

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

December

Ushers

John & Lorraine Weszely – Captain
Rich & Priscilla Swanson

Greeters

4 Mel & Arline Mueller
11 Clarence & Dolores Rosengren
18 Jim & Carol Strickland
25 Pat & Kellie Lee, Shannon, Justin

Nursery

4 Grace Persson, Megan McShane
11 Danielle Khan
18 Kari Devine, Rebecca Hanson
25 Heidi Weszely

Counters

John Weszely
Lois Flaws
Brian Crotty

Birthdays

1 Kenneth Johnson
2 Dolores Rosengren
3 Tom Klutcharch
5 Jo Ann Bergwall
5 Linnea Wimpenny
12 Kristine Schroeder
13 James Byland
15 Carol Strickland
15 Nancy Mondry
16 Melissa Panush
17 Joyce Karlson
17 William R. Hutchinson
19 Katie Kref-Mondry
19 Keith Mondry
20 David Raines
25 Matt Mateer
26 Carol Latimer
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 2016

Over the Pastor's Shoulder

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **(Luke 2:10-11)**

My friends have you discovered the true meaning of Christmas? Is this Savior your Savior? Have you welcomed Him into your life? Have you by faith claimed the salvation He came to bring? God has given His Son to us. Have you received Him? He was born in Bethlehem. Has He been born in you? Have you been born anew in Him?

Make no mistake about it. Unless He has been born anew in you, and you've been born anew in Him, He is not your Savior, and you are not saved. Unless this Savior is your Savior, you have no hope of heaven, no hope of eternal life, no hope of perfect joy and peace at least in the presence of God. To paraphrase the apostle Paul, it is Christ himself living within you who is the guarantee that you will share the glory of God (1 Cor. 1:27). Is your heart His home? Make sure of that this Christmas.

You might ask, "How could I be sure this Savior is mine? I know He was born for me, but how can I be certain He has been born in me?" So let me ask you some questions in return. Are you at all like him? Can others see in you any resemblance to Him? Any trace of His character? Any influence of His spirit? Does He make any difference, day by day, in the person you are and the way you live?

Are you then, more loving than you once were? More forgiving? More patient and tolerant? More appreciative? More courteous and considerate? More gentle and compassionate? More humble? More unselfish and generous? I think you get the point.

If Christ has come into your life, you can never be the same person again, for there is one thing Christ can't do. He cannot enter any human heart without transforming it. "If anyone is in Christ, he's a new creation." (2 Cor. 5:17). That new creation always has Christ's image stamped upon it. He comes to live within us to make us like Himself.

Yes, we are all fond of Christmas; it really is the best day of the year. We've been celebrating it merrily every December. But have we discovered Christmas? Have you discovered it? There's only one way to do it. We find the secret in the words of one of our most beloved carols:

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

Will you make this prayer your own? Will you offer it humbly, sincerely, from the depths of your heart? Then you'll discover Christmas. And once you've done that, no one will need to tell you that you've made the greatest discovery of all.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Jim



With Sympathy

As a church family we extend our sympathy to Hazel Carlson on the death of her sister, Naomi Joransen who entered the life eternal on November 3 in Minnesota. A funeral service was held at Oak Hill Cemetery Chapel in Alsip on November 12.

As a church family we extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Rhea Maurer who entered the life eternal on Sunday, November 27, in Barrington, IL. A Celebration of Life service will be held at 11 A.M. on Friday, December 16, at Trinity Covenant Church. Visitation will precede the worship service at 10 A.M. Peace be to the memory of Rhea.

Thank You

Dear Friends at Trinity,

I can't thank you enough for the beautiful basket of flowers in memory of my sister Naomi. I was thrilled to be remembered like this. I love Trinity and do wish I could visit with everyone.

God Bless you and thank you so very much,
Hazel Carlson

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.



Advent at Trinity

Saturday, December 3 - JulFest

Craft shopping 10:15 A.M.

Program 11 A.M.

Swedish Smorgasbord 12 P.M.

Sunday, December 11

Sunday School Christmas

Program "Unfrozen" 10 A.M.

Sunday, December 18

*Trinity Christmas Concert and
Carols Sing-a-Long*

Program 4 P.M.

Dinner 5 P.M.

Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve

Service of Carols and Candles 4:00 P.M.



Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church Miriam Circle/Covenant Women Ministries Presents JulFest

All ladies are invited to Trinity's Annual JulFest on Saturday, December 3, at 11 A.M. Our program will feature "The Madrigal Singers" from Carl Sandburg High School in Orland Park (our own Hannah Sullivan is a part of the group.)

