

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 West 46th Street

New York, New York

THE ANNUAL REPORT

1959

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

DEACONS

Jean Baridon  
Gustav Bethauser  
Melvin Meisinger  
Joseph Miranda  
Herman Reichert  
Donovan Schmoll  
Walter von Schlichten  
Robert Willner  
Curtis Wingert, Jr.

THE STAFF  
and  
OPERATING ORGANIZATION  
of  
SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1959

Albert L. Neibacher, Pastor  
Harold P. Roellig, Assistant Pastor since July 1st  
Leon Gogl, Vicar to June 30th  
Dennis Hill, Vicar since September 1st  
Martha Eber, Parish Worker  
Mildred Holmer, Organist and Choir Director

Louis Rose, Building Superintendent  
Thomas Smith, Assistant to Building Superintendent  
Esther Richardson, Childrens' Choir Director to June 30th  
Esther Wright, Receptionist at Sunday Services  
Henry Wisch, Chief Usher  
Curtis Wingert, Superintendent of Sunday School  
Fred Wolkin, Church Sexton  
Elsie Koester, President, Ladies' Aid Society  
Mabel Louie, President, Dorcas Guild  
Elly Mayer, President, Young Adult Group  
Barbara Hartsell, President, Walther League  
Richard Connelly, Boy Scout Leader  
Genevieve Savio, Girl Scout Leader  
Hannelore Vosberg, Brownie Scout Leader  
Nancy Hoffman, Girls' Group Worker  
David Nelson, Boys' Group Leader  
Anton W. Koester, Chairman, Advertising Committee  
Marie McKee, Chairman, Altar-Flower Committee  
Fred Nagel, Chairman, Auditing Committee  
Fred Wolkin, Chairman, Benevolent Committee  
Anton W. Koester, Chairman, Constitution Revision Committee  
J. Louis Schaefer, Chairman, Finance Committee  
Gustav Bethauser, Chairman, House Committee  
Carl H. Sievers, Chairman, Stewardship Committee

## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As our Church concludes its 109th year, it is again my pleasant duty to submit to the Congregation a report covering the past year. The Pastor, as he has each year, is filing a separate report of our activities to avoid duplication.

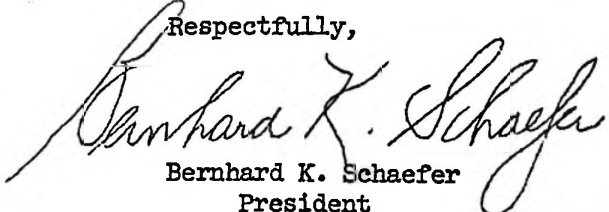
There have, of course, been startling developments in our world, our country, and in our Church. There always will be. It is the speed at which these changes takes place that make one realize we are truly living in a "jet age". The Russians succeeded in sending a missile around the moon; President Eisenhower has apparently succeeded in lessening the tensions of the "cold war" and St. Luke's has succeeded in her efforts to meet the problems of our neighborhood. While these items may not seem related, they emphasize the fact that we must constantly keep our attention on the future and prepare ourselves for more surprises and more changes.

As in other recent years, our expenses have again been large - over \$42,000.00. As indicated last year however, it seemed that we had reached a peak in that regard and that a levelling off process would set in. Such has been the case. The increase in expenses over the previous year has not been large. An encouraging fact has been the steady increase in our envelope collections, as well as income from other sources. These have combined to enable us to conclude a satisfactory year - one in which receipts almost met expenses.

Faced with the fact that expenses could not be appreciably cut back without sacrificing necessary Church work, a Stewardship Program was undertaken early in the Fall. Led by the younger members of our Church Council, it contacted everyone in our Congregation for the purpose of soliciting their help. Early returns in 1960, clearly indicate the program was a success and that at this same time next year, your presiding officer will be able to report that the Church's budget has been balanced. The superb record achieved by this Committee is a source of great encouragement to the Church Council and to me personally as I look forward to the end of my term as President. To the members of that Committee, whose untiring efforts made this possible, our thanks are profound.

