



We at Trinity Lutheran Church, a bilingual and bicultural congregation, worked together, planned, and organized our first Community Outreach Carnival, which took place in August. It was a bilingual congregation-led carnival with pastoral support. The invitation to our carnival was open to all, and as it turns out, we were able to reconnect with individuals from the community, former families and friends of the church, neighbors, staff from the adjoining school, and visitors to our church from past activities.

The Gospel message was shared through music and personal testimonies. In addition, an invitation to join our worship service was extended to our 70-80 guests.

As a congregation, we learned more than we expected by working together planning, buying supplies, making games, setting them up and cleaning up. We learned that an event such as our carnival can be done successfully, working together no matter the differences in language, culture or age. We had first-hand experience that in God's kingdom, language is no barrier to work together as children of God.

Along with eating the delicious foods, adults, youth and children played games and were given prizes.

Some of our youngest volunteers had a great and enjoyable time. *"I enjoyed participating at the prizes table exchanging winning tickets for prizes,"* said one 9-year-old church member who volunteered.

"Sentimos una gran satisfacción del resultado de nuestro primer evento. Nos dio la oportunidad de conocernos más como comunidad y la comunidad nos conoció como iglesia. Esperamos que en un futuro esas personas estén con nosotros," expressed Maria, one of Trinity's Latino members.

Translation: *We feel a great satisfaction from the turnout of our first event. It gave us the opportunity to connect with each other more as a community, and the community got to know us as a church. We hope that in the near future those individuals we met will join us”*

(Expressed Maria one of our Latino members)

We plan to make this an annual church event. We have learned what changes need to be made in order to accommodate more people to attend. One of those changes will be to change the event day and hours schedule to adapt to Watsonville’s agricultural community, to change the day from Saturday to Sunday, and to use social media and radio/newspaper to promote the event, along with word of mouth and flyer hand-out.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Watsonville

