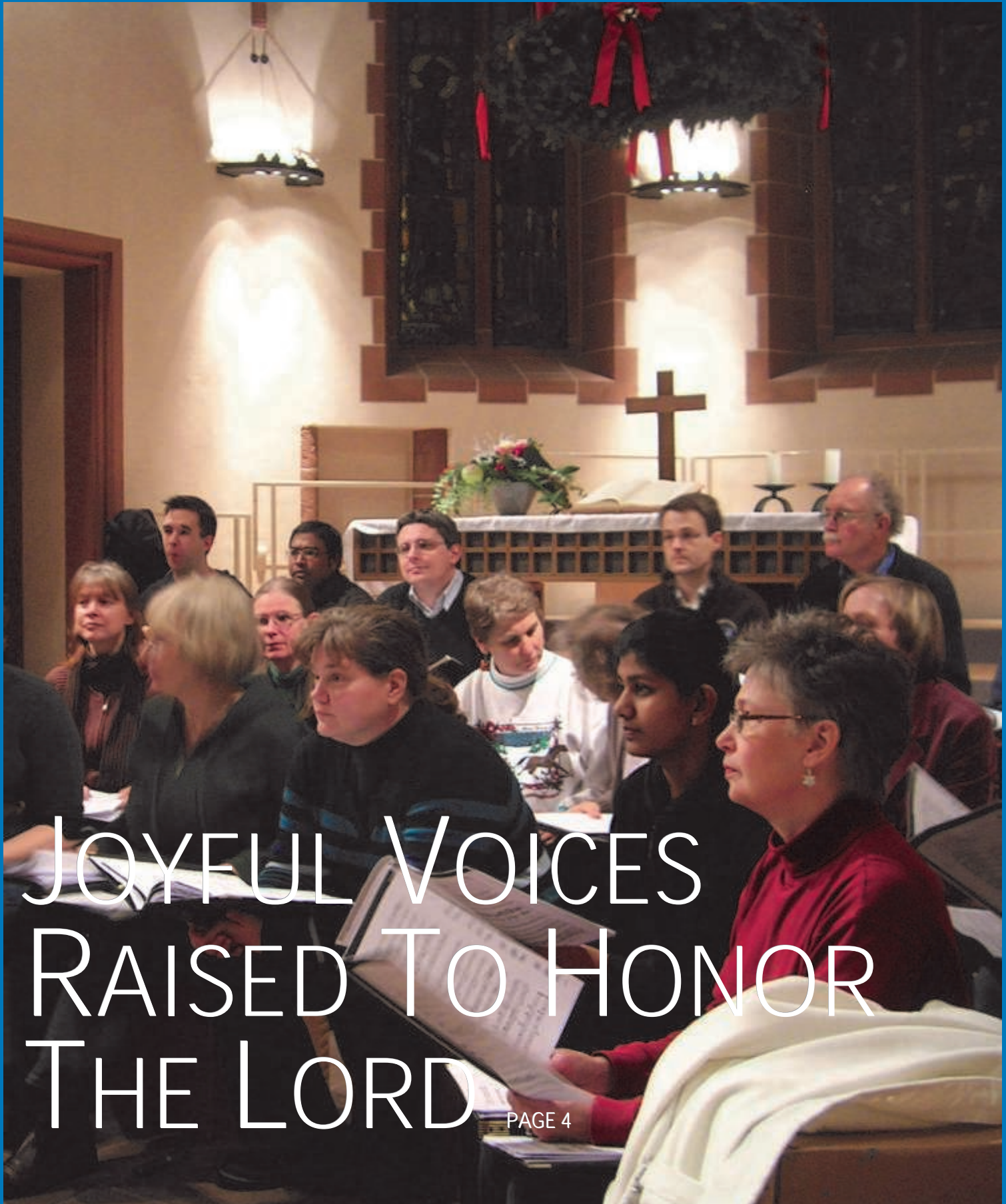


✦ Table Talk

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN FRANKFURT AM MAIN, GERMANY — WINTER 2009/2010



JOYFUL VOICES
RAISED TO HONOR
THE LORD

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Table Talk

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Forum

Flohers'

Our Place in the World

by Rev. Robert J. Flohrs

Are you where God wants you? **It's a good question to ask. Oftentimes we ask ourselves: "Where am I going and why I am here?"** It is a temptation to look at our lives in terms of "what do I WANT?" Rather that we should ask: "What does God want for me to be doing with my life, my skills, my resources?" After all, everything is His.

Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.

1 Chronicles 29:11

At Trinity the world has shown up. We have people from so many cultures, races, and denominations as well as those with no denomination at all. So all of us are His, no matter where we come from. It truly is a blessing to have such a community as Trinity. The people, the ministries, and the activities are important to our members, friends and visitors. The relationships that are started, nurtured and blossom are indeed a **testimony to God's love for all nations here and around the world.**

We have a great challenge before us at Trinity in following what God wants this congregation to continue to do as we have for over 50 years. **As God's people** we are being encouraged and welcomed no matter who we are. **But what about those who don't have the** comfort of a Savior - whose death and resurrection gave us everything we need - forgiveness, everlasting life and a certainty that someday those who believe in Him will be right where He wants us - in heaven.

The real assurance for all of us is this: God has us where He wants us. Even though we may question where we are and what we are doing, He will still help us to see His plan as we are led by faith.

As an international congregation, we invite all people to worship, study, serve, and honor our Savior who is the one who was in the right place at the right time when He died on the cross. As we approach Easter we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord who now guarantees each of us who believe in Him to be in heaven with Him. The best place to be for an eternity.

Pastor Flohrs

Hard work, dedication, and time invested in practice all paid off for members of the church's four choirs—Little Lamps, Lamplight Kids, Open Door, and Sanctuary Choir—as they sang in the annual autumn, Advent, and Christmas Eve services.

Joyful Voices Raised To Honor The Lord

by Robert Colvin

To commemorate the George Frederic Handel Year in 2009, the Sanctuary Choir sang “God is the Lord of All” from the oratorio “Samson”, “Know That the Lord is God”, as well as J. S. Bach’s “Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Prince of Peace”, accompanied by Wan-Ning Huang.

The church's youth in the Open Door Choir along with the Handbell Choir provided special music for the start of Advent on November 29. Members of the Sanctuary Choir spent a large part of Saturday, December 5, rehearsing for the worship service the following day - the second Sunday of Advent. For the rehearsal, choir members brought tasty treats which were laid out on festively decorated tables. One highlight of the day was a special thanks to accompanist Wan-Ning Huang who, despite her busy



Sectional work during the rehearsal concentrating on soprano and alto voices was led by Kristen Rüsches.



Improving breathing techniques to benefit singing output were part of the day's events.

schedule, found time to accompany the choir on the piano. The choir music for the December 6 worship service included descants to “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”, the Lamplight Kids and Little Lamps singing “Christmas Lullaby Calypso”, and Lamplight Kids and Open Door Choirs performing “A Soft Wind Blew”.

In the early evening of Thursday, December 10, the Sanctuary Choir, at the request of the **Bahnhofsmision (Travellers' Aid organization)**, sang a variety of English-language Advent and Christmas carols in front of the manger scene at the Hauptbahnhof. Interested passersby gave donations to support the charity's work of providing assistance for travellers in need, as well as to some of the city's homeless.

(Continued on page 5)



Wan-Ning Huang (right) garnered special thanks in the name of the choir from director Jerrode Marsh (left) for Wan-Ning's assistance accompanying the choir during the autumn season.



Full of Christmas cheer and caroling voices were members of the Sanctuary Choir performing traditional English-language carols intended to benefit the Bahnhofsmission on Thursday, December 10.

(Continued from page 4)

Afterwards, the choir made its way over to the city's historic Alte Nikolai church in the Römerberg to rehearse for the Advent Vesper on December 12. Many visitors to the city's annual Christmas market were drawn into the sanctuary by the singing. Long before the service began on Saturday the 12th, the church was overflowing with people, some standing in the aisles.

This evening of carols sung by the congregation and choir included what is reported as Canada's first Christmas carol, "Twas in the Moon of

Wintertime" originally written in the Huron language. The choir and soloists (Trinity members Peter Marsh and Michael McCown from Oper Frankfurt, and Kristen Rüsge) performed "Against the Morn is Come a King", "Glory to God" from Handel's "Messiah", and "Gallery Carol". Choir descants enhanced "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Angels from the Realms of Glory". "O Holy Night" was sung as a solo by Peter Marsh. Following the worship service, Pastor Jeff Myers of the Alte Nikolai

(Continued on page 6)



Choir director Dr. Jerrode Marsh picks up the tempo of some old favorite carols sung by the Sanctuary Choir in the train station to benefit the Bahnhofsmission.



