

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

NEWSLETTER

June
1965

ABSENTEE MEMBERSHIP

Absentee membership is increasingly destroying the spiritual vitality of the Protestant Church in America. No church can ever be any stronger than her individual members make her; and no individual's faith can be equal to life's many demands if he continually neglects his worship life. Absentee members are neither meeting their obligation to God, nor are they being fair to their fellow members. We owe it to one another to regularly worship together. Corporate worship strengthens not only our individual faith, but also the vitality of the church.

That our Sunday morning attendance record is far from what it should be is putting it very mildly. No one but the reader of these lines knows better what his or her church attendance record is; and no one but God can sit in judgment upon that record. It is well, therefore, that we first sit in judgment of ourselves before God takes over. The summer is no time to let up on our spiritual activity, but actually it is a time to step it up, because for most people the summer schedule is not as demanding as the rest of the year. In other words, use the summer months to "catch up spiritually" with your God and with yourself. And in your spiritual life program, put church attendance on the very top of your list.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

From June 6 to September 26, duplicate services will be conducted each Sunday at 9:00 A.M. and at 11:00 A.M. This schedule of services affords all an opportunity to attend church and still get an early start for the beach or a Sunday outing. Make church attendance a must in your life. God expects it of you.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

On Sunday, June 13th, at the 11:00 A.M. service ten young people will publicly confess their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. They will receive Holy Communion for the first time on June 20th, also at the 11:00 A.M. service.

Your prayers are solicited on behalf of these young Christians. However, even more important is your attendance. Give these teenagers the encouragement of your presence and personally extend to them a welcome into the fellowship of believers. The confirmees of this year are: Miss Ellen Irvine, and the Messrs. Cruz Colon, Victor Esau, Edward Lopez, John Musil, Peter Ng, Inosencio Rios, Stephen Skubisz, Thomas Tweddle, and Andrew Wilson.

OPEN HOUSE WORKSHOP

On Sunday, June 6th, from 4:00 to 9:00 P.M. a special workshop will be conducted in conjunction with our Open House Program. The Wednesday evening program, consisting of arts and crafts, gym activities, bowling, billiards, sewing, cooking, and personal grooming for girls, has not only been well received but has also been a real contribution of the church to the life of our community. More than 100 boys and girls have been involved in this program, which is directed by Mrs. Judith Bendewald and staffed by approximately 20 young adults and others from our congregation.

In the Workshop, the Rev. McRaven Warner, Executive Secretary of the Manhattan Division of the Protestant Council of New York, will speak on "The Church Where You Are". Mr. Raymond Soares, Group Worker of the Lutheran Social Services of New York, will speak on "The Hard-to-Reach Young Person". Miss Marian Rajewsky, former executive of the Girl Scouts of America and a member of Saint Luke's, will speak on "Working with a Group". Miss Gladys McPeck, Executive Director of Hartley House, with Mrs. Mary McCartin of the Hartley House Staff and Pastor Weibacher will have a panel discussion on "The Community We Serve". Mrs. Bendewald will share some of the overall pattern of our Open House Program, including "Recreation with Children". The Workshop program will close with a special devotional service led by Mr. Robert Benson.

This is a very ambitious program and one of the more relevant to the life of Saint Luke's which has been conducted in a long time. The scope of the program shows the Christian's concern and possible involvement in the life of the community. An invitation is herewith extended to all those who are interested and possibly desirous of helping in this service of the church. Should you wish to come, please telephone Mrs. Bendewald at the church office. We ask you to telephone because the Ladies Aid Society has very generously offered to serve dinner on June 6th to all participants. In order to facilitate their task, they should know for how many to prepare.

DORCAS GUILD

On Wednesday, May 5th, the Dorcas Guild had a potluck dinner at which members of the choir, the Ladies Aid, and women of the church were guests. At the meeting which followed, the Rev. Paul Sparling, Institutional Missionary of New Jersey, spoke of his work. The meeting was well attended and well received. We thank the Dorcas Guild for this well-planned evening of Christian fellowship.

