

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

N E W S L E T T E R

LENT
1973

Lent is a period of preparation for Easter. Unfortunately, the Church has placed greater emphasis on the Passion of Christ than on the new life which should result from it. The doleful, often gory, Lenten hymns of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries have cast a gloom over Lent, which is an unfortunate hangover of the Middle Ages.

The Passion of Christ is never to be denigrated, but it can never be made an end in itself. The Passion is a gateway to Easter and to the resurrected life, which is found in Christ. Lent means a dying to self and a living to and for and in Christ.

LENTEN SERVICES

On Ash Wednesday, March 7th, at 6:30 P.M. a Service of Holy Communion will be celebrated and on each succeeding Wednesday a Lenten Vespers Service with Bible Study, will be conducted.

Following the ancient tradition of the Church we will observe the 40 days of Lent with a brief worship service each evening (Monday through Saturday) at 6:30 P.M. You are invited to attend as many of these Lenten Worship services as possible. Invite a friend to attend with you. Approximately 25 different individuals have volunteered to be Lenten Worship Leaders.

SCHEDULE OF BIBLE MEETINGS

A daily Lenten schedule of Bible Readings is enclosed. These are the readings which will be used in the daily Lenten Services. If you cannot attend, take a few minutes out at 6:30 each evening to read the particular section for each day. By doing so you will not only be in communion with God but also in communion with the group worshipping each evening in church.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Saint Luke's was held on Sunday, February 25th. Members of the Ladies' Aid and Dorcas Guild prepared an excellent luncheon. This was the most representative congregational meeting in many years. All groups in the church were well represented and participated in the discussion. Approximately 80 people were in attendance. Should you desire a copy of the Annual Report, they are available either in the church office or at the desk in the narthex.

EXCERPTS FROM ANNUAL REPORT

Pastor Stephen Wolfe: "Do not spend Lent counting the thorns on Christ's crown. Rather try to capture the joy of the new life in Christ.".....Walter Gausman: "Church expenses are a daily thing and we meet our personal obligations not by contributing only on the Sunday we are in church but through our regular weekly contributions.".....From the report of the "New" Young Adults: "Saint Luke's has a vital resource of good people. The people of Saint Luke's make it what it is.".....Pastor Clement Lee: "Although Saint Luke's is unique in having many young people, it is particularly blessed with young people who are very active in the programs of the church.".....Thomas Schaub: "We need to be alert to our responsibilities to our neighborhood and to the City if we are to spread the meaning of the Word and to recruit new members so that we may share the blessings of the past with those of the future.".....Pastor Neibacher: "I believe we have finally started to overcome the negativism and defeatism of the past few years. As people we have drawn closer together and understood more clearly our mission as a church. There has been better team work, a greater expression of concern for people and a widening of horizons."

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HOLY WEEK-EASTER
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Palm Sunday is the gateway to Holy Week and marks the celebration of Christ's triumphant entry into the City of Jerusalem. Christ went to Jerusalem, there to suffer and die for our sins. Palm Sunday's Service (April 15th) will be a festive service of Holy Communion with special music, the blessing and distribution of palm frondes.

HOLY WEEK

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, our Daily Devotional Service will be conducted at 6:30 P.M. On Wednesday evening Mr. Walter Gausman will lead in a Bible discussion on the Epistle to the Ephesians. On Maundy Thursday a service of Holy Communion will be conducted.

GOOD FRIDAY NOON

At 12:30 noon Dr. Walter Hilse will give an Organ Recital.
At 1:00 P.M. the choir will sing the Lenten portion of Handel's "Messiah."
At 2:00 P.M. following the Choral Service, there will be a Confessional Service with the celebration of Holy Communion.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE
6:30 P.M.

Ever since the 16th century the Lutheran Church has used a special service on Good Friday evening called the Tenebrae. It is the final service of the Lenten Season and includes special readings from the Lamentations of Jeremiah and the dismantling of the altar, portraying and symbolizing the starkness of Christ's death. This is a service of involvement on part of the worshippers.

EASTER EVE

As somberness is characteristic of the Tenebrae Service so joy is the keynote of the Easter Eve service on Saturday at 6:30 P.M. The placing of white paraments on the altar, the lectern and the pulpit and the decorating of the sanctuary with flowers become part of the worship service. Joy, light, life are the underlying keynote of this special service. As the Tenebrae, this is a new service for us at Saint Luke's.

EASTER MORNING

Two services are scheduled for Easter morning, a Contemporary Service at 9:30 and a Traditional Service at 11 o'clock. Both services will have special music and both services will give us a different worship experience. The dominant theme will be - "Christ lives!" He rose from the grave in order to live in and through us.

EASTER OFFERING

Saint Luke's is dependent on the Easter Offering of its members and friends. We ask you to use the enclosed envelope for your special Easter offering. Make it a gift of love and commensurate with God's blessings to you.

ENCLOSED FLYER

We have enclosed two flyers to announce our Easter Services. Pass these on to a friend, an acquaintance, a neighbor with your personal invitation to worship with us on Easter Sunday. A group of our members will distribute these invitations in the area of the church on Good Friday and Easter Saturday afternoon. Can you give an hour of your time for this project?

50th ANNIVERSARY

This Fall Saint Luke's will observe its 50th Anniversary on West 46th Street. A special Anniversary Committee has been appointed to develop plans. At this time we are already starting to accumulate names and addresses of former members to whom a special invitation will be extended. Please, leave at the church office all names and addresses you may have of such former members.