

# + Table Talk

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN FRANKFURT AM MAIN, GERMANY — SUMMER-FALL 2011



## By Faith, Through Love

Remembering Karen Römer

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## +TableTalk

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# Forum

## Flohrs'

### Defining Moment

by Rev. Robert J. Flohrs

**Defining Moment** {noun} - a point at which the essential nature or character of a person, group, etc., is revealed or identified.

*Dictionary.com Unabridged. Random House, Inc.*

As we think about different moments in our lives, what comes to mind as a moment in which our very life is revealed or identified? Does our job, the school we attend, or where we live identify us? While those things may say a lot about who we are, do they say what we are?

As Christians, a “Defining Moment” is when we come to faith in Jesus Christ. The writer of Hebrews 10:10 says “... we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” “Once” the writer says. A Defining Moment for all people.

Coming to faith is THE moment in a Christian’s life. We are then led by the Holy Spirit to a life of spiritual

blessings. St. Paul said in Romans 1:16 “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...” We celebrate the power of God at Trinity in worship and service to God and others.

Perhaps an opportunity that you and I have to lead others to a Defining Moment is part of our simple, but Biblical motto: “Making Disciples.” We are truly a transitional community. God has placed us here to be a part of the “moment” for people whom we welcome into the life of Trinity through our friendship, worship or an activity.

Pray for yourself, for your family/friends, for Trinity, for those who are not part of Trinity but will be. Pray for all Christian churches who proclaim the Risen Savior as the One who offers to all people THE Defining Moment of their lives.



"... and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love..." Jason Upton

# By Faith, Through Love

by Cindy Steinbach

It is an honor to remember a remarkable lady who showed her love of God, her family, her friends, and her Trinity family ever so freely. God said that of those whom He has given much, much is expected. With humility and grace, Karen fulfilled that command. As wife to Albrecht and mother to Annika, Kaia, and Kristiana, she was truly blessed.



Karen pictured with her family, Albrecht, Annika, Kaia, and Kristiana in October 2010.

She was a member of Trinity from November 1986 until the Lord called her home in August of this year. During that time, she raised her three daughters, served on every available position on the council of Trinity – including becoming Trinity's first female President – and was the organist, pianist, and director of music for years. Outside of the church, she freelanced as a business English teacher and, since July 2008, served as missionary and regional business manager for the Frankfurt-based LCMS World Mission in Eurasia, utilizing her background as a CPA. Additionally, she planned and organized seminars at Trinity given by Dr. Paul Maier, initiated "Carols and Cookies" at Trinity, helped organize the 50th Anniversary celebration of Trinity, and was an avid Bible scholar – availing herself of every opportunity to learn more about her Savior.

Amazingly, Karen also found time to befriend everyone. Her quick wit and inviting smile were her trademarks and she made people feel "at ease" immediately. She had a special gift of encouraging young musicians to praise the Lord through their talents.

Trinity's membership is constantly changing, so Karen had the opportunity to affect the lives of a multitude of people. The love and respect which she elicited were evident in the vast number of people who attended her funeral, some travelling great distances just to be present and honor her memory.



One of Karen's many contributions to Trinity was launching the Carols and Cookies service, a tradition Trinity still continues.

When asked to write this article about Karen, it seemed appropriate to ask some of her closest friends to send in their fondest remembrances of Karen. Here are excerpts from those responses:

Marie Mark (Trinity member from '84 to '95) remembers Karen's readiness to share her gifts: "Karen was a writer and was published in the Norwegian newspaper here in Seattle. We always loved receiving her letters and emails because there would always be something very amusing, bringing a smile and great laughter.

*"She shared love and warmth. When we heard of her passing, even my mother cried remembering our wonderful visits with the Römer family. What a wonderful friend we have had the good fortune to know. I am still crying for her and will miss her letter this winter with tales of the family and especially miss her on our next trip to Germany."*

Anita Waldner (Trinity member since 1986) offered these attributes of Karen:

*"She had a strong faith in God and lived and spoke her faith. She was honest about her feelings without being outspoken or offensive. She was cheerful, positive, supportive, kind and giving. What a sense of humor – she could laugh at herself and openly admitted being voted 'most gullible' of her high school graduating class. Above all, she was a great, dedicated mom."*

Laura Waldner Werner (member since the age of two) shares thoughts about Karen's influence on her life:

*"As a teenager, I remember feeling comfortable enough with her to 'joke around', which was usually not something I did with grown-ups. I became more interested in music at that time, and Karen encouraged me to participate in worship by singing or playing the piano or flute.*

*"In the past ten years, she became like a mentor to me. She supported and encouraged me, and I credit her with a great deal of my musical involvement and development."*



*One of Karen's passions was supporting young people who had a joy for music. She is pictured here accompanying a few young ladies with Laura Werner turning pages.*

*"Karen has always been a part of my life. We talk a lot about our Trinity family. For me, Karen was not a part of*

*my Trinity family, she was a part of MY family. She was an aunt to my siblings and me, she was a sister to my mother. She was part of my world, someone I relied on, respected and loved. I miss her deeply, but am truly grateful for having had her be a part of my life."*

Lori Tengler remembers Trinity hosting the "African Children's Choir". Karen made the arrangements to bring the group to Trinity and organized the housing for the children during their stay here.

*"When the week was over we had to say good-bye and we found it difficult to let go. Karen knew the choir's plans, so spontaneously she decided to surprise the choir by attending a few of the concerts that weren't too far away. On one occasion I joined her. It was great to see how enthusiastic she was when she greeted them again. And the children were delighted to spot us during or after a show.*

*"I am grateful for one of Karen's many attributes, namely, a 'goodness of the heart', which brought the children here in the first place."*



*Karen and Albrecht enjoying their time at Trinity's 50th anniversary party.*

Elisabeth Schwarz-Gangel (former organist and choir director at Trinity) writes of her special connection with Karen:

*"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God."*

*"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the father through him." – Colossians 3:16-17*

*"Thinking about the time Karen and I worked together*  
continued on the next page

## By Faith ...

continued from the previous page

as organists, choir director and music director, these words written by St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians describe her understanding of being a church musician. When she played for the service, the congregation could feel her love for the Lutheran worship service and, I know, it gave her strength and was important for her spiritual life.



One of Karen's many smiles shared with her daughter Kristiana joining in.

"Her understanding of being an organist was that of supporting the congregational singing more so than leading it; her intention was to give each Sunday a special character through music to strengthen the spoken word. With high competence and responsibility, without any vanity she did a wonderful job of this. The time with her at Trinity Lutheran Church was rich and blessed for me. I thank her for being an example as a worker in God's vineyard. I thank her for letting me be the organist for her funeral; I feel honoured and blessed."

