

+ Table Talk

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN FRANKFURT AM MAIN, GERMANY — WINTER 2010/2011



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+TableTalk

A newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church
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Contributions from members are welcome and encouraged. Please contact Anita Waldner at parish_worker@trinity-lutheran.de.

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Flohers'

Celebrate!

by Rev. Robert J. Flohrs

What is it that you like to celebrate? We all have times that we can be joyous about something that is happening in our lives - such as a family birthday, anniversary, a new baby or a baptism. We can celebrate that we have achieved something at school, work or a milestone in our lives.

At Trinity, we have the privilege of celebrating so many wonderful blessings that God brings to our members and friends of this Christian community. We have the honor to be God's church in Frankfurt. Yes, that seems an obvious fact. What does that mean to us and to the Frankfurt community?

We celebrated the baptism of Rebecca Alice Soul Winner during our morning worship service on Sunday, December 5, 2010. Annie and Soul Winner, along with Annie's parents, brought Rebecca Alice before the congregation to welcome her into the Lord's family and as a fellow member of the body of Christ through the Rite of Holy Baptism. What a celebration!



The audience anxiously awaits the next act during "Trinity's Got Talent", a fund raiser to help underwrite the costs of The Messiah Project.

On February 19, we celebrated as a congregation that we were blessed with a group of people from the Messiah Project who sponsored a Talent Show. People from Trinity and our community provided the talent. It was indeed a celebration!!! Young and old came together to have fun, laugh, meet new people and support the Messiah Project.

~ ~ ~

It truly was a testimony to our Lord that He brought the people and talents together on that night. Personally, I want to thank all of the people who are involved in the Messiah Project. It is exciting to see so many working toward a common goal, that of performing Handel's *Messiah* on June 12.

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Claus von Campenhausen and I went to Tbilisi in late January to visit Trinity's sister congregation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Georgia. It was a time to celebrate our partnership. The main congregation in Tbilisi has a wonderful spirit and so many opportunities to serve their own members as well as the people of Tbilisi. We discussed the possibility of sending a group of Trinity youth and adults to Tbilisi in 2012. We would work on a project with the church members in Tbilisi, thereby getting to know these people and what their lives are like in a culture that is so different from our own. Give some prayerful thought to being a part of this cross-cultural mission project group.

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The season of Lent is upon us. Let us use this six week period to reflect and pray. On Easter, we will celebrate that our Savior has risen! His resurrection gives believers hope and peace during our time on earth, so we can look forward to the time of celebration in Heaven.

Singers of all ages and nationalities from Trinity's Sanctuary Choir, Children's Ensemble, and members of The Messiah Project Choir were raising 'a joyful sound unto the Lord, a shout of triumph to the Rock of our salvation' this fall at a variety of venues. The Sanctuary Choir performed a roster of English-language Advent and Christmas carols both during worship as well as in the choir's traditional winter concert.

Singing Plays Big Role In Trinity's Advent Season

by Robert Colvin

Keeping up its tradition of providing music for the evening vesper service on the Saturday of the third weekend of Advent, Sanctuary singers aided by some members of The Messiah Project Choir provided a fitting musical backdrop in Frankfurt's notable Alte Nikolai church opposite the historic city hall and festive Christmas market. The church was packed to standing-room only. Worshipers enjoy hearing familiar anthems



Music director Jerrode Marsh (left) led the Sanctuary Choir during Frankfurt's "Night of the International Church Choirs" held in the Katharinenkirche in November.

sung and listening to soloists perform as well as singing well-known carols as a congregation themselves. The Sanctuary Choir rang out with Peter Wilhousky's 'Carol of the Bells'; a hauntingly beautiful version by John Rutter of 'I Wonder as I Wander' with Kristen Rüsge providing the soprano solo; and a lively rendition of 'Star of Glory' featuring soprano soloist Barbara McCown. Her husband, Frankfurt Opera tenor, Michael, sang the same solo, naturally in a different vocal range, with the Sanctuary Choir during the worship service at Trinity on the second Sunday of Advent.

