

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
308 West 46th Street
New York 36, N. Y.
Circle 6-4866

ANNUAL REPORT

1953

THE CHURCH STAFF

Albert L. Neibacher	Pastor
David F. Krampitz	Assistant Pastor
Martha E. Hoffmann	Parish Worker
Mildred Holmer, M.S.M.	Organist and Choir Director
Gustave Weiman	Superintendent

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Bernhard K. Schaefer	President
Anton Koester	Vice President
Frank J. Burger	Treasurer
Reinhold Miessler	Secretary
Henry J. Koester	Assistant Secretary
J. Louis Schaefer	Assistant Treasurer

ELDERS

John W. Lengemann
Herman Von Hinken
Fred A. Wolklin

DEACONS

Robert Filter
Jay Guren
Howard Johnson
Edwin Kynast
Herman Reichert
George Schroeder
Henry Seng
Ernest Ullrich
Curtis Wingert

TRUSTEES

Frank J. Burger
Karl Koepchen
Anton Koester
Henry J. Koester
Reinhold Miessler
D. Ross Osborn
Bernhard K. Schaefer
J. Louis Schaefer
Henry Wisch

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to present this Annual Report of the operations of your Church during the year 1953. Much for which we may be thankful has happened during the past year.

We are deeply grateful that the war in Korea has ended and that the damaging effect of inflation on the wages, pensions, salaries and savings of all of us have been brought under control. Under the able leadership of President Eisenhower, we look forward to a lasting peace and a permanent prosperity.

The transition from a wartime to a peacetime economy has created new problems for our beloved Country and our Church. It is gratifying however, to report that the financial and physical properties of your Church are in good condition. Altho the finances of your Church are sound, they are maintained on a balanced basis only by the narrowest of margins. You will note on the accompanying report of our Treasurer that our Envelope Collections again passed the \$10,000.00 mark. The contributors who made this splendid record possible are to be congratulated for their generous and loyal support of their Church. Their regular and steadfast support requires a special word of appreciation, and speaking for the Church Council, I want to commend these loyal members of our Congregation.

The same report however, shows Disbursements of \$30,000.00 and in the Estimated Budget submitted by our Finance Committee for the year 1954 we find Expenses of over \$31,000.00. The problem of "balancing the budget" is a continuing one for your Church Council and without the generous financial support of our Congregation the accomplishments of the past year would not have been achieved nor will the plans for expansion be possible. In spite of the best efforts of the House Committee, the cost of maintaining and repairing our Church building and Parish House remains high. They cannot be cut without impairing the services these buildings provide.

As mentioned in the Pastor's Report, the addition of the Reverend David Krampitz to the staff of our Church is one of the outstanding features of the year just ended. St. Luke's is now better staffed than at any time in her past history to provide the services required of a great Lutheran Church in the Times Square Area. With an outstanding Pastor, a young and vigorous Assistant Pastor, a devoted and experienced Parish Worker and an accomplished and talented Organist, the spiritual and devotional needs of St. Luke's appear to have been met for the first time in its long history.

The revision of our old and outdated Constitution was begun this year and some of the ablest men on the Church Council and within the Congregation are devoting much time and thought to this highly important project.

Another equally experienced and dedicated Committee is considering the advisability of our joining the Missouri Synod. Its findings and recommendations will be reported to the Church Council and to the Congregation at an early date in the new year.

To the members of the Church Council and to the work of the men and women of our Congregation whose accomplishments are mirrored in the results presented in this Annual Report, I want to pay tribute and to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for their support.

Bernhard K. Schaefer,
President

THE PASTOR'S REPORT

February 10, 1954

Dear Friends in Christ:

The writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes states, "Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof." Those sacred words characterize church work at Saint Luke's during 1953 better than any I know. In His infinite love and wisdom the Lord chose to send serious illness into my life, and for many weeks made it impossible for me to go about my normal daily tasks. However, the willingness of friends in the ministry to take over the heavy preaching schedule of Lent and Holy Week, and the love and prayers of the congregation, for which I shall always be grateful, went a long way to make it possible for me to regain my health and return to a full program of activity. From this vantage point, therefore, as we view 1953, we must say with the Psalmist, "The Lord hath done great things." In spite of the many handicaps under which we worked for a good part of 1953, the Lord richly blessed our joint efforts during the past year.

Perhaps one of the more outstanding features of our work was the continued development of the institutional character of Saint Luke's. Through the years our church has become one of the great Christian centers, and The Lutheran Center of Greater New York. During 1953 approximately 65,000 people passed through our doors and in one form or another used our facilities. In addition to the 22 active groups within our own congregation, more than 25 different outside groups regularly looked to us for a meeting place. The role Saint Luke's thus played in the Kingdom of Christ is absolutely inestimable. Within our walls many souls found their Savior, received encouragement, inspiration, instruction, fellowship and went on their way happier individuals, better men and women. Saint Luke's is no longer a mere parish church; it is truly an institution in the religious, social and civic life of our great city.

