

NEWS LETTER January 1950

Our Centennial Year

1950 is the Centennial Year of St. Luke's. God has been good to our congregation. Whereas, other Protestant Churches in the Times Square area have through the years been forced to close their doors, we, by the grace of God, have been able to survive the stress and strain of these changing and troublesome times. There have been high spots and low spots in our history, both of which have been good for our spiritual life.

Right now, it is well that we take spiritual inventory of ourselves, so that when we celebrate our Centennial in the Fall of 1950 and begin our second century of service to Christ and society, we may be spiritually strong. Since the spiritual strength of any congregation is measured by the spirituality of its individual members, it is well that each of us ask ourselves, "What am I contributing to the spiritual life of my congregation? Am I in Church regularly, week after week, or only when the spirit moves me? Do I attend the Lord's Supper frequently or only once or twice a year? Am I working for my Savior at St. Luke's or am I only sitting back and watching? Do I contribute regularly to the best of my ability or am I letting someone else support the Church until I need it? Do I pray for my Church or do I simply criticize it? Am I an active member or an indifferent member?"

All this can be changed:

1. If I attend Church Services every Sunday;
2. If I receive Holy Communion every time it is celebrated;
3. If I contribute my best to the Church;
4. If I enlist in, at least one of the various activities of the Church;
5. If I place my Church on my daily prayer list.

How strong will St. Luke's be when we celebrate our 100th Anniversary? The answer depends on you; and only God will be your Judge.

The Lutheran Friends Of The Deaf

Those of us who have normal hearing do not know how fortunate we are. We take our hearing for granted and we miss it when it becomes somewhat impaired in age. However, to be born deaf is one of life's greatest tragedies. An automatic barrier is established in the world.

In order to help those who are less fortunate than we become independent citizens, in order to help especially little children learn of Jesus and His way of Life, our Lutheran Church has undertaken the establishment of a Lutheran School for the Deaf, described in the enclosed folder. Read the folder and then on bended knee remember that it is only by the grace of God that you are not deaf and have your hearing. As you thank God that He has given you the ability to hear and make a livelihood, also ask Him to give you the willingness to share with those less fortunate than you.

Use the enclosed envelope or subscription blank for your gift to the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf. Make your check payable to St. Luke's Lutheran Church and either bring it or mail it to St. Luke's.

Bible Study Group

On the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 8 o'clock, an informal Bible Study Group meets in the Church parlors. A pleasant hour is spent becoming better acquainted with that Book which Lutherans especially pride themselves is the source of all their teaching. The Christian can never appreciate the Bible until he learns more about it. Spend an hour some Wednesday evening with the Bible Study Group, and you will leave thankful to God for giving us His Holy Word; you will be encouraged to make it your Book of Life.

The Treasurer

Mr. Anton Koester, the treasurer of St. Luke's, wishes to thank all those who have responded to his letter regarding the finances of the Church. Some have written to him; others have spoken to him personally. Any number have increased their weekly offering in the envelopes which the Church provides. To all he says, "A Sincere Thank You!" In this Centennial Year, when expenses are going to be necessarily heavy, it would be of great assistance to the treasurer if he could anticipate your intended contribution to the Church. Have you returned your "My Contribution to Christ for 1950" card as yet? If not, please do so. It will greatly facilitate the work of the treasurer and enable him more readily to balance the budget at the end of 1950.

Film On Communism

On Tuesday, January 24th, at 8 P.M. a film entitled "The Sickle and the Cross", will be shown in the Sunday School rooms. This film was produced by the Lutheran Laymen's League and is considered one of the most excellent and Christian rebuttals to Communism. The Senior Young People's Guild is sponsoring this film and cordially invites you and your friends to attend. It is a full length feature film produced in Hollywood and has been favorably received throughout the country. Come, see and hear the answer of your Church to Communism. A free will offering will be taken.

New Altar Paraments.

Have you noticed the new altar vestments and the stoles which the Pastor is wearing? There are four sets for the different liturgical colors. Then there is also the new fair linen which is placed over the table of the altar. The Dorcas Guild, the Ladies' Aid Society and the Men's Club had a share in making this possible. We are all very grateful for this splendid contribution to the Church and we hereby, express our sincere thanks to the various organizations.