Sabine Janowitz (Karen often accompanied former Trinity secretary, Sabine, as she gave her solo handbell performances) shared:

"I was blessed with many, many years of making music with Karen Römer. We shared laughter as well as tears. I rejoice in knowing that one day we will laugh together again."

Jennifer Jatho (member since 1992) recalls Karen as her special friend and resource for "mothering" advice:

"Karen was one of the first people I met when Jens and I came to Trinity in 1992. We served on council together for several years and had lots of laughs together. I always admired Karen for her knowledge - in music, accounting and leadership. After Jessica was born, Karen was the one I turned to when I needed advice about taking care of a baby! I called her a lot. She always had all the answers and gave me good advice throughout the years. She gave me an article titled 'What Motherhood Really Means'. I still have it and it is a principle that she lived by. Whenever she came to my house for coffee she'd always bring Kristiana to babysit Jessica and they would play together and Karen and I could drink our coffee and chat in peace and quiet! Karen was a person I could always trust. I could go on and on with stories, jokes and laughs and also our worries and concerns that we shared. Karen was always like a shining beam of light- to see her sitting behind the piano, playing the organ or playing her guitar and leading the Sunday School opening. She showed her faith and love of God and family in everything she did. I miss her so much!"

Jenna Myrzcik, Trinity's second female church council President contributed:

"I have never met anyone as genuine as Karen. Her kindness was so real, without motive. She was a humble servant within Trinity and a wonderful friend to anyone. Besides being Music Director, she took care of the financial books and records for Trinity for years. Although it was approved by Council to pay her a small monthly token for her hours of work, she never turned in a receipt as long as I was on Council. That's just how she was - such a selfless, giving person - always quiet about the time and effort she put into her service at Trinity. On a personal note, her beautiful smile and positive attitude always inspired me to be a better person. If angels are walking here on earth, then Karen was definitely one of them."

Barbara McCown (member since 2006) shares:

"Throughout our friendship, I often told Karen that she was a true pillar of our church. Not only was she one of the most dedicated, longtime members with a church resumé a mile long - she was one of the tallest! If she wasn't able to be at church, I would tell her that the church was a bit lopsided that Sunday. She was part of

the foundation of Trinity, whether people had the honor of knowing her or not, her commitment to the heart and soul of the church is part of her legacy.



Michael and Barbara McCown had been waiting for quite some time for this orchid to bloom. On August 14, the day of Karen's passing, the orchid bloomed and is now known as Karen's orchid.

"Karen was a quiet force of kindness, encouragement, generosity, and humor. She was the first to congratulate others, but the last to look for recognition. She shied away from the spotlight, but was herself a light which drew people to her anyway.

"I can't remember a Sunday when Karen wasn't surrounded by friends after church – people lined up and patiently waited to ask her a question, talk to her, give her a hug, or compliment her on the music. I would often catch her eye, as tall friends are easily able to do from afar, and wave with a knowing look that we'd talk during the week. I never managed to get into that line fast enough. While Karen wasn't one to share details of her life, I think it's fair to say that just being in her presence made you keenly aware of the essence of who she was. I consider myself blessed beyond measure to have known her as one of my dearest friends here in Frankfurt. As much as her spirit is still felt at Trinity ~ the church is now a bit lopsided without her. "

From Cindy Steinbach:

"What a blessing it is to have been counted among Karen's friends! She radiated gentleness, intelligence, inner strength, a great sense of humor and kindness. Children were especially important to her and she shared with them her musical praise to the Lord and animated leadership of the Sunday School opening. My sons particularly enjoyed the song she taught them, "I am a C, I am a C-h, I am a C-h-r-i-s-t-i-a-n..." It is still one of three

songs Eric wants to sing before falling asleep. "

"Karen, Anita and I joined Trinity within one year of each other and the support and advice of these 'sisters' in faith has been invaluable to me. When we made our international moves, there was no internet, no Skype, a phone-call seeking motherly advice cost one Deutsch Mark per minute, and none of us were fluent in German. We shared our struggles, pain and joys ... they are baptismal sponsors for my German-born children. Karen's youngest daughter, Kristiana, and my daughter, Christina met in their infant seats and have been best friends literally all their lives. We were intimately intertwined in each others' lives and rejoiced in the births and progressions of each others' children as if they were our own.



On August 19, the day of her funeral, Karen's orchid had three blossoms - signifying her favorite number.

"It is a mystery to me where Karen gained the strength to so efficiently and effectively contribute to Trinity's essence, but she did so in a selfless, eloquent way which has served as an inspiration to me."

Hopefully this article and the memories shared will serve as an "introduction" to those new to our congregation, who did not have the privilege of meeting this wonderful lady who indeed was a pillar of Trinity. From our perspective, her life of 55 years was far too short, but as you see, she allowed the Lord to use her in ways that impacted the lives of so many and helped our church to BE what it is today.

As she was acutely aware of her imminent death, she planned her funeral service as a witness to her faith, rather than one memorializing her life. What an amazing woman of faith!

George Frideric Handel’s popular oratorio *Messiah* was performed in its entirety in the original English language version by The Messiah Project under the musical direction of Trinity’s Jerrode Marsh on Pentecost Sunday (June 12) in Frankfurt’s historic Heiliggeistkirche in the Dominkanerkloster and the following day in Wiesbaden’s spectacular Ringkirche. The sold-out performance in Frankfurt included the 55-member *Messiah* Project choir and 23-member orchestra.

# Messiah Success Leads to New International Choir Founding

by Robert Colvin

Soloists included Trinity congregation members Kristen Rüsges, soprano; Michael McCown, tenor for the Frankfurt performance; Peter Marsh, tenor in Wiesbaden (both with the Frankfurt Opera); and former church member Kai Florian Bischoff, bass, now employed with the Zurich Opera. Other soloists were Natascha Jung, soprano, and Paula Murrily, alto.

The project was intended to actively promote intercultural understanding between German and international residents in the Rhine-Main area and to intensify the musical contact among the international churches. Jerrode Marsh, The *Messiah* Project’s artistic director and conductor, worked with the choir, representing 16 different nationalities, for an entire year to create the professional sound heard at the

standing-room-only Frankfurt performance and the well-attended Wiesbaden one.

The artistic and financial success of the project, thanks to good ticket sales, corporate and municipal sponsors (Allianz Global Investors, Deutsche Bank, Frankfurter Sparkasse 1822, and the City of Frankfurt), efforts by the performers themselves who conducted *Messiah* background seminars, chamber music concerts, and the February talent show, raffle, and auction (see Table Talk Spring 2011, pg. 4), inspired the idea of creating a permanent performing concert choir based at Trinity but open to a wide number of musicians.

