

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR  
TO  
UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH on December 8, 1953.

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself -- and entrusting to us the ministry of reconciliation." This passage from 2 Corinthians 5:19 is a fitting one to put at the head of our report. It gives a look backward at what we have been trying to do; it points forward to the essential work that is ours as a Church to be stewards of the gospel. What a responsibility is ours! Let us prayerfully consider our task in the light of those words. As we look back at the year 1953 we are indeed thankful to God. He has given us as a congregation 80 years of service for the Lord. We could commemorate that event. Then we look back and realize that in a financial way we have achieved a certain goal - we have been able to get together \$100,000.00 toward a Building Fund. This has been done mostly through voluntary gifts. As we size up the spirit of the Congregation for the past year, I believe it has been one of cooperation. What is most encouraging is that people are willing to give of their precious time to their Church and investing this time and talent in the Children, Youth and other people. We want to thank all of our various leaders of the Church Council, the officers of the different organizations, our Church secretary, Mrs. Elma Amrhien, the Caretakers, Mr. Fred Gross for addressing our mail, and all others who have helped and worked together, our Choirs, Organist and Minister of Music, for their fine music and the Pastor's wife for her assistance in the Parsonage. We have many problems facing us - we urgently need a Bible Study Group, which also enters into prayer, for unless a congregation studies this Word of God, it is not vital. We need to consider our whole property of the Church and should stagger the care of it, so each year we fix up certain portions of it. We also must consider the whole idea of the Church Building itself, for very shortly something should be done. Likewise we need to follow up people with whom we come in contact much more than we do. We are really losing folk. We smile at the visitation idea but it would be helpful. Attendance at Church Services regularly is absolutely essential to the work of the Church. Our Youth work needs to be emphasized. Volunteers for Sunday School teaching and for the Choirs are constantly needed.

Let me put the Pastor's activity report, which concerns more the outward matters, for we cannot judge the spiritual ministry, which God alone can see, into graphic form.

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
In the Study	(Approximately 4 hours each day)											Approx. 1500	
Sermons & Preaching	8	11	14	11	10	8	8	10	8	8	10	10	116
Meetings	(Of all the organizations)											210	
Teaching	(Confirmands 78 hours - two weeks Vacation School 30)											108	
	(Teacher Training Class)											40	
Visiting	The sick, shut-ins and in interest of the Church											2,150	
Counseling	People that come to Parsonage with problems, etc.											350	
Baptisms												124	
Funerals	(42 Church members and 32 outsiders)											74	
Weddings	Of Church Members											36	
Confirmands	41 boys and girls plus 32 adults											73	
Communicants	Advent 258, Easter Season 1319, Pentecost 314												
	World-Wide Sunday 453, Private 124											2,468	
Other Meetings	Evangelical & Reformed Church meetings, Potomac Synod Purdue Christian Education, Interdenominational, Speaking at other Churches, Radio and Television											days 10	

Sincerely yours,

*Rw. T. Lehmann*