

Newsletter of  
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL  
COVENANT CHURCH**

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January

**Ushers**

John Weszely – Captain  
Lorraine Weszely  
Dawn Ferrell  
Olayemi Emmanuel Ajide

**Greeters**

5 Linnea Wimpenny, Barbara Johnson  
12 Tom & Pat Klutcharch  
19 Rich & Tracy Hood  
26 Susie, Arthur, Brooklyn and Satta Raines

**Nursery**

5 Diane Panush, Jen Davies  
12 Michelle West, Jamie Anderson  
19 Joyce Karlson, Pat Anderson  
26 Heidi Weszely, Angela Panush

**Counters**

Brian Crotty  
Robert Karlson  
Kevin McGrath

**Birthdays**

3 Leona Young  
3 Norma Forsgren  
3 Deborah Snow  
3 Carol Byland  
4 Dorothy Eckberg  
6 Jenna Przybylowski  
6 Vicki Twigg  
8 Charles Havel  
10 James Gaw  
10 Gloria Vitro  
14 Emily Sullivan  
17 Kari Devine  
17 Virginia Fulton  
19 Kevin McGrath  
22 Dorothy Karner  
22 John Weszely  
23 Marlene Hardesty  
24 Jeremy Schroeder  
27 Priscilla Sarr  
28 John Gorney  
29 Britta Johnson

# *The Messenger* January 2014

## Over the Pastor's Shoulder



The life and times of Israel's King David fill the pages of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel. David was a curious mix of sinner and saint. In looking back over his life, David shared some of the more valuable lessons he learned along the way. In looking ahead to yet another new year, you and I would do well to take what David learned and apply it to our own lives:

*God made my life complete  
when I placed all the pieces before him.  
When I cleaned up my act,  
he gave me a fresh start.  
Indeed, I've kept alert to God's ways;  
I haven't taken God for granted.  
Every day I review the ways he works,  
I try not to miss a trick.  
I feel put back together,  
and I'm watching my step.  
God rewrote the text of my life  
when I opened the book of my heart to his eyes.*  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 22:21-25 MSG)

My simple prayer for you in 2014 is that God makes your life complete, even if that means God has to rewrite the text of your life.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Jim*

## A Sermon Series: When God's Story Becomes Yours

Maybe you've never thought about the "text" of your life, but your life tells a story. And no, not all the text of your story is pleasing to you, let alone pleasing to God.

God, however, does not give up on us or throw us out with the trash. What he did with King David he does with us. His story envelops our stories in redemptive ways. In so doing, God rewrites the really rotten texts of our lives. "He makes everything work out according to his plan." (Ephesians 1:11)

In beginning the new year, my preaching will focus on some of the texts God might need to edit if not totally rewrite in your life and mine. Here's what I'm working on for January:

- January 5 When God's Story Becomes Yours...You Find Your True Home
- January 12 When God's Story Becomes Yours...You Hear a Voice You Can Trust
- January 19 When God's Story Becomes Yours...You Won't Be Forsaken
- January 26 When God's Story Becomes Yours...Your Final Chapter Becomes a Preface

Please pray that God graciously uses Trinity's pulpit "as part of the overall purpose he's working out in everything and everyone."

(Ephesians 1:12)

Pastor Jim

## Stewardship Thought for the Month

A brief news report in the most recent issue of the Covenant Companion notes: The percentage of a church member's income given to the church dropped to 2.3% in 2011 (the latest years for which numbers are available), down from 2.4% in 2010, according to the study. In 1968, church members gave an average of 3.1% of their income.

Giving has declined for four consecutive years, according to the report. The only other period of prolonged decline in giving per member was from 1928 through 1934, almost entirely during the Great Depression.

The report goes on to suggest that the local churches' failure to stress that giving is an important aspect of faithful discipleship has helped fuel the decline. It also makes clear that if the decline is to reverse---"churches must teach about how a relationship with God involves giving-stewardship...if it's not being talked about and it's not really being taught, it will not just automatically happen." (There are those who complain that we talk about money and giving in the church way too much, but the declining numbers would suggest the exact opposite to be true.)

### THOUGHT TO PONDER

Be the labor great or small,  
do it well or not at all.



Dr. Troy Martin, Biblical Studies Professor from St. Xavier University, will be leading our class during the month of January 2014. His subject will be: "The Search for Jesus". Come join us at 9:30 A.M. in the Fireside Room for Adult Sunday School classes and receive a blessing!



