

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

February

Ushers

Brian Crotty – Captain
Carol Byland
Kristine Schroeder
Rita Grijalva

Nursery

3 Diane Panush
10 Joyce Gorney, Janice Goetz
17 Heidi Weszely
24 Jennifer Davies

Counters

Matt Panush
Kay Shannon
Pam Polcar

Birthdays

5 Pete Raines
5 Grace Viner
5 Shirley Jaeger
5 Geoffrey Panush
6 Cheryl Johnson
8 William Hutchinson
9 Shannon Lee
9 Arline Mueller
12 Linda Kozak
14 Alyssa Devine
15 Elsie Koler
15 Thaddeus Przybylowski, III
17 Danielle Khan
17 Clara Serene Panush
19 John Snow
21 Robin Jones
22 Mikey Devine
24 Donna Swanberg
24 Joyce Bradley
25 Barbara Johnson
29 Patricia Klutcharch

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

The Messenger February 2019

“Sharing Argentine Mate with Pastor Mark”

A little reprise on what this means

Argentine Mate: A natural tea from South America. It is consumed from a gourd (Mate) that emanates from the same tea tree. A (bombilla) strainer straw is used to sip the tea.

Sharing: Argentines (and others from Brazil, Uruguay and Chile) will gather ‘round just one serving Mate gourd and drink together from the same bombilla straw. It is a communal cultural gathering of sipping tea and sharing life together.



This is what this column of mine means to me
as I share it with each of you

Post-Christmas Musings

Christmas morning, San Jose, Costa Rica circa 1957.

Yours truly, a 5 ½ year old little boy, opens the most incredibly large red box ever. A Marklin HO train set. This was a West German model train. A train set that immediately had my heart. This train followed us back to the USA, and then on to Quito, Ecuador. It later travelled to Tulcan, Ecuador.

In the fall of 1965, I was a 13-year-old. We were leaving Ecuador to go back to the United States. My Dad approached Marcia and me and said, “We have limited space in the barrels. You may each bring one book, one record, and one toy.” We were crushed because we loved books and music. We respected our parents and knew we had to do this. We searched and picked our favorites. My sister Marcia also chose her toy wisely. My choice was easy, my Marklin HO trainset. Said my Dad, “Mark, this is just too big. Please choose something else.” I cast my eyes downward. This was my absolute favorite. I felt that I needed to obey. I knew I had no choice. Yet, this was also about attitude. I bit my lip and went into the attic and ran everything once more. My Dad had built mountains and bridge crossings from a table saw. My set was now bigger because my cousins had given me the trains they had purchased while my uncle served in the Army in Germany. I then wrapped everything in newspaper and boxed it up for safekeeping. I said farewell.

Years later, in 1986, my wife Aly and I were at North Park Theological Seminary. A fellow student told me that his cousin had found an incredible trainset when his folks were missionaries in Ecuador. He told me that his aunt and uncle had given his cousins this wonderful train set for Christmas. I looked at him in disbelief. When I found out that his cousins were the Reeds, I knew they were the same family that had taken over the ministry for my folks in Tulcan, Ecuador. I said, “Wow, I think that was my train!”

Fast forward to 1996, and the Covenant Annual Meeting in Chicago. We were present as Colombian Covenant missionaries. I met Dale Reed, the eldest of the Reed kids. Of course, we were both “all grown up.” Dale tells me that his brother and his Dad had told him about the trains. He asks me if I would like to come over to his house and see them. I answered, “Are you kidding? Sure!” As we got into his living room, he brought out the trains. They were wrapped in newspaper just as I had wrapped them, but it was not Ecuadorian paper. It was paper from Mexico. The Reed family had served as missionaries in Ecuador and then on to Mexico. Later they came back to the United States and served in varying capacities in Chicago with the Covenant.

It was so very cool (understatement) to see the trains again. When I opened two of the engines, I was just a bit overcome by emotion to see them again. I had not seen these trains in 31 years! Dale saw my reaction and so kindly and generously said, “These trains mean a lot to me and to my family, but I can see they do not mean nearly as much as they mean to you. If you let me keep one of the engines and some track that I use in teaching at my school, I would like to give them back to you. Once more, my response was an incredulous, “Are you kidding?!!! Yes!”

