

Spring 2017

Trinity Lutheran

Newsletter



Raise the
ROOF

TRINITY LUTHERAN 2017

PLUS Spanish Ministry Expansion , School Accreditation,
Vacation Bible School, and more!

Raise the Roof Campaign

IT'S EASIER TO LAUGH ABOUT IT NOW — the major repairs. We knew they had to be made. After all, it was raining in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve! We even made plans to pay for these repairs. A designated portion of the Gifted for Praise offering should have been sufficient. But who could have known what the actual cost of repairs would be!

Well, these things do happen. Reference the prophet Nehemiah.

In the Old Testament book by his name, Nehemiah led God's people in faith to rebuild the crumbling walls of Jerusalem and prepare the holy city for the next generation and beyond. This was not an easy project for the beleaguered people of Israel recently returned from captivity. Yet it was God's will for them at this time, and He blessed the project through to completion.

Trinity has been following in the footsteps of Nehemiah. For the past three years, God's people at Trinity (you!) have faithfully and generously supported the much needed and long-term roof and building repairs through *Gifted for Praise* – THANK YOU! But, the three year *Gifted for Praise* offering is at an end. The remaining debt for these repairs still needs to be addressed.

To address the continued debt for these repairs, a one-year collection called **Raise the Roof** is being initiated. For the 12 months starting July 1, 2017, you are invited to participate in the **Raise the Roof** campaign to *help Trinity chip away at the debt for these recent capital repairs*. You will *not* be asked for a commitment or a specific dollar amount for this one year offering. We simply trust that we, as members of Trinity, will continue to raise our voices, arms and offerings in praise and thanksgiving to the roof – to the God who helps his people in ways that enable them to laugh with joy.

You can support the **Raise the Roof** campaign with an ongoing or one-time gift, above and beyond your normal giving. *No gift is too big or too small*. You may use the special envelopes which will be in your church

envelope pack each month for the next year, or use our online giving. The important thing is that everyone gets a chance to **Raise the Roof** at Trinity so that we and future generations will not have rain leaking from the roof. This campaign will kick off *starting* July 1, 2017.

So, to be clear, the **Raise the Roof** offering will first and foremost be used to make our monthly roof repair payment to our bank. If, after making the bank payments there is additional money from **Raise the Roof**, the first \$5,000 of this surplus will be used to augment our growing Youth Ministry program. If the Lord blesses **Raise the Roof** even beyond our bank payment and Youth Ministry special needs, we will further pay down the roof repair loan principle.

We believe that when God says “do it”, he's already planned the resources we need to accomplish the task. Please consider your support for the **Raise the Roof** campaign.

Article compiled by Pastor Mattek and Trinity's Stewardship Commission



Forward Not Backward

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17).

ON MARCH 12, 2017 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGAN. The old phrase, “Spring ahead” was repeated numerous times by media sources. As Trinity goes forward, we need to remember and take inventory of the treasures that each of us has received...Indeed, our Benefactor has blessed us as well at Trinity!

Again, from James 1:17: *...who does not change like shifting shadows...*this reminds us that our Father’s gifts and love to us will continue – they never change! We can look forward with gratitude and joyful anticipation to our future. God’s plans and gifts for Trinity’s future have already been set into place.

Spring ahead can be a time to move forward with our own personal plans as well as setting a future course for Trinity. In the months ahead we will hear about plans from our stewardship commission on expanding our youth ministry and an aggressive campaign to pay down on the second mortgage.

As we head into this program (July, 2017) may each of us take inventory of our gifts and reflect on these words from Pastor Mark Jeske:

“What do you give a God who has everything? Give him what only you possess – your heart. The amount of the gift, the actual money or goods that you let go of, is not for his heavenly balance sheet. *It is a marker for you, so that you may put an emphasis on your words of worship and adoration.*

The God who isn’t broke is so thrilled with your heart – gifts that he will soon give you back more than you first gave him.”

As we reflect upon the Easter message and the fulfillment of the resurrection, may we never forget, “Christ died for us.” God gave his first and best to us. God put his great love for us into action. How can we express our love and gratitude for what he has first given us? Let our gifts be one reflection of our gratitude.

