

## From the Pastor

### *Remembering 2003/ Anticipating 2004*

Dear members and friends:

As I write these words the restoration project outside of the church is continuing. The copper flashing is close to finished and the stonework is now being cleaned by a power washing system. Hard spray with particles of sand in it is the cleaning solution. By peeling away the outside layer it leaves the façade of the church looking fresh and new again. If it were not stonework, it would probably be quite painful.

In much the same way, Eustace in *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis discovered that once greed had turned him into a dragon it can be very painful to have your human self restored. Aslan, the lion king, had to strip the dragon skin away and bathe him in the healing water of the pool before he was restored to himself. It was both painful and cleansing.

Why start with these comments? Because 2003 was a year with some pain in it for us as well, but pain which can cause us to grow. To begin with we really started to feel the effects of the economic downturn that have gripped everything in New York since 9/11. Both shows that were in our theater closed (although one has since re-opened) and the economic impact was enormous. Glenn Von Bernewitz, our treasurer, tells you in more detail about that. In addition, we learned that the leakage of the roof of our much-loved church building was reaching the point where stop-gap measures would not suffice to keep out the water. On the church council there were long debates, requests for more information and finally the decision to begin to face the cost of repairs in spite of the lowering of our stream of income. With the realization of the cost of scaffolding, we also resolved to repair all that we could on the “West end” of the building. For an idea of how much work was involved, I urge you to read Marvin Bettis’ report.

As we have continued to work and function in these tighter straits, we have also been learning how to think more creatively about mission and ministry, about fund raising, and about faith. I am reminded that we do our best growing not when we are comfortable and content, but when things happen to us that are painful enough to make us think, reflect, and rise to the challenge. Our challenges last year included the loss of income and the need for repairs. Our challenges for 2004 are seen best in Eric Zollinger’s report of the Pastoral Care Committee. That report helps us to see the target toward which all we do is aimed—namely the offering of our lives in praise of God in such a way that others, too, may come to know, love, trust, and serve our Lord. To that end 2003 helped us to begin to face some long-term challenges: in worship, in spiritual growth, in outreach, and in education.

The beginning of this year of 2004 has placed another new challenge in front of us. We are being asked to examine the possibility of granting a long term use of the theater to the

company that has been there for years. In return we might be able to stabilize our income in a way that would make even stronger ministry possible. As we investigate that possibility we will do all we can to be sure that everyone is informed and able to play a part in the decision making process.

What other challenges lie before us? It seems to me that one of the greatest is the challenge to sustain our own personal faith and enthusiasm as we embark on long-term plans for the future of Saint Luke's. So many people are enthusiastic at the beginning of something new, but lose interest and energy as time goes on, or find that they were naïve about their own abilities, or even that they no longer want to be involved. The strength for renewal, growth, and the deepening of our own faith continue to come from the one who washed us in the Baptismal water, and who feeds us at the Table.

*Pastor Schmiede*

### **Prayer for Holy Week**

Love me in my willingness to suffer  
Love me in the gifts I wish to offer  
Teach me how you love and have to die  
And I will try

Somehow to forget myself and give  
Life and joy so dead things start to live.  
Let me show now an untrammelled joy,  
Gold without alloy.

You know I have no cross but want to learn,  
How to change and to the poor would turn.  
I can almost worship stars and moon  
And the sun at noon

But when I'm low I only beg you to  
Ask me anything, I'll try to do  
What you need. I trust your energy.  
Share it then with me.

## Pastor Hansen's Report for 2003

2003 proved to be a challenging year for me! It began with a week in the hospital battling an infection, followed by several weeks of therapy to regain ability to walk. Then, happily, I was able to resume some pastoral activities in Spring - preaching and presiding at St. Luke's (here), and at St. John in Scranton, PA, and St. Luke's in Archbald. PA. Patient and helpful congregations and acolytes kept me upright and functioning.

In July it was my joy to represent Pastor Schmiede and St. Luke's for the funeral of Marguerite Novak, a faithful and generous Lukan since birth. She died in the Lord at the age of 87, having "*run the course of faith and life*" having touched many lives with her love and kindness.

Then in late summer my health again began to wane, and I underwent brain surgery in September to relieve pressure causing nerve problems governing my walking. After a month in the hospital and a rehabilitation center I returned home to continue recovery. My heartfelt thanks to all of you and others for your prayers and encouragement. It's great to be able to get to church again, our dear Saint Luke's!

God's blessing in this New Year and in continued service to Christ.

