

NEWS LETTER

LENT

1951

LENT

Lent has always been very precious to Christians because it affords them an opportunity for spiritual refreshment and for special meditation on the cardinal truths of Christ's Holy Passion which is at the very heart of our religion. This year Lent ought to be even more precious, coming at a time when men's hearts are filled with fear and their thinking utterly confused. In days such as these, when the very foundations of our civilization are being shaken, we need to undergird our lives with a strong and vital faith. That faith begins on Calvary and finds expression in everyday living.

Each Wednesday evening we shall in spirit journey to Calvary, there to behold our Savior atoning for our sins. That spiritual pilgrimage ought to do much to us and for us. It ought to lead us to repentance, to greater love for Christ and to a reconsecrated life to Him. Certainly the hours we spend beneath the Cross of Jesus are nothing compared to His great sacrifice. Let nothing, therefore, stand between you and your Savior on Wednesday evenings during Lent. Be as unselfish with that hour as Christ was with His life. Learn to say "Christ died for me" and you will regularly find your place beneath the Cross of Jesus. That is where Christians belong, especially during Lent.

SERMON TOPICS

STRENGTH FOR EVERYDAY LIVING is the dominant theme of both the Sunday morning sermons and the Wednesday evening meditations listed in the accompanying Sermon Topic folder. With all the unrest and confusion in the world, we need strength from without, strength from above. No man can live satisfactorily of himself. From Holy Scripture, especially from the Savior's Passion, we shall endeavor with God's help, to apply some of the great fundamental truths of Christianity to the problems we face in our everyday lives. Christianity, in order to be of any value either to us or society, must be a vital force. STRENGTH FOR EVERYDAY LIVING is received only as we put the great precepts which Christ lived and taught to work in our lives. Share this series of vital and practical sermons with your friends by inviting them to attend our services with you.

SELF DENIAL OFFERING

For centuries Christians have associated self-denial with Lent. This is an ancient custom in which individuals endeavor to emulate after a fashion the supreme self-denial of Christ. Consequently we find Christians denying themselves certain luxuries or pleasures during Lent which they would otherwise pursue. Of itself Self Denial is absolutely meaningless in the Christian life because there is nothing the individual can do at any time to merit favor with God. However, if we deny ourselves something specific in order to make a special contribution to Christ, that is indeed God-pleasing. Self-denial is significant only if Christ is the beneficiary.

The enclosed folder is meant for your Lenten Self-Denial Offering to your Savior. He gave His very life for us. What will we give to Him during Lent as we commemorate His Holy Passion? You are invited to use the enclosed folder and to return it to one of our services during Holy Week.

BIBLE CLASS FOR MOTHERS

In conjunction with our Sunday School, which meets each Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock, a special Bible Class for mothers has been organized. Mrs. Reinhold Miessler, one of the mothers of our Sunday School, is the leader of this group. Though the class was planned primarily for those mothers who bring

their children to Sunday School, all mothers are cordially invited. The only requirement for membership is a love for God's Word and a desire to become more familiar with it. Sit in with the group some Sunday morning at 9:30.

WELFARE SUNDAY

The Church Council has designated Sunday, February 18th, as Welfare Sunday. This is the opening of our annual collection for the various Lutheran Welfare agencies in our midst. This year the Rev. Herbert Neitzel, acting director of the Lutheran Child Welfare Association, will preach the sermon. Plan now to attend and participate in our annual welfare offering.

NEW MEMBERS

On Maundy Thursday, March 22nd, a group of adults will be received into church membership. This group is already being organized. In order to familiarize non-Lutherans with the teachings of the Lutheran Church, the Pastor will conduct a series of informal discussions each Friday evening at 8:15, beginning February 9th. This group will meet in the Pastor's Study. Should you know of anyone without a church home, please, give their names and addresses to either Miss Hoffmann or the Pastor. Should you be desirous of refreshing your knowledge of Lutheran fundamentals, you are invited to join the group any Friday evening.