The Annual Meeting

On Wednesday evening, February 15th, at 8 o'clock, the Annual Congregational meeting will be held. At this time, reports for 1949 will be made and Centennial plans will be discussed. Plan now to attend!

The Choir

Our Choir this season is making an excellent contribution to our regular worship services. Under the direction of Mildred Holmer, we have a Choir of which we can be rightfully proud. However, the choir still needs soprano and male voices. Here is an opportunity for you to serve your Savior. Will you volunteer? Rehearsals are held each Thursday evening at eight o'clock.

Altar Flowers.

For many years it has been the custom at St. Luke's to place flowers on the altar in memory of some loved one. It is an excellent way to beautify the altar for our regular services and to remember some one dear to us. Mr. Henry Wisch, Chairman of the Altar Committee, is in the midst of arranging the schedule for 1950. There are still some available dates. The cost of two vases of flowers is five dollars. Should you wish to remember some one in this way, please speak to Mr. Wisch some Sunday morning or write to him in care of the Church.

LENT

Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, marks the beginning of another Lenten Season. The traditional Wednesday evening services will be held. Plan already at this time to set aside each Wednesday for your Lenten Pilgrimage to Calvary. Let nothing interfere with your appointment with your Suffering Savior. He died for you. Give Him the worship of your heart.

St. Luke's Basketball Team

Under the leadership of Mr. DeVerle Osborn, a basketball team composed of older high school boys, has been organized. The team plays regularly each Thursday evening at St. Luke's, with one or two other games away from home each week. The Ladies' Aid Society has just placed an order for uniforms for the team, which they hope to have within ten days. Drop in some Thursday evening to watch the boys play.

Brownie Girl Scouts.

The final unit of our Scout family at St. Luke's has been organized and is meeting each Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock under the supervision of Mrs. Ruth Wexler. The Brownies are an organization for all girls between the ages of seven and nine inclusive. A good, wholesome and well organized program is followed. Should you know of any girls in this age group, tell them of our Brownie Troop and invite them to join.

NEWS LETTER

February 1950

LENT

Lent is one of the most hallowed and sacred seasons of the entire Church year because it commemorates the suffering and death of Christ. For many centuries, the Christian Church has set aside the forty days before Easter, excluding the Sundays, for special contemplation on the significance of Christ's Holy Passion.

In spirit, we gather with Christ in the Upper Chamber at Jerusalem and behold Him institute His Holy Supper. We then accompany Him to Gethsemane, where we witness the great conflict which preceded His submission to the Father and where He was betrayed by Judas and arrested. We follow Him as He stood trial before the Church and political leaders of His time. We witness His unjust condemnation and His horrible crucifixion. However, when from the Cross He cries out: "It is finished" and then dies, we humbly thank God because our salvation has been accomplished.

Lent indeed means much to the Christian. It means his redemption from the terrible consequences of sin. It means the difference between Heaven and Hell, the difference between life and death in eternity. However, in order to enjoy the benefits of Lent, we, as individuals must observe it. We simply cannot leave the observance of Lent to pious members of the family or to the Church and expect to receive any vicarious benefits from their observance. We ourselves must journey to Mount Calvary and there kneel beneath the Cross in order to receive any spiritual benefits from this Holy Season.

As we announce another series of Wednesday evening Lenten services at 8:00 P.M. the Savior comes to each one of us and says: "What, could ye not watch with Me one hour?" Certainly one hour a week is little enough to give Him who suffered and died for us.

LENTEN SELF DENIAL OFFERING

Ever since antiquity Lent has been a quiet time, a period of penitence and self-denial. With the help of God, Christians seek to abandon selfishness and self-indulgence. They seek spiritual self-control in compliance with the Savior's admonition, "If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

The enclosed Self-Denial Folder affords the Christian an opportunity to do exactly that. There we have an opportunity to give Christ, not of our plenty, but of something that we ourselves need or could use. A self-denial offering does not become a sacrifice unless it costs us something. Christ sacrificed His life on Calvary's Cross. Certainly the price of an evening and morning newspaper ought not be too great a Lenten sacrifice for us. Start making your daily self-denial offering on Ash Wednesday and bring your folder to one of our services during Holy Week.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