The *Messiah* Project’s main goal was to bring diverse cultural and religious backgrounds together under the umbrella of sacred choral music. The *Messiah* Project choir members wanted to retain this effort and formed a committee to explore possible ways to establish a long-term choir. The outcome was that the choir will remain part of Trinity Lutheran Church and will now be called the Trinity International Concert Choir. Trinity now has both a Sanctuary Choir and an International Concert Choir and some Trinity members participate in both groups. Both the Sanctuary Choir and TICC have singers from outside of Trinity as well. Both groups are led by Trinity’s director of music, Jerrode Marsh. The concert choir will focus on giving concerts of large sacred works with orchestra and will be supported financially by a “Förderverein” (patrons’ association), which will take responsibility for the choir’s fund-raising.



The informative, bilingual program, designed by Trinity member Piotr Loboda, for both “*Messiah*” performances, highlighted the international aspect of the choir and orchestra, featuring musicians from 16 different nationalities. (All photos for this article by Sathish Henry)

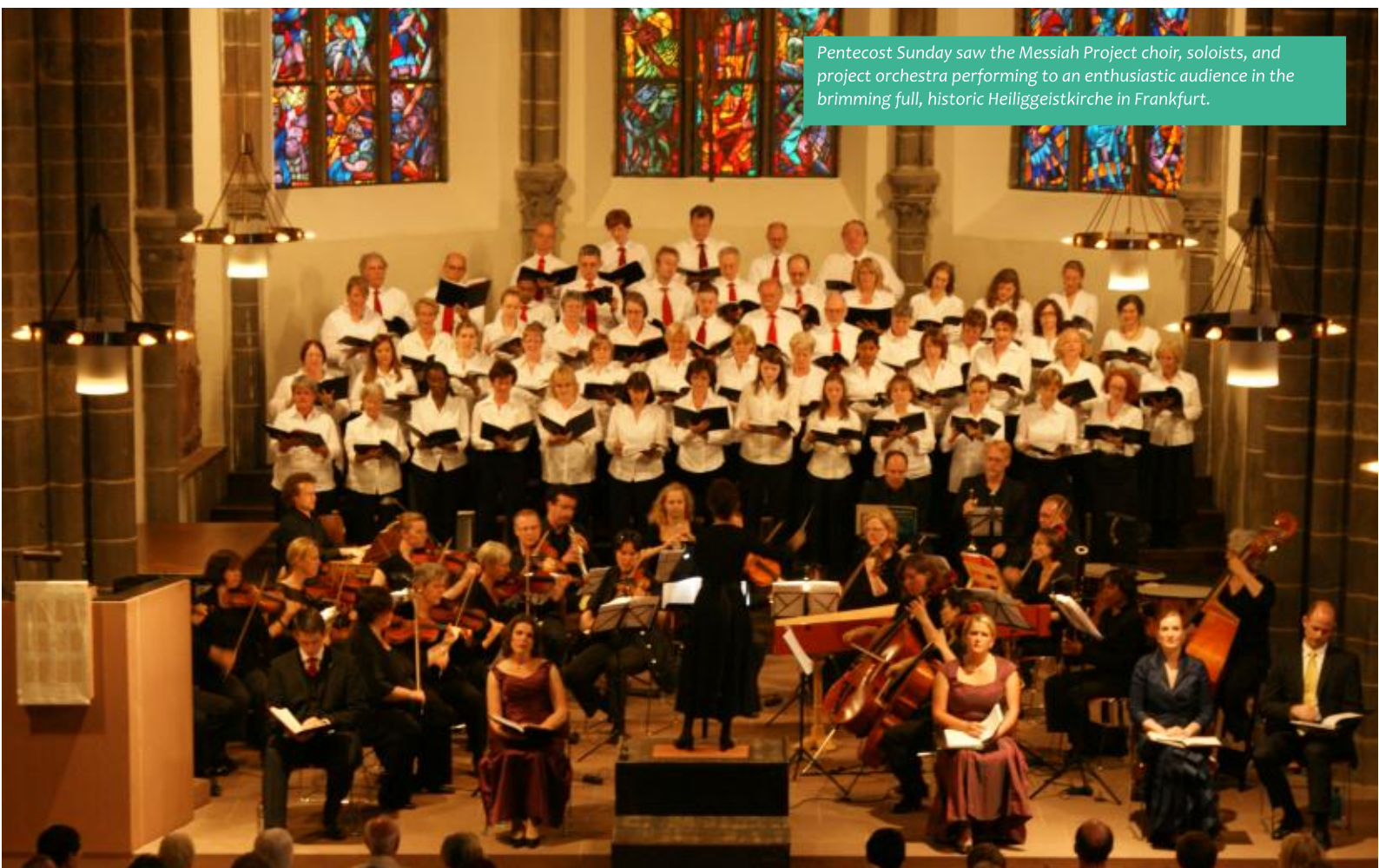


Tenor soloist, Peter Marsh, singing at the Pentecost Monday performance in Wiesbaden's beautiful Ringkirche, provided a haunting opening of the oratorio with the recitative "Comfort Ye".

Trinity International Concert Choir (TICC) started rehearsals on September 22 for a March 4 performance in the Frauenfriedenskirche in Frankfurt-Bockenheim. The first rehearsal began with about 50 singers.

The upcoming spring concert is a Lenten program of French/Latin prayers featuring Gabriel Fauré's Requiem

and music by Charles Gounod, Maurice Duruflé, as well as other works by Fauré. Choir rehearsals take place on Thursday evenings in the Trinity sanctuary from 8 – 10 p.m. Singers can still join the choir by speaking to musical director Marsh or sending an e-mail to Ulrike Wehl-Goedde, artistic administrator at: [Ulrike.wehl\\_goedde@me.com](mailto:Ulrike.wehl_goedde@me.com).



Pentecost Sunday saw the Messiah Project choir, soloists, and project orchestra performing to an enthusiastic audience in the brimming full, historic Heiliggeistkirche in Frankfurt.

# Chili Cook-Off: Informative, Fun and Delicious

by Angie Petersen, Deacon of Stewardship

On September 18 the Trinity congregation relaunched an old tradition, the Chili Cook-Off, with a new theme: stewardship.

The afternoon was filled with chili and information on Trinity facts and finances in a stewardship game entitled Stewardship Jeopardy! modeled after the popular TV quiz game Jeopardy! created by Merv Griffin in 1964 and currently hosted by Alex Trebek.



Angie Petersen, stewardship deacon, presents on Trinity's finances while the crowd listens and enjoys ten varieties of chili. (photo by Wilfried Kastening)

Ten chili recipes were presented at the Chili Cook-Off for judging and the sanctuary was filled with eager game players.

Clues about Trinity facts, worship & music, stewardship, Christian life and church finances were presented in the form of an answer, and our congregation responded with "question formed" answers to win points in Stewardship Jeopardy!

