

THE ANNUAL REPORT
To The Congregation
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
For 1963

I. Pastor Hasskarl's Report

A. A Review:

There is no question about the direction St. Mark's took in 1963: direction of progress. It was motivated by desire to fulfill what we believed was God's call to be more effective in our response to His love; more effective as part of His Church in the world; more effective in areas He has chosen His people to express their faith: worship, education and service to people.

Toward those constant goals, God Blessed us with another Pastor in the person of Pastor Robert Miller. This is a new experience for us, for Pastor Miller comes as our Associate Pastor, with clearly defined areas of responsibility. As he becomes better acquainted with our needs in light of rapid changes in the world with our educational needs, and with us as individuals, his gifts and contributions will be more clearly seen and felt.

One of more encouraging signs within our congregation during 1963, was realization that we are capable of continued and improved growth in all areas of Christian faith and response. When this recognition moves beyond the "faithful(ones)" of our members into the "fringe members" then we'll really move toward becoming what God expects His Church to be.

We note with regret the leaving of Mrs. Charles Paris as our Director of Religious Education. While with us in this capacity she made vital and helpful contributions to our educational efforts. She continues however to serve as a teacher and resource person in education. We are most grateful for her service!

Although the action by the congregation on the recommendation to have a capital fund campaign in the Fall of 1964 was favorable, the Council felt the vote was too close, indicating the congregation as a whole was not ready. However, the Council authorized Wagner and Hartman, Architects, to prepare preliminary sketches for the Administration Unit; and Willet Studios to prepare preliminary work on the windows. No further progress will be undertaken until the congregation expresses itself on a recommendation to proceed, at some future date.

Here, only mention is made of the improvements to our property and facilities, because the Property Committee's report is detailed later. It is one of the areas in which we have made notable strides.

Comment about inactivity appears under Membership: Losses by inactivity.

Again, mention is made of the continued fine relationship among the members of the Staff. Through weekly meetings, the Pastors and Mr. Snell considered programs, plans, problems and the assignment and completion of certain duties.

B. General Conditions of the Congregation

1. Membership

Although statistics can be cold and dull, they do reveal certain facts, trends and developments. What follows would seem to indicate that as a congregation we're not disturbed by the trend of decline.

Losses by:		Gains by:	
Transfer	30	Transfer	19
Death	28	Confirmation	43
* Inactivity	<u>120</u>	Adult Baptism	2
	178	Restoration	<u>3</u>
			67

* This figure includes 111 members who were specially notified upon Council action that if they did not commune by December 31, 1963, they will have placed themselves on the inactive roll. These former members have not communed or contributed for one year or more.

Summary:

Confirmed Membership on January 1, 1963	1324
1963 Net Loss in membership (difference between losses and gains)	111
Confirmed Membership on December 31, 1963	1213
Number of members communing in 1963	<u>1084</u>
Number of members not communing in 1963, but contributing	129

Membership Growth/Decline Statistics:

	Confirmed	Communing	Percentage	Non-Communing
1954	1652	1130	68	522
1955	1492	1151	77	341
1956	1450	1216	84	234
1957	1460	1189	81	271
1958	1452	1150	79	302
1959	1444	1268	87	176
1960	1469	1168	80	301
1961	1373	1166	85	207
1962	1324	1053	80	271
1963	1213	1084	89	129

2. Worship

	1962 Attendance	Average	1963 Attendance	Average	Change
8:30	13,754	264.5	14,016	269.5	+262
11:00	<u>14,970</u>	<u>287.8</u>	<u>14,530</u>	<u>279.4</u>	<u>-440</u>
	28,724	552.3	28,546	548.9	-178

The decrease of 178 from 1962, was probably due to several very low attendances in January and February, which were never made up. Nevertheless, the average attendance of 548.9 per Sunday continues to indicate that less than half of our members worship in Church on Sunday.

3. Finance

Although 1963 did not show the remarkable advance in finances over 1962, as 1962 did over 1961, we did maintain what progress was made. In fact, there was an ever so slight improvement. Because the Parish News kept the congregation informed each month, we simply state that our people gave \$ 3,891 more than our budget needs.

In Benevolence too, we can rejoice and give thanks to God, for we paid our Apportionment of \$22,573. in full for the second time since 1957, and exceeded it by \$1,067.

For Current Expenses and all Benevolence, it was another good year! A total of _____ was given by our people!

\$82,024

With joy and thanksgiving also, our indebtedness was considerably reduced from \$56,550 on January 1, 1963 to \$37,100 on December 31, 1963. A total of \$19,450 was given. Mention is made with gratitude of the bequest from the Harry Welker Estate.

C. Survey of Pastoral work:

1115 calls were made consisting of 379 pastoral, 607 sick, 66 Private communions, and 63 prospectives; attended 60 meetings; held 100 pastoral conferences. There were 49 baptisms; 20 weddings; and 50 funerals, 27 of which were for members. There were in addition the major load of preaching, two quarters of Adult Church School; assisting in all three schools, and conducting two Confirmation classes.

