

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
308 West 46th Street
New York, New York 10036

THE ANNUAL REPORT
1968

THE CHURCH OFFICERS

for

1 9 6 8

Anton W. Koester, Chairman, Board of Trustees
Joseph C. Miranda, President
Gordon Pringle, Vice President
Donald A. Krenz, Secretary
Walter Gausman, Treasurer
Herman Reichert, Assistant Secretary
Walter Schussler, Assistant Treasurer

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

for

1 9 6 8

ELDERS

Dr. Louis Lochner
John Theurer, Sr.
J. Louis Schaefer

TRUSTEES

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Donald Krenz
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DEACONS

Fred Adams
Cecil Agard
Gerald Burkhardt
Paul Koepchen
Herbert Meyer
Thomas Schaub
Walter von Schlichten
Kenneth Walters

THE STAFF

and

OPERATING ORGANIZATION

of

1968

Albert L. Neibacher, D.D., Pastor
David Habermas, Assistant Pastor
Martha Eber, Deaconess
Ben Akerley, Organist and Choir Director
Herman Reichert, Chief Usher
Emma Hahn, Receptionist at Sunday Services
Carlo Lunetto, Building Superintendent
Thomas Smith, Assistant to Building Superintendent
Elsie Koester, President, Ladies' Aid Society
Emma Hahn, President, Dorcas Guild
Richard Bareis, President, Young Adult Group
Gunter Brocki, Boy Scout Scoutmaster
Hugo Foranzi, Cub Scout Master
Anton Koester, Chairman, Advertising Committee
Donald Krenz, Chairman, Auditing Committee
John Theurer, Chairman, Benevolence Committee
Bernhard Schaefer, Chairman, Finance Committee
Gustav Bethauser, Chairman, House Committee
Dr. Louis Lochner, Chairman, Music Committee
Gordon Pringle, Chairman, Spiritual Life Committee
Thomas Schaub, Chairman, Youth Committee
Marie McKee, Chairman, Altar Flower Committee

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The very thorough and excellent reports submitted by Pastor Neibacher and Mr. Gausman, respectively cover the spiritual life and the financial situation at our church. We have experienced in the year 1968 an accentuation of the problems that are inherent to inner city churches throughout the country.

Though our problems are numerous and some of our efforts to improve our situation have not met with complete success....the challenge is still there. We must all face the responsibility that membership in our congregation represents. We cannot remain complacent in this ever-changing world and expect to succeed. We must, as members of Saint Luke's pick up our rightful share of the work involved in an ongoing Spiritual Life program. The day of the "spectator Christian" is long past. The problems existing in our church today do not belong to any one person or group of people....but to all of it's members and must be solved with the unselfish contribution of time and effort of every member.

Our Treasurer's report for 1968 shows a deficit. In spite of trying to keep expenses down, our expenditures exceeded our income resulting in the reported deficit. We are all conscious of the increase in the cost of living and our operation of Saint Luke's simply reflects this fact. We therefore must make some serious effort to increase our contributions or be faced with a deficit for 1969. We should all give some extra thought to this subject and consciously decide if we are making a fair and contemporary financial contribution to our church.

The year 1969 will indeed present a challenge....but, it is a challenge that can be met. We need your help to ensure a successful "tomorrow." In past years we have always been fortunate in respect to receiving your support. We are counting on and must have your active cooperation and participation in His work at Saint Luke's during the year 1969.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Pastor Neibacher and his staff, my fellow-Trustees and Church Council members and to the men and women of the congregation for providing the inspiration and the energy that made so many accomplishments possible in the past year.

Respectfully yours,

JOSEPH C. MIRANDA
President

I.N.I.

THE PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Friends in Christ,

In keeping with the intent and purpose of this meeting, I shall not, as in previous years, endeavor to summarize and analyze the activities of Saint Luke's in 1968. You have in your hand reports of the various arms of the church, along with a detailed financial statement. You are invited to study these reports and ask questions about them. I would, therefore, simply state that during the past year the following official acts were performed:

Baptisms	Infants	6
	Adults	2
Confirmations	Teens	4
	Adults	12
New Members Received		26
Weddings		14
Funerals		18
People Communed		1,673
Total Church Attendance		8,433
Number of Services		78
Average Sunday Attendance		133

With this brief statistical capsulation I would now address myself to the meaning of the church, its mission in today's world and especially how this mission relates itself to Saint Luke's. These, I believe, are fundamental areas which ought to be discussed because they will not only give us a better understanding of our purpose but also a greater sense of our personal responsibility as individual members in the mission of the church.

Perhaps the simplest definition of the church is that, which the Rev. Robert J. Hoyer gives in a publication called THE GATE: "The Church is the body of Christ sent by God into the world." As the body is made up of different members and organs, controlled and kept alive by one heart, so the church consists of different members, each serving his function but taken together they constitute the body, the heart and controlling force of which is Christ. "The Church is the body of Christ sent by God into the world." It is Jesus who calls Christians "sent people". On Easter Sunday the resurrected Christ said to the assembled disciples, "As The Father sent Me, so I send you." Redeemed by Christ we are sent to bring redemption to others.

The Church is God's mission to the whole world, i.e., to the whole of society and to the whole of man. God's mission knows no geographic boundaries, no segmented society, no dichotomy in man. We are sent by God, as Christ showed us during His earthly ministry, to seek the spiritual, the physical, the social, and the economic welfare of people as individuals. By preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments, the responsibility of "sent people" is to tie together the life-work situation of people to the Gospel-faith experience. Taking our example from Christ, the mission of the church is the individual and collective effort to help people gain a fuller sense of their spiritual, moral and social worth as it is reflected in their relationship with God and with others. Thus the mission of the Church is not a mere Sunday morning service affair, but a week long encounter with people. We are "sent people, go people", not merely "come or gathered" people. As Christians ours is an active and a productive, not merely a passive and a receptive role.

