

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

N E W S L E T T E R

LENT
1967

"Jesus, I will ponder now
On Thy holy Passion;
With Thy Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Thy suff'ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish."

Unfortunately for many these are only the words of a hymn in our Hymnal. They are neither a prayer nor a way of life. More than perhaps any other year less of our people took advantage of our Wednesday Evening Lenten meditations. For those of us who shared in them, they were a rich spiritual experience and we missed many of our friends at these services.

Holy Week is again here and many special services have been planned. Though these services will never enable us to catch up on lost worship opportunities, they do afford us an occasion to take up our stand at Jesus' side and give Him the love and worship of our hearts. Kneel often beneath the Cross of Jesus to hear again the glorious message that He died for you.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

MONDAY

12:15 P.M. - - - - - "The Offense of the Cross" - - - - - Albert L. Neibacher, D.D.

TUESDAY

12:15 P.M. - - - - - "The Glory of the Cross" - - - - - David Habermas

WEDNESDAY

12:15 P.M. - - - - - "The Peace of the Cross" - - - - - Albert L. Neibacher, D.D.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

12:15 P.M. - - - - - "The Victory of the Cross" - - - - - David Habermas

7:00 P.M. - - - - - "Christ's Continuing Desire" - - - - - Albert L. Neibacher, D.D.

GOOD FRIDAY

12:00-3:00 P.M. - - - - - Meditation on the Seven Last Words - The Three Hour Service

7:00 P.M. - - - - - "The Power of the Cross" - - - - - David Habermas

EASTER SUNDAY

9:30 A.M. - - - - - Children's Service

11:00 A.M. - - - - - "Make Easter Honest" - - - - - Albert L. Neibacher, D.D.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Palm Sunday in the 11:00 A.M. service and on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in the 7:00 P.M. service. Some of our people will take advantage of more than one of these services, and it is hoped that all of our people will receive the Blessed Sacrament, at least once during Holy Week. As you kneel at the altar of your church, rededicate yourself to the Christ Who redeemed you and has called you into the church for service to Him and your fellowman.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES

Though our adult congregation has been conspicuous by its absence, we have had as many as 70 children attending part of our Lenten services prior to their Open House program of activities.

On two of these Wednesday evenings the adults of the congregation were guests of the children at a "coffee hour" and on one occasion the children had a special program for us. It was a genuine joy to see the children in action and to see with what enthusiasm they welcomed and entertained the adults.

EASTER

Easter is without exception the most joyous day of the entire Church Year because it marks our Savior's glorious triumph over sin, death and the grave. Our Christian faith tells us that this victory is also ours. That is the message of Easter. Because many Christians do not truly reflect this fact, the topic chosen for Easter's sermon is - "Make Easter Honest."

EASTER OFFERING

Saint Luke's depends much on the special Easter offering of its members and friends. Enclosed with this letter, therefore, there is an Easter Offering Envelope. Make your offering truly representative of your love for Christ and appreciation to Him for all blessings received.

NEWS ITEMS

For the second time in more than thirty years, the gymnasium in the Parish House has been painted. The next time you are at church, take a look at it. A good job was done. This work was long overdue, especially since the Primary Department of our Sunday School uses the gymnasium for its regular meeting place.

The Lord is very good to Saint Luke's. A bequest has been made to the church to install new carpeting in the main sanctuary. The present carpeting was installed when the church was dedicated in 1923. You will hear more of this project.

At the same time the Ladies' Aid Society is planning to have the pew cushions recovered. They, too, are the original coverings of 44 years ago. Both of these projects will be completed early this summer.

At the February meeting of the Church Council, the Council observed the 80th birthday of Mr. John Theurer and Dr. Louis P. Lochner, both men having served the church well and long, and deserving of this recognition. Prior to the Council meeting Mrs. Neibacher entertained the Council members and their wives at a buffet dinner in the parsonage.

In order to strengthen the Sunday School, the teaches' staff has instituted the system of trying to get two teachers for every class. This will not only enable the teachers to work closer with the individual children, but it should also preclude the possibility of a class being without a teacher on a given Sunday. Have you considered volunteering as a Sunday School teacher?

One of the tragedies of life is that when we get older, we begin to wear out. The same is the case with such things as church organs. Because Ben Akerley is a skillful musician you have not perhaps noticed that about half of our organ is not functioning at present. During the next months extensive repairs must be made on the organ if we want to retain this splendid instrument, which could not be replaced today for less than Fifty Thousand Dollars.

I know all who read this letter deeply appreciate the work of the choir, which has been doing excellent work and adding much to the inspiration of our worship worship services. However, at times I feel the choir is rather lonely sitting in the choir stall and would appreciate additional volunteers. Here is a real opportunity for service.

In recent years our very exquisite Communion vessels have shown wear. The gold plate has worn off and it has become necessary to have them refinished. We hope to have them completed for our Palm Sunday communion.

