

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
308 West 46th Street
New York, New York

NEWSLETTER
October, 1957

REWRITING THE BOOK OF ACTS

Have you ever stopped to think what the Christian Church would be like today if history repeated itself and we became the same vital force in our age as were the Apostolic Christians? They had a fervor and a zeal, a faith and a courage, a spirituality and a vision which turned their world upside down. Their accomplishments are recorded for us in the Book of Acts.

This Fall, in our current series of sermons, we want to study together some of the great happenings of that generation of Christians. We want to see whether we can capture their spirit. In our study we will discover that they had the same Christ we have today; the Holy Spirit, whose instruments they were, is no different today than He was then. He is still functioning because we are still living in the day of Pentecost. And what is more, we will also discover that the great heroes of that generation were average men and women such as you and I. Yet they had a dynamic faith, which overcame all obstacles, and which made their Church a vital force. Would you like to help rewrite the Book of Acts and make your Church a real force in Times Square, then share the sermons listed on the enclosed folder with your friends remembering that only as you give yourself completely to Christ can He give you the power and strength to rewrite the Book of Acts. The early Christians were a force in their day because "They continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers",

ANNIVERSARY COMMUNION

On Sunday, October 6th, we will celebrate our Anniversary Communion Service. In keeping with tradition, we shall use the communion vessels of Civil War days which were first used ninety-five years ago. It is an inspiration each year to use these vessels through which generations of Christians at St. Luke's have received power and strength.

BIRTHDAY OFFERING

Seldom do we forget the birthday of those who are near to us. We remember our loved ones, our friends, with special gifts. The closer the loved ones, the more meaningful the gift. Saint Luke's is celebrating her 107th birthday this Fall and we are observing it on Sunday, October 6th. Remember, it is Saint Luke's which God has selected to dispense the means of grace to you, the Word of God and the sacraments. It is to Saint Luke's that we look for comfort in time of sorrow and sickness, for encouragement in times of trouble, for inspiration in the moment of weakness. Certainly you will not want to forget her with your special gift of love. Your gift will enable your Church to be as meaningful to others as it is to you.

WELCOME, PASTOR WESELOH

We are very happy to welcome back to our midst Pastor Melvin Weseloh, who on September 15th was ordained into the holy ministry and installed as our assistant pastor. Pastor Weseloh will concentrate his efforts in the education and youth work of our Church, also participating in our mission outreach. We welcome Pastor and Mrs. Weseloh and wish them the Lord's richest blessings in their work. May theirs be a deep joy in knowing that Christ is using them in the glorious work of saving men's souls.

THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC

So frequently the musical program of a Church is taken for granted. We seem to forget that much sacrifice and work precedes the worship hour on Sunday and that Miss Holmer and the choir members deserve our appreciation and encouragement. One way to show that appreciation is to consider seriously whether perhaps we ought to be in the choir. Miss Holmer will gladly talk to you after one of our Sunday services or prior to rehearsal on Wednesday evenings. The ministry of music at Saint Luke's is very important. Help it along with your prayers, your encouragement, your participation.

THE BILLY GRAHAM CRUSADE

The Billy Graham Crusade is now history, but the impact it made on our city will be felt for a long time. Many are the spiritual blessings for all who had a share in the crusade either as active workers or as participants in the Garden meetings. Billy Graham created a spiritual climate in our city which will go far in helping our work during the coming season.

As a result of the crusade we have had a number of visitors to our Sunday morning services, some of whom have already become affiliated with us. On the first two Sundays of the Fall season twenty new people were enrolled in our Sunday School, almost every one of them coming as a direct result of the crusade. We know that many more will be received into fellowship with us as a result of the Christ centered preaching of Billy Graham. We truly thank God that He sent this man to New York and endowed him with the talents he possesses to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation for the healing of men's souls and the strengthening of their lives.

PROTESTANT VISITATION PROGRAM

The second phase of the Billy Graham Crusade will be the visitation program which will take place the week of October 20th. At that time the Churches of New York will share in a vast visiting program to win the unchurched to Christ. Teams of workers will be especially trained and then go out and call upon people in their homes. We at Saint Luke's are in the process of organizing a team of at least 24 visitors. We appeal for volunteers who would be willing to give one Sunday afternoon and five evenings of service to Christ and His Church. Please speak to one of the pastors or to Miss Eber for more information. If, however, you do not feel you can participate, you still can:

- (1) pray, as you have never prayed before, for the visitation program in New York.
- (2) pray for the members of our visitation team, that the Lord will give them the faith, the courage, the right word at the right time to witness for their Saviour
- (3) pray for the unchurched of New York, that the Holy Spirit will open their hearts and lead them to Christ
- (4) and then give us the names and addresses of any unchurched friends you may have in the five boroughs so that we can put them on our Responsibility List for special prayer and visitation.