The mission of the Church remains constant, though the approaches to that mission may change with the needs of people and the demands of the times. Certainly the approach to the mission of the Church is quite different in the ghetto than it is in suburbia. There is a difference in dealing with the poor and the affluent; there is a difference in dealing with the educated and the uneducated. They present different problems and they must be faced differently.

The mission of Saint Luke's is very unique and quite complicated because at one and the same time it is an area church and a community church. It has a dual responsibility, part of which is to a commuting congregation, for the most part coming from one social, economic and cultural milieu, and the other part of which is the community congregation coming from a somewhat different background and environment. This unique gathering of the saints, where the social, cultural, economic and ethnic gamut is run, constitutes the body of Christ as it exists at Saint Luke's. Individually and collectively then we are sent by God into the world, the world as it exists here in community and the world as it exists in the areas of the commuting members.

Quite obviously this complicates the mission of Saint Luke's because it divides the full thrust of God's "sent people" and diffuses the impact of its manpower. Difficult though our mission may be, I do not agree with some critics, who of recent past have said that we ought forget the commuting congregation and concentrate only on community because it is impossible to do justice to both.

Our mission may be difficult, but, under God, I firmly believe, it is not impossible because, taking our cue from Christ, we, as God's "sent people", have a dual role to play in life. First of all there is the servant role of the church, the active and positive helping of people in need, be it physical, social, economic or spiritual in nature. And then there is the role, which the church in most quarters is only beginning to discover. That is the advocate's role, a role which Christ played during His ministry and which He is now playing as He sits at the right hand of the Father. As God's "sent people" we are not only to serve people in need as we tie together the life-work situation and the Gospel-faith experience, but as God's "sent people" we are also to plead the cause of those in need before the power structures of our social order. Those power structures, needless to say, are not in the area of community, but in the areas of our commuting congregation from which comes the overriding majority of those who make and administer our laws and who control our economic forces. In serving as advocates for people in a community like this the commuting member of Christ's body has a challenging mission and combined with the servant role of God's "sent people" can make the mission of Saint Luke's powerful and meaningful. I, therefore, maintain that the mission of Saint Luke's is not an impossible one; it is uniquely different, but in its difference lies its full potential and perhaps opportunity for even greater service.

Now this is not to say that Saint Luke's does not have its problems. These problems we must continually face and in the discussion, which is to follow, I trust we shall forthrightly address ourselves to them because in facing our problems and in endeavoring to solve them lie the effectiveness and the future of Saint Luke's. As I see them, there are four major problem areas, some of which are interrelated, but let us turn to them.

I would place as perhaps our biggest problem Sunday morning church attendance because worship life is a direct reflection of spiritual life. The individual members of a body are bound to die when they separate themselves from the rest of the body. Cut off one finger and thus separate it from your hand and the finger

will die. The hand will live, though crippled, and function less efficiently. It is little comfort for us at Saint Luke's to know that the 1960s have found a general decrease in church attendance throughout America. We at Saint Luke's with our unique mission cannot afford the luxury of being just an average church and see our Sunday morning church attendance drop from an average of 225 in 1960 to an average of 133 in 1968. As members of "the body of Christ sent by God into the world" we need to be a worshipping people because in worship we witness to our faith, receive and give mutual inspiration and strength, and together learn God's will for us as a people in mission.

In facing the problem of church attendance let us, therefore, address ourselves to the following questions:

1. To what do you attribute the drop in church attendance?
2. How can we stimulate our people to more regular church attendance?
3. What do you look for in the worship services of your church?
4. How would you change our worship services to reach more people without losing those we now have?

Another problem area, which is of growing concern, is church finances. Though in the same period we have experienced a drop of almost 40% in church attendance, we have seen an increase of 12% in church income. Unfortunately the increase has not kept pace with spiralling inflation and we have experienced deficits three years in a row approximating \$3,000. a year. The 1960s have seen 3 years of surplus income and 6 years of deficits. In the 1960s we have spent \$10,222. more than our income. In analyzing our predicament and seeing in it a clear warning, we discover that in 1968 we had only 177 contributors, some representing husband and wife and thus making the number of people somewhat greater. Of the 177 contributors only 110 contributed on a regular weekly basis, 6 on an annual basis, 31 irregularly and 30 seldomly. Excluding teenagers, who are still in school, and those who are financially unable to contribute there are, at least, 75 to 100 other units that could and should contribute; they have no known reasonable excuse for not contributing. Instead of 110 regular contributors we ought have a minimum of 250.

In facing our financial problem let us, therefore, address ourselves to the following questions:

1. How can we motivate our members to contribute on a regular basis and thus get a larger number of people sharing the financial responsibilities of the church?
2. How does one convince a person that he ought contribute to his church 52 Sundays a year and not only on those Sundays, rare in some instances, he is in church?
3. Are you in favor of introducing the tithe, as some churches have, and granting full membership only to those who contribute 10% of their income?
4. Are you in favor of gradually depleting our Trust Fund to the point where it is exhausted and we are compelled to close our doors?
5. What suggestion do you have for strengthening our financial structure?

Another problem area of the church, as I see it, is involvement in the mission of the church on the part of a greater number of people. Of approximately 400 members only a few more than 100 different individuals are actively involved in the life of the church. This include Church Council, Choir, Sunday School Staff, Ladies' Aid, Dorcas, Young Adults and Volunteers for youth programs. The vast

number of our members are uninvolved and not in direct contact with the spirit and mission of the church. Consequently they miss opportunities for services and fellowship and growth; theirs is a passive and receptive role.

