

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 West 46th Street

New York 36, N. Y.

Circle 6-4866

ANNUAL REPORT

1952

THE CHURCH STAFF

Albert L. Neibacher
Martha E. Hoffmann
Mildred Holmer, M.S.M.
Gustave Weiman
David Adams

Pastor
Parish Worker
Organist & Choir Director
Superintendent
Youth Athletic Director

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

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

President
Treasurer
Secretary
Assistant Secretary
Assistant Treasurer

ELDERS

John W. Lengemann
Herman Von Hinken
Fred A. Wolklin

DEACONS

Howard Johnson
Reinhold Miessler
Fred Nagel
D. Ross Osborn
Herman Reichert
Henry Seng
Carl H. Sievers
Charles Unger
Curtis Wingert

TRUSTEES

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

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

For the second time in our Second Century I have the pleasure of reporting the results of our Church's operations. The year 1952, like its immediate predecessors, was one of steady and continued growth in all phases of our work.

The beginning of the year, unhappily, was clouded by the passing of an old friend, the Vice-President of our Church and member of our Church Council for a great many years, Mr. John N. Gennerich. He will live long in our memory as a man of great human understanding and devotion to his Church.

It is my privilege to tell you that the financial condition of St. Luke's is sound. In the accompanying report of our Treasurer, you will observe that our Income was the highest on record, amounting to \$28,680.12. Our envelope collection which represents the contributions from our regular members, passed the \$10,000.00 mark for the first time in our history. This is a source of great satisfaction to the members of your Church Council and they join with me in expressing our gratitude and appreciation for this splendid demonstration of support for your Church. Unfortunately, expenditures have also continued to mount. A copy of our Budget for 1953, showing estimated expenses of \$30,000.00, was recently mailed to you. The continued loyal support of the men and women of St. Luke's will be needed to raise this large sum and to secure the future of our Church.

In addition to supporting their Church so generously, our Congregation also contributed \$7,800.00 to charities and missions, and furthermore gave \$7,000.00 to the Conquest for Christ appeal. This is a fine and distinguished record of loyal support.

Major repairs to the Church building and Parish House which were so costly during the recent post-war years have been completed and an economy-minded House Committee has managed to keep this item down to a new low during the year just ended. Due to the increased use of our facilities, however, the wear and tear on our buildings has been accelerated and we must face the fact that larger repair bills must be dealt with in the future.

Our former Superintendent has been replaced by Mr. & Mrs. Weiman.

The Lutheran Center for Military Personnel has completed its first year in our Parish House. It has recently been serving over 400 members of the Armed Forces every month. The contributions of the Center to St. Luke's are deeply appreciated and our Congregation can likewise take pride in all that it has done toward making St. Luke's known as a true spiritual center for the many servicemen and women passing thru our great city.

The problems of the community and the relationship of our Church to them, continue to be a matter of concern to our Church officers. It cannot be denied that St. Luke's is situated in a steadily worsening area and in an effort to check this trend, we have joined with other civic and religious groups to seek a public-housing project. We hope the contemplated new housing will check the steady deterioration that has been going on for many years.

In conclusion, I want to express my great appreciation to the Church Council for their cooperation in another year in the Church's history and to also express their gratitude for the support they have had from the members of our Congregation.

Bernhard K. Schaefer,
President.

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THE PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends in Christ:

As I look back at the year 1952, I cannot help but thank God and say with David, "I will praise Thee with my whole heart". God truly has been good to us at Saint Luke's. Whatever we may have been able to accomplish was due entirely to God's grace, because He has taken us, and in spite of our many weaknesses and inadequacies, used us in the glorious work of bringing the Gospel message of salvation to our fellow-man.

1952 was not a particularly dramatic one as far as Church work was concerned. There were no spectacular high points, though our Sunday morning attendance reached an average of 205 per Sunday for the first time in several decades, though our organizational life grew and served more individuals, and though our financial structure has perhaps been the best it has ever been in our long history.

1952 did much to solidify our entire program and to increase the institutional aspects of our work. With each passing year the Lord shows us more clearly that Saint Luke's is not just an ordinary parish church, but that its mission at the Cross Roads of the World is institutional in character, which means that we reach far beyond our own membership in influence and activity. Each Sunday morning finds visitors from all over the country worshipping with us. Some are here for only one Sunday, while others are here for longer periods of time, making Saint Luke's their church home and looking to us for ministrations while they are in our midst. During 1952 visitors from 43 different states, the District of Columbia, Alaska and 17 foreign countries signed our guest book. Thus Sunday after Sunday ours is not only a community, a metropolitan, a national, but also an international congregation. In spite of the difficulties this creates for our preaching ministry, it at the same time extends a challenge which few Lutheran pastors anywhere have presented to them.

Irrespective of the unusual complexion of our congregation, we still have a full and normal church life in which the various needs of our entire membership are met. Our Ladies' Aid Society, Dorcas Guild, Junior and Senior Young People's Guilds, Young Married Couples' Group and Men's Club, are no different than those of any church group in any other part of the country. Visitors frequently are amazed to find the friendliness and the so called "small town" atmosphere surrounding one of our parish group meetings. This past year found exceptionally good leadership and an excellently planned and varied program at the meetings of our different groups, all of which are to be commended for the fellowship and spiritual growth opportunities they extend to the entire membership of the church.