EASTER GREETINGS

May the risen Christ enter your lives and give you the grace you need to face life's daily demands. The risen and living Savior wants to join us in our journey through life as He did the two disciples walking along the Emmaus Road. A very blessed Easter to you!

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NEWS LETTER
APRIL
1967

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS

Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians is being studied and discussed in the newly-formed Monday Evening Bible Class. The need for such a class was expressed at a recent meeting of the Church Council. Since the hour after church services is inconvenient for many members, it was felt that a class on Monday evenings would allow for wider participation. The Letter to the Galatians was chosen for study because of its expression of the doctrine of justification, as well as the interesting side-lights it throws on the life of Saint Paul. The class will meet on Monday, April 10th, at 7:00 P.M. and then again on April 17th at 6:15 P.M. The 6:15 P.M. sessions will be held prior to meetings of the Church Council. The class will meet about twice monthly as announced in the church bulletin. All members of Saint Luke's and any other interested individuals are most cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

OPEN HOUSE

Our congregation's Open House program is in need of additional volunteer-workers. The Open House program is a service program for children of the neighborhood; volunteers work with them on various recreational and educational activities. At present Open House is "closed" while the staff of volunteers is having a series of training and orientation sessions. On Wednesday, April 12th, at 7:00 P.M., Mrs. Mary McCartin and Miss Elizabeth Stecher will speak to the volunteers and describe the problems and needs of the neighborhood. Mrs. McCartin has for many years been associated with the Hartley House, a neighborhood agency working with children. Miss Stecher is president of the Clinton Planning Council. On April 19th, the Rev. Robert Bauers, Executive Director of Lutheran Social Services will meet with the group and suggest ways of programming to achieve goals. If you would like to learn more about our Open House program and feel you might be interested in working in it, you are encouraged to attend these meetings. If you would be willing to work in Open House and have not been approached on the subject, please, contact Pastor Habermas on this matter.

SPANISH LESSONS

I should like also to call attention to a ten-week course in the basics of the Spanish language which will be offered at Saint Luke's beginning Tuesday, April 11th. The course will be offered in two divisions, mornings, 9:30-12:00, and evenings, 7:00-9:30. This means one may attend either the morning or the evening session (they are identical). The purpose of the course is to provide interested church-people with the basic knowledge of the language as a means of improving our communication and outreach to the Spanish-speaking people of our community. A nominal fee of \$7.00 for the course will be charged. Contact Pastor Habermas if you wish to register for the course.

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N E W S L E T T E R

JUNE
1967

DEDICATION OF NEW CHURCH FURNISHINGS

During the week of June 19th new carpeting and new pew cushions were installed in the nave of the church. This is the first time since 1923 that these two items have been replaced. The carpeting is a memorial to Mrs. Elsa Theurer Husser, who, in a bequest to the church, left sufficient funds to pay for this item. The cushions are a gift to the church by the Ladies' Aid Society. We are grateful to the Lord for these two generous gifts which will enhance the beauty of our church. On Sunday, June 25th, we shall dedicate both items to the glory of God and thank Him for His bountiful mercy to us.

SUMMER SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

On Sunday, July 2nd, we will again begin our summer schedule of services, which will extend through Labor Day Sunday. Duplicate services will be conducted at 9:00 and 11:00 o'clock. Holy Communion will be celebrated on the first Sunday of each month in the 11:00 o'clock service and on the third Sunday in the 9:00 o'clock service. This affords additional opportunity for all who desire to receive the Sacrament more frequently.

SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The regular Open House program for children in the community will continue throughout the summer. However, in order to reach a greater number of youngsters and to serve them more effectively, Tuesday evenings are being devoted to the Junior and Senior High School students and Thursday evenings to the 6 to 12 year old group. The activities will begin the second week of July.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL GIFT

In order to rehabilitate the billiard table and the bowling alleys, Mrs. Elsie Balling Reichert made a very generous contribution to the church in memory of her brother, Mr. Arthur Bolling. Mr. Bolling was very active in the organization thirty years ago of what today is the Young Adult Group of the church. We take this opportunity to thank the donor of this special memorial gift.

If you are interested in remembering some loved one in a special way, you are invited to discuss the matter with Pastor Neibacher.

MISSOURI SYNOD CONVENTION

For the first time in its history the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will have its biennial international convention in New York City. Sessions will be held at the Hilton Hotel from July 8th through July 14th. Visitors are welcome at all sessions, which are scheduled to be held daily from 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 P.M.

CONVENTION COMMUNION SERVICE

In order to make it possible for the 1,500 delegates and more than 2,000 visitors to participate in a special Communion Service, such a service will be conducted at the Cathedral of Saint John The Divine, 112th Street and Amsterdam Avenue on Friday, July 7th, at 7:30 P.M. All are invited to attend this service. Several men of Saint Luke's have been invited to serve as ushers; and Pastor Neibacher has been invited to represent the Inner City Churches of Metropolitan New York and to assist in the administration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All are cordially invited to participate in this service.

