

Pastoral Report for 2006

Dear friends in Christ:

The year 2006 was remarkable for the simple fact that it was five years after the tragic events of 2001. In and of itself, that could simply have been another anniversary, but the fifth anniversary also marked a shift in the way people were thinking about 2001 and the decisions they were making about the future. That shift in thinking affected us at Saint Luke's, too.

It was as though for the first five years people felt strongly that no matter what happened they needed to stay in the city and face the challenge of redefining what life in the city could be. People either left immediately after 9/11, or they resolved to stay and "tough it out." That resolution helped to give us all a sense of purpose and direction, as we supported one another, and made the best we could out of what were often difficult personal and financial stresses.

The fifth anniversary of 2001 became in hindsight a way of saying that we had all survived. New York was well on its way to recovery, the downtown was beginning to boom again, the plans for the site of the World Trade Center, while still unresolved, were clearly moving forward, and many people felt that they were ready at last to move forward in their personal lives as well. They started looking at new directions and possibilities for themselves.

At Saint Luke's the result of that was actually quite traumatic. A number of regular and faithful members decided that this was the year for them to move on in their lives. As we bade them farewell, we began to realize that a significant shift was going to be taking place in the life of the congregation. In the space of a few short months, over a dozen of the congregation's most faithful members had departed for new directions in life. By percentage the sudden shift in membership amounted to a decline of somewhere around 10%, but the sense of change was scary for those who had worked so closely with these departing members and congregational leaders.

This could easily have been a recipe for pessimism, but God never closes doors without opening new ones, and members who had just been "getting their feet wet," saw the need for taking on some of the leadership roles of the congregation, and with new eagerness they began to bring their ideas and hopes and plans to the future of the congregation. New faces began to appear in worship and to return regularly, and an eager and hard-working Church Council has been working to generate new ideas for reaching out in ministry. Moreover, our worship continues to inspire and guide our commitment to living out the faith in the heart of New York City.

New theatre management helped to stabilize the "boom/bust" income cycles of the theater, and more conscientious financial commitments have helped to ease the "borrowing" out of our endowment earnings. In addition to our worship life, new opportunities for fellowship and learning occurred on Wednesday nights, as we tackled

“The Lutheran Course”, an introduction to the basics of Lutheran life and thought, over a light supper where people could make and renew friendships, learn, pray, and sing together. The Wednesday Evening Bible Study has continued to grow and prosper, and has become a wonderful part of the spiritual and personal development of a number of Lukans. It has also played a role in developing a growing sense of passionate spirituality among those who attend.

Many exciting events have taken place during the year, and I list some of them here. They remind us of the good sense of “family” at Saint Luke’s, and the wonderful and warm support and encouragement we give to each other as we gather around the table, share the meal, hear the Word, and support and pray for each other here in the city. They also serve as incentive to us to continue to search for new ways to reach out into the community with the Good News of Christ’s love.

Some Events of 2006:

- January: Council Retreat began the process of looking at Natural Church Development.
Lease with Entertainment Events came to an end.
- February: Winter Retreat took place at Koinonia.
- March: Officially agreed to West Side Artists managing the Theater.
Read “Listening for God, Vol. 3” during Lent.
- April: Celebrated Easter by performing the Maastricht Mystery Play”.
- May: Installed new Pigeon Control equipment on the church.
Concluded Saturday Bible studies on the parables.
Retained an architectural firm to review the state of the buildings.
- June: Witnessed the confirmations of Ed d’Aquino and Philip Schmiede.
- August: Had to cancel this year’s summer retreat
- October: Celebrated Saint Francis Day with a Blessing of the Animals
Began “The Lutheran Course” on Wednesday evenings.
Participated in neighborhood clean up day on Oct 21.
- November: Annual Benefit attended performance of “The Fantasticks”.
Served Thanksgiving Dinner to over 180 in the Soup Kitchen.
Celebrated Thanksgiving with an Interfaith Service with Temple Emanuel, Saint Clements, and Saint Malachy’s.
- December: Carolled on the church steps and wrapped gifts for the Soup Kitchen.
Served Christmas Dinner to over 180 in the Soup Kitchen.
Celebrated the birth of our Lord in a lovely Christmas Eve Liturgy.

I am always astonished to read the list and realize how much we have done in the past year. I want to thank all of you for the obvious joy with which you give of yourselves here at Saint Luke’s, for the thoughtfulness you bring to our ministry together, and for the genuine way in which you care for and support one another. What a blessing God has given us in this place and in each other! May we in turn be a blessing to others in this year of 2007.

Cordially in Christ,
Paul D Schmiede, Pastor

Current President's Report—Cassandra Wilson

What an exciting time for St. Luke's! Despite the departure of several of our visible and active members, our pews are as filled as ever. We have several new members and a number of very active "regulars."

