

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

N E W S L E T T E R

Lent

1966

Lent, which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 23rd, is more than a period of time on the calendar. Lent is a privilege. Lent is an opportunity. For the Christian, Lent ought also be a spiritual obligation, one in which we take the emphasis off self and personal convenience and place it directly on Christ, the Author and Finisher of our redemption.

Wednesday evening services during Lent are traditional in the Lutheran Church. As a mere tradition they are, of course, worthless. As a spiritual experience, however, they are important and invaluable to the development of our faith, because they give us another opportunity to take a meaningful look at the Passion of Christ.

Ours is a day of indifference and confusion, in which Christianity has been downgraded and Christ's suffering and death on Calvary made of little significance in day by day living. In our Wednesday evening services, we hope to place all the emphasis on Christ and truly meditate on His passion, meditate in the sense that we identify ourselves with it and thus bring the Christ of the Cross right into the middle of 1966.

Without fail and using no excuses whatsoever, let us all reserve the Wednesday evenings of Lent for Christ. The services begin at 7 p.m. Certainly it ought not be too difficult to arrange our schedules to reserve this hour for the Savior, who from the Cross cries out to us, "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?"

PASTOR'S DISCUSSION GROUP

Each Wednesday evening, directly after the Lenten service, there will be an informal discussion of the fundamental teachings of our Christian faith. This is not only an opportunity for people unfamiliar with the Lutheran Church to learn about it, but it is also an opportunity for those who have been in the church for some time to rethink the significance of their faith in terms of today's living.

DAILY SELF DENIAL OFFERING

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a Daily Self Denial Folder for your special Lenten Offering to your church. Though the folder itself suggests a contribution of ten cents a day, perhaps you will not be able to do that. However, perhaps you will want to and are able to make a greater contribution. The amount is, of course, not the important thing, but the day-by-day prayerful gift to Christ as an expression of our love for Him is important. Use the enclosed folder in conjunction with your daily devotions.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of communicant members was held on Thursday, February 17th. If for some reason or another you were unable to attend, copies of the ANNUAL REPORT may be obtained by calling the church office. The report, though not all inclusive, gives a good insight into our work, our problems, our responsibilities and our opportunities.

THE CHOIR

In making annual reports there is always the danger of overlooking some important phase of our work. This year was no exception. Nowhere in the report was any reference made to the excellent work of our choir under the able leadership of Mr. Ben Akerley. Saint Luke's has a choir second to very few. We are extremely fortunate to have a group of volunteers who give unselfishly of their time and service, and contribute so much to the beauty and inspiration of our worship services. To Mr. Akerley and the choir are due the thanks and appreciation of the entire congregation. Thank you and God bless you for the service of love you are rendering your Savior and your church.

CULLED FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

Attendance for 1965 was down about 10%. Did you perhaps contribute to this decrease?.....223 different youngsters were involved in our Open House Program; 43 adults served as leaders, along with 7 teenage helpers.... The Treasurer tells us that we will need an increase of 15% in envelope contributions to meet our 1966 budget.....The Sunday School feels the increasing transient nature of the community. 40 new pupils were placed on the register, 47 dropped. In all more than 200 children were served during the year.....Both the Ladies' Aid Society, which meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 12:30 noon, and the Dorcas Guild, which meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:45 p.m., invite the women of the church to enjoy with them meaningful and planned programs of Christian growth and Christian service.....Mrs. Bendewald invites volunteers to serve in a planned Study Hall-Tutoring program for the children of the church and the community. The time will be 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Special talents are not essential, but love for and appreciation of children, combined with a concern and a willingness to serve, are the essential qualities.

BOY SCOUTS

Saint Luke's sponsors one of the finest troops in all New York City. This is not our evaluation, but that of the Boy Scout Council. At present 52 boys are in the troop, of which Mr. Ed Johnson is the Scoutmaster. On Friday, February 11th, the troop celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special dinner which was prepared by the mothers and served by the boys. There were approximately 150 boys and parents present. We congratulate the boys on their anniversary and thank them for a splendid evening.