THE TREASURER'S LETTER

Recently we all received a letter from Mr. Anton Koester, the treasurer of Saint Luke's. In this letter he told us of the splendid progress we made financially during 1950 and he also enclosed a budget for 1951, appealing for our continued and increased support of our church. The urgency of this appeal is emphasized by the critical situation in which the world finds itself. Greater demands will be made on Saint Luke's with the passing months. We stand at the very Cross Roads of America, where we must serve an increasing number of individuals who come to us for spiritual help. We cannot render this needed service without the support of every member. Have you returned your "My Gift To My Church" card to Mr. Koester, indicating what you plan with God's help to contribute to your church during 1951? Your prompt response will facilitate the work of your treasurer. It will enable the Church Council to plan intelligently and to expand the work of Christ at Saint Luke's.

LENTEN CHOIR CONCERT

Each year our choir, under the direction of Miss Mildred Holmer, gives two concerts, one during Lent and the other at Christmas time. This year again the choir will sing Dubois' "Seven Last Words" on Passion Sunday, March 11th, at 8 P.M. An offering will be taken for the Camp Fund of the Metropolitan Inner Mission Society.

RELIGIOUS FILM

On Wednesday of Holy Week, March 21st, a religious film will be shown. This year the film will be the classical "King of Kings". We have planned this film showing in response to the enthusiastic acceptance of last year. So many of our people asked that we have more religious films. Though in years past we may have seen the "King of Kings", still it is a film that can be seen over and over again. Do not fail to see this stirring portrayal of the Savior's life. Make the evening of March 21st one of the high spots of your Lenten experience.

SERVICE MEN'S PROGRAM

In increasing numbers members of the armed services, frequently not in uniform, are attending our services. We are happy to have these young

men and women at our services and we want to serve them while they are in the New York area. Let us extend a hand of welcome to our fellow-Christians whenever they come to Saint Luke's, and let us always endeavor to introduce them to one of our young people, who then will extend a personal invitation to these visitors to participate in our youth program.

MEMORIAL ALTAR FLOWERS

Arranging a schedule to have flowers on the Altar every Sunday morning is not a simple task, especially when your Altar Committee endeavors to avoid duplications. This task could be greatly simplified if everyone would make their reservations early in the year. Perhaps you already know now of some special day on which you want to remember some loved one by placing flowers on the Altar. Check the flower chart in the narthex of the church some Sunday morning and consult Mr. Henry Wisch in regard to open dates.

EYES FOR THE NEEDY, INC.

More than 250 items, including eyeglasses, lenses and false teeth were collected for this organization. Of these, 30 pair of glasses were given directly to the Metropolitan Inner Mission Society, which institution has been getting glasses from Eyes For The Needy, Inc., and distributed directly among the needy in our community. Miss Elsa Herreillers, who is in charge of this project at Saint Luke's, recently joined the Inner Mission Staff as a full-time worker, reports that there is further need for discarded eye glasses.

DAILY BIBLE READING

"Feeding on the Word" is a guide for daily Bible reading printed and distributed by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod as a challenge to wider use of the Book of Books. A practical plan of daily readings and prayer themes is suggested to deepen the spiritual life of the individual. Many blessings are in store for those who will prayerfully spend a few moments each day with their Bibles, aware that in the Bible God is speaking directly to us. In it He has a special message for us to help us meet the demands which life is making on us. The Bible was not written for people living in the long ago, but it was written for the 20th century Christian as well. Though centuries have passed, though civilizations have come and gone, the Bible is still one Book which does not need to be rewritten. It needs to be reread and restudied. Discover for yourself the many untold blessings which come from daily Bible reading and receive added strength for everyday living.

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NEWS LETTER

MARCH

1951

HOLY WEEK

What a privilege it is for the Christian to enter the inner recesses of Christianity and in spirit relive the Passion of Christ! Again this year we shall do exactly that during Holy Week with a series of special services listed below.

