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SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 West 46th Street

New York 36, N. Y.

ANNUAL REPORT

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THE CHURCH STAFF

Albert L. Neibacher
Martha E. Hoffmann
Mildred Holmer, M.S.M.

Pastor
Parish Worker
Organist & Choir Director

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Bernard K. Schaefer
Anton Koester
Walter E. Schussler
Henry J. Koester
J. Louis Schaefer

President
Treasurer
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Assistant Treasurer

ELDERS

Herman Von Hinken
John W. Lengemann
Frederick A. Wolkin

DEACONS

Howard Johnson
Rheinhold Miessler
Fred Nagel
DeVerle Osborn
Herman Reichert
Henry Seng
Carl Sievers
Charles Unger
Curtis Wingert

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Frank Burger
Karl A. Koepchen
Anton W. Koester
Henry J. Koester
Bernard K. Schaefer
J. Louis Schaefer
Walter E. Schussler
Henry Wisch

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been our custom in recent years to report at this time in detail the result of your Church's operations. The year just ended is no exception. An effort has been made, however, to economize in the cost of this report and most of the statements have been condensed or included in the Pastor's report. The essential features are present.

Your attention is particularly directed to the Treasurer's report where you will find what has been done with the money you so generously contributed to your Church. We were surprised that our Income exceeded that of the previous year - a record year. Unfortunately, our Expenses also are larger than ever before. It now costs well over \$25,000.00 a year to operate your Church. Not so many years ago, this figure was well under \$10,000.00.

Perhaps the most important fact facing our country, ourselves and our Church today is that the dollar in which the Income and Expenditures of our Church is expressed is a depreciated dollar. The threat of war in the Orient has relaxed somewhat but the menace to our way of living by the advances in wages, cost of services, higher rents, etc. is a matter to which your Church Council gives constant attention.

In spite of increased costs the Church building has been well maintained, the staff strengthened and most impressive of all, your Congregation has demonstrated its willingness to meet extraordinary demands.

The forthright action of the Trustees in granting an educational allowance to our Pastor, without certain knowledge how this additional obligation was to be met, was made necessary by a critical situation common to the neighborhood in which St. Luke's is situated. Under the most difficult of circumstances the Pastor has stood by us with devotion to his Profession and loyalty to St. Luke's.

Although concentrating on the Lord's work in the neighborhood, St. Luke's has taken an increasingly active part in the problems of the community. Much time and effort has been given toward the neighborhood's housing problems as well as toward legislation which has for its purpose any rezoning of our area.

As a contribution to the spiritual strength of our country, your Church Council offered the facilities of our Parish House to the Lutheran Service Commission for use as a "Service Men's Center" in the Metropolitan area. Our offer was accepted and the Center was dedicated shortly before Christmas. The selection of St. Luke's Church for this purpose demonstrates again the high regard in which our Congregation is held by other Lutheran Churches. It also reflects the genuine unity prevailing among all Lutherans for the Center is a joint project of The National Lutheran Council, and The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod. As activity in the Center increases in the months and years to come, we believe it will add to the prestige and usefulness of our Church.

My thanks are extended to my fellow officers and members of the Church Council for their good judgment and sound advice which have been so helpful to me during the past year. They have fulfilled their mission and are counting on your loyal support in the new year.

Bernard K. Schaefer
President

THE PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends in Christ:

1951 marked the first complete year in the second century of Saint Luke's service to Christ and humanity. It was a blessed experience for all who had a share in advancing the cause of Christ at "The Crossroads of the World." As we look back, we cannot help but say with Mary, the Mother of Jesus, "He that is mighty hath done....great things; Holy is His Name."

Church work during 1951 at Saint Luke's was not a simple matter, especially since it followed in the wake of our never to be forgotten Centennial Celebration. For three years we had been planning for and looking forward to our 100th Anniversary. We had a definite objective in mind and we bent all our efforts toward that goal. Then came the celebration itself, which was so completely blessed of Christ. As we entered 1951, however, there was no such thrilling goal as a Centennial celebration. We were simply settling down to another year of Church work. Had there been a general "let down" of interest and activity, one could quite well understand it.