The Pastor also served as President of the Synodical Board of Social Missions and served on a synodical President's Investigation Committee.

I take this opportunity to extend my warmest and deepest thanks to every person, committee, group and organization who helped in any way in the efficiency of operating our activities and program. There are many who served and helped in quiet, unknown ways; but their efforts are sincerely appreciated. It is that spirit of service, willing and enthusiastic, that helps make St. Mark's the congregation it is. To each and every one, I say a hearty and grateful "Thank You." I am especially grateful to our Organist and Choirmaster, our Associate Pastor, and our Secretary for their inestimable help, by their assuming so willingly and capably their responsibilities. They have all lightened the burden considerably and have allowed more time for all of us on the staff to think and develop ideas for the betterment and strengthening of St. Mark's.

D. Conclusion

I concluded last year's report by pointing out four major problems. The first: "An adequate Pastoral ministry to care for the needs of our members and serve the community," has been realized with Pastor Miller coming to us. The second: "the improvement of our sense of responsibility toward our growth in the faith, our attendance, our service and support" would seem to have been responded to favorably by the evidence of the year's development. The third: "our future in relation to urban renewal, our growth (or lack of it) in the face of an increasingly mobile population, and an increasing but subtle resistance to affiliating with the Church" still comforts us. The fourth: "the completion of our building program" also still comforts us.

On the whole, I believe 1963 was a year of inner strengthening and improvement. Much still needs to be done, but at least we have begun to move in the right direction with a sense of purpose and determination.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Hasskarl

FGH:mhl

The four and one-half months of 1963 which I was privileged to serve as Associate Pastor of St. Mark's Church have been both delightful and challenging. My first report to you must carry words of appreciation to the congregation for giving me the privilege to serve in your midst and the feeling of warmth with which you have received me and my family into your presence. Pastor Hasskarl has been most helpful in initiating me into the programs and activities of St. Mark's, and our relationship of mutual trust has grown through his careful sharing of his years of experience as pastor and his high respect for delegated authority.

I have found the congregation warm, receptive and cooperative. An aura of confidence and maturity surrounds our on-going program. We have a sincere commitment to do well what we do.

I find our educational program energized with a momentum which can carry it into the future. Previous staff leadership in Mrs. Paris and present workers have opened the doors to moving in a wholesome and growing direction. We carry an air of expectancy for the new curriculum material coming in 1964, and a sense of responsibility in preparing for its inception.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Average attendance for the year 1963 was 328 per Sunday. The present staff list includes 33 persons serving as general officers, departmental superintendants, secretaries and pianists. There are 59 persons teaching or serving as substitutes in the Church School. The total enrollment is 623. Faithful teachers served with commitment and dedication during the year to make this basic school of our program a vital experience in the lives of the enrolled pupils. The present staff for most part has been willing to take advantage of the training opportunities offered during the year with an air of anticipation as the Sept, 1964 day arrives, when the Parish Education Curriculum will be introduced in the classrooms of our school.

Service projects were continued as teaching tools during 1963. Church School children made tray favors for guests at Lysock View at Thanksgiving and trimmed their Christmas tree with socks and mittens for Lutheran World Relief. Food was contributed at Harvest Home for distribution at Thanksgiving and Christmas and throughout the year, to mention some outstanding events.

1963 was a year of preparation for a more effective program of adult education. With G. B. Shaw's promise that education is too precious to share only with children, plans were made to reach adults with adult material. Knowing that education can never really stop in any alert person we want to see our Church School become that instrument where men and women can share in the vital concerns of the day and have an opportunity to grow in faith by living in a protected community where exploration and experimentation can take place.

We have begun two courses in contemporary reading and established a group to study the relationship of men and the church. During the year we continued presenting the study of a specific Bible book each quarter and the Augsburg Series of the International Lessons is offered on a regular basis.

WEEK-DAY CHURCH SCHOOL

Because of the interest and commitment of a few dedicated people, Week-day Church School again opened its doors on Sept. 28th, 1963. Eighty-four pupils are presently registered in the school. Staffed by 21 general officers,

teachers and assistants. The school has maintained an average attendance of 69. This reflects the continued decline in pupil registration as well as staff participation. This worthwhile school must find its way into the immediate community if it is to continue to exist. I feel that it is the doorway to many homes of our near-by neighbors and can serve the community in a way that no other part of St. Mark's program can do.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

Vacation Church School is a two week, ten sessions, opportunity for boys and girls from age 4 to Jr.-Hi, to meet informally in continued daily study, worship, creative activities and play. The 1963 school was supervised by Mrs. Marvella Snyder and 37 teachers and assistants. A total of 106 boys and girls were enrolled. This summertime through-the-week educational opportunity remains a vital enrichment school in the over-all program of permitting children to develop into mature Christian young people. I would like to say a word of commendation to both leaders and pupils who served to make this school a part of St. Mark's.