Never in the life-time of any of us has our faith been tested and needed as it is now. The world is in a general state of unrest and disorder; and it is only as we stay close to Christ that life has much meaning or makes much sense. Christ puts the touch of the eternal on everyday living and beneath His Cross we discover that there is far more to life than meets the eye. However, to make that discovery we must come to the foot of the Cross, there to behold Christ suffering and dying for our sins. How the Savior must weep inwardly at the almost total indifference with which many Christians treat Lent. Many do not even meet once with their Savior in public worship, others not much more. Not only are you missed by your fellow-members and by the Pastor, but you are also missed by your Lord and Savior who suffered and died also for you.

Whatever your attendance pattern has been at our Lenten Services so far this year, make these final services count in your life. Strength for everyday living is obtained as we meet beneath the Cross of Jesus. We all need that strength.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

On Palm Sunday a group of six girls will confirm their faith in Christ. These young Christians have taken a thorough course of instruction in Lutheran doctrine and they, not only invite you to attend their Confirmation Service, but they also solicit your prayers. On some Palm Sunday of another year, you perhaps made your Confirmation, and you were thrilled at the large congregation present to rejoice with you. Plan now to renew your own confirmation vows on Palm Sunday and to beseech the Lord's richest blessings on this year's confirmees.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MARCH 18-23

MONDAY

12:15 Noon The Pastor
"The Message of the Cross"

TUESDAY

12:15 The Pastor
"The Purpose of the Cross"

WEDNESDAY

12:15 The Pastor
"The Power of the Cross"

8:00 P.M. Religious Film
"King of Kings"

MAUNDY THURSDAY

12:15 Noon The Rev. William C. Luecke
"The Challenge of the Cross"

MAUNDY THURSDAY

8:00 P.M. The Pastor
"Thoughtfulness in Everyday Life"
(A service of Holy Communion)

GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 Noon Three Hour Service
The Seven Last Words

8:00 P.M. Pastor Klann
"No Greater Love"
(Holy Communion)

The speakers at the Three Hour Service will be Pastors: Theodore Wittrock, John Kavasch, Clemonce Sabourin, Henry von Schlichten, William Stieve, Detlaf Kraft and Louis Meyer.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is one of the greatest privileges the Christian can enjoy in his spiritual life. In the Sacrament, Christ gives us His own body and blood for the strengthening of our faith and for the forgiveness of our sins. Communion is a bond we have with our Savior and also with one another. The Christian can not kneel too often at the Altar of his church. During the coming days the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in the morning service on Palm Sunday and in the evening services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. It is hoped that every member of Saint Luke's will receive the Sacrament, at least once during Holy Week.

LENTEN SELF DENIAL

Just prior to Ash Wednesday a Lenten Self-denial Folder was mailed to you with the request that you make some special offering every day during Lent for the work of your Savior on earth. In His Holy Passion Christ gave His very life for us. He sacrificed His ALL. Have we been showing our love for Him by some sacrificial gift? Bring your special Lenten Offering to one of our services during Holy Week.

KING OF KINGS

On Wednesday, March 21st, at 8 P.M., the sound motion picture film, KING OF KINGS, will be shown. This film was secured in response to the interest shown last year to our special Holy Week film showing. KING OF KINGS is one of the great classics of the motion picture industry; it is a film that can be seen over and over again. Invite some friend to attend with you. There is no admittance charge. A free-will offering will be taken.

ADULT MEMBERSHIP

On Maundy Thursday a group of adults will be received into communicant membership with Saint Luke's. If you know of anyone who is without a church home, invite them into membership with us and give their names and addresses to either Miss Hoffmann or the Pastor.

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter is perhaps the most festive occasion on the entire Church Calendar, and rightly so, because it proclaims the glorious victory of Christ over death and the grave. This year we again will rejoice with the countless millions throughout the world at the resurrection of the Savior in a festive service, beginning at 11 A.M. Invite some of your unchurched friends to attend our Easter morning service with you. Let's make this a memorable Easter at Saint Luke's. However, we urge you to come early in order to obtain a seat.

