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## REPORT OF THE PASTOR for the YEAR ending DECEMBER 31, 1930.

To the Council and Members of  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church of Rochester, N.Y.

Dear Brethren:

Thru the mercies of our heavenly Father I am again permitted to bring to you an annual report, the eleventh in my service as your pastor. Needless to say I rejoice that God has allowed us to work together for so many years, and, I believe we may look back over the years of fellowship and service together and say that God has wonderfully blessed our association.

The year, which has just closed, has been a very trying one to both the Council and myself. In addition to the usual obligations arising from the administration of a congregation as large as ours, there has been the added burden of financial stringency. I can say for both the Council and myself that we have done the best we could under the circumstances; that we are very happy conditions are as good as they are; and that we feel, keenly, the trials of the members of the congregation and as keenly appreciate the fine support the majority of the members have given even in the face of so very difficult a situation. This is the second time in the course of my ministry as pastor of Grace Church that we have had to face a financial and industrial slump. In 1921 the then Church Council and myself had to carry a like added burden. I am happy to say that our condition now is, relatively, very much better than then. At that time we closed our fiscal year with debts about as large as those with which we close this year. But, since our income for the whole year was only about two-thirds that of the year 1930, the proportion of carried-over debts was very much larger. By the middle of 1923 every penny of this carried-over debt had been made and in addition a substantial reduction recorded in our total indebtedness. I have no fear of the days before us, your loyalty, together with God's guidance, will lead us out into greater blessings than we have ever enjoyed in the past.

The following statistics are but symbols of the real activities of the past year, but emblematic of the far-reaching service we are rendering for the Kingdom of our Saviour. You must read between the lines for the romance and glory of that service.

## 1: MEMBERSHIP:

During the past year our

Accessions have been as follows, -

|                                     |       |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| By Confirmation,.....               | 25    |
| By Letters from other Congregations | 6     |
| By Reinstatement,.....              | 8     |
| By Profession of Faith,.....        | 4     |
|                                     | <hr/> |
|                                     | 43    |

Losses have been, -

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| By Death,.....               | 8     |
| By Letters of transfer,..... | 2     |
| By Withdrawals,.....         | 5     |
|                              | <hr/> |
|                              | 15    |

Accessions.....43  
Losses.....15

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This bring our present nominal membership up to 831.

## 2: WORSHIP:

### A: Services:

Sunday morning: the total attendance for the 46 Sunday mornings I occupied the pulpit was 10,558, an average of 230 per service. There were ten Sunday evening services with a total attendance of 1,187, an average of 118 per service. There were ten week-day services with a total attendance of 2,062, an average of 206.

### Recapitulation:

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 46 Sunday morning services,              | 10,558 in attendance; |
| 10 Sunday evening                        | 1,187 " "             |
| 10 Week-day services                     | 2,062 " "             |
| <hr/>                                    |                       |
| 66 services in all with                  | 13,797 in attendance  |
| an average of 209 for each service held. |                       |

### B: Communion:

559 persons partook of the Lord's Supper during the year. This represents 67% of the congregation, leaving 33% failing to avail themselves of this blessed privilege. These 559 persons partook of The Sacrament 1,251 times: 73% or 411 of the 559 received the Sacrament only once, and that during Holy Week.

## 3: PASTORAL ACTIVITIES:

### A: Ministerial Acts:

17 children were baptized during the year;  
14 couples were married;  
22 funerals were conducted;  
Private Communion was given to fourteen persons.

B: Pastoral Calls to the number of 485 were made during the year.

### C: Administrative:

5,769 letters were sent out;  
25,744 pieces were run off on the mimeograph;  
The telephone was used 314 times.

### D: Miscellaneous:

There were 30 catechetical instruction period during the year; The Senior Class has 16 children enrolled; the Junior Class, 25;  
I delivered 31 addresses and sermons during the year in addition to the regular pulpit work;  
I attended 130 meetings within and without the regular parish work.

