

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

ANNUAL REPORT

1954

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the succeeding pages of this report, you will find in condensed form the results of the year 1954. It was another year of splendid progress by your Church.

For the first time in a generation the world was at peace. It is, to be sure, an insecure peace, but, as President Eisenhower has recently said - "it is a fact which inspires us to work all the more effectively for the freedom, the well-being, the dignity of every human on earth."

It has also been a year in which we have witnessed real efforts to preserve the value of the dollar. Continued assurances that the value of the dollar will not be allowed to depreciate further will add greatly to the bright outlook for our country in general and for our Church in particular.

We have been fortunate in 1954 in again achieving a small excess of income over expenses. You will observe on the accompanying report of the Treasurer that Revenue from all sources was higher than in the preceding year. Our envelope collection was the best ever, passing \$12,000.00. We are deeply grateful to the loyal members of our Congregation who have made this possible.

Expenses continue to mount however, and have passed well beyond the \$30,000.00 mark. Only a few years ago - in 1949 - they barely reached \$20,000.00 and we were concerned at the rate they had increased over previous years. We have achieved some success in holding them within present limits but the continuing demands of our expansion program compel us to meet increasing financial burdens.

As the year ended, the Reverend David Krampitz accepted a Divine Call to Hanover, New Hampshire and we reluctantly released him on the 31st of December. His replacement is a problem we shall have to contend with in the new year.

Work on our new Constitution is progressing and we hope to submit it for your approval in final form in the coming year.

After serious consideration and many meetings and conferences on the part of the special committee to consider our joining the Synod, as well as Congregational meetings, and Special Voters meetings called for that purpose, the voting members decided not to join the Missouri Synod at this time.

My thanks are extended again to every member of the Church Council who contributed so effectively to making the progress outlined in this report and to all the members of our Congregation who continue to support St. Luke's so loyally.

Bernhard K. Schaefer,  
President.

## THE PASTOR'S REPORT

February 16, 1955

Dear Friends in Christ:

Many centuries ago "The Lord said unto Moses...speak unto the children of Israel that they go forward." That has ever been the command that Christ has given to His Church and, under God, that has been the direction we have followed at Saint Luke's during 1954.

As far as is humanly possible to ascertain we have made definite spiritual progress during 1954. Our Sunday morning attendance reached an all high of many decades, 221 people per Sunday, which is an increase of 50% during the past ten years. During the year 2482 people communed at the Lord's Table, which is almost double the number of a decade ago. In response to increased interest in Bible study, The Family Bible Hour was organized in the Fall of the year. Meeting each Friday evening, with a different individual each week acting as discussion leader, this group has had an attendance of 20 to 25 and has served almost 50 different individuals. Emphasis on the spiritual has again been stressed in the programing of the organizational life of the church, with regular discussions on religious themes and church related work subjects, taking precedence over mere fellowship. Each group has had its individual service projects, which added much to the general interest and worthwhileness of the specific group. More than 200 different individuals participated in the organizational life of the church, thereby enjoying the opportunity to draw closer to one another, to Christ and His way of life, and to the church itself.

Not only was there spiritual progress during the past year, but there was also progress in our outreach to the community. More and more have we again become identified with the community in which we are geographically situated, sharing its problems, endeavoring to meet its needs and helping to plan its future. Though a decade ago we were in the community, we were not related to it. Today, however, that has appreciably changed, with the result that in increasing numbers residents of the area look to us for spiritual ministrations and community leadership. Mr. Bernhard Schaefer and I have actively served on a special citizen's Housing Committee, endeavoring to get better housing for the area. Together we have also served on the Executive Committee of the Chelsea Clinton Health and Welfare Council, which is the co-ordinating council of all agencies serving the community. In addition I have served on the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of The Clinton-LaSalle Community Center, which serves upwards of 2000 children and adults every day in a recreational, hand-craft and educational program. All three community groups are very vital to the life of our area, and it is a credit to us at Saint Luke's that our leadership is sought and used.

In reaching out to the youth of the community during the past year, we served 232 boys and girls in our Sunday School, 150 in our Released Time Program, and 150 in our Scouting and recreational program. More than 350 different boys and girls regularly looked to us for spiritual training and leisure time activity.

In our outreach we undertook a project of distributing invitations to the residents of the area to make Saint Luke's their Church Home. Approximately 13,500 announcements were distributed to all the homes west of Broadway from 40th Street to 57th Street. Though we expect no phenomenal results from this distribution, the community being 85% catholic, 3% Jewish, and the remaining 12% either Protestant or unchurched, we feel that a very important first step has been made in reaching out for those who are without a Church Home in the area.