EASTER OFFERING

Saint Luke's depends largely on your Easter offering to your church to meet its current expense budget. In these days of universal unrest and uncertainty the Gospel message of a risen and living Savior holds the only solution to man's problems. The opportunities to spread that Gospel are numerous. However, they are always dependent upon your gifts to your church. Make Saint Luke's a vital citadel of Christ in the Times Square area of New York by your generous support.

AN INVITATION

For some time the Sunday School Staff has felt the importance of religious dramatics in our Sunday School curriculum. That dream is now becoming a reality. Under the direction of Mrs. André Gellé, one of our members who has had wide experience in this field, an original play on the Easter story, written by Mrs. Gellé herself, will be given on Sunday, April 1st, at 9:30 A.M. You are cordially invited to see your Sunday School in action and to give our children the encouragement of your interest in them.

SPRING CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

The ANNUAL SPRING CONGREGATIONAL DINNER will be served by the Dorcas Guild on Wednesday, April 18th, from 6 to 7:30 P.M. At 8 o'clock the Botany Mills will present a program, including a fashion show and a beautiful color film on sheep grazing and wool processing. Reserve this date now for an evening of fellowship.

KINGDOM WORKERS

In response to an appeal for volunteers to give an hour or two a week to call on prospective members, we are happy to say that five people have already responded and are busy about their Master's business. Here is an opportunity to participate in a definite advancement program of extending Christ's Kingdom at Saint Luke's. The possibilities of such an effort are unlimited and in time should add much to the spiritual and numerical growth of our Church. Do you have an hour a week to give your Savior and your Church in making a friendly call on some visitor to our services? Christ needs you; Saint Luke's needs you.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We have an enrollment of 110 boys and girls in our Sunday School, meeting each week in 13 different classes, each directed to meet the age level of its specific group. During the months of January and February, both filled with a lot of sickness and inclement weather, we had an average attendance of 77. On January 7th and 14th there were 85 in attendance. What a thrill and a challenge it is to our Sunday School Staff to bring Christ to these youngsters and to have a part in molding their characters. This good attendance record and the sustained interest on the part of the children is due largely to the inspiration they are receiving from the enthusiasm and loyalty of our consecrated teachers. Can you imagine what our church attendance records would be if our adults were present as regularly as our children? We ought to be leading them, not they us.

CHINATOWN TRIP

On May 9th the Dorcas Guild will sponsor a St. Luke's Night in Chinatown. The group will meet at the True Light Church, 195 Worth Street from 6 to 7 o'clock, depending on when you can arrive. At 7 o'clock sharp the group will leave for one of the local restaurants for a real Chinese meal, after which will follow a trip through Chinatown and a tour of the newly erected church building of our True Light Congregation. Put this date on your calendar now; invite your friends to spend the evening with you. Reservations, which are two dollars, may be made with Mrs. E. McKee.

BASKETBALL GAMES

During this past season Saint Luke's has had a basketball team entered in the Protestant Church League. Games are played each Saturday evening at the McBurney Y.M.C.A., 23rd St. & 7th Ave. Two more games remain - MARCH 17th at 8 P.M., and MARCH 24th at 6:30 P.M. Our boys have had a good season in this newly organized League, and invite you to attend their last League games of the season.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Have you examined the FLOWER CHART in the narthex? There are still quite a few open dates for 1951. If you desire to remember some loved one by placing flowers on the Altar, please, consult Mr. Henry Wisch. The florist's charge for two bouquets of flowers is five dollars.

NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER

1951

STRENGTHENING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

Life has placed us in one of the most hectic eras of human history. The stresses and strains of modern living are quite beyond human resources. No man can possibly live a full, happy and worthwhile life without God's help. We all need that power and wisdom, that courage and faith, which Christ alone can give us.