Over the last few years, we have worked to take a more measured approach to issues and to try to be less reactive with handling our expenses. The council is now trying to budget in advance for those times when we have to withdraw money from our investment fund. We have solicited the advice of a building architect to prioritize the building maintenance we need to do in the next few years. We are also working to find ways to formalize the care for our members and friends to make sure none slips through the cracks.

Our Wednesday study series has been successful, and our Young Professionals Group is moving ahead. If you have ideas for future activities, please let us know.

Over the next year we look forward to setting up an audit committee so we can apply for grants to help with various projects, both in the building and with our various missions. We are now listed in the national Historic Registry, which should also help. Perhaps we'll see new bells in our not-to-distant future!!!

I thank you for the privilege of serving on council for the last 6 years and President this past year. Blessings to you all in 2007.

Cassandra Wilson

April 2007

Dear Friends in Christ,

In preparation for my letter, I revisited previous reports to refresh my memory of where we started the last year. I realized that the only constant at Saint Luke's seems to be change. As in life, we are always dealt with new challenges; Saint Luke's is no different. A friend of often says "I'm a tree; I can bend." I believe this accurately describes our congregation. The winds may blow quite hard, but the Lord has allowed our roots to be strong and solid to weather the storms.

Writing this report is bittersweet as it signals the end of my term as President but also six wonderful years on Council. Thank you for allowing me to serve for two terms. A thank you is in order to Council Members for their hard work and dedication. We saw several new faces on Council that allowed us see things with a different perspective. It's always a good thing to have "new blood!" It's especially important to give Pastor Schmiede a thank you; as he tirelessly leads us through our very colorful journey at The Crossroads of the World.

It was another busy year on Council. The two biggest challenges facing Saint Luke's have been church growth and our aging church structure. Last year several major steps were taken in order to help deal with these matters. 2006 saw many truly devoted members leave New York. "We are a small but mighty congregation," (as Pastor Hansen says) however, too small makes the responsibilities greater. We embarked on a Church Growth Development course that will help identify our weaknesses and strengthen us where we need improvement. These things take time and I believe we will truly see what a great investment in our future it is. Regarding our building, we hired an architectural firm to give us report card on the current condition as well as prioritize a list of improvements needed in the coming years. This report will be quite beneficial as it will serve as our road map. Also important was the filing of our application to be placed on the National Historic Registry. I am happy to report that we have passed the state level and are on our way to the national meeting. We are hopeful to hear a positive answer in the coming months! This will allow us to apply for numerous grants which will aid in our building improvements.

Several other highlights include the implementation of a new website, the redoing of the Soup Kitchen space, the changing of our By-Laws to better serve the Congregation, and our theatre space being run by a new management company. On a sad note, we have had to say good-bye to the Men's Shelter due to unfortunate circumstances. This will allow us to re-evaluate our mission and see how else we can utilize that space to serve the community. One of my main goals as your President, was to make the behind the scenes at Saint Luke's more accessible. The more communication we have, hopefully, the more participation. Several of you took to heart the open Council meetings and came; thank you.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President.

In Christ,


Eric Zollinger

Saint Luke's Lutheran Church, New York City
Cantor's Annual Report 2006-2007

April 29, 2007

It's hard to believe that I have already completed more than six years as Cantor of Saint Luke's. Looking back over these years I am astounded at the number of changes that have taken place in the church and in the world. So many people have come and gone at the "crossroads" here, and our neighborhood has undergone and continues to undergo a major face-lift which signals a dramatic shift in demography for Hell's Kitchen. Our missionary and ministerial challenges in the coming years will be great. It is my hope that music and worship at Saint Luke's will be an integral part of the conversation as we struggle to meet those challenges in the months and years ahead.

In November we observed the Commemoration of All Faithful Departed (All Souls Day) with a *Messe des Morts* by Marc-Antoine Charpentier, a rarely-heard work of the French baroque. Christmas was celebrated with arrangements of well-known and not-so-well-known carols of the season.

On the last Sunday after the Epiphany, we dedicated our new hymnals. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* was inaugurated in Lent with the introduction of the first setting of Holy Communion on Sundays and Evening Prayer (Vespers) on Wednesdays. We have been acclimating ourselves to the changes brought about by this latest liturgical renewal. To our advantage, we were already familiar with four of the ten settings of Holy Communion, and are now learning a fifth. Our choir and congregation is being introduced to the breadth of hymnody contained within the covers of the new book. We are reminded that *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* "is a core rather than a comprehensive resource" (from the Introduction to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*). As we become more familiar with it, we will, of course, be able to supplement its contents with other resources from the fullness of our tradition.

The celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord was accompanied by two great anthems of the English baroque: "O Sing unto the Lord," the fourth anthem commissioned by the Duke of Chandos from George Frideric Handel, and "My Beloved Spake" by Henry Purcell. Our orchestra this year was comprised of some of the best professional musicians in the city, including members and principals of the American Symphony Orchestra and the orchestra of the Metropolitan Opera. Saint Luke's Brass also brought brilliance and majesty to the singing of the hymns and liturgy.

Pentecost this year will be a quiet affair, falling as it does from time to time on Memorial Day weekend. We have decided to pull out all the stops next year with the celebration of Confirmation. Finally, during the first week of July, Saint Luke's, along with many other churches and synagogues in the city, plays host to the Regional Convention of the American Guild of Organists. A number of workshops are being held around our lovely Walcker organ, of which we are justly proud.

Finally, I would be remiss in not acknowledging the gifts of our "small, but mighty" choir (to borrow a catch-phrase from Pastor Hansen). They and their section leaders make this work more pleasurable than should probably be lawfully admitted! We will soon bid farewell and Godspeed to John Fritz as he sets off for Helvetica. John has been a trusted friend and colleague and will be missed. And once again I doff my square cap to our pastor and my dear friend, Paul Schmiege, for his unflagging support and encouragement, and for his inexhaustible patience. He helps make every duty a delight, and I thank God for him and for you all.

Respectfully submitted,

Pedro d'Aquino, Cantor

Pastoral Care report for the Congregational Meeting

There are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit...to each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (I Corinthians 12:4,7)

Last year was the third year of the Pastoral Care Committee. This committee is charged with three aspects of church life: Liturgical, Spiritual, and Educational. We are always excited to have anyone interested in any of these areas join the committee.

This past year was a very full year. Some highlights are:

- The two Community Sunday services that were successful in terms of bringing in visitors
- A new committee for Outreach and Congregational Development was established
- We started the phone tree and email chain, although there is more work to be done for this in 2007
- The Wednesday evening liturgy has been replaced for seasons outside of Lent with a series of successful Bible study sessions. The group meets for supper and discussion. Over a dozen people a week are participating.
- /90nten Bible Study that continued the readings from *Listening for God, Part 3*

As always, one of our greatest challenges is getting members involved. We are a small congregation, but are still trying to provide the same experience of a larger church. This means that most weeks, we need 10 people for the liturgy and coffee hour. We also need help with flower arrangements and vestment upkeep. Obviously, we are trying to ensure it is not the same 10 people each week. We now have a full roster of readers for liturgy and are looking at establishing a set, rotating roster of liturgical assistants. On top of this, we could always use help with the soup kitchen and clothing distribution.

In addition to our normal activities, this year we are working to:

- Finish setting up the phone tree and email chain and get it running
- Post more pictures and newsworthy events on the front bulletin board so our neighbors are aware of what we do
- Keep moving on Natural Church Development

We welcome any thoughts and contributions you have to offer.

John Fritz

2006 Yearend Treasurer's Report
St. Luke's Lutheran Church

My fellow Lukans

Financially speaking, 2006 was a good year for St. Luke's. We set an aggressive goal for contributions in November 2005, but by February 2006, over 10% of our members moved away. Even so, envelope and plate contributions were better than 2005 and overall income was \$86,000 higher than in 2005.

Thanks to a new user of the theatre space, West End Artists, use receipts were \$43,000 over budget and \$61,000 over 2005. The space was also remodeled, but in a way that still allows us to serve hundreds of people each week in our Soup Kitchen and to give away clothing the first Monday of each month. The kitchen also had repairs in 2006 – an unbudgeted \$18,000.

And our investment portfolio also had a good year. Even though we took out \$95,000 (versus \$145,000 last year and the \$73,000 projected in the budget) we did not have to touch the principal and, in fact, were able to add nearly \$4,300 to the principal. We also received \$24,000 in legacies and memorials from generous members and friends. The council recently decided that, going forward, this money will not be added to the general fund, but will be added to the investment.

On the expense side, it appears that we were nearly \$70,000 over budget. However, there were several items that were not budgeted correctly for 2006. Expenses were actually budgeted nearly \$47,000 less than 2005 actual expenses. Even so, overall expenses were up \$23,000 over 2005. But we were still able to exceed our mission obligation – not necessarily a bad thing.

Challenges for 2007 will be to find a replacement for the nearly \$40,000 in use fees generated by Project Renewal, who moved out in March 2007. In addition, the council had an architectural firm, ALSA Architecture, conduct a building assessment in 2006. The assessment listed several major projects that need to be completed in the next 5-7 years. These planned expenses could total nearly \$700,000. But keep in mind, we spent over \$70,000 for, basically, unplanned building repairs in 2006.

