

HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY !!!

Religious Study | Field Trips | Networking | Service

Creation

Begun in April 2016, Advent's Men's Group started off with a group size of > 20 as seen in the photo to the right. An auspicious start!

Leadership

The group has always been guided by multiple facilitators to enhance prospects for sustainability. Pastoral guidance has proven valuable.

Current Status

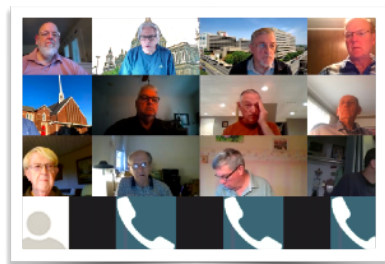
Presently Dr. Ray Smith, Dale Kratzer, and George Freestone guide the group's activities in the four areas shown in the title block. Activities now include women and friends of the congregation.



The Men's Group Journey

Since April 2016, the Men's group has striven to further network the members of Advent while providing interesting and religion-based activities — first for the men of Advent, and now for all members and friends of the congregation.

Initial interest was strong - as seen in the photo above with more than 20 participating. Over the years, the core group meeting for breakfast at the Deluxe Restaurant has shrunk to ~8, but quarterly brunches for all consistently draw 25 to 35. The April 2026 Brunch featuring a discussion of "Near Death Experiences" may draw 40! During COVID we maintained the group with Zoom. We just wrapped up a historical books display during Lent.





Brunches @ Advent

In response to a Council request, the Men's Group began offering quarterly programs after Worship, and included all members and friends of the congregation. Some highlights:

- "Kindness and Compassion" by Bruce Becker - the Amish response to the 2008 Nickel Mines shootings.
- John Brewster's trips to Turkey and Greece - "In the Footsteps of Paul."



Notable Field Trips

- The Museum of the Bible in DC
- Both Seminary Campuses (Gettysburg & Philadelphia)
- A Jewish Shabbat & Meal
- An Islamic Prayer Service
- Augustus Church(es) in Trappe

Religious study has included reviewing World Religions, many Christian Denominations, and several Old and New Testament books of the Bible.

The Men's Group serves others with Bombas sock delivery to those in need, care of the Synod Office building, cooking for Safe Berks, assembly of Disaster Kits, and projects around the church. We honor Advent Vets on Memorial and Veterans Day. We've held military show-and-tell programs and annually feature a Movie Night.



Networking & Benchmarking

In these times when churches are generally struggling with decreasing membership and financial support, the Men's Group strives to increase the networking of our congregation and to provide outreach to those in the community who might enjoy our programs.

To stay aware of benchmarking insights that might help our group succeed, George Freestone currently serves as the Lutheran Men in Mission Ambassador for the Synod and has visited a half dozen Men's Groups throughout the NEPA Synod.

Come Join Us!

If this sounds like fun, please join us for future Men's Group sponsored activities! The group would love your input and participation. We're looking forward to Advent Men's Group's next milestone birthday!