BILLY GRAHAM RALLY

On Sunday, October 27th, at 3 o'clock, the final rally of the Billy Graham New York Crusade will be held at the Polo Grounds. We have a block of reserved seats for this meeting. You may reserve a number of tickets by speaking to Miss Genevieve Savio at the desk in the narthex on any Sunday morning.

ADULT MEMBERSHIP CLASS

The first meeting of our Adult Membership Class will be held on October 31st at 8 P.M. Though these meetings are primarily for those outside the Lutheran Church who wish to become affiliated with us, they are open to all. Perhaps your personal faith would become more meaningful to you if you attended these meetings. The group meets on six consecutive Thursday evenings.

SUMMER OFFERING ENVELOPES

Each year during vacation time we tend to get behind on our weekly offering envelopes. Unfortunately though we go on vacation, the expenses of our Church do not; they continue. This year with the increase in Church staff and the further development of our program, income is not keeping up with expenses. Perhaps you still have some envelopes which are overdue. Bring them to Sunday's service.

THE CHURCH STAFF

For the first time in many years we begin a season of Church work at Saint Luke's with a full staff, which in the wake of the Billy Graham Crusade is of utmost importance. Pastor Weseloh is no stranger in our midst; he is familiar with our problems and our program of activity. As our assistant pastor, we look to him for a real contribution to the work our Saviour has given us. Miss Martha Eber, our parish worker, is of continuing inspiration to all of us on the staff as she tirelessly gives herself to our visitation program and the many social service problems which arise in our midst. Miss Mildred Holmer, our accomplished and talented organist-choir director, adds much to the inspiration of our worship services and is again organizing our music program for this season. In the office, our part-time secretary, Miss Alma Loftness assists in the smooth functioning of our work by relieving us of much office detail. In charge of our group work program in the gymnasium is Mr. Alfred Watson, who meets two evenings a week with our boys, and Miss Anne Malone, who meets one evening a week with the girls, both of whom make a real contribution in the work of Saint Luke's to help solve the problem of juvenile delinquency in our community. Superintendent of our building is Mr. Louis Rose, and his assistant is Mr. Thomas Smith. To have a full staff solves many problems. We thank God for this and we pray that the Lord of the Church will use each member of the staff to His glory and for the advancement of His Kingdom.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STAFF

Last Sunday our entire Sunday School staff was installed for the coming year. This is the first time we have installed a Sunday School Superintendent, Mr. Curtis Wingert, Jr., since 1917, when Mr. John Lengemann was installed as Sunday School Superintendent. Mr. Lengemann served actively in our Sunday School for 54 years, a record for which we are indebted to him and grateful to our God. At present approximately 165 people are enrolled in the Sunday School. The following individuals with their assignments are on the staff: Superintendent, Miss Curtis Wingert, Jr.; Superintendent Emeritus, Mr. John Lengemann; Treasurer, Mr. Joseph Miranda; Secretary, Mr. William Bethausser; Pianist, Mr. John Mullaney; Primary Department, Mrs. Virginia Schmidt, Mrs. Samuel Graham, Mrs. Racquel Zapanta; Second Grade, Mrs. Anthony Sanzo, Third Grade, Miss Barbara Wertman, Miss Suzanne Widman; Fourth Grade, Miss Marilyn Goldberg; Fifth Grade, Miss Ursula Vosberg, Mrs. Ruth Wexler; Sixth Grade, Mrs. Evelyn Wisch, Miss Anne Malone, Mr. Albert Neibacher, Jr.; Seventh Grade, Mrs. Laura Neibacher, Eighth Grade, Miss Genevieve Savio, Mr. Donovan Schmoll; Teen-age Bible Class, Pastor Weseloh; Adult Bible Class, Miss Elsa Herreilers; Spanish Bible Class, Mrs. Laura Rossi; Chinese Bible Class, Mr. Nelson Lee. As we thank these individuals for assuming their specific responsibilities, we wish them the Lord's richest blessings in their work.

PREACHING MISSION

During the week of October 13th, Pastor Neibacher will participate in the Preaching-Teaching-Reaching Mission of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, which is undertaking an extensive evangelism campaign in New England. The Pastor has been invited to conduct this mission in Wallingford, Connecticut, where he will preach seven times and deliver four lectures in six days. Your earnest prayers on his behalf are solicited. Pray God to use him to His glory and for the salvation of souls