

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

308 West 46th Street

New York, New York 10036

THE ANNUAL REPORT

1969

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

February 5, 1970

Mr. Joseph Miranda, President

The Opening Hymn

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| <p>1. Soldiers of the Cross, arise
Gird you with your armor bright.
Mighty are your enemies,
Hard that battle ye must fight.</p> <p>2. O'er a faithless, fallen world
Raise your banner in the sky;
Let it float there wide unfurled;
Bear it onward, lift it high.</p> <p>3. Mid the homes of want and woe,
Strangers to the living Word,
Let the Savior's heralds go,
Let the voice of hope be heard.</p> | <p>4. Where the shadows deepest lie,
Carry truth's unsullied ray;
Where are crimes of blackest dye,
There the saving sign display.</p> <p>5. To the weary and the worn
Tell of realms where sorrows cease;
To the outcast and forlorn
Speak of mercy and of peace.</p> <p>6. Guard the helpless, seek the strayed,
Comfort troubles, banish greed;
In the might of God arrayed,
Scatter sin and unbelief.</p> |
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Scripture Reading - (Hebrews 11:32-12:3) - and Prayer - - - - - Pastor Habermas

The President's Report - - - - - Mr. Joseph Miranda

The Treasurer's Report - - - - - Mr. Walter Gausman

The Pastor's Report - - - - - Pastor Neibacher

The Closing Devotion

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| <p>1. Hark! the voice of Jesus crying,
"Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting,
Who will bear the sheaves away?"
Loud and long the Master calleth,
Rich reward He offers thee;
Who will answer, gladly saying,
"Here am I, send me, send me?"</p> <p>2. If you cannot speak like angels,
If you cannot preach like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus,
You can say He died for all.
If you cannot rouse the wicked
With the Judgement's dread alarms
You can lead the little children
To the Savior's waiting arms.</p> | <p>3. If you cannot be a watch-man,
Standing high on Zion's wall,
Pointing out the path to heaven,
Off'ring life and peace to all,
With your prayers and with your bounties
You can do what God demands;
You can be like faithful Aaron,
Holding up the prophet's hands.</p> <p>4. Let none hear you idly saying,
"There is nothing I can do,"
While the souls of men are dying
And the Master calls for you.
Take the task He gives you gladly,
Let His work your pleasure be;
Answer quickly when He calleth,
"Here am I, send me, send me!"</p> |
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Prayer - - - - - Lord's Prayer - - - - - Benediction

THE CHURCH OFFICERS

for

1 9 6 9

Anton W. Koester, Chairman, Board of Trustees
Joseph C. Miranda, President
Bernhard K. Schaefer, Vice President
Anton W. Koester, Secretary
Walter Gausman, Treasurer
Herman Reichert, Assistant Secretary
Walter Schussler, Assistant Treasurer

THE CHURCH COUNCIL

for

1 9 6 9

ELDERS

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

TRUSTEES

Gustav Bethauser
Walter Gausman
Anton W. Koester
Joseph C. Miranda
Herman Reichert
Bernhard K. Schaefer
Thomas Schaub
Walter Schussler
Walter von Schlichten

DEACONS

Fred Adams
Cecil Agard
Gunter Brocki
Gerald Burkhart
Joseph Gapper
Paul Koepchen
Dr. Melvin Meisinger
Herbert Meyer
Kenneth Walters

THE STAFF

and

OPERATING ORGANIZATION

of

1969

Albert L. Neibacher, D.D., Pastor
David Habermas, Assistant Pastor
Martha Eber, Deaconess
Ben Akerley, Organist and Choir Director-until June 1st
Walter Hilse, Organist and Choir Director
Herman Reichert, Chief Usher
Emma Hahn, Receptionist at Sunday Services
Elsie Koester, President, Ladies' Aid Society
Emma Hahn, President, Dorcas Guild
Karin Freas, President, Young Adult Group
Denny Chin, President, Teens
Gunter Brocki, Boy Scout Scoutmaster
Hugo Foranzi, Cub Scoutmaster
Anton Koester, Chairman, Advertising Committee
Walter Schussler, Chairman, Auditing Committee
John Theurer+, Chairman, Benevolence Committee
Bernhard Schaefer, Chairman, Finance Committee
Gustav Bethauser, Chairman, House Committee
Dr. Louis Lochner, Chairman, Music Committee
Dr. Melvin Meisinger, Chairman, Spiritual Life Committee
Thomas Schaub, Chairman, Youth Committee
Christine Gausman, Chairman Altar Flower Committee

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is difficult to submit a relatively brief report on the activities of our church for an entire year. It is important that you know that our work at Saint Luke's has gone forward in the year 1969. Our staff and many dedicated members of your congregation have unselfishly given of their time and talents. Our accomplishments have been well earned and deserving of the support of the entire congregation. There are still many things to be done in the next year and in the years to come. Your full support is needed if we are to continue to make progress.

