

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

# The Messenger *December 2018*

## December

### Ushers

John Weszely – Captain  
Lorraine Weszely  
Jay Hanson  
Marcia Lellos

### Greeters

2 Mel & Arline Mueller  
9 Clarence & Dolores Rosengren  
16 Jim & Carol Strickland  
23 Pat & Kellie Lee, Shannon, Justin  
30 Chuck & Marcia Lellos

### Nursery

2 Melissa Panush  
9 Grace Persson, Carol Strickland  
16 Heidi Weszely  
23 Jennifer Davies  
30 Rita Grijalva, Maddie Ford

### Counters

Brian Crotty  
Phil Cavallone  
Marcia Lellos

### Birthdays

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

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

## Sharing “Argentine Mate” with Pastor Mark

“Christmas, the Start of Our Salvation!”

Greetings and the best to all of you in this season of Advent! We have just finished our last class session on “The Call.” It is always a thrill for me to teach on this subject and I think that it has been similar for our class participants. Thanks to all of you who have been able to be part and parcel to our fellowship.

Blessings and the love of Christ be upon you and with you beloved church! Hey, sometimes we need to hear that! It is even better when we realize that is exactly what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ desires for us.

The theme of the Lord in our lives has permeated my mind and my thoughts in the last two months. His presence and my relationship with Him have been impressed upon me by the Holy Spirit. And as the old hymn goes, “And the things earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace!” All of the preoccupation with our troubles is overpowering. It is right to be concerned with it; especially in our current financial strife as individuals, as a nation, and as a world economy. Add to that the uncertainty of our personal and our corporate security, and that of the whole world for that matter. It is and can be, “pretty scary!” Yet, there is more to life than that. When we concentrate on our Lord, the true beauty of life becomes so apparent. After all, Jesus is our “main thing!”

This past year I have had to help put the earthly affairs in order for several beloved members of our community. I helped commend their spirits to the Lord in heaven. I was struck by how nothing...nothing...of the material world mattered for them anymore. Nothing...nothing of the material world mattered to their families anymore. What mattered was who they had been, and who they continued to be in their collective memories. Relationships are what matter. It is the relationship with each other that is all important and the over-arching and all important relationship is that which we carry on with our Father in heaven. As I have prepared for these “Celebration of Life” services I have come across (on a number of occasions) a wonderful quote from Oswald Chambers that was pasted in the front of my mother-in-law’s bible. (I continue to be amazed at how this wonderful “ma-in-law” of mine, even in death, continues to minister to me from the proverbial “other-side!”). Here it is, and it was her life’s motto:

**My goal is God Himself.**

**Not joy nor peace, nor even**

**Blessing, but Himself, my God.**

Now that is perspective! This thought and way of living will really make us live lives that really matter and that make a difference!

It makes me think of our upcoming season. We have just celebrated Thanksgiving, and Christmas is looming. This is really my favorite time of year. It always has been. When I was little, it was the food at Thanksgiving and the presents at Christmastime. As I have aged, I realize that it is the time spent together at both occasions. It, for me, is quality time.

It is this quality time that our Lord and Savior truly desires for us. He wants us to have it with each other, but above and beyond; He wants quality time with us. He began this season and this time of year centuries ago. We will be celebrating it in the upcoming advent times in our services on Sundays. It is the beginning of the salvation of man and womankind. Advent means "coming." It is an expectation. And it is all the more powerful when we know what was behind it. God's massive love for us! His son Jesus was sent to save us. Jesus was truly born to die. That was His mission. He did it to preserve and create a fabulous relationship with us! Many people consider Easter to be the greatest season of the entire Christian calendar. I take nothing away from that for it is the propitiation for our sins that happened on the cross of Calvary. Yet, I have ALWAYS loved Christmas as much if not more and the reason for me is that it is what BEGAN the entire earthly life and travail and joy of our Lord as He accomplished His mission for us. Let us remember this Christmas the mission of this baby boy, our Savior; the baby, born to die. This is what restored our relationship with God! Please share this joy with each other this Christmas!

*Merriest of Christmases to you!!!*  
*Pastor Mark*



Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you for the calls, cards, prayers and caring thoughts. They meant a lot to me and lifted my spirits.

Diane Manthey

\*\*\*\*\*

A much appreciated thank you for being the recipient of a generous contribution to our church from Muriel Everts. Muriel and Paul were interim pastor and Bible Study leader during 1990 and 1991. Muriel has relocated in the Plantation Covenant Community in Florida and continues to correspond with many Trinity friends. She enjoys and participates in programs of service and mission. Thank you, Muriel.