At the Alte Nikolai the choir also accompanied two youthful soprano soloists, Vanessa Marsh and Katharina Kastening, who sang J.J. Niles beloved 'Jesus, Jesus Rest Your Head'. This rendition was an adaption by choir director Jerrode Marsh. One highlight of this traditional service was Frankfurt Opera tenor, Peter Marsh's beautiful 'O Holy Night' sung from the loft. Besides these featured pieces, the choir accompanied the assembled congregation in singing 'O Come, All Ye Faithful', 'Once in Royal David's City', 'Hark! The Herald Angels Sing', and 'Joy to the World', with descants by the soprano section.

During the service of the Hanging of the Greens on November 28, the Children's Ensemble (Zachary Smith, Christoph Marsh, Hannah Waldner, Kaitlyn Smith, and Jillian Jatho) provided special music singing 'The Star Carol' by Alfred Burt. Church member Peter Marsh sang 'Christbaum' from the Weihnachtslieder, op. 8 by



One of Trinity's traditional performances each year is in the Alte Nikolai Church on the third weekend of Advent.



Traditionally the annual Advent performance in Frankfurt's Alte Nikolai Church packs in the crowds. This year was no exception with nary a free seat available.

Youth singing 'Let our Gladness Have no End', and 'Child of Peace'; teen soloist Katharina Kastening singing 'The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came' and soprano soloist Kristen Rüsches singing 'Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion' from Handel's 'Messiah'.

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The Messiah Project

Trinity is the host church for The Messiah Project. This oratorio will be performed in its entirety in English on Pentecost Sunday, June 12, 2011 in Frankfurt's Heilig Geist Church. The Project choir had a full schedule of Thursday evening practice sessions in October and



Regular Sunday worship services during autumn and winter months included anthems sung by Trinity's Sanctuary Choir to the glory of God.

Peter Cornelius. In addition, Mitchell Monreal performed a clarinet arrangement by Christine D. Anderson of 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'. That worship service was filled with the tolling in the good news of the coming of Christ from the church's Sanctuary Ringers. The bell choir, providing its last presentation of the season, rang out 'Gentle Mary Laid Her Child', the Huron carol 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime', and 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel'.

In keeping with the true tradition of a service of "Lessons and Carols", the worship service began on Sunday, December 19, with Shiloh Fears-Fischer providing the youthful solo on the first verse of 'Once in Royal David's City'. Special music from several parishioners included Barbara McCown singing 'The Kings' from Weihnachtslieder, op.8 by Peter Cornelius; the Children's Ensemble supported by the church's

November along with two Saturday half-day rehearsals to learn this mammoth work. To provide interesting background about the historical development of the score and libretto, Project artistic director, Jerrode Marsh, conducted the first of three multi-media seminars in the sanctuary on November 21. This event concentrated on Part One of the work featuring God's creation of the earth to the coming of the Christ child. To practice what The Messiah Project singers had so far learned, a number of choir members took part in the 'Sing-Along Messiah' on December 4 at Trinity's neighboring congregation, The Episcopal Church of Christ-the-King.



Trinity Sanctuary Ringers (from left) Rita Flohrs, Zenobia Sathish, Katie Kuekes, Sathish Henry, and Handbell Choir director Sabine Janowitz.

Both cultural events and Christian fellowship highlighted autumn at Trinity. Along with members from Ecumenically Active Together (E.A.T.), the “50 something” group from five English-speaking Christian congregations in Frankfurt, Christian Life arranged an hour-long guided tour in November highlighting the religious aspects of the sculpture collection at Frankfurt’s Liebieghaus Museum on Schaumainkai.

Full Schedule of Activities Plays Out During Autumn

by Robert Colvin

Christian Life sponsored Trinity Lutheran parishioner and art historian Dr. Britta von Campenhausen, to guide participants through the collection. She provided interesting insight into the works on display. Special thanks to Britta for giving her time, services, and talent for this event.



Art historian Britta von Campenhausen (front) is full of excitement and points out the volume of sculptures she is about to present to interested Christian Life and E.A.T. participants during the Liebieghaus Museum autumn tour.

At the end of the month, Trinity gave thanks for all the joy we experience in our lives. Pastor Robert Flohrs presented a short Thanksgiving worship service on Saturday afternoon, November 27 in the sanctuary followed by a Thanksgiving potluck dinner. Those who attended brought more than just hunger to the dinner in the form of home-made treats including turkey, side dishes, and a variety of desserts. A big “thank you” to Sabine Spitzl, Cosi Rösch, and Lorenz Vasanth for their volunteer work with set-up, decorating, and clean-up following the meal.