The Theatre-in-the-Church made great progress; two services on each Sunday during July and August were begun; the Reverend Harold F. Roellig installed as Assistant Pastor; erection of a fire-house across the street successfully blocked and many other activities successfully undertaken but too numerous to mention in the brief space of this report. Nevertheless, they contributed greatly to the welfare of St. Luke's and my thanks are extended to the men and women who made it possible, to our tireless Pastor, his staff, as well as to all my fellow members of the Church Council without whose loyal support this report could not have reflected such a healthy condition.

Respectfully,



Bernhard K. Schaefer  
President

## THE PASTOR'S REPORT

for

1959

February 1, 1960

Dear Friends in Christ:

In days of old Isaiah said to the children of Israel, "Spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen they stakes". In these words there is urgency and challenge, both of which have characterized and motivated our program of activity at Saint Luke's during 1959. Though there were no dramatic high spots, neither were there any discouraging set backs. 1959 had its own singular importance because it marked the end of a remarkable decade in our long history, which saw many radical changes in our community and which compelled us at all times to "lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes", which, by the grace of God, we have been able to do.

Never at any time during the past decade did we lose sight of our centennial goal - Building a Stronger Saint Luke's for Tomorrow - which was adopted in 1950 when we celebrated the 100th Anniversary of our church. Little did we dream then of the many social, ethnic and physical changes which would take place in our community and which would call for constant alertness, study and evaluation of our program of activities. In addition to the problems of an increasing transient membership, of a general flight to suburbia, of a decrease of more than ten thousand in population in our community, we were faced with the continued problem of carrying on an adequate program with minimum budgets, which for several years entailed deficit spending.

However, under the guidance of Almighty God and with a determined and consecrated leadership we at all times heeded the admonition of the Lord, Who continually encouraged us, saying, "Spare not, lengthen thy cords, strengthen thy stakes." The end of the decade found a stronger Saint Luke's than the beginning, better prepared and equal to the challenges and opportunities of the unknown 1960's. Though statistics do not begin to tell the whole story of our activity or development, nevertheless they show an increase of 20% in church attendance, an increase of 50% in Sunday School enrollment and an approximate increase of 75% in church income. This in addition to a greater interest and a wider participation on the part of our membership in church activity, makes for a stronger and more dedicated congregation.

Ever eager to "lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes", the Church Council, and its various committees, spared neither time nor energy in realistically looking for a solution to our varied problems. In the Spring of the year, realizing that our staff must be strengthened and additional help must be obtained for me, the Church Council extended a Solemn Call to Mr. Harold Roellig to become Assistant Pastor of Saint Luke's. Because Mr. Roellig is a graduate student and instructor at Columbia University, his area of activity has of necessity been limited to taking charge of our young adult program, teaching a Bible Class in Sunday School and assisting in the preaching schedule. We are happy for the able assistance of Pastor Roellig and the relief he gives us in certain phases of our activity.

## THE PASTOR'S REPORT

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At the request of a number of our people, the Church Council added a 9 o'clock Sunday morning service for the summer season. Though the additional service saw no appreciable change in church attendance, it would be premature to make intelligent analysis on the basis of one year's experiment. Perhaps a year from now we may be able to better evaluate the dual summer services.

Basic to the problem of any church is balancing a budget without retrenching its outreach for Christ. Though we have been singularly blessed by God with Trust Funds, which have substantially increased our income and taken care of deficits, the Church Council in the Spring of the year resolved to come to grips with the reoccurring problem of deficit spending because ultimately it would only destroy our security and undermine our effectiveness. A special Stewardship Committee was, therefore, appointed. This committee spent months in analyzing our problem and constructively planning a solution to it. Because every financial problem in church work is also, as a rule, a spiritual problem, the committee soon after its organization concluded that a financial campaign per se was not sufficient, but that we, as a congregation, must individually and collectively come squarely to grips with the entire concept of our responsibility as Christian stewards. A Stewardship of Life program was, therefore, carefully prepared and presented to the congregation through a series of letters, sermons and dinners. Though it is too early to completely analyze the results of this program, we already see a slight increase in church attendance and a substantial increase in our giving pattern.