Barbara Johnson

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your support. Paul and I appreciate the many years you have stood alongside us whether we were able to be in Congo, Cameroon or Central African Republic. We cherish the prayers and love that go with your financial help.

Blessings in your Thanksgiving. Thank you for blessing us.

Love Paul and Sheryl Noren

## Altar Flowers

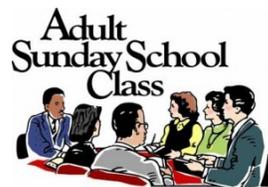
If you would like to celebrate or honor someone on a given special date, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Flowers are \$40 and you are invited to take them home following morning worship.



## With Sympathy

As a church family we extend our sympathy to the family of Geoff Twigg who entered the life eternal on Saturday, October 27, after suffering a heart attack. Geoff served as Director of Music and Worship at Trinity from 2012 to 2014. He is survived by his wife Vicki, and their children Catherine, Stephen and Peter. Services were held on Saturday, November 10 at Souderton (Pennsylvania) Brethren in Christ Church. Peace be to Geoff's memory.

## Adult Sunday School



The December Adult Class will be led by our own Greg Goetz and his topic is "Monasticism". The class starts at 9 AM, and it is never too late to increase your knowledge, so please join us in the Fireside Room.

## Women's Bible Study

On Tuesday, December 4, at 10:30 A.M., Barbara Johnson will host a brunch for the ladies at her house, 9712 S. Kolmar Avenue. On December 11 study will resume at Trinity in the Fireside Room at 9:30 A.M., with bakery at 9 A.M.

## Note from the Treasurer

### Financial Summary thru October 2018

#### EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$ 216,718
Actual Expenses YTD	<u>\$ 207,237</u>
Cost Savings/(Overrun)	\$ 9,482

#### GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD	\$ 202,922
Budgeted Giving YTD	<u>\$ 150,682</u>
Giving Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 52,240

#### INCOME VS. EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$ 202,922
Expenses YTD	<u>\$ 207,237</u>
Actual Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (4,314)

## Chorale Tower Concert

The Tower Chorale and music director Patrick Godon present Vivaldi's Gloria! and Christmas Carols old and new on Saturday, December 1 at 7:30 P.M. and Sunday, December 2, at 3 P.M., at Christian Reformed Church, 5140 Wolf Road in Western Springs. Tickets are \$23 Adults and \$20 Seniors/Students. See Barbara Mateer for tickets.

## Coats and Outer Wear for Families in Need

Covenant Women are sponsoring the annual Coat and Outer Wear Project for Worth Township during this Christmas season. New and gently-used clean coats/jackets and new 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 and mittens can be placed on the Christmas tree or in the boxes below the tree in the Narthex through Sunday, December 9. Your donation will bring warmth, joy and the spirit of Christmas this holiday to all of those less fortunate. Thank you for your support and donations.



## Noah's Ark Preschool – Christmas Toy Drive

Noah's Ark Preschool will be collecting toys for children (infants through age 14) for Worth Township now through Sunday, December 9. Please consider dropping off a toy by the collection box out in the Narthex by the Christmas Tree. Your donations are truly appreciated.

## Worth Township Youth Commission Events:

11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip, Office: 708-371-2900

[youthcommission@worthtownship.com](mailto:youthcommission@worthtownship.com).

**Christmas Care Program** - Families in need may come to Worth Township and fill out an application form for toys for their children (infants to age 14) now through December 12, from 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Bring in your application form along with your driver's license/State I.D., a birth certificate for each child and a copy of your current utility bill. Applicants will need to pick up their items the week of December 17 through December 21 by appointment.

**Santa's Room** - Come see Santa at Worth Township. Children accompanied by an adult may visit Santa December 3 through 14, 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. Don't forget to bring your camera! Please enter the building at the west entrance.

**Coat Drive** - Worth Township Youth Commission has begun accepting new and gently-used, cleaned coats for their annual coat drive now through January 31 until all items have found a new home. Residents in need of a winter coat are welcome to come to the building during normal business hours and choose a coat. Residents can check back as often as needed throughout the season as donations come in daily.

## Musichorale Christmas Concert

The Musichorale, a Chicago community choir under the musical direction of Sarah Silhan-Koehler, will present their annual Noel Concert – *Joyous Noel* on Sunday, December 9, at 3:20 P.M. at Trinity Christian College, Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 College Dr., Palos Heights. Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$17 at the door. For ticket reservations see Gloria Vitro or call 708-361-3441.



## Pryme Tymers

Join us on **Thursday, December 13, at 11 A.M** for the last program of 2018 (*note - only one program in December*): Christmas Concert with the Musichorale. We welcome back the members of Musichorale with a presentation of their concert *Joyous Noel*. 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.