Our chili judges, Andy Jones, youth and education assistant; Jens Jatho, long standing member and experienced chili taster; and Zenobia Sathish, worship

and music deacon, generously offered their international tasting skills to judge the chili recipes.

While everyone was a winner who had the opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of food and fellowship, our judges did choose three recipes that triumphed in the categories of "Most Heat", "Best Appearance" and "Best Taste".

Jan Steinbach concurred with a hot chili and won the "Most Heat" award; we suspect his Texan roots could have played a role in his win. Shiloh Fears-Fischer won "Best Appearance" while Rick Steenbock took home the prize for "Best Taste".

The Chili Cook-Off revived an important fellowship tradition for Trinity and gave me the perfect opportunity to encourage our church family to "Keep their Faith Aflame" and prayerfully consider where they can focus their time, talents and treasures to keep our congregation healthy and happy!



The chili judges, Zenobia Sathish, Jens Jatho and Andy Jones prepare to take their first tastes, sporting their official judge necklaces - made from real peppers. (photo by Wilfried Kastening)

# Newcomers Festival

by Lorenz Vasanth, Deacon of Evangelism

The 2011 Frankfurt Newcomers Festival was held on the warm Sunday afternoon of September 25 in the Rathaus Complex near the Römer in Frankfurt. The main event was held from 1:00- 6:00 pm. As observed over past years, this event attracts both established nationals and expat newcomers in equal proportion. It serves as an indispensable advertisement avenue to reach out to the Frankfurt community. This year's event attracted stall holders from all walks of life ranging from auto dealers, schools, and churches to government agencies and local restaurants.

The establishing of the Newcomer's Festival was the idea of Trinity member David Hart. As an expat himself twenty-two years ago, he realized the necessity for a channel to provide much needed information to expats about housing, schooling, legal requirements, and various other opportunities available in the Rhein-Main area, which would thereby help them make a smooth transition to the new environment.

The Trinity stall at the event was in the inner chamber of the basement in the Rathaus Complex. There was

## Komen Race

by Anita Waldner

Trinity has been participating in the Komen Race for the Cure in Frankfurt since 2007, although this race has been held annually in Frankfurt since 2000. This year Stephanie Jones; Rick, Marla and Jonah Steenbock; Rita Flohrs; Julie Waldner; Laura Werner; Hannah Waldner; Anita Waldner; Sathish and Zenobia Henry; and two of their friends Ravi Odela and Ram Reddy participated on the team from Trinity. Rick and Stephanie ran the 5 km course while the rest completed the 2 km walking course.

The purpose of the Komen Race is to raise awareness of breast cancer and to raise funds for research. At the race, it is truly moving to see how many pink-shirted breast cancer survivors there are. There is still much work to be done to eradicate this terrible illness.

active participation in setting-up and running the Trinity stall. Congregation members, friends from the community and also from other faiths helped in the stall proceedings. While some helped in decorating the backdrop with a banner and posters, others helped in sticking evangelism material to all sorts of candy. The backdrop served as a good source of information for visitors who wanted to observe the stall from a distance.

Given the international nature of Trinity, we were blessed to be able to reach out to visitors in a wide range of languages including Mandarin, Tamil, Hindi, English and German. Visitors were invited to spin a wheel with the slogan "You can never lose!". Winners were given candy coupled with evangelism material. The coloring sheets and candy were a real treat for the children. Towards the end of the event we were facing a pleasant problem of nearly running out of Bibles and New Testaments. The Word of God has been sown! And we pray that God would give the increase.

We praise God for giving us this opportunity for outreach.



5k runners waiting for the 2011 race to begin. (by Stephanie Jones)



The group from Trinity after they had raced for the cure. (photo by Stephanie Jones)

You may be the right person to lead your church during 2012!

## 2012 Council Election

by Robert Colvin, Council President

We are all stewards of God's works and His creation. Trinity Lutheran congregation members have traditionally taken special care fulfilling this task. This church depends on member support to ensure smooth operations. You, as a Trinity member or associate member, now have an opportunity to serve the Lord in this capacity.

Our congregation will be electing new officers and deacons of the 2012 church council, the people who make this community run, at a meeting following worship on Sunday, December 4. Trinity requires people willing to be God's stewards of His church's resources and guide the Trinity Lutheran congregation throughout the year.

Needed are members willing to run for the offices of president, vice president, council secretary, treasurer, financial secretary, as well as deacons or co-deacons for Christian Education, Christian Life, Evangelism, Outreach & Concern, Property, Stewardship, Worship & Music, Youth, plus two alternate deacons. Candidates are elected for one-year terms. Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month.

Further information about the positions is available from Pastor Bob, Cindy Steinbach in the church office, or any of the present council members. Their names are listed at the front of your Trinity Lutheran Directory. Church council candidates' names will be posted on the Z-room pin-up board prior to the election so all voting church members can see who is running for which office.

I'm asking you, as your council president, to please search your heart and ask the Lord if you could offer some of your valuable time and talents for the sake of His holy name.

Trinity Alumni Update

## Bill and Gail Hauserman

by Donette Reis

Bill and Gail (nee Dube) Hauserman attended Trinity from 1996 – 2007. They moved from Germany to Virginia, then to Maryland and have now landed in Laredo, Texas, where Bill is the theater director at Laredo Community College.

While at Trinity, Gail served on church council and was an active member in the handbell choir. Since Laredo is located right along the Mexican border, Spanish and the Mexican culture obviously play a large role in the city. Gail reports that they were glad to find a Lutheran church that offered services in English even though the average weekly attendance is only about 20 people.

Gail currently has a job as event coordinator for the Rio Grande International Study Center but also decided to enroll in a Spanish class. Her many years in Germany obviously made a lasting impression in the corner of her brain reserved for languages. Gail says, "I enjoy the class, but so often I am asked a question in Spanish and I really have to stop myself from answering in German."

**Editor's note:** One of the joys and struggles of Trinity is how many people we get to say hello to, and how many people we must say goodbye to. We pray that our goodbyes are not forever. If anyone has a current email address or postal mail address for those listed below, please send it to [andrew.jones@lcmsintl.org](mailto:andrew.jones@lcmsintl.org) so we can continue to stay in touch with former members and friends of Trinity. Thanks!

Mark and Diane Doyle (1995-98; 2003-05)

Addy M. Muniz (1982 -2000)

John and Jennifer Lapina (2007-08)

Dale Koepernick and Jim Sheaffer (1991-98)

Greg and Jennifer Lamb Taylor (2001-03)

Andre and Ronel van Wyk (2004-06)

Don and Erica Wogaman (2002-3)

Congregation expresses gratitude for hard work to Trinity family

## Thanks, Anita!

by Robert Colvin, Council President

A special thanks for long and dedicated years of service to the Trinity Lutheran congregation was extended to Anita Waldner during worship in mid-September. Starting this school year, the congregation's long-standing parish worker requested and received a year's leave of absence to pursue a new full-time job with the Frankfurt International School in Oberursel.