The general theme underlying the sermons listed in the enclosed folder will, therefore, be STRENGTHENING THE SPIRITUAL LIFE. These sermons have been planned with the prayer that they may help us draw closer to Christ and to find in Him, not only a pattern but also a power for better and more useful living. Arrange your weekly schedule in such manner that you might share this series of Christ-centered sermons with your friends. It is only as we ourselves grow strong spiritually that our church can become a spiritual powerhouse for others. The strength and the usefulness of St. Luke's depends on the spiritual strength we give it.

ANNIVERSARY COMMUNION

The first Sunday in October has become the traditional day for our Anniversary Communion Service. In this service we always use the communion vessels which were presented to St. Luke's during the Civil War. By their use we endeavor to link the past with the present and thus dedicate ourselves for the future.

Through the years our anniversary communion service has grown to be one of the outstanding services of the entire year. On that Sunday the various organizations within the church plan to receive the Lord's Supper either individually or as a group. It is a Sunday on which a large portion of our membership kneels at the Altar to receive the Sacrament, which, of course, is not only a testimony to corporate faith, but also an indication of personal dedication to the many tasks which confront St. Luke's in the months to come. Plan now to attend this communion service. Let nothing, but sickness, keep you away.

BIRTHDAY OFFERING

Whenever some loved one celebrates a birthday, we endeavor to remember that person with some special gift. Birthday gifts are an accepted thing and we usually never forget those who are particularly near and dear to us.

One of your closest friends, your "spiritual mother", is celebrating another birthday. It is the 101st birthday of your church. Even if one would endeavor, he could never measure the many blessings derived from the Church. We turn to the Church in moments of joy and in moments of sorrow, and the Church never fails us. From the Church we receive spiritual insight to the daily issues of life. We receive comfort, encouragement and inspiration for daily living. We receive the blessed assurance of the forgiveness of our sins from the Word of God and the sacraments. We receive the joy and the satisfaction of Christian fellowship. St. Luke's gives all of us perhaps much more than we realize. In fact, life would not be complete without our Church.

For several years now we have been endeavoring to remember our "spiritual mother" with a special birthday offering. The enclosed envelope is being mailed to you for your personal birthday gift to your Church. Bring your offering to our Annual Anniversary Communion Service on Sunday, October 7th.

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In endeavoring to meet the religious needs of our youth, St. Luke's has arranged a full program of religious instruction. Sunday School sessions are held each Sunday morning at 9:30. There are special classes for all age groups, beginning at 4 years. On Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock a Released Time School is conducted for boys and girls who are released from public schools for an hour of religious instruction. Also on Thursday afternoon at 3:15 and on Saturday morning at 9:30 the Confirmation Class meets. All boys and girls who will be 12 years old or over by Christmas should be enrolled at this time for the two year course of confirmation instruction. These classes meet twice a week from the first of October to the end of April.

At the present time there are 25 million boys and girls in America without a church home. Perhaps you know one or more of these children. If so, please, give their names and addresses to Miss Hoffmann. St. Luke's is ready to serve all who are without a church.

THE CHOIR

Once more the Choir is in rehearsal and participating in our regular worship services. However, there is a great need for more volunteers. Rehearsals are held each Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. You are cordially invited to give your services to our ministry of music. Speak to Miss Holmer, our organist and choir director, either after one of our Sunday morning services or some Thursday evening.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Although church attendance has been very encouraging during the past six months, there is still room for vast improvement, especially on the part of a large portion of our membership. Through the years we have become established as "The Lutheran Church of Times Square". Each Sunday morning we have visitors from all parts of the country. In increasing numbers, members of the armed forces, both in uniform and in civilian clothes, are attending our services. Frequently there are almost as many visitors as members.

That is a rather pathetic condition because church attendance is not an optional thing for the Christian. Our Lord has declared, "Thou shalt sanctify the Holy Day." He has commanded us to worship Him in public service. And He has also declared, "Blessed are they who hear the Word of God". For the Christian, church attendance is an absolute must. Only sickness ought keep us away. It is little enough to give God an hour or two on Sunday morning. He gives us 168 hours each week; and He does not expect us to use all that time in selfish or personal pursuits. There ought also be time for worship of Him Who gives us life itself. Let us, therefore, plan our weekly schedule around that one hour worship service each Sunday morning. It is a religious obligation which will bring untold blessings.

