

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 West 46th Street

New York, New York

THE ANNUAL REPORT

1957

THE CHURCH OFFICERS

Bernhard K. Schaefer, President
Anton W. Koester, Vice-President
Frank J. Burger, Treasurer
Carl H. Sievers, Secretary
J. Louis Schaefer, Assistant Treasurer
Walter Gausman, Assistant Treasurer
Henry J. Koester, Assistant Secretary

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

ELDERS

John W. Lengemann
Herman Von Hinken
Fred A. Wolkin

TRUSTEES

Frank J. Burger
Anton W. Koester
Henry J. Koester
Fred Nagel
Bernhard K. Schaefer
J. Louis Schaefer
Carl H. Sievers
Henry J. Wisch

DEACONS

Quentin Baltera
Jean Baridon
Walter Gausman
Paul A. Koepchen
Joseph Miranda
Robert Seehausen
Henry Seng
Curtis Wingert

THE STAFF
and
OPERATING ORGANIZATION
of
SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Albert L. Neibacher, Pastor
Melvin L. Weseloh, Assistant Pastor
Martha Eber, Parish Worker
Alma Loftness, Part-time Secretary
Mildred Holmer, Organist and Choir Director

Louis Rose, Building Superintendent
Thomas Smith, Assistant to Building Superintendent
Annie Malone, Girls' Group Worker
Karl Donfried, Boys' Group Worker
Esther Richardson, Childrens' Choir Director
Florence W. Turner, Receptionist at Sunday Services
Esther Wright, Receptionist at Sunday Services
Henry Wisch, Chief Usher
Curtis Wingert, Superintendent of Sunday School
Fred Wolklin, Church Sexton
Elsie Koester, President, Ladies' Aid Society
Florence W. Turner, President, Dorcas Guild
Donovan Schmoll, President, Young Adult Group
John Mullaney, President, Walther League
Joseph Miranda, Chairman, Boy Scout Committee
Peter Jurgs, Chairman, Cub Scout Committee
Genevieve Savio, Chairman, Girl Scout Committee
Anton W. Koester, Chairman, Advertising Committee
Eleanor Kopechen, Chairman, Altar-Flower Committee
Robert Seehausen, Chairman, Auditing Committee
Fred Wolklin, Chairman, Benevolent Committee
Anton W. Koester, Chairman, Constitution Revision Committee
J. Louis Schaefer, Chairman, Finance Committee
Henry J. Koester, Chairman, The House Committee

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year just ended closes a period in history which we shall no doubt look back upon with considerable nostalgia. Ten years of the greatest prosperity our country has ever known has come to an end and the Soviet Union launched a sputnik into outer space. The world as we know it, will never be the same again.

Here at St. Luke's an era too has come to an end - an era during which we succeeded for the first time in adequately staffing our Church. It also marks the beginning of an era during which we hope to better serve our Congregation, the many visitors who attend our services and the changing community in which we are situated.

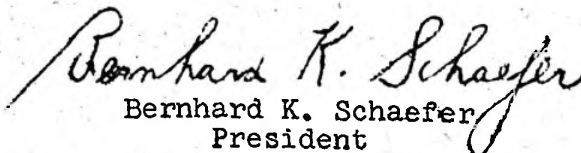
In the accompanying report of our Pastor, you may read of the many activities we have engaged in during the past 12 months which resulted in one of the most successful years in our history.

Our Treasurer is reporting separately on the condition of our finances. Again a sizeable deficit has been incurred. It has been done so with the full approval of the Church Council, but, as in other years it has been pointed out that such a situation cannot be permitted to continue without serious consequences to the well-being of our Church. We sincerely believe however that expenses are levelling off, and a campaign has begun to increase our Income to eliminate any deficit whatsoever during the year 1958. As part of that program, you have been receiving letters appealing to you to increase your envelope contributions. It takes more money to carry on the activities which are so vital to maintaining and staffing a Lutheran Church in the Times Square Area and your Church Council is ever conscious of expenses, keeps a close watch on the purse strings and believes that our funds are well and carefully spent. Nevertheless, in today's inflationary spiral, dollars just don't go as far as they did.

