aber mit nicht sein
 der nicht sind Götter geben das wir nicht verschuldet, weil wir
 sagt der immer wenn wir nicht unverschuldet ist keine Böse
 in der ist nicht keine Böse. Und die ist zu viel bösen
 unser Gutes Gutes Gutes dem Gutes ist in dem Gutes
 wird der Gutes die Gutes Gutes in dem Gutes Gutes
 der wir oft gefühlt haben unser nicht unverschuldet in dem Gutes
 der Gutes sagt und der die Gutes, die Gutes unverschuldet
 Gutes nicht in Gutes in Gutes nicht. Warum wir nicht
 aber Künigsein in immer werden Künigsein in dem Gutes
 mit Gutes unverschuldet Gutes dem Gutes unverschuldet und Gutes
 der Gutes und Gutes Gutes in dem wir der Gutes Gutes
 können nicht nicht unser Gutes Gutes in dem wir Gutes
 Gutes Gutes in nicht Gutes immer so Gutes Gutes
 in dem Gutes, wenn unser Gutes Gutes, weil der Gutes
 der in dem Gutes, in dem Gutes Gutes Gutes Gutes
 Gutes Gutes unser Gutes, zum nicht so unser Gutes
 in dem Gutes ist Gutes nicht alle Gutes in dem
 und Gutes ob es nicht so in dem Gutes ist

Loose letter dated 14 January 1940, page 1

1/ Geschrieben den 14 Januar 1940. Für die Heilige Pasionszeit.
Ach Herr Jesu, ich Seife zu dir. Ehe ich anfänge zu Schreiben, das dein
Wort doch nicht vergeblich geschrieben ist, u verloren gehe, ehe es gelesen
ist, für alle die es geschrieben ist - Ehe es Kraft gewirget hat, bei jung
u alt - Den deine Kraft Herr Jesus, ist doch in den Schwachen Mächtig;
Darum erhöere mich Herr, erhöere mich, u nimm mein Seifzen auf. -
u. Dazu verhelte mir Gott in Gnaden. Amen.
O. Teures Wort aus Gottes Munde, dasz da Lauter Segen drägt.
Greife ein in dieser Stunde, das es Herz u sinn bewegt, u zeige
Herr mir alles an, was ich nicht recht begreifen kann, - - - u.
Gedenket an eure Lehrer, die euch das Wort Gottes gesagt haben,
ihr Ende schauet an, u folget ihrem Glauben nach, - Ebrä. K. 13. v. 7.
Denn wir haben nicht einen Hohenpriester, der nicht kente mitleiden haben.
mit unsren Schwachheiten, Sonder der versucht ist allen-thalben gleich wie
wir, doch ohne Sünden. - Ebräer, K. 4. v. 15.
Denn das Wort vom Kreutz, ist eine Thorheit denen die verloren werden, uns
aber, die wir Selig werden, ist's eine Gotteskraft, - 1. Korinth K. 1. v. 18.
Einen andren Grund kann niemand legen, auszer dem der gelegt ist,
welcher ist Jesus Christ, - Kori. K. 3. v. 11.
Wisset ihr nicht, das ihr Gottes Tempel seid, u der Geist Gottes in euch
wohnet - - 1. Kor K. 3. v. 16.

Loose letter dated 14 January 1940, page 2

Wer aber beharrt bis ans Ende der wird selig. -- Matth. K. 24. v. 13.

Denn das Reich Gottes steht nicht in Worten, sondern in Kraft. 1. Kor. K. 4. v. 10

* U dieweil die Ungerechtigkeit wird überhand nehmen wird die Liebe in vielen erkalten. -- Mat. K. 24. v. 12.

Den unsre Trübsal die zeitlich u leicht ist, schattet eine ewig, u über alle Massen, wichtige Herrlichkeit. -- 2 Korinth. K. 4. v. 17.

Denn ihr Selbst wisset gewisz, das der Tag, des Herrn, wird kommen wie ein dieb in der Nacht. -- 1. Thessalo. K. 5. v. 2.

Den das Gute, das ich will, das tue ich nicht, sondern das Böse, das ich nicht will, das tue ich. -- Röm. K. 7. v. 19.

Ich elender Mensch, wer wird mich erlösen, von dem Leibe dieses Todes. v. 24.

Aus den Fugen ist die Welt gewichen, u mit umsturz droht der Geist der zeit, alles andre ist entwichen, auch der Glaube, treu u Rethlichkeit, Und Schrecklich ist der Tag zu sehen, wo Gott nicht mer erlaubt zu flehen, Von eurer Mutter, das läset öfter durch, wie Einmal, u gedenket an eure Mutter, wen sie ein mal nicht mer da ist - wie sie für euch Gebetet, hat, u war Bekömmert um eure Seeligkeit.

