

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PASTOR

to United Evangelical Church

November 18, 1960

"You come to Him, as living stones to the immensely valuable Living Stone, to be built up into a Spiritual House of God." 1 Peter 2:5

Spiritual Building should be the emphasis of the Pastor's report this year. We have been able to enjoy and worship in our new church for almost three years. We have just about paid off our debt on it. We still have enough "building" to do and to keep in condition. However, now we are concerned that we may "let down" on the real work of the Church, which is to help build the Kingdom of God in lives and persons, in other words spiritual building. The challenge is to be met by us. As we go along, some suggestions will be given.

God has been good to us in the Year of 1960. We want to express our appreciation to Him above all. We are thankful for the fine cooperation of the Church Council, the Sunday School folk, the Choirs, their leaders, the Ladies' Aid Society, the Young Women's Guild, the United Men's Club, the Youth Fellowship and United Youth and leaders, as well as all other organizations which have worked together so well this past year. We appreciate the part-time service as Church Secretary of Mrs. Elma Amrhine for the first four months of the year. It has been a tremendous help to have a full time Church Secretary in the person of Mrs. Grace Fader since April and we appreciate her willing, efficient and kind services. We have had also a change in organists this past year. Mr. Donald Schnader who had served so faithfully for nine years has taken over in another church and Mr. Thomas Griffin has served us since September.

We have been able to conduct and carry on all of our services on Sundays, during Lent and for special occasions. Our Religious Education work is undergoing some changes, but we have carried on in Sunday School, in Vacation Bible School and confirmation instructions. We had a good attendance at Communion services with almost 3500 communicants. With this fall we have inaugurated a "Healing Mission" or "Quiet Hour" on Wednesdays at 7 P.M. and have found this helpful to people in their problems, troubles and needs. We trust that strength and inspiration may come to many.

The official acts of the Pastor were carried on as effectively as possible, but our people need some more instructions on the meaning of baptism, which is not merely a name-giving rite, but a definite acceptance into the Fellowship of Jesus Christ. It carries with it deep responsibilities on part of the parents and sponsors. The Pastor has had many counselling hours to spend with people, particularly with married couples who had problems. If such folk would come sooner, something might be done, but they usually come after the rift has gone too far.

May God's grace go with us into the future and we may build in spirit and in truth.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Titus Lehman,
Pastor.