Presenting Waldner with a framed photo of the church and a potted orchid (carried by Anita's granddaughter, Hannah Waldner, who was acolyte during the service) was Pastor Robert Flohrs who found the right words to express the congregation's thanks. Parishioners wrote their own special thanks in gold and silver ink on the photo mount surrounding the picture taken by parishioner Sathish Henry.

"One of the things that made my transition to Germany, much, much easier, was that I knew there was an English language Lutheran church where I could worship right in Frankfurt," says Waldner. "We started attending as soon as we arrived in January 1987." Like many who wind up at Trinity, she and the family expected their stay in Frankfurt to last only up to two years but the Lord seems to have other plans!

In December 1995 she took over as church secretary after seeing an item in the church bulletin indicating that the secretary at that time, Juliette Dunkelberger, was returning to the U.S. "I asked Pastor James Behnke one Sunday if the position had been filled and that I had an interest in knowing more about it. He opened his arms, smiled broadly, and said 'You're hired!'" she says.

Several years later and with a different church minister, Pastor Sam Wolff realized he could accomplish more if he had an assistant and so he proposed to the church council that the position of parish administrator or



Anita Waldner has been a part of the Trinity family for nearly 25 years and has served on the staff since 1995.

parish worker be created. Duties included helping the pastor develop and oversee spiritual growth of the congregation, follow-up with visitors, make hospital and home visits when necessary, be available to lead worship whenever needed, coordinate and follow-up with deacons and their committee work. The job fit what Anita wanted to do and she transferred from church secretary to parish worker.

Among the many other jobs she was responsible for in this position, just to name a few, were organizing the annual Luther Reformation bus tour to Eisenach, Wittenberg, and Erfurt since 2001; confirmation of Trinity's youth in Worms, Germany, where Luther affirmed his soul searching need for a reformation of the then existing church; and the smooth operation of guiding staff from cleaners to dealing with building maintenance people.

The congregation is indeed indebted to Anita Waldner for her long years of dedicated service to the Trinity church family.

Six young people from Trinity were confirmed on Mother's Day, May 8, during the morning worship service.

# Confirmation 2011

by Anita Waldner

Part of their confirmation instruction included writing their own version of the Lord's Prayer. They also chose from three different topics to write a "faith essay" which each confirmand presented before the entire congregation on the Sundays leading up to their confirmation day. They all were able to clearly verbalize what their faith meant to them and how they share it with their peers.

Many thanks are due to Stacey Crosson who co-taught the class along with Pastor Flohrs. Stacey's knowledge of Scripture and Luther's Small Catechism, supported by her deep faith, made her an effective teacher that the students could relate to. Thanks also go to the families and couples that were "mentors" to these young



Pictured from left (back row) Stacey Crosson, Lydia Reis, Hans Myaard, Vanessa Marsh, Pastor Flohrs, (front row) Florence Pogodsky, Jamie Fischer, Jessica Jatho.



The confirmands stand on an engraving of Luther's famous quote from the Diet of Worms in 1521, refusing to deny his faith or what he had written. (photo by Lydia Reis)

people: Rick and Kris Little; Tony and Lynn Monreal; Sathish and Zenobia Henry; Greg and Angie Petersen; Eric and Bettina Provost; and Chad and Kelly Joiner.

While Trinity's young people were all confirmed in Frankfurt, that same afternoon, four youth from Christ Liturgical Service at Ramstein Air Force Base were confirmed by Chaplain (CPT) Christopher A. Conklin at the Magnuskirche in Worms. Worms has an important place in the history of the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther came before Charles V's first parliament at the Diet of Worms in 1521. He was asked to renounce all he had written concerning the Gospels and his criticisms of the Roman Catholic Church. Luther remained

steadfast to his faith and refused to renounce what he had written, thus propelling the Reformation movement even further.

Some of the siblings of confirmands from Ramstein AFB had been confirmed in Worms in the recent past. Chaplain Conklin and the confirmands' families wanted to continue this 53-year tradition; therefore, their confirmation service was held in historic Worms.



Part of the training for the confirmands was a trip to Worms for some Reformation history. (photo by Lydia Reis)



Britta von Campenhausen leads Trinity's group through the Sculptures at Bingen.



While the dampness prevented a Wiesbaden trip, it didn't dampen the spirits of those attending, who enjoyed a glass of wine, a good meal and Christian fellowship.

Christian Life Summer

# Photo Story

Thwarted by rainy weather, the Christian Life outing to the Fasanerie in Wiesbaden relocated to La Bruschetta, an Italian restaurant near Trinity. Pictured are Bob Colvin, Tobias Lotz and Lorenz Vasanth eagerly awaiting their meals.



The group enjoys Britta von Campenhausen's tour and explanations through the scenic sculpture park.



Part of the day was spent enjoying some Christian fellowship over a meal and a drink on the river.



Part of the group smiles over lunch before heading into the sculpture park.

All photos by Wilfried Kastening.

On Friday, March 11, 2011, the country of Japan was rocked by the most powerful earthquake in the country's history.

## Coins for Kids

by Andy Jones, Youth and Christian Education Assistant

The 9.0 monster quake also triggered gigantic tsunami waves, some reaching over 40 meters in height. The earthquake and ensuing tsunami claimed more than 15,000 lives. To make matters worse, multiple problems occurred at the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant, causing the evacuation of everyone in a 30 kilometer area around the power plant.

A mess. A tragedy. A disaster.

Everybody heard what had happened – even Trinity's children – and they were moved to help through Coins for Kids. Coins for Kids was born out of a desire to help children and their mothers through a former Trinity program called Lighthouse. After Lighthouse was disbanded, Coins for Kids took on its first international project, reconnecting with former Trinity pastor, Sam Wolff who currently serves in Kenya. Their first global project allowed three preschoolers to attend a school where they could learn English and Swahili, a life-changing experience.

An incredibly eerie coincidence connects the children's first international project with their second. If you go back and look at the Spring 2011 issue of Table Talk, you'll see photos of the three children Trinity was able to sponsor. Each photo has a time stamp. Guess what day those photos were taken. March 11, 2011 – the day of the Japan earthquake.

My thoughts on that particular day turned to an old friend, Haidee Kuehne, who lives in Fukushima, teaching English and serving as a community builder at a church connected with the Nihon Ruteru Kyodan (Japanese Lutheran Church). Following her blog and Facebook updates, I learned she was safe and very busy working to help with cleanup as well as providing spiritual care to those who had just experienced something that would forever change their lives.