Getting instructions on the correct placement of lights on the Christmas tree, an activity that followed a delightful Thanksgiving dinner, Jörg Fischer gets a little help from his wife Paula.

On December 12th, after our morning worship service, we had a potluck lunch to honor church office secretary Sabine Janowitz who has moved to England



Pastor Robert Flohrs (front) was put to work carving a tasty turkey roasted by wife Rita. A queue of hungry parishioners seen behind him look on.



A group of merry makers during the Thanksgiving potluck find that food and fellowship agree with them.

due to work requirements of her husband, parishioner Peter Sutcliffe. The afternoon event enabled church members to reminisce with Sabine and learn more of her plans for their new home. The tables were laden with delicious goodies brought for the event. Both Sabine and Peter will be sorely missed by the congregation.

That same afternoon Evangelism Deacon Dale “Dee” Wanner and the Christian Life committee combined efforts in organizing Trinity’s annual “Carols and Cookies” event. This event is publicized in local newspapers and shops inviting the public to sing Advent and Christmas carols both in German and English and to enjoy some holiday cookies. Members of other English language congregations came too.



It is dessert time during the Thanksgiving potluck. Dinner helpers (from left) Lorenz Vasanth, Cosi Rösch, Piotr Loboda, and Rita Flohrs, are enjoying the treat.

Everyone was able to request their favorite songs while enjoying coffee, punch, tea, and a variety of cakes and cookies. Music was provided by music director Jerrode Marsh accompanying on the piano, Martin Stoewer singing and playing the guitar, as well as Hannah Waldner on her violin accompanied by her mother, Laura Werner, on the piano.

Between the two events that day, families were able to take in the Frankfurt Christmas market at the Römerberg or watch the 1954 Hollywood classic "White Christmas", starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, and Rosemary Clooney (George Clooney’s late aunt) in the Doris Jacoby room. A lot of giggling could be heard coming from that room during the movie which features a host of Irving Berlin’s golden oldies!



Pastor Robert Flohrs (center) takes a few minutes to catch up on what Greg and Jackie Hawley had planned for the holidays.



Untangling the Christmas tree lights to decorate the church’s two pines for the Advent and Christmas seasons are (from left) Shiloh Fears-Fischer, Jillian Jatho, and Jamie Fears-Fischer.

Recently Claus von Campenhausen, Trinity's Treasurer and I visited our sister congregation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Georgia, in the Caucasus Region. It was a relatively short trip, 5 days 4 nights. We met many people from the congregation in Tbilisi and Bolnisi, which is an hour or so south of Tbilisi.

Pictures From Georgia

by Rev. Robert J. Flohrs



A traditional, orthodox marriage ceremony.



The weather made it possible to take a few pictures of the beautiful surroundings.



How to bake the Georgian bread?

Pastor in front of the church of Trinity's sister congregation.



Interior of the church.

In November we were blessed with an all-day “Active Relationships Retreat” led by Trinity members Stacey and Jeff Crosson. Stacey is a Certified Family Life Educator (CFLE) and is also a Director of Christian Education (DCE) in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. Jeff is a Certified Family Life Educator as well.

Active Relationships Retreat

by Dee Wanner, Deacon of Evangelism



Vanessa Marsh and Hans Myaard babysat during the Retreat.



The Trainers: Stacey and Jeff Crosson

The retreat was both fun and informative with lots of thinking and interaction, a power point presentation, film clips, and a break for a delicious hot pulled-pork lunch provided by the Crossons. Confirmands Hans Myaard and Vanessa Marsh provided free childcare.

After an opening prayer and introducing ourselves, we engaged in an exercise that enabled us to access our speaker and listener styles. This humorously resulted in one group of very talkative extroverts and another group of several introverts quietly staring at them. After that we learned about Active Life Skills for Christian Adults. In this accelerated version of a 2+ day

workshop we learned about communication styles and assessment, speaker-listener method, internal states of thinking, effective management of emotional triggers, defining and getting rid of destructive behaviors, and more. These are life skills that can be applied to relationships of all kinds: marital, parent/child, friendship, and work. We also received a worksheet to take home about faith/life reflections and handout cards about resolution method reminders and speaker/listener techniques.

