

Pastoral Report for 2005

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all you do be done in love.

I Corinthians 16:13

When I begin the preparation for this pastoral report I like to start by reviewing the events of 2005. It is fascinating to remember the occasions and celebrations that helped to shape the year and that invigorated the life of our congregation. I share some of those highlights with you here. During 2005 we:

- Studied the Augsburg Confession in our Saturday Morning Bible Study
- Held a lovely Winter Retreat at Koinonia in February
- Celebrated Shrove Tuesday with Our Annual Pancake Supper
- Attended the Saint Olaf Choir Concert at Carnegie Hall
- Collected Relief funds for the Tsunami Disaster
- Read the first volume of short stories “Listening for God” for Lenten Bible Study
- Saw the new movie “Martin Luther” when it appeared in the theaters
- Inaugurated our monthly Healing Mass (still the third Wednesday of each month)
- Celebrated an early Holy Week and Easter (end of March—on of the earliest ever!)
- Heard the choir sing a Bach cantata for Easter (*Halt im Gedächtniss Jesum Christ*)
- Enjoyed a Harbor Cruise Fund Raiser in June
- Went rafting at Koinonia in August
- Hosted “Broadway Blessing” here including the cast of “Choirboyz”
- Began a study of the parables of Jesus (still going on this spring)
- Had a great Saint Luke’s Benefit, seeing “Bingo” in our theatre and dining at Les Rivage
- Celebrated All Saints Day with a Mozart Mass superbly sung by our choir
- Joined Koinonia in a “Silent Retreat” led by Pastor Schmiede in November
- Made Advent wreaths on the First Sunday of Advent—a continuing tradition
- Served superb Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners in the Soup Kitchen
- Enjoyed Christmas Caroling on the steps and wrapped presents for the Soup Kitchen
- Rejoiced in the birth of the Christ child and another year of grace

Clearly, many wonderful things happened during the course of the year. They would not have been possible were it not for the many hours of time given by so many of our members. Of course, we were helped by the able assistance of our congregational staff as well: **Nhorie Leonardo**, who does so much for us in the office with both church and soup kitchen; **Ferdinand Jones**, our super, who left at the end of December for new ventures in Atlanta, Georgia; **Alberto Dulanto**, who joined us in January of this year as our new super; and our cantor and director of music, **Pedro d’Aquino**, who regularly astonishes us with his musical virtuosity.

There are, of course, always new challenges and dreams which we dare to suggest in an annual report. In this one I would like to highlight two of them for you:

- a review of our congregation’s directions and strengths and weaknesses which is being undertaken by the Church Council and chaired by **Jim Deliman**, our past president;
- and a re-examination of our mission commitments with a view toward being more active in mission support outside our own walls.

In January of this year the Council met with **Pastor Barrie Lawless** from Our Savior's/Atonement Church in northernmost Manhattan and he ably guided us through an evaluation process known as "**Natural Church Development.**" The purpose of that process is to enable congregations to identify strengths and weaknesses and to devise methods for strengthening the overall direction of congregational life. The Council was impressed with the program and resolved to undertake it here at Saint Luke's. To that end some 30 of our members will soon be asked to complete a short survey on their perceptions of congregational life. The results of that survey will help us all to see the strengths and weaknesses of our life together and then we will be able to devise plans for acting on the weaknesses. The program has been used by many congregations throughout the world, and its greatest strength is that it permits every congregation to focus on its own unique lifestyle, celebrating strengths and improving areas that need more focus and change. We hope that as you come to know more about it you will become an eager participant in it, too. If you are asked to be one of those to do the survey we hope you will say yes!

The other area of congregational life in which I hope we will see more change is that of our support for missions. We have always supported the work of our Synod here in the City and its surrounding environs, but as we have talked in Council and in the Pastoral Care Committee, we have also come to see that we could be doing much more to respond to the mission needs beyond our immediate community. **Gayle Kliever**, one of our own members is renewing her contract to remain in Tanzania for another two years. While we have read eagerly of her adventures there, we have not actually done a great deal to support the work of the Northwestern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. Our Synod has established an endowment fund to ensure that the work in Tanzania will always have adequate funding in the future. We can do more to support that fund, and our Pastoral Care and Financial Management committees will be examining how to do so, and making proposals about it to all of you in the near future.