A huge Thank You to Kelli, Justin and Shannon Lee, Megan McShane, Anakin and Jeremy Schroeder and last but not least Pastor Zach. You've done a great job. God Bless you all.

Lorraine Sorensen

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Dear friends,

It was so good seeing so many at the Jul Fest! Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant. It sure brightens my room.

May the New Year be good to all of you.

Love and prayers, Marian Zeise

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Many thank you's to Diane and Tom Panush for organizing yet another trip to the Purdue University Christmas Show. It was "Magical" . Did I mention the seats were in the center, just a few rows back? Awesome!

Donna and Royce Swanberg

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you all for keeping our family in your thoughts and prayers this past year and a special thank you for the lovely poinsettia plant at Christmas. Trinity never fails to let God's love shine through in times of joy and sadness. Blessings to all.

The Parney Family

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Thank you for all the loving support, the many, many prayers for Carol through her surgery, and now through her recovery.

Thank you for all the generosity shown to us. God continues to answer our prayers.

Carol and Jim Strickland and Family



## Welcome New Members of Trinity Covenant Church

On December 1, 2013, we joyfully received and welcomed our new church members:

Jeff Blust  
Cathy Gardner  
Kendra Goetz  
Joyce E. Hodo  
Sarah A. Jones  
Pam Polcar  
Jean Smith Woodruff

A few words from.....

Sarah A. Jones

I was born and raised in Chicago. My husband, Charles Jones Sr., and I have two sons and one grandson. I enjoy reading, spending time with my children and meeting new people. I am grateful to all the friendly people I have met at Trinity Covenant Church.

Cathy Gardner

I was born on the South Side of Chicago and raised on the West Side. We moved to the South Side when I was 12 years old. After college, I moved to the North side in 1978 and then moved back to the South Side several years later.

My interests are cooking, dancing, flower arranging, seasonal decorating, going to the movies and theatre, and reading.

The atmosphere at Trinity Covenant Church is very warm and welcoming. The church members are so very nice and friendly as is the pastoral staff. I thoroughly enjoy Pastor Jim's sermons.

Jean Smith-Woodruff

I was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, and I have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. I enjoy being an avid

reader of both fact and fictional literature in my spare time and as a hobby. Throughout my life, I have been enthusiastic about exercise and living a healthy lifestyle, (though that doesn't seem to help my current condition), but I believe it has helped me in many other ways.

In the past, I volunteered at the Chicago Food Depository, helping people with behavioral issues, and I assisted seniors with their decisions in taking the best path toward selecting appropriate health care insurance. I chose to worship at Trinity because they encourage knowledge-based biblical awareness, the love of God, and camaraderie is excellent! With all the help you receive at Trinity, it is almost impossible not to live life as a Christian.

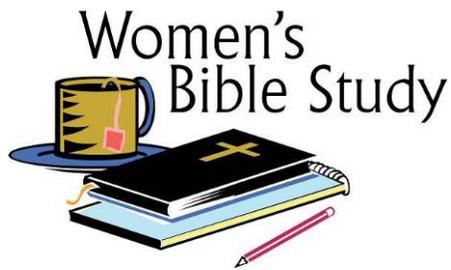
### Church Chuckle

I'm reading a book about antigravity.  
I can't put it down.

### Apricot Squares

3/4C butter	1 tsp. baking powder
1 C brown sugar	1/2 tsp. salt
1 1/2 C oatmeal	1 1/2 C apricot jam
1 1/2 C flour	powdered sugar

Cut cold butter into pieces. Mix dry ingredients. Blend butter into dry ingredients with two forks until fine and crumbly. Press 1/2 of crumb mixture into a 9x13 pan. Spread apricot jam on top. Sprinkle remaining crumb mixture on top and pat down lightly. Bake at 350° for 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool. Dust with powdered sugar.



## Career Connections



### Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

As our world turns, isn't it interesting that long established traditions are still points of conversation, momentary action and unattainable pledges as weeks vanish into chasing after the wind.

Although engaging in non-life-changing surface resolutions let's resolve to establish a workable, enjoyable and meaningful life-changing pattern which will give passage to a viable personal relationship with the Son of Man whose birthday we last celebrated. The Father gifted us with a forever gift with unwrapped blessings, claims, promises, love, mercy, miracles – all testaments of what we were created for and elected to be.

Many find as we grow in wisdom that a life-style change of a new daily menu can enhance the old established routine and give depth to now welcoming changing patterns.