However, that was not the case. With a zest and an eagerness to do something for Christ, we settled down to the assignment confronting us, endeavoring to maintain the momentum gained during the Centennial and determined to still further advance the cause of Christ in the Times Square area of New York. As we now place the work of the past year into the Lord's keeping, we shall endeavor to briefly review 1951 at Saint Luke's, not for the purpose of glorying in our accomplishments, but for the express purpose of learning and taking courage for the future.

In beginning with our Junior Congregation, we note that during the past year we brought the message of Christ to approximately 200 different children on Sunday mornings and on Thursday afternoons. Opening the year with an enrollment of 111 and closing the year with 115 pupils in the Sunday School is by no means an indication of the scope of that work. Though 42 children were dropped from our records, 41 new people were enrolled and 5 reinstated. The average attendance per Sunday rose from 65 to 79 in 1951. Considering that 85% of our children come from homes without any Church affiliations, considering that with many of them the Church is a comparatively new experience in their young lives, this record, though it has much room for improvement, is quite commendable. (Just in passing, if our adult congregation attended Church on a comparable basis, our Sunday morning attendance would be far closer to 400 than it is to 200). Much of the success of our work among the children of our Junior Congregation is attributable to the loyalty and interest of our Staff of 17, which has given unselfishly in time and effort and which is an example to the entire congregation.

In every phase of our organizational life at Saint Luke's, the hand of the Lord has been at work. Active in the Dorcas Guild and the Ladies' Aid Society are approximately 75 different women, both groups filling a specific need in the life of the congregation. The Ladies' Aid Society, which is completing its 80th year of existence, serves a group of women meeting in the afternoon, and the Dorcas Guild serves a group that goes to business or that finds evening meetings more convenient. A large number of women are members and active in both organizations, to whom we are indebted, among many other things, for the Congregational Dinners, which have become a vital factor in the fellowship life of the Church. Both organizations have a planned, varied monthly program in which fellowship, service and inspiration are the dominant factors. Not satisfied with being an entity in themselves the Dorcas Guild and the Ladies' Aid reaches far beyond the sphere of their own organizations, taking an active interest also in the mission and welfare work of the Church at large. With an annual budget of \$760., the Dorcas Guild used \$672. for others. The Ladies' Aid Society, having an annual budget of \$836, used \$720, for other activities than their own organizational needs. We commend the women of Saint Luke's for their full program of activities, for their interest in the needs of their own Church and also for their activity in the work of the Church at large.

The Men's Club, which is one of the newer organizations in the Church and which has a membership of approximately 30, is filling a real need with a planned, varied program in which Christian fellowship is extended to all the men of the congregation. Though small in number, this group is responsible for the annual June Party, which is a night of fellowship and which comes as a rather fitting climax to a busy season of Church work.

As we turn to our Youth Activities, we come perhaps to the most difficult and most needed phase of our program of Church work. Here the arm of Saint Luke's extends itself right out into the community and attempts to meet a need, which one always finds within the very shadows of the Church itself. Our youth work is at one and the same time a mission program and a good will program in the community. Through it we try directly and indirectly to bring Christ to the boys and girls of the Times Square area. In the general planning, an endeavor has been made to meet the needs of the various age groups. Included among the activities we find not only the entire Scout Family (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies and Cubs) but we also have an Intermediate and Senior Boys' Basketball group, an Intermediate Girls' Basketball group, and gymnasium activities for younger boys and girls, the latter groups meeting with a paid part time physical director. For all the other groups, including the Junior Christian High School group, we draw leadership from the Senior Young People's Guild, which is the adult youth group. The Senior Guild, active in the Choir, the Sunday School and the youth activities, strives with a planned program every Tuesday evening and with a fellowship supper every Sunday evening, to absorb the many young people who come from various parts of the country and make New York their home for longer or shorter periods of time. Ministering to the youth of today with both a spiritual and a recreational program, Saint Luke's is attempting to help combat the acute problem of juvenile delinquency, prepare a better citizenry for tomorrow, and at the same time build the church of the future.