Related to that is my conviction that congregations that are involved in the support of mission work beyond their own borders are healthier within their communities as well. Much of our energies in recent years has been focused on our own work and ministry. That is certainly necessary, but we also need to be reminded that we are a part of the church at large. We do remember that from time to time, especially when we have special offerings for emergencies, as we did for Hurricane Katrina, and for the Tsunami disaster. This year we will be examining ways to be more systematic about mission giving—in both dollars and in deeds—beyond the confines of Saint Luke's. I hope you will be excited by some of the possibilities to be proposed.

We continue to be an exciting congregation in the midst of Times Square, the crossroads of the world. It is both challenging and rewarding to be in such a place. We discover every day how much people need the Good News of God's love in Christ: they need to hear it proclaimed in our worship; they need to touch it in the very real deeds of our Soup Kitchen and Clothing Bank; they need to explore it as we meet together in our Bible Classes reading and learning from the interaction of the Word of Scripture and the writings and plays, art and music of contemporary life and culture. It is both humbling and exciting to be a part of such a wonderful and diverse ministry. I thank you all for the privilege of being here and working with you as your pastor. Blessings to you all in this year of our Lord, 2006!

In the name of Christ,
Pastor Schmiede

Saint Luke's Lutheran Church, New York City
Cantor's Annual Report 2005-2006

May 7, 2006

When I first started out as a church musician many years ago, a veteran pastor told me that in the clergy circles of his day the parish choir was often referred to as the "War Department." (That was before the encroaching euphemizing of the English language, which gave us a "Department of Defense.") How times have changed! In my thirty years of parish ministry as a musician, I don't think I've ever come across a more agreeable, forbearing, and loving group of singers as the Choir of Saint Luke's Church, all of whom are either committed members of the congregation or dedicated professional musicians, or both! We are very blessed to be led by them in worship and song. I thank them for their devoted service, and hope that you will take the opportunity to do so as well, both individually and as a community.

Last November we anticipated the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth with a performance of his *Missa Brevis* in B Flat (K. 275) during the course of the morning liturgy on All Saints Sunday. For our midweek Advent services we continued to use the musical setting for an evening liturgy of Holy Communion by David Cherwien. The healing service on the third Wednesday evening of each month has become a new "tradition" at Saint Luke's, which seems to be meeting a real need in the community. Midweek Lenten services were in the form of *missa lecta* (Low Mass) with hymns, followed by soup and bread and a lively discussion of faith in short works of contemporary fiction.

This year's Easter celebration brought another novelty to Saint Luke's: the staging of a contemporary realization of the *Maastricht Easter Play*, a late medieval mystery play which took the place of the gradual of the Mass. It was both moving and edifying to *see* as well as hear the Easter Gospel portrayed in dramatic form. Special thanks are due to all who participated, especially director Jim Deliman, wardrobe man and haberdasher extraordinaire Bob Wechtenhiser, and the entire cast and choir. I want to particularly acknowledge Katie Luekens, who procured the hand bells for us from Village Lutheran Church in Bronxville, New York and Andrea Roy for transporting them, as well as the musicians who gave us such an authentic medieval flavor with their period instruments: Daphne Mor and Nina Stern on a host of recorders and crumhorn, and Jay Elfenbein on *vielle*.

Looking forward to Trinity Sunday and Confirmation, Bach's cantata "Lobe den Herren, den Mächtigen König der Ehren (Praise to the Lord, the Almighty)" (BWV 137) will be performed with soloists from Saint Luke's Choir and members of One World Symphony on June 11. We will be joined once again by Saint Luke's Trombones under the direction of Jonathan Greenberg on the Day of Pentecost, June 4. Meanwhile groups of visiting choirs from near and far continue to drop in on us, much to their excitement and our delight.

Respectfully submitted,

Pedro d'Aquino, Cantor

President's Report – Jim Deliman

As my term on council and as your President has come to an end, it has given me time to reflect on our accomplishments and that to which we still strive. We have finalized a deal with new management of our theatre space. Edmund Gaynes has taken over the space. He comes with very high credentials and all of the people in “the business” that know him have nothing but great things to say about him. I do believe that we are at a big turning point with our theatre and look forward to many wonderful shows. I always have mixed emotions when finding out one of our members is moving to another part of the country and opening another chapter in their lives. This has happened repeatedly this past year and even though I hate to see members of our family go, I do wish them all of the happiness that they deserve in their lives.