The report submitted by our Treasurer, Mr. Walter Gausman is a complete and thorough record of our finances. The report shows that our expenses slightly exceed our income - resulting in a loss for the year 1969. I would, however, like to point out that our deficit is considerably less than 1968. This performance was accomplished in spite of our inflationary economics. It is encouraging to realize that a relatively slight increase in our contributions in the future will possibly balance our budget in 1970.

I want to thank Pastor Neibacher, his staff, my fellow-Trustees, members of the Church Council, and all the men and the women of the congregation for their support in the year 1969.

Respectfully yours,

JOSEPH C. MIRANDA

I.N.I.

THE PASTOR'S REPORT

At the Annual Meeting a year ago I endeavored to rethink with you the mission of the church and to analyze with you some of the troubled areas in our corporate life and in our unique and difficult mission here at Saint Luke's. I asked a number of soul searching questions, first of myself because I had reached a point of weariness and discouragement where I felt compelled to seriously consider terminating a ministry of 34 years for which I no longer felt completely adequate. As you know, instead of resigning I took a leave of absence of four months. Secondly, I addressed a number of searching questions to the congregation, thereby endeavoring to get answers to problems which troubled me and for which I saw no immediate answers.

The congregation responded to my challenge to take a good look at itself and resolved to send a rather comprehensive questionnaire to the entire membership, soliciting information and reaction to various phases of our mission as a church. The Survey was heart warming because approximately one third of our membership responded and because our members were quite frank and honest in their reactions. You received an analysis from the Survey Committee and no doubt concluded with me that there are no easy answers to our problems and that the future requires the very best in all of us.

The outstanding thing that was accomplished in 1969 was a rather extensive self study, which required courage and objectivity. Some of our findings were frightening, but for the most part the results were encouraging because they showed us that our people were thinking and beginning to move. A regular weekly Coffee Hour was introduced; lay readers were used in the services and during my absence last summer a layman assisted in the distribution of Communion; the Lukan Herald, a periodic news letter, made its welcomed appearance. Thus 1969 was not only a year of self analysis but also a year of good beginnings. 1970 must now be a year of continued action during which we continue to put into effect some of the findings of the Survey.

As Mr. Miranda reported to you, the Church Council and the Voter's Assembly are taking the necessary constitutional and legal steps to introduce woman suffrage, thereby giving women the legal right to participate in policy making decisions of the church. This not only adds new and needed dimension to the governing body of Saint Luke's, but it also makes a historic change in the 120 year policy of the church.

In regard to the worship life of the church, the Survey gave no definitive answers. As was expected, there were those who do not favor change of any kind in our worship services; there were those who want and asked for some change, though no where was radical change suggested; and there were those who, though satisfied with our present forms of worship, would not object to change.

When it comes to the matter of change in the life of the church, it must be clearly remembered that the doctrine and the mission of the church, which is witness, service and fellowship, never change. That is established by Christ Himself. However, when it comes to the form of witness, service

and fellowship, this can and should change depending on circumstances and needs. Change has definitely been a part of the history of Saint Luke's. For five decades the witness of Saint Luke's was in the German language. As need arose English services were introduced, though they were secondary, and for a time services were conducted in the Polish language. Circumstances changed and the English supplanted the German, which took a secondary place and Polish services were dropped. In 1935 German was dropped altogether and English became the language of witness; and during the past several years to meet a new need Spanish services are being conducted. At no time did the mission of the church change; the same Gospel has been preached and the same Sacraments have been administered. The substance of mission remained the same, only the form of mission changed to meet changed needs.

In addressing ourselves to the matter of change in the forms of mission, we are faced with two dangers. In the first place, there is the danger of being self-complacent and of thinking that forms are sacrosanct and hence inviolable, which, of course, is wrong. The second danger is an inordinate fear of change, which can be crippling and lead to stagnation. Though the Survey clearly indicates that no one wants change for mere change's sake and that no one wants radical change, it is well to investigate the whole subject and determine whether we are perhaps in a rut and whether we have some God-pleasing options for meaningful worship. To this end the officers of the congregation together with the pastors are establishing a Worship Committee, which will have representation from the Church Council, the Sunday School, the Choir, the Ladies' Aid Society, the Dorcas Guild, the Young Adults, the Teens and the congregation at large. This committee of ten includes and cuts across the entire congregation. Together with the pastors and the president of the congregation it has a difficult assignment and is in need of our prayers, our assistance and our cooperation. When finalized the names of the committee members will be published and you are asked to express your thoughts to any member of the committee or to the representative of your particular group.