Because we are geographically committed to the community in which we are located, much of the future of Saint Luke's depends on what happens to the community itself. Neither Christ nor our founding fathers ever intended Saint Luke's to be an island unto itself. Aware of this sacred trust, at the same time realizing that Saint Luke's has a big stake in the community and that future developments will to a large degree determine not only our effectiveness but also our very existence, your Pastor has increasingly become active in community affairs, representing Saint Luke's on a number of important civic committees working especially in the areas of housing and juvenile delinquency.

In the area of juvenile delinquency and increased and improved social services for the people of our community, I have been a director of the West Side Association of Community Centers, a vice-president of the Clinton La Salle Community Center, a member of the Clinton Planning Committee and chairman of the Clinton Protestant Minister's Association. In addition I have worked very closely with the business leaders of the West Side Association of Commerce to make the West Side a better place in which to live and work. All of these activities, which are time consuming and enervating, have had as their sole purpose extending the influence and service of Saint Luke's, both essential to the extension of the Kingdom of Christ.

For several years I have worked with a small group of religious, educational, business and political leaders on the West Side who are interested in better housing for the community, which has rapidly become one of the most blighted areas in the entire city of New York. This has been a slow and tedious process because it has meant cultivating the interest of various city agencies, which would be involved in an Urban Redevelopment program. Though I am in no position at this time to give an official and detailed report, plans are well under way for a complete redevelopment of our area which will create a new city within the old inner city and which ought ultimately given Saint Luke's a new lease on life.

## THE PASTOR'S REPORT

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The 1960's will see many changes for the good and bring with them many new and challenging opportunities for service to Christ and our fellowman. For these new developments Saint Luke's is well prepared and organized because during the difficult years of transition we have remained strong by developing side by side the functions of both an area and a community church. By the grace of God we have proven reasonably well that contrary to the best thinking of church leaders the seemingly impossible is possible where there is dedicated leadership which is imaginative, unafraid of work and ever willing to "lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes." It is possible to have a strong area church and a strong community church at one and the same time.

Organizationally Saint Luke's has remained vital and continued to develop a Christ-centered program, based on a strong spiritual foundation and offering many opportunities of fellowship and service for all age groups in the church. As part of this annual report each organization has submitted its own statement of activity and participation in the life of the church. In each of these reports we see the Church of Christ at work, ever reaching out and embracing young and old in its influence and fellowship. The varied programs are means of giving mutual inspiration and encouragement to greater dedication to Christ and His work of spreading the Gospel at the cross roads of the world.

The excellent condition of our Sunday School is a continued source of inspiration to us. During 1959 approximately 225 people were served through this agency, the end of the year having a total enrollment of 167. According to church leaders this kind of a Sunday School is almost phenomenal in the inner city with its predominantly Catholic and transient constituency. Though there has been a tremendous decrease in the school population of our community - as much as 50% in some schools - we still have been able to more than hold our own. The Lord has mightily used a consecrated and devoted staff of leaders and teachers, who have unselfishly given of their time and talents.

Associated with me in the full program of activity and making it possible for me to continue to reach out for Christ has been a very loyal and devoted staff. Miss Eber's ever amazing energy seems to know no limits as she takes care of all office routine, meets the social service needs of both members and transients who find their way to our doors, and at the same time carries on a full program of calling. Active in the work of the Sunday School, the Released Time School, the youth program and the mission outreach have been our vicars, Mr. Leon Gogl and Mr. Dennis Hill. In sharing the preaching ministry and assuming leadership in our all important young adult group program Pastor Roellig in the short time he has been with us has been of invaluable assistance to me personally. Miss Holmer has continued to render a high quality of service in our ministry of music and has added much to the inspirational character of our worship services. She and the members of our choir deserve the sincere thanks of our entire membership. Miss Nancy Hoffman and Mr. David Nelson, both group leaders of the Lutheran Social Services, have worked with a number of our boys and girls in a varied program of activities and are meeting a real need in the lives of these youngsters. A word of thanks is also due the officers of the congregation, the officers of the various organizations, the many volunteers, who have functioned in various phases of our activity. All of these have given their utmost support and cooperation in a difficult, yet satisfying, ministry. But no one deserves more of my heartfelt thanks than my wife, who continues to stand by my side as an ever increasing source of inspiration and encouragement, always sparing me of many details, making it easy for me to keep a crowded schedule and still maintain a sense of balance and values in my ministry. To all who have had a share in the work of Christ at Saint Lukes a sincere word of thanks. May the Lord richly bless each one of you.