A prayer that still seems applicable for those in Japan comes from Psalm 46:

*God is our refuge and strength,*

*an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way*

*and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,*

*though its waters roar and foam*

*and the mountains quake with their surging.*

The children of Trinity decided last Spring that they wanted the money from their next project to go toward helping children in Japan. I was asked to find a contact there and I naturally thought of my friend Haidee. While Coins for Kids has been helping children and their mothers, it will now be helping children who don't have parents, as Haidee has directed the project toward the Aoba-gakkuen orphanage, located on the outskirts of Fukushima.

The damage caused to the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant caused a lot of problems; one problem is food contamination. Numerous fields around Fukushima have been declared contaminated and unsafe. The orphanage had been getting the vast majority of its food from these local sources and has now been forced to get food from much farther away, an expensive process. Many of the members of the Japanese Lutheran Church, where Haidee serves, are former residents of the Aoba-gakkuen orphanage, so the church has been working to provide clean, radiation-free food for the orphanage. Coins for Kids will be teaming up to do the same.

Haidee says, "I'm really excited that you are able to do this—it means a lot to the people here, and will be a blessing for the orphanage! My pastor was happy to hear your plan and said that the orphanage would be overjoyed to hear about it! Incidentally, our whole church started because a Christian lady began sending

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Christmas care packages to the orphanage 60 years ago! Really!" Who knows how God will bless this connection and what fruit it will bear? Hopefully through this gift, the children of Trinity can show the orphans of Aoba-gakkuen that "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."

Coins for Kids takes an offering on the first Sunday of every month.

Contaminated food is one problem Japan is encountering as they recover from the disasters of March 2011. Rice fields around Fukushima have been declared unsafe, forcing people to import the food staple from far away. (photo courtesy of Haidee Kuehn)



## Property Updates

by Greg Petersen, Deacon of Property

### **Let There Be Light**

Your church council approved the proposed Sanctuary Lighting Project. We are investing in upgrading the main, ceiling lighting in our sanctuary. This is driven in part by failure of the existing fixtures and addressing how to provide the right amount of lighting while using energy saver lights. The new fixtures are designed for energy saver lighting, yet deliver roughly double the amount of lighting. We will also bring additional lighting over the Altar. Work is scheduled to begin in October and be completed by Christmas.

### **Let's Save The World**

Let's be responsible with the resources God has provided us. Conserving energy is one of many ways to do this. The cost to heat the Sanctuary for Sunday service can run over €170 per day. We will be installing insulation within the roof of the Sanctuary in the coming months.

We will ask for volunteers to help with the installation. Please contact Greg Petersen if you are interested in helping.

## Trinity's Mission Statement

Our mission is given by Jesus Christ in the Gospel according to Matthew:

*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

We seek to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God; the One who, through His death and resurrection, offers us eternal life with God.

We are a family which strives to walk ever closer with the Lord, showing His love to each other and those around us.

It is about Inspiration. I want to tell you how.

# Stewardship

by Angie Petersen, Deacon of Stewardship

In August I had the opportunity to share with the congregation my journey to a new perspective on stewardship. The Lord inspired me to work as the stewardship deacon and it has been a privilege and honor to serve the Lord and the community of Trinity.

I want to share with you:

- How you can be inspired to be a steward of Christ and what that means.
- What time, talents and treasures are?
- And finally, our church family challenges and how with the Holy Spirit's guidance we can meet these challenges. You can help.

Just as I was inspired to look at stewardship in a whole new way, I pray that I can inspire you to look at the stewardship of and time, talents and treasures in a new way – a way that will set your faith aflame and inspire you to think about how we can help by managing our time, talents and treasures for the glory of God here at Trinity.

My personal inspiration and stewardship journey started in November 2010 when Trinity was visited by a guest speaker, Wayne Knollhof from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's office of Stewardship Ministry. Wayne also led a workshop that I had the opportunity to participate in. The workshop was entitled Faith Aflame.

Faith Aflame... just the name inspired me.

Most of us know stewardship as tithing or the collection basket or simply just "giving".

Wayne redefined stewardship for me. He gave me a new appreciation of what God means by stewardship.

"Christian stewardship," Wayne said, "is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."

This new paradigm inspired me in several ways. The concept of family is probably how many of us already see Trinity. We are a family; we are God's family. You are my church family. For many of us, this is the only family we may have for hundreds or thousands of kilometers. We help each other, not just Sundays, but during the week, mentoring each other's children, celebrating the birth of each other's babies, mourning our losses together, moving house, babysitting, and celebrating each holiday together.



Angie Petersen illumines the crowd at the Chili Cook-Off with statistics and information about stewardship and Trinity in a Jeopardy-style presentation. (photo by Wilfried Kastening)

Our resources are God's resources which he gave to us. We have been charged with managing God's resources: our time, talents and treasures.

The Bible never actually defines "treasure" as just money and neither should we. Treasures include money, but also include time and talent. Often we do not mind giving our money but giving our time is often a huge conflict for us. We all have so much going on, it is nice to be able to just stay home, stay in bed or just watch the television.

An article I found as I was immersing in the topic of stewardship stated, "For many of us, time, talent, and treasure are not three separate things but three

related things—three things that may support each other, like a triangle, which is a symbol of the Trinity. Treasure is not just silver and gold—or in our day paper and plastic. Treasure is what you have brought here today for us to enjoy.” And may I add, worship God with.

Matthew 6:19-24 19 says it more eloquently:

*“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”*

In this Scripture passage, healthy means generous. If you are generous, your whole body will be full of light. What a wonderful concept!

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also and you can turn that around...where your heart is, you will find your treasure!

God’s Word shifted and evolved my thinking and (with Pastor’s help) inspired me to do what I wanted: to share with my church family about stewardship.

It is easy to tell you, “Let yourself be inspired by God’s words.” It is easy to ask you to listen to your heart.

Here is your call to action:

Get informed. Learn more about Trinity and its finances. Take part in our Church Events. Share your ideas on our time, talent and treasure challenges.

Until now the Church Council and the Stewardship Learning Community have tried to address a decline in our finances and volunteerism challenges on their own.

As a family we needed to share this with you; the Lord has blessed us as a group with time, talents and treasures that can solve these challenges.

This may be the opportunity you need to take an active part in helping make these mountains just bumps in our history.

I want you to think about what your treasure is, and what treasures you can share with Trinity for the glory of God. Maybe you do not know what your talent and treasure is or how you can best give.

Let yourself be inspired by God’s family here at Trinity and your interaction with them and the many projects we are working on. Spend time in prayer and God’s Word so that He leads you to share your treasures to support the ministries of Trinity. The Adult Bible Class is currently studying this very topic. Attend and get to know each other and your own talents and treasures.

Look at the sign up sheets, listen to your heart and be inspired by the opportunities to volunteer on a Sunday.

I also encourage you to make yourself uncomfortable; the Disciples were always getting themselves into uncomfortable situations as they were growing their faith.