As a result of the Survey, two immediate steps are being taken in the area of worship. Beginning with April there will be two communion services each month. Whereas no changes will at this time be made in the form of the Communion Service on the first Sunday of the month, the Worship Committee is being asked to explore the desirability of changing the format of the service on the third Sunday each month.

A second change, which is experimental and not necessarily permanent, is the format of a number of our Lenten Services. On Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday regular Communion Services will be conducted. The other five Wednesday evening services will be less formal and include a brief dialogue sermon to be followed by a discussion in which the entire congregation is asked to participate. These services will be conducted in our chapel-auditorium. We solicit your active participation and your ultimate help in evaluating this change of format. Within the next few days you will receive a list of the subjects to be discussed.

In the area of service, which is the second part of our mission as a church, there must be continuing and ongoing study. In order to better inform ourselves, particularly in the area of the church's involvement in social problems, the officers of the congregation together with the pastors are in the process of appointing a Social Issues Committee to arrange a

series of lectures and discussions to be led by knowledgeable people. This series will be presented in the post-Easter Season and out of the discussions it is hoped will come a greater awareness of today's social problems and a new look at the servant role of our church.

In the area of fellowship, the Survey revealed a number of suggestions. In the first place, there was extremely favorable response to the Coffee Hour. In order to improve the Coffee Hour, the Survey suggested that each sponsoring organization be asked to have two committees functioning each Sunday. The first is to make the physical arrangements for the Coffee Hour and the second, which could well be a standing committee, is to serve as a reception committee, which greets people, introduces them to one another and encourages people to circulate more and not limit themselves each Sunday to specific groups. Thereby more people will get to know one another and there will be a greater spirit of fellowship.

Secondly, there was wide spread enthusiasm about the annual Saint Nicholas Party of the Young Adults. Many feel that there is a need for more such fellowship functions. The Survey Committee, along with the Church Council, therefore, suggests that each organization of the church sponsors such an evening and plans some special program. These two items will be discussed at a Cabinet Meeting planned for the near future.

In completing the 1960's with an extensive self study program and in getting program movement, we are now better prepared to face the challenges and opportunities of the seventies. As I said earlier, ours is a unique and a difficult mission; there are no easy answers to many of our problems, which call for constant study, courageous action and regular evaluation. We do not enter the seventies as strong numerically as we did the sixties. Yet the strength and vitality of a congregation does not necessarily depend on numbers. It depends on a sense of mission, on commitment to the Savior and on a genuine concern for people; it depends on untiring efforts on the part of a small nucleus, who will not become easily discouraged, who is willing to make mistakes in an ongoing learning and serving process.

In the early seventies much time must be spent in considering and exploring the future role of Saint Luke's on the West Side of New York. This cannot wait because many rapid changes are taking place in our area of the city and we cannot be found sleeping. Because part of our future may depend on our association and/or affiliation with others, we should explore just where we fit into the total Christian picture. In the past Saint Luke's has been quite isolationist and in a rather inconsistent way. In our programming we have been very ecumenical, serving people of all religious backgrounds, but in our relations with the body of Christ we have pursued an isolationist policy, cutting ourselves off not only from other Christian bodies but also from our Lutheran Communion. The future may well require a different role from Saint Luke's because we may well discover that we can no longer go it alone.

As we face the seventies, I realize that our future lies in the hands of God. Yet I am certain God wants us to be a thinking people, open to new opportunities and new possibilities of witness, service and fellowship. In order to involve the entire congregation in the thinking processes required

of us, I would at this time address the following questions to you and invite your active participation in the discussion:

1. What do you think is the future role of Saint Luke's? Do you think our future lies on 46th Street or somewhere else on the West Side?
2. How do you think Saint Luke's ought relate itself to the surrounding community?
3. What strengths do you think we have at Saint Luke's on which we can build and what weaknesses do you see that we ought correct?
4. Since the Survey revealed that a large percentage of people responding were interested in a Bible Class and since past experience has shown little active participation, would you be interested and participate in small "cottage" meetings, where individuals gather in various homes for informal study of Holy Scripture?
5. Though it might curtail the full mission of the church, should we eliminate staff, drop all programs, engage an administrator and turn Saint Luke's into a mere preaching station, filling the pulpit with outstanding guest preachers?
6. Since the day of isolationism seems to be over in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres of life, what do you think our relations as a church should be toward other Christian and/or Lutheran bodies? Do you think we can continue to go it alone?
7. What do you think our attitude should be toward a declining church attendance?
8. How can Saint Luke's be a greater force in your life?

Yours in Christ,

ALBERT L. NEIBACHER

YOUTH WORK

In 1969 youth work at Saint Luke's continued, changed, and developed in response to the needs and opportunities that arose.

Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts continued to develop the potential of many boys and gave them a sense of accomplishment and responsibility. Sunday School continued to be our main program of religious education. In recent years released time classes had seriously dwindled and in the fall of '69 were discontinued.

One of our congregation's very active program has been the Open House. This is a Wednesday evening recreational program open to children of the community between the ages of six and twelve years. Aiming to impart wholesome patterns of living, the program is staffed not only by Saint Luke's members, but also by members of the Lutheran Student Federation and Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Activities include basketball, bowling, cooking, arts and crafts. Currently, some 30-40 youngsters attend weekly.

During '69 the teenagers of Saint Luke's experienced a marked growth of spirit and enthusiasm. The new-found spirit stemmed from two week-end retreats, one held in March and the other in October, at Camp Herrlich, Towners, New York. In the fall of '69 the teenagers organized themselves formally, drawing up a constitution and electing officers. A number of them formed a folk-rock band named the "Internationals." The teenagers also undertook a number of service projects, including building maintenance (when we were without a superintendent), refinishing the gym floor, and tending the door evenings.

In the near future the Youth Committee is contemplating a "get-together" of all persons involved in one aspect or another of youth work at Saint Luke's. It is hoped that we can achieve a greater coordination of our work.

Youth work at Saint Luke's would be impossible without the cooperation of a large corps of dedicated volunteers and the financial support of the congregation. All who are involved in this work deserve our appreciation. In giving of their time and energy they are not only rendering a service to our youth, but are also serving their Lord. Youth work at Saint Luke's deserves our whole-hearted encouragement and support.

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, a very 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, the largest percentage of our children come from unchurched homes. Although at times one's efforts seem all in vain, 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. 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." We ask you, dear fellow-Christians to remember our Sunday School in your prayers.

We at Saint Luke's, situated at the "crossroads of the world" must expect to meet with all types of individuals, the homeless, penniless and otherwise. We 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 the material for the Sunday program, mimeographing and sending out many hundreds of letters and the "Portal 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

MUSIC REPORT

In the seven months since my assumption of the duties as organist-choirmaster at this church, I have noted with genuine pleasure and gratitude how receptive its members and staff have been to the music which I have been presenting in my dual capacity. The mandate of variety will certainly continue to rule St. Luke's music program, subject only to the traditional criteria of artistic excellence and doctrinal appropriateness. A healthy identification with the past, balanced by an open-minded investigation of the relevance of our worship of diverse trends in the world of music today--this, after all, has always been the Lutheran way, and explains the extraordinary richness of our heritage. In line with the open-mindedness to present developments, and with our intense desire for a worship service truly meaningful in the 1970's, I have agreed to serve on a committee examining possible changes in the service; a series of experimental services will, in fact, take place starting in Lent. In line with the desire to help congregational members grasp more fully the meaning and beauty of various kinds and aspects of music, I will be more than willing to lead discussions from time to time on selected topics, such as the one on Bach which took place at a Young Adults' meeting back in November. (They have, in fact, invited me back to speak on May 3rd about contemporary music and the church.)

The competence, faithfulness and enthusiasm of St. Luke's choir has not really surprised me. I was assured all along that this was so. This year, in addition to numerous talented participants from the congregation itself, we are fortunate to have five paid soloists. Ruth King, Irving Hunter, and Louis Birk, all here from previous seasons, need no introduction. Miss Pam Saltzman is our new soprano soloist, and Miss Barbara Adams our new alto. Not only does this quintet lead our choral singing in excellent fashion, and afford us great flexibility, but their capabilities in solo and ensemble work are notable. Hence, the increase in the number of solos, duets, etc., scheduled for our services, making for still another element of variety.

As this is being written, the restoration work on our organ is at long last approaching genuine completion. The Open Diapason stop in the Great Manual is being reinstated in toto, and will add much strength to our instrument. The possibility of eliminating (or at least lessening significantly) the jolting noises associated with the action of the combination pistons is being thoroughly studied.

Looking forward to a lengthy period of service at St. Luke's, I remain

Respectfully,

Walter Hilse

SPANISH WORK REPORT

In 1969, 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 occasionally throughout the year. Services are advertised in "El Diario" and "El Tiempo", two widely-read Spanish-language newspapers.

During the year, I made 78 pastoral calls, 59 mission calls, and 18 hospital calls. Besides work here, I am also serving Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in the Bronx and Saint Jacobus Lutheran Church in Queens. Thirteen adults were confirmed in these churches.

Through our work, modest gains have been recorded. Our average Sunday attendance was 22 persons. Contact has been established with some 70 families, of which about 20 families respond regularly.

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 cooperation 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 cooperation which prevails. In particular, I would like to thank Miss Eber for her fine cooperation, and my wife, who played the organ for our Spanish services.