THE CHOIR

Without exception, this has been one of the finest seasons for the choir in many years. We at Saint Luke's are very grateful to the splendid leadership of Mr. Ben Akerley and his faithful group of volunteers, who week after week give unselfishly of their time and talents and who add so much to the worship life of Saint Luke's. We shall truly miss the choir during the summer season and we look forward to an early return in the fall.

PASTOR NEIBACHER

At the Commencement Exercises at Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Missouri, on May 28th, Pastor Neibacher received the Honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. Pastor Neibacher, when first informed of the honor which was to be bestowed on him, said, "This is not a tribute to me personally, but a recognition of the work pastor and people have been doing together for almost three decades at the crossroads of the world. God has been good to us at Saint Luke's," he continued, "and all glory and honor are due to Him."

JUNE GRADUATES

We extend sincere congratulations to all our June graduates -- Junior High School, Senior High School, and College. Among those in the latter category are the following: Barbara Hartsell graduates from Penn State University; Rosemarie Heitmann graduates from Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois; Joan Wisch graduates from Adelphi College; in addition, Robert Sorenson graduates from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, and Albert L. Neibacher, Jr. graduates from Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, Mr. Robert Benson completed his seminary work at the end of the first quarter of this school year. He, too, is among this year's graduates of the Saint Louis Seminary.

May God richly bless one and all in their chosen vocations.

NEWS FROM YOUNG ADULTS

Mr. Benson reports: "Variety is the keynote of the activity of Saint Luke's Young Adults group. Although some might claim that eating is our dominant doing (we brunch and sup together each Sunday), a closer look reveals a broad scope of interest. Here is a sample of the past few weeks' programs: an 'ecumenical' square dance with other Christian churches in the area participating; a discussion on the 'death' of the church and the new forms which the church's mission must take; a program of international folk music sung by Michael Hoel; a talk by Father Pitcaithly, Episcopalian priest who is working with dope addicts in the New York area; and viewing and discussing Arthur Miller's popular Death of a Salesman. So, in addition to eating together, there is a good deal of thinking together, learning together, whooping it up together, and beneath it all, one can detect a basic bond between the members which comes from our union in Christ, a basic commitment to one another that holds 'no matter what'. Through it all, we are seeking to grow more fully into the stature of Christ."

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
308 West Forty-Sixth Street
New York, New York 10014



NEWS LETTER

October
1965

115th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

On Sunday, October 3rd, we will observe the 115th Anniversary of the founding of Saint Luke's. An occasion like this calls for rejoicing, thanksgiving and rededication. God has been singularly good to Saint Luke's. He has blessed her mightily and used her forcefully, helping her adjust to many changes and always supplying her with the vision and faith and courage to fill her unique mission in the Times Square area.

As we are grateful to God for blessings received and proud of 115 years of continuous service to Him, the present comes as a genuine challenge and a deep responsibility to the current generation of members. However, we can neither rest on the laurels of the past nor remain indifferent to the opportunities of the present. We must in love for Christ and in devotion to our fellow-man rededicate ourselves and assume God-given responsibilities. We shall do that in our Anniversary Communion Service on Sunday, October 3rd. Plan to be present and to give yourself to Christ as He gave Himself for you.

SERMON TOPIC FOLDER

For the most part, the sermons listed in the enclosed folder are based on the regular Sunday morning Gospel lessons. These Gospel selections are pregnant with many profound truths, and it is not always possible to exhaust their full meaning. The sermons here listed, therefore, select some basic facet of the Gospel and develop it in meaningful and relevant manner. Unless the Sunday morning Gospel selection is transferred from the worship hour to everyday living, Christ is of little value or significance to us. Our Christianity means nothing. Share these sermons with your unchurched friends. Mimeographed copies of the sermons will be available as requests are made for them.

ADULT BIBLE CLASS

On Sunday, October 10th, a new Adult Bible Class will be organized. What is new about the class is that it will meet on the third floor of the Parish House at 12:15 noon right after the Sunday morning service. Mr. Robert Benson, graduate student at Columbia University and our pastoral assistant, will conduct the class.