Try volunteering for something new! Maybe coffee hour, teaching, reading Scripture or ushering.

It takes everyone in the family to keep a family healthy. And at the end of the day, everything our family does is for the glory of God.

Listen to your heart! And let yourself be inspired!

In Paul's letters, he often emphasizes the importance of the spiritual gift of teaching. Paul's respect for teaching is very evident in 1 Corinthians 12:28 when he says, "And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues."

## The Gift of Teaching

by Andy Jones, Youth and Christian Education Assistant



Pastor Flohrs installs the Sunday School teachers for the 2011-2012 year. (All photos for this article by Sathish Henry)

Of course, the Body of Christ requires all spiritual gifts. But in all seriousness, what would you choose if given the choice between miracles, gifts of healing, or teaching? Who would choose teaching over miracles? I wouldn't! Yet Paul says that God has appointed teachers before those who work miracles or those with gifts of healing.

When we think of Jesus, we are often drawn to his miracles and gifts of healing. We think of him feeding the 5,000, walking on the sea, healing the man born blind and raising Lazarus from the dead. But Jesus Himself was very often addressed as "Teacher" or "Rabbi". And people were just as amazed by his teachings as they were by his miracles.



Marnee Fierlbeck and Alice Lu help the Kindergarten class with a craft project.



The 1st and 2nd grade class listens as their teacher, Danita Waterfall-Brizzi shows them part of the lesson for the day.



Angie Petersen leads the 3rd and 4th grade Sunday School class.



Brent Smith and Peter Marsh lead the 5th and 6th grade class.

After recording three entire chapters of Jesus' teachings, Matthew's Gospel says, "And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes."

It's obvious, teaching is important. That is why we'd like to lift up those who have agreed to teach for the upcoming school year. Their willingness to use their spiritual gift of teaching is a great blessing to all of those in the Body of Christ.

Those serving the Lord through teaching in 2011-2012:

**Kindergarten**  
Marnee Fierlbeck  
Alice Lu

**1st and 2nd Grade**  
Danita Waterfall-Brizzi  
Karen John

**3rd and 4th Grade**  
Angie Petersen  
Stacey Crosson  
Lynn Monreal

**5th and 6th Grade**  
Brent Smith  
Peter Marsh

**Youth Bible Study**  
Andy Jones

**Adult Bible Study**  
Pastor Flohrs  
Jennifer Jatho



The Doris Jacoby room overflows with people attending the adult Bible class. Led by Pastor Flohrs and Jennifer Jatho, the class is in the midst of an 11-week study entitled "Living in Relationship with God".



The youth meet for their first youth Bible study with Andy Jones, Youth and Christian Education Assistant.

I have been back in Germany for almost three months and I often think back to the 5 ½ months I spent in Argentina that changed my whole life and helped me discover the new path in my life to which God has led me.

# Argentina, a Life-Changing Experience

by Marion Waidlein

After a burnout at the end of 2009 that had literally pulled me out of my previous life, I was sick for more than a year. Fortunately, with the help and prayers of my church family and friends, I did not give up hope, but began learning to trust in God always. When I was finally well and felt healthy and strong again, I did not want to continue my life like before. I felt the desire for a timeout, where I could find out what to do with my life. Spending time abroad and helping others by volunteering felt right for me.

I quickly selected Argentina as a travel destination and booked six weeks of Spanish classes in Buenos Aires and Patagonia, leaving it open where I would volunteer.

On a cold February day, I left Germany and after a 13-hour flight I arrived in hot and humid Buenos Aires at the very busy Ezeiza Airport. There was a driver expecting me, holding a sign with my name. It was incredibly hot and I was sweating in my winter clothes. The taxi had no air-conditioning and we rode with all the windows open for 45 minutes until we arrived at my home-stay in Recoleta, a suburb of Buenos Aires. My host mother warmly welcomed me, showed me to my little room and made me feel at home immediately. It was weird, I could understand a lot of what Graciela said in Spanish, but responding was difficult and I could not get the words out right when speaking.

The following three weeks I attended Spanish classes in the mornings and explored the city in the afternoons. The heavy 24-hour traffic and crowds buzzing along the streets were incredible. The public transportation system in Buenos Aires was really good and with a ticket for 0.35 EUR one could easily use the subway lines, buses and trains. I went to see many things including the famous

cemetery in Recoleta where Eva Peron was buried – the legendary “mother of the Argentinean nation”. In my second week I had an unwelcome encounter with a pickpocket that stole my cell phone out of my backpack. I was so mad at myself. Had I not seen nationals wear their backpacks in front? I learned my lesson, though.



*This breathtaking view was captured from the top of Mount Campanario and shows the Nahuel Huapi lake with its many islands.*

With the help of Pastor Flohrs I got in touch with the foundation “Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones” located just outside of Buenos Aires. I soon got in touch with a Lutheran pastor and missionary in the North of Argentina who was interested in taking me as a volunteer. I would fly up to Tucumán a couple of weeks later after my second language course in Patagonia. I was so happy!

Bariloche, the site for the second part of my language classes, is located in Patagonia in the far South of Argentina in a mountainous and wooded area in the middle of a system of seven lakes. It looks a little bit like Bavaria or Austria. My host mother Paola and her three children welcomed me warmly into their family. I

participated in the family life and experienced an incredible amount of love and friendship. In return, I could give comfort to the family. The husband and father Guillermo had died a couple of months before my arrival and the family was still in shock and mourned the loss of their loved one.

In Patagonia, I took all kinds of trips to explore the beautiful nature. I went up the mountain hill in a gondola to enjoy the overview of the lake system and visited the National Park of Nahuel Huapi with its forest of Arrayane and the frozen lake.

In Bariloche I had the most wonderful language classes with my teacher Agustina. We had so much fun listening to Latin American songs and watching movies. From the window of her living room, we had a wonderful view over the lake. Time passed too quickly and after 5 ½ weeks and a German goodbye dinner that I cooked for the family and their friends, I left Bariloche – sad, but full of excitement for what was going to happen next.

In mid-April I arrived at the airport in Tucumán, located in the Northwest of Argentina to start my volunteer work. Tucumán is referred to as the “little Buenos Aires”, because it has equally heavy traffic, lots of pollution due to the production of sugar cane, and a high crime rate. I stayed with a wonderful elderly couple, members of the Lutheran congregation, for which I would be volunteering for the following six weeks.

The people at the Lutheran congregation were very nice and we had great fellowship preparing the services on Sunday, a historic Easter dinner, and potluck lunches once a month. As the national denomination in Argentina is Catholic, the Lutheran churches have a hard time growing and getting young people to join. Tucumán's Lutheran church owns a wonderful building, but currently has a vacant pastor position. Pastor David, based in Salta, a city in the neighboring province three hours away, traveled to Tucumán every two weeks to conduct a Bible study and the service on Sunday.

