

Newsletter of
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
COVENANT CHURCH**
9230 S. Pulaski Road
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
Phone 708-422-5111
E-mail: office@trinitycovoaklawn.org
Website: www.trinitycovoaklawn.org

April

Ushers

Phil Cavallone – Captain
Steve & Kelly Bradbury
Tom Klutcharch
Chuck Havel

Greeters

3 Steve & Kelly Bradbury,
and Madelyn & Allyson Ford
10 Richard & Priscilla Swanson
17 Kay Shannon, Grace Viner
24 The Przybylowski Family

Nursery

3 Denise Sullivan, Diana Eigenbauer
10 Michelle West
17 Rita Grijalva, Elizabeth Byland
24 Melissa Panush

Counters

Jay Hanson
Tom Dorl
Priscilla Swanson

Birthdays

2 Sandra Hutchinson
3 Svea Agner
3 Mary Faith West
7 Barbara Bailey
8 Arturo Grijalva
9 Thomas Eustace, Jr.
11 Jim Howell
11 Karen Curry
13 Christina Palazzolo
14 Laura McShane
16 Lucy Anne Panush
17 Allyson Ford
18 Joyce Hodo
20 Janice Goetz
21 Cody Hanson
21 Bob Karlson
27 Susan Raines

***If we missed your birthday, please
let the office know so that it will be listed
in the future.***

The Messenger April 2016

Over the Pastor's Shoulder

"We are burdened for the spiritual condition of those who do not yet know Christ.

We have identifiable pathways for evangelism to take place in our ministries.

Our people are growing in the ability to build spiritual friendships and equipped to share their faith as God-birthed opportunities arise." (*One of the ten markers of a healthy missional church, from the Covenant's material on church vitality*)

"Just hand people a bowl of soup," directed the person in charge at the shelter for the homeless. "This isn't the place for preaching, we do deeds, not words here." He was giving instructions to a group of volunteers from the Covenant Church in DeKalb.

I wanted to say to him, "No worries here. We're not that good at sharing our faith with others. It's a whole lot easier for us to hand someone a bowl of soup than to announce to a person without housing that Jesus Christ is Lord. Yes, it is easier to say nothing but, 'here have some soup'. The homeless have nothing to fear from us."

I know the old saying, "I'd rather see a sermon than hear one." I know that Saint Francis allegedly said, "Always preach the Gospel, and if necessary use words." I know the often depressing gap between our Christian words and our deeds.

Still, isn't it interesting that today finding words for our faith may be a greater challenge for some of us than doing the deeds of faith?

I wonder if our congregation could do more to equip people in the skills required to share our faith with others? I have seen congregations that did role-playing exercises in evangelism in which a leader said, "You seem like an intelligent person. I can't believe that you actually attend church. Why is someone as smart as you stuck with those Christians?" How would you respond? What approach would you take?

The group then takes turns role-playing and observing others in the process in order to get better at articulating the Christian faith. I wonder if it's time for us to take more seriously equipping our people for the challenges of speaking about Jesus?

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jim

P.S. In Messengers to follow, I'll be reflecting upon the other nine markers of a healthy missional church.

Adult Sunday School



Sunday Morning Adult Study

In the Fireside Room, Mel Mueller will teach on the subject of "The Parables of Jesus".

Come join us at 11:15 A.M. after the morning worship service.

During the month of April in the Overflow Room, Rich Hood's class will focus on Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

With Sympathy

With
Sympathy



As a church family we extend our sympathy to the family of Marlene Hardesty, who entered the life eternal on Thursday, March 17, 2016. A funeral service was held at Trinity on March 22. Interment Chapel Hill Gardens South Cemetery, Oak Lawn, IL.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Nancy Keller who entered the life eternal on Tuesday, March 22, 2016. A memorial service was held at Trinity on Friday, April 1.

Peace be to the memories of Marlene and Nancy.

Dear Friends,

A BIG note of THANKS!