During 1951 a Married Couples' Guild was organized, especially for the younger married couples of the church, some of whom have small children and who find it difficult to participate in other group activities. These young people have planned, monthly meetings adapted to their special interests and promises to be one of the larger groups within the congregation.

An organization, which we frequently take for granted but without which our regular worship services would not be the inspiration they are, is the Choir. Under the talented leadership of Miss Mildred Holmer, our choir has given unselfishly of its time and talents and has made the high standards of our ministry of music possible. In the Fall of 1951, a Children's Choir was organized by Mrs. Esther Richardson. We look forward in the months to come to this group assisting our regular choir and adding much to the beauty and inspiration of our worship services.

In endeavoring to render a positive, forward looking and all inclusive service to Christ and our fellow-man, Saint Luke's has been engaged in a full program of activity. In addition to the Sunday School, the Confirmation Class and the Release Time School of Religious Education, 18 separate organizations have been meeting monthly, weekly or twice weekly. Each organization meets a specific need and adds to the institutional character of Saint Luke's.

Associated with me in this full program of activity and giving unselfishly of her talents has been our Parish Worker, Miss Martha Hoffmann. Assuming full responsibility for all office detail, taking complete charge of the Cradle Roll, assisting in the Sunday School, the parish and missionary calls, Miss Hoffmann has been of inestimable service to her Savior, to Saint Luke's and to me personally. Her active interest and self-effacing participation in all phases of our work have not only freed me for other activity, but they have also been an inspiration to all who have come in contact with her.

1951 has been a year of rich blessings. From all outward appearances there has been a deep spiritual growth, which has reflected itself in the sizable increase in the number of communions, the general upward trend in church attendance, the increased

interest in organizational activity, and the steady improvement in the stewardship life of our people. 1951 found more people active in the work of the Lord at Saint Luke's than in any other recent year. This interest has expressed itself not only in the active participation of our membership in various projects of the Lutheran Church at large, but also in the civic and welfare endeavors of the community itself, such as the Chelsea-Clinton Council for Community Planning, the Special Citizens' Housing Committee, the Clinton Community Center and the Police Athletic League. Saint Luke's reaches far beyond its own parochial sphere and is a power for good in the civic, the welfare and the religious life of New York City.

However, as we look back at 1951, we can neither become secure or self-complacent, nor can we become unduly alarmed at the future, which at times looks so foreboding. As in the past the Lord of the Church has unfolded for us a complete program of activities, so in the future He expects us to develop that program, coordinate it and integrate it even more fully into the life of the congregation. That is the first problem facing us in the New Year. The second, which is even more far reaching in its implications, is the tremendous mission opportunity facing us, both in the community and among the many visitors who attend our services. Saint Luke's is not lacking opportunities for growth and for increased service. But it is lacking in staff, either in the form of consecrated volunteers who would be willing to give several hours a week, especially in home visitations, or in the procurement of an additional full time worker who would devote his time largely to a development of our mission program. During the coming year we must come to grips with this problem because as never before in the life of this generation the Savior's words, "truly the harvest is great, but the laborers few," are true. May Christ give us the vision, the faith and the courage to accept the challenges of the present so that we may never be found wanting in the future.

During 1951 your Pastor performed the following official acts:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Baptisms | 34 |
| Confirmations (children) | 6 |
| (adults) | 21 |
| New members received | 41 |
| Weddings | 11 |
| Funerals | 21 |
| People communed | 2046 |
| Pastoral Calls (approximate) | 400 |
| Total Church attendance | 12,190 |
| Average for 67 services | 182 |
| Average since Labor Day | 207 |

Though 1951 was a difficult one, in which many trying demands were made on us, we look back at it with deep gratitude that God used us in a thrilling venture for our Savior. The work was made easier by the many thoughtful encouragements given us by the officers of the congregation as they sympathetically helped us face our many problems. In addition, the solicitous patience of my good wife, who was always ready and willing to assist me in a thousand and one ways, sharing my joys and also my sorrows and disappointments, and constantly protecting me from many petty and annoying details, meant more to me in my ministry at Saint Luke's than many can realize. Without her loving and unselfish help I would never have been able to meet the many demands made on me. With Mrs. Neibacher I look forward to another year of consecrated service to you and my loving Savior.