We are also excited by the addition of several new members and “regulars”. I'm sure we all look forward to getting to know each other better as time goes on.

We were finally able to dedicate the lounge with a wonderful plaque of remembrance for Hilda Johnson. What a wonderful space that we get to enjoy each and every week.

I know that as my term ends there are several projects that still need completion. We are still working on the Historical Registry, we are getting bids to repair our bell tower, we are still working on our pigeon problem. There is a list....there is always a list. We try to only work on the essentials, but there are times that things sneak up on us.

I have every faith in our new council and officers. As always, the council is here for YOU. You are always welcome to attend a meeting or to speak with any council member about matters you feel are important. Don't ever hesitate to bring something to the attention of council.

I'm sure that my time OFF council will be limited. During that time off, I will still be just as involved, if not more so, in the planning, programming, and operations of St Luke's. This is home to me.

Thank you for putting your trust in me over the past two years that I have been your President.

In faith,
Jim Deliman

May 2006

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a wonderful Lenten Season and Easter we had at Saint Luke's! Once again, everyone pulled their talents together and the Lord blessed us with incredibly moving services. Thank you for everyone and their help. A special thank you is in order for Pastor Schmiege for his tireless leadership and for keeping us on track.

As you may have read in my letter in the newsletter, we are at a very exciting yet critical time at Saint Luke's. From reading the reports that follow and hearing from each committee today, you will see how very busy we are. Our goal as Council Members is to not only ensure things are taken care of on a day to day basis in the present, but to also prepare for our future. The future manifests itself in spiritual life, financial matters, and in the maintenance of physical building facilities. We are faced with the loss of several of our devoted members as their lives are taking them to new locations. Jim Deliman is heading our new committee on Church Growth. Many of you will be asked to fill out a document that will serve as a snapshot of where we currently are what we need to improve upon. Our focus is always on spreading God's Word and Jesus's teachings. This program will enable us to fine tune the way we do this.

Our beautiful home is aging rapidly and needs attention. By the end of summer we are hoping for an architect's full report on our physical facilities including a priority list and estimated cost of repairs. This will enable us to create a long term plan for keeping our facility in working order. It may require us to make very difficult financial decisions, possibly even dipping in our endowment to complete needed repairs. Ernie is working on an application for listing us on the National Register of Historic Places (not the NYC Landmarks Commission). If we are granted this status, we will then be able to apply for numerous grants. Two of our wishlist items are to get Sanctuary handicap accessibility and to repair the remaining stained glass windows. These are only the beginning of a very long list of needed repairs. A gentle reminder that we are still collecting for our previous capital improvement of the roof and stained glass window repair.

My goal as your President, is to make the behind the scenes at Saint Luke's more accessible. The more communication we have, hopefully, the more participation. In the near future we will be emailing the weekly announcements to you. A new phone tree will be implemented should any church emergency arise. The Sunday following every Council meeting you will find an outline of the meeting notes in the bulletin. I would also like to remind everyone that Council meetings are open, therefore you are welcome to attend. My new job keeps me away on most Sundays, however, I am reachable by email and phone should you need to contact me. I look forward to remaining of the year and working to achieve our many goals and challenges.

In Christ,



Eric Zollinger

2005 Yearend Treasurer's Report
St. Luke's Lutheran Church

My fellow Lukans:

First please join me in thanking Glenn von Bernewitz for his service as St. Luke's treasurer for the past 5 years. As he, Julliana, and Anouk start their new life in Brazil, we wish them well. Before leaving, Glenn spent time with me so I'd be able to provide this yearend report.

As in the past, this was a challenging year for our small congregation. We had budgeted a shortfall of about \$46,000 in 2005. But, due to emergency plumbing and lead paint removal costs and unusually high utility expenses, our overall expenses were \$128,000 over budget. Luckily, we also had nearly \$30,000 in unbudgeted revenue from restoration loan forgiveness and wedding/concert use fees which helped us exceed our budgeted revenue. Even so, we had to take an extra \$99,000 from the investment - \$145,000 in total. The good news is that only \$68,000 was taken from the principal, since the investment earned \$77,000 in 2005. Unfortunately, the bad news is that we had to take money from the principal, which actually depletes our future earning power.

