

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

N E W S L E T T E R

LENT
1968

WHY LENT?

Basically Lent is completely misunderstood and abused. Many have looked upon Lent merely as a 40 day spiritual exercise during which a moratorium is to be declared on self-indulgence, which moratorium then ends on Holy Saturday with no lasting value to the individual. Actually, the basic purpose of Lent is to prepare the Christian for a rising to newness of life at Easter. Lent is a period for the development of self-discipline and Christian virtues which are to be permanent in the renewed life after Easter. Easter is, therefore, not an end to Lent but merely the beginning of the new life of Lent.

During Lent, as we meditate on the suffering and death of Christ, we ask ourselves the obvious question, "what made the Crucifixion and Death of Christ necessary?" In answering the question, we see not only our personal responsibility and involvement in The Passion, but also the need for us to rise to newness of life. Easter to be meaningful means our resurrection from sin.

LENTEN SERVICES

Again this year we will observe Lent with special Wednesday evening Lenten services. This year these services will begin at 6:30 P.M. Please, note the change in time of service. We believe the earlier hour will be appreciated by all, not only those who go to business and will be able to come to church directly from work, but also those who are hesitant to be out later in the evening. You are invited to come directly from work and use the third floor lounge. Meet your friends there and then attend services with them.

THE SAVIOR ASKS

"Is it nothing to you,
All you who pass by?
Look and see
If there is any sorrow like my sorrow
Which was brought upon me."

This is a question Christ asks all of His followers during this Lententide. Will we watch and pray with Him on the Wednesday evenings of Lent or will we go about our selfish ways and turn our back on Him?

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERMONS

In order to give freshness to the old story of Jesus and His love, several of the Wednesday evening sermons will take on the form of a dialogue between your two Pastors. This is a new form of preaching which is being attempted by many, and we hope to experiment with it ourselves. The continuance or discontinuance

of the dialogue sermon will depend on your response. All sermons will be based on some particular facet of the Passion of Christ which lends itself to such treatment. We trust that with this approach the theme of Lent will become more meaningful to all. The first dialogue sermon will be on Wednesday, March 6th; the subject will be, "The Trial of Love." On Ash Wednesday, February 28th, a service of Holy Communion will be conducted.

WEDNESDAY EVENING OPEN HOUSE

During Lent there will be a change in time for the Wednesday Evening Open House program. The program will begin at 7:30 P.M. instead of 7:00 P.M. and run until 8:45. Though the children will not be with us for part of our Lenten service, a special service is being planned for the children each week to open their program.

LENTEN OFFERING

Saint Luke's depends much on the Special Lenten Offering of its members to meet ongoing expenses, and it is appropriate that during these days, when we remember the sacrifice of Christ on behalf of our sins, that we make some special sacrifice to His work showing our love and appreciation to Him. Use the enclosed Lenten Folder for your special gift of love.

THE PASTOR'S CLASS

Each Wednesday evening, immediately following the Lenten services, the Pastor will conduct a series of informal discussions on the fundamental teachings of the Lutheran Church. Though these discussions are primarily for those desirous of affiliation with us, all are cordially invited. It is good for the strengthening of our faith to continually rethink some of the basics of our faith and how they apply to today's world.

CULLED FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Congregational meeting was held on February 15th; dinner was served by the women of the church and approximately 85 people were present. Interesting facts culled from the meeting.....More than 200 children were served in the Sunday School during 1967.....An average of 60-65 children attend Open House programs on Wednesday evenings.....An average of 50 teenagers attend the Friday evening program.....Including the auxiliary arms of the church, it cost more than \$70,000 to operate Saint Luke's in 1967.....There was an operating deficit of almost \$3,000.....Projected expenses for 1968 show a need for an 18% increase in envelope contributions.....162 members responded to our Organ Restoration Fund and to date have contributed \$11,132.....The organ will be completely restored by Easter.....Church attendance was down in 1967. Did you contribute to the decrease?Saint Luke's is involved in community affairs and making real contributions to the life of the community.

