

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 Weszely – Captain
Lorraine Weszely
Rich Swanson
Priscilla Swanson

Greeters

3 Mel & Arline Mueller
10 Clarence & Dolores Rosengren
17 Jim & Carol Strickland
24 Pat & Kellie Lee, Shannon, Justin
31 Marcia and Chuck Lellos

Nursery

3 Shannon Lee
10 Grace Persson, Carol Strickland
17 Nancy Mondry
24 Judy Kurzweil, Ariel Kurzweil
31 Rita Grijalva, Pam Polcar

Counters

John Weszely
Brian Crotty
Lois Flaws

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 Kreft-Mondry
19 Keith Mondry
20 David Raines
25 Matt Mateer
26 Carol Latimer
31 Joyce Nyberg

The Messenger December 2017

Sharing “Argentine Mate” with Pastor Mark

Getting the Spirit of Christmas back!

No, this is not another “guilt-trip,” article. No, this is not a “tug at the heartstrings plea for money,” article. It is, however, a pause to think of alternative methods of expenditures this Christmas; a means by which we can transform “Xmas” into *Christmas* once again.

Aly and I were at home arranging our decorations for Christmas and had much of our excess jumbled decorations (which did not fit on the tree!) on a platter sitting on the coffee table. We both had an idea and placed Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the donkey amidst the “debris.” Aly’s resulting photo is a work of art and a statement in and of itself. We were taken aback.

The Holy Family navigating the “sea” of Faux Christmas.



Do not get me wrong, I do enjoy both spiritual and secular Christmas themes and music. Who can forget “Holy Night,” “White Christmas”, or even The Ronettes version of “Winter Wonderland!” But, let’s clear the way for Christ this Christmas. Let us understand the wonderful symbolism of our gifts to each other. (Or maybe just one gift to each other). Perhaps we can look at alternative gifting which gives to water projects or to help purchase needed supplies for mission projects. There is an “Alternative Gift Market Catalog,” available among some offerings...just come and see me if this piques your interest.

Maybe we do not even have to make a herculean effort to stem our commercialism this Christmas. One Christmas, Aly and I told our children that they needed to fill a box full of their good quality toys to give away to less privileged children before they could be ready for any new gifts. To our contentment, they did so with enthusiasm. Perhaps a downturned economy can be used as a subtle assist in our sincere desires to lean toward a more spiritual Christmas. Does spend... spend... spend... REALLY help anyone anymore? We have been told this for years. Is this really a way to make the economy rebound? It reminds me of the parents telling their little child to eat everything on their plate because there are children starving in Africa. Net result: children still dying in Africa and an obese child here at home! Sadly, although this causes a chuckle it is not meant to be funny.

Christmas is about an ultimate gift. One who gave His ALL for each and every one of us. We symbolize that in our own gift giving. Let us also realize that at the end of the day, our lives are about relationships and love for our Master and for one another. People long for this time of year when we have good cheer and kindness toward all mankind. The angelic host in scripture greeted our savior’s birth with the words, “peace on earth goodwill toward men!” That is truly what the Christmas spirit is.... This year, let’s get that wonderful Christmas spirit back and keep it all year! Who knows, maybe you will be able to buy me eggnog for my birthday in July of 2018?!!

Merry Christmas from Your Grateful Interim Pastor,
Mark

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.



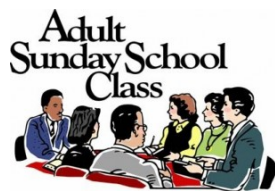
Dear Trinity Friends,

Trinity is such a special place for us all. Thank you for all your help with planning the funeral service for Hazel Carlson. Thank you for the beautiful flowers – they are so lovely! Thank you Trinity!

Love, Naomi Judson & the Carlson Family

Adult Sunday School

On December 3, 10 and 17 the class will be led by Mel Mueller as he explores the book of First John. Why John wrote this letter and what was the purpose of his writing. Join us in the Fireside Room after worship. All are welcome to attend.



Homeless Shelter Donations Most Appreciated

Covenant Women want to thank all of those who donated clothing and toiletries to the "Affordable Recovery Shelter" in Blue Island. In all, about 75 bags were donated.

