

NEWS LETTER

LENT

1952

THE CALL OF CALVARY

Lent is again here and once more the Savior calls from the Cross, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold, and see if there is any sorrow like unto My sorrow." Never has the world needed the message of the Cross more than in Lent, 1952; and never has the world seemed more indifferent and antagonistic to the suffering Savior than it is today.

The materialism and secularism of the world is altogether too much with us. Frequently it also infiltrates the life of the Christian. Lent, 1952, therefore, comes as a special welcome to us who are followers of Jesus because it affords us an additional opportunity to draw near to the Cross and meditate on the significance of Calvary in contemporary living. The Cross, though it was erected more than 1900 years ago, is not a mere historic event. It is a living force, as vital today as it was in the year 33 A.D. We of this generation must recapture its power in our individual lives in order to receive strength for everyday living. The Cross, once a symbol of suffering and shame, is today a symbol of life and power. Recapture that power in your life by beginning your annual Lenten Pilgrimage on Ash Wednesday, February 27th, and then continue it each Wednesday evening. Lent is of no spiritual significance unless we observe it. One way to observe Lent is through the services of your church.

SERMON TOPICS

The Wednesday evening meditations are based on the seven last words of Christ, each one of which emphasizes a cardinal truth of our religion. THE CROSS SPEAKS a powerful message and meets the needs of a confused and a bewildered world. The general theme of the Sunday morning sermons is UNDERGIRDING FAITH. It is not sufficient for us to have faith, which is little more than knowledge. Faith must also be put into action. It is hoped, therefore, that the entire series of Christ-centered sermons will make both the Cross and our individual faith more real and more vital.

EACH ONE REACH ONE

Lent affords the Christian a special opportunity to give testimony to his individual faith by inviting some friend, some neighbor, some member of our own family to attend our special services. Frequently people are more receptive to the message of the Church during Lent than at any other time of the year. During the coming weeks, therefore, do not come to Church alone; bring someone with you. If you miss one of your fellow-members, telephone him, speak to him and make a date to meet him at our very next service. Is your imagination vivid enough to realize what would happen at Saint Luke's, in the Kingdom of Christ, if each one of us would reach one and bring him to the Savior?

LENTEN SELF-DENIAL FOLDER

From the very early Christian era Lent has been a period of self-denial. Christians have denied themselves something in order to show their love and devotion to Christ for His supreme self-denial on the Cross. Though no self-denial on our part will ever merit us eternal salvation, still it can be an expression of our willingness to sacrifice something for Christ. The enclosed self-denial folder gives us an opportunity to show our love and devotion to our Savior. The price of a bar of candy, two daily newspapers, a cigar, half a package of cigarettes set aside each day for the Savior will go a long way in extending the Kingdom of Christ in our midst. Last year 500 self-denial folders were mailed to our friends; approximately 100 were returned filled. Was yours among the 400 missing? Lent, 1952, is just beginning. This is a new year. Let's make a new, a better, start.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Wednesday, February 13th, the Annual Congregational Meeting was held. Members of the Dorcas Guild and the Ladies' Aid Society served a delicious dinner which was enjoyed by more than 125 people. From the various reports the following facts were culled:

About 200 different children received religious instruction at Saint Luke's during 1951 More than 75 women were active in the Dorcas Guild and the Ladies' Aid ... Of a total budget of \$1600., the ladies used only \$300. for their own organizational needs, contributing the remainder to charities, missions and the church ... In the last decade and a half our Sunday morning attendance has doubled itself and our income has more than tripled itself It now takes 30,000 inflated dollars to carry on the full program of activities at Saint Luke's ... The children of our Sunday School have adopted two boys and a girl in India and are sending them to one of our Christian schools A minimum of \$3,000. annually is needed to keep our building in repair 18 different organizations meet either monthly, weekly or twice weekly.

PARENT-TEACHERS' MEETING

Early in February the first in a series of meetings of the parents and teachers of our Sunday School was held. A film, portraying the need of co-operation between the home and the Church, was shown and enthusiastically received. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a closer tie between the church and the home and to make Saint Luke's the greatest possible force for good in the lives of our youth. A committee of mothers served refreshments and the general attitude expressed was that more such meetings should be held. The next meeting was set for Wednesday, May 7th. Parents, put this date on your calendar now.