In Tucumán, I taught English and German and helped reach out to people in the congregation as well as the community. The language classes were not only about learning a new language, but also about exchanging cultural experiences. My students ranged in age from 23

to 80 and came from a variety of backgrounds. We talked about life and education in Argentina and Europe, about our concerns and expectations for the future and much more. I was amazed and deeply touched by how people trusted me with their most intimate thoughts. I found it very easy to talk about my faith in Argentina, where people are generally more aware of God. I also joined pastor David for a bi-monthly Bible study in a poor



*The little village of Pumamarca sits at the base of the mountain of seven colors.*

neighborhood of Tucumán. These Bible studies enriched all of our lives and I was surprised and very happy when the Bible study group gave a farewell party for me a couple of weeks later at the end of my time serving there. They told me that my testimony and active participation had made a great difference in their lives.

I left Tucumán in June with Pastor David to go to Salta, where I stayed again with a wonderful elderly couple from the congregation. This time, I had no room for myself, but sharing the living room worked out just fine. Very often we would sit together in the evenings talking or playing cards. Again, I felt like a part of the family, accepted and loved – unforgettable.

In Salta, I had even more students for my classes of German and English. It was wonderful, how people of different age groups worked together helping and encouraging each other in their progress.

The Lutheran congregation in Salta has no church building, but owns a building in the city center with a Christian bookstore, Pastor David's office, and the room

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# Argentina ...

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for services/meetings are on the ground level with the small parsonage for Pastor David and his family upstairs.

In Salta, I enjoyed many conversations with Pastor David and his family, the services, and Bible studies. Although it was difficult understanding every word of the Spanish Bible, I learned so much about how people incorporate their faith into their life. They lived much more in the present than me, not worrying about their future.

Presently, Pastor David is planning the construction of a mission center in Salta with more space for the Lutheran congregation. He is planning to combine a sanctuary with rooms for youth activities, a home for sick, elderly people without relatives, and an education center of young missionaries. For this project, Pastor David is looking for financial investors. While serving in Salta, Pastor David and I worked on a project plan to present to prospective investors. As soon as this project plan is finalized I will support Pastor David in presenting this project to people in Germany who are interested.



*Marion, her German students, Pastor David and his family stop for a picture after Marion's German farewell dinner.*

It was really hard for me to leave Salta and I felt like crying. Pastor David took me back to Tucumán where I wanted to visit my host parents again before taking the plane back to Buenos Aires. These days were quite

adventurous. Due to volcanic activity in the south, airplanes had no sight and could not take off. After two flight cancellations, I followed the advice of my Argentinean friends and took the bus to Buenos Aires, a 20-hour ride. I was surprised by the comfort of the long-distance buses. In Buenos Aires, my first host mother invited me to stay with her for my last couple of days in Argentina. On July 14, I boarded the plane to Frankfurt, feeling sad to leave that wonderful country and especially those wonderful people who had become family for me.

Well, what has changed you might ask yourself? The trip to Argentina has brought me closer to God and given me answers and courage for my future life. I am going to work as an independent intercultural trainer where I can use the talents God has given me and hopefully contribute to a better understanding between people of different cultures.

Please watch the announcements for a presentation of my trip to Argentina with many wonderful pictures.

## Church Council

### Officers

President	Robert Colvin
Vice President	Bernd Steinbach
Recording Secretary	Donette Reis
Treasurer	Claus von Campenhausen
Financial Secretary	Annabell Go

### Deacons

Christian Life	Astrid Kastening
Education	Kristen Rüsches and Jennie Smith
Evangelism	Lorenz Vasanth
Outreach & Concern	Peter Brinkmann
Property Trustee	Greg Petersen
Stewardship	Angie Petersen
Worship	Zenobia Sathish
Youth	Sabine Spitzl and Cosi Rösch
Alternate	Barbara McCown

Life is full of challenges, and sometimes they seem insurmountable. Jesus teaches us not to fear, but I know this is easier said than done. Sometimes you have to break things down into pieces, and a single piece does not look so bad.

## This Is Not a Molehill

by Greg Petersen

A day shared biking in the wine country between the Petersen and Crosson families proved enjoyable, with fellowship and fun. One discussion led to a plan to climb the Zugspitze, Germany's tallest peak. Wow, that just seemed totally crazy to me at the time. Jeff Crosson said I could do it, and I believed him. That did not change my anxiety...

We had a month to get ready (gear, logistics, topping up physical shape, etc.). We looked at the route and read accounts from other folks to prepare. The group committed to each other to do this, and we kept each other motivated by emails. Oh, the buildup!

The Lord served up the most beautiful autumn weekend, and at 05:30, on Saturday October 1, we found ourselves on the Trailhead. The hike was a thrilling combination of a woodland, a hike through a Narrows (ledges and tunnels), then breaking out into the lower valley – mossy and green. This led to the first vertical climb into the upper valley (glacial gravel, and a glacier crossing), culminating in the “wall” – the final rock climb to the golden cross atop Germany's highest point.

After nine hours we stood at 2963 meters – just about the elevation where pilots allow you to remove your seat belt. The view was glorious. The sense of accomplishment was real.

Have an idea, make a plan. Follow up with commitment and execution. I am grateful for every day we get. Go seize the opportunities, and do not fear.



After a triumphant climb, Greg Petersen holds onto the cross marking the summit of the Zugspitze.



The gorgeous view from Zugspitze.

# Youth Treetop Canopy Tour

by Sabine Spitzl



The youth take a break from climbing and zip lines for a group photo.

After a quiet summer, the Trinity youth are now back in full swing. Eight youth, six Trinity members and two guests, participated in a treetop canopy tour at the Waldseilgarten in Kelkheim. The youth took this three-hour tour on Saturday, September 10 with Sabine Spitzl, youth deacon, and Andy Jones, youth and education assistant.

After the youth had sufficiently worn out their chaperones, the Reis family hosted the group for pizza. The event was a full success! The Youth shared a lot of ideas for future events including bowling, themed parties, game nights, a church lock-in and many more.

Andy also began leading the youth Bible study and fellowship time which meets on Sundays from 9:30-10:30am. Andy and the Trinity youth have had good



Vanessa Marsh traipses across a tricky bridge.



Hans Myaard expresses his excitement as he prepares for the next obstacle.

conversations on a variety of topics. Angie Petersen was a guest speaker on September 18, talking with the group about stewardship. Angie and Andy encouraged the youth to learn how to perform various duties in the church and volunteer for every possible service opportunity in the church, as a group, by the end of the school year.

If you would like to be a guest for the youth fellowship time, please contact Andy.



Jessica Jatho and Lydia Reis casually look down as they make their way from canopy to canopy.