In view of the problem of this lack of involvement let us, therefore, address ourselves to the following questions:

1. What approach would you use to get more people involved in the life and mission of the church?
2. Do you think our organizational life should be restructured with different emphases to interest and challenge a greater number of people? How would you do it?
3. Do you see areas where the church ought be functioning where it is not?
4. In revitalizing the Spiritual Life program, which will have as its goals the reactivation of inactive members and the winning of new, what role will you play?
5. In our outreach to others where do you feel the emphasis should be placed?

Still another problem area of Saint Luke's, as I see it and as has been shown in our Cabinet meetings, is one of communication. In a church like ours, there is not only the scapegoat generation gap - and it exists here - but also the cultural, social and economic gap. Coming from different backgrounds people quite naturally think and respond to life situations differently; communication is not always an easy thing. Understanding, patience and the willingness to listen to opinions and ideas, which may be different than ours, is an absolute essential if communication is to flow, if gaps are to be bridged and if a oneness in mission is to be established. In Christ we are all one; through Christ our differences can be resolved; and with Christ our mission can become one.

I believe a beginning has been made in breaking down the barriers of communication by the introduction of cabinet meetings, at which meetings the officers of the various functioning arms of the church meet with representatives of the church council and the staff. A new voice has been added to these meetings, namely, the voice of the women of the church, who under the present Papers of Incorporation and the Constitution of Saint Luke's do not have a legal, decision binding voice. This new voice is helping to bridge some communication gaps which exist.

In an endeavor to bridge various existing gaps let us, therefore, address ourselves to the following questions:

1. How can we bring about greater and better understanding among the varied peoples who constitute the body of Christ at Saint Luke's?
2. Where do you think the real communication gap lies?
3. Do you think a monthly or semi-monthly News Letter would help eliminate the communication gap? Would you volunteer to help serve on the staff to produce this letter?
4. Do you think the introduction of woman's suffrage, with all its responsibilities, would help bridge the communication gap?
5. Do you think there ought be special discussion groups in the church, these groups to meet on a regular basis to discuss special phases of our mission?

In analyzing our trouble spots, as I have endeavored to do, we must be ever mindful of the love and mercy God has year after year bestowed upon us. With His grace we have weathered many difficult and frightening periods in the past and with His guidance and direction we can and should be objective as we face our present problems. Being honest enough to face our weaknesses, let us have the courage and the will to do all within our power to correct them and consequently build the future on the strength that, under God, are now ours.

Yours in Christ,
ALBERT L. NEIBACHER

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Respectfully yours,

JOSEPH C. MIRANDA
President

YOUTH REPORT

Youth work at our congregation has many facets. It includes Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, the Sunday School, released-time classes of religious instruction, teenage discussion groups.

A very active program of our congregation is Open House. This program is a Wednesday evening recreational program for all children of the community between the ages of six to twelve years. Aiming to impart wholesome patterns of living in the children of our community, the program is staffed not only by members of Saint Luke's, but also by members of Lutheran Student Federation and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Activities include basketball, dodgeball, bowling, cooking, arts and crafts projects, and other games. Currently, some 40-50 youngsters attend weekly. About a dozen volunteers are presently involved.

Another area of youth work that is very active is that of teenage programs. Beside Teen Bible Class and Boy Scouts, our congregation sponsors activities for teens of the community on Friday evenings. Basketball, pool, bowling, checkers, chess, and listening to records are the favorite activities. About 50 teenagers show up for these activities each Friday. They are generally enthusiastic, well-behaved, and interested in getting together and "doing something."

Next month a teenage weekend retreat is being planned. Teenagers from Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church, True Light Lutheran Church, and our own congregation would participate. They would spend the weekend of March 14-16 at Camp Wilbur Herrlich some 50 miles north of New York. It is hoped that discussions, recreation, and group work and worship would help to build up the spirits of our teenage members and provide them with a meaningful experience. It is the first time in some years that such a weekend has been tried at our church.

Youth work at Saint Luke's would not be possible without the cooperation and support of a large staff of capable and dedicated volunteers. All who directly or indirectly are involved in this work deserve our thanks and appreciation. In giving of their time and energies they are rendering an incalculable service to our youth. They are also learning much about human nature and becoming sensitized to the needs of others and discovering that in giving of ourselves we find ourselves. Saint Luke's youth work deserves our whole-hearted support and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID HABERMAS

THE DEACONESS' REPORT

Another year has passed, and one naturally asks, "What has been accomplished?" Actually one cannot, in fact, dare not, measure success in terms of figures; particularly is this true in church work. Several hundred calls were made in the interest of our Sunday School, an extremely important missionary arm of our church. Ours is a changing neighborhood and removals are constant which losses are keenly felt in our Sunday School. Added to this, 95% of our children come from un-churched homes. Although frustrating and often discouraging, we must always keep in mind our Lord's command: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. Here at Saint Luke's we have a veritable "foreign" mission field at our very doors! We must take advantage of every opportunity "to bring them in." Another mission endeavor of our church is the Released Time School held every Wednesday afternoon. We have two classes, grades 3 to 6. It is my privilege to instruct the younger ones.

We at Saint Luke's, situated at the "Crossroads of the World" can expect and do meet with all types of individuals, the homeless, penniless or otherwise. We do give emergency and temporary help, if warranted, and then make every effort to refer the individual or family to a City Welfare Agency for long-term assistance, if called for.

My duties also include sick calling, particularly in hospitals. It is always a pleasure to bring not only spiritual comfort but also a cheerful bouquet of flowers from the altar whenever available.

