

# **The Trinity Lutheran**

# October 2013

# Meet Seminarian Justin Gran

Hola! My name is Justin Gran and I am about to start my final year of pastoral training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. I'm married to Emily and



it's my privilege to also be serving your congregation on a part time basis as Trinity continues to reach out to the Hispanic community in Waukesha. Over the past several years I have had the opportunity to study the

Spanish language as I've been preparing to become a pastor. My interest began as I worked through the Spanish program at Martin Luther College (part of that program included a Spanish immersion program in Ecuador during the summer of 2011). During my first two years at WLS I attended WELS St. Peter Lutheran Church in Milwaukee where I was involved in Hispanic outreach. During my first year at St. Peter, I coordinated an English Second Language Class (ESL) and during my vicar year in Thorton, Colorado I also helped with an ESL program.

In the past months Pastor Otto has been exploring the Hispanic community and has opened many doors to share the Gospels. In the weeks to come, I will work to keep those doors open and God willing, to open many more. As part of the Trinity's Hispanic outreach plan, a session of ESL is already being planned starting October 14th. The goal, of course, isn't just to teach individuals the English language, but the greatest service is to connect souls to Christ and his lifesaving Word. ESL is just one of many ways to do that.



# TWO OCTOBER EVENTS FOR TRINITY'S TEENS

Mark your calendars now for two teen events coming this month.

**First:** Teen Bible Study on October 13th at 10:30 a.m. Mrs. Reinke will be leading the teen group *You've Got a Friend Request from Jesus*. Pastor Christie will teach a onesession class for parents at the same time. (Luther and the Reformation 101: *What the man and his mission still matter*)

**Second:** Teen movie night on October 26th. Come and get some food for your soul at worship at the 5:30 p.m. Service. Pizza dinner will be served immediately following at 6:30 p.m. The movie and discussion will follow at 7:00 p.m. If arranged previously, teens can be dropped off at home following the movie.

#### Weekly Bible Studies

- Tuesday- Women's Bible Study @ Dady-Oh's Restaurant @ 7:00 am
- Tuesday- Stephen Ministry Instruction @ 6:00 pm
- Wednesday- Pastor's Bible Class @ Dady-Oh's @ 7:00 am
- Thursday- Men's Group Bible Study @ 6:30 am
- Thursday- Women's Bible Study @ 8:30 am



Find us at: Trinity Lutheran Church WELS on Facebook

Bible Information Class ~ Wednesday- @ 7:00 pm
For more information visit www.trinitywels.com



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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED** 

# **Trinity October 2013 Newsletter**



**Annual Recognition Sunday for Trinity's Called Workers** 

Sunday October 13 - 9:00 a.m.

**Youth Group events on Sunday October 13 and Saturday October 26** 

**Hispanic Workshop Saturday October 19** 

New format for newsletter coming in December

# OCTOBER 2013

7:00 PM God's Ways-T.R. 7:00 PM Mixed Choir
30  7:00 AM Pastor's Bible Class  @ Dady-Oh's Rest.  @ Dady-Oh's Rest.  8:30 AM Mens' Bible Study  8:30 AM Women's Bible Study  8:30 AM Women's Bible Study  10:00 AM God's Ways in C.R.  10:00 AM God's Ways in C.R.  11:30 AM Newsletter Prep  6:00 PM English as a Second  11:30 AM Newsletter Prep  6:00 PM English as a Second  5:15 PM Pub Sch Cat Class  Classes  Classes  5:30 PM Hand Bells
23 23 24 25 26 26 27:00 AM Muffins with Mom 27:00 AM Pastor's Bible Class 27:00 AM Pastor's Bible Class 27:00 PM English as a Second Language Class 27:00 PM Bible Information Classes 27:00 PM Financial Peace-FH 28 29 46:30 AM Mens' Bible Study 10:00 AM God's Ways in C.R. 5:15 PM Pub Sch Cat Class 5:30 PM Hand Bells 7:00 PM God's Ways-T.R. 7:00 PM Mixed Choir 7:00 PM Mixed Choir
7:00 AM Pastor's Bible Class @ Dady-Oh's Rest. @ Bastor Gates 10:00 AM Women's Bible Study in T.R. 10:00 AM God's Ways in C.R. 2:30 PM English as a Second Language Class 7:00 PM Bible Information 7:00 PM Financial Peace-FH 7:00 PM Mixed Choir
9 7:00 AM Pastor's Bible Class @ Dady-Oh's Rest. @ Dady-Oh's Rest. @ Dady-Oh's Rest. #:35 AM Women's Bible Study in T.R. 10:00 AM God's Ways in C.R. 10:00 PM Ladies Aid 7:00 PM Bible Information Classes 7:00 PM Financial Peace-FH 7:00 PM Mixed Choir
2 PASTORAL CONFERENCE 7:00 AM Pastor's Bible Class (m T.R. Martens 7:00 PM Bible Information Classes Classes 7:00 PM Financial Peace-FH 7:00 PM Mixed Choir
Wednesday Thursday