As we have reached out in the community, constantly endeavoring to expand our services to Christ and our fellow men, not only have we been received by the area itself, but our work at Saint Luke's has also been recognized by an important arm of the religious life of our city. In September Union Theological Seminary came to us and invited us to share in their Field Work Program for undergraduate students. Accepting the invitation of Union, Mr. Harry Yeide, a Lutheran student of Washington, D.C. was assigned to us and is actively engaged in the Sunday School, the Youth work and our Mission program.

Not only was there definite progress in our spiritual life and in our outreach

to the community, but there was also very healthy progress in our financial structure. In the past decade we have just about tripled our envelope contributions. What is especially encouraging, is that the income from envelopes has been steadily increasing and that the number of individuals using weekly offering envelopes has also been growing, thus spreading the base of contributors. Though expenses also have just about tripled, we have been able to add three full time people and two part time workers to our staff, thereby increasing both the scope and sphere of our work.

1954 again pointed up the mission opportunities of a church like Saint Luke's, which a decade and a half ago many churchmen wrote off as a lost cause and for which they advocated relocation, the procedure followed by about a dozen Protestant churches in our community. Because we have followed a progressive mission program, right down through the years, we were able to receive during 1954, 49 new members which is 11 above our average of 38 for the past 10 years. 31 of these were received through confession of faith, which is among the largest number thus received by any single church in The Atlantic District. When, therefore, in the summer of 1953 we called the Rev. David Krampitz to become Assistant Pastor to concentrate on our Mission Program of expansion, we were not only following the command of Christ, but we were also proceeding on the basis of our experience as to where our Mission in Times Square, New York, lies. Our work, though immeasurably more difficult, is no different from that of any mission congregation.

Associated with me in the full program of activity during the past year was Pastor Krampitz, who concentrated his efforts on the Youth Program, the Sunday School and a large portion of the mission work. His resignation in December to accept a call to Hanover, N.H., leaves a big gap in our staff, makes curtailment of work in certain areas necessary, and points up the need of attaining another assistant to carry on work which has been developed and which must of necessity be now held in abeyance.

Also associated with us in our work, was our very able Parish Worker, Miss Martha Hoffmann, who not only took care of all office detail, interviewing hundreds of people who continually come to us for help, but also contributed much in creating the friendly atmosphere which greets the visitor, and in helping to assimilate the new members in the organizational life of the church. My work was made much easier through the efficient work of Miss Hoffmann, and through the tireless and sympathetic assistance of Mrs. Neibacher, both of whom spared me many petty and disturbing details, which can be so time consuming and enervating.

This report is not complete without a word of commendation and appreciation to Miss Mildred Holmer, our able organist and choir director, and to the members of the choir who contributed so much to the beauty and inspiration of our worship services. Also, we thank Mrs. Esther Richardson and Mrs. Laura Neibacher for their work in The Junior Choir, the countless number of volunteers who assisted in the work of the Sunday School, the Released Time School, the Youth Program, the office work, and the receptionist service in our Parish House lobby. May the Lord bless each one of these workers and give them the joy of knowing that what they have done they have done unto Him.

During the past year the following official acts were performed:

Baptisms (Infants)	14	Baptisms (adults)	8
Confirmations (children)	10	Confirmations (adults)	31
New Members Received	49	Weddings	13
Funerals	21	People communed	2482
Total church attendance	<del>13,632</del> 14,500	Average Sunday attendance	221

Your Pastor,  
Albert L. Neibacher

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ST. LUKES LUTHERAN CHURCH  
REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

YEAR 1954

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Income from Envelopes	12,176.50	10,836.81
Plate collection	3,877.23	3,778.32
Pew Rent	772.90	798.50
Christmas	1,272.12	1,000.66
Easter	1,765.65	1,780.05
Lenten Services	314.92	360.46
Thanksgiving	417.80	441.91
104th Birthday	584.70	2,171.45
Income from Securities	7,004.84	6,687.35
Special Donations	1,958.00	2,025.00
Special for Music	<u>1,660.00</u>	<u>1,910.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	31,804.66	31,790.51

<u>EXPENSE</u>		
Salaries	17,840.70	15,442.92
Travel allowance	750.00	750.00
Retirement & Medical payments	1,432.00	1,060.04
Printing & Stationery	1,331.18	1,382.84
Insurance	1,508.39	928.64
Heating	2,079.31	1,982.73
Gas & Electricity	537.22	512.58
Social Security Tax	80.58	66.98
Repairs	1,886.83	3,541.45
Organ & Piano Tuning	90.00	90.00
Real Estate & Water Taxes	402.80	366.80
Expense of Envelopes	5.35 Cr.	11.16 Cr.
Telephone	452.58	460.85
Postage	624.90	547.96
Advertising	1,018.30	1,021.91
Devotional Books	7.90 Cr.	18.35 Cr.
Flowers	6.00	109.00
Sunday School	150.00	150.00
Youth Program	17.65	275.00
Miscellaneous	886.31	826.31
Final Repayment Loan		<u>1,200.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>31,153.50</u>	<u>30,686.50</u>
SURPLUS	651.16	1,104.01