With a unique sound in the late Gothic Alte Nikolai church, the Sanctuary choir during dress rehearsal was able to adjust its output accordingly thanks to tips from director Marsh to benefit worshipers.

Joyful Voices Raised...

(Continued from page 5)

church presented choir director Marsh with a bouquet of flowers in honor of her birthday.

The Trinity congregation was blessed with a variety of music on Christmas Eve as well. Peter Marsh, Michael McCown, and Brenda Rae, all soloists at Frankfurt Opera, along with sopranos **Kristen Rüsge** and **Barbara McCown**, provided solos, duets, and trios.



Beautiful descants sung by Sanctuary Choir sopranos provided a distinctive Advent feeling to the service on December 12.



Choir and soloists during a Thursday dress rehearsal prior to the Advent Vesper on December 12 in the Alte Nikolai church.

Each choir is looking for additional singers who delight in musical praise to the Lord. Interested? Speak to a choir member or choir director Jerrode Marsh. Little Lamps (age 5 - 2nd grade) and Lamplight Kids (grades 3 - 6), practice on Friday afternoons. Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:15 a.m. is reserved for Trinity's youth (grades 7 - 13), in the Open Door Choir. The Sanctuary Choir meets every Thursday from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. in the Utatu Room at the church.

Photos courtesy of Robert Flohrs and Wilfried Kastening.



The Advent Vesper on December 12 in the Alte Nikolai saw a packed house of worship with standing room only.



One of the highlights of the Alte Nikolai Advent Vesper in December was Peter Marsh singing "O Holy Night".

Parishioners at Trinity Lutheran took advantage of several scheduled events during the fall to enjoy Christian fellowship with each other both at church and in the city.

Christian Life Events Highlight Fellowship During Autumn

by Robert Colvin

On Saturday, October 24, a hardy group of eight Trinity Lutheran worshipers experienced historic Frankfurt from the viewpoint of its churches. Led by “Frankfurt on Foot” tour guide Jo Ator, the group visited the Alte Nikolai church in the Römerberg dating back to 1264. The church is also the annual venue for Trinity’s Advent/Christmas Vesper on the third Saturday of Advent. Named after the early bishop Nikolaus von Myra in present-day Turkey and the patron saint of fishermen, the late Gothic church provides a unique sound that enhances the Trinity Sanctuary Choir’s seasonal presentation.

From there the group made their way to Frankfurt’s oldest surviving church, St. Leonhard’s Roman Catholic Church (founded in 1219), where a fellow English-language congregation worships.



Ready for Frankfurt’s most historic churches on a walking tour organized this autumn that began at the Alte Nikolai church in the background are (from right) Dee Wanner, Lorenz Vasanth, Greg and Jackie Hawley, parish worker Anita Waldner, tour guide Jo Ator, Renate and Ignus Potgieter, and Bob Colvin.

The church is located near the Buchgasse, where Frankfurt’s book fair took place during the late Middle Ages. The building’s current Gothic design emerged in the 1400s and 1500s, including the north aisle, which leads left from the church’s current entrance to a chapel that houses a baptismal font. Romanesque portals, one of which is walled up, form the right side of the aisle.

After a short walk over the Eiserner Steg bridge, the next stop on the program was the Dreikönigskirche (Church of the Magi) on the Museumsufer along the Main River. The new Gothic structure in Frankfurt-Sachsenhausen was dedicated in 1881 on the site of a church with the same name dating from 1340. The architect was

(Continued on page 8)



Happy to celebrate Thanksgiving together on November 28, parishioners enjoyed a variety of tasty delights.



Not only delicious treats beguiled the clergy and congregation members attending the Thanksgiving Potluck but also a lot of good cheer and fellowship as experienced by (from left) Pastor Robert Flohrs, Dee Wanner, and daughter Alice Wanner.

(Continued from page 7)

Franz Josef von Denzinger who oversaw the rebuilding of the Frankfurt Dom (cathedral) following a fire in 1867. For many years this was the largest inner-city church with seating for 1100 and had the highest church steeple (80 m) except for the cathedral on the other side of the river. The building survived Allied bombing during World War II with only slight damage. One of the present-day officiating pastors at the church, Phil Schmidt from San Francisco, served as the first vicar of Trinity Lutheran following its establishment.



