

St. Peter's Lutheran Women's Mission Circle

75 Years of Service

St. Peter's Lutheran Church had its' beginning in 1918 as a mission project with Rev. W. Reitz as the first Pastor. It began with four families. There was no church building so services were held in the homes of members. Regular services began in 1919.

It wasn't until Nov. 3, 1932 that the first Mission Circle meeting was held under the direction of Pastor R. Ludwig, who saw the need for such an organization. There were 7 ladies present. A constitution was drawn up, and officers elected. The first official meeting was held on Dec. 1, 1932 and a grand total of \$1.15 was collected. This was the time of the "Dirty 30's" and money was scarce.

In 1935 a birthday tea was organized. Each member who had a birthday would invite another member. The Hostess had her choice of inviting a friend or neighbor. A total of \$3.15 was added to their Treasury.

With this meager beginning they went on to have teas, bazaars, bake sales and rummage sales, and raised enough money to buy a furnace for the church which was built, and dedicated in 1930. They also purchased hymnals, a pulpit Bible was presented to the congregation May 7, 1939, and Baptismal font was purchased. They made quilts for the Red Cross, donated money to the Lutheran Hour, knitted socks etc. and made up parcels to send to Service men.

In 1941 an outhouse was purchased for \$6. Before that, the neighbors outhouse was used.

The Mission Circle ladies were tireless in their efforts to raise money. They were able to purchase an organ for \$500 as well as having new cupboards built for the church kitchen. Drapes and a desk were bought for the church office, money was donated for Choir gowns and books, Vacation Bible School supplies, building fund and Missions.

In 1950 they catered for their first wedding. In order to do so, they rented dishes from Perry's Hardware and borrowed tables from the Baptist church. They were able to buy their own dishes in 1953. Tables and benches were built by Stan Mays and Art Westgard. That same year the Mission Circle furnished the church kitchen with an electric stove. Also in that same year they held their first fowl supper, and did the same the following two years. Keep in mind that up to this point all their activities took place without the luxury of an electric stove and running water.

Running water became a reality in 1955, and you guessed, the Mission Circle paid for that at a total cost of \$700. Their down payment was \$300 and they paid \$25 a month until the debt was paid off.

In the 60's and 70's another stove was purchased for the kitchen and a