These trains had trekked from West Germany, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, California, and finally Chicago. They were reunited with the little boy who had first received them and then had to give them up. I was struck by the spiritual motif even more, however. Back in 1965, I had obeyed my earthly father. I could not help thinking of the passage, “Honor your father and your mother,” (Exodus 20:12 is the OT commandment and the NT reference is Ephesians 6:1-3). The Ephesians reference says that it is right to honor your parents. It also promises that if you do, you will have things going “right” and that you will enjoy long life on the earth. My heavenly Father in turn had brought me an unexpected reward. These trains are not that valuable, it is more what they have meant to me in a sentimental way. Yet, it is also a greater lesson as I conform to the wishes of my Lord.

As I look at the many years involved in my little story, it makes me add: Do not put a timetable on it! You just never know when and where things will happen! And sometimes, you just do not know what it means!

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33). This reference puts it all into perspective. The MOST important thing is the Kingdom of God! Let’s keep the main thing, the MAIN thing!

*It is sharing my life with you, I am,
Most humbly & Sincerely,
Pastor Mark*



Engine from Pastor Mark’s Marklin HO train set

Pastor Alicia’s February Sermon Series:



The Sower, Vincent Van Gogh 1888

“The Sower, The Seeds, and the Weeds”

What does the Kingdom of God look like *now* and what does that mean for us as disciples of Jesus who share the Good News? This February, we are going to examine what it means to grow the Kingdom of God by looking at a few of Jesus’ parables about the Kingdom.

February 3: “Kingdom Soil” – The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-23)

February 10: “Kingdom Seeds” – The Parables of the Growing Seed and Mustard Seed (Mark 4:26-29; Matthew 13:31-32)

February 17: “Kingdom Weeds” – The Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

Join us as we are formed by God’s Word together!

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.





As a church family we extend our sympathy to the family of Bonnie Przybylowski who entered the life eternal on January 3, 2019. Funeral service was held in Indiana on Saturday, January 12. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 9, at 11 A.M., at Hope Covenant Church in Orland Park. Please remember Bonnie's husband Ted, their children Dawn (David) Mueller, Dena (Joe) Jeanes and Thad (Julie) Przybylowski in your prayers. Peace be to Bonnie's memory.



Dear Pastor Mark
and the faithful folk at Trinity Covenant,

How many ways do you all encourage us?! We are overwhelmed by your generosity – your faithfulness in praying for us and caring for our support needs is an indication to us that you are truly partnering with us.

And then, you blessed us with Christmas and birthday gifts! We can't say thanks enough. Perhaps we'll use your gifts for a vacation option or to buy some books to help us grow our ministry skills...or maybe even something just for fun!

In any event, thanks for your faithful partnership and care that spans many years. We are excited to read that Pastor Mark is at Trinity, and look forward to hearing how God will extend blessings on Trinity Covenant as you remain faithful in service and witness to your world.

With thankful hearts,
Barb and Steve Swanson



The Adult Sunday School class in February 2019 will be taught by Dr. Carol M. Noren on the theme "Gifted People of God." Authentic gifts of the Holy Spirit glorify God, not the recipient of the gift. They fulfill God's purpose and equip a person to answer God's call, and contribute to the common good. Through studying the lives of various people in the Old and New Testaments, I hope those in the class will be enabled to recognize their own gifts and use them at Trinity Covenant Church and beyond. Please join us at 9 A.M. in the Fireside Room.

Meet with Pastor Alicia!

Pastor Alicia would like to take time to meet with everyone at Trinity in her first couple months. Pastor Alicia has allotted 30-minute time slots continuing through Thursday, February 7, with various time slots throughout the day. Please sign up as individuals and/or families as you would like. Pastor Alicia is happy to meet at the church, your home, or even your work!

There are three options for you to signup:

1. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex.
2. Call the church office at 708-422-5111.
3. Go to our website www.trinitycovoaklawn.org, click on the tab About, Associate Pastor, Meet with Pastor Alicia Form.



Camp Rally Day – Let's Do Lunch

On Sunday, February 3, Trinity will welcome representatives from Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor who will be visiting us during the worship hour and for lunch. They will sing with us and share with us the many opportunities that all the campers can enjoy and participate in during the summer.

Dress in your camping gear! Following worship, head to Peterson Hall for a Taco Bar lunch and some camping fun! If you would like to donate something for the lunch, please bring your item to the kitchen before worship. Full tummies make happy campers!



To RSVP, call the church office at 708-422-5111.