For ticket information, please contact Kay Shannon, Carol Strickland or the church office at 708-422-5111.



10:15 A.M. Doors open for craft shopping

11:00 A.M. Jul Fest Program - The Madrigal Singers

12 P.M. Swedish Smorgasbord



Christmas Concert and Carols Sing-A-Long



Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church

Sunday, December 18

Program 4 P.M.

Dinner 5 P.M.

We invite you and your family to join us for an evening of your favorite Christmas Carols and holiday songs! Members of our music team will perform a variety of music, from "Deck the Halls" to "White Christmas". And as one voice, we'll invite you to join us in a Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long.

Following the concert, dinner will be provided by Chi-Tung catering in Peterson Hall. Cost: \$5/adults, \$1/child.

Help us spread holiday cheer by inviting your family and friends!

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

Chorale Tower - Dreaming of Christmas

Begin the season of Advent with a concert of beautiful Christmas music. The Tower Chorale presents "Dreaming of Christmas" on Friday, December 2 at 7:30 P.M.; Saturday, December 3 at 3 P.M.; and Sunday, December 4 at 7:30 P.M. All concerts will be held at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 203 S. Kensington, LaGrange. Ticket prices are \$20/Adults and \$17/Seniors & Students. See Barbara Mateer for tickets or get them at the door.



Musichorale 70th Gala Noel

Musichorale, a Chicago community choir under the final directorial season of Jeffrey Silhan, invites you to their 70th joyful Christmas concert. The choir will entertain with holiday classics on Sunday, December 11, at 3:20 P.M., at Trinity Christian College, Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 College Dr., Palos Heights. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. See Gloria Vitro for tickets.

Youth Group Christmas Card Project

This year Trinity Youth Group will be taking the lead for this annual church fundraiser. They will help you with your Christmas card chores. For a donation, they will purchase, address, stamp and mail the cards to all church members. Each card will include a list of donors' names.



Your donation will go towards the Every Kid a Camper fund. Please return your Christmas card envelope by Sunday, December 11. Envelopes are on the table in the Narthex.

Coats/Outer Wear for Families in Need

Covenant Women will once again sponsor the Coat & Outer Wear Project for Worth Township. New and gently-used clean coats/jackets & outer wear such as scarves, mittens, gloves, hats and boots for children are needed. Coats can be brought to the overflow room and placed on the table; hats & mittens can be placed on the Christmas tree in the Narthex now through Sunday, December 11. Your donation will surely bring warmth and joy this holiday to all of those less fortunate. Thank You.



Family Winter Weekend

Reminder for everyone going to Covenant Harbor the weekend of January 27 - 29: The deposit of \$50 per person is due on Thursday, December 1. Checks can be made payable to Trinity Covenant Church. Thank you.

Adult Sunday School

Fireside Room: Our December class will be led by a new teacher to Trinity, Rev. Deborah Penny of North Park Seminary. Rev. Penny is an associate director of field education, and certified as a spiritual director, mentor and spiritual coach. Rev. Penny and her husband attend the Oakdale Covenant Church on the South Side of Chicago. Her topic will be "A Kaleidoscopic Christmas" looking at the Christmas story from different perspectives. Please join us in welcoming this new teacher to Trinity.



Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

During this month we continue to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love. It is impossible and unwise to give a contemporary spin to this beautiful message telling of challenges encountered and how we are, this every day, invited to be part and parcel of His story.

The birth of the Christ Child is not the beginning of His story. He is The Trinity, the Three in One. He is the eternal God who has always lived as creator-sustainer of all things, the source of eternal life. He did not come into being when He became Son of Man. He is eternal. The beginning and the end.

Our winter study will be the eyewitness of the beloved disciple John giving an accurate spiritual-historical testament of Jesus' life.

During our Autumn study we met chosen personalities of the past who met challenges by seeking and listening to The Word as given by the Three in One. We read how life applications of yesterday are applicable today through the experiences of others. Our God chosen messengers included:

Isaiah	Timothy
Esther	Apollos
Daniel	Philip
Nebuchadnezzar	Barnabas
Priscilla and Aquila	Cornelius
Paul	John Mark

For one week this December we will address two important persons – Mary and Joseph. As we travel with them we give testament that promises and claims remain constant and consistent and that the invitation is open to all to be a child of The King and His ever family member. His gift!