DR. C. THOMAS SPITZ

On Sunday, July 9th, the Rev. Dr. C. Thomas Spitz, Secretary General of the Lutheran Council in the United States of America, will be the guest preacher at both of our services. Dr. Spitz is one of America's outstanding Lutheran churchmen and it will be a privilege to have him with us. Since we undoubtedly will have visitors on that Sunday, it is hoped that many of our people will be present.

THE CHOIR

We are grateful to the members of the Choir who are extending their usual schedule to participate in the special service on July 9th. If at all possible, all choir members are requested to participate in this special service. A further announcement to Choir members will be forthcoming from Mr. Ben Akerley.

ORGAN RESTORATION FUND

We are happy to report that at this time slightly more than \$9,000 have been either given or pledged to the Organ Restoration Fund. Though a number of problems have arisen in connection with this project, the Church Council has the situation well in hand and is proceeding with the restoration program. If you have not yet made your contribution or pledge to the Organ Fund, you are encouraged to do so.

INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

For several years our Sunday School children have regularly sent contributions from their Mission Fund to the Institute for the Deaf in Beirut, Lebanon. The institute operates two special schools for Arab deaf children, one in Beirut and the other in Salt, Jordan. Knowing that war, among many other things, makes for a disrupted economy, Mr. Thomas Schaub, Sunday School Superintendent, held a special meeting on June 11th, with the teachers, staff and the children, at which time it was resolved to send \$200 to Beirut to help meet emergency needs. We pray that the Lord will be with our young friends in the Mid-East during these crisis days.

PASTOR NEIBACHER

After having spent several days at Roosevelt Hospital, Pastor Neibacher has again returned to his desk on a limited basis and hopes to participate in the service this coming Sunday, when the new carpeting and pew cushions will be dedicated and when a small group of individuals will be received into church membership.

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NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER
1967

Are you wasting a life? Is that life your life? That will be the subject of the sermon on Sunday, September 10th, when we again revert to our winter schedule of services, which is one service at 11:00 A.M.

For a number of years now the second Sunday of September has been Home Coming Sunday for many people; they have been away for the summer and we have not seen them at Saint Luke's. The vacation season is now over for most people and we must again return to a more normal routine of activities. Sunday's will be a Communion Service and we ask all of our people to rededicate themselves for another year of concentrated and meaningful church activity.

PARENTS OF ALL CHILDREN

On Sunday, September 10th, at 9:30 A.M. the first session of the Fall season of our Sunday School will be held. We look forward to having all of our children and teachers present.

Special graded classes for all age groups, beginning at four years and extending through the teens, are held each Sunday. It is hoped that all will be back and that parents will make a real effort in seeing to it that their children are regular in their attendance. Religious training is an accumulative process. It cannot be a hit and miss proposition.

If any new children are moved into your neighborhood during the summer or if you know of any youngster who is without a Sunday School, invite them to attend Saint Luke's. We will be happy to have them with us.

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS

This Fall the Bible Class will meet at 7:00 P.M. on the second and fourth Monday evening of each month. The group meets for the first time on September 25th and will begin its study of the Gospel according to Saint Mark.

Here is an opportunity for all to participate in planned Bible Study. It is only as we grow in Christian knowledge that we mature as Christians and become adequate to meet life's daily demands. Someone has said that the average Christian sitting in the pew on a Sunday morning has not advanced beyond the 4th or 5th grade level in Bible knowledge. If this is true, perhaps that is why the church is so seemingly impotent in today's world.

Each session of the Bible Class will last from 7:00 to 8:15 P.M. and will include a formal presentation, a discussion period and time for questions and answers. Reserve the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month for Bible Study; yours will be a rich and a rewarding experience.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Organizational life comes to a stand still during the months of July and August and from past experience this has reflected itself in all September meetings. We trust this year will be the exception and that all organizational members will be present for the first meeting of the Fall season. The following is the schedule:

DORCAS GUILD	September 12th	7:45 P.M.
LADIES' AID SOCIETY	" 13th	12:30 Noon
FIRST CHOIR REHEARSAL	" 13th	6:30 P.M.
YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP	" 17th	6:00 P.M.
CHURCH COUNCIL	" 18th	7:00 P.M.
MONDAY BIBLE CLASS	" 25th	7:00 P.M.

Let us make this a good season of church activity, a season which will find spiritual growth in all of us and a greater readiness for service to Christ, our fellowman, the church.

