

NEWS LETTER  
Lent 1954  
I SHALL KEEP LENT

Three centuries ago Saint Francis de Sales wrote, "I shall keep this Lent and hope to refresh my soul. It is like a clock all out of order. I must take it to pieces and after cleansing it, I must somehow put it together again, that it may strike correctly and once more give the right time."

Very aptly these words also describe our spiritual condition. The times in which we live make tremendous demands on each of us and unless we have spiritual resources the strain is too great for us. The clock of our soul also needs cleansing and rewinding. Lent, therefore, can be a spiritual workshop in the life of a Christian affording him an opportunity to come apart from the stresses and strains of modern living, cleanse his soul of sin, and beneath the cross of Jesus capture the power and strength he needs for daily living. Use this Lenten season as a time for spiritual inventory and spiritual reorientation.

LENTEN SERMONS

On Sunday mornings, we shall endeavor through our preaching program to emphasize what happens in a person's life when CHRIST TAKES OVER. Not only will we be different, better people, but we will also be more effective in meeting life's daily demands. On Wednesday evenings, as we follow Christ's challenge to WATCH AND PRAY, we shall consider the various aspects of prayer in the Passion of the Savior. As Christ went to Calvary, prayer played a powerful role in His life and in the lives of His intimates. Both series of sermons are to be timely, Christ-centered and stimulating for everyday living. Share them with your friends by inviting them to attend with you.

LENTEN SELF-DENIAL OFFERING

Enclosed with this News Letter is a Lenten Self-Denial Folder, in which we are asked to make some daily offering to our Savior. It is well that each day during this Holy Season we stop to think of Christ's tremendous sacrifice for us on the Cross. Stop to think, pray and meditate on the significance of the Cross in your daily life. At the same time, place your daily gift for Jesus and His work in your Lenten Folder. Though there is little to compare between gifts - Christ's life and our material offering - still our gift can be an expression of our love for Christ.

THE CHRISTIAN AT WORK

Have you ever stopped to think that you and I have been saved by the Savior in order that through us others might also be saved? Testifying to our faith in Christ by word and deed is perhaps the greatest challenge extended to the individual Christian.

Use this Lenten Season as an opportunity to bring others to Christ. We have a glorious message for this sin-sick world and we ought to share it with others by inviting them to attend our services with us. As Christ shared His life with us, so the Christian at work also shares his life with the Savior by personal witnessing. If the angels in Heaven rejoice over one sinner who repents, consider the joy that might be yours by leading some un-churched friend or acquaintance to the Savior.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

112 Communicant Members attended the Annual Congregational meeting on February 10th, and heard the inspiring reports of the various activities of our church during 1953. From these reports, we gleaned the following items: that it cost approximately \$35,000. to conduct our work at Saint Luke's during the past year....that approximately \$13,000. was given to Missions and various Lutheran charities....that about 65,000 people used

our facilities during 1953....that our family of organizations consists of 22 separate groups serving all ages....that our Sunday School for the first time in several decades closed the year with an enrollment of 160....that approximately 250 boys and girls received religious instruction during 1953....that volunteers saved the church several thousand dollars by giving of their time and energy, acting as receptionists, helping with office work, and giving leadership for various youth activities.

ADULT GROUP MEETINGS

On Maundy Thursday, April 15th, a group of people will be received into Communicant Membership with Saint Luke's. Preparatory to that date, Pastor Neibacher will conduct a series of informal discussions on Christian Fundamentals. The group will meet in the Pastor's study each Thursday evening beginning March 4th at 8 o'clock. If you know of anyone who is without a Church Home and might desire to know more about the Lutheran Church, bring them to our group meetings on Thursday evenings. Though these discussions are planned particularly for those who come to us from without the Lutheran Church, all are cordially invited to attend.

OUR BOY SCOUTS

Each Thursday evening, 30 Boy Scouts of Saint Luke's Troop 314 meet under the leadership of Mr. Frank Ligouri, one of the fathers of our scouts. We are very happy and proud of Troop 314 which is one of the finest in Old New York District. During Scout Week, Frank Ligouri, Jr. representing our Troop appeared on a Television program and received \$160., which monies will be used to bring a little cheer into the lives of some crippled or sick children in our community. In addition, the entire Troop participated on Lincoln's birthday in a promotion program of one of our daily newspapers and increased the Scout Treasury by more than \$50. Two of our boys, Paul Stromski and Albert Neibacher are at present working for "The God and Country" merit badge, which is the highest award that can be given any Lutheran Scout. We are very proud of our Scout Troop and we invite visitors any Thursday evening between 7 and 9 to see the boys in action.