For spiritual growth it is not sufficient to simply read our Bibles as a devotional discipline. It is also necessary to study in depth some of the great truths of our Christian faith as they apply in today's world. In order that the Bible may become a living book, we must truly study it and take it out of the realm of ancient sacred writings. Meet each Sunday with a group of concerned Christians who are desirous of strengthening their faith and making it equal to life's daily demands.

WEEKLY OFFERING ENVELOPES

Vacation time is over, but the Treasurer informs us that many vacation time envelopes of our members have not yet been returned with their weekly gifts to the work of Christ. As you know, expenses do not cease during the weeks we are away from church, nor do our responsibilities to Christ's work cease during that time. If you are behind schedule in your Weekly Offering Envelopes, please return them to the Treasurer at your earliest convenience.

OPEN HOUSE

Our fall Open House program has now begun...with a staff of 20 adults and an opening night of 55 children. Our purpose on these Wednesday evenings is to show children the love of Christ and to communicate this love through teaching of skills - such as sewing, cooking, knitting - through expressions of excitement and joy of life - such as singing and playing games - and through sharing and talking sessions. Activities also included are bowling and ping-pong. This fall we plan to add special crafts for older boys, in addition to our regular arts and crafts program. The bulletin boards in the downstairs chapel-auditorium are displaying some of our children's projects. Be sure to stop down to look at them!

A REAL NEED

The area in which Saint Luke's is located has one of the highest school drop-out rates in the city of New York. Many boys and girls need remedial help in basic school subjects; they need help with their day-by-day school work. Given such interest and help, their attitudes toward school will change and they will not become tomorrow's school drop-outs.

It is hoped, therefore, that this fall we will be able to establish a study-hall, remedial school work type of program. However, we need more volunteers to work with children. We need volunteers who are willing to give a minimum of two hours a week on a given night. It is our sincere hope that sufficient volunteers will be forthcoming to enable us to set aside two or three nights a week for this study-hall program. Think about it, pray about it, and speak to Mrs. Bendewald about it.

YOUTH WORK OFFERING

In the above paragraphs our Open House program and a further need for action have been described. But this is only one phase of our youth work at Saint Luke's. In addition, there is our Teenage program, our Boy Scout and Cub Scout work. Currently we do not have a Girl Scout troop, but we

hope to reorganize it this fall. All of these activities, combined with our Sunday School, Released Time School and three adolescent and teenage confirmation classes, make for a good outreach to the youth of this community.

In order to strengthen and expand our service to young people, the Church Council has designated this year's anniversary offering for youth work. The current needs in this area are great and they are not regularly budgeted. Already this year hundreds of dollars have been spent on such items as sending 33 boys away to Scout camp for two weeks, purchase of religious educational materials, supplies for arts and crafts, cooking and sewing, 3 new sewing machines, 2 ping-pong tables, athletic equipment. Because of renewed interest in bowling, repairs must be made to our badly-neglected alleys.

In dollars and cents one can never evaluate the impact made on the boys and girls involved in our youth activities. Many changes take place in their attitudes and general behavior patterns because they are exposed to Christ under the leadership of consecrated young adults. Though the program cannot be evaluated in dollars and cents, still dollars and cents are needed. Your very generous participation our Anniversary Offering is, therefore, solicited. Make yours not only a gift of love, but also an expression of your appreciation to those who are directly involved in the youth activities and who make it possible for your church to serve the youth of our church and community in such singular manner. If you cannot personally serve in the program, at least support the program with your gifts. A special offering envelope is enclosed.

SPANISH MISSION

Each Sunday at 1:15 P.M. a special Spanish service is conducted by the Rev. William Puder, who has temporarily replaced Pastor Eduardo Llerena. Pastor Llerena has a year's leave of absence for advanced studies at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. Our Spanish mission work shows slow, but steady, progress. At present approximately 65 families are served by our church in our Spanish-speaking mission. We welcome Pastor Puder to our midst and at the same time we wish to him and Pastor Llerena the Lord's richest blessings in their respective endeavors for their Savior.