During the past year, the "Barnhouse Group", who used our Church for their services on Monday nights, left us for larger quarters.

New and younger men have filled the vacancies on our Church Council. My thanks are extended to them, to the entire Church Council, the Board of Trustees and to all the members of the Congregation for their support during the year ended. The gratitude of all of us is expressed to our indefatigable Pastor who has labored with such zeal and so earnestly in the work of our Church.

Respectfully submitted


Bernhard K. Schaefer
President

THE PASTORS REPORT

February 17, 1958

Dear Friends:

As we review the work of Saint Luke's for 1957 we cannot help but say with the Psalmist, "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Certainly if ever the hand of God was with us, taking the feeble efforts of men, using them and blessing them to His glory, it was during the past year. Of the twenty-two years I have served my Savior at Saint Luke's, no single year stands out as does 1957, not only in its many challenges and hard work, but also in its inner joys and deep satisfactions. God has been mightily at work in our midst; and every facet of our large and varied program has felt His presence and as a result has been strengthened and further developed during 1957.

At the first of the year Miss Martha Eber, a trained and experienced deaconess, took up her work in our midst and was installed as our Parish Worker on January 20, 1957. Having worked in New York City for an number of years, she was well acquainted with the problems of an inner city church. Her social work training enabled us to greatly develop our service program to those in need, especially in the area of family services, refugees and work among the aged, obtaining medical, welfare assistance and both short time and long time care for a number of individuals. Whereas in the past Benevolent Funds were used only spasmodically and in cases of extreme emergency, this past year a program of case work was developed and our limited activities and funds consolidated and augmented by services and resources available in the community. Just in this area alone Miss Eber has filled a real gap on our staff.

Perhaps one of the greatest influences upon our entire church life during the past year was the Billy Graham Crusade, which took place from May 15th to September 1st. Though statistically we cannot point to phenomenal happenings, spiritually the Crusade has made a strong impact on our people. About twenty of our people were directly involved in the Crusade, serving as choir members, ushers and counsellors, the latter of which received special training, which will be of life-time value to them in the area of witnessing for Christ. Each Wednesday evening was Saint Luke's night at the Crusade and we had as many as 125 of our people in attendance. I mention this because it is quite obvious that the Crusade has made a deep spiritual impact upon the lives of many of our people and has raised the entire spiritual level of our congregation, making Saint Luke's much the stronger for her participation, even though it was only a limited participation.

The Crusade led directly to the organization of an evangelism-visitation program, which had its beginnings in October and which in the future should become the very life line of Saint Luke's. After a rather careful and thorough program of study in the techniques of personal evangelism and the power of prayer, 27 different people were involved in four nights of concentrated visitation on prospective members.

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Though at this time the group has not been formally organized, it continues to meet each Monday evening for Bible study and prayer and is acting as sponsors for the newly received members, which we hope will develop into the soul-keeping arm of the church.

Because of the transient nature of a good portion of our membership, it becomes increasingly necessary to continually develop and expand our visitation program, both of which we were able to do during 1957. Though during the past ten years we have taken into membership an average of 40 new people a year, this has not been sufficient for substantial growth, even though it has enabled us to slowly and steadily go forward, increasing our average Sunday morning church attendance from 150 in 1948 to 228 in 1957. This growth, however, is dependent almost completely on the development of our visitation program, which in 1958 will be stepped up appreciably through our visitation-evangelism committee and the efforts of our Parish Worker and full time Assistant Pastor, both of whom will be concentrating in this area of activity.

When Pastor Melvin Weseloh joined us on July 1, 1957, he was not a stranger in our midst, having served as our vicar-assistant during 1955 and 1956. His installation as the Assistant Pastor of Saint Luke's on September 15th was a happy day for us at Saint Luke's because it meant the addition of another full time and permanent member of our staff. Pastor Weseloh's coming will enable us to both expand and consolidate much of our activity because he will be concentrating his efforts primarily in three areas - youth work, religious education and visitation - all three of which ought to gain new impetus during the coming year because of the additional time and attention they will receive.