We were able to organize clothing rooms for the men (140) and another for the women (25). Presently Trinity is the only church making donations. As soon as we bring in the clothing it is taken and used.

We will continue to collect donations of the following items: Men's work pants and jeans, t-shirts, coats, shoes, socks and underwear, belts, sweatshirts and pants of all sizes. Bath towels, new or gently used, are most needed.

Sharing these needs with family and friends during the holidays will also help you to declutter your closets.

Again, Thank You for your time in collecting these most needed items. Just seeing their faces as they leave with fresh, clean clothing shows that someone out there cares – we are making a difference in their lives.

You can contact John or Lorraine Weszely for future donations.

It's a Kingdom Thing

Pastor Mark invites you to join him on Wednesday evenings for his class that looks deeply into what the Gospel means for our lives.

We will meet at 6 PM for a light dinner; class begins at 6:30 P.M. and concludes at 8 P.M. Please call the church office at 708-422-5111 or email office@trinitycovoaklawn.org if you would like to attend and haven't signed up yet.

Christmas Eve Service Sunday, December 24 10 A.M.



Service of Carols and Candles

Miriam Circle/Covenant Women Present

JulFest – December 2, 2017

All ladies are invited to attend our annual JulFest on Saturday, December 2, at 11 A.M. in Peterson Hall. Our JulFest theme will be "God is Love", and will be presented by The Heavenly Harps, a mother and her 4 exceptionally talented daughters.

To reserve your tickets, call the office at 708-422-5111, or contact Kay Shannon or Carol Strickland. Tables will accommodate 8 to 9 people maximum.

Full payment is required when picking up your tickets. The cost is Adults \$20, Children age 5-12 \$5, and under age 5 are free.



10:15 A.M. Doors open for craft shopping
11:00 A.M. JulFest program
12:00 P.M. Swedish Smorgasbord

Worth Township Holiday Events

Christmas Care Program – Families in need of assistance may come to Worth Township, 11601 S. Pulaski Rd., Alsip, and fill out an application form for toys for their children (ages infant to 14 years of age) now through December 11, from 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. Applicants will need to pick up items the week of December 11-21, by appointment. Families in need of outerwear this winter may also select items from the used Coat & Outer wear drive now through January 29 or until the coats find a new home. For details contact the Youth Commission, 708-371-2900.

Santa's Room - Come see Santa at Worth Township. Children accompanied by an adult may visit Santa December 4 through 15, Monday-Friday, from 3:30-5:30 P.M. and 6:30-8:30 P.M. There is no charge but a donation of a new toy/canned goods for the Christmas Care Program/Food Pantry would be appreciated. Enter the building at the west entrance.

Church Family Christmas Greeting

Trinity Youth Group will lead this annual church fundraiser with proceeds directed to Every Kid a Camper fund. For a donation, they will help you with your Christmas card



chores: they will purchase, address, stamp and mail Christmas cards to all church members. Each card will include a list of the donors' names. To donate, fill out the Church Family Christmas Greeting envelope and return to the church office by Sunday, December 10.

Musichorale 71st Gala

Musichorale is a Chicago community choir featuring the directorial debut of Mrs. Sarah Silhan-Koehler. The choir will perform their 71st Noel Concert – *Step Into Christmas* on Sunday, December 10, 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.

Pryme Tymers

Join us on **Thursday, December 14, 11 A.M** for the last program of 2017 (*note - only one program in December*):

Program: *Christmas Concert with the Musichorale.* Join us for their concert with the NEW director. Bring a friend! Silent Night, Holy Night – All is Calm, All is Bright!

Entrée: Roasted Turkey Breast

Make your reservation by the *Friday BEFORE* the program. The cost per meeting is \$7. Remember to bring two canned goods for the Salvation Army Food Pantry; there is always a great need.



The Pacesetters invite everyone to join them on Saturday, December 16 for Gregory Athnos' presentation on 'A New View of Handel's Messiah'. Greg, Professor of Music for 32 years at North Park University, has done research and has an entirely new view of Handel's spiritual commitment to the text used in the masterpiece.