THE CHOIR

The Choir, under the leadership of Mr. Ben Akerley, is off to a good start this fall. Already, after just two rehearsals, 28 people have committed themselves to serve in our ministry of music. There still is room for a few more volunteers. The choir meets each Wednesday evening at 6:30. Trained voices are not essential; all you need is a love for music and a desire to serve your Savior.

BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS

Pastor Reinheimer, former vicar at Saint Luke's, telephoned us on Sat. and told us of one of his members in New Shrewsbury, N.J. who is coming to New York for open heart surgery. At least 16 blood transfusions are required by this fellow-Lutheran. If you have O POSITIVE type blood and are willing to help, please call the church or Montefiore Hospital, 111 E. 210th Street, Bronx, phone: TU 1-1000, x. 2418. You must make 2 trips to the hospital, one to have your blood specimen taken and the second on the morning of the operation, October 5th, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. PLEASE CALL AND HELP!

Saint Luke's Lutheran Church

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ALBERT L. NEIBACHER D.D., PASTOR
ROBERT BENSON, ASSISTANT

MARTHA EBER, DEACONESS
JUDITH BENEWALD, YOUTH DIRECTOR

NEWSLETTER

Advent
1965

ADVENT

Advent is that season of the Church Year when we prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Advent is New Year's time in the Christian Church. It is the time for personal introspection, the time for new beginnings, the time for rededication to the Christ who redeemed us. Use this Advent Season to enter upon a more meaningful and vital relationship with Christ. Your church stands ready to help you do this. However, the church can not do this by remote control.

NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, December 5th, we shall receive twenty people into communicant membership. As we pray God's richest blessing on their affiliation with us, we know that you will want to be present to personally welcome them. Many of these folks are already deeply involved in the life of the church. Meet them on Sunday and extend the hand of fellowship to them.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Church membership! What is it? Certainly it is more than having our names on the roles of a given church; it is more than an institution to which we make an occasional contribution or at which we make an occasional appearance. Church membership! What does it involve? Sunday's sermon will be devoted to a discussion of this subject. Plan to be present and come to grips with the responsibilities which you have assumed as a member of Saint Luke's. In these days of world tension and turmoil no Christian can afford the luxury of taking his church membership lightly.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Often one hears on a Sunday morning, "Attendance is not so good today. What is wrong?" But so frequently the very people who make this statement one Sunday are not present the next. It is quite obvious that church attendance can be improved and maintained only by the regular attendance of all members. Perhaps church attendance might be increased if each member of Saint Luke's would stop momentarily and ask himself, "How many times did I attend divine services during 1965? Am I personally responsible for a drop in church attendance?"

LUTHERAN CHARITIES OFFERING

Welfare work is the work of the individual Christian; it is the work of the church. It is putting the principle of love to work in everyday living. In this complex age it is not always possible for us, as individuals, to personally serve those in need. Many can be served only by an agency which can give them professional care. We have eight such agencies which are doing for us what we cannot do ourselves. These agencies are our hands of love; they are our responsibility. Each year at this time we have a special offering for the particular work they are doing for us. The enclosed envelope is for your gift of love. Make yours a generous gift because the need of the agencies listed on the offering envelope are great. We regret that the Wheatridge Christmas seals, which we usually mail to you at this time, have not arrived in time for this mailing. Should we receive them, we shall enclose them in a future mailing.

COFFEE HOUR RECEPTION

On Sunday, December 5th, immediately following the service, there will be a Coffee Hour Reception for the new members. The reception will be in the second floor lounge of the Parish House. This will afford all an opportunity to become acquainted with our new members and to personally welcome them into our midst.

SAINT NICHOLAS PARTY

On Sunday evening at 5:30 P.M. the 6th annual Saint Nicholas Party will be held. This is an evening of good Christian fellowship and an opportunity to become closer acquainted with your fellow-members. If you have not made your reservation, please telephone the church office when you read this. Prior reservations make it possible for the young adults to plan the best possible program for us.