



## Brief History of the Lutheran Men in Mission

The NC Synod's Men's Organization began in 1922. St. Paul's Lutheran Church began participating in the 1930's. During the 1930's, Mr. Roy Safrit taught a Sunday School class named the "Young Men's Christian Brotherhood." At their request Mr. Safrit led a unit of the church's men program known at that time as "The Brotherhood." Meetings were held on the first Sunday afternoon of each month with outstanding participation. St. Paul's was known as the church to win the attendance award at the district meetings held each fifth Sunday during the year. St. Paul's averaged between 50 to 60 men at the district meetings where a total of 500 to 600 was not unusual. At this time 28 of the 32 churches in the northern district had active men's groups. Mr. Safrit served as State President of "The Brotherhood."

With World War II, a decline in population was brought about as many men left the area to serve their country. Following the war the name of the men's group was changed to "United Lutheran Church Men." Although the participation recovered it was not as before. In 1954 the Home Mission Fund was established. The fund's purpose is to provide low interest loans to congregations conducting building projects. In 1960 Mr. Paul Ritchie became the second State President from St. Paul's. During Mr. Ritchie's term the men's group name changed again to the "Lutheran Men."

In the 1960's minutes available demonstrate that support of the Loan and Gift Fund and the Boy Scouts were major projects of our local men's group. An annual event was a fish fry held each spring with proceeds to the Scouts.

With the formation of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), the men's group name changed again to the "Lutheran Men in Mission." The group participates in various projects around the church, providing the meal for the Mother/Daughter/Other Banquet, and has the congregation offerings to both the Loan and Gift Fund and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

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In 1995 the Lutheran Men in Mission adopted a mission statement:

- Support the Loan and Gift Fund of the NC Lutheran Men in Mission
  - Support the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
  - Help maintain our church building and grounds
  - Promote Christ centered youth programs such as the Boy Scouts
  - Dedicate ourselves to pray for and understand each others strengths and weaknesses
  - Help men to strengthen the home, so that it may be a school for Christian living
  - Promote fellowship and mutual support in times of personal need and crisis
  - Assist men in developing personal Bible Study habits
  - Stimulate stewardship of time, talents, and possessions
  - Encourage men to exert an individual and collective influence in the community and actively participate in governmental affairs.
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