#### From the Office of Pastor Aaron Christie



The Trinity Lutheran is published monthly by: Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church 1052 White Rock Avenue Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186

(262) 547-5350 • 547-8110 fax E-mail: trinity@trinitywels.com Home Page: www.trinitywels.com

#### **Summer Worship schedule:**

(call the office for specific dates)
Saturdays: 5:30 pm
Sundays: 8:30 &10:00 am
Mondays: 7:00 pm
No Memorial or Labor Day Services

#### Regular Worship schedule:

Saturdays: 5:30 pm Sundays: 7:45, 9:00 & 10:45 am Adult Bible Class 9:00 am Sunday School 10:30 am

#### **Trinity Pastors:**

Aaron Christie Lawrence Gates Scott Oelhafen

#### **Trinity Church Office:**

Sandy Huebner 547-5350 Ruth Mattek

# Trinity Lutheran School Preschool – Grade 8

Principal: Jeff Inniger 547-8020 1060 White Rock Ave.

#### School Office:

Kristina Magsig Jennie Busse

#### **Trinity Child Care**

Director: Joni Stenberg 547-8522 1060 White Rock Ave.

Items submitted for publication will be printed as space permits.

Deadline for all submitted features is the 20th of the month preceding publication. Dear Friends,

I'm a creature of habit. One of my favorite habits is reading a biography on Martin Luther every October. Why? It helps me prepare for my celebration of the Festival of the Lutheran Reformation on October 31. How will you celebrate the Lutheran Reformation this year?

Not so fast. Why should we celebrate the Lutheran Reformation this year? After all, Luther and his struggles with the Roman Catholic Church are 500 years old. The world has moved on. Perhaps we should too... After all, Americans aren't much into celebrations of the past. We celebrate the 4th of July, but usually as an opportunity to grill burgers and watch fireworks. The real life and death struggle for our nation's freedom is rarely considered. We celebrate a National Day of Thanksgiving, usually by eating too much turkey and mashed potatoes. The real reasons for being thankful are usually lost somewhere between cleaning up the kitchen and the football game's kickoff. What will our Reformation celebration be like? Sadly, it's easy to celebrate a Reformation by talking about how bad the popes were back in the 1500's and how Luther - a good German! - appreciated a good Wittenberg beer every now and then.

If that's the case, then it's no wonder that Lutherans have a difficult time trying to "find themselves" in modern American Christianity. For most American protestants, Lutherans are "too Catholic." We wear gowns, light candles, kneel before an altar, and even chat every now and then. On the other side, for many American Catholics, we Lutherans are "too Protestant." Our pastors can marry. We don't pray to Mary. We thump our Bibles. We aren't interest in the pope or tradition as a source of truth. For tens of millions of Christians in our country, we old-school Lutherans are too hot or too cold - just like the porridge from the children's tale.

But from my point of view, we aren't too Protestant or too Catholic - too hot or too cold. *We're just right!* How so? Because we insist on coming down where the Scriptures come down! We insist, along with St. Paul, that a man is justified ("made right") with God not by what we do, but through faith in Jesus (Romans 3:28)!

Why is this important? Why does THIS make us different? Because the message of salvation through faith in Jesus alone is scarce in our country. And it's getting scarcer.

On the one hand, watch the mega church pastors on TV. They are the princes of American Protestantism. Generally speaking, you will hear far more about what you are supposed to do as a Christian that what Jesus did for you to make you a Christian. When they preach this way, they are preaching and teaching an emphasis on works that is extremely close to what Rome preaches and teaches.

On the other hand, Pope Francis - just last week - stated that an atheist can be saved if he follows his conscience. Many Christians wondered how he could say something like this! Don't wonder, because it's simple: Rome generally puts works in front of faith. It doesn't matter to them if those works are done as a Catholic, a Muslim, or even as an atheist. The works are what count in Rome's ledger book.