We increased projected expenses in maintenance and utilities for the 2006 budget and also increased the budgeted revenue for envelopes and plate to help defer this, so we could budget a projected shortfall for 2006 of \$40,500. Hitting these targets would allow us to begin to grow the investment again. It's encouraging that through the 1st quarter in 2006, we are on schedule to do this. But I am reminded that our income tends to lag in the summer, while our expenses continue - and that a core group of Lukans has recently moved away.

But several developments should help our financial picture in 2006-2007:

- A more favorable agreement was reached for the use of the theatre space beginning in August. This would also require a separate electric meter for the space so the theatre company would pay the actual costs for air conditioning and stage lighting – currently they pay a percentage of the total costs.
- The use fee paid by the Family School West has increased to reimburse the cost of the lead paint removal. In fact, the school is considering taking more space, possibly the superintendent apartment, which would generate more unbudgeted revenue.
- We continue to research ways of creating better zoned heating in the parish house so that increasing the heat in the parsonage does not also require additional heat in other areas – as is the case currently.
- The application for listing St. Luke's on the National Register for Historic Places should be submitted in May. The next step would be a financial audit (in case anyone knows of a very reasonable financial auditor). If accepted, we would be eligible to apply for grants and matching funds for certain building repairs.

St. Lukes has weathered many storms in the past 156 years, and I am confident that the continued hard work, prayers, and (of course) weekly envelopes of our few, but devoted, members will ensure that we celebrate another 156 years of serving the community.

Respectfully submitted,
Ernie Vickroy

St. Lukes Lutheran Church Calendar Year 2005 Budget	All Funds Budget			2006 Budget	Comments
	2005 Budget	2005 Actual	Variance		
Income	298,900	477,110	178,210	323,000	Income only \$332,110 without transfer from investment
Contributions	100,100	112,818	12,718	118,000	
Plate	12,000	10,798	(1,202)	22,000	06 Budget increased
Restoration Loan forgiveness	-	12,290	12,290		unbudgeted windfall - thank you
Weekly Env.	60,000	60,173	173	80,000	06 Budget increased
Use Receipts	178,800	176,403	(2,397)	195,000	
AA/CA	2,000	2,155	155		
Entertainment Events	60,000	58,700	(1,300)		Theatre likely to produce \$45,000 in 06 on track for 2006
Family School West	43,200	33,000	(10,200)	43,200	
Lutheran Social Services	24,000	32,500	8,500		
Project Renewal	39,600	33,000	(6,600)		
Concerts/weddings/etc	-	12,610	12,610		unbudgeted windfall
Other org/theatre	-	4,438	4,438		unbudgeted windfall
Misc Income	20,000	42,889	22,889	15,000	unbudgeted windfall, but overall Soup Kitchen lost \$4300 - however, benefit earned \$1200
Other (including Soup kitchen, benefit, retreats)	20,000	42,889	22,889		
Transfer from Investment		145,000	145,000	40,500	06 Budget number is based on \$363,500 in expenses and \$328,000 in revenue
Expenses	344,500	472,797	128,297	363,500	\$65,000 of the \$89,502 overage in expense was due to building maintenance and utilities
General & Admin	32,900	71,301	38,401	29,000	
Advertising	1,800	1,528	(272)		
Equipment	3,600	4,951	1,351		
Food (incl Soup Kitchen)	1,000	2,826	1,826		offset by incremental revenue
Receptions (and Benefit)	2,500	12,942	10,442		offset by incremental revenue
Supplies (incl Soup Kitchen)	9,000	15,249	6,249		offset by incremental revenue
Telephone	5,000	4,715	(285)		
Misc.	10,000	12,244	2,244		
Building	74,500	144,203	69,703	123,000	
Ongoing Maint.	20,000	64,693	44,693	50,000	largest over budget expense in 05 increased in 06 budget
Insurance	12,000	16,336	4,336		
Utilities (Gas and Electric)	37,500	58,633	21,133	55,000	2nd largest over budget - new meter will help increased in 06 budget
Water	5,000	4,542	(458)		
Education	2,500	1,174	(1,326)		
Personnel	202,500	219,475	16,975		
Missions	18,000	7,550	(10,450)		
Music	25,000	23,868	(1,132)		
Worship	7,100	5,227	(1,873)		
Net gain (loss)	(45,600)	4,313	49,913	(40,500)	

