

SERVING THE LORD IN

# GERMANY

NEWS FROM PASTOR GARY SCHUSCHKE



July 2019

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## Meet the Newest Member of Trinity Lutheran Church!

Please join us in thanking God that Sarah Machoba Hopfinger came into the Kingdom of God through the waters of Holy Baptism this month! Sarah's family is the very picture of the population of Frankfurt, Germany today. Sarah's mother, Valerie, comes from Zimbabwe and her father, Markus, was born in East Germany. His family moved to the Frankfurt area after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The family that gathered for this joyful celebration traveled from such places as Zimbabwe, South Africa and Brazil. At the fellowship time that followed, languages could be heard from all around the world. I am certain they were all saying the same thing. All were wishing Sarah God's richest blessings! Thank you to all of you who are making it possible for me to share the Gospel with Sarah and her family!

## A Time of Growth and Reunion at the National Youth Gathering

Seven of our young people and their two advisors were blessed to attend the National Lutheran Youth Gathering in July. They began their time by attending a special event for all the international youth. They met youth from Hong Kong, Korea, Kenya and Vietman, to name only a few. These international participants were blessed to help open the first mass event at the Gathering.

Our youth experienced many highlights. They enjoyed the Bible studies, and the energy and Gospel messages of the mass events. They also participated in a servant event with the *Feed My Starving Children* organization. Along the way, they were reunited with many former members of the Trinity Lutheran family, including Kendra McNatt, who served Trinity as DCE. They also had one more wonderful surprise. They received the Lord's Supper, at the closing worship service, from the Rev. Wayne Braun. Pastor Braun served Trinity Lutheran Church immediately before me. It was truly a family gathering!





## “The Ringers of Trinity Church”

When the readers of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (Frankfurt General Newspaper) opened their papers on Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> they saw a full page article with the title: *Die Glöckner der Trinity Church* (The Ringers of Trinity Church). Our handbell ministry, here at Trinity Lutheran Church, has had the honor of being featured in the main newspaper of Frankfurt, Germany!

This is how it happened. Handbell groups are very rare in Germany. Last year, our *Sanctuary Ringers* went on a concert tour to German Baltic Sea cities from Lübeck to

Rostock. One concert was held in the city of Schwerin, roughly 400 miles from here. A listener at this concert was so impressed that she called her sister, a reporter for the *Frankfurt General Newspaper*, and told her about the bell choir she had heard. She told her that since these bell ringers were part of a church right in Frankfurt, she should take the opportunity to hear them play some time.

The reporter did one better. She called our church and arranged to attend a bell rehearsal and to talk with our players. The end result was this full page article complete with color photos and contact information for us here at Trinity Lutheran Church. The article explains the workings of a bell choir in detail and provides a very positive look at our congregation. We thank God that he has used our faithful bell ringers to bring the name of Trinity Lutheran out into our community in such a wonderful way! Please join us in praying that God might use this article to help bring the Gospel to those in greater Frankfurt.

## Praying for Each Other

Your brothers and sisters in Christ are praying for you! We know that you are praying for us too. In your prayers, please remember:

- All of us here at Trinity Lutheran. School starts soon. Our families are returning and our educational programs will resume soon. Please pray that we would all grow in our understanding of God’s grace and in our ability to share it.
- The youth of Trinity, that their experiences at the National Youth Gathering would continue to impact their lives.
- For Sarah, Valerie and Markus, that God would bless these new parents and this new family.
- For my family in the US, especially for Asher and Sophia. These twins were born to members of my family. They both have health issues. Please pray that they would both get home soon.

To support the LCMS through the work of Pastor Gary Schuschke, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks “Support of Pastor Gary Schuschke” Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/schuschke](http://lcms.org/schuschke)

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