

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

N E W S L E T T E R

February  
1964

LENT

Lent is a sacred time in the life of the Christian because it affords special opportunities to relive the Passion of Christ and to rethink the significance of our redemption. Ever since the early days of the Reformation the Lutheran Church has set aside the 40 days preceding Easter and conducted special services of meditation and prayer, calling people to repentance and urging them to walk closer to Christ and His way of life. The emphasis is on Christ and the role he played to redeem sinful mankind. In the Lutheran Church it is a tradition to conduct mid-week Lenten Services. Saint Luke's is no exception. Each Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock we come apart from the busyness of life, take a look at Christ and endeavor to see just what our personal relationship to Him is. Reserve, therefore, your Wednesday evenings for your Lenten Pilgrimage to Calvary. For the hours you spend during Lent beneath the cross of Jesus you will be the stronger and more effective Christian.

LENTEN PREACHING SCHEDULE

The general theme of our Wednesday evening sermons will be LENTEN HANDS. We will use a special series of bulletins, each depicting a pair of hands in different positions and each portraying some particular event in Christ's Passion. Read the sermon topics in the enclosed folder and for yourself relate them to the Passion story.

On Sunday mornings we will endeavor to answer the question, "WHO IS THIS CHRIST?" Our answer will come from the Savior's immortal "I ans." "I am the Bread of Life... the Way to God...the Truth...the Life" etc. In each instance Christ identifies Himself with our needs and makes Himself relevant to our daily lives. Invite some un-churched friend to worship with you and thus share the Christ Who has redeemed us.

CHRISTIAN FUNDAMENTALS

Directly after the service each Wednesday at 8 P.M., the pastor will conduct a series of informal discussions on the fundamental teachings of our Christian faith. Though these discussions are primarily for those who desire to become affiliated with Saint Luke's, all are cordially invited to attend. Here is an opportunity to rethink the great truths of our Christian faith.

MY LENTEN OFFERING

The enclosed Lenten Offering Folder is more than a "gimmick" for another church collection. It is a reminder that in our daily lives we need to have time for private devotions; it is a reminder of Christ's great love and sacrifice for us. It is also an appeal to us to reciprocate Christ's love and to make some special sacrifice for Him. Use, therefore, the enclosed folder in connection with your daily devotions and each day, as you recall the Savior's great sacrifice on Calvary, make some gift of love to Him. The amount is not important - it can be more, it can be less, than suggested - but the daily remembrance of Christ is important.

CULLED FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

At the annual meeting of the congregation, which was held on February 6th, the following facts are culled.....It cost more than \$60,000 to conduct the program of Saint Luke's during 1963.....In addition, almost \$9,000 was contributed to the work of the Church at large.....Saint Luke's and its members purchased \$18,524 worth of Church Extension Bonds.....52 new children were gained for Sunday School during 1963 to offset a loss of 41.....There was a decrease in church attendance of 5 people per Sunday.....Regular Spanish Services are conducted each Sunday evening at 7 o'clock.....Our people are increasingly using Memorial Wreaths and contributing to the Memorial Fund of Saint Luke's in lieu of sending flowers at time of death.....\$1,275 were contributed during 1963 in memory of 11 different individuals, whose memory is thus perpetuated at Saint Luke's.....The Dorcas Guild sponsors an escort service at Roosevelt Hospital on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Patients are visited in their rooms, invited to a Protestant service conducted by Pastor William Stieve, and then escorted to the service.....Saint Luke's has a special World's Fair Committee to prepare for the influx of visitors during Fair days.....Summer Open House Programs for neighborhood children sponsored by the Young Adult group continue to meet a real need.....Our church plant, now more than 40 years old, is in constant need of repairs. Major repairs on the organ must be made during the next few years.

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N E W S L E T T E R

Thanksgiving  
1964

"Count your many blessings,  
Name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you  
What the Lord hath done."

It was a Christian who spoke these words, a Christian, who was completely aware that God's blessings were far more numerous than he could imagine. Unfortunately, we very often place the emphasis on some of life's more difficult situations, magnify them beyond all due proportions and forget that God's blessings are new to us every morning. The Christian does not need a special day for thanking God. Every day should be Thanksgiving Day. However, we do need to be constantly reminded of this fact.