Organizationally Saint Luke's continued to be strong and meet the varied needs of our congregation both on the adult and youth levels. Twenty-two separate groups met either on a monthly, a weekly or a semi-weekly basis and at times taxed our facilities to the fullest. In view of increased juvenile delinquency and growing racial tensions in the area, the need for an expanded youth program continues, especially on a small group work basis, where personal attention can be given the individual. Our youth program as now constituted makes it possible for every boy and girl, in addition to our religious education program on Sunday mornings and Thursday afternoons, to participate in two week-day recreational activities. Our aim in the present year is for wider participation and increased volunteer leadership.

One of the real bright spots in our work during the past year was our Sunday School. On Sunday, September 29th, Mr. Curtis Wingert, Jr. was installed as our Sunday School Superintendent and the entire staff for the current year was also installed. Mr. John W. Lengemann, who served in the Sunday School for more than half a century, is now Superintendent Emeritus. For the first time in several years the turn over in our Sunday School was not as large as usual with the result that we had a substantial increase in enrollment.

Through the tireless efforts primarily of Miss Eber 67 new people were added to our rolls, giving us a present enrollment of 163 with an average Sunday attendance of 103. We are very fortunate at Saint Luke's to have a staff of 22 faithful and consecrated men and women, who make it possible for us to have a well integrated program of religious education on all age levels, including an active adult Bible Class and a Chinese speaking class. Through the agency of our Sunday School 201 different individuals were served during the year and through our Released Time School, which met each Thursday afternoon under the leadership of Mr. Daniel Reinheimer and Pastor Weseloh, assisted by a small corps of volunteers, 110 individuals were served. In all, religious instruction was given to approximately 250 boys and girls during 1957.

Special mention must be made of our ministry of music. Under the talented leadership of Miss Mildred Holmer we have had one of our finest programs of music in many years. Our well balanced, enlarged and carefully trained choir adds tremendously to the inspiration of our worship services. A sincere vote of thanks is in order to the choir members for their continued sacrifice of time to make our music program possible. Likewise we want to sincerely thank Mrs. Esther Richardson, who each week comes in from Upper Montclair to work with our Children's Choir, which participates in our service on the average of once a month.

1957 again emphasized the very unique character of the mission of Saint Luke's at the cross-roads of the world. There is not another Lutheran Church anywhere, which is quite like ours and which has both the problems and the opportunities we have. A number of years ago already we lost our parochial character. Today our influence and responsibility reaches far beyond any geographical confines. Increasingly ours has become a transient church, serving a large number of visitors to New York and many short term members. This can, of course, become rather discouraging at times because in terms of statistics the work far exceeds the apparent results. Few are the churches which over a period of ten years have confirmed an average of 30 adults a year. This is Kingdom work of the highest order, even though it means transferring many of these people to Lutheran Churches in suburbia or in other parts of the country. Yet that is our mission and it calls not for discouragement but for deeper consecration, wider participation and greater sacrifice on the part of those who are privileged to participate in this kind of a program.

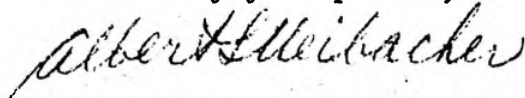
On the community level we have again tried to meet our responsibilities. Through our rather extensive youth program we have served the youth of the area, irrespective of race, color or creed, giving them an organized program of activity under solid leadership and in a Christian environment. I personally, as your representative, have served on the board of directors of the Clinton-LaSalle Community Center and the West Side Association of Community Centers, both organizations active in the area of service and community planning. I have also been appointed by the West Side Association of Commerce to serve as one of three trustees of the Victor E. Perley Foundation, which is active in the rehabilitation of youth on the West Side.

Directly associated with me in the work of the church during the past year were: Miss Martha Eber, our Parish Worker, whose full activity defies description; Miss Alma Loftness, our part-time secretary; Mr. Daniel Reinheimer, our vicar until June 30th; and the Rev. Melvin Weseloh, our Assistant Pastor since July 1st. To each of these goes my sincere thanks for the invaluable assistance they have given me in sharing responsibility, in relieving me of many details and in making our ongoing program possible. Likewise my affectionate gratitude is extended to my wife, Laura, who has again faithfully stood at my side, encouraging and inspiring me at times when discouragement and fatigue gripped my soul and helping in every possible situation to lighten the load, to make a full schedule possible and at the same time to give me joy and satisfaction in my work. May God bless each one of these, as well as the officers of the congregation, the officers of the various organizations and the many volunteers who have shared in our extensive program and who have shown us their continued love and loyalty. Without one, without all, our work would not have been possible.

