

Newsletter of  
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL  
COVENANT CHURCH**  
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Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
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## December

### **Ushers**

Patricia Petersen – Captain  
Ray Lewis  
Mike Davies  
Michelle West

### **Greeters**

7 Dave & Arlene Sladek  
14 Thad, Julie, Jenna, Thad, Joey Przybylowski  
21 Norm & Diana Nilsson  
28 Clarence & Dolores Rosengren

### **Nursery**

7 Grace Persson, Megan McShane  
14 Kristine Schroeder, Virginia Fulton  
21 Kari Devine, Rebecca Hanson  
28 Dawn Hanson, Cody Hanson

### **Counters**

John Weszely  
Robert Karlson  
Tom Dori

### **Birthdays**

1 Kenneth Johnson  
2 Dolores Rosengren  
3 Tom Klutcharch  
5 Jo Ann Bergwall  
5 Ray Lewis  
5 Linnea Wimpenny  
9 Nancy Keller  
12 Kristine Schroeder  
13 James Byland  
15 Carol Strickland  
15 Nancy Mondry  
16 Melissa Panush  
17 Joyce Karlson  
17 William R. Hutchinson  
19 Katie Mondry  
19 Keith Mondry  
20 Roger Shannon  
20 David Raines  
20 Bob Reinert  
25 Matt Mateer  
26 Carol Latimer  
31 Rudy Chavez  
31 Joyce Nyberg

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

# *The Messenger* December 2014

## **Over the Pastor's Shoulder**

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. <sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

**(Luke 2:10-14)**

We all feel the pressure of approaching Christmas. The traffic is terrible. You can't find a parking space. Crowded malls make shopping a less than pleasant adventure.

You're thinking about presents – wondering what in the world you can get for so and so. You think of friends and loved ones who are so hard to shop for. You can't think of anything they need (which is rather strange when you take time to think of it).

Maybe there is nothing in a store that they need. But what about some tokens of love – what about love itself...

and friendship....  
and understanding...  
and consideration....  
and a helping hand...  
and a smile....  
and a prayer?

You can't buy these things at a mall, but these are the very things people need. Whoever receives such gifts will be blessed this Christmas or at any other time of the year.

Let's not allow the crowds and the rush to crowd Christmas out of our heart - for that's where it belongs.

Christmas is not in the shopping centers – but in the hearts of people.

Let's not give way to cynicism and mutter that "Christmas has become commercialized". It never will be unless you let it be. Your Christmas is not commercialized unless you commercialize it.

I wonder if you've been saying, "I just can't seem to feel the Christmas spirit this year"? That's too bad. As a confession of lack of faith, it is rather significant.

You are saying that you feel no joy that Jesus came into the world...you're confessing that his presence in the world is not a reality to you.

Maybe you need all the more to read the Christmas story over again; maybe you need to sit down with the Gospel of Luke and ponder the mystery of the story anew. And then I trust that you will remember what Christmas means – the beginning of Christianity...the second chance for the world...the hope for peace...and the only way.

I pray that you also remember the promise that the angels sang is the most wonderful music the world has ever heard – "Peace on Earth and Goodwill to All".

*May we keep Christmas in our hearts,  
that we may be kept in its hope. Amen.*

Merry Christmas,  
*Pastor Jim*

## *Advent at Trinity*

**December 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**10:45 A.M.**

**"Bad News, Good News"**  
(Mark 1:1-8)

**December 14, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**10:45 A.M.**

**"Can I Get a Witness?"**  
(John 1:6-8, 19-28)

**4:00 P.M.**

**Christmas Sing-a-Long**  
**with Stuart Seale and**  
**Nate Van Der Male**

**December 21, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**10:45 A.M.**

**"Remembering the Manger"**  
(Luke 1:26-38)

**4:00 P.M.**

**Christmas Program**

**December 24, Christmas Eve,**  
**Service of Candles and Carols**  
**5:30 P.M.**

**"Home for Christmas"**  
(Luke 2:1-20)



During the month of December the class will be led by the following members of the congregation: Cathy Gardner, Denise Krueger, Ray Lewis and Rev. Zach Lovig. Please join us on Sunday morning at 9:30 A.M. in the Fireside Room..

### **THOUGHT TO PONDER**

Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.

### **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. The dates available in December are 7, 14, 21 and 28. Flowers are \$40 and you are invited to take them home following morning worship.



### **With Sympathy**

As a church family we extend our sympathy to Dick Erickson on the death of his sister, Joan Corey. Joan entered the life eternal on November 4, 2014, in Nashville, TN.