## 4: HONORS:

I was accorded the high privilege of being re-elected president of the Western Conference of The Synod for the year ending October 1931;

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I was appointed a member of the synodical Inner Mission Committee for the present synodical year;  
 The Ministerial Union of Rochester and Monroe County selected me as its president this year;  
 I was re-elected secretary of "The Gospel Mission and Welfare Association of Rochester, N.Y., Inc.," which conducts the Gospel Tabernacle in this city;  
 I am a member of the Council of the Rochester Bible Union; of the Executive Committee of the Rochester Federation of Churches; of the Executive Committee of the Gypsy Smith Crusade; and of the Clergymen's Committee on Non-Employment;  
 I served as dean of the Batavia, N.Y., Leadership Training School;  
 I was a member of the faculty of the Western New York Summer School of Religious Education, of which school I am also a member of the Board of Directors.

#### 5: SPECIAL ATTENTION:

I would like to call your attention, in particular, to the OVERBALANCED PROGRAM of our activities

- A) In our worship or spiritual program we find that 40% of the total attendance at worship is crowded into the seven weeks of Lent and that 73% of the total number of individual communions is found in Holy Week.
- B) In our schedule we discover the church building in use some 778 hours during the past year. Of these hours 83 were given over to worship and 71 to religious education, only 19% of the total hours of use; 172 hours or 21% were given over to administrative activities, while 452 hours or 60% of the time were given over to social and recreational purposes.

Such a lopsided and unbalanced program is dangerous to the best interests of the congregation and of the Kingdom at large. A more consistent attendance at worship and participation in The Sacrament, together with a greater emphasis upon worship and religious education are essential if we are to prosper not only spiritually, but in temporal affairs as well. My Bible teaches this basic principle - "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you."

I have selected for our congregational motto for the year 1931

"ROOM FOR JESUS."

I call upon every member and each auxiliary of the congregation to bend every energy to this end that Jesus may be given His legitimate place in our congregational life. We cannot be content with a seven-week, once-a-year-communion, nineteen-percent spiritual program. Activities must be recast, confirmation oaths revitalized, before we can expect any real and lasting progress.

I want again to call to your attention the pressing need of enlarging our working forces. I know nothing can be done just now, but it is a matter we cannot let slide into the background. We have now 467 calling

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points in the parish, which calling points include some 1200 persons. No one person can give to such a group anything like the attention it should have. It would require 600 visits a year just to see each of our permanently shut-ins, without the many special calls necessary for caring for the occasional sick, the bereaved, these struggling with spiritual problems. Our young people are not being cared for properly, fine as the work is which is now being done by the several self-sacrificing volunteers; our Sunday School pupils are not being kept interested thru home visits; and a large proportion of our families can be seen only about once every two years. Such occasional contacts do not build up a loyal and cohesive people. Moreover the size of our parish entails a tremendous amount of clerical work as the figures already given clearly demonstrate. Were it not for the loyal and willing service rendered by Mrs Eastman, Mr Jury, and the parsonage children much of this work would have to be left undone. I know of no other congregation the size of ours working with only one paid worker, with the exception of a few German congregations, ~~whose annual turnover in membership~~ which are content to sit pretty within their own four walls and do practically nothing for the community or the Church at large. Every up-to-date and live congregation has one paid worker for every 400 to 500 persons to be reached. I lay this matter on your heart.

In closing I wish to express my very deep appreciation for the fine and helpful service rendered by Mr Fisher and the Choir, by Mrs H Berg and Mrs C Foster, by every teacher and officers of our Bible School, by Miss Wallmann, by Mr. Jury, and every one who by faithfulness at worship and in participation in The Sacrament have encouraged my ministry during the past year. Nor do I forget the members of the Chancel Committee, the officers of our various congregational auxiliaries, and the Church Council, particularly, on whose shoulders a very heavy burden has fallen during the past year. No pastor has had ready at his right hand a finer and more helpful group than our Church Council. Their association with me in our common labors and their willingness to serve whenever and wherever needed have been a great inspiration to me during the past year.

My prayer for you one and all is that this coming year may be to each member of the Congregation, to every worker and officer, a year of high achievement and blessed attainments in Christ Jesus, our common Saviour and Lord.

Respectfully submitted

January 5, 1931

Pastor



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## 2: WORSHIP:

A. Services: The total attendance of the 47 Sunday morning services at which I officiated was 10,405, with an average attendance of 260 a Sunday.

The total attendance at our four Sunday evening services was 893, with an average of 223.

There were 11 weekday services with a total attendance of 1,164, with an average of 106.

The early morning Christmas Service saw 304 at worship.

Our Thanksgiving Service this year brought 165 to church.

And there was one community service with 155 present.

