

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR TO UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH
December 11, 1951

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."

R. L. Lehmann

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UNITED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Baltimore, Maryland
December 12, 1950

In 2 Corinthians 4: verses 7-8 we read in Moffatt's translation these words: "The transcending (overcoming) power belongs to God, not to myself;--on every side I am harried, but not hemmed in, perplexed but not despairing--struck down, but not destroyed." The apostle Paul writes out of depths of harrowing experience. We feel the same way today about world conditions, but as Christians we realize that it is from God that real power flows, therefore we do not become discouraged. We need to carry on the work of the Church today, for it is as vital as ever.

We have inaugurated a number of changes in our Congregation this past year that seem to help solve a problem. The biggest change came when the evening services - long a tradition in our church - were discontinued and two morning services begun, at 8:15 and 10:15 A. M. The early service or matins has had a fine response and is worthwhile continuing. We experienced a change of caretakers, and have found in Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jenkins very willing and helpful persons. All of us need to be willing in every possible manner. The volunteers from the United Men's Club and the Sunday School, who helped wash down and paint the ceilings and walls of the Sunday School Hall deserve our appreciation. A change also took place in our Ministry of Music and Mr. Fred Kirk took over the organ and the directing of the choirs on November 1. We wish him well in this responsible work. We deeply appreciate the willing and fine work of our Church Secretary, Mrs. Elma Amrhien; and the work of addressing our mailings on the part of Mr. Fred Gross. All organizations worked well and we want to thank each one for assisting. We express appreciation to the members of the Church Council for their fine work throughout the year.

From the Pastor's records the following items are to be noted:

He conducted 112 services this past year; baptized 115 children and 1 adult; confirmed 70 children and 17 adults, a total of 87; gave the blessings of the Church upon 86 marriages; spoke words of comfort at 95 funerals; shared in the fellowship of the Lord's Supper with 2678 persons; made approximately 2050 calls in the interest of the Church in various homes; and with the aid of the minister's wife, to whom we express our thanks, had innumerable consultations in the parsonage. He had the opportunity to teach Confirmation Classes, Daily Vacation Bible School, as well as Teacher Training Classes. The pastor took a course on "The Doctor and the Pastor" at City Hospital this past year, so that all of us might be more helpful to our sick friends.

Our young men are again being called to the service of their country and we need to keep in touch with them. We need to have a more vital interest in the larger work of the Church. We need to plan - for it takes time - what to do with our Church Building. We need earnest prayer on the part of all, so we might do God's will. Attendance at Church and Holy Communion must reach higher levels.

We close with this thought - "Let us not be frightened by the feeling of our own inadequacy for this troubled hour. We are called to fill our own places, always to do the very best we can and to leave the rest to God."

Rev. Titus Lehmann,
Pastor