



# View from the Tower

Volume 2, Issue 2

A Newsletter of Saint Luke's Church  
Looking out over Times Square

Advent 2001

*"Safeguard your faithful people in the sanctuary of your love, O God.  
Shelter them this night in the shelter of the saints.  
God to enfold them, God to surround them, God in their watching,  
God in their hoping, God in their sleeping,  
God in their ever-living souls.  
(from the Iona Community in Scotland)*

Dear members and friends:

After a long hiatus we are back to printing a newsletter again at St. Luke's. The gap in our publishing schedule was brought about by the shift from old computers to a new computer system at the church. As you know, such systems have grown rapidly in recent years and, more than ever, we at the church are also dependent on them for recordkeeping, financial systems, and communication with members and friends. So we are delighted to be back online.

As I write this we continue to recover from the events of this autumn. The shock of those initial days focused on the loss of so many people, both those who worked in the World Trade Center and those who attempted their rescue. Then the air crash at JFK compounded our sense of a world out of control. Now we are seeing longer term effects as people struggle to deal with the financial crises caused by loss of work, problems with rent, food, clothing, etc. This means the prayers and support of the Christian community become even more important. The deep need will be for concrete signs that we do care, that God cares, and that emotional, spiritual, and other forms of support are available for all who need it. Perhaps the deepest casualty of the events of these recent months will be our ability to trust in the presence of God, to believe in God's ability to bring the world to a good end.

How blessed we are, therefore, that even as we gather in the Christian community for prayer, scripture and the Eucharist, we also move toward the celebration of God's own answer to our questions and fears. That movement is precisely what the season of Advent is all about. The gift of God's son at Bethlehem reminds us that God's will is life for the world, peace among nations, justice and freedom from want and fear for all whom he has so lovingly made. In our weakest moments we find hope at the altar; strength in the word of scripture; encouragement, support and healing in the touch of the shared peace. Holding hands we stand in silent awe together before the light of the newborn Son of God, and we discover that even what we do not understand becomes bearable, because this infant takes us up into the design of God and so we move from death to life, from darkness to light!

*Pastor Schmiege*

## Blessed by Broadway

This year's annual Broadway Blessing took place at St. Luke's on Monday evening, September 10. It was a wonderful and joyful time. The choirs and clergy from St. Malachy's Roman Catholic Church, St. Clement's Episcopal Church, the Rabbi and cantor of Congregation Ezrath Israel, and, of course, St. Luke's, participated. In addition, a number of Broadway performers, including contemporary theater legend Marian Seldes—most recently of Neil Simon's "45 Seconds from Broadway"—took part in a special Broadway Blessing Choir (which performed a song penned for this event) and the Joan Miller's Dance Players performed.

Following the packed service of song and story (worshippers

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Volunteers from the eleventh grade at the Nightingale-Bamford School were an enormous help as we served Thanksgiving Dinner to over 120 people on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We hope they'll join us again at Christmas!

## Back in Business

"Open to anybody who is hungry." During August the St. Luke's soup kitchen—and therefore its "mission statement"—was closed. But each week since the re-opening on September 4 as many as 110 people have once again been eating and receiving clothing in the theater downstairs.

"This is a ministry that's valuable," says Harry Moon, the kitchen's new director. Harry, who retired in March 2000 as vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Bloomfield College, started reorganizing the program this August. "Pastor said, 'We need you to do it.' I said, 'It's a good idea.' It's made me aware of community relations." Up until five years ago, Harry was a member at Saint

Peter's Lutheran, where he helped oversee that church's breakfast soup kitchen.

Harry is in need of people (desperate need, says Pastor Schmiede) to help at both the soup kitchen (on Tuesdays and Thursdays) and the clothing distribution, moved to the first Monday of the month from 10:00 to 12:00. He is hoping for

regular volunteers for lunches, or for people who could work the same week every month. And he needs five people to help give out clothes.

If you want to donate clothes, take them to the front

desk on the ground level of the church. One specific need: men's and women's slacks and outercoats. Residents of John and Patty Fricke's apartment building donated 11 boxes of clothing. "People have been very, very generous," says Harry, who added that the restaurants on 46th Street continually give food they can't use.

**"The soup kitchen is a ministry that's valuable."**

## Your Council

Among the many other activities taking place on Sunday, December 2, the first week in Advent (see story on page 3), members will vote at the congregational meeting for deacons, trustees and an elder to serve on church council.

Deacons are responsible for worship and for helping the pastor in many areas of spiritual life and care. Members will choose two people from this slate of four: Ernie Vickroy, Heidi Ernst, Harry Moon and Lori Mahl.

Trustees help to manage the financial and legal affairs of the congregation. Members will choose two people from this slate of four: John Fricke, Scott Layman, Suzanne Dodd and Judith Barnett.

Marge Gulliksen is slated as the sole candidate for the position of elder. ●

### Mission: Possible

The merger between Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) and Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) is not final, but both organizations have already joined forces to help victims of the September 11 attacks. More than \$5 million had been raised by the middle of October from supplemental funds and fundraising activities by the organizations' national volunteer groups. LB is matching all contributions made to Lutheran Disaster Response up to \$650,000. To contribute, send a check to P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764. To receive the match, note "Sept. 11-LB Match" on the check memo.



# World Music

It's quite appropriate that conductor David Hong—a native of Korea, former resident of California and Illinois, and student in Vienna, Austria—began with some friends a musical group called One World Symphony. The group performs new music, world music (that which is performed in the composer's native tongue), and the standard repertoire (such as Mozart's Requiem), and it has made St. Luke's one of its resident churches for rehearsals and concerts.