CONQUEST FOR CHRIST

The greatest task undertaken by any Lutheran Church body in America is being launched this Spring in the Conquest for Christ movement. This is truly an expansion program, the likes of which American Lutheranism has never seen. In one action the Lutheran Church is endeavoring to meet the needs of the present and prepare for the opportunities of the future. Lutheranism is on the march; it is the fastest growing church body in American Protestantism. Mission fields throughout the world have opened themselves to us so rapidly that the church can barely meet the needs. New facilities must be erected for the training of future ministers; present facilities must be expanded. The Church must move on in its Conquest for Christ. During the next few weeks you will be receiving literature, explaining the program of need and the opportunity to help. The Conquest for Christ movement is the opportunity of this generation to build on the heritage of the past, and present to the future an even stronger and more vital Lutheranism. Shortly after the middle of March you will receive an opportunity to share in this great forward movement for Christ. Prayerfully accept the opportunity as your privilege to share in the great Conquest for Christ.

ADULT MEMBERSHIP

On Maundy Thursday, April 10th, a group of people will be received into church membership. If you know of someone who is without a definite church home, invite them into membership with Saint Luke's. Give their names and addresses to either Miss Hoffmann or the Pastor. Better still, introduce them personally to the Pastor, who will then be able to discuss church membership with them.

CHOIR CONCERT

The Lenten Choir Concert will be given this year on Passion Sunday, March 30th, at 8 o'clock. This year the choir, under the direction of Miss Mildred Holmer, will sing Stainer's "Crucifixion". An offering will be received for the summer camp program of the Metropolitan Lutheran Inner Mission Society. Reserve this date now and let your presence on the evening of March 30th be an indication of your appreciation to the members of the choir and to Miss Holmer for all they do to add to the beauty and inspiration of our services.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Late last Fall a children's choir, under the leadership of Mrs. Esther Richardson, was organized. According to present plans this group, meeting once a week, will sing regularly on the fourth Sunday of each month. We look forward to the regular participation of this group, and we thank both Mrs. Richardson and the children for their interest and hard work.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

Because of the changing date of Palm Sunday and Easter, the Church Council last Spring passed a resolution designating the first Sunday in May as the Sunday on which we have our confirmation service for children. This established date now makes the training period of our confirmees a uniform thing and simplifies the planning of the instruction course. In addition, this change gives us an opportunity to stress the great spiritual truths of Palm Sunday in the life of our Savior.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Though reservations for Altar Flowers have been coming in steadily, there still are a number of open Sundays. Do you have some loved one, or some happy event in your own life, that you want to remember by placing flowers on the Altar of your Church? If flowers are ordered from the church florist, the cost for two bouquets is five dollars. Consult the flower chart in the narthex of the church for open dates, and then make your reservation with either Mr. Henry Wisch or Mr. Fred Nagel.

HOLY WEEK NOON DAY SERVICES

This year again Noon Day Services will be conducted during Holy Week. Monday through Thursday these services begin promptly at 12:15 o'clock and close promptly at 12:45. On Good Friday, a Three Hour Service, beginning at 12 o'clock noon, will be conducted. Start telling your friends of these services now, and then during Holy Week bring them along with you.

SERVICE MEN'S CENTER

Have you seen the beautifully appointed Service Men's Lounge on the third floor of our Parish House? The Lutheran Church of America has established this center at Saint Luke's as a spiritual haven of quiet and fellowship for the military personnel. Next time you attend church, be sure to visit the lounge on the third floor.

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NEWS LETTER

Fall

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Never before has the consecration and loyalty of Christians been more needed than this Fall, 1952. Ours is a disturbed and confused world, which is rapidly approaching complete chaos. Men are trying desperately through human instrumentalities to solve today's problems. Unfortunately, in their varied attempts they frequently forget Christ, who alone can bring peace and order out of confusion.

You and I, therefore, who are Christ's very own, have a tremendous responsibility in today's world. It is through us that the message of Christ must be made real in both word and deed. We who are Christians must help lead our fellow-man back to God and to God's way of life, as it was lived and demonstrated by Christ Himself.