**Annual Church
Business Meeting
Sunday, February 24
11:20 A.M.
Peterson Hall**

Pryme Tymers

Join us for the February meetings:
February 14, at 11 A.M.:
 Program: James Libera – Celebrating Valentine's Day – love songs from pop to light opera. **Red is the color for the day.**
 Entrée: Turkey



Annual Reports

In preparation for the Annual Church Business meeting February 24, please drop off your annual report to the church office by **Sunday, February 10**. Your report can be emailed to office@trinitycovoaklawn.org or drop in the box in the church office.



February 28, 11 A.M.:
 Program: Edison Dayao – Festive Hawaiian/Calypso Music.
 Entrée: Beef Stew

Make your reservation by the *Friday BEFORE* the program. The cost per meeting is \$7. Your donation of two canned goods for the Salvation Army Food Pantry is always greatly appreciated.



News from Human Resources

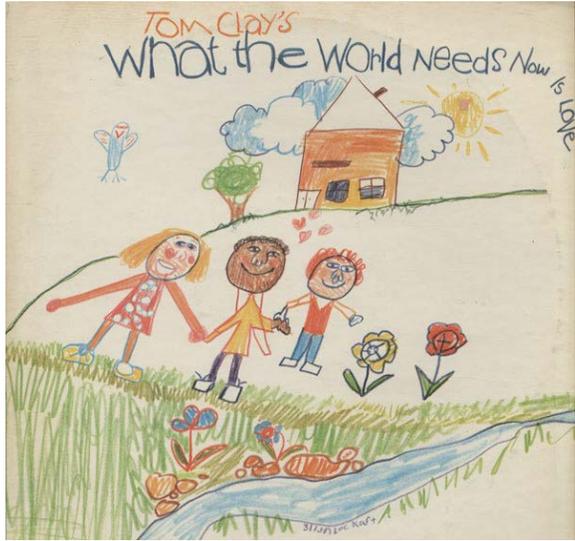
Hi! My name is Carol Raines. I am the newly elected Chair of the Board of Human Resources. I now have the responsibility for developing and supporting the pastoral, elected and volunteer staff of our church. In the coming months you will find out about these people and learn a little about what they do.

So, who am I?

I am a wife, mother and grandmother of 8. I am the retired Director of Music and substitute organist. My favorite part about church is worshipping and serving God as part of the team. My favorite ice cream is Rocky Road!

Please email me if you have any questions or suggestions for the Human Resources Board.

Carol Raines
rainescarol@hotmail.com



*Valentine's Day
 February 14*

**Contact information for
 Pastor Alicia:**

10140 Cook Avenue
 Oak Lawn, IL 60453
 Cell: 734-637-5979
 Email: alicia.k.reese@gmail.com



Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

Becoming slightly more aware of approaching the arena of an interesting more suitable life style gives thought to this winter month – February.

Quantity time will be given to receiving the benefits of what God designed us to be. He is always busy fashioning, renewing, reviving, guiding, leading – in keeping for our own good. Jeremiah 29:11. His planning is evident and so visible as we allow more moments for spiritual growth, quiet times for speaking and listening and reading words of truth and wisdom. All a given plus for praise and thanks.

During this month we will be met with challenge and commitment. God positions tools for us knowing we will partner with Him to do the work ordained – individually and corporately.

This month we continue our Tuesday study of The Gospel of Luke with a question to be addressed and answered as you read the story concerning our 16th President Abraham Lincoln with ties to John the Baptist, Jesus and Luke.

In 1863 Edwin Thomas and his brother John Wilkes won great applause as actors who united their talents in the play about Julius Caesar.

John, who played the assassin in Julius Caesar was the same John who took the role of assassin in Ford's Theater in 1865 when he stole quietly into the box in the Washington Theater and fired the bullet that killed President Lincoln.

The last name of the brothers was Booth –
Edwin Thomas Booth
and
John Wilkes Booth

Edwin's shame drove him into retirement and he might have never returned to the stage had it not been for a twist of fate at a New Jersey train station.

While Edwin waited for his train a young boy, pressed by the crowd, lost his footing and fell between the platform and the slowly moving train. Without hesitation, Edwin grabbed the young boy, pulled him to safety and when all settled the young boy thanked his rescuer, the actor Edwin Thomas Booth.

Edwin did not recognize the young boy until a letter came thanking him stating the life he had saved was the child of Lincoln – Robert Todd. The letter of thanks came from the Chief Secretary to General Ulysses S. Grant. How ironic – while one brother killed the president the other brother saved his son.