## Living Nativity

Celebrate the Christmas Story at the Living Nativity (with live animals) at Mount Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 10400 S. Kostner, Oak Lawn. Join us on Friday, December 14 and Saturday, December 15, from 6:30-7:30P.M. After the performance, kids of all ages will be able to pet the animals, enjoy hot chocolate and cookies. Kids are also welcome to participate – we provide costumes, just dress from the weather.

## Trinity Children's Christmas Program

Join us for worship on Sunday, December 16 when the Kingdom Kids and Noah's Ark Preschool will present their Christmas program. After worship, you're welcome to gather for fellowship and refreshments in Peterson Hall as we celebrate Advent at Trinity.



**Christmas Concert and Carols Sing-A-Long**  
**Sunday, December 16**  
**Program 4 P.M.**  
**Dinner 5 P.M.**

The Trinity Church family invites you and your family to join us for Christmas music celebration on Sunday, December 16, at 4 P.M. Our annual holiday program will include Christmas selections performed by a jazz trio (piano, bass, drums), Nate and Heather Van Der Male, Scott Grobstein, The Kingdom Kids, and more special guests! Following the program at 5 P.M. our traditional Chi-Tung dinner will be served in Peterson Hall.

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

RSVP below or call the church office 708-422-511.



RSVP - Christmas Concert Dec. 16

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**Monday, December 24**  
**7 P.M.**



**Service of Carols and Candles**

**Merry Christmas**



**Sunday, December 25**

## Congratulations

John and Lorraine Weszely were honored at the PLOWS Council on Aging's 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Luncheon on October 26, 2018, at the Orland Chateau. John and Lorraine were recognized as 2018 Senior Volunteer Honorees for their outstanding commitment to our communities. To name a few of their volunteer efforts, they have volunteered for many years with Trinity's Pryme Tymers and for over a year they have spent countless hours devoted to supporting the Affordable Recovery Housing in Blue Island. Congratulations John and Lorraine!

## Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study



Will you spend these moments reading about the make-up of our faithful group and what we will be about as we forward the new year.

We are a delightful working combination of ages having the advantages which give us the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job, the perseverance of Joshua and the continual laments and praises of David.

We are seasoned with blessings in having been elected to carry and share God's planning throughout our many years giving tribute to being steeped in The Word and the recipient of His everlasting love.

We have studied, learned, grown in our daily walk and talk – forgiven, been forgiven, overcome valleys, been lifted mountain top, been re-molded and renewed and guaranteed to live eternally in His place made for us –

- What a gift
- What a blessing
- What a promise
- What a claim

We are citizens of Heaven!

And yet we are still seeking as we face new challenges. The future now leads from being independent to being visibly dependent. We accept His plan as we acknowledge all is for our benefit. We are ready to adjust our temporal life-style which has been "in the making" ever since He borne us. He is all knowing. He is ever present. He is all powerful.

He gives us measures to surprise us with mountain top experiences, while rejoicing in our sole dependence on Him for this we know – for sure – from the words of Jesus Calling paraphrased by Sarah Young:

1. As you walk in the Light with Me, you have one foot on earth and one foot in Heaven.
2. I am not only committed to caring for you, but I am absolutely capable of doing so.
3. Your need for Me is as constant as the flow of My love for you.
4. Those who live close by Me develop an inner aliveness that makes them seem youthful in spite of their years.
5. I am all you need, just when you need it.
6. When you arrive at a choicepoint, I will show you which direction to go.
7. I designed you for deep dependence on your Shepherd-King.
8. Trust that I know what I'm doing and be ready to follow My lead.
9. Together we can handle anything.
10. I am re-creating you into the one I designed you to be.
11. The one who walks beside you, holding you by your hand, is the same one who lives inside you.
12. I view you as the one I created you to be.
13. Before you were born, I knew you. Ponder the mystery of a love that encompasses you before birth to beyond the grave.
14. I designed you to need Me not only for daily bread but also for fulfillment of deep yearnings.
15. Every detail of your life is under My control.
16. Hold My hand in deliberate dependence on Me, and I will smooth out the path before you.

This, and so much more, is what we know and live by and even at this moment or in times coming we are secure as we walk in trust, have faith and receive mercy. We joyfully rejoice in our full dependency on our God. This is His gift given and ours to open and use moment by moment.

Our December schedule:

We continue the journey with Luke during winter, also –

Please note – Dec. 4	Brunch at Barb Johnson's house 10:30
Dec. 11	Bible study at church 9:30
Dec. 18	Bible study at church 9:30
Dec. 25	No study
Jan. 1	No study

Barbara Johnson

P.S. Luke 10:20

Rejoice, Hallelujah, Amen, Wow!

