

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

N E W S L E T T E R

OCTOBER
1971

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, October 3rd, we observe the 121st Anniversary of the founding of Saint Luke's. It is no mean accomplishment for a Protestant Church to have a continuous history of 121 years in the Times Square area of New York, which has changed as radically as any other area in New York City. Saint Luke's has lived through many social, cultural and ethnic changes; has weathered several economic depressions and six major wars. All this is no human accomplishment; the Grace of God has been at work in our midst.

Anniversaries are observed not for the purpose of basking in the past, but for rededication to the future. God gives this generation of members the present, to make the most of it, and to build solidly for the future.

On Sunday, October 3rd, we want to publicly thank God for past blessings. That is necessary. But we also want to encourage one another by our presence and together with our fellow-members say, "Here I am; take me as I am; use me wherever You see fit." Together we shall kneel at the Altar to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. As in the recent past, we shall use the Communion Vessels our fathers first used in 1863. Make it your business to be present on Sunday to show your gratitude to God for the past, to show your interest in the present and to show your concern for the future.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

When were you in church last? How many times have you worshipped at Saint Luke's since the beginning of the summer vacation season?

Church attendance is not only important to our own spiritual well-being but it is also important as part of our witness to our fellow-members and to the world. Church attendance and public worship are also indicative of our relationship to God. We need to praise and thank God for His untold blessings to us; we need to do this not only privately but publicly and jointly. We all need to receive the continued assurance that God loves us and that our sins are forgiven; we all need the grace and the feeling of oneness as we kneel at the altar to receive the Sacrament; we all need to experience the sacramental presence of Christ and the warmth of friendship of our fellow-members.

But church attendance is not only a matter of receiving; it also entails some giving on our part. Church attendance is part of the total witness of our lives as Christians. We need to tell the world that we belong to Jesus Christ; that the church means something to us; we need to tell our fellow-members that we believe in the mission of our church. Our mere attendance in church is a source of encouragement to all who are in positions of responsibility and who have leadership roles.

When were you in church last? Are you going right by your God, by yourself, by your fellow-members? These are good questions to ask as we begin another Church Year and endeavor to strengthen the spiritual life of Saint Luke's.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The sermon schedule this Fall and Winter will be based on the Apostles' Creed. We are all familiar with the words; we recite them by rote. But do we always understand the spiritual truths lying behind the words and just what they mean to our daily lives? This Fall and Winter we want to look behind the words and relate the words to everyday living. We want to see how a Creed, which had its origins in the Apostolic Church and was fully developed, as we know it, by the latter part of the 6th century is still meaningful and has significance for life in the latter part of the 20th century. The Apostles' Creed is not a mere theological treatise or a mere confession of the faith of the Church. The Apostles' Creed is also a way of life with God. Properly understood it can not only change many of our attitudes toward God, but it can also change our way of living.

DORCAS GUILD LUNCHEON

Directly after the service on Sunday, October 3rd, the Dorcas Guild will sponsor a special luncheon-forum meeting. We have had several of these fellowship luncheons and they have become a meaningful part of the life of our church. There is the fellowship of the luncheon itself - getting to better know your fellow-members - and then there is the program that follows. This Sunday the Rev. David Krampitz, once affiliated with us, will speak on the work of a Hospital Chaplain. A film depicting this work, "Seven Cases Of Love" - will be shown.

If you have not made reservations, please call the church office (Circle 6-3520). Cost of the luncheon is \$1.50, students 75¢. Your reservation will help the ladies plan adequately.

BUILDING REPAIRS

Our present building has been in constant use since 1923. As you know, properties also get old just as we do. Several years ago we needed major repairs on our organ; two years ago we needed to replace our entire boiler system. Now we are faced with major repairs to correct a number of very dangerous leaks in various parts of the building, such as the steeple, some of the parapets, some of the drains, which are enclosed in the walls of the building itself. We have postponed some of this work for several years. We can no longer do so.

Since early Spring the House Committee of the Church Council has been consulting contractors and engineers and getting various estimates. One estimate for a complete job amounted to \$24,000. At this time it is planned to do some of the most essential work and endeavor to wait with other trouble spots for a year or two. Hopefully, we will get away with this. However, we are contracting to take care of the most essential work at a cost which we hope will not exceed \$10,000. But this expenditure is absolutely essential to protect our building.

ANNIVERSARY OFFERING

Because of the necessary non-budgeted expenditures on building repairs, the Church Council resolved to set aside the annual Anniversary Offering to defray these expenditures. This should, therefore, not be just another Birthday Gift to our church. We must all extend ourselves to the maximum in order to assure limited deficits at the end of the year. Use the enclosed envelope for your special Anniversary Offering to your church..