Greg will present two lectures - Handel and His Inspired 'Messiah': We think we know this monumental work, having heard it or sung it so many times. But is there another way to look at the masterpiece? Can we discover another level of 'spiritual depth or commitment'? Who assembled the texts? Why? How did Handel incorporate his own 'spiritual understanding' of the texts? We will view the composition from the same 'Baroque' perspective the composer used.

10 A.M. Class begins

12 P.M. Lunch - Chicken

1 P.M. Class resumes

The cost is approximately \$10. To RSVP, please call the church office at 708-422-5111 by Sunday, December 3.



*Christmas Concert
and
Carols Sing-A-Long*

Sunday, December 17

Program 4 P.M.

Dinner 5 P.M.

Trinity invites you and your family to join us for a Christmas music celebration on Sunday, December 17, 4 P.M. The program will feature the Trinity Children's Choir, Trinity's Holiday Ensemble and special guest Heather Van Der Male, with plenty of sing-a-long carols and Christmas favorites.

There will also be our traditional dinner provided by Chi-Tung catering immediately following the program in Peterson Hall.

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

RSVP by calling the church office at 708-422-5111.

New Address

Linnea Wimpenny
Willow of Ramsey Hill
80 North Mackubin
St. Paul, MN 55102



Merry Christmas Monday, December 25

Congratulations

Gloria Vitro was honored at the PLOWS Council on Aging's 42nd Annual Luncheon on October 27, 2017. Gloria was recognized as a 2017 Senior Volunteer Honoree for her volunteer work with Trinity's Pryme Tymers as well as her commitment to our communities. Well done, Gloria!

CHIC 2018 NEWS

Calling all High School Students...CHIC is coming! *July 15-20 in Knoxville, TN.* CHIC is a triennial conference for high school students sponsored by Make and Deepen Disciples, the Evangelical Covenant Church. CHIC is a worship, transformational and fun week of Christ! If you have completed grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 in the 2017-2018 school year and are 15 years old by Dec. 31, 2017 then you are eligible to go. If you are a senior and already went to CHIC you are welcome, too!

Registration forms are available in the church office or see Kellie Lee. **Deposits and registration sheets are due by Dec. 15, 2017.** Please pay \$100 early bird registration deposit by Dec. 15, 2017. Final payments of \$499 are due May 15, 2018.

Extra fees include: optional excursions from \$10 to \$75 and transportation fees. We are looking into airfare and bus costs.

Questions? See Kellie Lee or email: pgkll99@comcast.net.

Save the Date

Mark your calendar for the next Family Event on Wednesday, January 3. We are going to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Aurora from 12-2 P.M. Founded in 1987, FMSC is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Donations given fund the meal ingredients, volunteers hand-pack the meals, and the meals are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved!

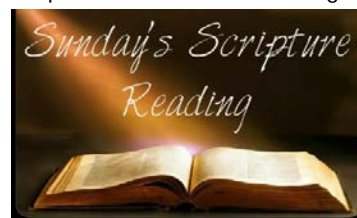


All are welcome! See Linda Kozak to sign up.



Just a Bit of a "Fun" Update

You may have noticed that our usual and most excellent scripture reader, Denise Krueger, has been "optioned out" with



some very cool young people lately. An explanation is in order in case you were wondering. Denise has served faithfully in this important role, which helps lead us

through our worship every Sunday, for the last seven years! When she needed to travel last month, both Denise and I had an epiphany of sorts. Why not have some of our confirmands take up the banner in the reading of scripture?! Denise was enthusiastic about the idea and even drafted up a training document for this purpose. This document is very comprehensive and has been approved by the board. She serves as a mentor to those who wish to read God's Word to us on Sunday mornings. I would like to expand this offer of reading scripture to others as well. Please see me if you are interested!

Pastor Mark

Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study



This year has been seasoned with blessings partnered with strengthened faith and a full measure of hope as challenges met us on a daily basis.

While our group of faithful women requested specific prayers for specific reasons or joyfully shared specific blessings we were always aware of the strong and unbroken bond between our Lord and His children.

We acknowledged this bond as we directed thoughts upon our personal relationship with our Promise Keeper and why He moves in continual strands delighting and surprising us with ways and means of sharing by giving His storehouse of wealth.