Projected to take \$46,000 from investment - actually took \$145,000 - only earned \$77,000 in 2005

A brief history of St Luke's – the first 90 years (excerpts from a book published for St. Lukes 90th Anniversary)

The congregation was originally founded by disgruntled members of a Dutch Reform Church incorporated as The German Evangelical Church of Bloomingdale in the State of New York. The pastor of that church, Reverend William Drees, was asked by the church council for his resignation in June 1850 (on condition that he not tell the congregation that they had fired him). He said he would only leave if the congregation voted to remove him. So the council decided to replace him by asking someone to conduct the Sunday service and starting the service ½ hour earlier. Consequently, when Pastor Drees arrived at the church, someone else was already in charge. He went to the front of the meeting room and demanded that the pulpit be vacated. The fill-in refused and in the confusion and commotion that followed, officers of the law (posted in anticipation of the proceedings) stepped forward and forcefully expelled Pastor Drees. A number of sympathizers followed him and the number was large enough to form a nucleus for a new beginning – St Luke's.

The first service was held on September 1, 1850 in meeting rooms at Columbia University (which at that time occupied the site of current day Rockefeller Center). This was temporary and not large enough so rooms were rented on the 3rd floor of a building at 35th Street and 9th Ave. A Sunday School and a parochial school were started almost immediately and the church continued to grow. In September 1852, Pastor Drees severed ties with the Reformed Church and Synod and joined the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of New York and in December 1853, St Luke's adopted it's model constitution as a Lutheran congregation – over 3 years after being formed.

St Luke's continued to grow and began looking for property upon which to build a church. But most of the members were poor vegetable farmers so it was a very slow process. In 1859, property was acquired on 46th St near 9th Ave, but that property was transferred to John Jacob Astor, who in turn gave St Luke's property on 46th, east of 9th Ave. But as a poor congregation, St Luke's needed help and turned to St Matthews (now at Convent Ave and 145th St) – the oldest Lutheran Church in America, with many influential and wealthy members. St. Matthews pledged the sum of \$2000 to St. Lukes. However, the Civil War delayed any plans to build, so in April 1861, the growing congregation rented space on the second floor of a large house on 8th Ave between 46th and 47th St. With pews donated by Trinity Church, this space had a more "church like" feel.

By 1863, the nation and St. Luke's had adjusted to the confusion brought on by the Civil War and decided to purchase a church structure that was being sold by a Baptist congregation on 43rd St. The price was \$400 and the congregation hoped to move it to the plot of land on 46th St. When the city would not let the structure be moved across the street car lines on 8th Ave, the congregation sold the property on 46th St and purchased property on 43rd St. On June 25th, 1863, nearly 13 years after its' founding, St Luke's dedicated the church and had it's first service in a real church sanctuary.

Interestingly, St Matthews was not able to raise the \$2000 pledged to help St Luke's so they resolved to transfer a portion of St Matthew's holdings in Lutheran Cemetery in Queens Village. After plotting the land and adding the necessary roads and paths, the plots were put on sale to members and friends. This netted \$5000 – more than twice as large as the promised cash.

In 1870, the constitution was revised, and Pastor Drees was offended by one particular change. The council felt that his workload was too large to also have the responsibility as chairman of the congregation, so they made the council president the chairman of the congregation. Pastor Drees saw this as a slight to his efficiency and resigned. A call was extended to William Buettner of Utica NY and he accepted in 1871, but he resigned in 1874. Reverend William Busse of Poughkeepsie NY accepted the call to St Luke's in 1874 and would stay until his death in 1899.

As the church continued to grow, in March of 1875 the congregation authorized the council to sell the church building on 43rd St and began to draw plans for a new structure. But in May, the building committee learned that a large Presbyterian Church mid-block on the north side of 42nd between 7th and 8th Ave could be purchased for \$45,000 (current site of the American Airlines theatre). In August, the dedication for the new structure was held. With renewed hope, the congregation again attempted to open a parochial school, but again was not successful. However, the Sunday School flourished. At one time in the early 1900's, the Sunday School had an enrollment of over 800 students.