Working with our two ladies' groups, the Ladies' Aid Society and the Dorcas Guild in helping to arrange programs for fellowship and inspiration, is a pleasant task indeed. Contacting prospects with the hope of gaining them for membership, although not always a successful venture, is a service I enjoy rendering. Our Spanish missionary work, under the able pastorate of the Rev. Eduardo Llerena, affords me opportunities to be of service, and I am happy to be of help to this group.

Routine office work such as keeping accurate records, preparing material for the Sunday program, mimeographing and sending our many hundreds of letters and the "Portals of Prayer" booklet is part of my work also. I pause at this time to thank those kind volunteers who helped with the stamping and filling of envelopes during the year, as well as those who aided in the preparation of this annual report.

May the dear Lord give strength, endurance, and patience to deal with the many problems facing us, so that His Kingdom may prosper and flourish in our midst.

In His service,

MARTHA EBER
Deaconess

MUSIC REPORT

The most noteworthy musical event of 1968 was the near-completion of the restoration of the organ. Work is still being done on the instrument and we are assured that it will be ready before Easter.

Many new anthems were added to the choir's repertory and a consistent program was followed throughout the year of singing two anthems every non-communion Sunday and only one anthem on communion Sundays because of the added length of the service.

A plan was worked out with Pastor Neibacher whereby the offertory anthem each Sunday would be sung only after the offering has been taken. In this way, there is no distraction during the singing of the offertory anthem and the ushers as well as the worshippers can enjoy the anthem more fully. Many favorable comments were made about this innovation.

A bass soloist was added to the group of soloists making a complete quartet. This addition now allows more ambitious works to be performed, works which call for a quartet alternating with the choir. In addition to Louis Birk joining us as bass soloist, Gerda Vanderpoel became our soprano soloist taking the place of Evangeline Resnick, and Irving Hunter joined us as tenor soloist taking the place of Michael Hoel.

The choir membership itself took a considerable upswing in spite of the usual turnover being rather large and we have the consistently largest group we have had in years.

A special effort was made during the Advent and Christmas season to sing carols of many nations and we performed anthems which represented some nine different nations.

All in all, we feel that we had a fruitful musical season and we look forward to a good year in 1969.

Respectfully submitted,

BEN AKERLEY

SPANISH WORK REPORT

In 1968 Spanish work at Saint Luke's moved steadily forward. Every Sunday Spanish services were held at 1:00 P.M. in the chapel auditorium. A Thursday evening Bible Class was begun and is being carried on throughout the year. Services are advertised in "El Diario" and "El Tiempo," two widely-read Spanish-language newspapers.

During the year I made 139 pastoral calls, 113 mission calls, and 13 hospital calls. Besides work here, I am also serving Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in the Bronx and Saint Jacobus Lutheran Church in Queens.

Through our work modest gains have been recorded. During the year 2 adults were confirmed. Our average Sunday attendance was 23 persons. Contact has been established with some 70 families, of which about 20 families respond regularly. An offering to the District Mission Board of \$1,200 was given.

This is reasonable progress when one considers the difficulties of Spanish work in this community. For one thing, most Spanish-speaking people face problems in adjusting to a different culture and are unacquainted with church life as we know it. Also, the rate of mobility of Spanish people in our neighborhood is high. Many of our new members move away before they can make much of a contribution to the life of our congregation.

I am grateful to the staff and membership of Saint Luke's Church for their exceptional co-operation with the Spanish ministry here at this church. I speak also for the Spanish-speaking membership of Saint Luke's in saying that we appreciate the generous use of facilities and spirit of co-operation which prevails. In particular, I would like to thank Miss Eber for her fine co-operation and my wife, who played the organ for our Spanish services.

Respectfully submitted,

EDUARDO LLERENA
Spanish Pastor

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

On behalf of Saint Luke's, I wish to thank all of you for your financial support of our ministry during 1968.

The income and expense report for 1968 is quite similar to the one rendered last year. Our income was about \$9000.00 less than in 1967. This was primarily due to the receipt of some \$7600.00 from the Ladies Aid Society and from a legacy, for the purchasing of new carpeting and cushions, in year 1967. The same accounts for the difference in the expenses.

Income from envelopes, our main source of income, was about \$600.00 less than the previous year. A number of our members increased their envelope offerings. However, poor attendance and the loss of some members, resulted in a net loss for the year.

Although our deficit was about \$400.00 smaller than in the previous year, repeated deficits depleted our cash reserves. It was necessary for us to liquidate \$5000.00 worth of our investments. Although this action supplies us with a necessary working capital, it also decreases our income for the years ahead.

Looking toward 1969, it would appear that we are faced with the same difficulties in trying to meet our expenses. Should any of you find yourself able to make an increase in your giving, it would be greatly appreciated. Some of our members only contribute erratically. There may be some reason for this in some cases. However, I believe some could give on a more regular basis. This would help, not only in balancing our budget, but also, it would provide us with a better knowledge of what we could expect from the congregation.

I again thank you for your support and interest. My thanks are also extended to Mr. Herman Reichert, Mr. Walter Schussler and Mr. William Stocker for their cooperation and for the duties that they performed.