Oh, yum-yum! Just finishing dessert during the Thanksgiving Potluck dinner are (from left) Jessica, Jillian, and Jennifer Jatho.

The group then visited the Deutschordenskirche with its baroque portal on a Gothic sanctuary. It is the city's only historic church that does not belong to Frankfurt. This beautiful, small church, once part of a complex to feed the poor and nurse the sick and wounded, includes an altar painting of the ascension of Mary commissioned from the Venetian painter Giovanni Battista Piazzetta. The final part of the tour, which included a quick visit to the Portikus contemporary art exhibition hall and a walk across the Alte Brücke, concluded in the Frankfurter Dom (Frankfurt's cathedral) dedicated to St. Bartholomew.



Taking a well-earned break from set-up and decorating for the Thanksgiving Potluck, are (from left) Cosi Rösch and Sabine Spitzl who enjoyed a sampling of goodies from the buffet table.

On November 28, church members and friends enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner served in the sanctuary. Pastor Robert Flohrs led the assembled congregation in giving thanks before the hungry group partook of the buffet that included turkey, pork roast, a wide range of side dishes, salads, and vegetables. A separate dessert table attracted wide attention. Thanks to the hard work of Cosi Rösch, Sabine Spitzl, and Christian Life co-deacon Lorenz Vasanth who handled set-up and decorations, the event was highly successful.

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Property trustee Greg Petersen (background) was quick to organize helping hands (here from left, Katharina Kastening and Christina Steinbach) after the Potluck to decorate the church's two Christmas trees at the front of the sanctuary.



Snagging a donut before Carols & Cookies began was Lorenz Vasanth who along with Cosi Rösch and Sabine Spitzl helped set up the evening event.

The church's annual Carols & Cookies evening on Sunday, December 13, featured sing-along carols in English and German. In the festively decorated sanctuary, church members, friends, and neighbors from the German community sang Advent and Christmas carols together. The event, co-coordinated by the Evangelism and Christian Life deaconships, featured a delicious buffet of tasty sweets, fruits, nuts, and drinks including Dale "Dee" Wanner's hot, spiced apple cider. The pianist this year was Martina Riedel.



Eight-year-old Hannah (right) and her mother Laura Werner provided an Advent duet on violin and piano during the Carols & Cookies sing-along evening.



Pastor and Rita Flohrs joined Jackie Hawley (foreground) and two visitors from the neighborhood in singing a jubilant rendition of "Joy to the World" during Carols & Cookies.

Thought-provoking Biblical passages and musical presentations from Laura Werner, Jan Steinbach, Sabine Janowitz, and Martin Stoewer were interspersed between the carols. The highlight of the evening was 8-year-old Hannah Waldner playing "Kling Glöckchen" on her violin, accompanied by her mother, Laura Werner, on the piano. A hearty round of applause and request for an encore followed the performance.

Photos courtesy of Wilfried Kastening

Ecumenically Active Together

The Secrets of St. Leonhard's Church

Peter Frank, the authority on the history and restoration of the nativity scene on display at St. Leonhard's Church, provided a "tour" of the nativity consisting of 18th Century pieces from Naples, Italy. Herr Frank told the interesting story of how St. Leonhard's came to acquire this beautiful nativity scene. Considering the tour was held on the Monday after Christmas, it was a well attended event with participants from Trinity, Christ the King, and St. Leonhard's. Those who were not able to attend will have to wait several years to view the handmade Italian nativity figures, as the church building will be closed while undergoing renovation. Special thanks to Jean Mier-Bölinger, a member of St. Leonhard's congregation, for organizing this private one-hour tour and the Abendbrot fellowship that followed.



St. Leonhard's church in Frankfurt.



Final E.A.T. event of 2009 saw interested participants, including a contingent from Trinity Lutheran, viewing the historic nativity scene at St. Leonhard's Roman Catholic Church in Frankfurt.



Enjoying refreshments and fellowship following the St. Leonhard's nativity scene tour for E.A.T. members in late December were (from left) Trinity members Jackie Hawley and Lori Tengler.