During 1879 and 1880, the council and congregation began to disagree with some of the requirements of the New York Ministerium. After several unsuccessful attempts to reconcile these differences, St Luke's resigned from the Ministerium in June 1880 and remained an independent congregation until joining the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2003.

As the entertainment district began to move northward to 42nd St, the block began to change as brownstones were replaced by theaters. In 1908, there were 7 theatres on the block (up from just one in 1895). In December, the congregation was told that it had to remove the outside steps to allow for street widening so other major renovations were planned – installation of electric lights, a heating system, and a sanitary plumbing system!! But in 1911, the congregation authorized leaders to sell the 42nd Street location for at least \$275,000. As values increased, the desired price was increased to \$375,000 and by May, 1920, the congregation was asking \$450,000 for the property.

As the congregation grew to include 2nd and 3rd generation Germans, an English service was finally added in 1918 – on alternating Sundays. Of course, that may have also been influenced by anti-German sentiment from World War 1.

In June 1921, a bid for the 42nd Street property for \$400,000 was approved and the church began making plans for a new location. 5 houses/lots on 46th Street were purchased during an auction of Astor properties. This was actually the 5th choice of desired locations – the first being the Astor Theatre location – current location of the Marquis theatre in the Marriott Hotel - which would have really made St Lukes the Church of Times Square! After the property on 42nd Street was vacated, Sunday School and services were held at the Selwyn Theatre on 42nd St. Most of the church's furnishings from the 42nd St building were distributed to other Lutheran churches in the Metro NY area. However, 2 stained glass windows were kept to be moved to the new church building on 46th Street. These windows are The Ascension and The boy Jesus in the Temple which are closest to the narthex on the east side of the sanctuary.

The firm of Tilton & Githens was engaged to design the new church. The firm was famous for libraries across the Northeast, but it is believed that this was the first church structure they designed. The plans were accepted 4/22/22 – the design was one building in two parts separated by a 7 story bell tower. The east part of the structure houses the sanctuary and Sunday School/kitchen space and the west part houses the parish house and parsonage. For

the sake of durability, the entire structure was to be built of stone, brick, and cement, making a fire-proof building. The parish house was designed to include complete community house facilities including 2 bowling alleys, a billiard room, a gymnasium, dressing rooms and showers. The original plan also included a swimming pool in the rear of the basement, but that was never executed. The fourth floor of the parish house was reserved for a 7 room parsonage apartment. The cornerstone was laid 10/29/22 by the president of the congregation – J Louis Schaefer- and the sanctuary was first used on 9/16/23. The congregation gathered for a brief and final service in the Sunday School rooms and then a solemn procession carried the sacred vessels, the pulpit and lectern bibles, and the altar prayer book to the front of the church. After the rites of dedication, the doors were unlocked and everyone processed into the sanctuary to continue the service (still in German). An English service followed that evening.

On Jan 22, 1929, the German Department of the Sunday School was discontinued and on 1/19/31 it was resolved to have German and English services every Sunday – since 1918, English services were only held on alternating Sundays.

As the congregation moved away from midtown, home visits took more and more of Pastor Koepchen's time so on 10/1/35, an assistant minister, Albert Neibacher, was engaged to (primarily) take over control of the Sunday School, young peoples work, and neighborhood mission work. Unfortunately, after having served over 36 years, Pastor Koepchen passed away suddenly less than one year later and on 10/23/36, assistant pastor Neibacher accepted the call to become Pastor of St Lukes.

With the death of Pastor Koepchen, German services were temporarily suspended. After studying the matter for 4 months, the council recommended in Jan, 1937, that they be permanently dropped. Other changes included the first choir in Feb of 1937 and the first Christmas Eve candlelight service in 1937.

For several years prior to 1939, there were no scheduled Sunday services from Aug 1 until the Sunday after Labor Day. Since the World's Fair was planned in NY in 1939, it was decided to reinstate these summer Sunday services to cater to tourists in the area. During 6 months of 1939, guests from 37 different states had signed the guestbook. And we still continue to provide a place of worship for visitors from across the US and around the world.

More to come in next year's annual report