Cordially your Pastor,

Albert L. Neibacher.

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TREASURER'S REPORT
REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

INCOME

| | <u>1951</u> | <u>1950</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 8,720.94 | \$ 8,274.13 |
| Plate | 2,910.07 | 2,510.58 |
| Pew Rent | 763.00 | 718.50 |
| Christmas | 754.25 | 783.60 |
| Easter | 1,397.90 | 1,399.70 |
| Lenten | 293.85 | 280.07 |
| Thanksgiving | 373.50 | 428.50 |
| Birthday | 427.30 | |
| Income from Securities | 6,075.73 | 4,176.25 |
| Special Donations | 1,922.25 | 1,705.00 |
| Special for Music | <u>2,416.00</u> | <u>2,711.00</u> |
| | <u>\$ 26,054.79</u> | <u>\$22,987.33</u> |

EXPENSES

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Salaries | \$11,856.00 | \$11,438.00 |
| Travel Allowance | 600.00 | 600.00 |
| Retirement Payments | 796.30 | 786.24 |
| Educational Allowance | 518.00 | |
| Printing & Stationery | 1,275.23 | 1,020.91 |
| Insurance | 962.53 | 642.99 |
| Heating | 1,962.31 | 1,677.72 |
| Gas & Electricity | 459.93 | 386.08 |
| Social Security Tax | 35.52 | |
| Repairs | 3,061.26 | 5,271.41 |
| Organ & Piano Tuning | 128.00 | 115.00 |
| Real Estate & Water Taxes | 353.60 | 301.60 |
| Expense of Envelopes | 15.27 cr. | 5.04 |
| Telephone | 370.06 | 380.69 |
| Postage | 411.19 | 361.47 |
| Advertising | 938.07 | 905.72 |
| Devotional Booklets - Net Expense | 18.53 cr. | 38.02 |
| Flowers | 48.82 | 84.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 821.37 | 1,205.87 |
| Partial Repayment of Loan | 1,340.40 | |
| Sunday School | <u>150.00</u> | <u>150.00</u> |
| | <u>\$26,054.79</u> | <u>\$ 25,360.68</u> |
| | | |
| Deficit from Operations | - 0 - | \$ 2,373.35 |
| Centennial Expense | <u>- 0 -</u> | <u>1,620.90</u> |
| | | |
| TOTAL DEFICIT | <u>- 0 -</u> | <u>\$ 3,994.25</u> |

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
SECURITIES HELD IN SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

DECEMBER 31, 1951

| | | | |
|------|--|----------|----------|
| 1. | Benevolent Society | | |
| | 1000 U. S. Treasury Bond | 2 1/2s | 9/15/72 |
| | 500 U. S. Savings Bond | G 2 1/2s | 12/1/56 |
| 2. | Sebastian & Margarita Dorfmueller Fund | | |
| | Income to Pew Rent | | |
| | 2000 U. S. Savings Bond | G 2 1/2s | 10/1/54 |
| | 1000 - " - | G 2 1/2s | 2/1/58 |
| 3. | Gerhardt Fund | | |
| | Income to Ladies Aid Soc. | | |
| | 200 U. S. Savings Bond | G 2 1/2s | 1/1/60 |
| 4. | Hochhalter Hellenschmidt Fund | | |
| | Income to Benevolent Soc. | | |
| | 2000 U. S. Treasury Bonds | 2 1/2s | 9/15/72 |
| | 1700 U. S. Savings Bonds | G 2 1/2s | 12/1/56 |
| 5. | Bernard Karsch Fund | | |
| | Income up to 75.00 to Pew Rent | | |
| | Balance to Benevolent Soc. | | |
| | 3000 U. S. Treasury Bonds | 2 1/2s | 9/15/72 |
| 6. | Catherine Karsch Fund | | |
| | Income to Ladies Aid Soc. | | |
| | 1000 Balt. & Ohio R. R. | 5s | 12/1/95 |
| | 1000 U. S. Treasury Bond | 2 1/2s | 9/15/72 |
| 7. | Ladies Aid Society | | |
| | 1500 U. S. Savings Bonds | G 2 1/2s | 7/1/56 |
| 8. | J. Louis Schaefer Fund | | |
| | Income up to 75.00 to Pew Rent | | |
| | Balance to Benevolent Soc. | | |
| | 3000 American Tobacco | 3s | 10/15/69 |
| | 2000 U. S. Treasury Bonds | 2 1/2s | 12/15/72 |
| ✓ 9. | Katherine Wendell Fund | | |
| | Income to Ladies Aid Soc. | | |
| | 200 U. S. Savings Bonds | G 2 1/2s | 12/1/56 |
| 10. | Annie L. Hohns Fund | | |
| | Income to Pew Rent | | |
| | 1000 U. S. Savings Bond | G 2 1/2s | 6/1/63 |