Ted Oertel

Trinity Congregational President



Planning the Path to the Future - School Accreditation

ABOUT THIS TIME OF YEAR many people begin planning their summer vacations. Whether your vacation means spending some quiet time in the northwoods of Wisconsin, going on a Caribbean cruise, or traveling to Europe, all vacations all have one thing in common – *planning*. People plan where they are going, when they are going, how they are getting there, and how they are going to pay for the vacation. I once read an article that said people spend more time planning for a vacation than they do on the vacation itself.

It's no different in a school. Planning goes on daily. Whether it's planning lessons or for an upcoming field trip, teachers spend much of their time planning. On a larger scale, the Board of Education and the principal are constantly making plans for the present, next school year, and school years into the future.

One example of this long term planning has been happening this school year. It is called an **accreditation self-study**. In order to maintain accreditation status, a school has to conduct a thorough self-study every five years. This school year over fifty people have been taking a close look at the school. To do this, committees evaluated the school against hundreds of standards. These standards

deal with physical facilities, curriculum and instruction, school climate, and much more.

On March 14-16 a team of five educators visited Trinity. The purpose of this team was to validate our self-study, identify strengths the school can build on in the future, and areas which the school can improve on to make it even a better school. Even though the team made dozens of recommendations for the school, the team will be recommending *Exemplary Accreditation* for Trinity. In the weeks to come the Board of Education then will be developing a five-year school improvement plan. This plan will pave the path for the Board of Education and the faculty in the future years.

We all make plans every day, even our school. But most importantly we have a God who already has a plan for each of us. He promises us that when He says "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

God's blessing to all.

Jeff Inniger

Trinity Lutheran School Principal

Youth Group News

FOR NINE YEARS, Vacation Bible School at Trinity has had a rich tradition of a week-long, Monday through Friday, all morning faith-building, summer experience for children grades K-5. Each year our attendance tops 100 attendees with over 35 adults and teens leading daily bible devotions, games, crafts and snack stations. Our VBS reputation has expanded beyond Waukesha and we have welcomed children from Oconomowoc to West Allis to Trinity for one week during the summer.

Last year, we experimented with a new model for VBS. In an ongoing effort to witness to our neighbors, our VBS experience moved to Friday nights during July. The vision

for this new approach to VBS is multi-faceted. First of all, we hoped to reach more of our neighbors with this relaxed, less-structured program. *Last year our community outreach participation nearly tripled with over 20 children from the neighborhood versus less than 7 in years past.* Secondly, we wanted to provide a place for children to hear God's word while their parents may take advantage of Waukesha's Friday Night Live. We are building on a program that already draws a crowd and providing an evangelism tool for families at the same time! Finally, by offering a Friday night option, it allowed for more members of our Trinity family to get involved. We staffed our Friday nights with over 30 teens and adults who selected one or both nights to help. Many



of our volunteers were completely new to VBS but were able to help because of the convenient times. This year we will be holding our VBS on three consecutive Friday nights in July from 5:30–8pm, providing many opportunities for service. Trinity members can select to give of their time and talents on one, two or all three nights of VBS!

This year’s VBS theme is *Maker Fun Factory: Created by God and built for a purpose*. Our Friday night Vacation Bible School will enable children to become hand-on inventors and experience God – the ultimate maker – in new and

wildly creative ways! Friday Nights Out, Trinity’s New and Revised VBS, will be held on July, 14, 21, and 28. Children in school grades K-5th are welcome to attend! Teens, Tweens and Adults, grades 6 and up are welcomed and encouraged to volunteer. So check your calendars and watch your weekly church announcements for VBS registration and volunteer sign-up information.

Laura Reinke
Trinity Youth Ministry Director

Trinity’s Spanish Ministry Expands!

IT IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR SPANISH MINISTRY! With most of the year behind us, it is a good time to thank the Lord for his blessings and also it is a great time to look forward to the future.

Our Winter 2017 ESL session ended very positively with even more students than we started with. This is due to our fabulous volunteers who have successfully created a name for our ESL classes among Hispanic leaders in our community. We look forward to growing that name and sharing our faith as our Spring session continues on into May.

Opportunities abound for us to reach out to our Spanish neighbors. One of those opportunities is through Tomorrow’s Choice. Here relationships are made, and Christ’s love is shown in a very powerful and effective way. We also take advantage of the opportunity to donate meals to Hispanic families in need three times a year. More than being an excellent way to serve our brothers

and sisters in need, it has also been a powerful ministry tool for us. Through these deliveries, and through our service at Tomorrow’s Choice, important relationships are built. These relationships have borne fruit for us in the form of two future baptisms in our church. Our Hispanic neighbors are also starting to come to worship services



and Bible Information Classes. Praise God and pray for us as we continue to pursue these relationships! We are also excited to plan for Fiesta Waukesha which will take place at Frame Park June 9-11 and will need volunteers from our congregation to help with this important effort.

