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## Wings & Things

### Event's first year raises \$1,500 for church youth trip

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A pair of first-time barbecue competitors took top honors Sunday at the first Wings & Things BBQ + Car Show.

The event was held by the youth groups at Trinity Lutheran Church and St. John's Lutheran Church in Stringtown. The groups raised about \$1,500 to help fund their trip next July to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas.

The event, held every three years, provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come

together and strengthen their faith. The cost for each student to attend is about \$1,000.

Stephen Johnson and Tom Proctor easily took top honors in the barbecue competition with a simple-but-tasty wing recipe.

Attendees paid \$15 to sample the barbecue, along with chips and a drink, then vote on their favorite barbecue and classic car.

Proctor and Johnson have grilling experience together for previous events, but they said this was their first competition.

They said they were surprised and excited by the win.

"We had no aspirations," Proc-

tor said.

Everyone offered the judges wings, Proctor said, so they spruced things up for the judges with other "things" — Kielbasa wrapped in bacon, Spam, pineapple and grilled cheese. Their wing recipe was straightforward: They grilled them low and slow for about two hours with just Schulte's Fresh Foods dry rub.

Rick Hardin took second place and Jim Schulte took third in the competition, which featured eight teams.

In the car show, Kenneth Braun won "best of show" with his 1956

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Gerry Tritz/News Tribune

At right, Kenneth Braun shows off his 1956 Belair to Jeremy Collins at Sunday's Wings & Things BBQ + Car Show at Trinity Lutheran Church and School. Braun won "best of show" for the car, which he restored over a 12-year period starting in 1988.

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Belair, which he bought in 1988. Restoring it was an arduous process, but he said it was worth it.

"There were times I had the time and didn't have the money, and times I had the money and didn't have the time," he said.

He drove the car for the first time in 2000, saying it reminds him of his youth.

"I love it," he said.

The top three barbecue teams won gift baskets with barbecue supplies, and Braun won a gift basket with car detailing products.

Coordinator Angie Brenner said she hopes to make it an annual event. She said it was special because it was an inter-generational event — adults of all ages helping the children put on the event.

"I like to do our fundraisers around that instead of just selling things because it's important to build those relationships and connect with each other," she said.