### **Stewardship Moment**

In order to balance our budget every year we rely heavily on the generous gifts that come to us through the Thanksgiving offering, along with your generous giving throughout the month of December. We obviously appreciate your gifts each and every week of the year. It is your year end gifts that are so crucial to our fiscal well-being. It seems every December we find ourselves striving to erase the deficit, while scrambling to remain current with our mission obligations and day-to-day operating expenses. Soon we will be paying higher heating bills. No doubt there will be the inevitable boiler and furnace repairs. For these reasons we are asking you to please be as generous as possible with your December giving. We need to be in a good financial position as we enter 2015. We've met this challenge in previous years. We will meet it again with your gracious and generous giving. Thank you for your support year round.

The Stewardship Committee

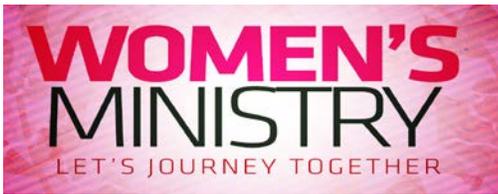


Thank you my fellow members of Trinity Evangelical Covenant church for your support during my illness. Your kindness was greatly appreciated during my time of need.

Jean Smith-Woodruff

### **New Address**

Natalie Hjelmberg  
c/o Laurel Vlcek  
1132 Stanton Rd.  
Lake Zurich, IL 60047



## Tuesday Women's Bible Study

At long last – we have answers to questions asked for ages with little or no satisfactory enlightenment or guarantees until now!

Read on for edifications and assurance about experiences the redeemed will encounter when God is met at the Eastern Gate in the New Jerusalem, the Eternal City, our new home – Heaven.

Beginning this month our study will be scripturally based as we grasp all the Savior has promised and readied for those who trust in Him.

We will walk, talk and listen as author Randy Alcorns guides us into areas we should be planning for and acquainted with as we work toward the future

Randy Alcorns is author of Heaven plus 24 books with 3 million copies in print; is recipient of the Gold Medallion; senior pastor, teacher and conference speaker. He holds degrees in theology biblical studies and ethics.

Heaven is an easy read and will satisfy our quest for rejoicing now and being right at home "then". We find our days in constant motion always planning so why not plan for eternity. Join us this month as we look toward all God has planned for us.

These questions might prompt your interest:

- ◇ What is life like in the present heaven? Heavens One and Two.
- ◇ Can you know you're going to heaven?
- ◇ Why is resurrection so important?
- ◇ Will the old earth be destroyed or renewed?
- ◇ What will our daily lives be like?
- ◇ Will we be ourselves?
- ◇ How will we relate to one another?
- ◇ Will animals, including our pets, live again?
- ◇ Will children remain children or mature to perfection?

Alcorns' extensive biblical treasury will bring loose ends together.

Our last December study week will be based on Mary, the mother of Jesus.

There will be no Bible Study on Dec. 23 and 30. We return to the Fireside Room Jan. 6, 2015.

Barbara Johnson

## Career Connections



The digital age, the time period in which we now live, is defined as the time period starting in the 1970s with the introduction of the personal computer with subsequent technology providing the ability to get and transfer information freely and quickly. We have come a long way from the clunky personal computers very few people owned in the 70s to the newest and smallest smartphones, tablets and laptops that most people now own.

*Job Searching in the Digital Age* was the subject of our November 10 meeting presented by guest speaker



Jean Riordan, who is the Director of Career Services at St. Xavier University. Jean holds a master's degree in Counseling Psychology and has spent the last 17 years at St. Xavier counseling and advising undergraduate, graduate and adult college students and alumni on career and job search related issues.

Jean's message to the group revealed the following touchpoints:

- ✓ Conceptualize your job search.
- ✓ Differences between expressed, non-expressed and DIY jobs.
- ✓ Be a good consumer of online resources and how to evaluate job listings.
- ✓ The importance of social media and an accompanying developed profile.
- ✓ Methods of searching for jobs using Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
- ✓ The value of networking; 70-80% of jobs come from networking.
- ✓ Dealing with job search stress.

We were so pleased to host Jean for the evening. She had the audience in complete rapture with her delightful and caring demeanor while reiterating subject matter that can be mundane and repetitive. Borrowing from the tagline of a well-known insurance company, Jean and St. Xavier were fulfilling the mission of being a "good neighbor" by serving our members and community with their expertise. *"A fool thinks he needs no advice, but a wise man listens to others."* Proverbs 12:15 (TLB)  
Denise Krueger

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The next Career Connections meeting on December 8, at 7 P.M., in the Fireside Room, will present "Interview Dialogue".