Dec. 6	Study in Fireside Room	9:30
Dec. 13	Brunch at Barb Johnson's	10:30
Dec. 20 and Dec. 27		No Bible Study

Barbara Johnson



Pacesetters New Year's Eve

Pacesetters again this year are going to Palermo's Restaurant, 4849 W. 95th Street, in Oak Lawn, at 5 P.M. on New Year's Eve for dinner. We have made arrangements to have a private room and a delicious dinner. Afterwards we have been invited to the home of Grace and Harry Persson for devotions, fellowship and dessert. We hope that all Pacesetters will plan to attend. What better way to spend a New Year's Eve, then with your church friends.

Reservations must be made by Wednesday, December 21, to John and Lorraine Weszely, Gloria Vitro, or Mel and Arline Mueller. A payment of \$20 per person is due with your reservation.



New Address:



Linnea Wimpenny
The Commons on Marice
1380 Marice Drive, #455
Eagan, MN 55121
Phone: 651-452-1035

Jim Gaw
Sunrise Senior Care
12828 S. LaGrange Road, Room 202
Palos Park, IL 60464
708-361-3577



Pryme Tymers

Join us for the last meeting of the 2016 Season:



December 8, 11 A.M.:
Entrée: Ham
Program: *Celebrate Christmas with a musical variety show presented by ERIC LUCKY.* This young energizer elf will keep you tapping your toes and snapping your fingers in addition to singing some of

your favorite Christmas Carols. **BRING A FRIEND**

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.

The Winter & Spring 2017 Programs will start on January 12 with Nurse Brenda Celmer – Live Life Laughing!

Enjoy a wonderful Christmas and we'll see you in the New Year!



HAPPY CHRISTMAS



December Newsletter 2016



Dates to Remember

Monday, December 5

No School- Parent/Teachers Conferences

Sunday, December 11

Christmas Program
More information to come

Wednesday, December 21

Holiday Party
Cookies with Santa
More information to come

Thursday, December 22 - Friday, January 6

Winter Break

Sunday, December 25

Merry Christmas

Sunday, January 1

Happy New Year

Monday, January 9

School Resumes



A Note of Thanks!

Thank you to our wonderful readers who have shared their time reading to our preschoolers.

Thank you for joining us at our Thanksgiving Day Feast!

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

~The story of Christmas

Math- How many candy canes long are you?

Pre-K Classroom

During the month of December, the children will focus on the letters Ss, Cc and Dd.

3's - 4's Classroom

During the month, the children will focus on letters Aa-Jj and numbers 0-5.

A NOTE FROM...

Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Wojcik



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

December brings families together, homemade cookies and Christmas tidings. It is also a very busy and exciting time for our preschoolers.

We are looking forward to meeting with you during Parent/Teacher Conferences on December 5th.

The children have been doing a great job with letter recognition and sounds. During circle time, we are continuing to introduce our blend ladders. 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 Betsy Bee! We will continue to focus on the vowels and past letters learned and introducing letters Ss, Cc & Dd.

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

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. Wojcik





A NOTE FROM...

Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Theodossopoulos

Dear Parents/Guardians,

December is the busiest seasons 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 J, continue practicing numbers 1-15 and recognizing numbers 1-5. 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. Theodossopoulos



December 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	
 25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Jan. 1						

On-going Ministry

Sunday Mornings

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Nursery for Infants and Toddlers

11:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:15 AM Confirmation

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

Women's Bible Study – Tuesday, Dec. 6, 9:30 AM, Fireside Room

Pryme Tymers – Thursday, Dec. 8, 11 AM

Notes:

3: JulFest (10 AM – 1 PM)

5: Noah's Ark Preschool – Parent/Teacher conferences (no school)

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

7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

8: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

10: Sunday School Christmas program rehearsal (10 AM - 12PM)

11: Sunday School & Noah's Ark Preschool Christmas program (10 AM)

Christmas Card Greeting due

13: Women's Bible Study – Brunch at Barb Johnson's (10:30 AM)
Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)
Trustees & CE Board meetings (7 PM)

15: Church Board meeting (7 PM)

18: Trinity Christmas Concert and Dinner (4 PM)

Articles for January Messenger due

20: No Women's Bible Study (resumes Jan. 3)

21: Noah's Ark Preschool Cookies with Santa (9-12 PM)
Winter Begins

22: Noah's Ark Preschool Christmas Break (Dec. 22-Jan. 6)

24: Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candles (4 PM)

25: Merry Christmas

Note: No children or adult Sunday School or confirmation

27: No Women's Bible Study (resumes Jan. 3)

31: Pacesetters New Year's Eve dinner at Palermo's (5 PM)

Jan. 1, 2017 Happy New Year!

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9230 South Pulaski Road
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Website: www.trinitycovoaklawn.org
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Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg

Senior Pastor

Mitch Haaby

Pastoral Intern

Lee Van Sickle

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
January Messenger
are due December 18