How does one explain – same parents – same profession – same passion – yet one chooses life – the other death. It's all about choice – free will or God's will.

1. God allows us to make choices.
2. We can choose a narrow gate or a wide gate.
3. We can choose to build on rock or sand.
4. We can choose to be numbered among the sheep or goats.
5. We can choose to serve God or temporal riches.
6. We can choose eternal life or eternal punishment.

Jesus loves us enough to save us – His choice – But, yet does not command nor demand. He loves us enough to give us choice. The choice is ours – the time is now – to live the life he has designed us for and intricately planned for us *or* to continue chasing after the wind.

Repentance available, salvation gifted – choice. Luke's gospel is the tie that binds as we remember the great men of this month. Choices made while standing tall, meeting challenges, being true to God, man and self.

Welcome this month with us: gathering
 study
 fellowship
 lunch

Fireside Room – Trinity
Tuesday – 9:15 – 10:45



2019 Usher Schedule

If you are unable to serve as usher for part or all of your appointed month, please find someone to replace you. Thank you.

<u>February</u>	<u>August</u>
Brian Crotty – Captain Carol Byland Kristine Schroeder Rita Grijalva	Phil Cavallone – Captain Rita Grijalva Grace Viner Clarence Rosengren
<u>March</u>	<u>September</u>
Matt Mateer – Captain Jay Hanson Greg Goetz Kay Shannon	Jay Hanson – Captain Matt Panush Melissa Panush Dave Sladek
<u>April</u>	<u>October</u>
Phil Cavallone – Captain Chuck Havel Kelly Bradbury Tom Klutcharch	Greg Goetz – Captain Janice Goetz John Gorney Joyce Gorney
<u>May</u>	<u>November</u>
Mel Mueller - Captain Shannon Lee Ken Dorl Tom Dorl	Kellie Lee – Captain Cathy Gardner Diana Eigenbauer Pam Polcar
<u>June</u>	<u>December</u>
Dave Sladek – Captain Bill Hutchinson Sandy Hutchinson Carol Byland	John Weszely – Captain Lorraine Weszely Marcia Lellos Cathy Gardner
<u>July</u>	<u>January 2020</u>
Brian Crotty – Captain Cathy Gardner Diana Eigenbauer Chuck Havel	Rich Swanson – Captain Chuck Havel Pam Polcar Grace Viner

2019 Counter Schedule

If you are unable to serve as counter for part or all of your appointed month, please find someone to replace you.
Thank you.

<u>February</u> Matt Panush Kay Shannon Pam Polcar	<u>August</u> Lois Flaws Dave Sladek Kristine Schroeder
<u>March</u> John Weszely Diana Eigenbauer Rita Grijalva	<u>September</u> Lorraine Weszely Marcia Lellos Brian Crotty
<u>April</u> Jay Hanson Carol Byland Lois Flaws	<u>October</u> Barbara Mateer John Weszely Carol Byland
<u>May</u> Greg Goetz Phil Cavallone Chuck Havel	<u>November</u> Chuck Havel Pam Polcar Dave Sladek
<u>June</u> Diana Eigenbauer Clarence Rosengren Greg Goetz	<u>December</u> Brian Crotty Phil Cavallone Rita Grijalva
<u>July</u> Bill Hutchinson Carol Strickland Rita Grijalva	<u>January 2020</u> Jay Hanson Janice Goetz Kristine Schroeder

NURSERY ROOM SCHEDULE 2019

Dear Nursery Room Helpers:

Following is the Crib Room Schedule for 2019. If for any reason you are unable to serve during your assigned time, **you are responsible to find your own replacement.** Please let the Heidi Weszely know of the change, since we want to print the correct name in the Church Messenger. Thank you for your help with this important service to the children of our church.

CHURCH 10am-11pm

<u>February</u> 3 Diane Panush 10 Joyce Gorney, Janice Goetz 17 Heidi Weszely 24 Jennifer Davies	
<u>March</u> 3 Lorraine Weszely, Shannon Lee 10 Rita Grijalva, Maddie Ford 17 Heidi Weszely 24 Carol Byland 31 Pat Klutcharch, Marcia Lellos	
<u>April</u> 7 Diana Eigenbauer, Grace Persson 14 Cathy Gardner, Deborah Oyelowo 21 Sandy Hutchinson 28 Heidi Weszely	
<u>May</u> 5 Judy and Ariel Kurzweil 12 Heidi Weszely 19 Joyce Gorney, Janice Goetz 26 Diane Panush, Shannon Lee	
<u>June</u> 2 Shannon Lee 9 Grace Persson, Carol Strickland 16 Rita Grijalva, Maddie Ford 23 Heidi Weszely 30 Jennifer Davies, Deborah Oyelowo	
<u>July</u> 7 Cathy Gardner, Diana Eigenbauer 14 Carol Byland 21 Lorraine Weszely 28 Judy and Ariel Kurzweil	