## Events for the Season of Advent

Miriam Circle/Covenant Women Ministries  
Presents  
**Jul Fest**



Saturday, December 6, 2014

10:15 A.M. – Doors open for craft shopping  
11:00 A.M. – Jul Fest Program – Heavenly Harps  
12 noon – Swedish Smorgasbord

## Jul Fest Decorations and Re-gifting

Preparations are underway for 2014 Jul Fest on Saturday, December 6, with doors opening at 10:15 A.M. for craft shopping. Heavenly Harps, a group of sisters playing their 4 harps, 2 flutes, and 2 violins will present our program at 11 A.M.

The decorating committee is looking for Swedish Christmas items that we can use to decorate the tables, such as: Swedish Table Squares for the centerpieces, Tomten Gnomes/Santa Elf, Dala Horses, or any Swedish Christmas decoration. Please drop off your items at the church office by December 2. All items should be marked on the bottom with your name to assure its return to the owner. Contact Charlene Sandberg if you have any questions.

Covenant Women are asked to help set up decorations on Thursday, December 4, at 1 P.M. in Peterson Hall. Donations of 3 dozen "home baked" cookies are also needed for the Jul Fest dessert table.

We are also setting up a "Re-gifting Table" in the craft room. We are looking for items you no longer use but are in good condition. Household and seasonal items would be appreciated. Proceeds to benefit Covenant Women projects. Items can be brought to church between November 30 and December 5, and placed on the "counter" in the Choir Room.



## Christmas Sing-A-Long

Sunday, December 14, 2014

4:00 P.M.

Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church  
Sanctuary

Join Stuart Seale and Nate Van Der Male as they accompany the audience in singing your favorite Christmas carols.

Along with singing your favorite carols, you'll also enjoy a special number or two along the way from some of Trinity's talented members and friends.

Join us in Peterson Hall after the concert for a meal. Details to follow. We hope you will join us!

*Please RSVP to the church office if you plan to attend.*



## Trinity Men's Christmas Cards



Once again Trinity Men want to help you by lending a hand with your Christmas card chores. It's easy.

Take advantage of this annual church fundraiser. For a donation, the men will purchase, address, stamp and mail the cards to all church members. Each card will include a list of donors' names.

Along with the convenience of this service, the money raised helps to support CHIC 2015, to be held next July at the University of Tennessee. The young people planning to attend CHIC will need to raise approximately \$8,500 to cover the expenses. The men are hopeful that the Christmas card donations will go a long way in meeting that goal.

Donation envelopes can be obtained by calling the church office or from the narthex table. The deadline is Sunday, December 14.

In 2013, a total of \$2,128 was divided between Covenant Harbor for repairs and the Trinity air conditioning project.

## Making Christmas Brighter

This year Trinity offers several opportunities for you to choose for your Christmas giving. The first idea is the



### *Christmas Mitten Tree Project.*

Covenant Women again will sponsor this project for Worth Township. New hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for children are needed. Items can be brought to the Narthex starting Sunday, November 30, and placed on the Christmas tree.

The donation deadline is Sunday, December 14. We thank you for your support. Contact Lorraine Weszely for further information.

The next idea is *Together We Cope 'Adopt a Child' program.* This annual program brightens Christmas morning for nearly 1,500 south suburban youngsters in need. An index card with the child's gender and age written on the card will be placed on the Christmas tree in the narthex. You can choose a card, purchase a gift and then place the gift beneath the tree.



With your help, these children will share the wonderful generosity from supporters of this program.

And lastly, you might choose to support both projects. Whatever you decide, you will surely bring joy and laughter this holiday season to those less fortunate.

Here are some suggested gifts for Together We Cope 'Adopt a Child' program:

<u>Young Children</u>	<u>Teens</u>	<u>Gift Cards</u>
board games	flannel sleep pants	itunes
stuffed animals	Axe toiletries	Movie theaters
cars and trucks	wallet/purse	Simon Mall
dolls and doll clothes	makeup	Game Stop
story books	fashion scarves	Wing Stop
super hero action figures	costume jewelry	Target
Play-doh	nail care kits	Walmart
coloring books	t-shirts	Subway
Fisher-Price preschool toys	hats	McDonald's
art set	gloves	Portillo's
Legos	body wash, lotion	Wendy's
basketballs	hair accessories	
footballs		
craft kits		



## Christmas Break

The Christmas season is approaching, but somehow it must feel like we are already there. It's later in November as I write this, and there are already Christmas songs starting to pop on the radio. As you can see in the December church schedule, there are a number of events we are doing to prepare for Christmas and celebrate the holidays.

