

## Knoxville Lutheran Laymen's League Over the Years.

The Lutheran Laymen's League of First Lutheran received its Charter in 1942. Prior to this time, the men were organized as First Lutheran Men's Club and it was not unusual to have 40 to 50 present at the meetings.

After joining the Lutheran Laymen's League they were faced with many challenges. The annual LLL Roll Call and the Lutheran Hour were two projects that received immediate attention, but when we attended District Conventions and mingled with LLL'ers from other towns we felt the need for a big project nearer home.

For the next few years the idea of starting new Missions in East Tennessee was the hottest subject at conventions.

When we asked the Western District how to go about launching such a program, they told us to leave it alone.

Our Pastors of these days were God fearing men, they preferred to challenge God rather than listen to the upstairs men of the Western District, and in the Fall of 1946 at the convention at Oak Ridge, it was decided to raise \$1000.00 during the coming year.

Knoxville LLL pledged \$500.00 of this amount. At the October 1947 convention Knoxville LLL reported they had sent \$510.00 to the District Treasurer for the Tennessee District Mission Fund.

Thus, with the start of the first mission at Cleveland, Tenn. Knoxville continued to do its share in support of missions in East Tennessee.

This was in addition to the many local projects such as moving church equipment to the new location, cleaning up the playground, painting school rooms and basement floors, washing windows and many others.

When First Lutheran was planning to build the new church, the Finance committee approached the LLL with a 5% donation plan and the LLL responded with a 98% of the members signing pledges.

Meetings were divided into a short business meeting, a topic discussion and a social hour. Samples of the topics were, "Archeology and the Bible" "The Lord's Supper" "Chemistry as related to Atomic Fission" and "Diseases of Old Testament Times".

During all this our social hour included a bowling league consisting of 4 teams, 5 men each, ages, from 16 to 60 years.