Pastor Hansen, *pastor emeritus*

## President's Report - March, 2004

As I begin my term as president of council, I look back on a very busy year that saw great accomplishment and promise. Thank you God for all blessings. We owe much thanks to Judy Barnett our outgoing president for leading us with amazing calmness and resolve. We banded together to pass a new constitution. Something that was in the works for what seems like a lifetime. We very quickly sought repairs to one of the air chambers in our spectacular organ when the leather gave out. Through the hard work of the congregation and the council, we collected bids and began repairs to our façade and roof as well as the restoration of our West Window. These projects are needed to maintain a safe church home. We enjoyed a benefit dinner in the fall at Danny's. I have to say, although I missed performing, it was nice to sit with everyone and enjoy a fantastic evening of food and fellowship. This seemed to be the kick-off to our fund-raising campaign to pay for the renovations. We are still looking for donations to fund these projects, so please keep that in mind. We all look forward to that day very soon, when the scaffolding comes down and we can once again see the beauty of our church.

We are in for an exciting year. We have been approached by Entertainment Events with a request to license and completely renovate and expand our theatre space. We will all be hearing much more about this project as we receive more information. I will say that they are offering to completely manage the space and build us a new kitchen in our existing courtyard.

As a council, we are continuing our effort to become more organized and in turn more effective. We do need your help. There are several committees that have been formed that could always use more input. For more information, see Eric, Glen, Marvin or any of your council members.

Each Sunday as I sit in this Holy house, I thank God for so many blessings: The comfort of being safe in this place, the joy of being surrounded by so much love, and awe in the power of faith. Through God, we can accomplish all things.

In Faith and Love,  
Jim Deliman

## Cantor's Report

One of the most exciting things about being the Cantor of Saint Luke's Church is never having to hear the "seven last words." Not the Seven Last Words of Christ, mind you, but the so-called seven last words of the Church: "We've Never Done It That Way Before!" Lukans are the most open-minded and adventurous people I've ever had the pleasure to serve. This is important for church music at the beginning of a new millennium. As the pace of social change ever increases, the Church often struggles to keep apace while remaining faithful to its mission. Church musicians also try to strike just the right balance between exposing new generations to the treasures of the past and reaching out boldly in new directions, being open to the varied cultural expressions of believers in a global Church. Last year I made mention of a statement on "The Role of the Cantor," published by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. One sentence sticks in my mind: "The cantor leads the earthly assembly in a foretaste of John's vision of the heavenly assembly in which all creatures give praise, honor, glory, and power to the Lamb." This



year marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Marc-Antoine Charpentier (see picture, left), one of the greatest composers of church music of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. Our choir has presented and will present a number of his works in the course of the liturgy: the "Song of the Birth of Christ" last Christmas Eve, "The Prodigal Son" last Sunday, and the "Mass for Easter Saturday" at the Vigil of Easter in just a few weeks. Charpentier wrote an enigmatic piece, *Epitaphium Carpentarii*, in which he dramatizes his posthumous return to earth as a ghost. In this semi-serious/semi-humorous work, he chastises and criticizes the work of one of his predecessors at the *Sainte Chapelle*, François Chaperon. (Fortunately I have had some wonderful predecessors at Saint Luke's: Walter Hilse, John Scherer, Steve Lawson, and Matthew Knip are just a few that come to mind.)

The ghost of Charpentier admonishes his earthly companions to "embrace" Chaperon's "asinine hack-work" as a kind of punishment and purgatory so that they might after death "taste the joys of eternal life and drink the nectarlike harmony of the angels in the fountain of delight." While we at Saint Luke's always strive for that foretaste of heaven in our music, Charpentier assures that if the music at times seems more to you like "purgatory" it is a short-lived suffering in comparison with the angelic songs that we will all enjoy for eternity!

Our choir is a joy to work with and to be with. Highlights of the past year include the very moving Mass for All Souls with music of Lalande and Lully last November, and the Christmas and Epiphany liturgies. The new setting of the evening liturgy by David Cherwien for Wednesdays in Advent and Lent is catching on, and we look forward to a joyous Easter celebration with the music of Dieterich Buxtehude: choir, soloists, organ, strings, brass, and percussion. On a personal note, many of you already know that in May I will be entering into a major new commitment as assistant organist of Temple Emanu-El across town at Fifth Avenue and 65<sup>th</sup> Street, the largest synagogue in the world. This is a great opportunity for me and I think it will complement my work at St. Luke's in a unique way.