On Wednesday, November 25th, at 7:00 P.M. we shall conduct our Special Thanksgiving Service. The theme of the sermon will be, "Lord, We Thank Thee For....." Let each of us be found in God's House this Thanksgiving season to show our gratitude to Him "from Whom all blessings flow."

THANKSGIVING OFFERING

It is utterly impossible to adequately thank God for all blessings received from Him. At best our Thanksgiving can only be a token gesture. That is also the case with our special Thanksgiving Offering. No gift on our part will ever pay back God for what He has done for us. However, our gift can be and should be an expression of our love for and appreciation to God. Use, therefore, the enclosed offering envelope to give expression to the inmost feelings of your heart during this Thanksgiving season.

CLOTHING DRIVE

Twice a year the Lutheran World Relief appeals to Lutherans throughout the world to share their used but still usable clothing with those in need. For years we at Saint Luke's have responded to this appeal and have contributed hundreds of pounds of clothing. This past Spring Mrs. Neibacher and I were privileged to see the Lutheran World Relief program in action. We visited the Near East headquarters in Jerusalem and saw what was being done with the clothing we collect in America. Our hearts thrilled at the effective and Christian manner in which human need was being met. Our Lutheran Church in this area alone is serving almost one half of the million Arab refugees that are crowded together in refugee villages in Jordan and Syria and Lebanon. This is Christian service of the highest order. Clothing of all kinds is required, especially men's and children's clothing. However, no women's hats or underwear or high heeled shoes. Bring what clothing you have or can get from your neighbor to the church before December 13th.

### CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Church attendance is not an optional thing in the life of a Christian. It is just as important for us to obey the commandment, "Thou shalt sanctify the Holy Day," as it is the commandments which say, "Thou shalt not kill....Thou shalt not commit adultery....Thou shalt not steal." As far as God is concerned all commandments require our absolute obedience.

What has been your church attendance record in 1964? How often have you been absent from church without a God-pleasing excuse? Church attendance is one of God's requirements of us. Our love for God should find us in church every Sunday. We owe it to God; we owe it to ourselves; we owe it to our fellow-members. Sunday, November 29th, is Advent Sunday, the beginning of a new Church Year. Let us also make a new beginning as far as church attendance is concerned. Let each of us resolve that we will be in church every Sunday and that only personal illness will keep us away. There are blessings in God's House which await all worshipers.

### OPEN HOUSE PROGRAM

Each Wednesday evening from 7 to 9 o'clock, an Open House Program of arts and crafts, including sewing for older girls, is conducted for boys and girls of the community. This is more than a "busy-work" program. It is a program planned to develop good, wholesome adult-child relationships and is based on the premise that Christianity is often as much "caught as "taught." The program is planned and supervised by a small group of young married couples and young adults. The Ladies' Aid Society, which at this time is assuming the financial responsibility of it, has adopted the program as one of its service projects.

### SEWING MACHINE

Sewing is one of the activities of the Open House Program. A number of girls have shown interest. However, the group needs an additional sewing machine. Do you have one which you no longer need? Do you know of someone who is no longer using theirs? Or could the group temporarily borrow your machine?

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TELEVISED

The Columbia Broadcasting System (Channel 2) will televise our Christmas Eve service over its national network. This is perhaps the highest privilege that Saint Luke's has ever had, but with the privilege a tremendous responsibility is placed on the current congregation. Quite obviously it would be a sad witness to Christ on the part of Saint Luke's to have this service televised with an empty church. I am asking you, therefore, already at this time to include in your Christmas Eve plans attendance at our Christmas Eve Service, which will go on the air at 12:00 o'clock midnight. The service itself will begin at 11:45 with a "carol sing." Start inviting your friends to attend the service with you. I know the hour of the service is late, but so is the hour of this world's history. As Christ never counted the cost to assume our flesh and blood and to go to Calvary's Cross for us, so we too should not count the cost as far as personal convenience is concerned.