We are continuing our study of praise, joy and thanks as our move into the New Testament gives credence to His birth, His years as Son of Man directing His message to the world this very day. He whispers. He thunders. He moves mountains.

A Keeper: To this very day while thoughts turn to miracles I smile at the short but actively sufficient answer from Hazel Carlson years ago as she laughed when I proposed looking for a "new spin" on the Christmas Story. Hazel's answer, "Why?".

And so these days leading to the familiar and loved miracle event heard from those who were there, close by, or on their way we too are on our way as we are never too old, too tired or too bored to listen to happenings, blessings, promises and claims which are ours this very day.

January focus: Our study will be central to re-discovering Jesus.

We follow our leader as His plans benefit us.

We have learned to anticipate surprises.

We delight that the "Way Maker" is with us on Tuesdays.

He moves us on definitive paths which speak loudly of Jer. 29:11.

Schedule for December: 5, 12 Fireside Room
9:30 A.M. bakery, study, lunch
19 Barbara Johnson's home
10:30 A.M. brunch – together
26 No Bible Study

Barbara Johnson

DECEMBER 2017							Notes:
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	 JulFest	2: JulFest (10:15 AM)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM) Ronald McDonald House "Meals from the Heart" (4:30 PM)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	6: Light supper prior to Pastor Mark's class (6 PM) "It's A Kingdom Thing" class with Pastor Mark (6:30 PM)
 17	18	19	20	21	22	23	11. Noah's Ark Preschool Cookies with Santa (10 AM)
 24	25 	26	27	28	29	30	12: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM) Deacons meeting (6:30 PM) CE Board meeting - Holiday Gathering at Heidi Weszely's (6 PM) Trustees meetings (7 PM)
31	JAN 1 Happy New Year						13: Light supper prior to Pastor Mark's class (6 PM) "It's A Kingdom Thing" class with Pastor Mark (6:30 PM)
							14: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)
							15: CHIC 2018 deposits and registration forms due
							16. Handel's Messiah Lectures and Luncheon (10 AM)
							17: Trinity Christmas Concert and Dinner (4 PM) Articles for January Messenger' due
							19: Women's Bible Study Brunch, Barbara Johnson's home (10:30 AM)
							24. <i>Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candles</i> (10 AM)
							25. <i>Merry Christmas</i>
							JAN. 1, 2018: Happy New Year
							SAVE THE DATE Family Event – January 3, 12-2 P.M. Feed My Starving Children, Aurora

On-going Ministry

Sunday Mornings

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Nursery for Infants/ Sunday School for Pre-K up to 6th grade.

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

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

Pryme Tymers – 2nd Thursday, 11 AM



December News



Reminders

No School

Winter Break

December 25th-Jan 5th

School Resumes

Monday Jan 8TH 2018

A Peek at Our Weeks

Dec 4th - Dec 8th

Christmas trees & wreaths

Dec 11th - Dec 15th

Stockings and elves

Dec 18th - Dec 22nd

Reindeer and Santa

Dec 25th - Jan 5th

No School Winter Break

Upcoming Events

Please bring cookies to share!!!!

Cookies With Santa

Monday Dec 11th, 2017

This is our Christmas class party!

10:00-12:00

Little Room News!

Letters Jj, Kk, Ll and Review

Numbers 5 & 6

We will continue Shapes and Colors

Throughout the year!

Color: Green and Red

Please help your child learn to hold a
pencil

Please Feel Free to Contact Me at Any time!

Ms. Amanda -708-969-3481

Mrs. Dryier

Mrs. Theo

Big Room News!

Letters Ss, Cc, Dd

Numbers 13,14,15

Color- Green

Working on high frequency words

I, A, An, Am, At

Forming words and Rhyming

Blending words for reading

Mrs. M

Mrs. Wojcik

Please Send in \$5.00 for your Christmas Gift!!

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Reverend Mark Westlind

Interim Pastor

Stuart Seale

Director of Music and Worship, Pianist

Betty Aardema and Nate Van Der Male

Organists

Amanda Fulton

Director – Noah's Ark Preschool

Karen Christakos

Secretary

Joe Michalowicz

Custodian

Articles for the
January Messenger
are due December 17