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. ST. LUKE'S NEWS DIGEST .
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RELEASED TIME PROGRAM

New mission opportunities were extended to St. Luke's with the introduction of the Released Time Program of the Board of Education. Each Wednesday all pupils of New York City's public schools are released for one hour to attend their respective churches for Mid-week religious education. On February 5th, St. Luke's opened a Mid-week School. Already our children have asked us whether they could bring their friends. The Church Council anticipated this and made the necessary provisions by engaging a part time mission worker to assist in the development of an efficient and effective program.

MISSION WORKER

Since February 1st, Pastor Victor Albers has been active at St. Luke's in a community mission program. Although only half a month has passed his experiences are extremely encouraging. People in the neighborhood today seem to be much more receptive to a church canvass than at any time during the past five years. Information is gladly volunteered and fewer doors are being slammed. The Lord is using world conditions to make people more conscious of religion and thereby He is also extending a tremendous challenge to every Christian congregation. We pray that God would help St. Luke's take advantage of the opportunities she has; and we ask every member to go to God daily in prayer for the mission program of our church.

MISSION OFFERING

Enclosed with this News Digest is a Mission Offering Envelope. Our present budget does not provide for a Mission Worker. Annual expenses exceed by far receipts. Yet the Church Council feels that we cannot permit our opportunities to pass by unchallenged. The only manner, therefore, in which we can execute our mission program is by making a special appeal to all members. We ask you to use the enclosed envelope to assist us in bringing Christ to the community. Your contribution will help to change human lives and bring them to Christ. Approximately \$500 is needed to carry us through until the summer season. Will you, therefore, not only pray this program to success, but also help make it possible by your generous contribution? Ash Wednesday, February 28th, has been designated as the day on which all envelopes should be returned.

VISITORS

Lent is one Season of the church year in which the world becomes more spiritual minded than at any other time of the year. Many people who very seldom step inside of a church will attend services during the Lenten Season. This is a universal experience of all church workers.

As part of our forward mission program it has been suggested that during Lent every communicant member of St. Luke's should bring at least one visitor to our services. This visitor, of course, should preferably be one who has no church connections. The Pastor requests that you introduce him to this visitor, give him the

name and address of the same, and then he will personally contact that individual and endeavor to win him for church membership. Think of what it will mean to Christ and St. Luke's if at Easter we could take into membership only twenty-five such visitors. The future of our church depends on such a forward moving program. How much can we personally do for our Lord in this respect? Christ died for us, but He also died for others.

LENT

In a bewildered world, with society confused and nations at enmity with one another, Lent comes as a welcome relief. Once more humanity is permitted to leave its cares and responsibilities behind and rest under the Cross. Everywhere the Christian Church is extending the Lenten Call with the prayer that society will respond and participate in the spiritual significance of Calvary and its attendant circumstances. St. Luke's joins in this call and invites you each Wednesday evening to leave your daily cares and tasks behind and come apart to rest under the Cross. Will you not join your fellow members each week, invite your friends, and spend an hour with your Savior?

A CALL FOR HELP

The ministry of music, we pray, is an established part of St. Luke's program. For over four years now a group of volunteers, augmented by four trained singers, has added much to the beauty and inspiration of our regular services. We must commend our choristers for the unselfish service they are rendering the Lord.

For the coming Holiday Season the choir has planned a very ambitious program. On April 7th Stainer's Crucifixion will be presented. This concert will be given in addition to the regular choir program. At this time, therefore, a call for help is extended to all our members. Our choir needs more volunteers. During Lent regular rehearsals will be on Wednesday evenings after the service. The past two weeks have brought three new volunteers. How many more will serve in this phase of the Lord's Work?

SUNDAY MORNING ATTENDANCES

The first seven weeks of the New Year have brought a slight improvement in our attendance records. Let us keep up this record and through our regularity increase the improvement during Lent.

FLOWERS

Have you a friend or relative you would like to remember by placing flowers on the Altar some Sunday morning? There are still several vacant Sundays. Please consult Mr. John Gennerich and he will gladly make all arrangements for you.

CLOTHES

Have you any clothes at home which are of no use to you but which can still be used? Bring them to church with you some Sunday morning and permit us to distribute them to the less fortunates of the community. Children's clothes are particularly needed.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

Daily Devotional Booklets will again be mailed to you for the Lenten Season. Spiritual stimulation needs daily attention. Our life is too confused to permit us to neglect the care of our souls. As our bodies need food every day at regular intervals, so do our souls need the same spiritual food. Daily use of our Devotional Booklets will help greatly in the care of our souls.

