



2000 Annual Report

Saint Luke's Lutheran Church
308 West 46th Street
New York, NY 10036 (212) 246-3540

The Rev. Paul D. Schmiede, Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Dale D. Hansen, Pastor emeritus
Cantor Pedro d' Aquino, Organist and Choirmaster
Mr. Alan C. Freed, Parish Administrator/Sacristan

St Luke's Lutheran Church
308 West 46 Street
New York, NY 10036

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, 2001

Dear members and friends:

As I write my first annual report at St Luke's, I am struck by how much has happened since we first arrived in your midst last September. At that time, we came into town just in time for two nervous children to begin school. We camped out on the floor of the apartment (the carpet had not yet arrived) and on Wednesday, the day after our arrival we watched our worldly belongings carried by crane to the fourth floor balcony of our new home. It was all quite overwhelming! But through it all so many of you were eager to welcome us, encourage us, help us find our way around (the city has changed enormously since we last lived in it) that soon we were feeling that we belonged.

The many activities and events at St Luke's have worked their magic and made it quickly feel like home. The installation service was a special part of the autumn, as was the celebration of the congregation's anniversary. How wonderful to have both our pastor emeritus, Pastor Hansen, and our former assistant pastor, Kurt Hutchins, present for the day. The week-long celebration of the congregation's anniversary ended with the annual Benefit at the Firebird Restaurant: a grand evening, made all the more fun by the talented acting of our "St Luke's Kids" under the direction of John Fricke.

Since those first weeks we have come to know so many of you better, and to feel that the sense of both friendship and partnership is growing. Together we have prayed through the Advent season in anticipation of the coming King; celebrated the birth at Bethlehem(including carolling on the steps of the church in our delightful new Dickensian costumes made by Bob Wechtenhiser!); and enjoyed the visit of the Magi (thank you to Eric Zollinger, Aaron Binder, and John Fritz, as well as Ashley, Stephanie and Philip, their attendants!). A solemn Lent begun together on Ash Wednesday, led to a profound Holy Week. On Palm Sunday Jonathan carried "the old rugged cross" with great dignity from Duffy Square to the church(in spite of its weight!); Lori's interpretation of the passion narrative in dance explored the depths of the heart that are frequently left untouched by a more shallow reading. Maundy Thursday's simple foot washing was gently moving as we sang together; and on Good Friday many worshippers came forward to touch the cross or kneel at the altar in long moments of private prayer.

The moments of solemnity made the joy of the Easter Vigil even greater, as our cantor Pedro d'Aquino, intoned the Exultet and we stood with candles lit around the Paschal candle, the light of Christ. Baptismal vows were renewed- we had the first Vigil baptism in the congregation's history. Unfortunately the lovely pottery "fire bowl" was cracked by the heat of the Vigil flame, but with joy we all shared the first Easter Eucharist and proclaimed, "Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" And what a feast of desserts, champagne and sparkling cider followed!

I have deliberately started by describing the life of worship that is the center of our work together and that has been the starting point of our getting to know each other. As a fan of some of the books on the market that focus on Celtic Christianity, I was excited to discover only recently a quotation that sums up our life of worship as a starting point for all the ministry, caring, and outreach that we do. The author, Esther DeWaal, in her book Every Earthly Blessing writes: **The restoration of all things in Christ begins in the mystery of the Eucharist.**¹ It is in our weekly gatherings around the table that we are all together- not just a few of us for this or that

meeting. It is also there that Christ is most completely present to us, to forgive, nourish, and send us out again in service. There we hear the Word; there we receive Christ's own Body and Blood; there we share with one another both hopes and fears, find acceptance and the courage we need to face the world for a new week. It is the starting point for all our parish mission and renewal. It is the place for supporting one another and for beginning to dream and pray. The Eucharist is the presence of Christ among us, just as we, the people of God, are the presence of Christ in the world.

In weeks and months to come we will be talking more about parish mission goals, about a mission statement that can guide us as we discuss and select from many possibilities for future ministry and service. That will be great fun to do— the good kind of congregational fun that means lots of hard work, but work which is born out of confidence in God's presence and power.