We are excited to look forward to our Christmas concert and we are working on our Christmas program lines and songs. The CHIC students are stepping up to wrap Christmas presents as a fundraiser. This is all very exciting and a lot of work, but we are willing to do it because these are good things. We work for what we know is a good thing and for the results that we enjoy.

But Christmas is also a period of high stress. Everywhere you turn there are more things for us to do and we feel compelled to do them all. But a simple message, and perhaps an overly simple request: find places to stop. The best and worst part of our culture is our understanding of how much we can accomplish and the amount of work we can do; yet during Christmas time, we push the celebrations forward into Advent and Thanksgiving to ratchet the crazed Christmas season up to its feverish highs.

So stop. Make that time for yourself. Remember what it's like to wait in anticipation for that which is worthy rather than force too much effort into an all too short season. In that time that you've carved out for yourself and for your family, I hope that you'll be able to say with the hope of Christmas, "peace on earth, and goodwill towards all people."

*Pastor Zach*



Mark your Calendars for events in the coming weeks leading up to Christmas:

Christmas Program Rehearsal:

November 30: 12-2 P.M. Rehearsal after church, Songs/Acting.  
Lunch will be provided.

December 7: 10 A.M. Songs

December 14: 10 A.M. Optional solo singers

December 20: 10 A.M.-12 P.M. Dress Rehearsal

December 21: 4-6 P.M. Christmas Program and Snacks

Christmas Gift-Wrapping CHIC Fundraisers:

Please bring your gifts and wrapping paper with a free-will donation. We will take care of the rest!

December 13: 10-2 P.M.

December 14: 12-3 P.M.

December 20: 10-2 P.M.

Here is what we're planning for December and beyond:

Dec. 7 6:30-8 P.M. Jr./Sr. High Youth Group

Dec. 28 4-5 P.M. Children's Ministry Night

6-8 P.M. Jr./Sr. High Youth Group

**Interactions**

- December 20: Beverly Art Center's, at 1 P.M., "Mrs. Claus! A Holiday Musical "
- January 11: Ice Skating
- February 1: Super Bowl Pre-Party and Party
- March 1: Swimming at Schaumberg Water Works

**Family Nights**

- December 17: Christmas Caroling
- January 21: Karaoke Party
- February 19: Ash Wednesday Supper
- March 18: Minute to Win it Games
- April 15: Pie eating contest
- May 20: End of Year Picnic

*Christmas Eve Service  
December 24, 2014  
5:30 P.M.*

**Pryme Tymers**

There will be one program in December:

December 11, at 11 A.M.

Entrée: Ham

Program: The Madrigal Singers from Evergreen Park Community High School will be returning to

entertain us with their unique presentation of vocal music without instrumental accompaniment, dressed in Renaissance costumes. Make your reservation by Friday, December 5.

The cost per meeting is \$6. Be sure to bring two canned goods for the Salvation Army Christmas Food Pantry. The need continues to be great.



**Just a Thought**

The man who has no time to pray is busier than God wants him to be.

**Covenant Women Project**

Pastor Kari Lynbloom Johnson will be doing "Craft-devotional" worship at our Covenant Women Spring Celebration on Saturday, March 14, at New Zion Covenant Church in Dolton. We are in need of empty half & half containers or milk jugs, 14 oz. to complete this project. If you normally use these products, we would appreciate these containers. See Lorraine Weszely. Our goal is 25 containers.

**Manna Express Scrip Program**

Reminder - The December orders are due by Sunday, December 7. See information and order form on the following pages.

**Church Chuckle**

A child's comment:  
Sunday School was great. We learned the gossip according to Saint John.



## TRINITY EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

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### Fundraising Made Simple!

Dear Member and Friends,

We have exciting news to share about a fundraising program for our Church. It's called The Manna Express Scrip Program. This scrip program will allow our congregation to fundraise while we shop.

"Scrip is the name given to gift cards and certificates which are provided from local and national retailers. They are the same gift cards available in stores. Nationally known retailers include Wal-Mart, Jewel, Marianos, Kohls, Target, Best Buy, Shell, BP Gas, Starbucks, The Home Depot, and Subway all participate in the scrip program along with hundreds of others.