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MAY
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VACATION MONTHS

The vacation season is rapidly approaching and frequently there is a tendency to become somewhat careless about church attendance. Nice weather is a temptation to do everything else but attend church. Needless to say, we need God as much, if not more, during leisure time as we do during the work periods of our lives. Wherever Sunday morning finds us, in the city or in the country, we ought take time out to spend an hour with our fellow-Christians in worship of Him Who never goes on a vacation as far as we are concerned.

During July and August we will again have our summer schedule of services at 9:00 and 11:00 A.M. each Sunday.

DIALOGUE SERMON

On Wednesday evenings during Lent Pastor Habermas and I had a series of dialogue sermons. Since these were met with enthusiastic response, we plan to occasionally use this form on Sunday mornings. This Sunday, May 19th, we plan a dialogue sermon on prayer, which is the designated subject for Rogate Sunday. At the "Coffee Hour" following the service, an opportunity will be given to discuss the sermon. Prayer is, without exception, the greatest untapped spiritual resource available to the Christian and it can be made more meaningful by sharing with one another some of its personal implications.

SPECIAL BOY SCOUT AWARD

Raymond Burdi, a member of our Boy Scout Troop 311, has just received the highest award in scouting. He was given the Pro Deo et Patria (God and Country) Award by the National Council of Scouting through the Lutheran Council in the United States of America. Raymond has been a member of our Sunday School for more than ten years, was confirmed in the class of 1967, has served as an acolyte and been a scout for four years. He received the award only after meeting certain spiritual requirements, giving more than 150 hours of service to his church, and completing a special project in which he pin-pointed on a world map the various mission stations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

On Sunday, May 26th, in our regular morning service, Raymond Burdi will be presented his award in a special ceremony. You will want to be present to congratulate Ray, who is a credit to His Savior, Saint Luke's, and the community.

A FIRST AT SAINT LUKE'S

On Sunday, May 5th, the Dorcas Guild sponsored an Art Show in conjunction with the regular Sunday "Coffee Hour." Approximately twenty different individuals exhibited various pieces of art they had personally created. Included were original oils and water colors, sculpture, ceramics, prize winning photographs, original theatre and costume designs. Between 60 and 70 different items were exhibited. Never did we realize that we have all that talent in the congregation. It is hoped that future Art Shows will bring forth more of our hidden talent.

The Dorcas Guild sponsored the show in order to start a special fund to purchase much needed equipment for the church kitchen.

CONFIRMATION SERVICE

This year's Confirmation Service will take place on Sunday, June 9th. At that time four young people will make their confession of faith in Jesus Christ. It is a good time for all of us to remember and renew our confirmation vows of another year.

SENIOR CITIZENS

In the midtown area of the West Side of New York there is the biggest concentration of Senior Citizens of the City. Many of these elderly people are living alone and most of them on a minimal income. For some time we have felt a responsibility to these people. In conjunction with Project FIND, a government funded agency on the West Side, a Senior Citizen's Club was opened on Tuesday, May 14th. Sixty-two (62) elderly people attended the first meeting, which is an indication of the need for such a program. The group will meet each Tuesday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 o'clock. All Senior Citizens are cordially invited.

ORGAN REPAIR

The rehabilitation of our organ is almost completed and you have undoubtedly noticed the difference. It has been several years since our organist has had the full use of the organ and Mr. Akerley is certainly showing us the potentiality of its beauty. We are grateful to all who participated in restoring our organ. If, by chance, you have not as yet completed meeting your pledge, you are invited to do so at this time.

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OCTOBER
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ADVENTURES IN FAITH

"I must be about My Father's business." That's a statement Christ made when He was 12 years old, but already then He was a mature spiritual being. He knew Who He was, why He was here and where He was going. How about you as you return from your summer vacation and settle down to a more normal routine of activities?

Christ's is an attitude we must cultivate because Church work in the Fall of 1968 cannot be done on a business as usual basis. It must be truly an adventure of faith. Seldom, if ever, has a generation of Saint Luke's members returned after the vacation season to take up its tasks and been confronted with so many perplexing problems, each of which challenges our individual and collective best. The season of 1968-1969 could well be one of the more trying and telling in the history of Saint Luke's. Many problems must be faced; many questions must be asked; many solutions must be found; and for this much faith must be exercised.

