

## Over the Pastor's Shoulder

### January

#### **Ushers**

John Weszely – Captain  
Lorraine Weszely  
Jon-Anders Mateer  
Michelle West/Joe Horvath

#### **Greeters**

3 Matt & Melissa Panush  
10 Tom & Pat Klutcharch  
17 Rich & Tracy Hood  
24 Danielle & Brian Khan  
31 TBD

#### **Nursery**

3 Diane Panush, Jen Davies  
10 Michelle West  
17 Joyce Karlson, Cathy Gardner  
24 Emily Sullivan, Julie Carbray  
31 Heidi Weszely, Angela Panush

#### **Counters**

Brian Crotty  
Thad Przybylowski  
Kevin McGrath

#### **Birthdays**

3 Leona Young  
3 Norma Forsgren  
3 Deborah Snow  
3 Carol Byland  
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

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

In the tradition of the New Year, I want to offer two resolutions for your consideration. The first resolution is this: Pick Up. Pick up on what others have started.

Let me share a brief story. It is about Puccini, the great Italian composer. Puccini had contracted cancer early in his life and spent his last days writing his masterwork, Turandot, his most accomplished piece. When told to take it easy, he would reply, "I am going to do as much as I can on my great masterwork, and it's up to you, my friends, to finish it." He did die and so his friends had a decision to make. They could either mourn forever or they could make beautiful music building on his melody. They chose the latter.

So in 1926 at the famed LaScala Opera House in Milan, the masterwork was first played under the great conductor, Arturo Toscanini. When it came to the part in the opera where Puccini had stopped because of his early death, Toscanini, stopped everything. He turned around to the audience and with tears streaming down his cheek, he said, "Here is where the Master ends." Then, after long pause, he lifted up his head smiled great big and said, "And this is where his friends begin."

Pick up on what others have done, pick up and make life better for others. You have a new year in which to continue many wonderful things others have started. Some have left you the precious melodies of memories that will never leave you. Pick up and honor those memories by sharing the music of love and service. Pick up.

The second resolution is this: Put down last year's garbage. A woman relates: I was telling my new workplace friend, Alice, about how awful my former boss had been, when she laughed and said, "So forget him. Why not just enjoy it here?" Then she went on to tell a little story about herself. "I'm reminded about the time I moved a few years ago," she began. "I was making enough money to have a professional mover pack for me and when he asked me what I wanted him to pack, I just waved my arm and said, "Everything!" So when I got to my new place, I saw that he had taken me literally. Along with my furniture he had packed up all my trash bins as well, and there I was in my beautiful new place with all my old garbage including old newspapers, empty ketchup bottles and grapefruit peels!"

It's a little story, but it packs a big meaning. You have a beautiful new year ahead of you, leave the emotional garbage behind.

So there you are. Two succinct New Year's resolutions: Pick Up. Put Down. Pick up the positive. Put down the emotional garbage.

My friends, all told, we've been given on the average, some 25,000 days to live. Some portion of that has already run out but a new year, remember, wipes out all of the yesterday's and offers us, shinning new, 365 tomorrows, in which to be finer, more focused, more faithful Christians.

There is a New Year ahead; time to Pick Up and Put Down.

Grace and Peace,  
*Pastor Jim*



## Sunday School MAKES A DIFFERENCE

will be our teacher. His subject will be 1 Peter.

Come join us at 11:15 A.M. after the morning worship service.

In the Overflow Room, Rich Hood's class will resume January 11. The focus of Rich's study will be in Paul's letter to the Galatians.

In the Fireside Room during the month of January, Troy Martin, Professor of Biblical Studies at St. Xavier University,



### 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 Karen McShane on the death of her father, Frank Bruettig who entered the life eternal on Friday, December 11, 2015. A funeral service was held at Trinity on Wednesday, December 16. Interment at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Joliet.



We extend our sympathy to the family of Marian Zeise who entered the life eternal on Friday, December 11, 2015. Services were held December 18, at Vandenberg Funeral Home, Mokena, Illinois. Interment was Private.

Peace be to Frank and Marian's memory.

### Thank You

Dear Trinity Friends,

What a delightful surprise to receive a beautiful poinsettia plant along with a delightful visit from Grace and Harry Persson.

We send greetings to all of you along with our sincere thanks for your cards, calls, prayers and visits.