FEBRUARY 2019

Notes:

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		

- 2: Groundhog Day
- 3: Camp Rally Day
Let's Do Lunch-Taco Bar (11:15 AM) Peterson Hall
- 5: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
Ronald McDonald House "Meals from the Heart" (4:30 PM)
- 10: Annual Reports due to church office
- 12: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)
Trustees and CE Board meetings (7 PM)
- 14: Happy Valentine's Day
Pryme Tymers (11 AM)
- 17: **Articles for March Messenger due**
- 18: President's Day
Noah's Ark Preschool Family Day Fundraiser, PGN Fun Village,
Hickory Hills (10 A.M. – 1 P.M.)
- 19: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
- 21: Church Board meeting (7 PM)
- 24: Birthday Sunday
Annual Church Board Business meeting (11:20 A.M.), Peterson Hall
- 26: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
- 28: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

On-going Ministry

Sunday Mornings

9:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study

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

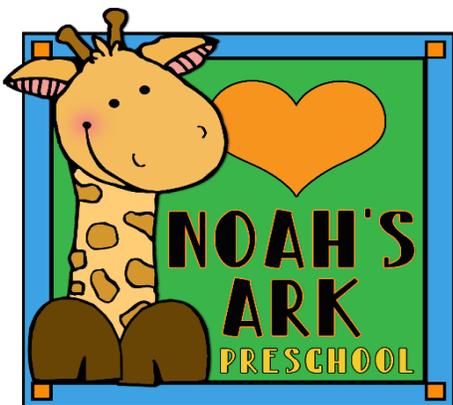
Women's Bible Study – Tuesday, 9:30 AM, Fireside Room

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

Looking Ahead

March 6 Ash Wednesday

March 10 Daylight Savings Time Begins



Noah's Ark Preschool Newsletter February 2019



FEBRUARY FUN



Important Dates

February 2

Groundhogs Day

February 14

Valentine's Day Party

February 15

Valentine's Day Party
100th Day of School

February 18

No School- President's Day

February 18

Family Day Fundraiser
PGN

Located in Hickory Hills

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Please keep an eye out for more important information

Looking Ahead

March 1

Spring Picture Day

March 4

No School-Pulaski Day

March 25 – March 29

No School- Spring Break

April 1

School Resumes

April 5

Donuts with Dad
10:45 a.m. – 12:00

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We began 2019 with lots of fun learning about the season winter and the animals that hibernate during the cold wintery months.

Thank you for all your support throughout the school year. To show our appreciation, our preschool families enjoyed an Ice Cream Social and a Magic Show by Magician John Measner. We hope everyone had a great time!

February is one of our favorite months! The children will learn about many fun and exciting things such as Groundhogs Day, Presidents Day, Valentine's Day, Dinosaurs, all about the Dentist and Dental care.

Please mark your calendars for the many fun and exciting events coming up. On February 18, please join us for our Family Day Fundraiser at PGN in Hickory Hills. Information will be coming home soon.

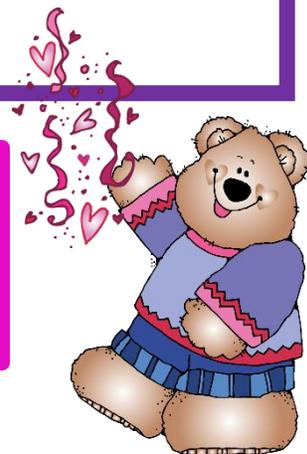
Looking forward to all the fun ahead!!

Thank You!

~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
E-mail: office@trinitycovoaklawn.org

CHURCH STAFF AND LEADERS

Reverend Mark Westlind

Senior Pastor

Pastor Alicia Reese

Associate 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

Patricia Anderson

Vice Chair

Pat Klutcharch

Secretary

Rich Swanson

Treasurer

Greg Goetz

Board of Trustees Chair

Kelly Bradbury

Board of Christian Education Chair

Carol Byland

Board of Deacons Chair

Carol Raines

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
March Messenger
due February 17