Once we have a clear picture of which of these needs should be done in 2007, the council will be looking to the congregation for approval and possibly another capital campaign. We will also be applying for whatever grants are available through the National Historic Registry. However, many of these are matching fund grants, so we will need to raise new money as well. Our beautiful 84 year old building is really beginning to show her age.

So the good news is that this small, but spirited 157 year old congregation, continues to thrive just off Times Square. With God's continued blessings, a successful show in the theatre, a good bull market, and your continued generosity, we can look forward to some significant milestones in the future – 2017, 500 years since Martin Luther's famous 95 Theses – 2023, our building turns 100 years old, and – 2025, 175 years of this congregation serving this neighborhood.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Vickroy

St. Lukes Lutheran Church Calendar Year 2006 Budget	2006 Budget	2006 Revised Final Report	Actuals B(w) 06 Budget	05 YTD final	Notes
Income	346,600	496,341	152,741	482,027	For 2007 congregational meeting w/o investment income, 2006 is \$86K higher than 2005
Contributions	125,600	103,928	(21,071)	94,970	
Anniversary	1,500	260	(1,240)	15	
Christmas	6,000	5,743	743	10,933	
Flowers total	3,600	3,510	(90)	2,836	
Lent & Easter	7,500	5,213	(2,287)	5,032	
Missions	4,000	5,457	1,457	3,764	
Plate	22,000	17,011	(4,989)	10,798	Budget amount was a stretch - still \$7000 more than 2005
Thanksgiving	2,000	1,520	(480)	1,445	
Weekly Env.	80,000	64,280	(15,720)	60,147	Budget amt was a stretch - still \$4000 over 2005 w/fewer members
Special Missions		935			
Use Receipts	195,000	237,751	42,751	176,403	almost \$43,000 over budget and \$61,000 over last year
AAVCA	2,400	1,630	(770)	2,155	
Entertainment Events	70,000	10,000	(60,000)	58,700	
Family School West	44,000	46,200	2,200	33,000	
Lutheran Social Services	24,000	36,000	12,000	32,500	Plus \$5000 Lead Abatement budgeted incorrectly - actually where they should be
Fountain House		1,200	1,200	4,200	
Project Renewal	39,600	39,600	-	33,000	at budget
West End Artists	-	62,000	62,000		over \$83K in total w/office, bus office, electricity
Misc. (weddings/concerts/other orç	15,000	14,577	(323)	12,610	
Misc Income	25,000	156,661	131,661	210,653	In 07, these will be deposited into investment acct, not checking
Legacies/memorials		24,400	24,400		
Other (includes special envelopes)	15,000	8,075	(6,925)	10,965	
Soup Kitchen (incl United Way slip	10,000	8,823	(1,177)	11,778	
Benefit		5,405	5,405	14,125	
Hymnal Dedications		563	563		
Retreat		276	276	2,480	
Transfer from Investments		95,000		145,000	took out \$50K less than 2005 - used \$70k principal in 05
Income from Investments		99,293			did not have to touch principal in 2006 - actually added \$4,293
Total Investment Assets Balance		1,156,463			investment was 1,152,170 on 12/31/05
Expenses	418,500	488,329	69,828	465,064	
General & Admin	37,600	54,740	17,140	63,646	several items not budgeted for 2006
Benefit		4,447	4,447	12,942	
Soup Kitchen	6,600	10,091	1,491	9,294	
Use receipt expenses		5,086	5,086	2,050	
Misc.	10,000	8,222	(1,778)	9,863	
Building	123,000	126,680	3,680	144,203	\$3700 over budget, but down over \$17,000 from 2005
Maintenance and Projects	50,000	73,622	23,622	64,693	Includes \$18,000 for Kitchen Repairs
Insurance	13,000	16,824	3,824	16,336	
Utilities	55,000	31,275	(23,725)	58,633	
Education	2,500	1,768	(732)	1,174	
Misc. (retreats)		1,768	(732)	1,174	
Personnel	217,500	255,712	38,212	219,475	was budgeted incorrectly for 06 - should have been at least \$228,000 (including raises) plus had additional \$11,000 staff expense plus an additional \$6200 owed to Pastor from 2005
Missions	6,000	13,372	4,372	7,660	
Musical	23,000	20,776	3,770	23,868	budget is \$23,600 in 2007
Worship	5,900	0,270	3,370	5,148	
Supplies	3,500	5,877	2,377	3,604	increased to \$7K in 07
Flowers	2,400	3,993	993	1,644	increased to \$3200 in 07
Rev over/under exp - w/o investment	(72,900)	(84,987)	(12,087)	(128,037)	without investment, we were \$12,000 over budget, but still spent \$82,000 more than we brought in
100%					