Dave and Diane Manthey



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Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant that Kevin McGrath delivered. I receive strength from my caring church family.

Love, Kay Shannon

To Members of Diaconate and Trinity Church,

Many thanks for the beautiful poinsettia plant received yesterday delivered by Kevin McGrath. It was so nice to visit with him, rekindling memories.

Trinity will always be our church and we are there as often as we can. God's Blessings to you all and the kindness to so many.

Sincerely, Norman and Joyce Olson

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Dear Pastor and friends,

Thank you for your visit and poinsettia. Was so good seeing Pastor (he's as handsome as ever).

Lois Carlson

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Trinity Family,

I can't thank you enough for your loving support, prayers and care during such a difficult time.

The flowers were just beautiful. The service could not have been more meaningful.

Love, the McShane and Bruetting Family

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Dear Pastor Sandberg & the Trinity Family,

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for being such a compassionate pastor for my mom, and for taking your personal time to come to visit her and also for your beautiful words about my mom that you spoke at her memorial. I will remember them always, and how you displayed such diligent pastoral care for her through prayers, phone calls, and your concern for her. Many blessings to you, your sweet wife and the entire Trinity Family. Thank you for being one of the last people to pray with my mom before she went to meet the Lord. I will always remember that moment for the rest of my life. I am convinced that your wonderful parting prayer was heard by my mom and I can't think of a better way to send someone off to heaven and close up shop here on earth. Many do not experience that, and I'm glad my mom did. So thank you for that!

Much love, appreciation and blessings to you,  
Heather and the Elarde Family  
(Mitzi Maquet's daughter)

### Thanksgiving Offering Update

Our Thanksgiving Offering for 2015 was \$32,990.

Thanks for your generosity.

### Contributions 2015

Contributions for 2015 will be accepted through Sunday, January 10, 2016.

Checks must be dated December 31, 2015.

## A Video Series from FamilyLife: "Stepping Up" (A Call to Courageous Manhood)

On back-to-back Saturdays: January 16 and January 23, from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. (lunch will be provided), Rich Hood and I will help you unpack Dennis Rainey's 10 session video presentation (five sessions per Saturday).

Rainey, cofounder of FamilyLife, calls men to boldly forge into courageous manhood. *Stepping Up* defines courage throughout the five stages of manhood and commissions men to honestly evaluate where they stand in their duties of masculinity. Rainey then prepares men to bravely master their life purpose by developing a strategic plan and establishing a winning vision.

I believe the future of Trinity very much hinges on the willingness of men to "Step Up". I hope you can join us.

*Pastor Jim*

### Covenant World Relief Update

It is not too late to contribute to Covenant World Relief. This is a year of special emphasis on the clean water work of CWR through Project Blue. All gifts to Project Blue go to CWR water projects. Updates on what is happening because of your gifts include:



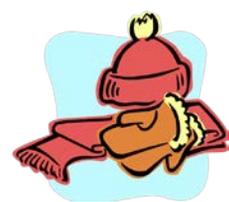
**-In Haiti** – providing a source of water for one community for the first time and a second community whose water source is unreliable.

**-In India** – drilling 8 new open wells, increasing the water availability of 6 existing wells, conserving 60,000 liters of rain water each year, repairing 8 broken hand pumps, and drilling 12 new bore wells.

**-In Cameroon** – constructing 3 new wells, providing 40 bio sand filters, and 30 drip irrigation kits.

**-In Honduras** - a water system is being constructed that will provide access to water for the first time for 106 households and 4 community centers. Each household will also build a toilet and receive hygiene education.

Your gifts to CWR and Project Blue are providing access to clean water to many for the very first time.



### Winter Coat/ Outer Wear Project

Covenant Women are sponsoring the annual Coat/Outer Wear Project for Worth Township. New and gently-used clean coats/jackets and new outer wear such as scarves/mittens/gloves/hats/boots for children are needed. Please bring your donations to the Overflow Room by Sunday, January 24. We thank you for your support.

### Health Concern Updates

#### Karen Curry's Daughter

Karen's daughter, Jennifer, was in a severe car accident in Colorado last October which left her in ICU with numerous broken bones and lacerations, followed by several surgeries. Karen writes: Jennifer has now updated to braces/splints to both arms. Doctors still not sure if they need to wire her jaw shut for better healing. Jen should be able to start therapy for her legs with weight bearing in March or April of 2016. She says she is doing pretty good with electric wheel chair and gets out often to play cards. Her friend drives her to those activities. She has a long way to go and prayers are appreciated.