During the past year the following official acts were performed:

Baptisms (Infant)	20
(Adult)	7
Confirmations (Children)	9
(Adults)	48
New Members Received	66
Weddings	9
Funerals	24
People Communed	2,447
Total Church Attendance	15,024
Total Number of Services	72
Average Sunday Morning Attendance	228

Faithfully your pastor,



Albert L. Neibacher

TREASURER'S REPORT

February 17, 1958

Dear Friends:

The following report will, we hope, prove to you that St. Luke's is here to stay and is one of the outstanding Churches in Metropolitan New York.

As Mr. Schaefer states in his report, we have incurred a sizeable deficit, some \$3800.00. I can assure you that as late as October 31st our expenses exceeded our income by about \$5400.00 and it appeared we were headed for a much greater deficit for the year.

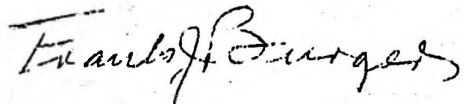
However, you will recall our President wrote two letters asking for increased contributions for 1958 and all I can say is the good Lord must have heard of our prayers. We received three unexpected contributions totalling \$1600.00 which reduced our deficit to the present \$3800.00

This is not an alarming deficit when you consider that the cost of fuel oil has increased from \$1677.00 in 1950 to \$2655.00 in 1956. Insurance premiums in 1950 amounted to \$643.00, whereas in 1956 they were \$1217.00, almost 100% increase and in 1957 they were \$1827, slightly more than 50% over 1956.

Your Church Council is fully advised of our position every month, and I can assure you many hours have been spent in financial discussions. We certainly hope that 1958 will be a year of prosperity for St. Luke's, and it will be if we all would only

Give as you would to the Master
If you met His loving look.
Give as you would of your substance
If His hand the offering took.

Sincerely,



F. J. Burger
Treasurer

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
 REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
 YEAR 1957

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1956</u>
Envelopes	\$15,859.33	\$15,043.52
Plate Collection	3,932.40	4,132.23
Pew Rent	680.70	715.10
Christmas	1,127.85	1,154.70
Easter	2,348.18	2,233.44
Lenten Services	283.49	311.02
Thanksgiving	617.80	557.50
Birthday (107th)	1,386.00	555.50
Income from Securities	8,154.64	7,535.10
Special Donations	1,568.00	1,434.00
Special for Music	276.00	776.00
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Total Income	\$36,234.39	\$34,448.11
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<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Salaries	\$23,046.39	\$19,181.18
Travel Allowance	750.00	750.00
Retirement & Medical Payments	1,242.86	721.98
Printing & Stationery	1,756.06	1,396.85
Insurance	1,827.04	1,217.41
Heating	2,411.85	2,655.31
Gas & Electricity	541.25	548.51
Repairs & Replacements	3,143.49	6,941.99
Organ & Piano Tuning	90.00	104.00
Real Estate & Water Taxes	430.80	425.60
Expense of Envelopes	46.24 cr.	43.34 cr.
Telephone	845.16	688.84
Postage	319.38	449.00
Advertising	1,526.98	1,431.15
Devotional Books	12.13 cr.	31.61 cr.
Flowers	60.50	22.50 cr.
Sunday School	197.00	150.00
Miscellaneous	1,916.65	1,314.07
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Total Expenses	\$40,047.04	\$37,878.44
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Deficit	3,812.65	3,430.33
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COLLECTIONS FOR OTHERS

