

WELS CONNECTION CLOSE-UP

August 2019



Connecting with a community

Intown Lutheran Church in Atlanta, Ga., held its first official worship service in September 2018. Rev. Lucas Bitter was called to start this home mission with just a few core members from nearby Marietta, Ga. For the first full year, Bitter and the founding members of Intown focused on holding Bible Basics classes and getting out into the community.

“There are pros and cons of being in a really big city. One of the cons is something like door-to-door canvassing doesn’t go over well for a lot of different reasons,” says Bitter. “The pro would be that the city gathers people for you in a variety of ways, like local festivals. We’re doing six of these festivals this year. Ten to twenty thousand people come out to these neighborhood festivals, so we can meet as many people in one weekend as we could in a month or two of canvassing.”

Between the community outreach efforts and Bitter’s office location—he uses space in a co-working office space, where he gets to meet and interact with a lot of people—the new

church welcomed more than 60 people to its first worship service.

Spenser was one of those 60. Spenser hadn’t been to church in years. He found himself wandering in faith and unsure of his beliefs. Moving to the city of Atlanta had provided him with a great job, but it did nothing to fill the spiritual void in his life.

Then one weekend in August 2018, Spenser attended a free community festival. As he walked through a long line of booths, he saw a booth sponsored by volunteers from Intown Lutheran Church. Spenser spun their prize wheel and won a free pair of sunglasses. He also received an invitation to their grand opening worship service. Spenser had been Lutheran at one point in his life, and the people at the booth seemed friendly enough. He decided to attend that first worship service.

He enjoyed the worship service and the Bible-focused sermon. During the post-service

announcements, Spenser heard about a new Bible Basics class, which would be offered in a local coffee shop. He decided to give it a try.

Three months later, Spenser joined Intown as an adult confirmand. Through the powerful working of the Holy Spirit in Bible Basics class, his faith was built and strengthened to the point that he is now excited to be a part of this family of believers.

WHAT CAN I DO?

You can read more stories about WELS Home Missions at wels.net/missions.