THE PASTOR'S REPORT

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During the past year the following official acts were performed:

Baptisms (Infant)	17
(Adult)	2
Confirmations (Children)	10
(Adults)	11
New Members Received	26
Weddings	10
Funerals	23
People Communed	2,587
Total Church Attendance	14,351
Total Number of Services	81
Average Sunday Attendance	225

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Albert L. Neibacher



SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

YEAR 1959

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1958</u>
Envelopes	\$ 20,324.93	\$ 18,474.65
Plate Collection	4,162.52	4,180.48
Pew Income and Memorials	761.20	743.00
Christmas Collection	1,843.05	1,394.82
Easter Collection	2,516.57	2,368.80
Lenten Services	216.87	292.77
Thanksgiving Collection	733.30	636.15
Birthday - 109th Anniversary	1,095.50	835.50
Special Donations	528.00	530.80
Special Income for Music	444.55	366.20
Flowers	615.00	610.00
Devotional Booklets	186.81	196.27
Sub Total	\$ <u>33,428.30</u>	\$ <u>30,629.44</u>
Income from Securities	<u>8,987.53</u>	<u>8,478.50</u>
	<u><u>42,415.83</u></u>	<u><u>39,107.94</u></u>
 <u>EXPENSES</u>		
Salaries	\$ 23,854.00	\$ 22,399.42
Travel Allowance	1,500.00	1,000.00
Retirement and Medical Payments	1,188.34	1,647.14
Printing and Stationery	1,620.94	1,272.01
Insurance	1,564.92	1,862.23
Heating	2,199.60	2,867.48
Gas and Electricity	653.01	553.22
Repairs and Replacements	4,377.59	6,229.35
Real Estate and Water Taxes	94.00	266.80
Telephone	982.45	872.14
Postage	412.71	599.15
Advertising	1,466.88	1,612.11
Devotional Booklets	213.70	207.00
Flowers	615.00	596.00
Communion Wine and Wafers	42.37	70.68
Choir Music	29.10	61.00
Miscellaneous Expense	995.29	1,028.68
Envelope Expense	82.09	86.76
Organ and Piano Tuning	83.50	128.50
Youth Program	134.30	162.70
Stewardship Program	619.46	-
Total Expenses	\$ <u>42,565.07</u>	\$ <u>43,348.85</u>
Total Income	<u>42,415.83</u>	<u>39,107.94</u>
Deficit	\$ <u><u>149.24</u></u>	\$ <u><u>4,240.91</u></u>

COLLECTION FOR OTHERS - 1959

Missions	\$ 2,877.47
Wheatridge Seals & Atlantic District Charities	467.00
Lutheran Child Welfare Association	648.91
Wartburg Home For Aged	239.25
Lutheran Hospital	131.50
Metropolitan Inner Mission	235.30
Association For Works Of Mercy	112.50
Lutheran Friends Of The Deaf	511.25
Lutheran Social Services	291.50
Concordia Collegiate Institute	25.00
Lutheran Education Society	50.00
Lutheran Hour	335.00
Lutheran Laymen's League	50.00
Lutheran Welfare Council	50.00
True Light Lutheran Church	25.00
Valparaiso University	50.00
Wartburg Orphan Farm School, Mount Vernon	25.00
Boy Scouts	15.00
Girl Scouts	15.00
American Bible Society	45.08
	<u>\$ 6,199.76</u>

SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS  
AND MEMORIALS

<u>Year</u> <u>Established</u>	<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Income To</u>
1927	J. Louis Schaefer	Pew Memorials
1932	Bernard Karsch	" "
1942	Adele Henning	" "
1946	In Memory of Sebastian & Margaretha Dorfmueller	" "
1946	In Memory of J. Louis Schaefer	" "
1951	Annie L. Hohns	" "
1952	In Memory of Henry & Katherine Puckhaber	" "
1953	In Memory of John Dettmer	" "
1954	In Memory of Alfred M. Grizzle	" "
1955	Louisa M. Nusskern	" "
1955	In Memory of J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	Music Program
1956	In Memory of Anton & Marie Koester	Pew Memorials
1957	In Memory of J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	Music Program
1958	In Memory of Richard & Emilie Scommodau	Pew Memorials
1958	Anna Aherns Menge	" "
1958	In Memory of J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	Music Program
1959	In Memory of Mrs. Minna Theurer	Pew Memorials
1959	In Memory of J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	Music Program

MEMORIAL WREATHS - 1959

Mrs. Florence Turner

Mr. Alfred M. Grizzle

Mrs. Mary Nowak

Mrs. M. Kuhle

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Associated with me in the work of the Sunday School during the past years has been a staff of 27 faithful and loyal people, who have unselfishly given of themselves to make ours a smooth functioning arm of the church which has been meaningful to the lives of approximately 225 individuals.

Miss Genevieve Savio, our Secretary, has given me a digest of our attendance records for 1959 as follows:

Total enrollment, December 31, 1959	167
Average Sunday attendance	117
Highest Sunday attendance	143
Lowest Sunday attendance	94
New Pupils	40
Reinstated pupils during the year	8
Dropped from the records	39
Adult staff serving the Sunday School	26

Mr. Joseph Miranda, our Treasurer, has submitted the following financial statement:

COLLECTIONS - January 1, 1959 to December 31, 1959

Envelopes	\$ 797.88
Plate	268.48
Mission	419.44
Candle Light Service (Children)	100.52
Candle Light Service (Adults)	99.00
Special Donations	110.00
Refunds	<u>29.16</u>
Total	\$1824.48

EXPENDITURES - January 1, 1959 to December 31, 1959

Total                    \$1535.97

BALANCES in various treasuries as of December 31, 1959

Sunday School	\$1570.64
Mission Fund	1163.69
Benevolent Fund	<u>184.02</u>
Total	\$2918.35

To all who have had a part in the work of our Sunday School I want to express my sincerest thanks, and to each of you who hear or read this report I would extend a warm invitation to visit us some Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock, to see our Sunday School in action, and to join our Adult Bible Class.

Sincerely yours,

Curtis Wingert, Jr.  
Superintendent

## THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY

As most of you know, the Ladies' Aid is the oldest organization in St. Luke's. However, the members are all young at heart and have the same interests, namely, the work of Christ at St. Luke's. The Society was organized for the service of Christ and the Congregation in the year 1872; and at one time had a very large membership. At this writing we have about 30 members, excluding a number who are inactive.

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 P.M. Each member brings a sandwich and the hostesses serve coffee and cake. We have a leisurely lunch and about an hour and a half of Christian Fellowship before the business meeting. An interesting program is planned for each meeting either a spiritual topic, guest speakers, or films.

Some of the projects which were accomplished this year:

1.	Re-upholstering the furniture in Church Meeting Room and Pastor's Study	\$ 850.00
2.	Made ten Childrens' choir gowns for Candle-Light Service	72.64
3.	Donated towards Childrens' Hand Craft Summer Program	40.00
4.	Purchased New Summer Cassock for Pastor	72.25
5.	Dry Cleaned Choir Gowns	37.50
6.	Dry Cleaned Drapes in Meeting Room	24.00
7.	Check to Atlantic District Church Extension Fund	1000.00
8.	Flowers on Altar Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday	75.00
9.	Donated to Hartley House	50.00
	Many underprivileged children from our Sunday School are able to enjoy several weeks in the country during the Summer through Hartley House Fresh Air Fund. This was our way of showing appreciation	
10.	Christmas Donation to all the Lutheran Welfare Agencies	150.00
11.	Donated to Board of World Relief	<u>10.00</u>
	Total	\$2386.39

On June 3rd we had a Bus Ride to Mill Neck School of the Deaf. We donated a table cloth and napkins to be used in training the children; and took up a Coffee Collection which was also donated.

As an organization we are members of the Lutheran Womens Missionary League and entertained the Manhattan Zone Fall Rally with the help of the Dorcas Guild for Dinner on October 20th.