So, out with weak January resolutions which are like shifting sands and in with the resolute, firm foundation that gives attainable hope for future eternity structured upon the only lasting Christmas gift given.

A lifetime commitment given day-by-day will be to the delight of both the giver and receiver as the true meaning of Christmas will take us into every new year on solid ground.

Our January/February Tuesday Bible Study continues with the twelve, five-minute segments on prayer taken as a challenge and commitment based on Matthew 26:40 when Jesus asks His inner circle, "Will you not spend an hour with me in prayer?"

Spend one hour with us these Tuesdays being planted now in winter soil being further readied for a lush time of blooming. God is the creator of all seasons and even now in these cold months He prepares us for future work.

We are not shifting sands – we are planted on solid ground nurtured and readied – Hallelujah!

Tuesdays 9:30 A.M.  
Fireside Room  
Trinity Church

Barbara Johnson

The beginning of a new year generally elicits all kinds of New Year resolutions that we earnestly make in January but often break by month-end. A new year should breathe new life into us starting off with a fresh page or clean slate. Job seekers alike will make numerous resolutions on being more steadfast in their job search. Perhaps a resume begging to be rewritten, greater preparedness on answers to questions on an interview, a resolve to network with others, be able to articulate career goals to others in 30 seconds. The list goes on and on.

I am reminded by the 70 resolutions written by Jonathan Edwards, a Christian preacher and theologian who died in 1758 at the age of 53. You may know him as the preacher who delivered the sermon, "*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*," a classic of early American literature. Jonathan was only 20 when he wrote his resolutions in a span of a few months during 1722-23.

Jonathan Edwards prefaced his 70 resolutions with the following: "*Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help. I do humbly entreat Him by His grace to enable me to keep these resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to His will, for Christ's sake.*"

For the sake of space, five of his 70 resolutions follow which are still well-suited for each of us, job seeker or not.

- Resolved, never to do anything but duty; and then according to Ephesians 6:6-8, do it willingly and cheerfully as unto the Lord, and not to man; "knowing that whatever good thing any man doth, the same shall he receive of the Lord."
- Resolved, never to lose one moment of time; but improve it the most profitable way I possibly can.
- Resolved, that I will live so as I shall wish I had done when I come to die.
- Resolved, to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently, as that I may find, and plainly perceive myself to grow in the knowledge of the same.
- Resolved, to improve every opportunity, when I am in the best and happiest frame of mind, to cast and venture my soul on the Lord Jesus Christ, to trust and confide in Him, and consecrate myself wholly to Him; that from this I may have assurance of my safety, knowing that I confide in my Redeemer.

Denise Krueger

--- A Sampling of Thank-You Notes ---

Hi Denise, I would like to thank you for the wonderful support provided. I got a temporary job, hopefully it might become permanent. Wish you a happy holiday!!

Maria

Hi Tom -- It is so great to hear from you! I think about all of you all the time and I keep all of you in my prayers always. Would you believe Tom, that right now, as I write this to you, I am struggling with the fact that I have "2" ----- let me repeat, 2 HUGE JOB OFFERS, and I am so beside myself as to what to do? I have been interviewing with one company out in Orland since August! The other one I just applied to about 3-4 weeks ago, and it's in Tinley. Both are Medical Front Desk Supervisor positions, and BOTH offers came TODAY!!! Thanks for thinking about me Tom, it sure means a lot. Please keep me in your prayers, and God Bless You too!

Most Sincerely, Mary

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The next Career Connections will be January 13, 2014, at 7 P.M. Dennis Parney will present "A Second Look at 2013".

## Pryme Tymers

Pryme Tymers will start the New Year on Thursday, January 9, 2014, at 11 A.M.

Entrée: Beef Stew

Program: Nick Willett, vocalist and acoustic guitar player. You'll listen to familiar songs from the 50's, 60's and 70's sung in a "little" different way. At noon, a catered beef stew luncheon will be served. Reservations must be made by Friday, January 3. The cost is \$6. Be sure to bring two canned goods for the Salvation Army food pantry. The need continues to be great.



## Altar Flowers

If you would like to honor or remember 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.

## South Suburban Pads

Please consider volunteering your time to serve at a PADS Homeless Shelter during their Emergency Shelter Season which operates between October 1, 2013 and April 30, 2014.

PADS is in urgent need of volunteers to staff the shelters and volunteer cook teams to provide meals for the guests. Four hours, once each month, is all it takes to help keep these shelters open. Please contact Dawn Thrasher, Community Resource Coordinator, at 708-754-4357, ext. 107 or [dawn@sspads.org](mailto:dawn@sspads.org) to register for volunteer opportunities. Training is provided every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday:

9:30 A.M., Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 667 W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago Heights.