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NEWS LETTER

Holy Week
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From the throne of His Cross Christ calls out to us, "Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by?" Tragically, to many people Holy Week means nothing at all, except perhaps a day off from work on Good Friday. To the Christian, however, Holy Week means many additional opportunities to worship the Christ, to draw closer to Him, and to rededicate self to Him. To the Christian Holy Week means another week of grace to contemplate the great act of our redemption, wherein we take a good look at ourselves and a long look at the love and sacrifice of Christ on our behalf. This look will show us not only that there is much to be desired in us, but also our great need of Christ in today's world.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Palm Sunday in the 11 A.M. service and on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in the 7 P.M. services. It is hoped and prayed that each and everyone of our members will receive the Sacrament of Christ' body and blood, at least once during these days. Some of our people will take advantage of the opportunity more than once. However, all of us should kneel at least once at the altar of our church and rededicate himself to the Christ Who suffered and died for us and Who gives Himself to us in the Sacrament. We need the power of Christ in our everyday lives in order to meet our responsibilities as Christians in today's world.

NOON DAY SERVICES

The 31st Annual Noon Day Services will be conducted during Holy Week. Monday through Thursday the services begin promptly at 12:15 noon and close promptly at 12:45. On Good Friday a Three Hour Service beginning at 12 noon will be conducted.

A number of our people have expressed apprehension about attending evening services, this in spite of the fact that the Times Square area is one of the safest parts of New York City at night. With the Noon Day Services it will be interesting to see whether the expressed apprehensions were just an excuse or whether people will take advantage of the day-time services.

ACOLYTES

For some time the lighting of the candles on the altar for our services has been done in a rather slipshod manner. There has not been too much meaning to it, whereas actually there is a real symbolic significance of light emanating from the Cross and spreading out into the lives of worshippers, into the life of the community. In order to correct this, the Church Council resolved to introduce the practice of using an acolyte and making the lighting and extinguishing of the candles part of the regular worship. Teenage boys will be vested and trained to do this.

EASTER OFFERING

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a special Easter Offering envelope. Whether you use this Easter envelope or the Easter envelope included in your regular packet of Weekly Offering Envelopes is not important. However, the fact that you do use an Easter Offering Envelope is important. Your Easter Offering is an opportunity to show your love for Christ and support the work He has given us to do at Saint Luke's. Your church depends on a generous Easter Offering on the part of all of her members. Again we must emphasize all members and not just a few.

STUDY HALL-TUTORING

Each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. a Study Hall-Tutoring program is conducted for the children of the community. Many of these children have real problems with their school work, and unless they are given special help at this time they are tomorrow's potential school dropouts. Some of these youngsters respond readily to the love and attention of an adult and reflect this in their entire attitude toward school and life in general. Some of these youngsters need only to gain confidence in themselves, which they can receive from a concerned adult. This program needs a number of volunteers because, at most, one adult cannot effectively handle more than two youngsters at the same time. In order to assist in this program, we need not only the big brother or sister relationship, but also the mother and dad, the grandmother and grandfather relationship. In other words, we need volunteers from all age groups within the church. Especially do we need men. Speak to Mrs. Judith Bendewald and volunteer two hours a week, four hours a month or whatever time you feel you can give these youngsters in the name of Christ, Who says, "Whatever you do for the least of these my brothers, you do for me."

A BLESSED EASTER

May these Holy Week days be a rich and fruitful spiritual experience to all of you. May we die with Christ on Calvary and rise again to newness of life with Him on Easter Day. May the Risen and living Christ be with each of you and take possession of you, making you equal to all of life's daily demands. A blessed Easter to you!

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N E W S L E T T E R

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ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, October 2nd, Saint Luke's will observe her 116th Anniversary and give thanks to Almighty God for His grace in guiding her through many social and cultural changes and enabling her to uninterruptedly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At times our problems have been overwhelming but somehow the Lord has always supplied us with the grace we have needed to carry on and serve our fellowman.

Sunday's service will be a service of rededication with the celebration of Holy Communion. We will thank God for the blessings of the past and give ourselves to the responsibilities and challenges of the present. Our total commitment to Christ is essential if we are to fill our mission in today's world.

THERE'S POWER IN THE BIBLE

There is far more power tucked away in the pages of the Bible than any of us realize. It's an untapped spiritual resource, which is largely wasted, because we have not discovered it for ourselves. Rediscovering the Bible will be the general theme of our sermons this fall. Each Sunday I hope to preach on a different book of the New Testament, endeavoring to capture its general theme or some great truth it proclaims. At the same time I invite all to begin a concerted Bible reading and studying program, taking at least one book a week and becoming thoroughly familiar with it.

This fall I will concentrate on some of the Epistles, which I hope will become more meaningful to us as we read them in conjunction with the Sunday morning preaching schedule. Through the Bible God speaks to us and the needs of our daily lives. It is only as we listen for God's voice that we will hear His special message for us.

