

NEWS LETTER

OCTOBER
1955

CHRIST SPEAKS FOR TODAY

In the Sermon on the Mount we have a way of life, which God formulated in eternity, which Christ demonstrated here in time and which He offers to us as a pattern for better and happier living. Though the Saviour first preached this marvelous sermon more than 1900 years ago, it is as timely for today's living as it was in the long ago. The sermons listed in the enclosed Sermon Topic Folder are based on this marvelous dissertation of Christ, which is recorded in the 5th, 6th and 7th Chapters of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew. It is my sincere hope and prayer to make these wonderful words of Jesus truly vital for today's living. Read and reread this remarkable sermon of Christ as you find it in the Gospel of Matthew. Then test it out in your daily life. Thereby you will not only discover its wonderful beauty, its challenge for better and fuller living, but also its significance for today's living. Share this Christ-centered series of sermons with your friends by inviting them to attend our Sunday morning services with you.

105th ANNIVERSARY

This year marks the 105th Anniversary of the founding of Saint Luke's. We shall commemorate this event, giving public thanks to Almighty God for His wondrous blessings upon our Church, on Sunday, October 2nd. Saint Luke's has been singularly blessed, being privileged to serve her Savior and her fellow-man these many years in the Times Square area of New York. As far as we know, no other church on the West Side of mid-town has enjoyed this privilege. Ours is a continuous record of service. Though other churches have had to face the problem of relocation, we, under God's guidance, have been able to adjust our work to the changing times and continue to be a bulwark for Christ in the community we first started to serve in September of 1850. Truly we have much for which to be grateful. God has been good to Saint Luke's and to all who make Saint Luke's their church home. Let us on October 2nd not only give thanks to the Lord of the Church, but let us also rededicate ourselves to Him and the work He gives us of this generation.

ANNIVERSARY COMMUNION SERVICE

It has become traditional at Saint Luke's to annually observe our founding with a special communion service on the first Sunday of October. This year again we will use the communion vessels which were given to Saint Luke's in 1863. What a privilege to thus bridge the past with the present! What an opportunity to dedicate ourselves to the same principles of loyalty to Christ and His way of life, which meant so much to our founding fathers. It is hoped and prayed that on Sunday, October 2nd, all of our members will receive the Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

BIRTHDAY OFFERING

It is common practice that as each birthday comes along, we remember our loved ones with a special birthday gift. We feel badly when we forget. This, therefore, is to remind you that your "spiritual mother", Saint Luke's, is celebrating another birthday, and out of love and appreciation to her for all that she means to us we want to give her a special Birthday Offering in the enclosed envelope.

This year again we have adopted a special birthday project. After the extremely hot summer and upon the suggestion of many of our members, the Church Council resolved to use the birthday offering of this year to establish an Air Cooling Fund with the hope and prayer to do something to make next summer's services more comfortable and pleasant for the worshippers. No definite plans have been made as to the exact nature of the project, (air conditioning, air cooling units, a series of new and less noisy fans

more strategically placed), but everyone seems to agree that something should and must be done. At the present time the Church Council is consulting engineers and awaiting reports. In the meantime, however, let us make our birthday offering a gift of love, which gift will enable us to always continue to improve our facilities and our services.

MR. MELVIN WESELOH

Right after Labor Day, Mr. Melvin Weseloh of New Germany, Minnesota, arrived to begin his year of vicarage (internship) at Saint Luke's. Mr. Weseloh has completed three years of study at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, and will be with us until next summer when he will return to the Seminary to complete his studies for the ministry. We welcome Mr. Weseloh to Saint Luke's and wish him the Lord's richest blessings upon his work during the coming year. Mr. Weseloh will be active in our mission program, the Sunday School and our youth work.

ADULT GROUP MEETINGS

On Thursday evening, October 13th, the first in a series of informal discussions on fundamental teachings of the Lutheran Church will be held. The Group meets in the Pastor's Study on the 3rd floor of the Parish House. Though these meetings are primarily for those who plan affiliation with Saint Luke's, all are cordially invited. Here is an opportunity to rethink some of the great Bible truths which are fundamental to our Christian faith. Should you know of someone who is desirous to learn more about the Lutheran Church, tell them of these Thursday evening meetings. Better still, bring them.