2 P.M., Our Savior Lutheran Church, 8607 S. Narragansett Ave., Burbank.

## UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

- January 5 - Youth Group 7-9 P.M.
- January 12 - Let's Do Lunch fundraiser following worship for Family Winter Weekend.  
Registration for Winterfest due.  
Children's Ministry Night 5-6 P.M.  
Youth Group 7-9 P.M.
- January 19 - Youth Group 7-9 P.M.
- January 26 - Children's Ministry Night 5-6 P.M.  
Youth Group 7-9 P.M.



## The Year of Stewardship

Over the past several months, there has been an understandable focus on stewardship in the church. These times to consider our own tending of the resources God has given us are important moments to reflect on the exact nature of how we should regard our treasures. Yet, one of the areas of our church's stewardship that has not been mentioned yet is the stewardship of our youth ministries.

This year has been a little harder than past years because the amount of Sunday activities has doubled from last year. That means more work, more driving, and even more time away from home for families. As you might recall, we've also crossed the threshold that I need volunteers to stay with the kids because there are too many for one person to reasonably keep safe. There is no doubt about it, when a ministry grows, deepens, or changes there is a need for more hands and harder work. This year, I am grateful.

Families that live far away have tried to make an effort to come even though the travel is difficult.

Volunteers do not have a lot of free time, but still give it.

The work of the church to get more involved to sustain and continue to expand the ministries of our youth group have been evident this year and I am grateful for it. We are still trying to find ways to get involved with more kids and working to get our kids out into the community to serve and to witness; and all of this is made possible by the good stewardship of our youth ministries at Trinity.

So, for the first word of the new year I just want to say, "Thank you."

*Pastor Zach*

## Let's Do Lunch Fundraiser Family Winter Weekend

Come join us for Chili Dump

Sunday, January 12, following worship

Adults \$5

Children \$1

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Children \_\_\_\_\_

Share your favorite chili with your Trinity friends \_\_\_\_\_

Bring a dessert \_\_\_\_\_

Help set-up \_\_\_\_\_ Help clean-up \_\_\_\_\_

*2013 Christmas Greeting  
From your Friends  
at Trinity*



Betty & Bob Aardema  
Svea Agner  
Bill & Virginia Almer  
Mary Jean Anderson  
Patricia Anderson and family  
Vern & JoAnn Bergwall  
Jeff Blust  
Jim, Carol, Andrew & Elizabeth Byland  
Hazel Carlson  
Lois Carlson & Family  
Thomas & Barbara Dorl  
C. Lowell Edgren  
Diana Eigenbauer  
Dick & Joan Erickson  
Tom & Barbara Eustace  
Rick & Dawn Ferrell  
Lois Flaws  
Kelly, Maddie & Ally Ford  
Norma and Susan Forsgren  
Virginia Fulton  
Edna Garcia  
Jim & Joy Lynn Gaw  
Gregory, Janice, Kendra, & Cameron Goetz  
John & Joyce Gorney  
Rita Grijalva  
Marlene Hardesty  
Chuck Havel & Pam Polcar  
Bud & Lois Jaderholm  
Barbara Johnson  
Britta Johnson  
Kyle Johnson  
Patricia & Ken Johnson  
Bob & Joyce Karlson  
Dorothy Karner  
The Keller Family  
Tom & Pat Klutcharch  
Linda, Gary & Paul Kozak  
Pat, Kellie, Shannon, Justin Lee  
Chuck & Marcia Lellos

Ray Lewis  
Pastor Zach Lovig  
Dave & Diane Manthey  
Matt and Barbara Mateer  
Rhea Maurer  
Curt, Sherri & Rheann; Craig, Mary & Ellie Pinley  
The McShane Family  
Ruth Mitchell  
Mel & Arline Mueller  
Norman and Diana Nilsson  
John Nordstrom  
Norman & Joyce Olson  
Palazzolo Family  
Diane and Tom Panush  
The Parney & Schwellenbach Family  
Harry & Grace Persson  
Patricia Petersen  
The Przybylowski Family  
The Raines family  
Arnold Rodstrom  
Clarence & Dolores Rosengren  
Pastor Jim & Charlene Sandberg  
Schroeder Family  
Roger & Kay Shannon  
Arlene, Dave Sladek & Family  
Char & Bruce Sladek  
The Sorensen Family  
Jim & Carol Strickland  
Donna & Royce Swanberg  
Richard & Priscilla Swanson  
Oren Swift  
Geoff & Vicki Twigg  
Grace Viner  
Gloria Vitro  
Doris Wallace  
John and Lorraine Weszely  
Linnea Wimpenny  
Leona Young & Family  
Marian Zeise