To Pastors Schmiege and Hansen, Nhorie Leonardo and John Greene for their constant support I am very grateful. And to the people of Saint Luke's: Thank you for three fulfilling years of ministry through music. I look forward to many, many more with you at "the crossroads of the world."

Respectfully submitted,

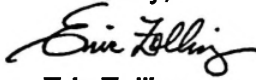
Pedro d'Aquino, *Cantor*

## Pastoral Care Committee Report to the Congregation

This has already proven to be an exciting time for the Pastoral Care Committee (PCC). With the passing of the Constitution, the PCC came to life on paper, rolling three aspects of church life into one: Liturgical, Spiritual, and Education. It is our responsibility and our challenge to bring these together in an organized way so that in the future we are not always "trying to reinvent the wheel."

During our meetings we have discussed items/issues that have worked in the past and things that have not gone quite so well. There are many new ideas in the works for the coming year and we welcome your feedback. Below I have broken down the three areas of the PCC and some of the up-coming projects/goals we have planned. Also printed below are the members of this committee. Please feel free to speak to any of us with questions, and most importantly, if you can join or help in some way. Our intent is to have the three areas of the PCC be sub-committees, having members separate from the main committee so that the time commitment isn't so great.

Sincerely,



Eric Zollinger

Members:

Judy Barnett	Suzanne Dodd
Rosemarie Gallinari	Richard Nesbit
Bob Wechtenhiser	Eric Zollinger

### LITURGICAL

- Goal to have the Server Schedules filled out in advance allowing them to be mailed home.
- Holy Week Server workshop at 1pm on Saturday April 3 to receive service orders in advance so that we are organized prior to each service.
- Formation of an Alter Guild.
- Service of Healing on a regular scheduled being reviewed.

### SPIRITUAL

- Create a Prayer/Emergency Phone Tree. Currently being drafted by Suzanne Dodd.
- Weekly emails with Saint Luke Announcements. (Target Date Autumn 2004)
- Form a visitation group that checks up on our homebound members and those that may need other assistance.
- Sunday May 2: *Community Sunday!* We'll have posters made by Richard Nesbit posted throughout the neighborhood announcing our outreach/welcome to the community. Also known as *Bring a Friend to Church Sunday*. Potluck will follow service!

### EDUCATION

- "Gospel according to Tolkien" adult education series just finishing up.
- Summer Retreat: August 13-15.
- Confirmation Sunday June 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Sunday School will be wrapping up another year!

March 22, 2004

### **2003 Clothing Bank Report**

The clothing bank is open the first Monday of each month. We set up the tables after coffee hour the Sunday prior.

Over the past few months we have been blessed with a variety of volunteers who donate an hour to help prepare the tables. By popular request and in an effort to get more volunteers, I have been collecting emails and will begin emailing everyone the Thursday prior to set-up each month.

As far as the clothing stands, we are in need of men's clothing but have been able to achieve "full" tables each month for both men and women.

We will be doing a large pre-sort at some point soon. This makes the set-up on the Sundays much easier and allows us to see if we are lacking anything.

Finally, we are always looking for donations. So, if you have anything it can be brought in whenever and left at the desk downstairs. We can provide tax forms to write off the donation. Also, if you know anyone who has clothing to donate, please let them know about us.

Heather Kray

## **2003 Fundraising Committee Report**

**Committee Members:** Ernie Vickroy  
Judy Barnett  
Paul Schmiede  
Connie Duever

This committee was formed late in 2003 to investigate ways to raise funds for the roof and window restoration. Although too late to help with the current project, we did find out about the New York Landmarks Conservancy which does have several matching grant programs available through their Sacred Sites program. In order to get most funding, St. Luke's needs to be listed in the New York State Historic Preservation Registry and will likely need a financial audit. Paperwork is being completed for the Preservation Registry and the Financial Management Committee is working with the Synod guidelines to prepare for an audit.

As part of the Registry application process, we did find interesting facts about our architects – EL Tilton and AM Githens. They were primarily known for designing libraries. As a team or partnered with other architects, they designed over 60 libraries in the Northeast including the Central Library in Brooklyn. Tilton also designed the Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins University, the Baltimore Courthouse, and the Pan American Building in Washington, D.C. But his most impressive design was the Main Immigration Building on Ellis Island. St Lukes was the first church designed by the team.

Fundraising ideas for 2004 include a brunch dinner cruise in May, selling tickets for Great Adventure Amusement Park, and another Street Sale (which raised over \$900 last year). Please see Ernie Vickroy if you are interested in participating in the events or becoming a member of the committee.