How can these retailers help us raise money? It's simple...partnered vendors agree to sell gift cards to our congregation at a discount. Families like yours buy the gift cards at full face value and our Church keeps the difference as profit. NO SELLING INVOLVED!

Put your everyday shopping dollars to work. Earn money for our Church without spending anything additional. Simply purchase gift cards from the stores that participate in The Manna Express scrip program! Grocery, gasoline, clothing, entertainment, and household goods can be purchased using scrip.

You get a fundraising alternative that involves NO SELLING

Our Church will have a regular source of additional revenue

Partnered vendors receive repeat business

The Manna Express Scrip program promises to be a simple and effective fundraising program. We hope we can count on your support! Start shopping today!

Sincerely,

Rich Hood and Joyce Karlson Scrip Coordinators

Phone: 708-425-9792 or cell: 708-606-4870

Email: joyceakarlson@gmail.com

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REMINDER: DECEMBER ORDERS DUE DECEMBER 7.

	Disc	Amount
1 Card   Popular Places \$50	4.0	
Ace Hardware \$25 or \$100	4.0	
Adidas \$25	14.0	
Aeropostale \$25	8.0	
Amazon \$10, \$25 & \$100	3.0	
AMC \$30 Bundle	14.0	
AMC Single Admission \$9.00	9.0	
AMC Theatres Gift Card \$25	8.0	
American Airlines \$100	4.0	
American Eagle \$25	9.0	
American Girl \$25	9.0	
Angelo Caputo's \$25 & \$100	3.0	
Applebee's \$10 or \$25	8.0	
Arby's \$10	8.0	
Arco \$50	1.5	
Auto Zone \$25	7.0	
Avis \$50	8.0	
Barnes & Noble \$5 \$10 \$25	9.0	
Bass Pro \$25 & \$100 BONUS	12.0	
Bath & Body \$10 & \$25 BONUS	19.0	
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25 or \$100	6.0	
Best Buy \$25 & \$100	3.0	
Boston Market \$10	13.0	
Boston Market \$25	13.0	
BP Gas Cards \$50 & \$100	1.5	
Brio/Bravo Rest \$25	12.0	
Brookstone \$25	14.0	
Brunswick Zone \$10 & \$25	8.0	
Buca di Beppo \$25	9.0	
Buckle \$25 NEW	8.0	
Budget \$50	8.0	
Buffalo Wild Wings \$25	7.0	
Build A Bear \$25	8.0	
Buona Beef \$10 or \$100	8.0	
Burger King \$10	4.0	
Burlington Coat Fac \$25	8.0	
Cabela's \$25 or \$100	11.0	
California Pizza Kit \$25	8.0	
Caribou Coffee \$10 & \$25	8.0	
Carsons \$25 & \$100 BONUS	11.0	
Champps Rest \$25	9.0	
Cheesecake Factory \$25	5.0	
Chevron \$50 & \$100 & 250	1.5	
Chilis \$25 & \$100	11.0	
Chipotle \$10 & \$25	11.0	
Choice Hotels \$25 & \$100	4.0	
Chuck E Cheese \$10	8.0	
Cinemark Theatres \$8.25	9.0	
Circle K \$50 or \$100	1.5	
Claire's Boutique \$10	9.0	
Classic Cinema Theatres \$10	9.0	
Cold Stone Creamery \$10	9.0	
Columbia \$25	13.0	
Cracker Barrel \$10 & \$25	9.0	
Crate & Barrel \$25 or \$100	6.0	
CVS Pharmacy \$25 \$100	6.0	
Dairy Queen \$10	4.0	
Darden Restaurants \$25 or \$100	9.0	
Dave & Buster \$25	14.0	
Dell Computers \$100	4.0	
Delta Sonic Car Wash \$16	20.0	
Dennis Uniform \$20	5.0	
Denny \$10 or \$25	7.0	
Dicks Sport Goods \$25 or \$100	6.0	
Dillard's \$25 or \$100	9.0	
Disney \$25 \$100 \$500 & \$1000	2.0	
Domino's Pizza \$10	8.0	
DSW Shoes \$25	7.0	
Dunkin Donuts \$5, \$10 or \$25	3.0	
Eddie Bauer \$ 25	9.0	
Edward's \$10	9.0	
Egg Harbor \$25	4.0	
Einstein Bros Bakery \$25	9.0	
Express \$25	10.0	
Exxon \$50	1.5	
Fairmont Hotels \$100	9.0	