YOUTH WORK

My call states responsibility in the area of youth work. I have spent much time becoming acquainted with the young people of the parish. This time has been both enriching and joyous to me and I hope helpful to our young people. From the more formal meeting of the Church schools to the less structured gathering of Luther League to the informal greetings in the hall, our youth have shown promise and devotion. Listening sensitive ears are prime prerequisites in guiding these vibrant persons through the important life-forming years of their teens. Our young people need parents who can understand and older church members who can encourage and trust these young people to be maturing self-determining people.

PASTORAL ACTIVITIES

Calls in homes - 76, hospital visitations 119, office consultations - 50, conducting meetings - 42, preached once a month, conducted WRAK devotions, services at Williamsport and Park Homes, taught in Week-day Church School and Sunday Church School, advised Luther League, taught eighth grade Confirmation class, taught in Leadership Training School.

RAM:mhl

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Miller

III. Mr. Snell's Report

THE CHOIRS

The past year showed a decline in membership in all the choirs which parallels the decline in membership in both the Sunday School and Church. As of December 31, 1963 the choirs had 136 active members compared with 174 a year ago. In the following breakdown of choirs, the 1962 number precedes the 1963: Carol Choir, 35-20, Children's Choir, 61-51, Youth Choir, 48-39 (The boys remained at 12.) Senior Choir, 30-26. (3 moved out of town, one through illness.

THE SERVICES

In the Lutheran Liturgy, there is ample room for variety inspite of the

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fixed character of its form. The past year saw more variety used during Lent with the singing of hymn 71 in place of the Gloria in Excelsis, and in festival services when the Youth and Senior Choir sang at both services. The 4th Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve services brought especial fine comment from the majority of our members.

THE CHURCH AT LARGE

Your organist and choirmaster has served 12 years on the Synod's Committee on Worship and retired as Chairman after 7 years in this position. He also concluded on December 31, his five year appointment on the Commission on the Liturgy and Hymnal of the Joint Lutheran bodies. He continues to serve on the LCA Commission on Worship. He has been asked to serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of Publication and the Journal of Church Music with regard to the publishing of new music and articles on church music. He was a faculty member of the summer assembly for Church Workers at Susquehanna University in July and also in August at Thiel College. As a member of the consulting committee of the Long-Range Hymnal for Grades I through VI, he is happy to announce the publication of this fine new hymnal in the spring of 1964. Provision in the Sunday School budget has been made for the purchase of this book for the Junior Dept. Work is now being done in preparation for a hymnal for the Nursery and Kindergarten children.

APPRECIATION

To the excellent group of choir mothers who continue their faithful service in this most important work in the worship life of our parish.

FAS:mhl

Respectfully submitted
Frederick A. Snell

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

In order that the congregation may know what has been done in the maintaining of our property, the property committee submits the following report of its activities and projects.

1. Auxilliary heating in narthex and adjacent rest rooms	1,524.00
2. Block of sidewalk replaced in front of church	60.00
3. Roofs of Chapel and restrooms repaired	240.85
4. Door checks installed to both entrances to Chapel	58.20
5. Water shock absorber replaced due to freeze up and breakage	92.35
6. Purchase of 20 new tables for Fellowship Hall (Stroehmann Bros. contributed \$500.00)	854.00
7. Cement coping on Parish House replaced	247.50
8. Painting all steel sash, doors and replacement of 66 broken panes in Parish House	404.16
9. Boy Scout Room painted (by Scouts and leaders)	10.00
10. Flourescent lighting installed in 4 rooms 1st floor Parish House	420.00
11. Entire 2nd floor of Parish House; 14 rooms, corridor and Chapel painted - paint, 368.67; Estimated labor <u>528.00</u>	896.67
12. Outside Christmas decorations	35.00
13. Turf Builder for lawn care	35.71
14. Cleaning and repairing of furnaces	126.00
15. Woodwork cleaned and waxed in Church	
16. All Church windows washed	35.00
17. Outside Church doors redone	25.00
18. Parish House windows washed	
	5,064.44
AT THE PARSONAGE	
Renovation of bathroom	393.16
Spouting installed on carport	<u>15.00</u>
	408.16

The property committee hopes to accomplish the following in 1964 in our program of improved maintenance.

1. Screens for classrooms, corridor and chapel in new facilities	337.00
2. Finishing front of Parish House Permanently: footers, stairwell, roofing, brick esti.	6000.00
Temporary	2600.00
3. New lighting in 2 rooms of Parish house estimated	100.00
4. Clean and paint basement	" 150.00
5. Rework Parish House roof	500 -2000.00
6. Replace sidewalk north of Church	700.00
7. Black top each of new wing estimated	200.00
8. Clean, seal and rework drainage of tower	" 5000.00
9. New equipment: movie projector film strip " tape recorder dictaphone	" <u>1500.00</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Ralph E. Zeigler, Chairman

total estimated 11,087 -15,987