Respectfully submitted,

WALTER GAUSMAN
Treasurer

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES

1968

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>
Envelopes	\$26,721.97	\$27,336.62
Plate Collections	2,588.06	3,949.94
Pew Rent & Memorials	20.00	10.00
Christmas Collection	1,933.25	2,920.50
Easter Collection	2,450.20	2,645.30
Lenten Collection (Noon-Day)	103.45	103.70
Thanksgiving Collection	762.50	689.30
Birthday Collection (118 Anniv.)	1,092.00	774.00
Special Income	1,275.00	610.00
Flowers	644.00	675.00
Devotional Booklets	146.75	154.70
Initial Offering	146.45	180.55
Youth Program	10.00	---
Boy Scouts	200.00	25.00
Received for Special Purposes	121.49	8,694.30
	<u>\$38,215.12</u>	<u>\$48,768.91</u>
Income from Investments	<u>17,585.93</u>	<u>16,071.74</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$55,801.05	\$64,840.65

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$34,220.20	\$34,307.07
Travel Allowance	1,500.00	1,500.00
Retirement & Medical Payments	3,446.98	1,625.51
Printing & Stationery	1,510.11	2,113.65
Insurance	3,257.10	3,210.19
Heating	2,369.43	2,635.35
Gas & Electric	1,212.68	966.59
Repairs and Replacements	3,064.64	4,337.95
Telephone	1,453.86	1,355.61
Postage	656.45	691.31
Advertising	786.12	946.85
Devotional Booklets	234.30	234.30
Flowers	898.00	883.00
Choir Music	202.49	288.64
Envelope Expense	104.87	86.21
Youth Program	161.90	308.05
Boy Scouts	705.60	275.00
Spanish Ministry	300.00	300.00
Special Expenses & Contributions	241.49	487.03
Bank Custodial Charges	440.70	422.37
Sunday School	200.00	100.00
Cleaning & Maintenance	432.77	779.62
Sunday Coffee Hour	108.78	---
Miscellaneous	1,186.16	1,570.81
Disbursements for Special Purposes (Includes amount Ladies' Aid paid for cushions)		8,694.30
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$58,694.63</u>	<u>\$68,119.41</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>55,801.05</u>	<u>64,840.65</u>
DEFICIT	\$ 2,893.58	\$ 3,278.76

COLLECTIONS FOR OTHERS - 1968

Missions	\$ 4,270.10
American Bible Society	17.50
American Lutheran Publicity Bureau	25.00
Association for Works of Mercy	20.00
Bethesda Lutheran Home, Wisconsin	25.00
Christmas Seals-Atlantic Dist. Welfare	1,267.00
Concordia Collegiate Institute, Bronxville	50.00
Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund	100.00
Lutheran Child Welfare Association	79.71
Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute	50.00
Lutheran Education Society	25.00
Lutheran Friends of the Deaf	329.00
Lutheran Hospital of Brooklyn	70.00
Lutheran Hour	225.00
Lutheran Laymen's League	25.00
Lutheran Medical Center, Brooklyn	50.00
Lutheran Social Services	110.00
Lutheran University Ass'n Valparaiso	100.00
Lutheran Welfare Ass'n of Jersey City	120.00
Lutheran Welfare Council	50.00
New York Bible Society	67.50
Project Hope	100.00
Wartburg Home for the Aged	139.00
Wartburg Lutheran Orphan Farm School, Mount Vernon, N. Y.	100.00
Wheatridge Foundation	<u>26.00</u>
	\$ 7,440.81

MEMORIAL WREATHS - 1968

\$ 275.00

ORGAN FUND 1967 & 1968

Receipts	\$ 11,763.97
Disbursements	<u>7,187.00</u>
Balance on Hand 12/31/68	\$ 4,576.97

SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS AND MEMORIALS

One of the great privileges which has been bestowed upon St. Luke's congregation is that of sharing with those who have been bereaved, in the commemoration of their loved ones. We record herewith the names of those who are memorialized through the gifts of their family and friends to St. Luke's Lutheran Church during the years 1923 through 1968.

1923 Catherine Karsch
1927 J. Louis Schaefer
1932 Bernhard Karsch
1942 Adele Henning
1946 Sebastian & Msrgaretha Dorfmueller
1951 Annie L. Hohns
1952 Henry & Katherine Puckhaber
1953 John Dettmer
1954 Alfred M. Grizzle
1955 Louisa M. Nusskern
1955 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1956 Anton & Marie Koester
1957 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1958 Miss M. Scommodau
1958 Anna Ahrens Menge
1958 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1959 Mrs. Minna Theurer
1959 Matilda Schlobohm
1959 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1960 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1961 John & Anna Marie Theurer
1961 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1962 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1963 Sophie Schaefer
1963 Margaret Schroeder
1963 Bernhard & Catherine Karsch
1963 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1964 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1965 Elsa Husser
1965 Elsie Eiermann
1965 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1966 Elsa Husser
1966 Charles Unger
1966 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1967 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1967 Henry J. Koester
1968 Lottie B. Steinbach
1968 Marie Schweizer
1968 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer

MEMORIAL WREATHS - 1968

Eleanor Koepchen
Marie Roepe
Elizabeth E. Schmitt
Olga Schussler

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Ten classes are in session every Sunday morning for children of pre-school age up through a teenage bible class. The fact that the School was able to carry out its usual program during the entire year of 1968 without a Sunday School Superintendent is a tribute to the devotion and loyalty of its teachers - both regular and substitutes. It would be remiss not to list them all in this report.

Mrs. Joan Devlin	Mrs. Patricia LaPointe	Mrs. Mildre Sanso
Mr. Joseph Gapper	Miss Lillian Lee	Miss Nancy Sanso
Pastor Habermas	Miss Yvonne LeMoine	Mr. Thomas Schaub
Miss Virginia Herman	Mrs. Jo Ann May	Miss Nancy Steinbiss
Mr. Calvin Kiiffner	Mr. Mel Meisinger	Miss Dorothee Wagner
Mr. John Koenig	Mrs. Laura Neibacher	
Miss Darlene Krug	Miss Sue Neibacher	

Again this year we lost a number of children as families move from the community. Our work was also somewhat hampered this fall by the public school strike. The youngsters' daily routine of attending school was disrupted and this seemed to affect their attendance on Sunday mornings as well. The following is a report of the 1968 attendance record:

Registered as of 12/31/67	106
New pupils during 1968	23
Reinstated during year	<u>1</u>
	130
Dropped from rolls during 1968	<u>46</u>
Registered as of 12/31/68	84
 Average Sunday attendance (including visitors)	 63

A few of the year's highlights: a well-attended Parent-Teachers evening last spring; the annual Sunday School Picnic at Hartly Farm in New Jersey attended by 73 children and 33 adults; and the "Coffee Hour" held after the Candlelight Service for the entire congregation and Sunday School youngsters which was so well received it is certain to become an annual event.