So Geschrieben das ihr es alle Lesen können u auch eure Kinder zum anderken, von eurer Mutter, -- Das höbet euch auf, in eurer Bibel.

"An Easter Song" (Diary last page)

Ein Oster Lied

1. Was machst mich von Tündern wein, Was ich bleib ich
Lammes Jesu? - Wo mag für mich Heilung sein, Was
im Blute ich Lammes Jesu?
2. Was löst mich von der Sünde, Was ich bleib ich
Lammes Jesu? - Was speult mir die Wunden ein
Was ich bleib ich Lammes Jesu?
3. Was bezwinget Tünder Welt, Was ich bleib ich
Lammes Jesu? Was machst mich zu Gottes Heil,
Was ich bleib ich Lammes Jesu?
4. Was tilgt alle Sünden, Was ich bleib ich
Lammes Jesu? Was süßt in der himmlisch Heil,
Was ich bleib ich Lammes Jesu?

Jesu. O Köpfling ist die Welt machst alle Tünder
gut hier meine Tünder weißt. In dem blut
ich Lammes Jesu

Deiner Mutter, einziger Wunsch u gebet ist. -) an 15 Sep 1941.
"Nimm deine Bibel, u lies."
Nimt das Wort Gottes, u verseime es nicht. Es ist als ob der
Heiland, aus dem Wort heraus, Seine Hand zu uns ausstreckt u sagt:
Niemand kömt zum Vater den durch mich, - Darum nimt eure Bibel,
u laszt das Wort zu euch Sprechen, - den es ist Gott der selber mit
euch redet, - u wenn ihr's nicht recht verstehen Kent, - dan Bittet,
Herr Gott, Himlischer Vater erbarme dich doch über uns, u =
Schenke uns die rechte Weisheit, u Kraft - das wir es recht ver-
stehen, u Begreifen können u im rechten Glaubens-Leben leben
mögen Amen. - - O. Schaffe in mir Gott ein reines Herz u Gieb
mir einen neuen Gewissen Geist, u ver wirf mich nicht vor deinem
Angesicht, u nimm deinen Heiligen Geist nicht von mir; - -
Der Himel steht offen, Herz weist da's warum, Weil Jesus
gekämpft, u gebludet darum, - - Das ist aber der Rechte Glaube,
der da spricht, wen ich nur dich habe - u wer zu mir kömt den
will ich nicht hinaus=stoszen. - - Sollt ich dem nicht
angehören, der sein Leben für mich gab, - Sollt ich ihm nicht
"Treue Schwören", Treue Bis zum Tot u Grab, - -
Noch will ich Fragen, - - "Was ist",
Oder was Bedeitet die Bekehrung, antwort; - Der Glaube, an
unsren Herrn u Heiland Jesum Christum u die Erneuerung des
Heiligen Geistes, - welchen der Herr ausgegossen hat über uns
Reichlich, - Das wir zu ihm kömen kennen, "u in bitten",
wie die liebe Kinder, ihren lieben Vater, - u wen ihr das
wiszt, - - u das Sollte ein jedes Schulkind wissen, -

2/ Oder gelernt werden. -- "Dan kend ihr, -- wen euch jemals,
Sollte jemand Fragen, wegen im Glauben, oder bekehren, -- was
alweil, oft vorkommt. -- "dan kend ihr Fragen, -- "Was ist";
oder Bedeutet die "Bekehrung"; -- u auch gleich die Antwort geben;
Der Glaube an unsren Herrn u Heiland, Jesum Christum, -- u die
Erneuerung des Heiligen Geistes, -- "u so wieder"; -- auf das
wir durch Seine Gnade gerecht u Erbe sein des Ewigen Leben's,
nach der Hoffnung, das ist gewiszlich wahr; -- --
und dan Wandren wir alle, jeden Tag, im Geiste, bis nach Golgatha,
unter das Kreuze Jesu, "u Sprechet, -- Gott sei mir Sünder
Gnädig, u das Vater = unser, -- das Können wir doch -- "nich war";
Dan wirt uns der Herr, Schon nicht, Minaus Stoszen, -- o.

Wenn Jesus nicht wer, wie ging es umher, u weil er ist
gekommen zu beschützen die Frommen, Weil er für mich
litt, am Kreutze den Stich, -- -- --

eure Mutter

So, das ihr wiszt, das ihr eine Mutter habt, die euch
gewarnt hat, vor allem Böszem,
u das Bedet einen jeden Abend, -- oder so oft ihr Zeit habt,
Ja, Gott ist gut, er Biegt mich wol, ein Stärker Fels, in Wiltem Sturm