ADULT MEMBERSHIP GROUP

On Friday evening, October 19th, at 8 P.M., the Pastor will begin a series of informal discussions on some of the cardinal teachings of the Lutheran Church. Though these discussions are planned primarily for those who desire to become affiliated with St. Luke's, all are cordially invited. It is well that we all from time to time review the fundamental articles of our faith. Our Friday evening discussions will enable you to do just that. Plan to attend yourself and bring some unchurched friend along with you.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

One of the big problems constantly facing the Church Council is adequate and necessary maintenance of our large church plant. The problem

becomes acute at times, not only because many emergency repairs are constantly arising, but also because the Church Council endeavors to practice good stewardship with the limited funds placed at its disposal.

Just this past season major repairs on the organ became necessary. A termite condition, which existed in the Sunday School Auditorium, had to be corrected at considerable expense. Due to a new city ordinance, extensive work is being done on the elevator in the Parish House. These three items alone cost St. Luke's over \$2,000. They were all unforeseen. Yet they had to be done. In addition the Sunday School Auditorium had to be painted. Those are four major items, plus all the little things with which we are constantly faced in our own homes, that were necessary for a proper maintenance of our church plant. Do you wonder why elsewhere we speak of summer envelopes and a special birthday offering?

ADULT BIBLE GROUP

In conjunction with our regular Sunday School sessions, an Adult Bible Group meets under the leadership of Mrs. Reinhold Miessler. In this group we find, not only parents of some of our children, but also other interested adults, who feel the need for planned Bible Study. All are cordially invited to attend; visitors are always welcome. The group meets each Sunday at 9:30. One visit to the group will make you want to return again. Drop in some Sunday morning.

SUMMER OFFERING ENVELOPES

During the summer months many of us are away from the city for longer or shorter periods of time, which means that we do not have an opportunity to bring our weekly offering envelopes to church. Frequently we neglect to set aside our offering to God during this period, with the result that a large number of envelopes remain unfilled. Though we as individuals may go away on vacation, your Church does not. It continues its ministries. In fact, in many respects the summer season is the time of greatest expense for your church because it is during that period that many vital repairs are made. If you, therefore, are behind schedule in your weekly offering envelopes, bring your gift to God to the next service you attend.

WILL YOU GIVE CHRIST

- 1 hour a week for choir rehearsal?
- 2 hours a week for calling on prospective members?
- 2 hours a week for Boy Scout activity?
- 2 hours a week for girl's gymnasium activity?
- 2 hours a week for boy's gymnasium activity?
- 2 hours a week for girl's basketball?
- 2 hours a week for boy's basketball?
- 2 hours a week for the church office?
- 3 hours a week for meeting D.P.s arriving in America?

Your Church, your Savior, can use you in many phases of church work. However, at the present time the need is greatest in the above areas. Speak to the Pastor if you feel you can give of your time to serve your Church in the above activities.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Though the organized youth program of the church always disbands during the summer months, a special program of movies was sponsored by the Senior Young People's Guild each Thursday evening. This group, with volunteers from the Men's Club and the Church Council, supervised an average of more than 100 boys and girls at each program.

In addition, 8 of our boys attended the Boy Scout Camp at Ten Mile River, New York. More than 40 of our children, through the cooperation of the Hartley House, benefited from the Herald-Tribune Fresh Air Fund vacation program.

Thus St. Luke's remained in contact with its youth during the summer months and assisted a large number of boys and girls to spend anywhere from 2 to 8 weeks away from the hot city streets.

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are still several Sundays unfilled in our Altar Memorial Flower schedule. Should you wish to remember some loved one by placing flowers on the Altar, please, speak to Mr. Henry Wisch some Sunday morning or address a letter to him in care of the church. The cost of such memorial flowers, if ordered through the Church florist, is \$5.00 for two bouquets.