

Ray Reisig's Years at Trinity Lutheran School, Portland, OR
Jim Riedl

After teaching four years in Indiana, Ray Reisig accepted a call in 1976 to Trinity Lutheran in Portland, OR and for the next 34 years taught at several levels ranging from fourth through eighth grade. He spent many of his years in the Middle School as the seventh-grade teacher and departmentalized Language Arts teacher. He demanded much from his students and his teaching style brought out the best in them. They wanted to show Mr. Reisig what they could accomplish - high expectations, great results! He had a special interest in Bible history and made both the Old and New Testament come alive for his students in his Religion classes.

His lesson plans included creative and fun activities for his classes. His annual egg drop from the top west side of the building was a seventh-grade event that the whole school gathered to watch and together "Oooed and Ahhaad" as each creative container with raw egg inside was thrown over the side by Mr. Reisig and smashed on the ground below. There was his weight-bearing experiment with bridge construction. Which student's bridge could support the most science books? His students looked forward to his annual science field trip to Oaks Park amusement park where they took notes on the physics of the different rides.

Ray loved dancing and brought that love to his Physical Education classes with his Dance units. After his retirement, he and his wife, Cathy, who also loved dancing, put on a choreographed Christmas musical for the Trinity students each December for several years. He directed many Christmas and spring musicals where he used his love for drama and music in these upper grade major productions. Every spring Ray directed an intramural softball/kickball program which involved the entire middle school during their after-lunch recess time – a very popular several weeks of competition for the kids. His many and varied classroom and academic activities made him a beloved teacher at TLS.

Ray had a great love for coaching and accomplished great things in the Athletic program. In his years at Trinity, he coached flag football, soccer, basketball and track. As in the classroom, he was dedicated to excellence with his teams. An example of this was when the Metro Christian League went from flag football to soccer. Ray had to adjust. He knew nothing about soccer so leading up to his first season he read books and studied the game. That first year he coached Trinity to a 10-0 season and took the league championship! Basketball was his first love and his results speak for themselves. Ray's boys' teams won numerous championships

in The Lutheran Elementary School Tournament (LEST) which brought Lutheran schools from six states into competition. His victories included five straight championships, 1998-2002, in the large school division, a feat never done before and likely will not happen again. He took the Trinity "Tigers" to the National Lutheran Schools Basketball Tournament in Valparaiso, Indiana four times and in 2001 they were crowned national champions! The trophy and net from that tourney are proudly displayed in the trophy case and three banners hang high in the gym to commemorate the great accomplishments. In 2006 Trinity honored him on his remarkable achievement of reaching the 800th victory of his basketball coaching career!

His long and stellar career at Trinity has impacted several thousand students over the years. Many made it a point to come back to Trinity to visit with him years after their graduation. Ray served His Lord faithfully in the classroom, on the gym floor and on the playing field. He will be missed and always remembered. As worded in the 2010/2011 "Tiger Tails" yearbook dedicated to him: "Mr. Reisig, we appreciate your hard work and your dedication to Trinity over these many years. Thank you for your extra hours on the field and in the gym for the boys' sports. Your fellow teachers, former students and their families will always remember you."