(continued from page 2)

I have a question, however: If an atheist can be saved by following his conscience, then what is the Son of God doing dying on the cross? Pope Francis claims to be Jesus' representative on earth. In his statement,

however, he has made Jesus to be a liar - Jesus who says "Whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

So what should we do? Rejoice that God has brought you into a Christian congregation and Christian denomination of believers called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We had our start in WISCONSIN. As EVANGELICALS, we love preaching the forgiveness of Jesus. As LUTHERANS, we take our stand with Luther on grace alone, faith alone, and Scripture alone. As a SYNOD, we rejoice that we believe the very same truths as hundreds of thousands of other believers.

Rather than worry about some things being too "catholic" at Trinity OR wanting Trinity to look and sound more like a "protestant" church down the road, let's excel at being who

we are: Old school Lutherans with a message and mission for the here and now. We are your grandpa's church. We are your grandson's church. Best of all: we are Jesus' church.

I hereby raise a toast to the memory of Martin Luther and his fellow reformers. But more importantly, I hereby raise a prayer of thanks to God that we still believe as they did!

Pastor Christie

## CALLED WORKER APPRECIATION — Come October 12/13, 2013

One weekend in October is set aside annually at Trinity to express our appreciation to God and to our called workers, who devote their lifetimes to serving our Savior God with us. On October 12/13 we will celebrate the labors of love of these individuals:

	Starting year # at Trinity	starting year # of mir	nistry
Sue Braun	8	26	-
Pastor Aaron Christie	4	16	
Julie Eggert	8	18	
John Ganey	1	8	
Pastor Lawrence Gates	19	30	
Jeff Inniger	2	36	-
Tracey Inniger	1	35	
Rachel Pierson	9	9	"
Jim Martens	16	49	
Pastor Scott Oelhafen	20	20	
Krista Rydecki	6	13	
Matthew Rydecki	7	16	
Rhonda Timmermann	23	24	
Nona Zellmer	13	32	



Teaching assistants (not called)

Sara Borgwardt, Liesel Geppert, Karen Jacobs, Christine Oelhafen, Karen Schultz. Kristina Magsig

Take a moment to thank God for these servants of God in prayer this October. And take a moment to thank our workers personally for their faithful Christian service at Trinity Lutheran Church. And nothing would give our workers more joy than to see us encourage each of our sons and daughters at Trinity to consider studying for the full-time preaching and teaching ministry to join them one day in sharing Jesus with others as called workers.

# **A Word from Trinity's Congregation President**

"Encourage and Carry On; Am I All In?"

(Luke 14:25-33)

Trinity is wrapping up its Fall Program, "Encourage One Another." Several hundred members took the time to reflect on worship and their relationship to God. The final piece of the handout was a brainstorming activity in which we were asked to come up with one thing that we can do to encourage one another in worship and to carry on.

It is very nearly a cinematic cliché. The commanding officer surveys his assembled troops. He details for them the difficulties that lie ahead. Everyone stands at rigid attention. The situation is grave. The orders are clear. But at the end of the speech the commander smiles, assures them of his support and leadership, and says, "Carry on."

Our Lord's words in the gospel bring us to rigid attention today. "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple."

Disciples follow. That is what disciples do. To be a disciple of Jesus one needs to know where Jesus is headed. The gospel writer makes it clear earlier when he writes, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51). The destination is Jerusalem, outside the walls of which there is a place called The Skull. Those who would be disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ must understand that the Christian journey always leads to the cross.

Jesus underscores the gravity of discipleship with the words, "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." For the church there is warning in these words. Unless we are willing to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of others, all the activity in which we engage is just so much "carrying on."



We stand before the altar today, brought to rigid attention by the cost of discipleship. We hear our Lord say, "This is my body, for you. This is my blood. Remember me." Can we receive these words as both a costly and gracious invitation to "Carry on" Christ's ministry in the world?

Jesus calls us to assess carefully the cost of living as a disciple, for it is a life where self isn't the highest priority, where traditional bonds of allegiance are subservient to the Gospel and where possessions are not the defining feature of our existence.

- Church President Ted Oertel

## TRINITY MINISTRY MATTERS



#### TRINITY'S FALL FELLOWSHIP EVENT

Please join Trinity's fellowship committee for some fun fall activities. We are inviting you to come and joins us for a day filled with some of Wisconsin's favorite fall traditions. First start off in the 4.5 acre corn maze, then hop on to the hay ride and pick your own pumpkin. You can then stroll along the corny lane and finish up by stuffing your own scarecrow! Sign up sheets can be found in the back of church or contact Amanda



Smith at 414-840-7317/ amanda1109smith@gmail.com for more information.