St. Lukes Lutheran Church Calendar Year 2003 Budget December 2003 Year to Date	General Fund Budget			
	2003 Budget	2003 YTD	Variance	% of Budget
<b>Income</b>	<b>297,100</b>	<b>240,517</b>	<b>(56,583)</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>96,000</b>	<b>76,123</b>	<b>(19,877)</b>	<b>79%</b>
Anniversary	8,000	1,010	(6,990)	13%
Christmas	5,000	4,337	(663)	87%
Lent & Easter	8,000	5,503	(2,497)	69%
Missions				
Plate	13,000	9,449	(3,551)	73%
Thanksgiving	2,000	1,155	(845)	58%
Weekly Env.	60,000	54,669	(5,331)	91%
<b>Use Receipts</b>	<b>191,100</b>	<b>152,345</b>	<b>(38,755)</b>	<b>80%</b>
AA/CA	1,500	1,355	(145)	90%
Entertainment/Late Nite	40,000	15,600	(24,400)	39%
Family School West	39,600	37,800	(1,800)	95%
Lutheran Social Services	24,000	22,000	(2,000)	92%
Project Renewal	36,000	36,000	-	100%
TNT	40,000	29,700	(10,300)	74%
Misc.	10,000	9,890	(110)	99%
<b>Misc Income</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>12,049</b>	<b>2,049</b>	<b>120%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>297,100</b>	<b>382,906</b>	<b>85,806</b>	<b>129%</b>
<b>General &amp; Admin</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>64,446</b>	<b>41,446</b>	<b>280%</b>
Advertising	2,100	1,821	(279)	87%
Equipment	2,000	11,805	9,805	590%
Food	2,500		(2,500)	0%
Receptions	2,500	2,236	(264)	89%
Supplies	5,000	6,233	1,233	125%
Telephone	3,300	5,506	2,206	167%
Misc.	5,600	36,845	31,245	658%
<b>Building</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>71,763</b>	<b>1,763</b>	<b>103%</b>
Ongoing Maint.	20,000	14,258	(5,742)	71%
Insurance	15,000	12,563	(2,437)	84%
Utilities	32,000	40,756	8,756	127%
Water	3,000	4,186	1,186	140%
<b>Education</b>				
Misc. (retreats)	2,600	-	(2,600)	0%
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>170,500</b>	<b>208,100</b>	<b>37,600</b>	<b>122%</b>
Salary	64,500	62,554	(1,946)	97%
Federal/State Taxes	16,000	15,206	(794)	95%
Social Security/Medicare	12,000	11,899	(101)	99%
Insurance	1,400	1,088	(312)	78%
Optional Pension Plan	2,100	5,400	3,300	257%
Pension/Medical	45,000	61,988	16,988	138%
Parking/Transportation	2,700	2,751	51	102%
Supply Preachers	2,700	3,120	420	116%
Housing	-	10,094	10,094	100%
Education	-	3,500	3,500	100%
Travel	600	1,498	898	250%
Tuition	23,500	29,002	5,502	123%
<b>Music</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>33,614</b>	<b>8,614</b>	<b>134%</b>
Soloist/Musicians	20,000	23,625	3,625	118%
Substitute Organ	1,500	1,350	(150)	90%
Repair/Maint.	2,500	7,235	4,735	289%
Music	1,000	1,404	404	140%
<b>Worship</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>4,983</b>	<b>(1,017)</b>	<b>83%</b>
Supplies	6,000	4,983	(1,017)	83%
<b>Over Budget</b>			<b>(142,389)</b>	

### St. Lukes Financial Report 2004 Annual Meeting

Although I said the same thing last year, it was another challenging year for St. Lukes. We ran a significant budget gap due to lower income and higher expenses. We've again had to subsidize this out of the Endowment fund.

#### Income:

Contributions were below budget in all categories and also below 2002 levels. Use receipts provided the largest shortfall, with the 2 theatre users falling more than \$35,000 off budget. Overall, income came in at 81% of budget, short more than \$56,000.

#### Expenses:

Total expenses were more than \$85,000 over budget.

The 2004 operating budget is expected to be approximately \$100,000 in deficit. This shortfall will need to be funded from the Endowment. We have had to take the money from the Endowment for the past 5 years to cover our deficits. This trend, over the long-term, will reduce the size and spending power of the endowment.

During 2003, the congregation approved work to begin on the windows and facade. We received pledges and loans from members and friends of St. Lukes.

Glenn Von Bernewitz  
Treasurer  
March 28, 2004