Mr. W. M. Stocker, Sunday School Treasurer, requested to be relieved of this position at the end of 1968, and his resignation was accepted with great regret. The time and effort he gave for almost five years are deeply appreciated. His 1968 report follows on the next page.

It is the fervent hope of every member of the Sunday School Staff that the Church Council will appoint a Superintendent early in 1969.

Respectfully submitted,

GENEVIEVE SAVIO
Secretary

SUNDAY SCHOOL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1968

GENERAL FUND

Balance on hand - January 1, 1968			\$ 361.35
Collections:			
Envelopes	\$ 329.55		
Plate	157.25		
Transfer from Mission Fund	100.00		
Lutheran Church Supply Stores credit	8.75		
Other sources	<u>376.25</u>	<u>971.80</u>	\$ 1,333.15
Expenses:			<u>1,031.69</u>
Balance on hand - December 31, 1968			\$ 301.46

MISSION FUND

Balance on hand - January 1, 1968	\$ 489.39		
Collections for 1968	<u>169.00</u>	658.39	
Disbursements:		<u>300.00</u>	\$ 358.39

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Bank balance as of January 1, 1969:

General Fund	301.46
Mission Fund	<u>358.39</u>
Total	659.85

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. STOCKER
Treasurer

LIST OF DONORS TO ORGAN FUND

1967 and 1968

Mrs. Martha Adams
Mrs. William Baader
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Balling
Mr. & Mrs. Jean Baridon
Mr. John Becker
Mr. & Mrs. M. Bendewald
Mr. & Mrs. Gustav Bethausser
Mr. Henry Bramer
Mr. & Mrs. Gunter Brocki
Miss Alice Bunz
Mr. Raymond Burdi
Mrs. Henrietta Burger
Mr. & Mrs. Gerals Burkhart
Mrs. Virginia Callahan
Miss Mabel Cobleigh
Miss Katherine Coester
Mr. & Mrs. William Cooke
Miss Emilie Cordes
Mrs. Anna Crosmon
Mr. & Mrs. J. Cunningham
Mrs. Elizabeth Derr
Mrs. Joan M. Devlin
Miss H. Doll
Mrs. Lillian Dooley
Miss Edith Dorfmueller
Mr. & Mrs. F. K. Drexler
Miss Arlene Dunlop
Miss Martha Eber
Mrs. Martha Ehram
Mrs. Mathilda Elgar
Mrs. Lucille Fager
Mrs. Velaire Farevaag
Miss Evelyn Fischer
Mr. Rudolf Fischer
Mr. Henry J. Fitzgibbon
Miss Martha Fehre
Mrs. Olga Frahm
Mr. Joseph Gapper
Miss Christine Gausman
Mr. Walter Gausman
Mr. Harold Gearing
Miss Dorothy Gieschen
Mr. Alfred Gobber
Mr. Richard Gobber
Mrs. Anna Goldberg
Mr. Samuel Graham
Mrs. Alfred Grizzle
Miss Ardelle Grosz
Miss Sophie Gudehus
Rev. David Habermas
Mrs. Emma Hahn
Miss Virginia Hall
Miss Dorothy Hamann
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Hansen
Mrs. August Hauff
Mrs. A. Hebert
Miss Judith Heinsburg
Miss Virginia Herman
Mrs. Patricia Hurbaugh
Mr. Howard Johnson
Mrs. Adda Kahlow
Miss Rhode Kluge
Mr. John Koenig
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Koepchen
Mr. & Mrs. Anton Koester
Mrs. Elsie Koester
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Krenz
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kuhle
Mrs. Charles Kuonen
The Ladies' Aid Society
Mrs. Gloria LeMoine
Mrs. L. Gordon LaPointe
Mr. Louis Lengeman
Rev. & Mrs. Eduardo Llerena
Dr. & Mrs. Louis Lochner
Mrs. Mabel Louie
Miss Ethel Mahnken
Miss Martha Malina
Mr. & Mrs. Gustav Matheis
Mr. & Mrs. Campbell May
Mrs. Walter McArdle
Mrs. T. L. McGannon
Mrs. Marie McKee
Miss Mabel Mehtens
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Meyer
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Miranda
Miss Louise Mory
Miss Lena Mory
Miss Mary Mory
Mr. John Musil
Miss Catherine Neher
Rev. & Mrs. A. Neibacher
Miss Susan Neibacher
Mrs. Louise N. Peard
Mr. & Mrs. Julius Pelka
Mrs. Elsie Petrasek
Mr. & Mrs. P. Philpott
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Pringle
Mr. Rene Quemere
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Reichert
Mr. & Mrs. A. Rostau
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Rupley
Mrs. Anthony Sanso
Miss Genevieve Savio
Mr. Charles Savoy
Mr. & Mrs. B. Schaefer
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Schaefer
Mr. Thomas Schaub
Mr. & Mrs. J. Schlichting
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schmidt
Miss Dorothy Schnell
Mrs. Clara Schreiber
Miss Eleanor Schreyer
Miss G. Schumacher
Mr. Walter Schussler
Mrs. Laura Seivers
Mr. & Mrs. Adolph Sembler
Miss Blanca Sierra
Mr. & Mrs. Austin Smith
Miss Emma Sonntag
Mrs. Margaret Stegemann
Mr. & Mrs. William Stocker
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Suhr
The Tweddle Family
Mr. & Mrs. J. Theurer, Sr.
Mr. John Theurer, Jr.
Mr. Chris Thomforde
Miss Matilda Tietjan
Mr. Herbert vonSchlichten
Mr. & Mrs. W. vonSchlichten
Miss Dorothee Wagner
Mrs. Kenneth Walter
Mrs. A. Weiman
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Wisch
Miss Joan Wisch
Mrs. Anna Wolklin
Miss Louise Zurmuehl