In addition to congregational goals we shall talk more about joint work with our congregational neighbors at Immanuel, Holy Trinity, and Saint Peter's Churches. We are currently in discussion with them about common confirmation and youth ministry, elderly support and nursing care, common adult education programs, and jointly sponsored mission support. Many of these directions represent areas of mission and ministry where we have all seen the need but where no one of our congregations has had the strength to respond alone. As these ideas and programs develop, we will keep you informed.

Of course, a lot has already been happening in addition to our on-going worship life. Some things flow from the festival services; others have happened independently. All are exciting! We've done some unusual service events together (as in wrapping Christmas presents at the end of carolling) and sometimes just played together (as we did on Shrove Tuesday at the Pancake Supper). Many of you, eager for deeper exploration of the Scriptures have become part of the Saturday Morning Bible Class, coming when you are able to explore the subjects so far. We have examined Luther's Large Catechism and are currently embarked on a thorough introduction to the Bible. Newcomers are always welcome and everyone should feel free to come when they can, even if it's not every week. (In the autumn we hope to turn to the subject of Christian ethics with a range of guests to lead our discussions!) The Worship Planning Committee has begun meeting regularly to ensure that worship services are well planned and supported. Both forward planning and reflection on past worship are vital to these moments when we are all gathered together.

Meanwhile, Pastor Hansen (who has provided us with his own report as Pastor Emeritus) has continued to keep up our contacts in the community. He continues to sit on the board of the Times Square Business Improvement District, and on other community committees. He was even off recently to bless a new fleet of some 30 plus tour buses that are guiding tourists about the city. And from time to time he delights us by returning to preach and celebrate.

To summarize, it has been an exciting beginning in ministry here at St Luke's, a beginning that would not be possible without the dedicated participation and eagerness of many of you. I would love to thank you all individually, but I fear leaving someone out. I must, however, especially thank those of our staff here who give so generously and helpfully of their time and effort: our new cantor, Pedro d'Aquino, whose fine music makes every Sunday Eucharist a true festival; our parish administrator, Alan Freed, whose long hours, richly catholic knowledge of all things churchly, and hearty warm welcomes make us all feel at home; and John Greene, now officially our interim custodian, who has shown quiet calm competence in all that he touches from soup kitchen to building maintenance. I hope you will join me in thanking them!

To the members of the Church Council, thank you for your willingness to serve, to meet, to discuss, to share your wisdom and the history of the congregation. Together we have made a good start

Report of Pastor Hansen . . . “emeritus”

Since retirement I have “kept my distance,” but am happy to have been asked to represent Saint Luke’s in the Times Square area via the many boards and commissions I have served on.

I have met monthly with the Mayor’s Midtown Advisory Committee, appointed by Mayor Koch during the Guardian Angels controversy. One of my assignments has been to serve on a special committee researching and forming suggestions for handling the problems of tour buses . . . standing, routes, parking, safety, etc.

For many years I have served on the Board of Directors of the Broadway Association, comprised of business leaders and theatre interests. The group meets monthly and interacts with special speakers and guests on a variety of topics important to the City and Times Square.

A member of the Board of Directors of the Times Square Business Improvement District since its inception, I have been involved in regular meetings of the Board to deal with the incredible success of the District. Planning and pressuring “the powers that be” has been part of the Board’s activity over the years. Recently I participated in the happy dedication of thirty new double-decker buses purchased by Gray Line. I also am a member of the Program Committee of the Board and of its Nominating Committee.

I continue to coordinate activities of the Restaurant Row Association, the most recent being the installation of new trial street lights, larger “heads” for the current lampposts. There has been a felt need for greater illumination of the Block, especially since the trees have grown so tall and broad.

It was an honor to be asked to preside at the parish’s 150th Anniversary Eucharist and to be the preacher for Pastor Schmiede’s installation in October. I have celebrated three Midweek Eucharists and will be presiding again at Saint Luke’s on May 20th and July 15th.

And . . . since last September I have been the Interim Pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gouldsboro, Pennsylvania, a 125-year-old parish tucked into the hills of the Poconos. This has kept my pastoral finger very much in the ministry! . . . two Services each Sunday, the regular rhythm of special-season worship, two funerals, a wedding, and a baptism. The congregation is just completing its work of a pastoral search, and it is assumed that as of the end of this month they will have a permanent pastor. . . .