New Church Council Voted In

During the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 10th, the election of church Council Officers and Deacons was held. Jenna Myrczik, President of the Council for the past year, was elected to a second term. Bernd Steinbach, a long-time member of Trinity, was elected as Vice President along with Claus von Campenhausen as Treasurer for 2010. The other officers, the Recording Secretary and Financial Secretary, Barbara McCown and Astrid Kastening, respectively, will continue in their positions for another year.

The election resulted in some new Deacons to the Council. Donette Reis and Cosi Rösch will serve as co-Deacons of Youth. The two alternate Deacons, Carolin Johnson and Zenobia Sathish, are relatively new members of Trinity. We extend a warm welcome to all of them.

On behalf of the congregation we would like to thank the remaining Deacons, all of whom have served this past year and agreed to run (successfully) for another term. They are: Bob Colvin and Lorenz Vasanth, as co-Deacons of Christian Life; Paula Fears-Fischer as Deacon of Christian Education; Dale Wanner as Deacon of Evangelism; Peter Brinkmann as Deacon of Outreach and Concern; Angie Petersen as Deacon of Pastoral Support; Greg Petersen as Deacon of Property; Dia Martin as Deacon of Stewardship; and Brenda Reckelberg as Deacon of Worship and Music. We thank Tony Monreal (Vice President), Alexander Raviol (Treasurer), Claudia Dorn (Outreach and Concern Deacon), Sunil Nallapalli and Urs Ruesges (Alternate Deacons) for their service this past year.

Pastor Flohrs installed the 2010 Church Council on Sunday, January 31. We pray for these officers and deacons - that they will be guided by the Holy Spirit in carrying out their duties for the congregation.

Ecumenically Active Together

The Christmas Game

by Anita Waldner

Phil Schmidt says that “my wife, Ursula, initiated the internship program at Trinity. We had met a year before at the theological seminary in Berkeley and it was planned that we would marry in 1972. I was looking for an internship congregation. Ursula discovered Trinity and phoned Pastor Huddle, asking him if I could intern at Trinity, offering to support me through this year. At this time, the congregation had never had an intern/vicar before and could only afford a stipend of \$100 a month. So, I came to Germany in June of 1972, married in July and started at Trinity in September.”

During his tenure as an intern, he started a church choir (Trinity’s former pastor, Jim Behnke was a US soldier at the time and a member of the choir), and a church newsletter. Phil also brought a collection of provisional new liturgies with him from the US, which was prepared by a joint committee of the Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. He introduced them for use at Trinity. Some of them eventually found a final form in new hymnbooks published by the ELCA, Lutheran Book of Worship (1978) and by the LCMS, Lutheran Worship (1982).

Only a few people were able to meet for The Christmas Game and a soup supper on a Tuesday evening in early December, but the number of participants was not important. It was the knowledge gained about the myriad of facts and falsehoods surrounding Christmas and the birth of Christ that provided the most significance to the evening.

The Christmas Game is a board game which was conceived by Rev. Phil Schmidt, pastor of the Evangelisch-Lutherische Dreikoenigsgemeinde here in Frankfurt. It features multiple choice quiz questions about the history, tradition, symbolism, eccentricities and theological content of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. The opinions and feelings that people have about this holiday season are also part of the game. The players can play individually or build teams of two or three people - depending on the size of the group. Each team (or person) has a wooden figure (Santa Claus, a snowman, an angel, a Wise Man, a Shepherd, etc.) which moves from picture to picture on the playing field when questions are answered correctly. The teams which move the farthest win a Christmas present. The team in last place wins a "white elephant" type of present. Aside from the



In the middle of the exciting game.

learning experience, the intention of this game is to have fun and to help one to discover the incredible richness of Christmas.

Guessing how other participants felt about different aspects of the Christmas season and then finding out how they really felt was both fun and interesting. During the evening we also learned that Phil has developed several games centered around religious themes: The Reformation; Heaven and Hell; Islam; and Judaism. However, one must be fluent in German to play them, since they were written for the members of his congregation. If you want to play one of his games in English, it will have to be next Advent season when we schedule a date for The Christmas Game again. Otherwise, you will have to wait until Phil retires and has the time to translate them all into English.