THE LUTHER FILM

Have you seen the "Martin Luther" film? If not, you have missed a spiritual experience you will never forget. Watch your neighborhood theatres for dates. Invite your friends to see the film with you. See it a second time! Get special discount tickets from the Church office.

INNER MISSION

The following items are needed at our Metropolitan Lutheran Inner Mission Society: couch, two occasional chairs, small stove, small refrigerator, utility cabinet, large coffee urn, 3 or 4 straight office chairs, 2 or 4 drawer steel filing cabinets, electric clocks. If you have any of these items, please speak to Miss Elsa Herreilers.

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Frank J. Burger, Treasurer  
Reinhöld Miessler, Jr., Secretary  
J. Louis Schaefer, Assistant Treasurer  
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Fred Wolklin, Vice-Chairman  
George Schroeder  
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Bernhard K. Schaefer

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Henry Wisch, Chief  
Deacons or any appointed  
by Chief Usher

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LUTHERAN WELFARE COUNCIL

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LUTHERAN CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Henry J. Koester  
Carl Sievers

WARTBURG OLD FOLKS HOME

Karl Koepchen  
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METROPOLITAN INNER MISSION SOCIETY

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Edwin Kynast

SERVICE MEN'S COMMITTEE

Herman Reichert  
Ernest Ullrich  
Curtis Wingert

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SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
316 West Forty-Sixth Street  
New York 19, N. Y.

NEWS LETTER

October

1954

A CHALLENGE FOR TODAY

This is a wonderful time in which to live. For the alert Christian, who wants to advance the Kingdom of Christ and make this world a better place in which to live, there is seldom a dull moment. In all areas of life there is work to be done. This is especially true in the realm of church work.

Never has a greater challenge been extended to the Church than in this Fall of 1954. Though at the moment, for the first time in many years there is no shooting war, still world tensions have not eased appreciably. Confusion and uncertainty still prevail and the tragedy of it is that men have exhausted all man-made panaceas to solve their problems. They have tried practically everything but Christ and His program for "peace on earth, and good will among men".

As Christians you and I possess the solution to today's problems. In the Christ of Calvary's Cross we have the answer for which men are so blindly searching. Thru word and deed, therefore, we must share the message of the Cross with our fellowman. It is only as we live Christ and inject Him into our daily thought and action that we will be able to make an impact on our times. Thru regular attendance at divine services, thru daily Bible study and a regular prayer life, make Christ vital in your own life so that thru you He may also live in the lives of others. Therein lies THE CHALLENGE FOR TODAY.

THE PARABLES OF CHRIST

The sermon topics listed in the enclosed folder are based primarily on the parables of Jesus. During His earthly ministry the Savior was constantly associating many spiritual truths with the everyday. He attached eternal significance to the common and ordinary ever pointing men to God and challenging them to live better lives. The sermons have as their general theme A CHALLENGE FOR TODAY. They have been prayerfully planned to help individual Christians meet the needs of our times. Today's living requires greater spiritual depth and it is our sincere desire that these sermons will help establish that. Invite your friends to share these practical, Christ-centered messages.

104th ANNIVERSARY

As we celebrate our 104th Anniversary, we are grateful to Almighty God for the many blessings He has showered upon us and our fathers. Ours has not been an easy task; we have had many critical problems, but with God's help we have withstood the stress and the strain of our times. Not only have we weathered the storm, but we have also been able to rebuild a strong and a vital Saint Luke's.

Just a year ago, with the calling and installation of Pastor Krampitz, we undertook a program of mission expansion. We were determined that in Christ's Name we were going to go forward and reach further out for our Savior. During the past

year we have been able to do just that. We have been able, not only to strengthen our full program of activities, but we have also been able to reach an ever increasing number of individuals, bringing to them the message of the Cross. During the coming months we shall not only continue this expansion program, but we also hope to step it up and reach out still further for our Savior.

This year again our ANNUAL BIRTHDAY OFFERING for Saint Luke's will be devoted to our expansion program. This year we must build on the foundation which was laid last year. Unfortunately it is only as you and I make funds available to our church that our church can think in terms of going forward for Christ. In its overall financial structure, Saint Luke's depends much on your BIRTHDAY OFFERING to your church. As you make your special Birthday Gift, do it in the spirit of gratitude to Christ for the many spiritual blessings you have received from your church; do it with the prayer that thru your gift some soul may be brought to Christ.