COLLECTIONS FOR OTHERS

| | <u>1951</u> | <u>1950</u> |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Missions | \$1,849.28 | \$1,800.63 |
| Lutheran Child Welfare Assn. | 558.16 | 1,084.28 |
| Lutheran Welfare Distribution Fund | 785.84 | 753.75 |
| Wheatridge Sanatarium - Seals | 397.25 | 499.00 |
| Wartburg Old Folks Home | 240.12 | 291.18 |
| Valparaiso University | 300.00 | 560.00 |
| Red Cross | 151.00 | 189.38 |
| Lutheran Hospital, Brooklyn | 201.92 | 173.32 |
| Lutheran Radio Hour | 105.00 | 105.00 |
| Concordia College | 3,381.00 | - 0 - |
| Kansas Flood Relief | 96.85 | - 0 - |
| Metropolitan Inner Mission Society | 306.18 | 249.89 |
| Assn. for Works Mercy | 85.37 | 108.34 |
| Lutheran Friends Deaf | 239.04 | 291.70 |
| Lutheran Welfare Council | 150.00 | 150.00 |
| Lutheran Radio Hour - Memory Dr. Maier | | 443.80 |
| Lutheran Education Society | 200.00 | 525.00 |
| American Bible Society | 31.87 | 41.91 |
| Lutheran Bible Institute | 25.00 | |
| Atlantic District Seals | 217.50 | |
| Relief in Germany | 10.00 | |
| | <u>\$9,231.38</u> | <u>\$7,267.18</u> |

SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSION FUND

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Balance on hand January 1, 1951 | \$ 56.35 |
| Income -- Envelopes | <u>174.33</u> |
| | 230.68 |
| Expenses -- Support of 3 Children in India | <u>121.25</u> |
| Balance on hand December 31, 1951 | \$109.43 |

SUNDAY SCHOOL BENEVOLENT FUND

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance on hand January 1, 1951 | \$317.32 |
| Expenses -- Aid to Children | <u>9.50</u> |
| Balance on hand December 31, 1951 | \$307.82 |

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Enrollment:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Pupils on register | 115 |
| Staff Members | 17 |
| New Pupils | 41 |
| Reinstated Pupils | 5 |
| Dropped from register | 42 |
| Average Attendance | 79 |
| Highest Attendance | 93 |
| Lowest Attendance | 59 |

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand January 1, 1951 \$ 389.76

INCOME

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 362.42 | |
| Plate | 218.25 | |
| Donations | 164.60 | |
| Easter | 65.00 | |
| Christmas | <u>210.00</u> | |
| Total Income | | <u>1020.27</u> |
| | | \$1410.03 |

EXPENSES

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Literature | \$ 203.26 | |
| Films (Rental & Purchase) | 54.50 | |
| Attendance Awards | 32.75 | |
| Collection Envelopes & Boxes | 34.75 | |
| Postage | 18.00 | |
| Easter | 24.30 | |
| June Walk | 152.45 | |
| Christmas | 204.47 | |
| Miscellaneous Supplies | <u>40.75</u> | |
| Total Expenses | | <u>765.23</u> |
| Balance on hand December 31, 1951 | | \$ 644.80 |

Respectfully submitted,

Henry Theuerer, Secretary
Herman Reichert, Treasurer