	Disc	Amount
Family Christian \$25	9.0	
Family Express \$25 & \$100	4.0	
Fanatics \$25	9.0	
Fandango \$10	9.0	
Fannie May \$10 or \$20	24.0	
Finish Line \$25	10.0	
Footlocker \$25	8.0	
FTD Florist \$25	14.0	
Fuddruckers \$25 NEW	8.0	
Game Stop \$25	3.0	
Garden Fresh \$20	4.0	
Gift Box Cheerful Stripe \$2.25	20.0	
Gift Box Sailor Stripes \$2.25	20.0	
Gino's East \$10	9.0	
GNC \$25	8.0	
Golfsmith \$25	9.0	
Goodrich Quality Theaters \$10	4.0	
Gordman's \$25 BONUS	10.0	
GFS \$25 or \$100	3.0	
Great American Bagel \$5	8.0	
Great Harvest Bread \$10	7.0	
Groupon \$25	6.0	
Guitar Center \$25	5.0	
Gymboree \$25	13.0	
Hair Cuttery \$10	8.0	
Halmark Gold Crown \$25	4.0	
Hard Rock Cafe \$25	8.0	
Home Depot \$25, \$100 & \$500	4.0	
Home Run Inn \$25	19.0	
Home Shopping Network \$25	9.0	
Houlihans \$25	8.0	
Hyatt \$25 or \$100	8.0	
IHOP \$25	8.0	
iTunes \$10 \$15 & \$25	3.0	
J.Jill \$25	9.0	
Jack In The Box \$15	6.0	
Jamba Juice \$10	10.0	
JCPenney \$25 or \$100	5.0	
Jewel \$25 \$50 & \$100	4.0	
Jiffy Lube \$25	9.0	
JoAnn Fabrics \$25	6.0	
Joe Caputo & Sons \$25	4.0	
Journeys \$25 BONUS	14.0	
Kentucky Fried Chicken \$5	9.0	
Kmart \$25 or \$50	4.0	
Kohl's \$25, \$50 or \$100	4.0	
L.L.Bean \$25 or \$100	18.0	
Landry's \$ 25 & \$100	9.0	
Lands End \$25 or \$100	14.0	
Lane Bryant/Catherines \$25	8.0	
LettuceEntYou \$25\$50\$100 BONUS	18.0	
Little Ceasars \$20	8.0	
Logan's Roadhouse \$25	9.0	
Lone Star \$25	4.0	
Lord & Taylor \$25	9.0	
Lou Malnati's Pizza \$25	7.0	
Lowe's Home \$25,\$100,\$500	4.0	
Macy's \$25 or \$100	10.0	
Marathon \$25 or \$100	3.0	
Marcus Theatres \$25 & \$100	9.0	
Marianos FM \$25 \$50 & \$100	4.0	
Mario Tricoci \$25 & \$100	8.0	
Meljer \$25 \$50 & \$100 BONUS	4.0	
Men's Wearhouse \$25	7.0	
Menards \$25 & \$100 & 500	3.0	
Michael's Crafts \$25	4.0	
Mimi's Cafe \$25	9.0	
Nike \$25	14.0	
Noodles \$10 or \$25	6.0	
Oberweis Dairy \$10	9.0	
Office Depot \$25 & \$100	4.0	
Office Max \$25 or \$100	5.0	
Old Country Buffet \$25	4.0	
Omaha Steaks \$25	8.0	
Omni Hotels/Resorts \$100	8.0	
On The Go Travel ORBITZ \$50	4.0	