Where: Jim's Pumpkin Farm N124 W17781 W Lovers Lane Germantown, WI 53022

http://jimspumpkinfarm.com/

When: Sat October 12th 1:00PM



#### (Meet in Trinity's lower lot)

General Admission is free! Hay ride and pick your own pumpkin (any size) \$5

\*Participate in other activities at additional costs



Sponsored By Trinity's Fellowship Committee

## Trinity Blood Drive—October 28



Our Evangelism Commission will be hosting a Community Blood Drive on Monday October 28. Donating blood is a way in which we can contribute to the needs of our neighbors. Have you or a loved one ever needed blood during a hospital stay? We can do our part for the next person who needs blood. Donating is easy, and may even become a habit when

you realize how much Christian love you are showing!

The drive runs from 3 pm to 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Child care will be even be available while you donate, and you can SAVE A LIFE! Walk-ins are welcome; just stop by after work. Contact coordinator Jen Spooner 262-691-7612 for more info.

Use this as a chance to invite a friend to help.

### **Our Caring Shepherds Matter**

Wouldn't it be great if someone noticed that our members were missing from regular worship for several weeks and cared enough to make a friendly phone call to invite them back? That's what our Caring Shepherds do every month at Trinity. Coordinated by our Board of Elders, these 10+ Christian women and men reach out to invite our members back to regular contact with God's Word. Moreover, they put the CARE in Caring Shepherds.

Most of the time, they simply talk to answering machines. They have been known to listen, pray with, and even refer any special issues to our pastors for further spiritual care. This past month, one of our Caring Shepherds was even thanked for her faithful service. As Caring Shepherd Zona Schalow says: "I just want our members to come back to worship their LORD with us."

Pray for our Caring Shepherds. Care about these faithful volunteers who are the unsung heroes of our congregation. Help them carry out their important responsibilities by passing on a message or reaching out in love to a neighbor. In many congregations, there is no one to help contact important souls. Thank God we have Caring Shepherds at Trinity!

## An October Update on Stephen Ministries

It is amazing that when our 15 candidates began their training last April to become Stephen Ministers, I am sure that they thought the end would never come. They will now finish their 50 hours of training the end of October. What an accomplishment this has been for them because not one person has dropped out of the training. Now they are all excited about getting started in actually serving people.

We now need your help. Now we need to identify the people that we can serve. Often people think that when they go through a crisis that they need to tough it out themselves. Now God has provided 15 trained people who know how to help and how to support people going through crisis. Stephen Ministers are simply Christian friends that help and support them during this time. Please, look around and help us identify these people. Maybe this person is you. Let us help.

If you know of anyone or if you would like a Stephen Minister to help you, please contact Pastor Gates at gateslarry@hotmail.com. Or Kathy Gates at kag41@hotmail.com. If you don't have a computer please call us at the church any time: 262-547-5350. You are never alone. Please let us help you or a friend.

#### **NEWS FROM TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL**

#### God Is Good!

"This looks like a brand new gym!

"It is so much brighter in here. Did we get new lights in the gym?

"The new bleachers are great! This is the first time in many years that I have been able to sit in the top row to watch a game."

These three comments are just examples of what I heard during the first home volleyball game of the year. Parents, grandparents, players and fans all have noticed and made comments about the upgrades to our gymnasium. These comments do not even include the updates made to the gym roof and locker room. We would not have been able to do any of this without the wonderful money gifts that we received from you over the course of the summer. From roof repair, to painting the gym walls, to redoing our gym floor, to new bleachers – none of this would have been able to happen without your generous prayers and gifts. The students, parents, faculty, and Board of Education members thank you for your support with these projects and for the support of Trinity Lutheran School. God is truly good!

"Either I mistake your shape and making quite, or you are that shrewd and knavish sprite. Are you not?"

If you have walked by the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms recently you may have heard talking like this coming out of their classrooms. No, they were not learning a foreign language, but these students have been studying Shake-

speare's Midsummer's Night Dream. Through this study, 40 students have gained a greater appreciation for the Elizabethan English and for one of the greatest authors of all time. A big thank you to teachers Liesel Geppert and Kristina Magsig for exposing our upper graders to this classical literature.



## **Are They Students or Are They Teachers?**

Every week the 6th grade students spend time with the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, helping them learn their math or doing other academic activities. These activities not only strengthen the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in their math skills, but this activity is good experience for the older students on how to patiently encourage, support, and mentor those who are younger.