Under separate cover, you will be receiving the Annual Report for 1949. The Church Council has gone to considerable expense in preparing this report and in making it available to you. It has done this with the request that you give some time to its study. St. Luke's is your Church and we trust that you are interested in every phase of its activity. Careful study of the report will show you:

1. that St. Luke's is making good and steady progress spiritually, financially and organizationally;
2. that St. Luke's is a very busy Church, offering a complete and varied spiritual and social program to all age groups;
3. that St. Luke's needs your continued and increased support to carry on its large program of activity;

4. that St. Luke's has a definite mission in the Times Square area of New York;

5. that our generation is singularly blessed in being privileged to celebrate the Centennial of St. Luke's.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Have you noticed the new and beautiful Altar Flower Board in the narthex? This was made and given to the Church by Mr. Fred Wolklin. In addition, Mr. Wolklin has made for us our Tract Rack, our Bulletin Board, the Communion Card Racks, and the rack above the guest book stand. We are deeply appreciative to him for this work of love.

Now that we have a beautiful Flower Board hanging in the narthex, we ought to try to fill in every available date. If you are interested in remembering some loved one by placing flowers on the Altar, please speak to Mr. Henry Wisch. The cost of two bouquets of flowers is five dollars.

BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

Under the direction of Mr. DeVerle Osborn a group of older high school boys has been organized into a basketball team, which during the current season has already played 18 games, winning 11 of them. Just recently the Ladies' Aid Society supplied attractive uniforms and jackets for the entire team. This is a substantial gift and both Mr. Osborn and the boys are deeply appreciative of it. The Men's Club has been supplying the basketballs and other equipment for over a year now.

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

For months now, the Centennial Committee has been working to complete its final arrangements for our great anniversary in the Fall of this year. Plans are beginning to take final shape and the Centennial Committee will soon be in a position to give you the exact details.

In the meantime, however, have you made your contribution to the Centennial Fund? Are you meeting your pledge? If you have as yet done nothing, Mr. Anton Koester will gladly discuss the matter with you either before or after any one of the services.

CHOIR CONCERT

The Choir is already preparing for its Spring Concert on Sunday, March 26th, at which time it will sing Dubois' "Seven Last Words". The concert will again this year be a benefit for the Metropolitan Inner Mission Society. Please, reserve this date and tell your friends about it.

NEW MEMBERS

On Maundy Thursday, April 6th, a group of people will be received into Church Membership. The group is being organized now. Do you know of any one who is without a Church Home? Invite them to attend our services during the Lenten Season when most people are more receptive to such an invitation. Introduce them to Pastor Neibacher and Miss Hoffmann so that they can be further contacted and invited into membership with us. Start on Ash Wednesday to bring unchurched acquaintances to St. Luke's. A mere invitation by you may be a soul won for Christ and another active worker at St. Luke's.

LADIES

Two dates of significance to the women of the Church are: March 7th - Pastor Theodore Wittrock of the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau will speak at the Dorcas Guild meeting on the subject, "The Jubilee Year of the Roman Catholic Church." The meeting begins at 7:45 P.M.

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March 8th - Pastor Ernest J. Kunsch of the Lutheran True Light Church in Chinatown will speak at the Ladies' Aid Society meeting on the work of our Church among the Chinese. Since the dedication of its new Church plant, the work of the True Light has taken on an added significance among the Chinese. Pastor Kunsch will tell the story at the Ladies' Aid meeting which begins at 2 o'clock.

All women of the congregation are invited to attend both of these meetings and to participate in the discussion which will follow.

NOON DAY SERVICES

In response to a number of requests, Noon Day Services will again be conducted Monday through Thursday of Holy Week. These services will begin promptly at 12:15 and close promptly at 12:45. On Good Friday, the traditional Three Hour Service, beginning at 12 o'clock noon, will be conducted. Start now to tell your friends of these Holy Week Noon Day services. Invite them to attend with you.

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

Please reserve the evening of April 27th, a Thursday, for the Spring Congregational Dinner and social evening which is being planned by the Dorcas Guild. You will receive further details as the time approaches. However, reserve the date now.