It’s been a joy to see Saint Luke’s continue its ministries with care and dispatch. I’m delighted that Pastor Schmiede has settled into his pastorate so well, bringing his many special talents into service of the members and the community.

Pastor Hansen

at a partnership that we pray God will bless with vibrancy and promise. I know you will understand if I particularly single out two of you by name: John Danielson, whose experience "on the job" has lent St Luke's a sense of steadiness over years of sailing the seas of a constantly changing city; and Pam Roetzer, who has given hours of time seeing to it that we remain financially solvent, even as the rest of us devise new ways to spend! I can't go through the whole council this way but all of you have contributed in such special ways at one time or another. St Luke's is blessed with this dedicated group of leaders!

Finally I ask you to keep us in your prayers, that God would bless us in our work together, guide it with the power of the Holy Spirit, and strengthen it for a strong and faithful witness to the neighborhood where we have been placed. Once again, I think DeWaal has given me a closing comment: **"Christ is celebrated, the centre of the universe, the keystone in the structure which God designed. It is as though the entire universe is simply one whole in which past and present, earth and heaven, are embraced. There is no division into two realms, the natural and the supernatural, but the two flow together into one, 'the mutual enclosure of this world in the next and next in this.'"**²

To the glory of Christ,

Pastor Schmiede

1. In true Celtic theological tradition, DeWaal connects the Eucharist to the restoration of all of creation and not simply of humanity. She then quotes a delightful Welsh poet, Euros Bowen, who writes, perhaps with a little disapproval (?) of a tiny stone church in the hills of Wales:

*The reredos
Was not a decorative work of art
Full of Church symbols,
But clear glass
With the danger
Of drawing our attention
Away from the things that are proper to the communion table.
For in the transparency
The green blueness of the earth
Was branching in the sight of the morning
The flowing of the river was blossoming.
The sky was a joyous flight. And the sunlight
Enflamed the clouds.*

*And I noticed
the priest's eyes
As if he were unknowingly
Putting his hands
On these gifts,
As if these gifts of nature
Were
the bread and the wine.*

2. *ibid.* p. 127.

CANTOR'S REPORT

St. Philip and St James, Apostles

May 1, 2001

In the four months since I arrived at Saint Luke's I have been overwhelmed by the vitality and tenacity of this "little flock" of Christ's people. My old friend Pastor Hansen¹ often referred to his beloved Saint Luke's as the "miracle on 46th Street." And what a miracle I have discovered it to be, for it stands in the shadows cast by the bright lights of the "Great White Way," yet week by week this little gathering around the Lord's Table takes its part (in the words of the writer P. T. Forsyth) "in Christ's finished act of Redemption, which is greater than the making of the world."² Imagine that! And in the midst of this regular encounter with the living God, the gift of music plays a special part in enlivening the announcement of the Good News and quickening the praises of God's holy people.

We are enormously blessed with the talents of our choir, who join hearts and voices to lead the people of Saint Luke's in praise and prayer:

Connie Duever	Shannon Carson*	Judy Barnett	John Danielson
Ann Marie Endres*	Suzanne Dodd	Jerry Christman	John Fritz*
Gayle Kliever	Casey Wilson	Rob Cunningham*	Richard Nesbit
Andrea Roy		Irving Hunter	

* section leaders

I am also grateful to my assistant, Dr. Charlotte Roederer, who has helped make the transition a smooth one and who continues to bring her talent and expertise to the leadership of the music program. Thanks are also due to Mardie Millit, former soprano section leader for her contributions during the past months. We wish her well in her new endeavors. We also send our best wishes to Aaron Binder, who has not been with us for several months now. We miss you, Aaron, and hope you will be back when you are able. We are glad to see Bruce Thorpe's smiling face again (now that the snow on the slopes has melted away), and look forward to seeing a few other faces, old and new, in the months ahead.

The musical highlight of my first few months here was the choir's splendid performance of Bach's Cantata BWV 4, *Christ lag in Todesbanden*,³ on Easter Day. It is gratifying to be able to perform the great music of the Church in the setting for which it was written, namely, the liturgy of Word and Sacrament. The vivid imagery of Luther's chorale text on the Easter Gospel with all its eucharistic overtones can make sense only in this setting, and Saint Luke's is one of the very few places in New

¹ Not so old, really!