As has been the case in past year, most of our church going is crowded into the seven weeks of Lent, which reached its climax this year, not on Palm Sunday, but on Easter when 502 were present, the largest attendance at Grace Church in her entire history.

A significant truth is hidden in the contrast between the average attendance per Sunday in Lent and in summer. Our average church going in Lent this year was 300, or 37½% of the enrolled membership. During the summer months the average was 121, or 12½%. Our general average thruout the year has been 231 or about 26% of the enrolled membership, which is just 6% better than the average thru the country. And that, of course, is something to be thankful for.

B. Communion: 549 persons communed 1,280 times during the year. That is our Communion Life is about 66% of the enrolled membership. Of these 549, 425, or 78% of the total, communed during Lent only. And 257 or 47% of the total number communing, partook of the Sacrament only once during the entire year.

Our Holy Week Communion this year was the highest in our history, - 468 partook of the Sacrament during that week.

There were 114 members who communed twice during the year; 79 who communed three times; 45 communed 4 times; 42 communed 5 times; and 12 had a perfect communion record of six times. Their names are worthy of mention, - Miss Marian Ansler, Miss Edna May Barg, Miss Arlene Bouckman, Miss Helen Dummer, Mrs. Heber Mattie, Miss Olive Mazure, Miss Ruth Stein, Miss Anna Scholtz, Miss Anna Wallmann, Mrs. Wallmann, Mrs. Henry Wisetzke, Miss Eleanor Williams. There may, of course, be others of who I do not have a complete record because of their failure to hand in Communion Record Cards. If there are such I would be happy to know about them, especially is among the men of the congregation.

3: Pastoral Activities:

## A. Ministerial Acts:

|                          |    |
|--------------------------|----|
| Infant Baptisms,.....    | 16 |
| Marriages,.....          | 11 |
| Funerals,.....           | 19 |
| Private Communions,..... | 13 |

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472 Pastoral Calls were made during the year.

## B: Administrative:

5,184 letters were sent out;  
22,214 pieces were run off on the mimeograph;  
The telephone was used 377 times.

## C. Miscellaneous:

The two catechetical classes have met regularly thruout the year.  
There are 28 enrolled in the Senior Class, and 14 in the Junior Class.

I delivered 26 sermons or addresses during the year in addition to the regular pulpit work.

I attended 81 meetings within and without the regular parish work.

- 4: HONORS: I am a member of the Board of Directors and Faculty of the Western New York Summer School of Religious Education;  
I served as chalcain for the annual convention of the National Inner Mission Conference and was elected its Publicity Manager;  
I am a member of the Board of Directors of The Rochester Gospel Tabernacle;  
I am secretary of the Committee on Gospel Missions of the Rochester Federation of Churches;  
I was re-appointed a member of the Synodical Committee on the Inner Mission.  
I served as President of the Western Conference until October.  
I am also a member of the Council of the Rochester Bible Union.

In closing my report I wish to thank all those who by faithfulness at worship and participation in the Sacrament of the Altar have given encouragement to my labors as Pastor; to Mr. Fisher and the Choir for their fine ministry of music; to the Chancel Committee for their care of the Altar and its appointments; to Mr. Jury, Mrs. Kenneth Eastman, and to the parsonage children for their help in office work; to Mr. Trietmeyer and Miss Mary Wallmann for their activities in scouting among our boys and girls; to the officers of the several auxiliaries, and to the teachers of our Bible School, without whose constant faithfulness much would not be accomplished; and to the Church Council for the fine heroism and high courage of faith they have shown during a most trying and perplexing year.

Again I must call your attention, too, to the unbalanced program of our activities, with over 70% of the time given to purely social work, and only 30% to worship and religious education. To practically 40% our devotional program crowded into the seven weeks of Lent; to our having no mid-week worship. And to the fact that all the burden falls on one pair of shoulders, with what assistance he may be able to secure from the few willing and hard-working souls so loyal to the Church. In this last connection it may interest you to know that Immanuel Church, the still a mission congregation, and with a budget nearly as large as ours, and a membership of only one-third ours, has called a full-time secretary and parish worker. Surely if they need one, you cannot say I exaggerate when I say that our program has grown far beyond the powers of one paid worker to meet. You must give this its rightful consideration just as soon as the present economic condition has righted itself.

May God bless you one and all during the coming year.

Faithfully your Pastor