Youth work during 1952 was again one of the most difficult, yet one of the most challenging phases of our work. Through the Sunday School and the Released Time School well over 200 boys and girls received religious instruction. What a thrill it is to bring the glorious message of Salvation and Christ's way of life to these young souls, and, thereby, help mold their lives for time and eternity. We are very fortunate at Saint Luke's to have a loyal, consecrated, mature Sunday School staff, which gives faithfully and untiringly in time and effort to make ours a balanced, well integrated program of Christian education. In our Released Time School, where we use a program of visual aids, we brought the message of Christ to about 85 different boys and girls during the course of the year.

1952 found encouraging development in our week-day recreational program for the youth of the community, which serves a dual purpose. We use planned activities in a wholesome, Christian environment under able leadership both as a means of helping to combat juvenile delinquency and as a missionary arm of the church. Through the fine leadership of Mr. David Adams, who works with five different age groups in a program of gymnasium activities and through the entire Scouting program we give our boys and girls two week-day activities where they are taken off the streets and given an opportunity for wholesome and constructive activity. In this program, which is a real contribution to community life and which is well received by the leaders in the community, more than 100 different boys and girls are served. This is perhaps the fastest

growing phase of our entire program and it meets perhaps the greatest need in our community, which has the highest truancy rate and one of the highest juvenile delinquency rates in the entire city of New York.

Perhaps one of the most encouraging developments of our work at Saint Luke's is the increased interest which our membership is showing in the work of the Lutheran Church at large. Though Saint Luke's is not a member of any Synod, it still is not isolationist in its attitude and in its activity. When the Missouri Synod embarked on its Conquest for Christ movement last spring, Saint Luke's whole-heartedly participated in this far reaching effort and to date has contributed almost \$7,000. Through the Atlantic District Charities Fund and through the Lutheran Welfare Council we participated generously in the entire program of Lutheran charities in the Metropolitan area, contributing more than \$6,600. In addition our membership has supplied direct leadership for such Lutheran organizations as the Bethlehem Women's Auxiliary, the Lutheran Center for Military Personnel, the Lutheran Child Welfare Association, the Lutheran Education Society, the Lutheran Welfare Council, the Lutheran Women's League, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, and the Women's Auxiliary of the Kinderfreund of Jersey City. Our facilities have been placed at the disposal of more than a score of different Lutheran groups and used by them as a regular meeting place. Furthermore, the Lutheran Student Federation and the Service Men's Center have their home here at Saint Luke's. More and more our church has become the center of Lutheranism in the metropolitan area. We are proud of this fact and at the same time we are happy to make this contribution to the cause of Lutheranism in Greater New York.

Associated with me in this full program of activity has been our able and consecrated Parish Worker, Miss Martha Hoffmann, who has so unselfishly shared in responsibility and who has taken complete charge of most of the detail work. Saint Luke's is the richer for her association and activity, and I personally am indebted to her for making my task lighter and more pleasant.

In looking back at 1952, we wish, first of all, to thank Almighty God for His abundant blessings on our efforts in your midst. Then too, we wish to thank Miss Mildred Holmer, our accomplished organist and choir-director along with the entire membership of the choir, for the contribution they have made to the beauty and inspiration of our worship services. Without the continued support, encouragement and cooperation of the officers of the church and the church council, without the enthusiastic leadership of the officers of the various organizations within the church, without the continued loyalty and prayers of our entire membership, without the constant and understanding patience of my good wife, who has assisted me in countless ways and shared with me the joys and thrills the heartaches and sorrows of ministering in an active downtown church, 1952 would not have been the glorious experience it was. For all this I am deeply grateful to God and to each of you individually and personally. May God bless you for all you have done in sharing with me and Mrs. Neibacher our ministry in your midst and may the Lord continue to use us to His Glory and honor is my sincere prayer.

During 1952 your Pastor performed the following official acts:

Baptisms	(children)	23
	(adults)	3
Confirmation	(children)	3
	(adults)	21
New Members Received		39
Weddings		18
Funerals		20
People Communed		2,060
Total Church Attendance		13,031
Average Sunday Attendance		205
Average for 67 Services		195