Many thanks to the Crossons for the time, skill, and faith they put into the Relationships Retreat!

Annabell Yutan Go and Piotr Mieczysław Łoboda
are pleased to announce
their wedding
at Trinity Lutheran Church
on Easter Monday
the twenty-fifth of April, two thousand eleven
at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

After the ceremony we cordially invite you to join us for a glass of wine.

Those living too far away to attend will be sincerely missed.

Your good wishes will be in our hearts on this joyous day.

Annabell and Piotr

One of the most important points on the agenda of the Annual Congregational Meeting held on Sunday, January 23rd, was electing new officers and deacons.

New Council Elected to Serve in 2011

by Anita Waldner, Parish Worker

Aside from the business of electing new officers and deacons, two other important topics were presented to those in attendance. Claus von Campenhausen, Treasurer, gave an assessment of Trinity's financial picture as of the end of November 2010. We are running at a deficit, as we did last year. The church has savings it has tapped, but we cannot continue this pattern; it is not good business sense, and moreover, it is not good stewardship. Claus asked the congregation to consider ways in which we as individuals and as a congregation can turn this situation around.

Pastor Flohrs then presented a stewardship program called "Faith Aflame – 360 Degrees" which we have adopted from the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod District and Congregational Services Stewardship Ministry. This is an adaptive change process that seeks to impact the stewardship culture of the congregation...the way we think about money, time and talents; how we think about "ownership"; the realization that everything we have comes through God's grace. We are embarking on a year-long process of changing our approach and thinking concerning stewardship. This program has been adopted by other congregations and has been very successful and enduring.

New to the church council for 2011 is Donette Reis, as Recording Secretary; Annabell Go, as Financial Secretary; Kristen Ruesges and Jennie Smith, serving as Christian Education Co-Deacons; and Sabine Spitzl joins Cösi Roesch as Co-Deacons for Youth.

Several deacons from the 2010 council were elected to new positions and take on new challenges: Robert Colvin (former Christian Life Deacon) as President;

Astrid Kastening (former Financial Secretary) as Christian Life Deacon; Lorenz Vasanth (former Co-Deacon for Christian Life) as Evangelism Deacon; Angie Petersen (former Pastoral Support Deacon) as Stewardship Deacon, and Barbara McCown (former Recording Secretary) as an Alternate Deacon.

After the ballots were counted and the new council members were announced, Bob Colvin addressed the congregation:

"First let me, if I may, speak in the name of all candidates for council who were elected today. Thank you for your trust in the team. We ask that you pray for us. We will do our best to be good stewards of your church in the name of Christ. We're facing some tough times this year and in the coming year, a tighter budget and dwindling membership. Although we are your elected council, as Peter Brinkmann just told us, we still need your support and the help of each one of you to make Trinity Lutheran the church in which you want to worship. So don't be surprised if in the future you are called upon to do more."

The following people continue to serve on Council in their positions from last year: Bernd Steinbach, Vice President; Peter Brinkmann, Deacon for Outreach and Concern; Claus von Campenhausen, Treasurer; Greg Petersen, Property Deacon and Zenobia Sathish, Worship Deacon.

We thank those who faithfully served Trinity in 2010: Jenna Myrczik (President), Paula Fears-Fischer (Christian Education), Dale "Dee" Wanner (Evangelism), Dia Martin (Stewardship), and Carolin Johnson (Alternate Deacon).

Breaking Bread

Serving at the Lord's Supper Through Baking Bread

by Angie Petersen, Stewardship Deacon

Each time we take part in Holy Communion, we celebrate a special occasion. We celebrate the forgiveness of our sins and we remember how much God loves us. At Trinity we honor how special it is by baking our own bread to share as the Body of Christ.

In every church, the preparation for the Lord's Supper is done somewhat differently. In many churches, only the elders are allowed to prepare the wine and bread, some churches just use grape juice, and others only use wafers.

