

Brief History St. Paul's Lutheran Women

The St. Paul's Lutheran Women have had an organization since April 29, 1900, when the Rev. V. Y. Boozer, D.D., organized the Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. There were thirty-three members in the first organization and today many of the daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters make up the membership of St. Paul's Lutheran Women.

The organization has had the following name changes during its 110 years of existence:

1900	Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Society
1929	Women's Missionary Society
1948	Women of the Church
1955	United Lutheran Church Women
1970	Lutheran Church Women
1987	Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA)
2006	St. Paul's Lutheran Women

The Women of St. Paul's have served well as an active arm of ministry in the church on the local, district, and state levels. An example of their ministry at the local level appeared in the Salisbury Post in July of 1957, said this of the ladies of our organization. The story is about Mrs. Gus Wilson, wife of the church caretaker.

"A Rowan woman was ill for more than four years with cancer. Her husband did the best he could, but those of you who have experience with a serious illness know the financial toll it extracts.

The harder the husband tried, the more he fell behind. And when his wife required not only hospitalization, but also around-the-clock nurses, it was a seemingly insurmountable obstacle. 'After all, he wasn't J. Paul Getty.'

The ladies of St. Paul's Lutheran Church heard about the dilemma. They got together and decided that they'd provide the nursing services—24 hours a day, seven days a week.

It wasn't easy for them because most of them had jobs of their own. Those who worked during the day volunteered for the night duty. Those who worked the graveyard shift volunteered the morning or late night hours. Housewives worked the odd hours and filled in during emergencies.

A Post reporter heard about the ladies' efforts, but they (the ladies) wanted no part of the publicity. Theirs was a labor of love, not of publicity.

The patient died several months ago, but we shall long remember the ladies of St. Paul's. Their story restores our faith in mankind. And the story behind their story—love of neighbor, understanding, and self-sacrifice—is like an arrow pointing our way out of the labyrinth of hate, distrust, and fear that is swirling through our country today.

Our county and our country need more men and women like the ladies of St. Paul's. When we get them, we'll all be busy building ourselves that we won't have time to tear down the man next door."