Thanks for your cards; thanks for your phone calls; thanks for your prayers and thanks for your visits, Pastor Sandberg.

My recent quadruple heart bypass surgery was the scariest, most painful medical experience of my 70+ years. The words GOD, ANGELS, FAMILY and FRIENDS all have a new meaning to me.

Recovery is slow and includes 3 months of cardiac rehab, 3 times a week (Monday-Wednesday-Friday - had to save Thursdays for Pryme Tymers. Special THANKS to Priscilla, Rich, Charlene, Jeff and Diane for picking up the slack!).

Again, THANKS and GOD BLESS

Tom Panush

Dear Trinity Congregation,

Thank you for your compassion, sympathy and prayers during our time of sorrow. Thank you to Trinity for the beautiful flowers.

Britta & Cheryl Johnson, Linda Kozak



Altar Flowers



If you would like to celebrate or honor someone on a given special date, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Flowers are \$40 and you are invited to take them home following morning worship.

Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study



During past weeks and in weeks to come we are processing spiritual evidence on reasons Why Christ Came as Son of Man. We are given a more in-depth view rather than the usual general reasons – to save mankind, to experience all we experience, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to be available upon request, etc.

But, there is so much more to learn and absorb, so much based on responsibility and privilege. We do not want to be luke warm in understanding and/or application. We want to be on-fire. We long to be on track as children of God and stay on track.

As we meet each Tuesday our focus is constant and consistent. We seldom or ever get off track. Yes, we have differing opinions, ways of worshipping, lively discussions, unanswered questions which invariably lead to the basics of knowing we are blessed with tools necessary for being representatives of God's work today.

I know God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to behold. I also know God loves to delight us as He gives unexpected surprises keeping us moving forward each day. Do we recognize His surprises? I hope so! As we expect good things to happen they will and so it was recently as I listened to Charles Stanley on his In-Touch program. His message was the importance of staying on track – surprise – surprise!

My note-taking skills have not improved since college years of the 50's but find them adequate for my purpose. So, this is what you get this month – short, disconnected sprints of Stanley's message based on God's truths and claims.

1. Make prayer an all day priority – listen – this is your equipment for the day.
2. Obey God – leave consequences to Him – expect surprises – Read John chapters 14 and 16. We cannot improve on His Plans. He laughs at ours – free will never works or satisfies.
3. Trust God – Proverbs 3 – He has the right to direct us. Remember His timing – patience is a gift.
4. Depend upon the Holy Spirit – He encourages, enables, equips.

5. We are unconditionally loved – why? We were created for a special purpose – His plan – learning, trusting, listening.
6. Give back to God generously – He delights in giving/receiving.
7. Rest in assurance – He is constant/consistent – promises always kept.
8. Keep your eyes on your destination – no turning back after last breath – no second chance.
9. Live on track and be received by your personal Savior and friend – a promise!
10. Have your answers ready –
 - A. How much did you learn?
 - B. What blessings did you share?
 - C. What did you do with these opportunities?

Tuesdays – Fireside Room
 Bakery 9A.M. – 9:30
 Study 9:30-10:45

Barbara Johnson

New address for Lorraine Sorensen:

BRIA of Palos, 10426 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465,
 708-598-3460.



Let's Do Brunch Every Kid a Camper Fundraiser Sunday, April 10

Every Kid a Camper Committee invites you to attend a "Let's Do Brunch" on Sunday, April 10, at 12 P.M. in Peterson Hall. Join us for delicious breakfast casseroles, a yogurt bar, fruit, donut holes, muffins, quick breads and O.J. Cost is \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 kids.

Sign up to bring your favorite muffins or quick bread, or cut up fruit. Proceeds will be used to send our wonderful children to camp this summer. Thank you for your support!

Please RSVP to the church office at 708-422-5111.

Thank you!

