

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Coney Island, N. Y.

NEPTUNE AVENUE AND WEST EIGHTH STREET

BROOKLYN, N. Y. 11224

COney Island 6-1831

THE REV. PETER KREY, Pastor



Pastor Schulz

July 17, 1984

Descriptive
Material

The first Elmer E. Flack scholar is the Rev. Dr. Leslie C. Schulz, pastor of First English Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Pastor Schulz has been pastor there since 1956 and prior to that served as pastor at Rock Creek Lutheran parish in Logansport, Indiana. Pastor Schulz received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas

Lutheran College in 1949 and his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Hamma in 1954. In 1975 he was honored by Wittenberg University with the Doctor of Divinity degree. His twenty-six years of faithful service as pastor in the inner city equips Pastor Schulz with profound insight into the mission and ministry of the church today. Pastor Schulz will be in residence here at Trinity during the first two weeks in March of 1983.

We eagerly await both our pastors-in-residence for the coming year and look forward to opportunities for welcoming other Fendt and Flack scholars in the years to come.

The Rev. Dr. Leslie C. Schulz goes way back in the history of inner-city ministry, but is still working in the streets of Cincinnati today. On Sunday July 15, 84, he just celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of his ordination, and has continued ministering in the Basin area of Cincinnati for 28 of those years.

Above he is written up in Trinity Seminary's news letter (Columbus, Ohio) on the occasion of his having been chosen as the Elmer E. Flack scholar and Pastor-in-residence for that seminary. His reaction: he was so much needed as a pastor that he had to postpone his aspirations as a scholar for for some time in the future.

This conference is the right time for a man like this to be heard, for him to share the richness of his insights garnered from his long struggle in the inner-city. His keen eye is on the process in a church, and his in-depth perception of people have left an impact on me, that made me follow him into the inner-city and try to analyze and appropriate his method.

His Leadership training laboratories and his Bible studies with growth experience leave persons engulfed in an encounter of affirmation. Perhaps he can be best described as a meditative charismatic, who gives you a listening to out of the Holy Spirit. His attending persons out of the joy of the personhood in Christ, first the terror, and then the overwhelming sense of joy in receiving the gift of one's self in the gracious presence of God is something I experienced in his ministry there in the streets of Cincinnati that I'm still after eight year trying to recreate in the projects of Coney Island. In his ministry Hillbillies from the coal fields of Kentucky and Black people from the South joined together at the communion rail.

Les Schulz was involved in integrating First Lutheran Church back in the fifties, and I got to know him in the late sixties, as a gentle revolutionary of the depth as opposed to a superficial revolutionary of the surface of our student movement days. Pastor Schulz considered a conversation with a person holy, inviolable time. (to try to get at his way again) Up in an out of the way room of his church nothing was allowed to interfere with the conversation-encounter, which went into the depth, took you way past your growing edge, and challenged you to try to grasp your as yet unappropriated stature in God's eyes.

His extensive and prodigious reading among others, has gone through Kierkegaard, Thomas Merton, Theresa of Avilon, I believe that is the Medieval mystic through which he is trying to see the vision of feminism - and he is now steeped in the Gospel of John. His undergraduate study was sociology, which he integrated fully with psychology, but in a theology completely informed by the idiom and the wisdom of the street.

Leslie C. Schulz, to me seems to be the man cut out for the particular needs of our inner-city conference, with an incarnational theology right off the steaming hot pavements of the inner-city - and I feel his contribution would also be able to provide us with the vision and the definition of our ministry which we need,

P.S. Schulz has
always been a quiet man,
who gives Black Leadership,
especially Mr. Lillian Smoot,
his public space.

LOVE YOU PEACE
Pastor Krey