ORGAN RESTORATION

Though the organ has not yet been restored, new materials have been ordered by the organ builder and as soon as these are delivered from the manufacturer he hopes to begin his work. The treasurer reports that monies are coming in steadily but we have not yet reached our original goal of \$12,000. If you have not yet made your contribution to the Organ Restoration Fund, please, do so now.

CHOIR REHEARSAL

The choir rehearses for the first time of this Fall season on Wednesday, September 13th, at 6:30 o'clock. A special appeal is made for more volunteers. You do not need a trained voice; all that is required is a willingness to give a few hours a week on a regular basis in rehearsals. Here is one opportunity in which we can serve.

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N E W S L E T T E R

OCTOBER
1967

117th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

On Sunday, October 1st, we will observe the 117th Anniversary of the founding of Saint Luke's. It will be our special Anniversary Communion Service, when we use our Civil War communion vessels and when our entire membership is called on to rededicate itself to the important and responsible assignment Christ has given us in the Times Square area of New York. The subject of the sermon on Sunday will be "The Family of God."

LUTHERAN REFORMATION

1967 marks the 450th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. We at Saint Luke's will observe this anniversary with a special series of services during the month of October, stressing each Sunday morning some special emphasis of our Lutheran heritage. On Sunday, October 29th, we shall use a special service prepared by the 450th Reformation Anniversary Committee of the Lutheran Council in the United States of America. This is a service which Lutherans throughout our country will be using on that day.

ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

The special Anniversary Offering of thanksgiving will be used to conduct the youth work of our church. Ours is a rather full youth program, which includes the Sunday School, the Released Time School, the Open House program, the Boy Scouts, and the Teen Age group. It is also an all-inclusive program consisting of religious education and recreational activities. Involved in all phases of our youth work is a loyal corps of volunteers. However, in order to do an effective piece of work with our youth, supplies and equipment are absolutely essential. Your Anniversary gift will be used in all phases of our youth work. Your generous contribution is solicited.

BIBLE CLASS

On the second and fourth Mondays of each month a special Bible Class is conducted. The group meets from 7:00 to 8:15 P.M., and is studying together the Gospel of Mark. Here is an opportunity to become better acquainted with Holy Scripture, and to discuss some of the great truths it contains. Come to learn and to share, to grow in knowledge and in grace, so that together we may be better equipped to serve our fellow-man in today's world.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

1967 shows a rather frightening and discouraging drop in Church Attendance. To what shall we attribute this? To carelessness, to indifference, to lack of love of Christ, to lack of proper consideration of our own spiritual needs? Do we think that the worship commandment is less important than the commandments which forbid murder, adultery, stealing? When the Lord gave us the Ten Commandments, He gave us no options regarding their relative importance. The Commandment which says, "Thou shalt sanctify the Holy Day" is as important as any of the other nine.

Each of us ought, therefore, take an honest look at his own church attendance record. Honesty in this matter will show that there is much room for improvement in all of us.

ALL-LUTHERAN REFORMATION SERVICE

On Sunday, November 5th, at 5:00 P.M. the Lutheran churches of Manhattan will conduct a 450th Anniversary Reformation Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 88th Street and Lexington Avenue. This will be an All-Lutheran Service in which Lutherans of all Synods will participate and worship together. It is being planned by the pastors of Manhattan and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance so that a powerful witness may be made. The Rev. Dr. Ralph Loew, a Lutheran Church of America pastor of Buffalo, New York, will be the guest speaker. Plan now to attend this All-Lutheran Service.

GREATER INVOLVEMENT

In all areas of our church activity there is need for involvement on the part of a greater number of our people. Each organization within the church - the Dorcas Guild, the Ladies' Aid Society, the Teen Age group, the Young Adult group - serves a distinct purpose and offers opportunities not only of fellowship, but also of service and spiritual growth.

In every one of our service groups - the Sunday School, the Choir, the Open House program for community children, the Boy Scouts - more volunteers are needed. No special skills are required, only the genuine desire to become involved in the lives of people and to be, as Luther says, "a little Christ" in today's world. Potential Sunday School teachers should talk to Mr. Thomas Schaub, Choir volunteers to Mr. Ben Akerley, Open House volunteers to Pastor Habermas, and Boy Scout volunteers to Mr. Gunter Brocki.

TEACHERS' STRIKE

During the teachers' strike Saint Luke's made its facilities available for special classes for a group of boys and girls from P.S. No. 17. Each morning there was a three hour session in science and mathematics for about 30 children. A science and a mathematics teacher of the school volunteered to conduct the school. Both served without pay. We commend these teachers for their concern and we are happy to have had a share in the project.

THINKING OF OTHERS

During the month of October there will be a special food collection for the children of Bethlehem Lutheran Children's Home on Staten Island. The Home requests metal canned goods - no glass - of meats, fish, poultry, stews, vegetables, soups, fruits and fruit juices.

During the month of November there will be a special clothing drive for Lutheran World Relief.