Confirmation Sunday May 1

Confirmands
 Shannon Lee
 Jeremy Schroeder

1st Year Students
 Matthew Starr
 Justin Lee
 MaryFaith West

Mitch's Musings

HE IS RISEN!!! He is risen indeed! I hope everyone had a refreshing Easter weekend and that God's presence was as transcendent as always! I was grateful for the Sandberg's invitation to join them and their family for Easter lunch and a rigorous game of whiffle ball in the driveway. I am happy to let you know that Pastor Jim and I shut out the other team by a score of 9-0.

In other news, we are ready to dive into a new Sunday School curriculum in the months of April and May! Very exciting! We will need some help at various times throughout this curriculum from members of the congregation. There may be opportunities to showcase a particular skill set from cooking or baking to arts and crafts, or even something totally unique like musical instruments or a science project! So watch for that – we will find you! ☺ The whole of the curriculum is being modeled after that of Vacation Bible School, in which the groups do a rotation of sorts between activities, which will hopefully reinforce the lesson more thoroughly, from multiple styles of learning. Thanks in advance for your help, and for the help of all the teachers to make this possible.

Lastly, on a personal note: I'm getting married in August as you all know, and I am in search of something. I really want to wear a twill or tweed vest on my wedding day. I plan to wear khaki pants, a white button up dress shirt, and dress shoes, etc. – very simple. But to set myself apart from the groomsmen, I'd like to wear an older-style vest. I'm wondering if there are any men in the congregation who might have a vest from a 2 or 3 piece suit they would be willing to part with (either borrowed or bought – I'd like to keep it if possible)? I'm thinking in the sand-esspresso color palette. Taupe/Beige/Brown, etc. Hopefully with a bit of texture (twill/tweed). Please let me know what you have or if you have a friend who might like to sell one to me. Thank you so much! CAN'T WAIT!

Upcoming Events:

- April 1 ELEMENTARY EVENT – Movie Night!! 6:30pm
 @Trinity-Bring your own Popcorn!
 INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!!
- April 3 Worship @ 10am (Youth Music)
 Confirmation @ 11:15am (7th & 8th)
 Sunday School @ 11:15am (9th-12th)
- April 10 Confirmation @ 11:15am (7th & 8th)
 Sunday School @ 11:15am (9th-12th)
Every Kid A Camper BRUNCH, 12 pm
 YOUTH HELP CLEAN UP!!
 Youth Group – following clean up @ Trinity
- April 17 Worship @ 10am (Youth Music)
 Confirmation @ 11:15 (7th & 8th)
 Sunday School @ 11:15am (9th – 12th)
 Youth Group @ 1-2:30pm
- April 22 FAMILY NIGHT – Relay Races, Games, & Ice Cream at Trinity @ 6:30 -7:30pm
- April 24 Confirmation @ 11:15am (7th & 8th)
 Sunday School @ 11:15am (9th-12th)
 Youth Group @ Trinity @ 1:00pm

Please join us for a Wedding Shower
for
Karissa VanBuskirk
and
Jon-Anders Mateer

Saturday, April 9
11 A.M.
Peterson Hall

Registered at:
Bed, Bath & Beyond
Target



Please RSVP by Tuesday, April 5
to the church office at 708-422-5111



Pryme Tymers

Join us for our April
programs:

April 14, 11 A.M.:

Entrée: Roast Pork Loin

Program: *Mo' Beat Blues Show*. Introducing a NEW show to Pryme Tymers, Mo' Beat Blues is much more than just blues. This live show includes jazz, country, swing, harmonica solos...and more! Harry Porterfield from Channel 2 calls them "a music machine". Mo' Beat, Mo' Music, Mo' Entertainment!

April 28 A.M.:

Entrée: Ham

Program: *Musichorale – A Preview Concert*. The signature choir from the Southside of Chicago/suburbs is returning for a Spring concert, featuring many familiar tunes.

Make your reservation by the Friday BEFORE the event. The cost per meeting is \$7. Be sure to bring two canned goods for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. There is always a great need.

Beverly Morgan Park Community Choir

The Beverly Morgan Park Community Choir will hold its annual concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 10 at St. Cajetan Church, 2445 West 112th Street, Chicago. This year's theme is "The Message." Each work reflects a particular spiritual message.