Respectfully submitted,

EDUARDO LLERENA
Spanish Pastor

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

We ended year 1969 with a deficit of only \$1,643.95. This is our best report since 1965, when we had a small surplus. Although we did not quite catch up with our expenses, our deficit is not as large as we had thought it would be for the year.

Our sincere thanks go out to all who contributed additionally to help our finances. We also thank those that may not have been able to make an increased contribution, but were faithful in their giving.

Thanks, also to Mr. Herman Reichert and Mr. Walter Schussler for their services this past year.

Respectfully submitted,

WALTER GAUSMAN

Treasurer

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
REPORT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
1969

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>
Envelopes	\$26,635.70	\$26,721.97
Plate Collections	2,481.08	2,588.06
Pew Rent & Memorials	10.00	20.00
Christmas Collection	1,649.50	1,933.25
Easter Collection	2,624.40	2,450.20
Lenten Collection (Noon-Day)	59.00	103.45
Thanksgiving Collection	745.50	762.50
Birthday Collection (119 Anniv.)	1,381.50	1,092.00
Special Income	1,871.25	1,275.00
Flowers	617.00	644.00
Devotional Booklets	197.10	146.75
Initial Offering	112.25	146.45
Youth Program	---	10.00
Boy Scouts	5.00	200.00
Received for Special Purposes	2,530.90	121.49
	<u>\$40,920.18</u>	<u>\$38,215.12</u>
Income from Investments	18,601.18	17,585.93
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$59,521.36</u>	<u>\$55,801.05</u>

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$34,951.69	\$34,220.20
Travel Allowance	1,500.00	1,500.00
Retirement & Medical Payments	5,156.21	4,899.01
Printing & Stationery	1,843.07	1,510.11
Insurance	1,890.00	1,805.07
Heating	2,446.62	2,369.43
Gas & Electric	1,057.00	1,212.68
Telephone	1,387.89	1,453.86
Postage	929.39	656.45
Advertising	792.36	786.12
Devotional Booklets	160.87	234.30
Flowers	875.00	898.00
Choir Music	179.44	202.49
Envelope Expense	121.59	104.87
Youth Program	240.00	161.90
Boy Scouts	100.00	705.60
Repairs & Replacements	3,074.02	3,064.64
Spanish Ministry	300.00	300.00
Bank Custodial Charges	423.05	440.70
Sunday School	35.74	200.00
Cleaning & Maintenance	309.32	432.77
Sunday Coffee Hour	120.91	108.78
Miscellaneous	1,747.14	1,186.16
Disbursements for Special Purposes	1,524.00	241.49
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$61,165.31</u>	<u>\$58,694.63</u>
TOTAL INCOME	59,521.36	55,801.05
DEFICIT	<u>\$ 1,643.95</u>	<u>\$ 2,893.58</u>

COLLECTIONS FOR OTHERS - 1969

Missions	\$ 3,882.13
American Bible Society	11.00
Association for Works of Mercy	71.00
Christmas Seals-Atlantic District Welfare	943.50
Concordia Theological Seminary	500.00
Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund	100.00
"His Too" Collection	50.00
Lutheran Child Welfare Association	183.75
Lutheran Chaplaincy Services	50.00
Lutheran Education Society	25.00
Lutheran Forum	25.00
Lutheran Friends of the Deaf	376.00
Lutheran Hospital of Brooklyn	107.00
Lutheran Hour	200.00
Lutheran Social Services	220.00
Lutheran Welfare Ass'n of New Jersey	36.00
New York Bible Society	71.00
Nigeria/Biafra	525.50
Wartburg Home for the Aged	156.50
Wheatridge Foundation	<u>37.00</u>
	\$ 7,570.38

MEMORIAL WREATHS - 1969

\$ 950.00

SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS & MEMORIALS

One of the great privileges which has been bestowed upon Saint 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 Saint Luke's Lutheran Church during the years 1923 through 1969.

1923 Catherine Karsch	1962 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1927 J. Louis Schaefer	1963 Sophie Schaefer
1932 Bernhard Karsch	1963 Margaret Schroeder
1942 Adele Henning	1963 Bernhard & Catherine Karsch
1946 Sebastian & Margaretha Dorfmueller	1963 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1951 Annie L. Hohns	1964 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1952 Henry & Katherine Puckhaber	1965 Elsa Husser
1953 John Dettmer	1965 Elsie Eiermann
1954 Alfred M. Grizzle	1965 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1955 Louisa M. Nusskern	1966 Elsa Husser
1955 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	1966 Charles Unger
1956 Anton & Marie Koester	1966 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1957 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	1967 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1958 Miss M. Scommodau	1967 Henry J. Koester
1958 Anna Ahrens Menge	1968 Lottie B. Steinbach
1958 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	1968 Marie Schweizer
1959 Mrs. Minna Theurer	1968 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1959 Matilda Schlobohm	1969 John Theurer, Sr.
1959 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	1969 Elsie Eiermann
1960 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	1969 Rudolph Fischer
1961 John & Anna Marie Theurer	1969 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer
1961 J. Louis & Susan K. Schaefer	