Trinity's Spanish ministry will be taking a huge step forward this next fall as we prepare to welcome Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Senior Russell Scoggins (who also speaks Spanish) and his wife Amber to our Spanish Ministry team. In the voters' meeting in January 2017, our voters gave the green light to add a second part-time Seminary student to help

upgrade our Spanish ministry. Starting in late August 2017, Russell and current Seminista Paul Bourman will work together during this next school year to continue on with our ESL classes, but also to make deeper relationships with prospects and connect them even more deeply with their new church and with their Savior.

We asked Russell to write a short bio to introduce himself and his wife:

Dear Members of Trinity: I was born & raised in Austin, TX (Holy Word Lutheran Church). My wife, Amber, was born and raised in Appleton, WI (St. Peter Lutheran/The Core). We are currently vicaring in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Falls Church, VA. We enjoy camping, travel, trying new food, spending time with family and friends, sunny days, adventure, and of course, Netflix. We are looking forward to the chance to serve and worship among you during our senior year at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. God's blessings until we have the chance to meet you in August!

God has blessed this year's Spanish ministry efforts. Pray with us and join with us as we continue on as we share the Gospel in English and Spanish together!

Seministas Paul Bourman, Russell Scoggins, and Pastor Scott Oelhafen



Other Ministry News

Bible Information Class

Come to the summer session of our Bible Information Classes that begin June 21 at 7 pm. Sign up at trinitywels.com/bic. Invite a friend, family member, or co-worker.

Enjoy Growth Groups at Trinity This Spring

A new favorite in the Spring at Trinity Lutheran Church has become Growth Groups. Last Spring was the largest sign-up to date (over 130 people). Growth Groups is a fun, social, small-group Bible study (organized by demographics: 20s-30s-40s-50s+) that usually meets in Trinity member homes, primarily led by lay people. Each week for around an hour, participants experience a short Bible study based on the previous weekend's Trinity sermon and get to know Trinity members. It is primarily a way for new members to connect with veteran members. Growth Group facilitator Matt B. from the 30-somethings talks about this in the last session: "If old friends are gold and new friends are like diamonds, growth groups are a rich mine of Christian friendship." In January, over 120 Trinity members

participated. It is the single-largest Trinity Bible study that meets most days of the week. Lindsay W. (a 30-something said): "Growth Groups connect you to other Christians who are going through similar things as you and they help you get more out of the sermon (through reflection and going more in-depth)."

Before we take a break for the summer (and resume in September), why not give our Spring Trinity Growth Groups a go? You will personally benefit with spiritual growth, get to know at least 5 new members, and you will get more out of the weekly sermon and pray with fellow Christians. Launching almost every day of the week, April 24-30, simply sign up at: <http://bit.ly/TGGApril> or get more info at www.trinitywels.com/growthgroups or contact Growth Group coordinator at Trinity Jason Scherer (414) 517-8373 or Pastor Oelhafen (262) 442-8568. Watch for service speakers or welcome Trinity callers who are working together to get as many people together for this ministry. Trinity Growth Group attendee from the 50-somethings + sums it up: "it's informal, encouraging, and inspirational." Bring a friend or do it yourself!

Summer 2017 Events

May 4	Movie: <i>A Return to Grace</i>	Majestic Theater
May 14	Mother's Day	Trinity Lutheran Church - Bible and Catechism Give-Away
May 25	TLS Graduation	Trinity Lutheran School
May 29	Memorial Day	No Monday Worship
June 9-11	Fiesta Waukesha*	Frame Park
June 18	Father's Day	
July 14, 21, 28	Friday Night VBS	Trinity Lutheran School
July 19-23	Waukesha County Fair*	Waukesha County WELS Booth
August 27	Trinity Outdoor Service	Frame Park
August 27	Trinity Picnic	Trinity Parking Lot/Fellowship Hall

**If you can volunteer for these events, please contact Pastor Oelhafen at soelhafen@trinitywels.com*



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“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday 5:30 PM, Sunday 8:15 & 10:45 AM & Monday 6:30 PM

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