1957

Missions	2,759.21
Christmas Seals - Atlantic Dist. Charties	633.25
Lutheran Child Welfare Association	462.94
Wartburg Home for Aged	244.25
Lutheran Hosp. of B'klyn.	121.55
Metropolitan Inner Mission	221.75
Assn. for Works of Mercy	103.50
Lutheran Friend of Deaf	397.80
Lutheran Welfare Council	853.40
Valparaiso University	436.75
Concordia Collegiate Institute	50.00
Lutheran Education Society	50.00
Lutheran Hour	50.00
Lutheran Laymen's League	50.00
Lutheran Sanitarium at Wheat Ridge	25.00
True Light Chinese Lutheran Church	25.00
Wartburg Orphan Farm School - Mt. Vernon	15.00
Billy Graham Crusade	120.00
American Bible Society	44.80
Boy Scouts	125.00
Girl Scouts	25.00
	<u>\$6,814.20</u>

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Balance on Hand January 1, 1957	4,297.60
<u>Income</u>	
Income from Investments	218.75
Donations	100.22
Interest Savings Acct.	<u>134.14</u>
Total Income	<u>453.11</u>
	\$ 4,750.71
<u>Expenses</u>	
Food Clothing & Medicines	70.76
Financial Aid	360.00
Christmas	<u>50.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>480.76</u>
Balance on Hand December 31, 1957	\$ 4,269.95

SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS
AND MEMORIALS

<u>Year</u> <u>Established</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Income To</u>
1900 *	Benevolent Society	1,500.00	The Poor
1920 *	Gerhardt Fund	200.00	Ladies Aid Soc.
1920 *	Hochhalter-Hellenschmidt	3,700.00	Benevolent Soc.
1923	Catherine Karsch	1,000.00	Ladies Aid Soc.
1927	J. Louis Schaefer	5,000.00	Part to Pew Rent Bal. to Benevolent Soc.
1932	Bernhard Karsch	3,000.00	Part to Pew Rent Bal. to Benevolent Soc
1942	Adele Henning	2,000.00	Pew Rent
1946	Sebastian & Margaretha Dorfmuller	3,000.00	Pew Rent
1946	In Memory of J. Louis Schaefer	1,000.00	Pew Rent
1951	Annie L. Hohns	1,000.00	Pew Rent
1952	Mr. & Mrs. Henry Puckhaber	300.00	Pew Rent
1953	John Dettmer	200.00	Pew Rent
1954	In Memory of Alfred M. Grizzle	500.00	Pew Rent
1955	Louisa M. Nusskern	2,000.00	Pew Rent
1955	In Memory of J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	10,000.00	Music Program
1956	In Memory of Anton & Marie Koester	2,000.00	Pew Rent
1957	In Memory of J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	<u>1,763.00</u>	Music Program
		38,163.00	

* Exact Date Unknown

Memorials Given in 1957
in Memory of

Mrs. Carl Retzlaff
Mrs. Sylvia French
Mr. Alfred Grizzle
By Mrs. Susan Ulrich

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Through the combined efforts of Assistant Pastor Melvin Weseloh, Miss Martha Eber and our Sunday School Staff, the year 1957 was an exceptional year for our Sunday School at Saint Luke's.

The following is a digest of our attendance records for 1957:

Total enrollment, Dec. 31, 1957	163
Average Sunday attendance	102
Highest Sunday attendance	124
Lowest Sunday attendance	73
New pupils	61
Reinstated pupils during the year	6
Dropped from the records	38
Adult Staff serving the Sunday School	22

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on Hand January 1, 1957 \$1023.55

Income

Envelopes	665.57
Plate	312.32
Easter	104.00
Christmas	274.00
Donations	<u>362.25</u>

Total Income 1718.14
\$2741.69

Expenses

Lesson Material	450.81
Films and Visual Aid	99.63
Attendance Awards	114.74
Collection Material	99.31
Easter	133.19
Sunday School Picnic	211.21
Christmas	142.66
Miscellaneous	<u>44.15</u>

Total Expenses 1295.70

Balance on Hand December 31, 1957 \$1445.99

MISSION FUND

Balance on Hand January 1, 1957	298.18
Income - Envelopes	<u>328.54</u>
	626.72
Expenses - Support of India Mission	<u>301.75</u>

Balance on Hand December 31, 1957 \$324.97