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

We have a membership of 24, of which several are inactive. Regret to report the loss of Mrs. J. Schussler who was called to her Heavenly Rest. Miss M. J. Tietjen, one of Saint Luke's oldest members, is now residing at the Hill Top House, Pinebrook, New Jersey.

Our treasurer's report lists in detail the gifts made in 1968, so will not go into detail.

We meet the second Wednesday of the month excluding July and August. Our dues, six dollars a year. We bring our mites several times a year for the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Atlantic District.

We plan a special program for each meeting - slides, travelogues, or a guest speaker. In October Rev. David Habermas showed slides and spoke of his experiences in Guatemala.

We visit the sick and remember the shut-ins.

We wish to invite the women of Saint Luke's to attend our meetings, get to know us and become a member so that we may be of greater service to our Lord and the church.

Several officers have attended the Cabinet Meetings called by Mr. Joseph Miranda, the president of our congregation.

My sincere thanks to the officers and members of the Ladies' Aid for their loyalty and cooperation, to Pastor Neibacher and Pastor Habermas for their spiritual help and guidance, also to Miss Eber for all the help she so willingly gives to us.

Respectfully submitted,

ELSIE S. KOESTER
President

LADIES' AID SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT
1968

RECEIPTS

Dues	\$ 114.00
Hostess	12.50
Birthday	24.00
Dinner balance	9.84
John Theurer gift	50.00
Mrs. Kayser gift	14.00
LWML collections	65.50
Interest on investments	1,533.65

\$1,923.49

DISBURSEMENTS:

Almy & Co., Cassock for Pastor	45.68	
Printing	35.30	
W.Y. Bible Society	20.00	
St. Luke's Church, flowers at Easter	100.00	
Sending bandages	2.55	
Church Organ repairs	500.00	
Mrs. Schussler, death contrib. to St. Luke's	10.00	
Concordia film	6.50	
Curtains, stolen from Church	102.00	
Cake	2.00	
Christmas gift, Mrs. Schussler	3.97	
C. Lionetti, Supt.	33.38	
Convention, for Miss Eber - LWML	41.10	
Put into Franklin Savings a/c	500.00	
Spent for Mrs. Kahlow-Convention (paid back by Dorcas in 1969)	15.75	1,418.23
Balance.....		\$ 505.26
Savings Banks Balances 1/1/68		
Franklin Savings Bank	17.47	
" " "	29.47	
Bowery Savings Bank	39.00	85.94
Checking Account Balance 1/1/68		111.33
Total.....		197.27
Capital collections in 1968		
Minna Theurer	30.00	
Olga Schussler	500.00	
C. Koepchen	50.00	580.00
Transferred into Bowery Sav. a/c Schussler bequest		500.00
Total.....		1,080.00
Balance on hand December 31, 1968.....		1,782.53
Savings Bank Interest for 1968.....		17.53
TOTAL.....		\$1,800.06
Savings a/cs	\$1,183.47	
Checking a/c	616.59	
	<u>\$1,800.06</u>	

LADIES' AID SOCIETY OF ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1968

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS:

Balances in Savings a/cs January 1, 1968			
	\$ 17.47		
	29.47		
	<u>39.00</u>	\$	85.94
Bank interest added in 1968			17.53
Deposited toward M. Theurer Fund			30.00
" " Olga Schussler Fund			500.00
" " Caroline Koepchen Fund			50.00
Transferred from checking a/c into Franklin			<u>500.00</u>
		\$	<u>1,183.47</u>
Franklin 399944	\$ 573.62		
" 848627	63.01		
Bowery 891015	<u>546.84</u>	\$	1,183.47

MEMORIAL FUNDS:

Total Memorials received from Ladies Aid, for which we hold:			
Gen. Telephone of Calif. 4 1/2% bonds	\$ 19,825.00		
Standard Oil of California bond	1,000.00		
Atlantic District notes	5,000.00		
3 Savings Accounts above	<u>1,183.47</u>	\$	27,008.47

MEMORIALS

Miss Anna Hochhalter	\$ 600.
Mrs. Catherine Karsch	2,000.
Mrs. Katherine Wendel	200.
Mrs. Minna Gerhardt	200.
Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Brummer	50.
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Groll, Sr.	50.
Mrs. Emilie Scommodau	75.
Bernhard Karsch	2,000.
Mrs. Gustav Zerbst	250.
Frederick Zerbst, Jr.	250.
Mrs. Charles Hohns	500.
Mrs. Louise M. Nusskern	2,100.
Mrs. Susan K. Schaefer	5,000.
Mrs. Marie Koester	45.
Gustav A. Zerbst	500.
Mrs. Anna Menge	672.
Mrs. Elizabeth Schnaars	20.
Mrs. Bertha M. Hartmann	12,000.
Miss Katherine Lengemann	10.
Mrs. Bertha E. Overhage	20.
Mrs. Caroline M. Koepchen	425.
Mrs. Minna Theurer	200.
John Schussler	50.
Mrs. Boyle	35.
Mrs. Olga Schussler	<u>500.</u>

Total Memorials Jan. 1, 1969 \$ 27,752.