In order that we might be about our Father's business we must develop the kind of mature faith these days require. During the weeks to come I shall endeavor to explore with you the meaning of a vital and viable faith as our time demands. The Sunday morning preaching schedule, as outlined below, will be devoted to various aspects of faith. In exploring the subject with you, I hope not only to strengthen my own faith and make it equal to the demands made on me, but I also, with God's help, to strengthen yours. However, each of us must work at developing our own faith; we must feed it by regular attendance at our worship services and by frequent reception of the Lord's Supper.

SERMON TOPICS

October	6th	Adventures in Faith	Holy Communion
	13th	Man's Need of Faith	
	20th	What is Faith?	
	27th	The Making of Faith	
November	3rd	The Development of Faith	Holy Communion
	10th	From Doubt to Faith	
	17th	The Basis of Faith	
	24th	The Object of Faith	
December	1st	Obstacles to Faith	Holy Communion
	8th	The Challenge of Faith	
	15th	The Cost of Faith	
	22nd	The Child of Faith	
	29th	The Promise of Faith	
January	5th	The Results of Faith	Holy Communion
	12th	Prayer and Faith	
	19th	Human Relations and Faith	
	26th	Eternity and Faith	

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

On Sunday, October 6th, the 118th Anniversary of the founding of Saint Luke's will be observed with a special Communion Service. This is not a particularly significant anniversary, but it is one which the present generation of members is privileged to observe. Remembering the past can serve as a source of inspiration, especially when in Holy Communion we remember the Lord's suffering and death and when we remember the sacrifices our fathers made when they presented the communion vessels we use on Sunday. It was during the middle of the Civil War; America was torn by bloody divisiveness; New York City was experiencing the draft riots. Uncertainty and tension and violence were as much a part of 1863 as they are of 1968. Yet our fathers neither complained nor went into spiritual hibernation. They rejoiced that they were alive, rallied their small forces and brought a sacrificial gift to their church, namely the Communion Vessels we use on Anniversary Sundays. Communion meant something to our fathers; it afforded them an opportunity for spiritual renewal and rededication to the solemn task of bringing Christ to the West Side of New York. Can we of this generation do anything less?

ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

Thank Offerings to Almighty God for blessings received have been part of the religious life of religious men from the beginning of time. In a spirit of gratitude men have endeavored to show their appreciation to God. 1968 ought be no exception, for in spite of all the confusion and tension, we have been singularly blessed. Unfortunately, our gratitude does not always keep pace with our blessings. As of August 31st our Treasurer reports an operating deficit of more than \$3,000. In order to help eliminate this deficit you are asked to use the enclosed Offering Envelope. Make yours a genuine Thank Offering and actually representative of the blessings you have received as an individual and as a member of Christ's body at Saint Luke's. 1968, as the times indicate, calls not for giving as usual but for sacrificial giving.

GOD'S SPOKESMAN IN TROUBLES TIMES

This will be the theme of a Bible Study and discussion group, led by Pastor Habermas on six Monday evenings in October and November. Meeting from 7 to 8:15 P.M. the group will study and discuss selected portions of the Book of Jeremiah. The schedule of topics is as follows:

October	7th	Called to Speak Out	chapter 1
	14th	Superstitious Worship	chapter 7
	28th	Pen and Pen-knife	chapter 36
November	4th	A Suffering Prophet	chapters 37-38
	11th	An Exiled People's Responsibility	chapter 29
	25th	Promises of Salvation	chapters 31-32

You are invited and urged to come and take part in the discussion.

A BUSY SUMMER

Saint Luke's was a truly busy place this past summer. Five afternoons a week a group of Senior citizens met in our lower auditorium. There were anywhere from 15 to 85 elderly people in attendance....On Wednesday evenings Open House and Teen programs were conducted by a group of 20 rotating volunteers....On Thursday evenings the Donald Barnhouse New York Bible Class met... For almost three weeks of this time we were without a building superintendent. Again two teenage boys stepped in the breach, maintained the building and enabled us to continue our program. What an example those teenagers are to all!