² From *Liturgy Coming to Life* (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1964).

³ "Christ lay in the bonds of death," an English translation of which is at LBW 137.

York (if not the *only* one!)⁴ where this is happening. The services of Holy Week and the Triduum were a joy, from the amazing witness of the Palm Sunday procession at the crossroads of the cosmos⁵ to the quiet contemplation of Maundy Thursday and oboist/English hornist Bill Meredith's exquisite improvisations, to the austere and restrained joy of Good Friday with the Passion according to John and Bach's glorious chorales, to the unbounded victory shouts of the Vigil and Day of Easter with their Alleluias echoing for a week of weeks through the great Fifty Days. We look forward to celebrating the culmination of the Pentecost on June 3 with Arvo Pärt's *Berliner Messe*,⁶ a hauntingly beautiful contemporary work by the world-renowned Estonian composer. Invite your friends to join us for worship!

Finally, I must express my deepest thanks to Pastor Schmiede and the Church Council for inviting me to be your cantor and for being such an extraordinarily supportive pastor and colleague. He is a gifted musician in his own right and I am so grateful to be able to work with him in this capacity and to have him as a valued mentor and friend. Alan Freed is a joy to work with as well; he is the only parish administrator I have ever known who can take directions in any language, be it Latin, Greek, Hebrew, German, Spanish, Old Slavonic, or whatever, and usually complete the thought before I have a chance to finish. What a treasure he is!

On the Fourth Sunday of Easter, as the gifts were presented we sang the lovely twentieth-century German hymn, "Have no fear, little flock." Of course I was thinking of my home church of the Good Shepherd back in Brooklyn, celebrating its festival of title and 95 years of ministry in Bay Ridge. But I was thinking also of all of you, my Lukan family, this "little flock" to whom also the Father has chosen to give the Kingdom. And I was—and am—thanking God for leading me here and praying his guidance in the days and years ahead.

Thankful hearts raise to God,
For he stays close beside you,
In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

LBW 476:4

Respectfully submitted,

⁴ Holy Trinity at Central Park West and 65th Street has a wonderful tradition of performing Bach at Vespers on Sunday evening (under the gifted leadership of Richard Erickson), but to my knowledge has not yet restored the cantata to its rightful place in the eucharistic liturgy.

⁵ Both Jerusalem and Mecca (among other cities) have been called the "navel of the universe," but for this native Manhattanite creation and civilization converge at a point just south of Duffy Square.

⁶ We hope to be joined again by instrumentalists from One World Symphony, our partners under the leadership of David Hong.

LUTHERAN ADULT FUN & FELLOWSHIP

OF SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Adult Fun and Fellowship of Saint Luke's began in the fall of 1996 as a fellowship group offering social and charitable activities for fellow St. Lukans. Our events have included everything from our infamous "Bowling Nights" to restaurant outings, theatre outings, toy drives, a trip to the Bronx Zoo, Hallowe'en parties, and dying over 700 Easter eggs for the Firebird Restaurant. In the spring of '98 we became "official" and elected officers: Co-presidents: Suzanne Dodd and Lori Mahl; Events Coordinator: Jim Deliman; Treasurer: Greg Henry; Secretary: Todd Howell. As we are not a "youth" group all adults are encouraged to participate!

Though this past year was not quite as active as we have previously been, LAFF participants were able to take on several projects, including attending a performance of *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, starring our own Todd Howell; organizing the Easter Breakfasts, shopping and wrapping a hundred Christmas gifts for children through Lutheran Immigration Services, and a very successful Sidewalk Sale of Pastor Hansen's discarded "treasures."

Upcoming evens may include a baseball game or perhaps a beach outing this summer. Stay tuned.

May 13, 2001

Dear St. Luke's Family,

Last year was a truly an eventful year for St. Luke's. A time that could have been tumultuous was instead a time when we pulled together to meet our challenges and pave the way for a new and exciting time.

During the course of 2000 we experienced several large unexpected expenses. Most notable was the more than \$158,000 spent in unplanned repairs to the building. In addition to heating system repairs, the façade required repair. The rectory required repairs and renovation to make welcome the Schmiede family. During the completion of the lounge some serious plumbing problems were discovered which required attention. In order to meet these expenses, we transferred funds from investments. The generous and loving bequest of Hilda Johnson helped us in great measure to meet these challenges.