BUILDING REPAIRS

In order to have our building clean and in good repair for our Centennial Celebration next Fall, much painting and many minor repairs must be done. The usual budgetary item of \$2,000 will not even begin to pay for this large item. Additional funds will be required if this work is to be done. One way we can provide those funds is by increasing our regular offering in the weekly envelopes. Many of our members are doing exactly that. How about you? Have you increased your weekly offering for 1950?

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

Dorcas Guild - - First Tuesday at 7:45 P.M.
Sunday School Teachers - - First Thursday at 8 P.M.
Junior Christians - - First Friday at 7:30 P.M.
Men's Club - - Second Monday at 8 P.M.
Ladies' Aid - - Second Wednesday at 2 P.M.
Church Council - - Third Monday at 7 P.M.
Senior Young People's Guild - - Third Tuesday at 8 P.M.
Boy Scout Committee - - Third Wednesday at 9 P.M.
The Choir - - Each Wednesday at 9 P.M.

NEWS LETTER

MARCH 1950

HOLY WEEK

Again, we are about to enter the holy of holies of the Christian church year. On Palm Sunday, the Savior triumphantly enters the city of Jerusalem, hailed as the King. Five days later, He is crucified as a criminal. Why? In order to redeem us from the penalty of sin.

Every believing Christian ought to be at the Savior's side during Holy Week. Many special services, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending with the glorious Easter morning service, have been arranged for our spiritual benefit. Our place during Holy Week is in our pew, giving the suffering Savior, the worship of our hearts and lips.

Though we are all busy people, frequently forgetting to place first things first in our daily lives, let us, none the less, give Holy Week to our blessed Savior. He gave His very life for us; the least we can do is to give Him an hour or two each day during Holy Week. Kneel daily beneath the Cross of Jesus and receive the spiritual blessings of Christ's suffering and death.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Palm Sunday always brings back fond memories of another year, when we, perhaps, stood at the altar of our church and confirmed our faith in Jesus Christ. We made public declaration of our faith, and made some far reaching promises to our Savior. Have we always kept those promises through the years as we ought, or have they fallen by the wayside?

On Palm Sunday, as another group of seven young Christians will make their confirmation vows, we will not only be given an opportunity to renew our own personal pledge to Christ, but we will also be given an opportunity to pray Almighty God that they do not make the same mistakes, we so frequently make. Let us give those young Christians our encouragement and our prayers, by being present at their Confirmation Service on Palm Sunday, April 2nd at 11 A.M.

HOLY WEEK NOON DAY SERVICES

Monday through Thursday, April 3-6, noon day services will be conducted from 12:15 to 12:45 o'clock. The speakers at these services are:

MONDAY - - - - THE REV. THEODORE WITTRICK
TUESDAY - - - - THE REV. ERNEST J. KUNSCH
WEDNESDAY - - - THE REV. WILLIAM C. LUECKE
THURSDAY - - - - THE REV. ALFRED TRINKLEIN

On Good Friday, April 7th, a Three Hour Service beginning at twelve o'clock noon, will be conducted. The preachers for this service are: Pastors Richard Klann, Clemounce Sabourin, Claudius Kulow, William Stieve, Carl Bergen, Elmer F. Gliese and Herbert Neitzel. We ask you to tell your friends of these services and invite them to attend with you. These are our fifteenth annual Noon Day services and we pray Almighty God to bless them!

HOLY COMMUNION

In Holy Communion, we have the deepest spiritual experience of the entire Christian life. As we, in humility and penitence, kneel at the altar of our Church, we receive the true body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all our sins, and for the strengthening of our faith. There is no better time to receive the Lord's Supper than during Holy Week, when once more we behold Christ suffering and dying for us. Because the Sacrament draws us closer to that Savior, than anything else in our religious life, it is, therefore hoped, that

our entire membership will receive Communion, at least once during Holy Week. In order to afford all of our people an opportunity to receive the Sacrament, The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Palm Sunday morning at eleven o'clock and on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, at eight in the evening. Communion will not be celebrated on April 9th, Easter Sunday.

LENTEN SELF-DENIAL

Just prior to Ash Wednesday, Lenten Self-Denial Folders were mailed to our entire membership. Have you been making some offering each day for the Savior who offered His life for you? The Christian shows his love and appreciation for Christ's sacrifice by making some sacrifice, big or small, for Him. Return your Lenten offering some time during Holy Week.

