

Dear Members of St. Mark's:

If we were not absolutely certain that calendars tell no lies we would be tempted to doubt the passing of another 12 ~~years~~ since I was privileged to review for your consideration some of our activities in a previous year. But one year has come like lightning from the heavens and by the mercy of God some of us present here last year are permitted to be here again. *Some have last year in the Providence & I am not with the firm right*

Those whose names were removed from the Communion Roll of God's Church upon earth and inscribed, we hope, upon the Rock of Life in Heaven are: Philip C. Yeager, Mrs. Marion Reinhardt, Mrs. Rosanne A. Aunts, Henry A. Letzger, Mr. Fred Walker, Mr. Morris H. Morgan, Mrs. Ruth Littman Schenck, Mrs. Margaret Weaver Lyve, Mrs. Peter B. Bender, Mrs. Rose Meyers, Willis S. McMichael, Mrs. Nettie Stevenson, Mrs. Chrissie Mousert, Mrs. Mary ~~Rob-~~ bert, Mrs. Emma Kerba, and Mr. Wells Parsons. You note that the names of a number of persons very precious to us for their Christian spirit appear on this list. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Since the beginning of the year two more members with rare Christian graces left us for the higher fellowship: Mrs. Chas. A. Hollin, who will be buried tomorrow afternoon at 1.30, and Rose Hess, who read to us that splendid history of our parish on the occasion of our 80th. anniversary, she will be buried Friday afternoon at 2.30. Reverently we record their names tonight.

22 other persons were commended by us to the love and mercy of the Heavenly Father.

II. Transfers.

Our losses this past year by removal from the city were few, the Vincent Finkle family being the only one to request letters of transfer. The names of ~~17~~ members were placed upon an inactive list because of failure to partake of the Holy Communion and to recognize the privilege of Christian stewardship. We bring to your attention the fact that the constitution of our congregation requires our members to commune at least once each year and to contribute to the support of the church if they desire to remain in good standing.

III. New Members

By confirmation 14 young folks were received into our Christian fellowship; by letters of transfer 23; by action of the council 20. According to the records of Mr. Harry Schaefer ~~16~~ active members supported the church in a financial manner this past year. The confirmed membership is now 1089 and the baptized 1566.

IV. Baptisms and Marriages

25 children were baptized, 12 couples were joined in holy wedlock and sent on their way rejoicing. The recession in business was manifested in the decrease of weddings over 1935, much to the sorrow of our good wife.

V. Church Attendance

We have stressed for several years the regular worship each Sunday of our membership. Our attendance figures are nothing to boast about considering the number of persons we have in our membership who should be honoring God each Sunday in the House of God. The morning service congregation averaged this last year 302, large anniversary and communion services in Oct. and Nov. helping to boost our average; the evening service 206. These figures, we repeat, are not what they should be.

We remind you that Sunday School attendance is no substitute for the worship period in the church. We regret the failure of many persons in attendance at Church School to remain for the period of worship at 11 o'clock. Let us draw nearer to God through more faithful worship.

VI. Church Finances

The church treasurer will state a little later that \$19,232 passed through his hands this past year, which compares with \$18,000 in 1936, with \$17,000 in 1935. When the amounts of money handled by the treasurers of our organizations is added to this figure the amount will reach a figure far surpassing any figure in the last 7 years. In his report there is an item which should be brought to your attention. \$3300, he states, was received thru the envelopes and pledges of our members. This is insufficient to meet the running expenses of the parish: salaries, light, heat, repairs, insurances. To compensate for this stress must be placed upon special offerings at Christmas, Easter seasons. In addition to this we are compelled to beg from organizations to sustain the running expenses. This is not an ideal state of our finances.

To correct the disproportion we appealed this year for increased pledges and gifts. Gratefully we state that many did increase their pledges. ~~we are~~ yet But the increase is insufficient to meet the budget. All in all \$10,500 is required to carry our present program. We bring this to your attention that you might give more attention to the current expense side of your envelope. As long as our pledges remain in small brackets of \$, \$10 or \$20, emphasis will have to be placed upon special appeals. This, we all desire to eliminate.

VII. Material Improvements

When we last met we were under ~~the~~ cloud cast over us by the 1886 flood disaster. A major portion of the job of rehabilitation was before us. Under the leadership of a very consecrated group of trustees evidence of the disaster have been totally erased and we are worshipping and working in a plant better physically conditioned than for many years. New paint upon the church, parish house, sexton's house; new linoleum in Church school rooms and church vestibules; a new furnace in the parish house; a fire escape; the furnishing of a room in the parish house as the pastor's study; all declared that some one has been busy and also the destination of much of the money handled by our treasurer. To meet these repair expenses \$1000 was borrowed from our building fund.