	Disc	Amount
Once Upon A Child \$25	8.0	
Options \$25	14.0	
Oriental Trading \$25	9.0	
Outback \$25 or \$100	8.0	
Overstock.com \$25	9.0	
P.F.Changs \$25	8.0	
Pac Sun \$25	4.0	
Panera \$5 \$10 & \$25	9.0	
Papa Johns Pizza \$10	8.0	
Payless Shoes \$10	13.0	
Pep Boys \$25 NEW	8.0	
Petco \$25 NEW	7.0	
Pete's Fresh Market \$20	4.0	
Petsmart \$25	4.0	
Pier 1 Imports \$25	9.0	
Pizza Hut \$10 or \$25	8.0	
Plato's Closet \$25	8.0	
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25	7.0	
Quiznos \$10 Gift Cards	9.0	
Red Box \$25	7.0	
Red Robin \$10 or \$25	9.0	
Regal Entertainment \$25	9.0	
Regis Salon \$25	8.0	
REI \$25	9.0	
Restaurant.com \$25	30.0	
Restoration Hardware \$25 & 100	13.0	
Rockbottom/Old Chic \$25	6.0	
Rocky MounChocolate \$10	12.0	
Ross Dress for Less \$25	8.0	
Ruth's Chris Steak \$25 or \$100	9.0	
Safeway \$25 \$50 & \$100	4.0	
Sally Beauty Supply \$25	14.0	
Sears \$25, \$100 or \$250	4.0	
Sephora \$20	5.0	
Shell \$25, \$50 & \$100	3.0	
Shoe Carnival \$25	4.0	
Shutterfly \$25	9.0	
Six Flags/Great America \$44.00	9.0	
Smashburger \$10	9.0	
SpaFinder \$25	12.0	
Speedway \$25 \$50 & \$100	4.0	
SportsAuthority \$25 & \$100	8.0	
Staples \$25 or \$100	5.0	
Starbucks \$5 \$10 & \$25	7.0	
Starbucks \$50 or \$100	7.0	
Steak & Shake \$10	8.0	
Stein Mart \$25 BONUS	10.0	
Subway \$10 & \$25	3.0	
Subway \$5	3.0	
Super Cuts \$25	9.0	
Sweet Tomatoes \$25	8.0	
Taco Bell \$10	4.0	
Talbots \$25	9.0	
Target \$10 THANK YOU	2.5	
Target \$25 \$50 & \$100	2.5	
Texas Roadhouse \$25	8.0	
TGIFridays \$25	8.0	
The Childrens Place \$25	13.0	
The Container Store \$25	9.0	
The Limited \$25	9.0	
TJMaxx/Marshalls \$25 or \$100	7.0	
Toys R Us \$20	3.0	
Ultra Cosmetics \$25	4.0	
Ultra Foods \$25 or \$100	2.0	
UnderArmour \$25	11.0	
Uno Chicago Grill \$25	12.0	
VISA \$50	2.0	
Walgreens \$25 or \$100	6.0	
Walker Bros \$25	6.0	
Walmart \$10 Thank You	2.5	
Walmart \$100 \$250 & \$500	2.5	
Walmart \$5 \$10 \$25 & \$50	2.5	
Wendys Gift Card \$10	4.0	
Whole Foods \$25 & \$100	3.0	
William Sonoma \$25 or \$100	8.0	
Yankee Candle \$25	9.0	
Zappos \$25 & \$100 NEW	8.0	

\* - Please circle denomination required.

Discounts subject to change without notification.



# December Newsletter 2014



## Dates to Remember

Thursday, December 11 & Friday,  
December 12 –  
Parent Reader

Friday, December 19  
Holiday Party

Sunday, December 21  
Christmas Program  
More Information to Come

Winter Break-  
December 22- January 5

Wednesday, December 25-  
Merry Christmas

Thursday, January 1-  
Happy New Year

School Resumes-  
Monday, January 5



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

**Colors-** Red & Green

**Shapes-** Rectangle & Star

**Math-** How many candy canes  
long are you?

~The story of Christmas



## A Note of Thanks!

Thank you....

~to our wonderful readers who have shared  
their time, reading to our preschoolers.

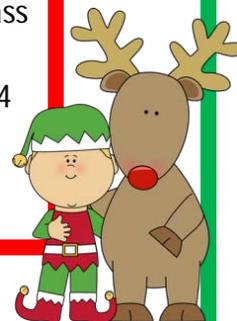
~Pastor Zach for sharing your wonderful  
stories and discussing our thankful blessings.

~for attending parent/teacher conferences. It  
was a pleasure speaking with each of you!

~to our family & friends who attended our  
Thanksgiving Day Feast!

Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Onesto's  
class will focus on reviewing  
vowels & past letters, letters  
Hh, Ss, & Cc and numbers 0-10.

Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Dryier's class  
will focus on  
letters Aa- Ff and numbers 0-4



A NOTE FROM...  
Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Onesto

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As the cold wind starts to blow and the snow begins to fall, a beautiful winter wonderland appears. The smell of holiday cookies fills the air and family traditions are shared.

Thank you for meeting with your teachers during Parent/Teacher Conferences. It is a pleasure to work with you and your family.

The children have been doing a wonderful job working on the blending ladders. During circle time, the children enjoy sounding out the blend words written on the board. As we progress through the month of December, the children will continue to work on letter sounds and recognition. Each day, we sing our alphabet songs to help the children remember letter sounds. Ask your child about Larry Lion, Nicky Narwhal, or Mickey Monkey! We will continue to focus on the vowels and past letters learned and introducing letters Hh, Ss and Cc.