MEMORIAL WREATHS - 1969

Mrs. Frank Drexler
William Harms
Eleanor Koepchen
Catherine Neher
Mamie Rabinovich
John Theurer, Sr.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During 1969 we of St. Luke's Sunday School attempted to make the Sunday School program more relevant to the child of today in the urban environment. We have felt that a variety of activities both inside and outside the church supplements traditional Sunday School education. We planned more activities in which children, parents, and teachers could participate together. We held Parent-Teachers meetings to get to know one another and discuss mutual problems. And we instituted programs for specific age groups--such as the Confirmation Class and the Teenagers--which have shown promise educationally, socially, and spiritually.

During the year, the Sunday School Picnic on June 21 and the Christmas Candle Light Service on December 21 were activities in which children, parents, and teachers came together in recreation and worship. Some new programs during the year also served the same purpose. On September 7--the first day of the fall term--we held an informal "Welcome Back" service for the children and their parents. Slides and movies of the Sunday School picnic were shown, followed by a social period with refreshments. On May 11--Mother's Day--parents and members of the congregation joined us in a special service of contemporary liturgy and folk music. This was a first attempt to bring new forms of worship to St. Luke's and was an inspiration to all who attended.

The success of all these programs of course depended on the devotion, etc. of the teachers and staff. They are:

Primary Dept.-- Miss Virginia Herman	Teen Bible Class--Dr. Mel Meisinger
Second Grade--- Miss Lillian Lee	Mr. Thomas Schaub
Third Grade---- Mrs. Joan Devlin	
Fourth Grade--- Miss Nancy Steinbiss	Substitutes---Miss Johanna Anhorn
Fifth Grade---- Miss Sandra Burgess	Miss Rhoda Kluge
Sixth Grade---- Mrs. Mildred Sanso	Mr. Joe Gapper
Seventh Grade-- Miss Sue Neibacher	Secretary-----Miss Gen Savio
Pastor Habermas	Treasurer-----Miss Christine Gausman
	Organist-----Miss Mercedes Caes

We should also mention three teachers who left us during the year: Mrs. Patricia LaPointe, Mrs. JoAnn May, and Miss Yvonne LeMoine. We take this opportunity to thank these teachers for their many years of outstanding service.

In 1970 we are continuing our efforts to make the Sunday School program more relevant. A few Sundays ago the Teenagers conducted the entire Sunday School: They held an opening service with folk hymns, taught all the classes, and closed with a circle prayer and Lord's Prayer. Teachers are planning more outside activities with their classes such as visits to parks and museums. The Teens are planning another retreat this month. We hope to have increased participation by the children in the worship service. More extensive use will be made of audio-visual material, team teaching, new types of literature. In the new year then, the entire Sunday School staff looks forward to continuing our programs of Christian education to serve both church and community.

CALVIN KIIFNER

Sunday School Superintendent

LADIES' AID SOCIETY

We are pleased to report that we gained two members in the year 1969: Miss Christine Gausman and Miss Catherine Von der Au. Our meetings are very well attended. We meet at 12:30 P.M. the second Wednesday. We bring a sandwich and the hostesses for the day serve coffee and cake. An hour of sociability is enjoyed by all. After our business meeting we have a planned program.

We belong to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and bring our mites quarterly to support their missionary projects and also send a delegate to the Atlantic District Convention of the League. This year three members went as guests to the convention which was very inspiring.

We visit the sick and remember the shut-ins.

Several officers and members have attended the Cabinet Meetings called by Mr. Joseph Miranda, the President of the congregation.

Our treasurer's report lists in detail the gifts, donations made in 1969, so will not go into detail. If there are any questions regarding same, feel free to ask Miss Edith Dorfmueller or the writer.

We wish to encourage more ladies 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.

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 us.

Respectfully submitted,

ELSIE S. KOESTER
President

LADIES' AID SOCIETY - STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1969

RECEIPTS:

Dues	\$	133.50	
Hostess		7.50	
Birthday		5.00	
Dinner Balance		13.27	
John Theurer gift		50.00	
Bal. of Kayser & Schaefer cks.		28.00	
Cake sold		2.13	
Christmas		3.00	
Luth. Women's League		112.71	
Interest on investments		700.31	
Balance of convention money		2.75	
		\$ 1,088.17	

DISBURSEMENTS:

Church flowers	\$	112.00	
Flowers in Church for John Theurer		15.00	
Cake		23.20	
Superintendents		15.00	
Lutheran Women's Missionary League		173.21	
Quarterlies		9.00	
Bandanges & Postage		4.82	
Film at meeting		3.64	
Gifts at Christmas: Lutheran Hour, Home for Aged, Bklyn.			
<u>1968</u>			
Chaplaincy Service, Friends of Deaf,			
Bethlek 1 Home		125.00	
C. Lunetto, Supt. gift at Christmas		15.00	
Gifts at Christmas, <u>1969</u> (as above)		125.00	
Kitchen supplies		20.00	
Put into Franklin Bk. for M. Theurer		25.00	
Est. Pastor Stohs		25.00	
Deaconess Assn		50.00	
McAuley Mission		25.00	
Choir gowns clean.		38.75	
Dakota Ranch		10.00	
P. Habermas, retreat		250.00	
		\$ 1,064.62	

Donation from Rudolph J. Fischer, deposited in
the Bowery Savings Bank \$ 500.00

Deposited in Savings a/c
for Minna Theurer account \$ 25.00 Franklin
for R. J. Fischer account 500.00 Bowery

Accumulation of interest:
Franklin Sav. a/c \$ 7.30
Bowery Sav. a/c 13.74
\$ 21.04

Now in Savings accounts:
Franklin \$ 63.01
" 605.92
Bowery 1,060.58 \$ 1,729.51

Balance in account January 1, 1969	\$	616.59
Collected in 1969		1,088.17
		1,704.76
Spent in 1969		1,064.92
Balance in Checking a/c Jan 1, 1970	\$	640.14
Balances in Savings a/cs		1,729.51
	\$	2,369.65

LADIES' AID SOCIETY
STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1969

Savings Accounts:	Balances in Savings a/cs January 1, 1969	\$ 1,183.47
	Bank interest for 1969	21.04
	Deposited in Minna Theurer account	25.00
	" " Rudolph J. Fischer account	500.00
		\$ 1,729.51

See other page for detail of \$1,729.51

MEMORIAL FUNDS:	Total Memorials received by Ladies' Aid for which we hold:	
	General Telephone of California 4 1/2% bonds	\$ 19,825.00
	Standard Oil of California bond	1,000.00
	Atlantic District notes	5,000.00
	3 Savings Accounts	1,729.51
		\$ 27,554.51

MEMORIALS

Miss Anna Hochhalter	\$	600.00
Mrs. Catherine Karsch		2,000.00
Mrs. Katharine Wendel		200.00
Mrs. Minna Gerhardt		200.00
Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Brummer		50.00
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Groll, Sr.		50.00
Mrs. Emilie Schmodau		75.00
Bernhard Karsch		2,000.00
Mrs. Gustav Zerbst		250.00
Frederick Zerbst, Jr.		250.00
Mrs. Charles Johns		500.00
Mrs. Louise M. Nusskern		2,100.00
Mrs. Susan K. Schaefer		5,000.00
Mrs. Marie Koester		45.00
Gustav A. Zerbst		500.00
Mrs. Anna Menge		672.00
Mrs. Elizabeth Schnaars		20.00
Mrs. Bertha M. Hartmann		12,000.00
Miss Katherine Lengemann		10.00
Mrs. Bertha E. Overhage		20.00
Mrs. Caroline M. Koepchen		425.00
Mrs. Minna Theurer		225.00
John Schussler		50.00
Mrs. Boyle		35.00
Mrs. Olga Schussler		500.00
Rudolph J. Fischer		500.00
Total Memorials	\$	28,277.00
January 1, 1970		

Edith Dorfmuller
Treasurer

DORCAS GUILD

Altho our roster shows a total membership as of December 31, 1969 of 33, actually only about 10/12 members are truly "active". Our member, Miss Catherine Neher, who was very active in past years, was called Home by her Lord in 1969. Three ladies, the Misses Virginia Herman, Dorothee Wagner and Catherine Von der Au, joined the Dorcas Guild in 1969 and have become very active, we are glad to report. Mrs. Adda Kahlow, a member of long standing, returned to Germany to live. Endeavoring to meet the needs of the present, we have changed our meeting time to 7 p.m., usually the first Tuesday of the month. We have retained our format of first conducting the business meeting, then fellowship and refreshment periods.

Our programs have been varied: Pastor Stieve spoke to us on The Lutheran Chaplaincy Services; a speaker from The Cancer Society; slides and commentary by our own Cal Kiiffner on his years in West Afrida with the Peace Corps; films on Scandinavian Countries and the Philippine Islands; and films and slides of our own members' vacations.

