

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1971

Another year of our association as people and pastor has gone by and God has been continuously good to us. His mercies never fail and His guidance never ceases. We have completed the 98th year of this congregation's history in this spot, and the church continues to be a spiritual home to many people.

The problems of the church have not been ~~grievous~~ <sup>grievous</sup> during this year. The affairs of the church moved along at an even pace, though the participation of the congregation at worship has continued its downward trend, as my figures will show, though not in an alarming manner, save that any decrease in loyalty to God's purpose by His people is alarming. Not too many have departed from the church, but the sense of loyalty has been lackadaisical on the part of too many of our members. We are not alone in this sluffing off of loyalty; this has become a common story even in Roman Catholic circles. But it is not by way of excuse, for there is no excuse for unfaithfulness to the Lord. The congregation may want to attack this problem.

We are affected by the retirement of our Pastor of Visitation, the Rev. Dr. Weisser, whose presence in our midst for about 4 years meant a great deal to all. Likewise we were saddened by the death of our Pastor Emeritus, the Rev. Dr. Lehmann in recent weeks, and continue to express to Mrs. Lehmann our wishes for a strong recovery from this loss and the blessings of Almighty God in her sadness.

Again, I thank all who have contributed to the goodness of this year's experiences - the staff, the Council members, the organizations, the choirs and special committees who have functioned so wonderfully. Special thanks go to Mr. F. Long and Mr. W. Voelker, who had to leave the Council because of fulfillment of terms allowable by the Constitution.

Now, may I present the figures for this past year:

Attendance - the attendance for the 52 Sundays is now at 354, a drop from 362 last year. Even the subtraction of the summer attendance did not bring this figure up higher than 374.

Official functions

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Baptisms | 44 |
| Weddings | 50 |
| Funerals | 61 |

Members, 16

Non-members, 45

Membership

|                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Junior Confirmation            | 23        |
| Received by reprof-<br>fession | 20        |
| Renewals                       | 13        |
| Total additions                | <u>56</u> |
| Losses by death                | 16        |
| Removals                       | 25        |
| Transfers                      | 2         |
|                                | <u>43</u> |

figure of a year ago 717

Gross membership

56  
773

membership, 12/31/71

43  
730

Respectfully submitted

Paul A. Rasch

1/28/72