In analyzing the various phases of our parish activity, the religious education program is perhaps the most heartening. For the first time in many decades, our Sunday School closed the year with an enrolment of 160 active individuals, giving every indication according to the Primary Department statistics, that in the not too distant future our Sunday School ought easily have a membership of at least, 225 individuals. The Sunday School Teachers' Staff accepted this challenge, and in its endeavor to improve and expand the program, a new lesson plan, a Chinese and Spanish speaking class were introduced. To meet the needs of an older group of boys and girls, who find it impossible to attend the regular teen-age confirmation class, a special catechetical class was organized. In order to better care for a group of small children whose parents desire to attend our Church services, a nursery class, with a planned study program, was introduced as part of the Sunday School and meets each Sunday morning from 11 to 12 noon under trained leadership. In conjunction with our Thursday afternoon Released Time School program, approximately 250 different boys and girls received religious instruction during 1953.

The Lord of the Church continued to bless the organizational life of Saint Luke's which is so constituted that it endeavors to meet the needs and requirements of all age groups and sexes. From The Ladies Aid Society and The Dorcas Guild to the Men's Club, The Young Married Couples' Group and the various youth groups, including the entire Scout family, planned programs of inspiration, fellowship and recreation are carried out either on a weekly or a monthly basis. Our various organizations are truly blessed with a consecrated leadership, which endeavors to meet specific needs and plan the best possible program for their individual groups. In various phases of our youth activities, we are fortunate to have good, volunteer leadership, which weekly gives of time and energy to take the boys and girls off the street and to direct their energies into positive and Christian channels.

Ours is a big family of organizations; ours is a full program of parish activities; and it is one which serves the Savior and Saint Luke's in very creditable manner.

Perhaps the outstanding event in the life of Saint Luke's during the past year was the installation of The Rev. David F. Krampitz as assistant pastor of the congregation on Sunday, October 4th. This was a happy occasion for all because it meant that at a time when many churches on Manhattan were forced to curtail programs, we at Saint Luke's were expanding ours, and reaching out to be of greater service to an ever increasing number of people. Called as assistant pastor, Pastor Krampitz will to a large extent concentrate his efforts on our mission program and on various phases of our youth activity. At long last we are now able to follow up some of the many visitors who attend our services and many of whom are good prospects for church membership. The entire youth program ought also now be strengthened and coordinated with our religious education program. We pray the Lord to bless Pastor Krampitz's work and to make him a blessing to the many souls with whom he comes in contact in his ministry.

Without the efforts of Miss Martha Hoffmann, our Parish Worker, who along with Mrs. Neibacher, was able to rally friends to fill the pulpit during my illness, and to meet many of the emergencies which arose, 1953 would never have been the same. Throughout the entire year Miss Hoffmann kept the church office running smoothly, handling thousands of pieces of mail, interviewing hundreds of people, and taking care of many of the small details which are so necessary to the proper and smooth functioning of a large church program such as ours.

This report is not at all complete without mention of the many volunteers who through the year shared in our various activities, and who made our varied program possible. Again during 1953 volunteers assumed full responsibility for the work of the Sunday School, the Released Time School, the Junior Choir, the gymnasium program for boys and girls, and the entire Scouting program. Volunteers gave many, many hours serving as receptionists in the Parish House and assisting in office detail work. Saint Luke's is very grateful and deeply indebted to this large corps of volunteers, without whom we would have had to add, at least, two full time people to our staff. May God bless these many volunteers and may He in this New Year give us an ever increasing number of willing workers.

During 1953 your Pastor performed the following official acts:

Baptisms	24	Funerals	27
Confirmations (children)	7	People communed	2298
(adults)	11	Total church attendance	13632
New members received	22	Average Sunday attendance	209
Weddings	9		

As we look back at 1953 we, first of all, thank Almighty God for His abundant blessings upon us and our work. Without Him we would not be here this evening. We also want to thank Miss Mildred Holmer, our talented organist and choir director, whose contributions to our worship services were an inspiration to all who worshipped with us. Then too, we want to thank the officers of the church who gave me their sympathetic, willing and eager support in my total ministry. From beginning to end ours was a blessed experience of team-work for the Savior, in which His Name was truly glorified and the total interests of Saint Luke's always advanced. May God bless all who in any way have shared with me and Mrs. Neibacher a difficult ministry in an active downtown church, and may He continue to use us in the salvation of sin-sick souls is the sincere prayer of

Your Pastor,

Albert L. Neibacher

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
REPORT OF INCOME & EXPENSE

INCOME

	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Envelopes	\$10,836.81	\$10,195.49
Plate Collection	3,778.32	3,443.53
Pew Rent	798.50	709.50
Christmas	1,000.66	842.35
Easter	1,780.05	1,693.10
Lenten Services	360.46	291.45
Thanksgiving	441.91	387.90
Birthday	2,171.45	425.50
Income from Securities	6,687.35	6,567.30
Special Donations	2,025.00	1,924.00
Special for Music	1,910.00	2,200.00
	<u>\$31,790.51</u>	<u>\$28,680.12</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$31,790.51</u>	<u>\$28,680.12</u>