When Phil finished his internship he had nowhere to go. Ursula wanted to stay in Germany, at least for a while, because she had just started teaching. “It was not easy to get a call in America at that time—there were too many seminary graduates—and the Evangelische Kirche in Hessen and Nassau had a desperate shortage of pastors. So I was given a chance to “give it a try” in a German congregation in Frankfurt-Sachsenhausen and have been there ever since.”

I know the face but what’s the name? Help is on the way!! Wear Your Name Tag!

by Dale “Dee” Warner

Somebody tells me their brother is a monk or their mother (whom I have never met) bought a condo, and I remember that for 10 years and yet I **have serious trouble remembering names**. I’ve tried mnemonics and associative tricks to no avail. I used to think my regrettable disability was unique, but now I know there are others like me.

We have two ways to help the name-challenged at our church!

1. The church directory (free!) has names and pictures. Take one from the back corner of the church by the bulletin boards. Look up familiar faces and read the names in the privacy of your own home.

2. Everyone please wear your name tags! Then people like me can get that reinforcement we **need**. **AND there’s a neat bonus!** People with name tags are obviously not visitors, so **there’s no need to ask the “Are you new?”** question. If you don’t know someone, be bold and start a conversation, introducing yourself with a handshake and your own name or using one of the conversation starters in the **“Conversation Starters”** article.



Lighthouse

Busy Schedule for Moms, Kids in Lighthouse Program

by Robert Colvin

An active Lighthouse program, taking place weekly on Friday afternoons for mothers and children, highlighted the autumn and winter months at Trinity Lutheran in 2009. Lamplight Kids continued learning more about music from Renaissance England and Baroque Germany including ancient instruments such as viol da gamba and the sackbutt. Lamplight Kids teamed up with youth in the Open Door Choir on **December 10th and Christmas Eve to sing “A Soft Wind Blew”** while the Little Lamps and Lamplight Kids combined to bring the opening anthem on Christmas Eve as well as the prelude on the second Sunday of Advent. Santa visited Lighthouse just prior to St. Nikolaus Day.

Lighthouse also welcomed new babies, Brayden Fierbeck, Casimir von Campenhausen, and Theresa Provost, to the autumn program. Lighthouse resumed this year on January 22.



The joy of Christmas time was expressed musically by delightful presentations of the combined Little Lamps and Lamplight Kids choirs.



Trinity's choirs, Open Door, and Lamplight Kids, teamed up together to provide Advent and Christmas Eve music for services in December.



Boys and girls attending Trinity's Lighthouse activities on December 4 weren't naughty but nice since Santa had already checked his list twice. The afternoon event saw a bag of goodies set to please even the youngest.

Photos courtesy of Wilfried Kastening.

New Ministry

Youth Ministry at Trinity

by Dale "Dee" Warner

Teens are just so awesome! They set up and operate electronics at lightning speed. They are strong, helpful, funny, inquisitive and critical. Their enormous powers of logical thinking are sometimes interrupted by curious lapses in judgment. These crazy-busy people are pounded by pressure on all sides: look good, do well in school, find a university, decide what you're going to be, have a hobby, have a sport, get a driver's license, help your family, clean up the planet... the list is powerfully challenging.

Many of us remember youth group as a fun kind of refuge—a place where we could ask hard questions and get straight answers about relationships, spiritual growth, and faith. A place where you could just be yourself among Christian friends.

Trinity's new Youth Ministry team is looking forward to challenging teens to grow in faith. Watch for announcements in the bulletin about Bible studies, activities, and service projects. We plan to communicate by Facebook and email, too. To be put on a contact list or to express your ideas and questions, email Dee at dee4trinity@yahoo.de.

Youth Ministry adult leaders are:

Bible Studies especially for Teens Pastor Flohrs

Youth Leader Zenobia Sathish Henry

Activities Birgit & Dave Myaard

Service Projects Peter Marsh, David Hart

Fundraising David Hart

Music Jerrode Marsh

Youth Deacons Donette Reis and Cosi Rösch

My older kids enthusiastically enjoyed their youth group activities such as meeting for pizza, canoeing, lock-ins, performances, music, and faith-studies. When my kids moved away from home their Christian friendships and grounding in faith were the most valuable assets they took with them.

There's Joy in the Journey!



Outreach And Concern

by Peter Brinkmann

A Letter from Tbilisi / Georgia ...