Please continue working with your child daily on letter sounds and recognition and numbers 1-20.

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

Wishing you and your family a Wonderful Holiday Season & a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Onesto



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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

December is the busiest season of the year! Preschool will be a very busy place as well. Christmas is one of our favorite times of the year. We are excited to hear about all of your family traditions you share!

The children are doing so well and we are proud each one of them! Keep up the good work!

This month we will review our letters A through F, continue practicing numbers 1-15 and recognizing numbers 1-4. We will continue to work on basic shapes and colors as well.

We will learn some new songs and poems this season! Please ask them to sing them for you at home!

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

We would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas!



Sincerely,

Ms. Amanda and Mrs. Dryier

*Away in a Manger*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his  
sweet head.*

*The stars in the sky looked down where  
he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he  
makes.*

*I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down  
from the sky  
And stay by my cradle til morning is  
nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to  
stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I  
pray.*

*Bless all the dear children in thy tender  
care,  
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee  
there.*

# December 2014

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	31 New Year's Eve	Jan 1 2015		

## On-going Ministry

### Sunday Mornings (Sept. 7, 2014 – May 24, 2015)

- 9:30 AM Adult Sunday School, Fireside Room
- 9:30 AM Senior High Sunday School
- 9:30 AM Confirmation
- 10:15 AM Kingdom Kids for ages 2-11, Nursery for Infants
- 10:45 AM Worship

Noah's Ark Preschool - Mon-Fri, 9 AM – 12 PM  
(Christmas Break Dec 22 - Jan 2, 2015)

Career Connections - Monday, December 8, 7 PM

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

Pryme Tymers – Thursday, December 11, 11 AM

## Notes:

- 2: Women's Bible Study (9:30 AM)  
Ronald McDonald House supper (4:30 PM)
- 4: Jul Fest Decorations (1 PM)
- 6: Men's Prayer Breakfast, Jedi Garden (8 AM)  
Jul Fest (10:15 AM – 1 PM)
- 7: Confirmation #12  
Christmas Program Rehearsal (10 AM)  
**December Manna Express Scrip Orders Due**  
VASA meeting and Christmas Party (2-6 PM)  
Jr./Sr. High Youth Group (6:30-8 PM)
- 8: Career Connections (7 PM)
- 9: Women's Bible Study (9:30 AM)  
Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)  
Trustees and CE Board meetings (7 PM)
- 11: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)
- 13: CHIC Fundraiser – Christmas Gift Wrapping (10 AM – 2 PM)
- 14: Confirmation #13  
Christmas Program Rehearsal (10 AM)  
CHIC Fundraiser – Christmas Gift Wrapping (12 – 3 PM)  
Christmas Sing-A-Long, Sanctuary (4 PM)  
**Christmas Card and articles for January Messenger due**
- 16: Women's Bible Study (9:30 AM)
- 17: Family Night - Christmas Caroling (6-8 PM)
- 18: Church Board Meeting (7 PM)
- 19: Noah's Ark Holiday Party, Peterson Hall (11 AM – 12 PM)
- 20: Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal (10 AM – 12 PM)  
CHIC Fundraiser – Christmas Gift Wrapping (10 AM – 12 PM)  
Interactions – "Mrs. Claus! A Holiday Musical" (1 PM)
- 21: Confirmation #14  
Christmas Program (4-6 PM)
- 23: No Women's Bible Study
- 24: Christmas Eve Service "Candles and Carols" (5:30 P.M.)**
- 25: Merry Christmas**
- 28: No Confirmation  
Children's Ministry Night (4-5 PM)  
Jr./Sr. High Youth Group (6-8 PM)
- 30: No Women's Bible Study

**Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church**  
9230 South Pulaski Road  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
708-422-5111  
Website: [www.trinitycovoaklawn.org](http://www.trinitycovoaklawn.org)  
E-mail: [office@trinitycovoaklawn.org](mailto:office@trinitycovoaklawn.org)

**Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg**

*Senior Pastor*

**Reverend Zachary Lovig**

*Assoc. Pastor: Minister to Youth and Families*

**Nate VanDerMale**

*Interim Director of Music and Worship*

**Betty Aardema**

*Organist*

**Stuart Seale**

*Pianist*

**Christina Palazzolo**

*Director – Noah's Ark Preschool*

**Karen Christakos**

*Secretary*

**Phil Cavallone**

*Custodian*

**Articles for the January  
Messenger are due  
December 14**