The Choir, sponsored by the Beverly Morgan Park Community of Churches, is composed of 55 singers from 29 churches throughout Chicago's south side. This year's concert will offer inspiring Christian contemporary, classical and gospel selections accompanied by piano, organ, percussion, and brass instruments. The Macomb Chamber Singers will make a special guest appearance, joining the Choir for select numbers including Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass." *NOTE: Carol Byland from Trinity is singing with the Choir this year.*

There is no cost for admission and the event is open to all. A free will offering will be taken. For more information visit www.bmpcc.org or e-mail bmpcchoir@gmail.com.

The Agape Ringers

The Agape Ringers will perform two concerts in April: Sunday, April 10, at 4 P.M., St. John's Lutheran Church, 47th Street and Brainard Avenue, LaGrange, IL, free will offering.

Friday, April 29, at 7:30 P.M., Wheaton College Pierce Chapel, (connected to McAlister Hall on the north side), Wheaton, IL. For more information or to order tickets, call the Ticket and Information Office at 630-752-5010 or go to www.artistseries.org, or contact artist.series@wheaton.edu.

Save the Date

The Pacesetters' next get together is Saturday, May 21, at 3 P.M. at Grace and Harry Persson's house. Information to come in the next issue of the Messenger.

Greetings from the Swansons

Dear Friends at Trinity in Oak Lawn,

You all have been, and continue to be, such faithful supporters of missions, missionaries, and of Steve and me personally. We thank God for the many ways that you encourage us. In most recent weeks, it's your Christmas gift that is bringing joy to our hearts.

Triennial is coming this summer, and since it is such a great opportunity to connect with many supporters and the women of Evangelical Covenant Church, Barb is planning to go to Kansas City. We have decided to use our Christmas gift towards her costs. So, we do say thanks for making that happen.

We are very excited to soon be home in the U.S. – we're down to our last 2.5 months here in Belgium. There is a lot of packing and cleaning to do, even as we continue on in ministry. We have just completed a potential ministry site visit to Sweden, and have another visit planned to Dresden, Germany in April. Pray for God's clear direction about where we should go next. Both places have great need for workers among refugees.

We look forward to being with you in the coming year of home assignment. In the meantime, thanks for your faithful partnership in ministry.

With thankful hearts,
Barb & Steve Swanson

VBS is Coming!

We have exciting news, dates are set for VBS!!! This year VBS will run from July 11 - 15. As always, we are looking for anyone interested to assist us. Please contact Karen McShane if you'd like to volunteer. Look for program details and registration information to come in future issues of the Messenger. Thank you. Karen Mc Shane.

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

On-going Ministry

Sunday Mornings

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Nursery for Infants/Sunday School Pre-K – 3rd Grade

11:15 AM Sunday School Grades 4-6, Confirmation, Sr. High, Adult Classes
(childcare will be provided for parents who want to attend Sunday School)

Noah's Ark Preschool – Mon – Fri, 9 AM – 12 PM

Women's Bible Study – Tuesday, 9:30 AM, Fireside Room

Pryme Tymers – 2nd and 4th Thursday, 11 AM

Notes:

1: Elementary Night - Movie Night! at Trinity,
Bring your own Popcorn and Invite Your Friends! (6:30 PM)

2: Men's Prayer Breakfast, Jedi Garden (8 AM)

3: KICY Alaskan Radio special offering

4: Noah's Ark Preschool returns from Spring Break

5: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
Ronald McDonald House supper (4:30 PM)

9: Mateer-VanBuskirk Wedding Shower, Peterson Hall (11 AM)

10: Let's Do Brunch-Every Kid a Camper Fundraiser, Peterson Hall
(12 PM)

Youth Group at Trinity following Fundraiser clean-up

12: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)

Trustees & CE Board meetings (7 PM)

14: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

17: Youth Group (1-2:30 PM)