The assignment God gives us is not a simple one. However, once we assume our responsibility, the Lord does not put us on our own. He places at our disposal the very powers of Heaven itself. He gives us of His divine wisdom and strength and courage. With the eyes of faith, He enables us to see many things we would not see otherwise. He gives, but only as we make use of the means through which He gives, which are prayer, daily Bible reading, public worship, frequent reception of the Lord's Supper.

As we, therefore, begin another year of Church work, let us draw near to our blessed Savior; let us walk closely with Him over every pathway life takes us. Only as we remain close to Christ will He use us to greatest avail. Only as we remain close to our church will she become and remain strong.

ANNIVERSARY COMMUNION

On Sunday, October 5th, the annual Anniversary Communion service will be conducted. On that occasion we use the communion vessels which were given to Saint Luke's during Civil War days. Thus in spirit we unite ourselves with the past, lay hold of the present and dedicate ourselves to the future. It is sincerely hoped that all members will receive the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood on that day.

YOUTH WORKER

Last Spring the Church Council gave much time to considering the mission of Saint Luke's to the children of the Times Square area. The Council was deeply concerned about the steady increase of juvenile delinquency in the immediate neighborhood of the church. In considering the many problems facing the children of our community - small, cramped homes, limited, sub-standard play-areas and general lack of recreational facilities - the Council felt compelled to make greater and more efficient use of the fine facilities we have at Saint Luke's. In opening our doors still wider to the children of the church and in giving them an organized program of activity, we felt that we could be helping these boys and girls grow up to be decent, law-abiding Christian citizens.

For the purpose of organizing such a program and supervising it, Mr. David Adams, a graduate student at New York University was engaged. Mr. Adams will have complete charge of five different groups, utilizing the gymnasium two afternoons and three evenings a week. Here boys and girls will not only be in a position to get rid of some of the excess energy they possess but they will also be able to put to work some of the Christian principles they learn in Sunday School, at Released Time School and in Confirmation Class. After all, good fair play is part of Christian living.

In inaugurating this program the Church Council has taken another step forward to ever increasing and improving the services it renders our fellow-man. Remember this new project in your prayers and whenever possible give your encouragement and help to our new worker, Mr. David Adams.

BIRTHDAY PRESENTS

Whenever some loved one or friend has a birthday, you do not let it go by unnoticed. Ordinarily you remember it with a special gift and you endeavor to make your gift representative of your love.

On Sunday, October 5th, we are going to celebrate the 102nd birthday of Saint Luke's, your spiritual mother. Your church has done much for you. She has served you in many ways. Perhaps at her altar you were baptized, confirmed or married; perhaps she gave you your first lessons in Christian living; perhaps you came to Saint Luke's only in later life. However, Saint Luke's is

your spiritual home today. At her altar you receive the blessed Sacrament; from her pulpit you hear the glorious Gospel message of salvation; in her halls you find Christian fellowship. Saint Luke's has done much for you, perhaps far more than you realize. She has shared with you moments of joy and moments of sorrow.

Certainly no one can deny that your church is deserving of the very best birthday gift that any of us is capable of making. For your gift, we are enclosing a special offering envelope which we ask you to return to the church on Sunday, October 5th.

This year our birthday offering will be used to help defray the expenses of our new Youth Program. Though the program will cost about \$800.00 a year and though it is not a budgeted item for 1952, the Church Council felt constrained to undertake it because it felt confident that our people would underwrite it with a special birthday offering. In making your gift, remember that today's youth is tomorrow's church, tomorrow's citizen. Let us all do our share to help build a greater church, a better nation.

SERMON TOPIC FOLDER

Enclosed is the sermon schedule for the coming Fall and Winter season. With the exception of special occasions, the sermons are based on The Ten Commandments. Through meditation and prayer we hope to rediscover the value of God's Commandments for contemporary living. Our generation has lost sight of their value, as is so much evidenced by the general condition of the world. Invite your friends to share these Christ-centered, practical messages for every day life.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Once more our Junior Congregation meets regularly each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. under the direction of a consecrated and devoted staff of teachers. We have special classes for all age groups, beginning at three years and including an Adult Bible Study Group which meets separately and apart from the children. Our study plan is well integrated and meets the needs of the various age groups. Should you know of any children who are without a Church Home, tell them of our Sunday School and give us their names and addresses.