ST. LUKE'S NEWS DIGEST

Confirmation Service

Palm Sunday is always a day of rejoicing at St. Luke's. Each year finds a group of young Christians boldly confessing their faith in Christ and pledging Him their loyalty. As we witness this public profession of our youth, we are reminded of another year when we too stood before the Altar and made a similar stand for Christ. Since that day we have discovered more than once that it has not always been a simple matter to remain faithful to our confirmation vows. Life has attacked us with a fury we never even dreamed existed. It has been a difficult struggle for us; and as we look back, we must acknowledge that victory has only come through perseverance in prayer and the encouragement we have received from our fellow-Christians. Will you not, therefore, participate in Sunday's service, give our seven confirmees the encouragement of your presence, and add your prayers to theirs for a successful fight against the vicissitudes of life? Your presence will mean much to our confirmees and will give them the official welcome into church membership at St. Luke's which they need.

Noonday Services

During Holy Week services will be conducted each day. Monday through Thursday these services will begin promptly at 12:15 and close promptly at 12:45 o'clock. On Good Friday a Three Hour Service, beginning at 12 o'clock noon, will be conducted. It is hoped that we will, through these services, serve not only members of St. Luke's, but also many other Lutherans working in the Times Square area or within easy reaching distance of the church. However, in order to reach and serve the greatest number of individuals, we depend largely on our friends and members for publicity. You know better than anyone else of people working in the vicinity of the church who will perhaps deem it a privilege to take half an hour off during the middle of the day to worship with their fellow-Lutherans. Will you, therefore, not telephone or drop a line to some friend, tell him of our services and invite him to attend.

A Musical Service

For over four years St. Luke's choirs have rendered unselfish service to their Lord and enhanced the hours of worship we have spent at church. However, never has the present choir had a service of its own in which purely through music they might sing their songs of praise and adoration to God and thus make use of the rich heritage the Christian Church has in its music. Wednesday evening, April 9th, will, therefore, be an exception. For the past several months the Senior Choir has had in rehearsal STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION. All music lovers will immediately recognize this to be one of the outstanding oratorios on the Passion of our Saviour. To the setting of beautiful and inspiring music the events of those dreadful hours Jesus spent on the Cross are vividly presented to us. Neither you nor your friends will want to miss this service of music. Our presence on April 9th at 8 o'clock is one way in which we can show our appreciation and encouragement to the members of our choir for their very splendid work of the past.

Holy Communion

Almost without exception all Christendom attends the Lord's Supper some time during Holy Week. For the convenience of our members Holy Communion will be administered on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday, thus giving all an opportunity to receive the body and blood of the precious Saviour for the remission of human transgressions. On Maundy Thursday, the night on which Christ instituted His Holy Supper, a special Communion service will be conducted. This is a service of prayer and meditation without sermon and is set aside particularly for

the observance of the Lord's Supper. The very day itself adds much to the meaning of the Sacrament for many.

Recently we have often been asked, "How often should a person receive Holy Communion?" Many have the mistaken notion that once a year during Holy Week is sufficient. Dr. Martin Luther advises at least four times a year. A better rule to follow for the Christian is that he should attend the Lord's Table as often as he feels the need of forgiveness of sins. If this need does not occur often, it is time that the Christian sits down with His God and takes spiritual inventory of his life. One can never receive Holy Communion too often, but there is very definitely the danger of not receiving it often enough.

Our Easter Service

All the world is grateful for the Season of Lent which is a reminder of the Lord's Holy Passion and which is one of deep spiritual significance to the Christian. But all the world rejoices on Easter because on that day the redemption of mankind was finally ratified in Heaven. At no service throughout the entire church year is the spirit of rejoicing as prevalent as it is on Easter morning. And to no other service does the world flock to church as it does to the Easter service. This year shall be no exception to this general rule. Already people, who are not accustomed to going to church regularly, are planning to attend on Easter. Some of those people have no church home; they go to that church to which friends invite them. Will you not, therefore, start now inviting your friends who have no church affiliations to attend our Easter morning service with you? Although on other Sundays you might have to urge people to attend church, on Easter you will merely have to invite them.

AN EYE OPENER

Recently your Pastor read the following: "For every dollar spent in the United States

24 cents go for living
21 cents go for luxuries
12 cents are wasted
10 cents go to the government
9 cents go for crime
2 cents go for education
1 cent goes to the church

The remainder is spent on clothes or goes in the bank." But in studying these figures, must we say that our budget as Christians is as unbalanced as this?

The Dorcas Guild

The Dorcas Guild was organized to serve the less fortunates of the community in which St. Luke's is situated. Clothes have been collected and distributed to approximately thirty different individuals; sweaters have been knit to be distributed; and arrangements have already been made to send twenty under-privileged boys and girls away to camp during the coming summer. The Guild meets every Thursday evening at eight o'clock and has its regular monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month. All women of St. Luke's are cordially invited to participate in this service to "the least" of Christ's brethren.