When I was growing up, I was a member of a small Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, Millcreek Lutheran, in Newmanstown, Pennsylvania. The preparation of the communion sacrament was done by the male elders of the congregation. This showed how special and sacred this event was. The bread was always baked by the older church women every Saturday in our own church kitchen. It was wonderful. I remember going to my catechism classes each Saturday morning and smelling the bread as we walked toward the church. I would always slip into the room adjoining the kitchen where the women were talking about their families and friends while kneading big bowls of bread dough. Those memories inspired me to help in the baking of communion bread when I came to Trinity. Baking is not just a way for me to serve, but it makes me think about the power of the sacrament of Holy Communion.

Millcreek Lutheran did not use unleavened bread, but rather, big, white, fluffy loaf bread. Pastor Wilson would take the big loaf during the communion liturgy and break it in half. He would then pluck out the soft inside of the loaf and offer it as the Body of Christ.

We all worship and serve in different ways; the men and women in my childhood congregation honored

God with their time preparing the bread and the sacramental wine for communion.

Below is the recipe we use for communion bread at Trinity. If you have any other questions about baking bread for communion or you feel called to serve God and Trinity in this way, please let me know (angela.s.petersen@erac.com). I would be happy to answer your questions!

Trinity Communion Bread Recipe

Sift dry ingredients (important!) together 3 times:

2 c whole wheat flour
1 c white flour
1 1/4 tsp baking powder
1 1/4 tsp salt
Stir in 4 tsp oil. Set aside.

Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

3/4 cup + 2 Tbsp very hot water (minimum of 82 degrees Celsius or 180 degrees Fahrenheit)
3 Tbsp honey
3 Tbsp molasses

Add wet ingredients to dry ingredients and mix well. Dough should be slightly sticky. Do not knead. Divide into four balls and flatten each into a 1/4 inch thick disk. With a knife, score the top of each loaf into eight pie-shaped sections, so that the sections can be more easily broken off while serving. Alternatively, you could score a cross onto the loaf.

Lay the loaves on a baking sheet. Bake at 177 degrees Celsius (350 degrees Fahrenheit) for 10 minutes. Remove from oven and brush the tops of the loaves with oil. Bake an additional 5-8 minutes. Let cool.

Yield: four 8 oz. loaves. Each loaf serves 60-70 people, depending upon the size of the piece given. The loaves freeze well.

Trinity's Traditions

Caroling At Bürgerhospital

by Dee Wanner, Deacon Of Evangelism

Many years ago when Trinity Lutheran Church did not have enough space, Bürgerhospital, which is across the street from church, graciously allowed us to use their teaching classrooms to hold our Sunday School classes. To show our appreciation, while at the same time spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, we began a tradition of caroling to the patients on a Sunday morning during Advent.

On Sunday, December 19th, a group of us met at 9.30am at Trinity. We were singles, families with kids and teens. We walked across the street to the Bürgerhospital where we left a box of small gifts for patients at the reception desk and met with the Oberschwester (Head Nurse) Fr. Schwarz-Beck. After locking our coats in a staff room, she took us from station to station in the hospital where we sang songs in English and German.



The oldest part of the Bürgerhospital, on the opposite side of Nibelungenallee.

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 Rüsge 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

As we stood in the hall, the nurses opened the patients' doors so our carols could drift in. Some patients came out and their joy was obvious, but to my surprise the staff enjoyed our caroling as much as the patients did! Some staff joined in with the singing and there were smiles all around. It seemed especially appropriate to sing "Ihr Kinderlein Kommet" at the "labor and delivery" ward where we saw a tiny, precious newborn and proud parents.

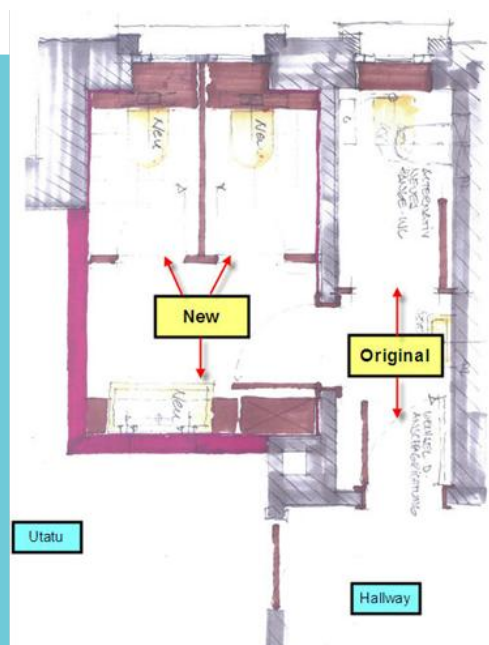
I hope next year even more Trinity people will join us for the joyful experience of bringing the Good News in song at the hospital. In case you worry that you don't sing well, listen to what the Gospel says in Luke 2:10 : "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'"

Property Deacon

Facility Improvements

by Greg Petersen

Concept of the reconstruction.