You are invited to drop in any Sunday morning to see our Sunday School at work and share in the thrill of bringing Christ to the young. On the last Sunday of each month a religious film is shown. Thus, through the visual aids, we endeavor to make the Gospel message of Christ more real to our children. Join us some Sunday morning.

CAN YOU SPEAK SPANISH?

In our Released Time School program, on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 3 p.m., we have contact with about twenty-five children who come from Spanish-speaking homes, but who speak English quite proficiently themselves. Practically all of those children are without a church and Sunday School. Because of the language barrier it is impossible for us to establish intelligent contact with the home. Do you know of anyone who can speak Spanish and who would be willing to give several afternoons to visit these homes with Miss Hoffmann and enlist the parents' interest and cooperation in our spiritual program for children? Young souls are at stake and we have so much to offer them at Saint Luke's. Interested public school teachers send these children to us on Thursdays. However, we ourselves must follow through on these contacts.

SUMMER ENVELOPES

During the summer months when we are away on vacation, our regular weekly offering envelopes are frequently permitted to accumulate at home. Unfortunately, bills are not permitted to accumulate at church. They must be paid when presented. The summer months are usually big expenditure months, for that is when we take care of some of the larger and more costly repair items. This summer was no exception. Should you have some back envelopes at home, please bring them to one of the first services you attend or mail them to the Treasurer, Mr. Anton Koester, in care of the church.

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Again the choir has begun its Fall season of rehearsals and is participating in the regular Sunday morning worship services. The choir, under the direction of Miss Mildred Holmer, meets each Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. The activity of the choir is dependent largely on the participation of volunteers. Have you ever considered giving an hour a week to the ministry of music at Saint Luke's? There is unspeakable joy in using your talents in the service of your Savior.

The Children's Choir meets each Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock under the direction of Mrs. Esther Richardson. We look forward again to having the children participate in our Sunday morning services.

ADULT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GROUP

On Thursday, October 16th, at 8 o'clock, the Pastor will again start a series of informal discussions on the fundamental teachings of the Lutheran Church. All those desirous of uniting in membership with Saint Luke's and who come from other Lutheran Churches should participate in these discussion groups. Should you know of someone who is not a Lutheran and who would like to learn more of our church, please tell them of these Thursday evening sessions. There will be seven meetings in all.

OUR CIVIC DUTY

When Christ walked among men, He declared: "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's." With those words the Savior clearly indicated that we have a definite responsibility as citizens of the country we call home. This Fall that responsibility includes, among other things, the solemn obligation to exercise our vote. On bended knee every citizen ought to consider carefully and prayerfully the needs of our country and exercise his privilege of voting. Register, therefore, and use your vote on election day.

TODDLERS' GROUP

Provisions have been made to take care of your children each Sunday morning during church service. Parents are thus given an opportunity to attend church together without feeling that one must stay home and take care of the youngsters. Use the Toddlers' Group which meets in the church parlor. Tell your friends of this arrangement.

NEW LUTHERAN TV PROGRAM

Each Tuesday evening at 10 o'clock, a new Lutheran program, "This is the Life," is being televised over Channel 5 (Station WABD). The Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, has undertaken one of the most ambitious television programs of any church group in America. Watch this program yourself; tell your friends of it; then write to the station, thanking them for putting such a program on the air.

THE LUTHERAN HOUR

The Lutheran Hour is now being broadcast each Sunday evening at 8 p.m. over station WOR. Listen to the timely Christ-centered messages of Professor Armin Oldsen.

CLOTHES FOR KOREA

In response to an appeal made by the Lutheran World Relief, The Dorcas Guild is collecting clothing which will be shipped to war-stricken Korea by the National Lutheran Council. As you go about your Fall housecleaning, think of the homeless and the poverty-stricken of Korea. They need our help.

YOU CAN HELP

As Saint Luke's expands its activities and endeavors to meet more and more the needs of our times, there is also a greater need for helpers. With the opening of a service men's center at Saint Luke's last winter and with the arrival of a full time director in the center, men and women are finding their way to our doors in increasing numbers. The door bell rings frequently, at times almost constantly. Would you give an afternoon a week, an afternoon every two weeks, an afternoon every month to sit in the lobby of the parish house, answer the door bell, greet the caller and help him on his way? Here is a real service you could render your church. Many centuries ago the Psalmist declared: "I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness." In other words, no service is too small, too humble, when it is rendered to the Lord.