

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR TO UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH
December 11, 1952

As we look out upon the world today with its turmoil, its lack of moral vision, we need to be reminded of Jesus' words in Mt. 11:29 - "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." In Mt. 5:5 Jesus also said: "Blessed are the meek (yoked to Christ) for they shall inherit the earth." St. Paul addressed his readers in Philippi with the words - "Dear Yoke-Fellows." The Yoke stands for work, fellowship and discipline. We work for and with Christ and with one another; we have fellowship together in Christ's work; we put ourselves under discipline and think of Christianity not merely as something easy-going, but something which requires our all.

So, while we feel good about various achievements and accomplishments; yet there is much that remains undone; and the work of Christ and Church could be done much better. Especially does this congregation need to feel itself as part of the larger Kingdom work and not merely a local affair.

We give thanks to God for His mercy and kindness toward us in allowing us to carry on His work. Naturally in this work, which is also human, we depend upon persons. We are thankful to Mrs. Elma Amrhien for faithfulness as Church Secretary; to Mr. Fred Gross for getting out large mailings; to Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jenkins as caretakers of the Church property; to the members of the Church Council and the officers and members of the different organizations for their fine cooperation; to Mrs. Lehmann, who takes care of so many details in the parsonage that concern themselves with the work of the Church; the Minister of Music, Mr. Fankhanel; Mr. Donald Schnader, Organist, and to the members of the Choirs who have rendered fine service. The Sunday School Officers and Teachers have worked very nicely.

Our two morning services have worked rather satisfactorily; but our Church attendance could be much better. Too many do not even think of the Church on Sunday mornings.

The Pastor was enabled, through the grace of God, to fulfill the outward responsibilities of his work, although not satisfied with spiritual results. The 104 services were diligently prepared for through our worship folders and sermons, and conducted as worshipful as we could make them, for we always come to worship God. He conducted work of confirmation instructions for children, as well as adults; teacher training classes, so that we might have trained teachers for the future. We have started a Bible Study group on Wednesday nights, but the response has not been too good, although those who do come have profited. Are we not interested in knowing more about God's Word? Our Youth Fellowship needs to develop, but it is on its way. May God help us with our young people, who must be entrusted to His care. We have about 40 young men in the Service of the Country in different parts of the world.

From the Record Book the pastor would report the following official acts:

142 Baptisms, 45 children, 10 adults confirmed; 98 weddings performed; 85 funerals conducted; Ministered through Holy Communion to 2580; made 2150 calls upon sick and well folks, mostly sick.

We could do much more in visitations of our congregation, if we had more who were willing to go on this friendly ministry. Many people came to the parsonage for consultation and we try to be as helpful as possible. Problems of all kinds arise with alcoholics, marital troubles, juvenile delinquencies, parents' carelessness with children. May God help us all to feel our responsibility.

May the year ahead be a blessed one under the guidance of God, with whom we would be "yoke-fellows."

Rev. E. Robinson