RELIGIOUS FILM

On Wednesday, April 5th, at 8 o'clock, the religious film, "GOLGOTHA", will be shown in conjunction with our regular mid-week Lenten meditation. This is one of the newer films on the Passion Story, depicting the trial and crucifixion of Christ. Plan to be present with your friends for this evening of worship and inspiration.

NEW MEMBERS

On Maundy Thursday, April 6th, a group of adults will be received into church membership. We urge you to be present at this service of Holy Communion, to extend the hand of Christian fellowship to those people, and to welcome them into membership with us.

EASTER OFFERING

St. Luke's depends largely on the Easter Offering to meet the current expense Budget. Your Easter gift does much to help your church proclaim the glorious Easter message of a living Christ, who still walks the highways and byways of life, eager to help men solve their daily problems, and triumphantly face the confused issues of our days. Only as the church works to advance the cause of Christianity will hatred, selfishness and world strife cease. The world needs the risen and living Savior more today, than ever before. Through your Easter Offering, therefore, share in bringing this Christ to your fellow-man.

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

On Thursday evening, April 27th, a congregational dinner will be given by the Dorcas Guild. Dinner will be served from six to seven-thirty, after which will follow a social hour with a program of movies. The ladies are planning a good program, and we ask you now to reserve this date.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ITEMS

Statistics show that the average child retains fifteen per cent of what he reads, fifty per cent of what he sees, and ninety per cent of what he does. These figures prompted the Sunday School teachers to introduce a form of dramatics into our Sunday School program.

On the last Sunday of each month, at 9:30 o'clock, one of the classes in the Junior-Intermediate department presents a brief religious drama. These original dramatic skits are based on one of the lessons that the children have been studying. Though only two such skits have been given, there is decided interest and enthusiasm on the part of our children. Drop in some Sunday morning to see our well organized Sunday School at work. There are special classes for all age groups beginning with the four year olds.

At a recent meeting of the Sunday School Staff, our entire program of religious education for the children was thoroughly discussed by the teachers. Such items as religious film strips for the visual aids program on Thursday afternoons, handcrafts interjected into our Sunday morning lesson series, religious

films, items of equipment, such as bulletin boards, blackboards; and parent-teachers meetings, were discussed. All of the above items are of utmost importance to a well balanced and attractive program of religious education. However, because our Sunday School endeavors to remain self-supporting (which is practically impossible in an underprivileged neighborhood such as ours), and because the Sunday School contributes well over one hundred dollars a year to the church by assuming responsibility for the Christmas decorations, and the Candle Light Service, the teachers are frequently handicapped in planning the kind of program they would like to arrange for the children.

However, we must congratulate our teachers for their very splendid work, for their untiring interests, and efforts in bringing Christ to the youth of the Times Square area.

CENTENNIAL SERVICE

The Centennial Committee is very happy to announce that our Centennial Service of praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God will be conducted on Sunday, November 12th at 4:00 P.M. On that day we will be privileged to hear the Reverend Dr. John W. Behnken, President of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We are grateful to Dr. Behnken that he has found it possible to fit our Centennial service into his busy program.

"NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY, INC."

PLEASE

Don't Throw Away Your Old Spectacles or Bits of Scrap Gold....Instead, bring them to our Dorcas Guild representative, Miss Elsa Herrellers, who will send them to "NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY, INC.", Short Hills, New Jersey, a social service with no overhead, no red tape, no paid helpers. Eye glasses of every description - old style, new style, pince-nez, lorgnette; old gold, false teeth, or a glass eye, can be turned into cash to distribute glasses to those in need.

CHURCH PAPERS

Is there a church periodical in your home? Are you regularly reading a Christian interpretation of the news of the day? You may find this, in the following:

THE AMERICAN LUTHERAN	AT \$2.00 PER YEAR
THE LUTHERAN WITNESS	AT \$1.50 PER YEAR
THE WALTHER LEAGUE MESSENGER	AT \$2.00 PER YEAR

Miss Elsa Herrellers will accept your subscriptions.