We served: at Roosevelt Hospital the third Sunday of each month; participated in the Saint Nicholas Nite; assisted in preparing surplices, gowns and pageant costumes for the Candle Light Service; helped our Ladies Aid at the Congregational Dinner; hosted church council and wives, ushers and wives and the Ladies Aid at our Annual Dinner Meeting in May; active in the Kitchen Fund--held Hobby and Art Show; participated in Cookie Drive for distribution to hospitals and attended Spring and Fall Rallies of the Manhattan Zone of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, of which we are an active member.

We collected and remitted \$77.00 to the Red Cross; contributed towards the altar flowers for Palm Sunday and Easter, placed Memorial Wreath at Saint Luke's for our departed member, Miss Neher; made donation to the Lutheran World Relief; collected and remitted \$73.50 to the L.W.M.L.; sent a delegate to the LWML Convention at The Laurels in Monticello, N.Y.; made a special Dorcas Guild Birthday Gift to the Biafra peopoles thru the Lutheran World Relief.

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

Respectfully submitted,

EMMA K. HAHN

President

THE YOUNG ADULTS

As the Young Adults launched their 1969-70 program in September, we set out to try to "bring us all together". We felt too many groups were working autonomously and independent of each other and that more emphasis should be placed on interdependent cooperative fellowship as we are working toward the common goal of service to God.

We have been extremely pleased with the results. Members of the Dorcas Guild, Ladies Aid, Choir, Church Council, and Teenagers have been frequent visitors at our Sunday night supper meetings. Our regular attendance each week has grown from 12-15 to 25-30. We continue to attract members from the greater New York area who are not necessarily members of St. Luke's but who find fellowship with us a stimulating and rewarding experience.

Perhaps, the one single event that represents the ultimate in spirit and cooperativeness is St. Nicholas Night. Despite the inclement weather, December 14 saw 140 members and guests enjoy an evening of fun that was the culmination of a tremendous amount of energy and effort put forth by many talented young adults. There was little time to catch our breath when December 21 was upon us and the decorating of the church for the annual Candle Light Service had to be done. This year a record of 21 people appeared on the Saturday before the service to help with this task. The spirit of willingness and cooperation exemplified that day was truly an inspiration to all.

The weekend of February 14 will again see the Young Adults on the ski slopes of Mt. Snow in Vermont. The annual July 4th festivities are again being planned for the beautiful and inspiring Lake George.

The past year has been one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences for the Young Adults as well as St. Luke's as a whole. There exists among the young people of St. Luke's a tremendous spirit of cooperation which is so vital to the success of any organization. The success of this year's activities is the result of the untiring efforts of the officers, the chairmen and members of the various committees, the members at large, and Pastor Habermas. My sincere thanks to all who have so willingly given of their time and talents.

A warm invitation is always extended to all members of the congregation to join us for dinner on Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. followed by an informative, thought-provoking, and entertaining program. In particular, I would like to call your attention to April 19 at which time we are sponsoring a luncheon followed by an afternoon discussion about the mission and life of the church. We would like ALL members of St. Luke's to attend and sincerely hope you do so. It promises to be a truly stimulating and rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted,

KARIN E. FREAS

President

ST. LUKE'S TEENAGERS

Ranking high among the many esteemed organizations of St. Luke's is the newly-established Teenage Club. Its official name is "St. Luke's Teenagers" - no one could come up with a better one. We are a small but very elite and close knit group. Our constitution was first ratified on the 7th day of November in the Year 1969. Since then, we have been proving false that old adage, "Never mix business with pleasure". For a while, the Teens became the "General Maintenance Engineers" of the building - working on Saturdays in keeping the church immaculately clean. Our income went into our banking account.

After the church hired a new superintendent, we endeavored to take on other projects, such as reconstructing the gym walls and refinishing the gym floor. Instead of accomplishing nil during some school holidays, a few of us sacrificed our free time, and with the help of the Super, eliminated the carnage left by many years of use and abuse. We are currently maintaining constant vigilance over the church grounds at all nocturnal happenings. Our next labor project is to repair and thoroughly clean the showers and washroom under the gym.

All along we have been enjoying ourselves, participating in games such as pocket billiards, bowling, and basketball. We have been defending our honor in a fierce volleyball rivalry versus the mediocre "Young Adults"?? Magnanimously, we have allowed them to partake in the sweet taste of victory-- in other words, we lost. Looking ahead, we are financing our own week end retreat in February. To supplement our Friday nights, we plan to go on * trips in and around the city. We hope to take over the Sunday School Service again as we did a few weeks ago.

So far, the Teen Club has been far more successful than certain people expected it to be, thanks to the adult supervisors and individual teens, such as James Cuevas, Stephen Louie, and Robert Esau. But the basic success formula has been an overall contribution by each of the club members. The fundamental goal of the "St. Luke's Teenagers" is to build a responsible and productive foundation among the members of the so-called New Generation. We, ourselves, think we have taken the first steps.

Respectfully submitted,

Denny Chin
President

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