Thank you, Karen Curry

#### Letter from Muriel Everts

Dear Ones,

Enjoy your Family and Friends this Season! We have really found great blessings as ours have helped us so much after a September 1 TIA which I suffered. Paul's dementia remains stable so we're still in residential living in our Village. God's healing grace is awesome.

Love, Paul and Muriel Everts

#### **Lisa Maras' Address:**

206 Hillsdale Road  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

### Pryme Tymers

The winter 2016 programs start on **January 14, 11 A.M.:**

Entrée: Beef Stew

Program: "Happy New Year" with Edizon Dayao. A Pryme Tymer favorite – Edizon plays and sings Hawaiian/Calypso music. Tropical shirts and muu muus suggested apparel.

**January 28, 11 A.M.:**

Entrée: Spaghetti & Meatballs

Program: A musical special with "Just Friends". Returning by popular demand, this female vocal ensemble will sing music from the 1940's through the decades, highlighting many of your favorites.



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.



## Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Looking into this new year with anticipation is expected of us but as we are now in the throws of not only day by day changes but minute by minute changes we are challenged to turn our independence to dependence.

Our fears and lack of understanding coupled with today's news agenda give deeper cause to trust God's perspective while learning through adversity.

Giving voice to our Tuesday group, as we experience change, we are reminded that God has a different view from His vantage point excuting a definite purpose for us that fits perfectly into His plans.

- We must trust His promises
- We must trust His guidance
- We must listen to Him
- We must focus on Him
- We must wait for His response
- We must be confident in Him

And with this said we move to our Tuesday Bible Study year forging ahead while continuing to know about Him and of Him through our personal relationship as child and family.

We will look at thirty-one reasons why He came. Our winter study, meditations on the Incarnation continuing the Christmas story based on the years the Son assumed our flesh-and-blood human nature – hopefully connecting His ministry with His importance in our daily living. We will further recognize our need for Him as God and man.

This mystery of change (incarnation) defies all understanding. We are to grow in faith while beginning these new days in confidence. Sarah Young in her commentaries from Jesus Calling reminds us that the Creator of the universe condescended to co-create with us. We are not to hurry this process. We must accept His timeframe – Hurry is not in God's nature. We are to live by faith, not by sight, always trusting, for everything fits into God's plan for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.

Walk and talk with us each Tuesday as we strengthen our dependence on Him. Watch, expect and see what He will do for His children in this new year.

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26  
Bakery 9 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.  
Study 9:30 – 10:45  
Trinity Fireside Room

P.S. Muriel Everts faithfully acknowledges  
The Messenger in several ways.  
My mentor and friend – gift!

Barbara Johnson

## Mitch's Musings

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year from the Great White North (aka Roseau, Minnesota)!!! We've got about 10-12" of snow with more on the way! What a much-needed Christmas break I had! I've been able to spend lots of time with my fiancée, Jena, and her two precious little girls, Nadia (7) and Emmi (5). My brain has finally stopped spinning from Greek exegesis, which I'd happily like to announce that I passed, due to an 87% on my 50 page (single spaced) exegetical paper. PHEW! I'm so grateful for my classmates and professors who have helped me along the way.

As I look to 2016, it's amazing to reflect on God's faithfulness and provision as yet another year comes and another one goes. I'm very excited to explore some more ideas at Trinity Covenant and am so appreciative to be interning under Pastor Jim. He truly is a source of wisdom and knowledge – what a blessing for TECC! There's a lot to do as we kick off the New Year, but I'm mostly looking forward to the possibilities of the youth leading the congregation in some more songs as well as taking them on a retreat!

### Upcoming Events:

- January 3 - Worship @ 10am  
Sunday School @ 11:15am (9th-12th)  
Youth Group @ Trinity @ 1:00pm
- January 8-10 DEEP FREEZE RETREAT (Jr. & Sr. High)  
Cost: \$149.00 for each student  
Speaker: Kris Causton  
More detailed info @ [covenantharbor.org](http://covenantharbor.org)  
Contact Mitch ASAP to get signed up
- January 10 - Worship @ 10am  
Confirmation @ 11:15am (7th & 8th)  
Sunday School @ 11:15am (9th-12th)  
Youth Group TBD
- January 17 - Worship @ 10am  
Confirmation @ 11:15 (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>)  
Sunday School @ 11:15am (9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)  
Youth Group @ Trinity @ 1:00pm
- January 24 - Worship @ Trinity @ 10am  
Confirmation @ 11:15am (7th & 8th)  
Sunday School @ 11:15am (9th-12th)  
Youth Group @ Trinity @ 1:00pm
- January 31 - Worship @ Trinity @ 10am  
Confirmation @ 11:15am (7th & 8th)  
Sunday School @ 11:15am (9th-12<sup>th</sup>)  
Youth Group @ Trinity @ 1:00pm