Cordially your Pastor,

Albert L. Neibacher

TREASURER'S REPORT

REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Envelopes	\$10,195.49	\$ 8,720.94
Plate	3,443.53	2,910.07
Pew Rent	709.50	763.00
Christmas	842.35	754.25
Easter	1,693.10	1,397.90
Lenten Services	291.45	293.85
Thanksgiving	387.90	373.50
102nd Birthday	425.50	427.30
Income from Securities	6,567.30	6,075.73
Special Donations	1,924.00	1,922.25
Special for Music	<u>2,200.00</u>	<u>2,416.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$28,680.12</u>	<u>\$26,054.79</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Salaries	\$12,643.50	\$11,856.00
Travel Allowance	600.00	600.00
Retirement Payments	809.98	796.30
Educational Allowance	1,062.00	518.00
Printing & Stationery	1,237.07	1,275.23
Insurance	1,064.95	962.53
Heating	1,878.86	1,962.31
Gas & Electricity	469.72	459.93
Social Security Tax	79.86	35.52
Repairs	2,280.78	3,061.26
Repairs; authorized but not paid for	1,012.27	-
Organ & Piano Tuning	126.00	128.00
Real Estate & Water Taxes	360.40	353.60
Expense of Envelopes	29.57 cr.	15.27 cr.
Telephone	374.44	370.06
Postage	406.23	411.19
Advertising	967.41	938.07
Devotional Booklets	5.00 cr.	18.53 cr.
Flowers	24.00	48.82
Sunday School	150.00	150.00
Youth Program	442.00	-
Miscellaneous	725.22	821.37
Partial Repayment Loan	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>1,340.40</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$28,680.12</u>	<u>\$26,054.79</u>

COLLECTIONS FOR OTHERS

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1951</u>
Missions	\$ 2,088.41	\$1,849.28
Lutheran Child Welfare Assn.	1,470.06	558.16
Lutheran Welfare Distribution Fund	808.51	785.84
Wheatridge Sanitarium Seals	336.25	397.25
Atlantic District Seals	251.25	217.50
Wartburg Old Folks	394.10	240.12
Lutheran Hospital, Brooklyn	264.64	201.92
Metropolitan Inner Mission Society	396.18	306.18
Assn. for Works of Mercy	152.43	85.37
Lutheran Friends of the Deaf	497.19	239.04
Valparaiso University	350.00	300.00
Lutheran Radio Hour	126.00	105.00
Concordia College	-	3,381.00
Lutheran Education Society	200.00	200.00
Lutheran Bible Institute	25.00	25.00
American Bible Society	55.51	38.87
Lutheran Welfare Council	685.00	150.00
Kansas Flood Relief	-	96.85
American Red Cross	193.00	51.00
Relief in Germany	-	10.00
Conquest for Christ	6,940.25	-
Lutheran Hospital Vicksburg	10.00	-
T.V. - This is the Life	15.60	-
Saranac T. B. Mission	10.00	-
Lutheran Student Federation	25.00	-
Wartburg Orphan Farm School	50.00	-
Miscellaneous	16.00	-
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	\$15,360.38	\$9,131.38
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BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Balance on Hand January 1, 1952		\$ 2,773.46
<u>Income</u> -		
Interest on Investments	\$195.00	
Sunday Collections	28.00	
Interest Franklin Savings Bank	62.09	
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TOTAL INCOME		285.09
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<u>Expenses</u>		\$3,058.55
Financial Aid	\$ 30.00	
Food	8.00	
Christmas	90.00	
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TOTAL EXPENSES		128.00
		<hr/>
Balance on Hand December 31, 1952		\$ 2,930.55

MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

December 31, 1952

<u>YEAR</u> <u>ESTABLISHED</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>INCOME TO</u>
1900 (*)	Benevolent Society	\$1,500.00	Poor
1900 (*)	Ladies Aid Society	1,500.00	Selves
1920 (*)	Gerhardt Fund	200.00	Ladies Aid Society
1920 (*)	Hochhalter-Hellenschmidt	3,700.00	Benevolent Society
1923	Catherine Karsch	2,000.00	Ladies Aid Society
1925 (*)	Katherine Wendell	200.00	Ladies Aid Society
1927	J. Louis Schaefer	5,000.00	Up to \$75.00 to Pew Rent; Balance to Benevolent Society.
1932	Bernard Karsch	3,000.00	Up to \$75. to Pew Rent; Balance to Benevolent Society
1942	Adele Hennings	2,000.00	Pew Rent
1946	Sebastian & Margarita Dorfmueller	3,000.00	Pew Rent
1951	Annie L. Hohns	1,000.00	Pew Rent
1952	Mr. & Mrs. Henry Puckhaber	300.00	Pew Rent

(*) Estimated; not yet confirmed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Enrollment:

Pupils on register	135
Staff Members	16
New Pupils	49
Reinstated Pupils	12
Dropped from register	41
Average Attendance	85
Highest Attendance	97
Lowest Attendance	63

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand January 1, 1952 \$ 644.80

INCOME

Envelopes	\$ 367.92
Plate	189.70
Easter	59.00
Christmas	174.00
Donations	164.45

Total Income 955.07

\$1,599.87

EXPENSES

Literature	\$ 173.27
Films (Purchase & Rental).....	89.00
Attendance Awards	28.04
Collection Envelopes & Boxes and Miscellaneous	93.67
Easter	13.20
June Walk.....	144.21
Christmas	212.10
Donations to India Mission.....	55.00
Postage	<u>36.00</u>

Total Expenses 844.49

Balance on Hand December 31, 1952 \$ 755.38

MISSION FUND

Balance on Hand January 1, 1952 \$ 109.43
Income--Envelopes 178.90
\$ 288.33

Expenses--Support of 3 Children in India 121.25

Balance on Hand December 31, 1952 \$ 167.08

Respectfully submitted,
Henry Theuerer, Secretary,
Herman Reichert, Treasurer