You are perhaps wondering where the Ladies' Aid gets all the money to be able to accomplish the above expenditures. Our dues which are \$6.00 a year or .50¢ a month would never permit this kind of spending. We were fortunate to have members who bequeathed to the Society sums of money and through their generosity we have an income each year to further the work of Christ at St. Luke's. Last year and the year before we had to take some funds from the Capital; but this we hope to be able to replace.

If you are not a member of a Society at St. Luke's, won't you consider becoming a member of the Ladies' Aid? We need you. Come to one of our meetings and get to know us.

Respectfully submitted,

Elsie S. Koester, President

## THE DORCAS GUILD

As president of the Dorcas Guild, I am pleased to report that the membership and attendance have increased steadily during the year of 1959. There were 7 ladies who joined our organization bringing the total membership to 45. We look forward to more ladies joining us in 1960.

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month. Meetings start promptly at 7:45 P.M. As the programs are planned, the meeting and social hour are over at 9:45 so the ladies are not too late getting home. Dues are 50¢ per month.

Our total receipts for the year were \$565.87 but we paid out \$472.38 which left us a balance of \$93.49 to start the new year. We also collected a penny a day mite box offering for the Lutheran Womens Missionary League. A hostess fee of \$1.50 is levied against every member who is appointed to serve once a year. Her duty is to arrange with the chairman of hostesses, who collects the fees, to purchase and serve refreshments for that evening. If the total cost of refreshments does not exceed the total hostess fees, the balance is given to our treasury.

We have been very fortunate in having such wonderful hostesses each month who have served us with an abundance and variety of sandwiches (lady size for each eating), special home-baked cakes, pies, delicious coffee cakes, etc. and our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Rose who make the good hot coffee that is served.

I would like to tell you of one of our meetings. On April 7th we invited Major Olive McKeown to speak of her Salvation Army Work on the Bowery. Her talk was so interesting and enlightening, we asked her to come again on October 6th. For this meeting Major McKeown illustrated her talk with colored slides which made us more interested in her work of bringing Our Lord and Savior to these unfortunate men. On February 6th we will visit the mission and Major McKeown will show us, so that we can see for ourselves, the building and the men who now accept Jesus as their Redeemer. I daresay, some of our future programs will prove just as interesting as this one has.

Many members of the Dorcas Guild "Serve The Lord With Gladness" which is our motto. Some of us, who are members of the Adult Bible Class, go on the third Sunday of each month to Roosevelt Hospital at 59th Street and 9th Avenue to help Protestant patients on all 9 floors of the hospital are asked if they would like to attend church services which are conducted by Pastor Philbey, who represents the Protestant Council. Patients are then escorted to the second floor where services are held at 11:00 A.M. Sometimes the patient has to be helped and very frequently, a wheel chair is called into use.

Others serve by coming once a week to help in the church office, monitor the door evenings, collect for the Red Cross during Red Cross Month here at the Church, each Sunday welcome arrivals at the door, help with the guest book, take care of altar flowers, help preserve order in release time school on Thursday, teach in Sunday School, conduct an adult Bible Study Class, sing in the choir and supervise the girl scouting program.

I would like to close this report with acknowledgements and thanks to our Vice-President, Mrs. Anna Goldberg; Secretary, Miss Ethel Mahnken; Treasurer, Mrs. Harriet Adams; all the various committees and members who have worked to make this report possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Mabel Louie, President

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## THE SENIOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

The Senior Young People's Society, whose president I have the honor of being this year, has had more than 30 evening programs and at least as many outdoor activities in and around New York City since this congregation met last year.

Highlights of the year were Dr. Louis P. Lochner's "Glimpses of the Moslem, Hindu, and Buddhist World," which he illustrated with colored slides; "The Church and Modern Architecture," by Edward Tafel, designer of the Protestant Chapel at Idlewild, and a student of the late architect, Frank Lloyd Wright; "The Land of the Conquering Lion of Judah," an introduction to Ethiopia by Carmen Simonson, daughter of the former ambassador of the United States to Ethiopia; "Basic Doctrines of Catholicism," by Father Miller, a Jesuit Priest; "The Christian in Politics," by Professor Dr. Alfred Sorenson, Princeton University; "Reaching Difficult Children through Creative Arts and Crafts," by Mrs. Mabel Davis; "New Guinea Missions," by the Rev. John Sievert, Lutheran Missionary to New Guinea; an introduction to archery by former international woman's champion in archery, Mrs. Myrtle Miller, and a travelogue by Mr. Bernhard K. Schaefer, president of the Church Council of Saint Luke's, on Southeast Asia.