Our prayers and financial contribution for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Georgia (ELCG) are not only needed but also greatly appreciated. As to how much they are needed can be gauged by the letter from Christiane Hummel, the leader of the deaconic work of the ELCG. This work consists of free medical services, feeding about 120 members daily and providing a home for the elderly. More than 80 % of their income is derived from private donations. We supported their missionary and deaconic work with €4,000 in 2009.

Here is a translation of their letter:

I am very moved and touched about this long lasting relationship of your congregation, which supports our little church in Georgia again with a generous gift, accompanied by prayers and word. I regret that the church and the deaconic work are fully dependent on contributions from the West.

Nevertheless, we are increasingly trying to instill in individuals a sense of personal responsibility for their own well being – as well as for the church – and to reduce their expectations regarding help in all circumstances of life (according to the motto: the church and the Germans need to help us). Therefore, we have started charging a nominal fee for food and prescriptions. However, we hope we can help these people change their way of thinking, but that takes time.

Two pleasing events in recent weeks concern the youth. One group of students from Saar together

with the youth of the congregation completed the restoration of a former German cemetery in a village nearby. In addition, several other boys were invited to a congregation of the Württemberg Synod, continuing the exchange program there. Such actions are a cause of joy, establish friendships and, at the same time, establish a perspective to our church regarding openness and mutual understanding.

A “Thank You” Note from CAH

On November 29, 2009 two staff members of Christlicher AIDS Hilfsdienst (CAH) visited Trinity delivering an impressive Temple Talk about their work. They outlined how they took care of their patients not only physically but also spiritually. We continued to support CAH with €1,300 in 2009. – The following “thank you” letter presents beautiful feedback:

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

Phil. 4:6

Our sincerest thanks for transmitting to us again such a generous donation!! You have made us very happy! At the moment, we have many patients who need our full attention. Especially at such a time, it is reassuring that there are brothers and sisters who, time and again, take care of the “replenishment” of the CAH account. To you all, we wish you rich blessings!!

... and from Padang / Indonesia

Three months ago, a devastating earthquake hit Western Sumatra, with further tremors shaking the islands for weeks following. Some 4,000 people are estimated to have perished. Trinity responded to an urgent appeal by Heike Saguntung – Reese, Bettina Provost's aunt, by making €4,053 available (€2,500 from the outreach fund, €553.53 collected by Lighthouse, and €1,000 from an anonymous donation). This response was unprecedented, even by Trinity's standards. - Mrs. Saguntung – Reese sent us the following report (edited):

We would like to give you a report concerning your valuable donation, which was the most generous of all the donations I could collect during my stay in Germany.

We have paid approximately €370 in cash to Rev. Rugun Pakpahan in Padang. The membership of their Lutheran Church numbers 33 families and about 30 students. Although none of their members were victims or casualties of the earthquake, several of their houses were destroyed or are falling apart. We are using the funds from Lighthouse to cover the hospital costs for the birth of Mrs. Pakpahan's second child. The hospital where she is to give birth has been partially destroyed. At the slightest after-shock, the remainder of the hospital may collapse. We pray that everything goes well. Thank you for the pictures you gave Eric and Bettina Provost of the Lighthouse children. Luisa, Colin, Helena, Anna, Daniel, Queen and Luke, took part in this, didn't they? And thank you for praying for us!

The second disbursement of €90 went for the procurement of a grass cutter. What does this

have to do with an earthquake? On this island, my husband and I are taking care of a refugee camp, literally at the edge of the jungle. During the rainy season there, the bush becomes overgrown in a matter of days. With such a device the area can be cleared, but this can take days. There is room for 50 tents to house some 500 refugees. They live on this hill for fear of a tsunami. Since the end of 2004, the time of the terrible tsunami, we are living at the Northern coast of Sumatra, with ever recurring new tremors.

The rest of the funds will most likely be used on the island of Siberut; which is pretty much devastated. If you wish, we will report anew, but it will take a while as we are a three-day trip away.

My most sincere thanks to you all, especially for the non-bureaucratic handling of the money transfer. At times of catastrophes this is so helpful!!!

Please take a look
at the display on
the Outreach
bulletin board in
the back corner of
the sanctuary.
Letters we receive
are posted there.