It is not uncommon during such a transitional year for parish income to dip somewhat, as ours indeed did. We fell short in our 2000 giving income goals (Lent/Easter, Christmas, Weekly Envelopes, etc). However, we were able control our operating expenses to compensate.

The Council approved the 2001 budget confident that our Lukan family is strong and growing. For the first time we have budgeted a commitment to Synod missions. Our new newsletter is bringing St. Luke's, our activities and our mission into many homes. Seasonal update and appeal letters will be sent to our full mailing lists. Adjustments are being made to facility use fees. The Council also approved an initiative to replace, over several years, the funds transferred from our investments used to pay for repairing the heating system.

2000 was indeed a remarkable year for St. Luke's. I thank all of you for giving so generously of yourselves, your time and your possessions. I believe we are more than prepared to meet 2001, and beyond, with strength and unity.

Sincerely,

Pamela Roetzer

St. Luke's Lutheran Church 2000

<u>Income</u>	<u>2000 Budget</u>	<u>2000 Actual</u>	<u>Approved 2001 Budget</u>
Anniversary / Installation	10,000	10,413	5,000
Christmas	10,000	5,847	10,000
Lent & Easter	10,000	8,069	10,000
Thanksgiving	3,000	2,208	3,000
Friends	3,000	1,820	3,000
Envelopes	65,000	59,792	70,000
Plate	9,000	10,864	10,000
Use Fees	180,000	175,580	204,000
Misc / Special		1,961	
Missions			9,000
Interest/Investment/Surplus	50,000	65,000	50,000
		80,000	
Transfer from Investment for Heating System			
Total	340,000	421,553	374,000

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2000 Budget</u>	<u>2000 Actual</u>	<u>Approved 2001 Budget</u>
Worship Materials / Education	3,000	2,739	3,000
Continuing Education			950
Missions			9,000
Music (Repairs, Music, Soloists)	18,600	20,878	20,000
Payroll	120,500	88,217	124,100
Social Security	8,000	8,588	7,000
Employee Benefits/Misc. Expense	15,000	38,050	51,300
Travel	5,060	674	1,400
Bank / Service Fees		87	
Equipment Purchase / Maintenance	6,000	474	10,000
Insurance	8,000	7,006	9,000
Office Supplies	3,000	2,936	3,000
Postage, Delivery	1,500	1,286	2,000
Printing	3,000	1,534	3,000
Building Repair / Maintenance (standard)	35,000	29,080	45,000
Repayment Project			16,650
Special Proj. - Lounge	30,000	66,184	
Outside Façade repair		17,250	
Rectory Renovation		12,130	
Heating System		92,816	
Marketing / Advertising	10,000	9,110	12,000
Telephone	2,500	2,398	3,000
Utilities	40,000	46,212	45,000
Taxes (Water/Sewer)	1,800	3,616	3,600
Misc. (Receptions, Subscriptions, etc.)	5,000	4,741	5,000
Call Process and Move		19,056	
Total	315,960	475,061	374,000

St. Luke's Lutheran Church 2000

Special Projects / Funds

	<u>2000</u>				
	<u>Beginning</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Ending</u>
Benefit		9,475	8,397	1,078	1,078
Altar Flowers	-888	1,605	2,318	(713)	(1,601)
Easter/Christmas Flowers	-1,042	1,642	2,129	(487)	(1,529)
Chancel Fund	4,025	1,325	1,182	143	4,167
Legacies, Memorials, Bequests	30,864	116,141	0	116,141	147,005
Soup Kitchen	16,031	252	10,754	(10,502)	10,502
Benevolence	1,981	139	810	(671)	671
Missions		10,853	10,853		
Total	50,970	141,432	36,442	104,990	160,293
Friends	22,823	3,000	1,820	1,180	24,003

Operating

	<u>2000 Budget</u>	<u>2000 Actual</u>
Income	340,000	421,553
Expenses	<u>(315,960)</u>	<u>(475,061)</u>
Income minus Expenses	24,040	(53,508)

Special Projects / Funds

Income	0	141,432
Expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>(36,442)</u>
Income minus Expenses	0	104,990
 Total	 <u><u>24,040</u></u>	 <u><u>51,482</u></u>