### Dates to Remember

Wednesday-Friday, January 1-3  
No School-Winter Break

Monday, January 6  
School Resumes

Monday, January 20  
No School  
Martin Luther King Day

Friday, January 24  
Ice Cream Social



Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Onesto's  
class will focus on letters Dd,  
Gg, Rr & Ff and numbers 0-10.

Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Dryier's  
class will focus on  
Letters Kk - Ll and numbers 0-9

# Noah's Ark Preschool January 2014 Newsletter



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

**Colors-** Blue & White

**Shapes-** Circle

**History-** Martin Luther King

**Science-** Water & Ice

**Experiments**



### **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  
about Jesus.

~for your support during our Holiday pie sale!

~to our room helpers during our Holiday Party!

~to our families who donated toys to the  
Toy Box Connection.



Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a Wonderful Holiday Season!

We are pleased with the progress made by your child thus far. The children have been doing an exceptional job learning the sounds of the vowels and consonants. We are beginning to sound out blends and complete words.

Please continue working on the following at home; printing with reminding your child to print from top to bottom, letter recognition and sounds, and counting 1-20. During the month of January, we will continue to focus on the vowels and past letters learned and introducing letters Dd, Gg, Rr and Ff.

January assessments will be sent home towards the end of the month.

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

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Onesto



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 2014! Happy New Year!

With the hustle and bustle of the holiday season behind us, it's time to get back in the swing of things here at preschool.

It may be rather cold here, but at preschool we will be discussing places that are nice and warm! This month we will discuss the tropical rainforest!

During January, we will focus on letters Kk – Ll and focusing on numbers 8-9. We will continue counting to 15 and recognizing numbers 1-5.

Please feel free to contact us at any time concerning your child's progress.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amanda and Mrs. Dryier

# January 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	

## On-going Ministry

Sunday Mornings (September 8, 2013 – May 31, 2014)

9:30 AM Adult Sunday School; 9:30 AM Confirmation

10:00 AM Choir Practice; 10:30 Kingdom Kids for ages 2-7, Nursery for Infants; 10:45 AM Worship

Noah's Ark Preschool – Mon–Fri, 9 AM–12 P.M. **(closed Dec. 23 – Jan. 3)**

Career Connections –Monday, Jan. 13, 7 PM **(meeting only once a month)**

Women's Bible Study - Tuesday 9:30 AM

Pryme Tymers – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday (Sept-June) 11 AM

## Notes:

1: *New Year's Day* (church office closed)

2: church office closed

4: Men's Prayer Breakfast, Jedi Garden (8 AM)

5: Together We Cope Retiring Offering  
Tracy Hood's father's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday party, Peterson Hall (1-7 PM)  
Youth Group (7-9 PM)

6: Noah's Ark returns from Christmas break

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

9: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

12: Let's Do Lunch fundraiser for Family Winter Weekend (12 PM – 1 PM)  
Registration for Winterfest due  
Children's Ministry Night (5-6 PM)  
Youth Group (7-9 PM)

13: Career Connections (7 PM)

14: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)  
Deacons Meeting (6:30 PM)  
Trustees Meeting (7 PM)

18: Wellspring Meeting, Game Room (9 AM – 12 PM)

19: **February Messenger articles due**  
Youth Group (7-9 PM)

21: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)  
C.E. Board Meeting (7 PM)

23: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)  
Church Board Meeting (7 PM)

26: Children's Ministry Night (5-6 PM)  
Youth Group (7-9 PM)

27 - 31: Midwinter at Hyatt Regency O'Hare

28: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)

31: Family Winter Weekend

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**Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg**

*Senior Pastor*

**Reverend Zachary Lovig**

*Assoc. Pastor: Minister to Youth and Families*

**Geoff Twigg**

*Minister of Music and Worship*

**Betty Aardema**

*Organist*

**Stuart Seale**

*Pianist*

**Christina Palazzolo**

*Director – Noah's Ark Preschool*

**Karen Christakos**

*Secretary*

**Phil Cavallone**

*Custodian*

February Messenger Articles are  
due January 19