Articles for May Messenger due

19: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)

21: Church Board meeting (7 PM)

22: Family Night – Relay Races/Games/Ice Cream at Trinity
(6:30-7:30 PM)

24: Youth Group at Trinity (1 PM)

26: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)

28: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

May 1: Confirmation Sunday



Noah's Ark Preschool

April 2016 Newsletter



Dates to Remember

School Resumes
Monday, April 4

Spring Fundraiser
World's Finest Candy Bars

Upcoming Events- **Please mark your calendars!**

Mother's Day Tea
Friday, May 6
10:45-12:00

Parent/Teacher Conferences
Monday, May 9
No School

Memorial Day
Monday, May 25
No School

**Last Day of Preschool &
Graduation Celebration**
*All students participate in graduation-
More Information to come!*
Wednesday, June 1
9:30-12:00

Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Wojcik's class will review letters A-P, number recognition 0-20 and counting 1-100.

Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Dryier's class will focus on letters Ss, Tt & Uu and review past letters Aa - Rr and numbers 0-14.

For the month of April the children will focus on...

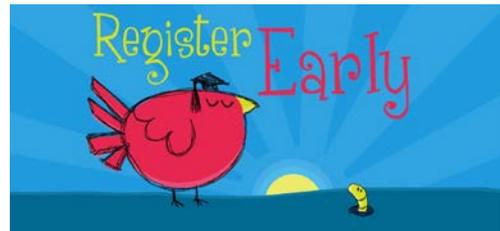
Colors- Pink, Yellow, Purple

Shapes- Oval

Math- Counting Fun

Science- Signs of spring

Our Early Bird Registration ends this month. Please see Mrs. Palazzolo if you would like to register.



A note of Thanks!

Thank you Pastor Jim for sharing the story about Amber Lamb.

Thank you for your support during our World's Finest candy bar fundraiser.

NOAH'S ARK PRESCHOOL

A NOTE FROM...
Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Wojcik

Dear Parents & Guardians,

April showers are here and what a great time to spend indoors with your family. Make time each week to play a board game or have your child teach you a new game, such as Simon Says or I spy; which we play in the classroom often.

April also brings in a review of the entire alphabet. Each day, the children will focus on a letter, beginning with the letter Aa. The vowels and consonants are taking on new meaning as the children are putting them together to form blends and words. A good foundation is being established that will prepare the children for kindergarten!

At home, please continue to work on letter sounds and recognition, number recognition 0-20 and counting 1-100. Please continue to practice printing daily with reminding your child to print from top to bottom.

Parent Conferences are around the corner, but if you have any questions or concerns at any time, please feel free to contact me!



Thank you,
Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Wojcik

A NOTE FROM...
Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Dryier

Dear Parents & Guardians,

April Showers bring May flowers! Let's hope the rain does not want to compete with our snowfall we had for this year! Always make the most of those rainy days inside with finger-painting, playing inside games or playing with clay. In the month of April, the children will focus on the letters Ss, Tt & Uu and continue to work on the previous letters learned, Aa-Rr for review. We are also focusing on number concepts 1-14 and counting all the way to 30! Each child is doing a great job!

During circle time we continue to review the shapes, colors, counting and our calendar. Please encourage your child to tell you about their day; by asking them what month it is or what the day of the week it is.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.

Happy Spring!



Sincerely,
Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Dryier

Golf for Kids

Plan now to join in the Antwan Williams Memorial Golf for Kids Classic on Monday, September 12, 2016. This year's event will be held at Hawk's View Golf Club, Lake Geneva, WI. Details and registration will be available in early June at www.covenantharbor.org.

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Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg

Senior Pastor

Mitch Haaby

Pastoral Intern

Nate VanDerMale

Interim Director of Music and Worship

Betty Aardema

Organist

Stuart Seale

Pianist

Christina Palazzolo

Director – Noah's Ark Preschool

Karen Christakos

Secretary

Joe Michalowicz

Custodian

Articles for the
May Messenger
are due April 17