SCHEDULE OF SERMON TOPICS

October 2nd	"Fellowship at Work"	Philippians
October 9th	"When Life Harasses You"	1st Peter
October 16th	"An Aggressive Faith"	Jude
October 23rd	"Spiritual Maturity"	Hebrews
October 30th	"By Grace, Not Attainment"	Ephesians

November 6th	"Faith's Certainties"	1st John
November 13th	"Stop Playing Christian"	James
November 20th	"God's Final Triumph"	1st Thessalonians
November 24th (7 PM)	"Gratitude, What Is It?"	Thanksgiving
November 27th	"Who Is This Christ?"	Colossians
December 4th	"An Appeal to Love"	Philemon
December 11th	"Christmas Giving"	Matthew
December 18th	"The God of Christmas"	John
December 18th	Candlelight Carol Service	7:30 P.M.
December 24th	"When Wise Men Become Unwise"	11:00 P.M.
December 25th	"The Infant Christ Speaks"	
January 1st	"God's Priority"	John

Unless otherwise stated, the time of these services is 11:00 A.M.

SPANISH MISSIONARY

On Sunday, October 23rd, at 4:00 P.M., here at Saint Luke's, Mr. Eduardo Llerena will be ordained into the Holy Ministry and commissioned as Missionary at Large by the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Pastor Llerena is being assigned by the District to do full-time work among the Spanish-speaking people of our community. Pastor Llerena returns to us after more than a year of advanced study at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. We welcome him back and we wish him the Lord's richest blessing in his work.

BUILDING REPAIRS

By the time you read this, our extensive painting program for this season should be finished. Early in the summer the chapel-auditorium was completely redecorated. As this is being written, the hallways of the Parish House, the second-floor lounge, along with several smaller rooms, are being painted. The total cost of this is over \$3000. In addition, \$1200 worth of necessary work is being done on the organ. In all, approximately \$5000 is being spent to clean up our building and keep it in good repair. This is not a budgeted expenditure, but an extraordinary one. Though it is a large amount of money, it can be made small as we all share the bill together. Use the enclosed Birthday Offering Envelope for your special offering to help defray these extraordinary expenses. A generous contribution at this time will avoid a deficit at the end of the year.

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

The Spiritual Life Committee is planning a community action program which will involve not only the adults of the community, but also a large number of our own members. The committee will present the program at the various organizational meetings during October and at a SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR to be held on Sunday, October 9th, following the regular morning service. It is an exciting and challenging program. Your interest and help are needed.

URGENT NEEDS AT SAINT LUKE'S

More members in church every Sunday.....the daily prayers of all members for the pastor, the staff, the officers, the organizational leaders, the work of the church in general.....3 more Sunday School teachers..... a number of volunteers for the choir.....volunteers for the various children's programs.....men and women who will serve as receptionists at the door in the Parish House for 3 hours an evening.....people to escort patients at Roosevelt Hospital one Sunday morning a month to the Lutheran Chapel service in the hospital (consult Mrs. Hahn).....volunteers for our new community action program for adults.....more good, usable clothing for the Lutheran World Relief and community needs.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

This past summer Saint Luke's conducted a Day Camp program for the children of the community. This was an Anti-Poverty program and funded by the Federal Government. 135 different children were served during the summer by a staff of 24 people. Four Roman Catholic nuns worked as volunteers, two coming from the Albany area, one from Yonkers and one from the community. A fifth nun was a paid staff member.

Three mornings a week the group met at the church; 3 afternoons a week were spent in the playgrounds and on the streets recruiting children and organizing activities; one day a week was a beach trip; and the other an experience-expanding trip to the zoo, a state park, a lake, a nature hike, etc.

It was an exciting experience for us at Saint Luke's. A real service was rendered the community and a number of individuals from the poverty group were given temporary jobs. Though hastily conceived and organized under many handicaps, the summer program showed not only the concern of the church for the problems of the community, but also her willingness to work with all people, regardless of race, color or creed, to meet the needs of people and to make this a better place in which to live.

FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Dorcas Guild is planning a trip to our Mill Neck Lutheran School for the Deaf on Saturday, October 22nd. This trip will coincide with the annual, well-attended, Fall Apple Festival at the school. Should enough women, also men, in the church be interested, it might be possible to charter a bus. Speak to Miss Genevieve Savio on Sunday.