EXPENSE

Salaries	\$15,442.92	\$13,705.50
Travel Allowance	750.00	600.00
Retirement & Medical Payments	1,060.04	809.98
Printing & Stationery	1,382.84	1,237.07
Insurance	928.64	1,064.95
Heating	1,982.73	1,878.86
Gas & Electricity	512.58	469.72
Social Security Tax	66.98	79.86
Repairs	3,541.45	2,280.78
Organ & Piano Tuning	90.00	126.00
Real Estate & Water Taxes	366.80	360.40
Expense of Envelopes	11.16 *cr.	29.57
Telephone	460.85	374.44
Postage	547.96	406.23
Advertising	1,021.91	967.41
Devotional Books	18.35 *cr.	5.00
Flowers	109.00	24.00
Sunday School	150.00	150.00
Youth Program	275.00	442.00
Miscellaneous	826.31	725.22
Final Repayment Loan	1,200.00	2,000.00
	<u>\$30,686.50</u>	<u>\$27,667.85</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>\$30,686.50</u>	<u>\$27,667.85</u>

SURPLUS

\$ 1,104.01

\$ 1,012.27

COLLECTION FOR OTHERS

Missions	2196.45
Lutheran Child Welfare Association	862.75
Lutheran Welfare Distribution Fund	728.91
Wheatridge Sanatorium Seals	378.25
Atlantic District Seals	273.25
Wartburg Home for Aged(Brooklyn)	503.78
Lutheran Hospital of Brooklyn	272.77
Metropolitan Inner Mission Society	451.93
Association for Works of Mercy	150.21
Lutheran Friends of Deaf	1116.75
Conquest for Christ	529.00
American Red Cross	37.00
Lutheran Radio Hour	135.00
European Flood Relief	94.00
True Light Chinese Lutheran Church	14.00
Lutheran Welfare Council	230.00
Valparaiso University	850.00
Lutheran Education Society	320.00
Lutheran Hospital-Vicksburg	20.00
T.V. "This is the Life"	10.00
Miscellaneous	150.00
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	9324.05
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The above Funds passed through the books of the Treasurer. In addition several thousand dollars were sent directly to various agencies and institutions.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Balance on Hand January 1, 1953		2930.55
Income		
Interest on Investments	170.00	
Sunday Collections	8.73	
Donation	100.00	
Interest Franklin Savings Bank	70.37	
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Total Income		349.10
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		3279.65
<u>Expenses</u>		
Financial Aid	6.00	
Food	5.00	
Christmas	100.00	
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		111.00
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Balance on Hand December 31, 1953		3168.65
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During the year 1953, the Society gave financial aid, also clothing and food. The balance of the funds will be kept on hand for future need.

MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

December 31, 1953

<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	Themselves
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 Wendel	200.00	Ladies Aid Society
1927	J. Louis Schaefer	5,000.00	Up to \$75. 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
1946	In Memory J. Louis Schaefer	1,000	Pew Rent
1951	Annie L. Hohns	1,000.00	Pew Rent
1952	Mr. & Mrs. Henry Puckhaber	300.00	Pew Rent
1953	Mrs. Fred Wolklin & Mrs. Frieda Monroe in Memory of John Detmer	<u>200.00</u>	Pew Rent
	TOTAL	\$24,600.00	

MEMORIAL WREATHS GIVEN IN 1953 in Memory of:

Alfred M. Grizzle - May	\$ 25.00
Emil Feitusch - July	15.00

(*) Indicates approximate date

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SECRETARY'S REPORT

During 1953 our Sunday School enrollment has increased by 19%, bringing our present total to 160 pupils. During the year several new classes have been organized to meet the various needs of our children and adults. These include:

1. A nursery group meeting during Church Service.
2. A class for confirmation instructions for those who are unable to attend the regular week-day sessions.
3. A class conducted in Spanish for children whose English is poor.
4. A class conducted in Chinese for adults.

A digest of our attendance records for 1953 is as follows:

Total enrollment Dec. 31, 1953	160
Average Sunday Attendance	91
Highest Sunday Attendance	133
Lowest Sunday Attendance	61
New pupils since Jan. 1, 1953	60
Reinstated pupils during the year	12
Dropped from the records	47

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand January 1, 1953 \$ 755.38

I N C O M E

Envelopes & Plate Collections.....	\$646.25
Easter.....	75.00
Christmas.....	214.00
Donations.....	<u>225.75</u>
Total Income	<u>\$1,161.00</u>
	\$1,916.38

E X P E N S E S

Lessons-Bibles-Periodicals.....	\$245.23
Films-purchase and rentals.....	58.80
Awards and Miscellaneous Supplies..	96.07
Collection Devices.....	52.67
Postage.....	33.46
Easter & June Walk.....	206.00
Christmas.....	<u>261.23</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 953.46</u>

Balance on Hand December 31, 1953 \$ 962.92

MISSION FUND

Balance on Hand January 1, 1953	\$ 167.08
Income-envelopes	<u>204.76</u>
	\$ 371.84
Expenses-Support of Children in our India Mission	<u>176.25</u>
Balance on Hand December 31, 1953	\$ 195.59