#### FAMILY BIBLE HOUR

During the summer months a group of interested individuals, under the leadership of Miss Elsa Herreilers, met to discuss the possibility of organizing a FAMILY BIBLE HOUR. It is called a FAMILY BIBLE HOUR because all members of the family are invited and because various members of the Family of Saint Luke's will lead the discussions. The group is to meet each Friday evening at 8 o'clock, beginning with October first and continuing thru November 19th. The Fall schedule calls for a study of the life of Saint Paul and his various Epistles. Here is an opportunity to informally discuss one of the most thrilling lives ever lived and to become better acquainted with the eternal truths God revealed thru him. Come to share your knowledge of God's Word, to learn from others and to receive inspiration and strength for your day by day living. The following will lead the discussions during the Fall Season: Pastor Neibacher, Miss Herreilers, Mrs. Neibacher, Miss Kluge, Mrs. Miessler, Mrs. Lee and Mr. Miessler.

#### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

The first Sunday in October has been designated as World Communion Sunday. On that day Christians throughout the world are urged to attend their respective churches and receive the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood. Here is an opportunity for all Christendom to rededicate itself to Christ and His way of life.

World Communion Sunday has a special significance to us because it is also the occasion of our annual anniversary observance. This year we will again use the old communion vessels which have been used at Saint Luke's since Civil War days. We reserve these communion vessels only for our anniversary communion, thus enabling each generation as it comes along to remember the past, lay hold of the tasks of the present and build for the future. Kneel at the altar of your church this Sunday to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

At the September meeting of the Church Council the Treasurer reported that for the first eight months of the year receipts for current expenses were \$19,819. and expenses were \$20,296., which leaves a deficit of \$477. Though this amount is not large, the trend cannot continue to the end of the year. If you, therefore, have any envelopes from the summer months that you have not returned, please, bring them along with you next Sunday. If everyone would concentrate on unfilled, back envelopes, the Treasurer would have a balanced report.

PASTOR AND MRS KRAMPITZ

On Saturday, July 10th, the Rev. David Krampitz and Miss Barbara Meier were united in Holy Wedlock. We wish Pastor and Mrs. Krampitz the Lord's richest blessing and we pray that in granting them health and happiness in body and soul He may use them for many years in the upbuilding of His Kingdom on earth.

ADULT MEMBERSHIP CLASS

On Thursday, October 21st, at 8 P.M., the Pastor will begin another series of informal discussions on Fundamental Teachings of the Lutheran Church. Though these meetings are arranged primarily for those who are desirous of uniting with us, all are cordially invited to attend. If you know of anyone who is without a Church Home and is desirous of learning more about the Lutheran Church, tell them of these Thursday evening meetings. Better still bring them.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

On Wednesday evening, October 20th, at 7:30 o'clock, a special meeting of all communicant members will be held. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the question, "Shall Saint Luke's join the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod?" This question is of vital importance to Saint Luke's and every communicant member is urged to reserve the evening of October 20th. You will receive more information thru the mails.

QUIET PLEASE

"Quiet please! Someone is speaking with God". Perhaps you have seen this notice in some church narthex, calling attention to the fact that people are already sitting in church and meditating and that we ought not disturb them. We do not have that kind of a sign in our narthex at Saint Luke's. Nevertheless we respect those who have come apart from the noise of the world in search of a moment of quiet with their Lord. There is nothing better for the soul than meditation before the morning worship begins. The entire service means more to us if at the first strains of the organ prelude, we quietly take our places in church, bring our individual needs to God in prayer and ask the Lord to bless all who have a part in the service. Five minutes in the quiet and beauty of our lovely sanctuary spent in prayer and meditation will enable us to leave behind us the disturbances and distractions of the week and attune our souls to God. "Quiet please! Someone is speaking with God."

THE CHOIR

As the Choir begins another season of activity, a special appeal is made for additional volunteers. No special voice training is required. All you need is a love for church music, a desire to sing and serve your Savior and your Church. The Choir rehearses each Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. Speak to Miss Holmer either after next Sunday's service or on Thursday evening before the rehearsal.

THIS PAST SUMMER

During this past summer...our average Sunday morning attendance was 172 during July and August, the highest we have had in several decades...over 60 of our children were sent away for summer vacations thru the Hartley House and the Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund...23 of our Boy Scouts spent two weeks at Boy Scout Camp... an average of 80 children attended our weekly movie program...a public figure in the community said, "Saint Luke's is the most civic and public minded church on the entire West Side."