COLLECTION FOR OTHERS

Miscellaneous	9.00
Missions	2307.96
Lutheran Child Welfare Assn.	841.59
Lutheran Welfare Distribution Fund	981.45
Wheatridge Sanatorium Seals & Foundation	350.25
Atlantic District Seals	250.25
Wartburg Home for Aged-Brooklyn	519.97
Lutheran Hospital-Brooklyn	230.02
Metropolitan Inner Mission Society	395.66
Association for Works of Mercy	143.47
Lutheran Friends of Deaf	561.30
Conquest for Christ	66.00
Armed Services	302.75
American Lutheran Publicity Bureau	172.50
Lutheran Education Society	300.00
The Lutheran Hour	100.00
Valparaiso University	300.00
Wartburg Orphan School, Mt. Vernon	50.00
Lutheran Laymen's League	50.00
Concordia Collegiate Institute	2725.00
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	10657.17

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Balance on Hand January 1, 1954 3168.65

INCOME

Interest on investments	220.00
Memorial	150.00
Donations	307.00
Interest-Franklin Savings Bank	78.38

Total Income 755.38

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3924.03

EXPENSES

Financial Aid	45.00
Food	18.50
Christmas	115.00

Total Expenses 178.50

Balance on hand December 31, 1954 

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3745.53

During the year 1954, 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, 1954

<u>YEAR ESTABLISHED</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>INCOME TO</u>
1900 (*)	Ladies Aid Society	1500-	Themselves
1900 (*)	Benevolent Society	1500-	Poor
1920 (*)	Gerhardt Fund	200-	Ladies Aid Society
1920 (*)	Hochhalter Hellenschmidt	3700-	Benevolent Society
1923	Catherine Karsch	2000-	Ladies Aid Society
1925 (*)	Katherine Wendel	200-	Ladies Aid Society
1927	J. Louis Schaefer	5000-	Part to Pew Rent Bal. to Benevol. Society
1932	Bernard Karsch	3000-	Part to Pew Rent Bal. to Benevol. Society
1942	Adele Hennings	2000-	Pew Rent
1946	Sebastian and Margarita Dorfmuller	3000-	Pew Rent
1946	In Memory J. Louis Schaefer	1000-	Pew Rent
1951	Annie L. Hohns	1000-	Pew Rent
1952	Mr. and Mrs. Henry Puckhaber	300-	Pew Rent
1953	Mrs. Fred Wolklin and Mrs. Frieda Monroe in Memory John Dettmer	200-	Pew Rent
1954	In memory Alfred M. Grizzle	<u>500-</u>	Pew Rent
	TOTAL	25100-	

\*Approximate date

MEMORIALS GIVEN IN 1954 IN MEMORY OF

Mrs. A. Schoenecker  
Mr. Thomas Lawrence  
Mr. Charles H. Hohns, Jr.  
Mrs. L. Nusskern

LEGACY IN 1954 FROM

Mr. Christian Schaumeyer

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
SECRETARY'S REPORT

During 1954 our Sunday School enrollment has increased by 8% bringing our total membership as of December 31st to 172.

A digest of our attendance records for 1954 is as follows:

Total enrollment, Dec. 31, 1954	172
Average Sunday attendance	114
Highest Sunday attendance	134
Lowest Sunday attendance	81
New pupils since Jan. 1, 1954	58
Reinstated pupils during the year	14
Dropped from the records	60
Adult Staff serving the Sunday School	20

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand January 1, 1954		962.92
Income		
Envelopes	494.58	
plate	263.95	
Easter	94.00	
Christmas	203.00	
Donations	234.96	
Total Income		1290.49
		2253.41

EXPENSES

Lesson Material	307.59	
Films	121.25	
Attendance Awards	54.69	
Collection Material	54.53	
Postage	21.10	
Refreshments	30.52	
Easter	52.75	
June Walk	195.79	
Christmas	236.04	
Donation	17.71	
Equipment	146.21	
Miscellaneous Supplies	98.90	
Total Expenses		1337.08
Balance on Hand December 31, 1954		916.33

MISSION FUND

Balance on Hand	January 1, 1954	195.59
Income - Envelopes		219.03
		414.62
Expenses - Support of children in India Mission		201.25
Balance on Hand - December 31, 1954		213.37