This project was funded by the Building Fund account which is co-managed between Trinity's Church Council and the Evangelische Hilfsverein board. We are very pleased with the result of this investment, and hope you are too! Come have a look the next time you visit!



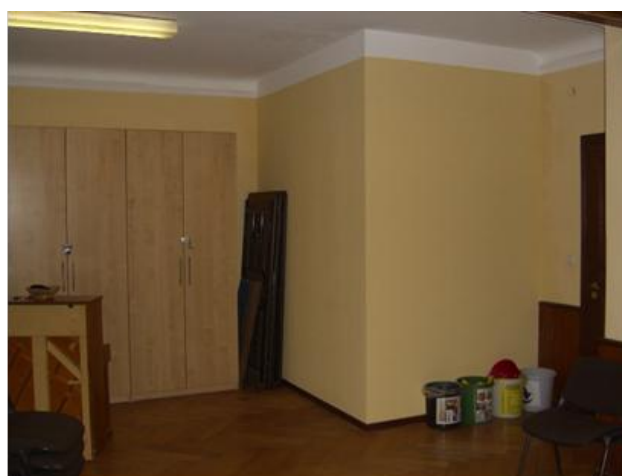
Work in progress.

At long last, the wish for additional bathroom facilities has been realized. It was talked about for years by council members, property deacons and pastors. Thanks go to Property Deacon, Greg Petersen, for organizing this large project.

The project got rolling after working with an architect and drafting a concept which was approved by the church council and the Evangelische Hilfsverein (the organization who owns our church buildings). The concept kept the original bathroom in tact, and expanded it into the "seating niche" space within the existing Utatu Room.

The concept triples the capacity of the facilities on the ground floor. The new walls were finished to create a seamless fit within the existing rooms (even a few regular visitors were commenting: "Hmmm, something changed in here!").

The different contractors were coordinated to perform the renovation starting in November, and were largely finished by Christmas.



Appearance upon completion (viewed from the Utatu Room).

Everything Went Wrong!

by Dee Wanner, Evangelism Deacon

The annual Newcomers Festival each Fall in Frankfurt is our biggest one-day evangelism opportunity. As thousands of people wander by our table we have a few seconds' opportunity to show that we are a Christ-centered, spirit-filled, friendly, English-speaking international community devoted to practicing a "living faith". As Evangelism Deacon, I designed the artwork and table display. This year just about everything went wrong!

Throughout the year I collected current Trinity photos, mostly from avid photographers Wilfried Kastening and Bob Colvin and then I designed some eye-catching posters. I updated our colorful Power Point show to have the laptop running on our table. We had some nice handouts and prizes.

Before I got to the printer's, my computer crashed. I recovered the pictures, but not the artwork. The thumb drive preserving the artwork back-up was missing. I spent time re-creating two of the posters. At the print shop, their machine broke down and printed weird, smeary colors. I also found out technicalities would prevent using the laptop for the Power Point presentation. Ugh! What would our table look like now, especially compared to the other churches at the Festival??

"Lord, I'm tired of this! This evangelism is for You, I trust You to provide what You know we need!" I cried inwardly. I also grumbled – it had taken time and effort and I was feeling fed-up.

Hallelujah, the Lord answered my prayer and provided the most high-tech evangelism instrument of all-- a real

interactive device! It really got the attention of passers-by and could present information, play a game with them, and award prizes!

I'm talking about the enthusiastic volunteers who staffed our table and witnessed to the joy of knowing Christ. The Lord in His wisdom knew that the most effective way to get people's attention and trust is through other people, not just through posters and pictures. He provided everything we needed and, yes, there was plenty to share with others!

2 Corinthians 9:8 (New Living Translation):

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.

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.