GREETING THE VISITOR

With the passing of each year Saint Luke's is increasingly becoming a visitor's church. We are happy to have so many people from all parts of the world with us each Sunday morning. On the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of September we had visitors from Egypt, Switzerland, Argentina, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, the Philippines and more than a score of different states. Ours has gained a wide reputation for being a friendly church. Just recently we received the following comment from a Lutheran chaplain now stationed in Kansas: "The most gracious, sincere and heartfelt welcome my family and I ever received in a church was rendered by your good people as we passed through New York from Europe . . . Your congregation is to be commended." Another visitor wrote to her Pastor in Pittsburgh: "Our worship at Saint Luke's was a real inspiration. From the moment we reached the entrance and were greeted there, we found this one of the friendliest churches we have ever visited." These reactions are intensely interesting and welcomed; and they extend to us the continued challenge to be ever alert for the visitor in our midst and to extend to him the hand of Christian fellowship.

FAMILY BIBLE HOUR

On October 7th at 8 o'clock the first meeting of our Family Bible Hour will take place. Under its own leadership, the group meets for informal discussion on various sections or books of the Bible. This Fall the discussions will be based on Favorite Psalms and will include the following Psalms: 1, 8, 19, 22, 23, 24, 27, 46, 51, 84, 90, 100, 103 and 121. Discussion leaders are to be, Miss Elsa Herreillers, Mr. Gary Vater, Mrs. Helen Miessler, Mrs. Gretchen Leppke, Mr. Delbert Leppke, Mrs. Esther Wright and Mrs. Elizabeth Lee. Here is an opportunity to become more familiar with the Bible and to participate in informal discussion of some of those wonderful truths which mean so much to us. Invite your friends to attend with you.

(Over)

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Frequently during vacation time when we are away for a longer or shorter period of time, we become somewhat careless with our weekly offering envelopes. They accumulate unfilled in our homes. Should this be the case with you, please, at your earliest convenience bring your weekly offerings up to date. In order to balance our budget by the end of the year, the Treasurer depends on our regular use of our offering envelopes. It is not enough to use just some of them. As God's gifts to us are made on a 52-week basis, so our gifts to Him ought to be on the same basis.

MARTIN LUTHER FILM

At a recent meeting of the Church Council it was resolved to purchase a print of the Martin Luther film, which has been withdrawn from commercial circulation here in the United States. We are very happy to have in our permanent possession a print of this remarkable presentation of Dr. Luther's Life. The first public showing of this film at Saint Luke's will be on Sunday, October 30th, at 7:30 P.M. Reserve the date; invite your friends.

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL HYMNALS

On Sunday, September 18th, more than a hundred of our children gathered to dedicate to the glory of God new hymnals (The Children's Hymnal) which were purchased during the summer months. This hymnal was published by Concordia Publishing House in the Spring of 1955 only after a committee had worked for several years, compiling the hymns and worship materials. It is an attractive hymnal - one which ought add new meaning to the worship life of our children.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOM

Have you visited our lower auditorium and seen the comfortable new chairs and the lovely new tables which were purchased and installed during the summer months? The tables are a gift of the Ladies' Aid Society and a memorial to their former president, Mrs. Susan Karsch Schaefer. We thank the ladies of the church for this generous gift.

FLOOD RELIEF

Friends and members of Saint Luke's contributed \$250.00 to the Red Cross for flood relief purposes. This was indeed a marvelous response to the informal plea made at two of our Sunday morning services.

SUMMER MOVIE PROGRAM

Again this past summer the Senior Young People's Society sponsored a summer movie program for the youth of our community. In all, 197 different boys and girls, a number of them without a church home, participated in the 13-week program. It was a real thrill to see the boys and girls line up each Thursday evening waiting for the doors to open. It was a bright spot in the weekly schedule of those who had to spend a good part of the summer in the hot city. The young people of the church are to be congratulated for sponsoring this program year after year.