Evangelism

Conversation Starters

by Dale “Dee” Warner

I recently read a poll that showed that first-time visitors to a church arrive early (assuming they **don't get lost!**) and **sit toward the back of the church** feeling kind of out-of-place, hoping that someone will talk to them. They often decide before the sermon if they are ever coming back. Since so many of us have been faced with finding a church home in a new place, I'm sure we can identify with those who think “I wanna be here but I feel weird”.

Did you know that polls also show that visitors **don't view greetings from ushers as sincere?** Why? Because people think “That's their job; they're not really interested in me.” That's why it's so important for the congregation to make contact with people before and after the sermon.

But Wait! It's important to connect with members and ‘regulars,’ too. Recently I cheerfully said to someone: “Are you new?” His answer: “Uh, no, I've been coming here off and on for about a year. You're Dee, right?” He even knew my name! I looked around in vain for a big hole to jump into. Since my motto is: “There is opportunity in every mistake” I thought, okay, there is a social skills lesson here that I forgot to employ—namely “Conversation Starters”.

I learned about neutral conversation starters in

my early days at a couple of embassies where I **attended a lot of ‘mixers’**. Simple variations of these can engage people in conversation without putting you in an embarrassing position.

- How long have you been in Frankfurt?
- What brings you to Frankfurt?
- So tell me, how did you first hear about Trinity?
- So, what was your favorite part of the service today?
- **Do you think you'll go to the _____?** (name some event from the bulletin).
- Hey, do you want to come with me and get some coffee and cookies?
- What are your hobbies/ special interests?
- How did you get here today?
- What languages do you speak?
- **Did you make a New Year's resolution?**
- When is your next vacation?
- Will you be going on a ski break?

One key to conversation starters is to not think about how clever (or not) you may come across to the other person. Just make contact. Most people in a normal social situation like being acknowledged and will happily respond to you.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Church Council

Officers

President	Jenna Myrczik
Vice President	Bernd Steinbach
Recording Secretary	Barbara McCown
Treasurer	Claus von Campenhausen
Financial Secretary	Astrid Kastening

Deacons

Christian Life	Bob Colvin Lorenz Vasanth
Education	Paula Fears-Fischer
Evangelism	Dale Wanner
Outreach & Concern	Peter Brinkmann
Pastoral Support	Angie Petersen
Property Trustee	Greg Petersen
Stewardship	Dia Martin
Worship	Brenda Reckelberg
Youth	Donette Reis Cosi Rösch
Alternates	Carolyn Johnson Zenobia Sathish

Coming up

Mar 24, Wed Mid-week Lenten meditation
His Broken Bones - John 19:31-36,
7:00 pm

HOLY WEEK 2010:

Mar 28, Sun Palm Sunday, Holy Communion,
11:00 am

Apr 01, Thur Maundy Thursday,
Holy Communion, 7:30 pm

Apr 02, Fri Good Friday, 6:00 pm

Apr 04, Sun Easter Sunday,
Potluck Breakfast 9:30 am,
Holy Communion 11:00 am

Apr 20, Tue Church Council meeting 7:30 pm

May 18, Tue Church Council meeting 7:30 pm

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.

IN LUTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

July 1 - July 3, 2010



Departs Frankfurt 08:30 Thursday
Returns Frankfurt 18:00 Saturday

**LIMITED SPACE
REGISTER EARLY**

*"Here I stand! I can do no other!"
Martin Luther*

Our tour offers an overview of the life of Martin Luther and of the Reformation era. We visit **Eisenach** where Luther attended school and lived as an outlaw in **Wartburg Castle**. The **Lutherstadt, Wittenberg**, is where Luther lived and taught for 36 years. Here we visit the **Palace Church** where he posted the 95 Theses, **St. Mary's Church** and the **Lutherhaus**. In **Erfurt**, where Luther studied and taught, we see the **Augustinian Monastery**.

Travel is via deluxe, air-conditioned motor coach and we overnight at luxury hotels in Wittenberg and Erfurt. All guide services, entry fees, hotel costs, breakfast buffets, and evening dinners are included in the cost of the tour. Registration deadline is May 16, 2010.

**Cost per person: double occupancy (two adults in a room) €255 or US\$385;
single room supplement €40 or US \$60.**

For children's rates and registration forms, contact Trinity Lutheran Church:
Phone: (069) 9563 1066 Handy: 0173-893-7656 Email: parish_worker@trinity-lutheran.de