Respectfully submitted,
EDITH DORFMULLER
Treasurer

DORCAS GUILD

Unfortunately in 1968 our membership decreased to a now 32 members. We are deeply concerned about the attendance at our monthly meetings which runs about 25% of the membership. We welcome all the ladies of the congregation, and guests, to visit with us and maybe signify their interest by becoming a member, thus bringing new life and new ideas into the Guild. We meet usually the first Tuesday in the month at 7:45 p.m. with a business meeting followed by fellowship period and refreshments.

Our programs have been diversified: sewing garments for children in Vietnam; films on Foreign Missions in New Guinea and the National Convention of 1967 of the L.W.M.L. (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) in Washington, D. C.; Rev. Frederick Hintz, Headmaster of the Martin Luther High School in Maspeth; a wonderful dissertation with piano by our own Organist and Choir Director, Mr. Ben Akerley; and slides and narration by Pastor Habermas of his mission work in Guatemala.

We have served as Escorts at the Roosevelt Hospital the third Sunday of each month; participated in the Saint Nicholas Night; assisted in preparing surplices, gowns and pageant costumes for the Candlelight Service; helped our own Ladies Aid at the Congregational Dinner; made baptismal napkins; hosted our Sunday School teachers, parents of confirmees and Ladies Aid at our now annual Dinner Meeting in May; and inaugurated the "Kitchen Fund" with a Spring Art Show and Coffee Hour.

We collected and remitted \$70.00 to the Red Cross; contributed towards the altar flowers for Palm Sunday and Easter; placed Memorial Wreathes at Saint Luke's for two of our departed members, Miss Marie Roepe and Mrs. Eleanor Koepchen; remembered our ill and our Superintendent at Christmastime; made a donation to the Lutheran Board of World Relief; collected and remitted \$70.75 to the LWML and sent a delegate to the LWML Atlantic Convention in New Haven.

We feel it a privilege to serve Our Lord in such a small way and pray He will continue to bless the Dorcas Guild in the future as He has in the past.

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA K. HAHN

President

DORCAS GUILD
TREASURER'S REPORT
1968

RED CROSS COLLECTION \$70.00

RECEIPTS:

Balance on hand - December 31, 1967 \$ 77.91

Dues	171.00
LWML Mite Box Collections	61.75
Birthday Donations	18.25
Proceeds from Dinner & Food Sold	21.70
Dinner Donation	10.64
Hostess Fees	9.11
Bank Interest	6.07

Total Receipts \$376.43

DISBURSEMENTS:

LWML Mite Box & Quarterlies (\$9.00)	\$ 70.75
Board of World Relief Donation (Rev. Werner Kuntz)	10.00
Martin Luther HS - Donation (Rev. Frederick Hinz)	15.00
Gospels for insertions with childrens' garments - Vietnam	2.65
Altar Flowers - Palm Sunday and Easter	50.00
Memorial Wreaths - Marie Roepe & Eleanor Koepchen	30.00
Material for Baptismal Napkins	2.65
Delegate Expense LWML Convention - New Haven May 1968	29.48
Christmas Gifts	15.62
Social	29.00
Stationery - Art show	2.25
Postage for Officers - Announcements, etc.	30.36

Total Disbursements \$287.76

Balance 12/31/68 \$ 88.67

KITCHEN FUND - 1968

RECEIPTS:

May	\$247.36
June	7.75
Bank Interest	4.84
December	10.00
Church Council	20.00
Total Receipts	\$289.95

DISBURSEMENTS:

Coffeemaker	\$ 29.39
Cutlery	6.91
Total Disbursements	36.30
Balance 12/31/68	\$253.65

Respectfully submitted,
VIRGINIA CALLAHAN
Treasurer

THE YOUNG ADULTS

Our organization offers a weekly Sunday evening meeting, a home-cooked meal at 6:00 p.m., a friendly conversation by candlelight, an informative or entertaining program after dinner or a special outing when we are not having our regular Sunday program.

We try to program our activities to meet the needs and interest of the young person from 18 years and up living in New York City or the greater New York area. We have some members across the country who attend our meetings regularly when they are in the City visiting. Our schedule includes programs of an academic nature with expert speakers in the areas of contemporary problems, such as poverty, anti-semitism, and racial problems as well as programs of an entertaining nature such as our Hallowe'en party or an evening of bowling. Occasionally we plan weekend outings when the entire group goes skiing in Vermont or spends a long holiday weekend together, such as the July 4th outing to Lake George. Activities such as St. Nicholas Night and the Candlelight Service perhaps more than any other single activity, promote a real spirit of cooperation and service to the Church.

Individual members of the Young Adults also actively participate in many other programs sponsored by St. Luke's where they selflessly give of their time and talents to the glory of God's service. Such activities include: Open House, Choir, Teenage program, Sunday School, and Boy Scouts.

We have recently attempted to promote a program of joint meetings with other young adult groups within New York City. The attempts have proved to be very successful and more programs are being planned for the future. In addition to other church-affiliated groups, we have also had several joint meetings with members of the Lutheran Student Federation here in the City.

We, at St. Luke's, have been richly endowed by God with many talented and energetic young people in our organization. Needless to say, the success of our entire year's program would not have been such had it not been for the support, interest, and dedication of the officers, the chairman and members of the various committees, the membership at large, and Pastor Habermas.

We would like to encourage the members of the congregation to extend a warm invitation to young adults whom they think would like to join our group. We would also like to extend an invitation to the congregation to feel free and welcomed to join us in any of our activities or programs. You're never too old - "young" is relative!

Respectfully submitted,

KARIN FREAS

President