VIII. Religious Education

We know that you rejoice with us over the large and splendid group of youth enrolled in our various schools of religious education. The success of this program is gratefully credited to Sister Mildred and to the corps of officers and teachers and workers who support the leadership of Mr. Ross Wickers as the general superintendent of our school and chairman of our parish religious education committee.

23.

This year we bring to you a new ministry inaugurated by the Council - the ministry of music through a young man who has already won his great place for himself in the esteem and love of many not only in our church but in our community. Only a few years ago anyone who could play the piano a bit was considered eligible for the post of organist in most churches, and any so-called sacred music might be sung by a "faithful few" who met *regularly or irregularly* for ~~the~~ weekly rehearsal. But the advent of the radio soon compelled a change in the musical set-up of the church alive to the need of her age. Congregations, after listening to the quality of music coming over the radio, refused to be content with the quality of music usually presented in the church. The result has been that all over the church there has been a transformation of the music ~~and of the choir within~~ the service. Schools *have been* established for the training of ministers of music. Singing groups of different ages ~~have been~~ *are being* organized to lead in the word in thru song. Music ~~is~~ *is being* a primary interest of the church *and is being attended today as never before.*

For a number of years men on the council have been awake to the transformation in music being effected throught the church, and anticipated the day when we give to music the consideration other congregations were giving. Early in 1937 correspondence was begun with schools and leading church musicians in the hope that we might secure a ~~trained~~ ^{of the type} person ~~that~~ ^{to} lead

who had dreamed of a ministry of music in the Church. From three sources we had word that none were available because of the demand for qualified persons in this field. Then, as though it were an act of God, we learned about Mr. Snell. After correspondence and visitation he announced his willingness to introduce into our parish a ministry of music for all ages. What he has accomplished in three short months is amazing. We urge our folks and our youth to avail themselves of the opportunity for the development of appreciation of the best in music which Mr. Snell offers.

X.

We wish to record in this report and on the minutes of the congregation our personal appreciation of the services of the following:

To the members of the Church Council who have been faithful in the responsibilities the congregation assigns to them. In facing and solving situations that might create dissension if not handled wisely your council have consistently acted in a Christian spirit and for the best interests of the church.

To all those who contributed in any manner to the success of the 80th. anniversary celebration of our parish. I have heard nothing but favorable comment about this celebration.

To those members who in 1938 are willing to invest more of their worldly goods in the advancement of their church; and to those who have dedicated more of their time and energy to the work St. Mark's ought to do.

To the members of the choir; and to Mr. Snell, willing to cooperate with us and with us all in all that we endeavor to do.

To the members of the religious education staff and to Sister Mildred, for their enthusiasm and sacrifices in this field of Christian endeavor.

To Mr. Stabile and Florence who contribute so much to our enjoyment of our church and parish house.

To Mr. Harry Schaefer, parish secretary, who fulfils his difficult duties with tact and consideration.

To the officers of all our organizations who faithfully and without persuasion conduct the affairs of their respective offices and organizations.

The work which we have accomplished and the progress we have made have come to pass because of our cooperation and because we have never forgotten whom we serve—Jesus, the Great Head of the Church and the Savior of Mankind. Let our prayer be that He continue unto us His Blessing thruout 1939.

XI. Recommendations.

Recommendations

1. That we again endeavor to be a gold star congregation in the Synod by raising in full our benevolent apportionment of \$2989.

2. That we support the 80th. Anniversary Appeal of the United Lutheran Church in America.

3. That Sec. 2, Article 5 of the Constitution be changed to read: "The Church Council shall consist of fourteen members, four of whom shall be designated Trustees, and ten of whom shall be designated as Deacons."

5. That a special meeting of the congregation be called immediately after the morning services, Sunday April 24, to act on the above recommendation.

4. That Sec. 1 Article 1 of the By-Laws be changed from "At the Annual Meeting the qualified voters shall elect by ballot one Trustee, to serve for a term of three years and four Deacons, to serve for a term of two years," to "At the Annual Meeting the qualified voters shall elect by ballot one Trustee, to serve for a term of four years and five Deacons, to serve for a term of two years."

3 ("The Church Council shall consist of eleven members, three of whom shall be designated Trustees, and eight of whom shall be designated as Deacons."

Praying that Our Heavenly Father may ever graciously look upon us and bless the work He through Jesus has given us to do and finally take us all to his Heavenly Vineyard, I am

Your servant.

Harry Schaefer