DECEMBER 2018							Notes:
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						 <b>JulFest</b>	1: JulFest -10: 15 AM Craft shopping, 11 AM Program, 12 PM Swedish Smorgasbord
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	4: Women's Bible Study Brunch, Barbara Johnson's home (10:30 AM) Ronald McDonald House "Meals from the Heart" (4:30 PM)
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	11: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM) Deacons meeting (6:30 PM) CE Board meeting (7 PM)
 <b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	13: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)
<b>23</b>	 <b>24</b>	<i>Merry Christmas</i> <b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	12: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM) 16: Children's Program ( 10 AM worship) Christmas Concert (4 PM), Dinner (5 PM) <b>Articles for January Messenger' due</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>JAN 1</b> Happy New Year					18: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM) 21: Noah's Ark Preschool Cookies with Santa (10 AM) 24: <i>Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Candles</i> (7 PM) 25: <i>Merry Christmas</i> <b>JAN. 1, 2019: Happy New Year</b>

### On-going Ministry

#### Sunday Mornings

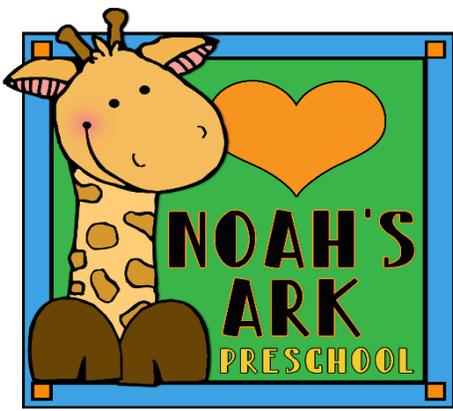
**10:00 AM** Worship

**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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday, 11 AM



# Noah's Ark Preschool Newsletter December 2018



## DECEMBER FUN



### Important Dates

**December 16**  
Christmas Program  
10:00 a.m.  
More info to come

**December 21**  
Cookies with Santa  
More info to come

**December 24 – January 4**  
No School- Winter Break



### Looking Ahead

**January 7**  
School Resumes

**January 18**  
Ice Cream Social  
More info to come

**January 21**  
No School- MLK Jr. Day

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The holiday season is here! What a fun and busy time for each one of us. During the month of November, the children talked about their thankful blessings and learned about helping others. Thank you all so much for the very generous donations of non-perishable foods during the month of November. We are so Blessed having such wonderful and supportive families.

Thank you to all our parent readers. The children enjoy your story time! If you would like to volunteer to read, please look for the new parent reader sign-up sheet in your child's classroom.

The teachers and teachers' aides want to thank you for attending parent/teacher conferences. It was a pleasure meeting and speaking with all of you. We are so proud of each one of our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with us at any time.

During the month of December, Noah's Ark Preschool is holding a toy drive to help collect toy donations for the Worth Township Christmas Care Program. The program helps families with financial difficulties by providing items for their children during the holidays.

Looking forward to all the fun during the month of December!

Happy Holidays!

~Mrs. Palazzolo

Each classroom will continue working on letter recognition, colors, shapes and numbers.

Please continue to work on these at home with your child. Thank You!



**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)

---

**CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERS**

**Reverend Mark Westlind**

*Senior Pastor*

**Stuart Seale**

*Director of Music and Worship, Pianist*

**Betty Aardema and Nate Van Der Male**

*Organists*

**Christina Palazzolo**

*Director – Noah's Ark Preschool*

**Karen Christakos**

*Secretary*

**Joe Michalowicz**

*Custodian*

**Melissa Panush**

*Church Chair*

**Kay Shannon**

*Vice Chair*

**Carol Strickland**

*Secretary*

**Rich Swanson**

*Treasurer*

**Kelly Bradbury**

*Board of Christian Education Chair*

**Margie Morrissey**

*Board of Deacons Chair*

**Pat Klutcharch**

*Board of Human Resources Chair*

**Dave Sladek**

*Board of Trustees Chair*

**Pat Klutcharch and Lorraine Weszely**

*Miriam Circle of Covenant Women Co-Chair*

**Pat Anderson and Pat Petersen**

*Pacesetters Co-Chair*

**Barb Bailey and Priscilla Swanson**

*Pryme Tymers Co-Chair*

**Diane Panush**

*Ronald McDonald House*

**Barbara Johnson**

*Tuesday Mornings Women's Bible Study*

**Linda Kozak**

*Vacation Bible School Director*

Articles for the  
January Messenger  
are due December 16