

**CELEBRATING** St. Paul's is Celebrating its 125th  
**Anniversary Celebration**  
**125**  
**YEARS**

**October 8, 2023**

*In preparation, Ron Fritze and Beth Hornish  
are leading us through our history in  
preparation for this grand celebration.*

*Anyone wishing to participate in its planning may contact Beth or Ron!*

**ST. PAUL'S "MARTHAS" STEP UP!**

*"This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds  
which she did."* Acts 9:36

*"Serve the LORD with gladness!"* Psalm 100:2

October 9, 1898, St. Paul's Lutheran Church officially organizes. Shortly after, five women came together to form the Ladies' Aid society. They took as their theme verse Acts 9:36 and the focus of their ministry was "good works" providing support to the church and the Decatur community. Among their "good works" were raising money to help pay off the church debt by selling boxed lunches to the passengers on the boats that sailed the Tennessee River, holding rummage sales, bazaars, and oyster suppers. They also provided meals to Pastoral Conferences in 1929 and 1938.



In April 1937, during the ministry of Rev. E. T. Tonn, the name of the group was changed to the Lutheran Ladies Auxiliary. The Auxiliary continued to support the church by paying for hard wood floors in the church, installing a water heater in the parsonage, repairing the parsonage front porch, putting shutters on the front windows, and having the candle sticks re-plated.

In 1942, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) was formed as an auxiliary to the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Their theme verse is "Serve the LORD with gladness" Psalm 100:2 and their focus was missions. During the ministry of Rev. E. T. Tonn, a society of the LWML was organized in November 1943 with eight members. The emphasis of the LWML is missions. They collected mites at every meeting which are sent to the national organization and the district to help spread the Gospel through Mission Grants. Over the years, their mites have help build schools, fund missionaries, develop programs at the Lutheran Church

– Missouri Synod colleges and seminaries, buy vehicles to help missionaries travel in their mission fields, help establish programs for children and cancer patients, and many other mission needs.

After World War II, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod sponsored the Relief for Europeans program, LWML gathered food and clothing. They also adopted an orphan in Finland and regularly sent food and clothing to support the orphan.

In 2017, LWML sponsored the formation of a Prayer Shawl Ministry. The ladies knit and crochet shawls, cancer hats, prayer squares, preemie hats, and prayer bears that have been distributed to members of the congregation, cancer patients, confirmands, the preschool and other members of the community.

At St. Paul's, the Ladies Auxiliary and LWML have worked together to support the needs of the congregation. In the past few years, these ladies have redecorated the parlor, purchased the tables and chairs in the Lobby, supported the youth in their Christmas projects, provided funding for various charities, and quarterly lunches for the volunteers at the Decatur Free Clinic.

In 2019, the Ladies Auxiliary and LWML merged and formed the Lutheran Women in Mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Decatur, Alabama (LWM). Today's ladies continue to build on the legacy of those women who came before us. Currently, we support St. Paul's Preschool, Tennessee Valley Outreach (TVO), People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (PABLO), Decatur Free Clinic, African Radio Ministries, KTT (a ministry of St. Paul's), First Priority, Able Light (formerly Bethesda Home), Lutheran Hour Ministries, Lutheran Bible Translator Missionary, Adullam House, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Prophets Christmas Project, Christmas gifts for Pastor and DCE, and purchasing palm fronds for making the Palm Sunday crosses.

LWM periodically holds fundraisers to support the programs that we support, and we always appreciate the support of the congregation in our efforts.

As we look forward to the coming years, LWM will continue to support the congregation and the community with its ministry.

*Beth Hornish and Ron Fritze*



**Please see the next page for opportunities to help us celebrate!**