"We were looking for a home and thought the best thing was to find one where we could help each other, help a church to gain more exposure—and the church would want beautiful music shared in their sanctuary," says David,

who adds that Brooklyn Oratory at St. Boniface, in downtown Brooklyn, is the group's other church home. "We're focusing a lot on sacred music."

One World gathers eight times before a concert in our building to practice. The symphony's size is flexible; the last concert featured 30 musicians and 60 singers. The concert, on October 20, was standing-room only and raised more than \$2,500 for the Uniformed Firefighters' Association's Widows and Children Fund.

The next concert, currently scheduled for Saturday, January 26 at 8 P.M. at St. Luke's will also be a benefit. That night One World will premiere a work by Jack Cross, a finalist in the New York City Opera composition contest, and also Bach's Magnificat.

After Easter, look for the premiere of a piece in Portuguese by our own cantor, Pedro d'Aquino. ●

## Advent/Christmas Worship Schedule

### 1st Sunday in Advent, Dec. 2

11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist,  
Followed by Voters' Meeting,  
Lunch, and Advent wreaths.  
3:00 P.M. Advent Carol Service.

### Wednesdays in Advent, Dec. 5, 12, and 19

12:10 P.M. Holy Communion.  
6:00 P.M. Soup and Bread.  
7:00 P.M. Advent Vespers.

### 2nd Sunday in Advent, Dec. 9

11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist

### 3rd Sunday in Advent, Dec. 16

11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist

### 4th Sunday in Advent, Dec. 23

11:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist

### Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

10:00 P.M. Eucharist of the  
Nativity.

### Christmas Day, Dec. 25

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist.

*(Don't forget: We celebrate Epiphany on  
Jan. 6 with a visit from the Wise men!)*

## 'Tis the Season

Advent is the season of waiting, but we don't have to wait long for it: Dec. 2 is coming quickly.

During 11:00 worship that day, new members will be received and first communion given. Immediately after that is the annual congregational meeting and lunch (see page 2 for the slate of council officers).

After that is the 2nd annual advent-wreath-making party. If you came last year and kept your wreath frame, bring it with you. (There will be others, and greens and candles, available.)

To wrap it all up, an Advent-carol service will be held at 3:00 in the sanctuary. ●



**What fun we had making Advent wreaths last year!** Everyone had the opportunity to make one that could be used at home for Advent prayers and worship. This year we do it again on the First Sunday in Advent!

## Bits & Pieces

Any budding florists out there? We are looking for people to choose and buy flowers from the flower market (on the church's charge account), take them to church and arrange them—all on Saturdays. We need either one person to take on the task alone each week or someone to organize a few people to volunteer who can switch off the responsibilities. Call the church office if interested.

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A-caroling we will go: Friday, December 14, is the annual caroling on the church steps and party afterward. Carolers will again don the Dickensian costumes Bob Wechtenhiser created last year, so call ahead to the church office if you plan to participate.

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We remind our members and our friends that the disasters of September and October have affected not only the city as a whole, but also the congregation. Your efforts to keep up with contributions are particularly important and appreciated as we respond to new and unforeseen needs. This year, more than ever your Christmas gifts will be vital to the financial health of our work together!

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Mark your calendars for a congregational retreat—everybody is welcome. From January 11 to 13 we will gather at Koinonia in Highland Lake, N.Y., about two hours from the city. The cost is \$50 plus transportation. Stay tuned for more information. ●

## "Favorite Things" at a Favorite Event

All Saint's Sunday, November 4, was an appropriate evening for the 22nd annual benefit. In a return to Danny's Grand Sea Palace, about 70 parishioners, friends and associates enjoyed drinks, dinner, drinks, fellowship, drinks, and the customary cabaret revue—the latter produced for the 19th time by John Fricke.

The show's theme, Our Favorite Things, was reflected in its opening number, a parody of the Rodgers & Hammerstein song from "The Sound of Music." The new lyrics "memorialized" a dozen or so members of St. Luke's by name and in fun.

The cast of 10 also presented solos, a 31-song Hammerstein medley and a 39-song finale of

their favorite show tunes. The encore, Irving Berlin's "Count Your Blessings," provided a quiet contrast to the ebullience that had preceded it.

For the third time, Keith Thompson was pianist/arranger/vocal coach, and Danny's own Graham Kindred oversaw lighting and sound. The cast also included Jim Deliman, Patty Fricke, Greg Henry, Todd Howell, Lori Mahl and

Eric Zollinger, augmented by newcomers Debra Cardona and Claudia Schneider, and the returning Jayne Lynch.

If you missed the show, you can order a videotape of it for \$20 from

Fricke (call 212-315-5274).

The annual benefit evening was founded in 1980 by Pastor Emeritus Dale D. Hansen as a means of raising funds for various outreach programs and to give members a chance to socialize outside of church on Sunday mornings.

New lyrics to  
"My Favorite Things"  
memorialized a  
dozen Lukans.

(continued from page 1)

had to start filling in the balcony too), there was a delightful reception in the church theatre. Funding for the event was made possible by the Theatre Development Fund, The League of American Theatres and Producers, Jerome Records and To the Table Catering.

St. Luke's was the first church in the neighborhood to host a Broadway Blessing five years ago. Everything has now come full-circle. Next year's blessing will take place on September 9, 2002, at 6:30 P.M. at St. Clement's Church on 46th Street between Ninth and Tenth Avenues. ●

### VIEW FROM THE TOWER

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### WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays at 11 A.M.  
Wednesdays at 12:10 P.M. and 7 P.M.  
Morning Prayer daily at 8:45 A.M.

**Pastor:**  
The Rev. Paul D. Schmiede

Cantor: Pedro d'Aquino  
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