On Sunday afternoons we have gone to Gracie Museum, The American Museum, the Cloisters, the Aquarium, the Museum of Modern Art; we took tours through Governor's Island, to the Statue of Liberty, the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine; and have taken a ship around Manhattan Island; we have visited Fort Tyron Park, the Bronx Botanical Gardens, Inwood Park, the Bronx Zoo, Central Park, and Chinatown; we have gone ice skating, roller skating, swimming, picnicking, attended football games and roller derby games, as well as visited the Naval Shipyard.

In addition, we conducted a program of recreation, arts and crafts for children during the summer. This program, financially undergirded by the Ladies' Aid, has grown into the regular girls' and boys' clubs which now meet once a week, conducted by experienced directors of children's work.

With the help of the Walther League of Saint Luke's, we decorated the church at Christmas, and took down the decorations after New Year. During the past year also, some of our members have volunteered to participate in social activities at the Fountain House, an organization that helps former mental patients to adjust to life.

In December, we prepared Christmas packages for Welfare Island, buying toilet articles for diabetic patients, such as combs, wash cloths, tooth brushes, tooth paste, etc. wrapping them and taking them to the Inner Mission. This year we were able to give 20 packages to this program. During Christmas week a group of our members went caroling to Welfare Island, joining other groups from churches in New York City and Queens. As we went from ward to ward, and both sang and delivered boxes of candy and cookies, we were richly rewarded by the smiles of the patients, many of whom consider Welfare Island their last home.

THE SENIOR YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

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The group also provides a number of active workers to the church. Six of our members are Sunday School teachers, two are serving on the Church Council, three are ushers, one a Girl Scout leader, and one a Brownie leader. Eleven are members of the church choir and one a member of the Guest Book Committee.

To carry on the work of the group more effectively, our Program Committee has been expanded to five members, and our Membership Committee now has three members. There are two additional committees of two members each, the Sunday Supper Committee, which plans the meals on Sunday evenings, and the Theater Ticket Committee, which buys tickets for Broadway shows which the group visit once monthly. This season we have seen "Gypsie," "Cheri," and "Destry Rides Again."

Our monthly business meeting is held each third Tuesday, Present status of our treasury is \$67.34 in the General Fund, and \$4.61 in the Supper Fund, giving a total of \$71.95. As the preamble to our constitution says our purpose is to "foster interest in the work of our CHURCH; and to provide for wholesome recreation." In this spirit we endeavor to carry on all our activities. It demands of us a high commitment to Christ, which makes it possible for others to come and hear and see God's Word in action. This we consider our foremost aim, and hope that we have done well in this respect above all others during this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

Elly Mayer, President

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## THE WALTHER LEAGUE

The Walther League, better known as the Junior Christians, is a group concerned with the confirmed teen-agers of our church and meets every Friday evening.

Its purpose revolves around the five major points of the International Walther League program: Worship, Service, Fellowship, Education, and Recreation. The officers of the League try to include all of these points in the program for the year through its weekly activities, and its regular participation in Zone and District functions.

During the year 1959 the Walther League consisted of approximately 25 active members, all of whom are also members of the teen-age Bible Class in Sunday School. Among some of the various activities were scavenger hunts, bowling and gym nights, holiday parties, Christmas caroling, ice-skating, swimming, movies, and a boat ride to Bear Mountain. The group also prepared projects such as the sending of Christmas gifts to Welfare Island; Kiddie Kits were sent to underprivileged children overseas, and the annual Wheatridge seals were mailed out to members of Saint Luke's.

At the close of 1959 the treasury contained \$35.30.

It is our sincere hope that 1960 will hold even more prosperity and success.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Hartsel, President

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