### Other Possible Dates for Winter Retreats:

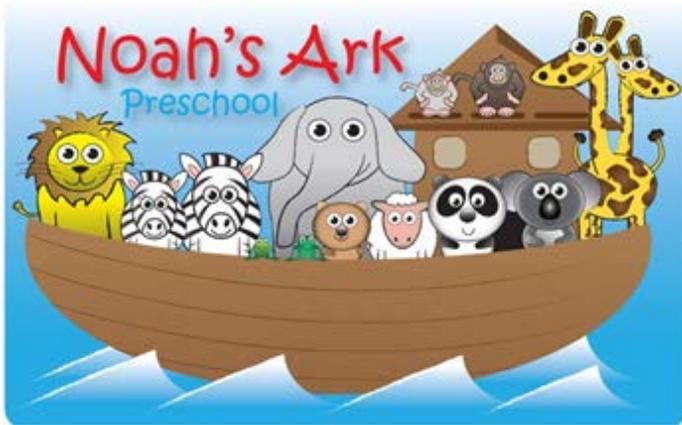
- January 15-17 (Jr. High only)
- February 5-7 (Jr. High only)
- February 12-14 (Sr. High only)

*2015 Christmas Greeting  
from Members and Friends  
of Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church*



Marvin R. & Betty Aardema  
Svea Agner  
Bill & Virginia Almer  
MaryJean Anderson  
Patricia Anderson & Family  
JoAnn Bergwall & Family  
Jeff Blust  
The Byland Family: Jim, Carol, Andrew & Elizabeth  
Hazel Carlson  
Brian Crotty  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dorl & Family  
Lowell Edgren  
Diana Eigenbauer  
Dick & Joan Erickson  
Pastor Paul & Muriel Everts  
Rick & Dawn Ferrell  
Lois Flaws  
The Bradbury Family  
Norma & Susan Forsgren  
Virginia Fulton  
Edna Garcia  
Jim & Joy Lynn Gaw  
Greg, Janice, Kendra, & Cameron Goetz  
John & Joyce Gorney  
Rita Grijalva  
Desiree Hall  
Marlene Hardesty  
Chuck Havel & Pam Polcar  
Bud & Lois Jaderholm  
Barbara Johnson  
Britta Johnson  
Kyle Johnson  
Bob & Joyce Karlson  
Dorothy Karner  
Tom & Pat Klutcharch  
Gary, Linda & Paul Kozak  
Dick Larson & Family & Genie

Pat, Kellie, Shannon, Justin Lee  
Chuck & Marcia Lellos  
Ray Lewis  
Dave & Diane Manthey  
Matt & Barbara Mateer  
Rhea Maurer,  
Curt, Sherri & Rheann, Rev. Craig, Mary & Ellie Pinley  
Kevin McGrath  
The McShane Family  
Ruth Mitchell  
Mel & Arline Mueller  
Norman and Diana Nilsson  
John A. Nordstrom  
Joyce & Norman Olson  
The Palazzolo Family  
Diane and Tom Panush  
Harry & Grace Persson  
Patricia Petersen  
The Przybylowski Family  
The Raines Family  
Arnold Rodstrom  
Dee & Clare Rosengren  
Pastor Jim & Charlene Sandberg  
The Schroeder Family  
Kay Shannon  
Dave & Arlene Sladek & Family  
Bruce & Char Sladek  
Lorraine Sorensen  
Jim & Carol Strickland  
Donna & Royce Swanberg  
Richard & Priscilla Swanson  
Grace Viner  
Gloria Vitro  
The Weszelys: John, Lorraine and Heidi  
Linnea Wimpenny  
Leona Young & Family  
Cathy Gardner, Karen Gardner, Gertrude Penar  
Frank, Opal, John, June



# January Newsletter 2016



## Dates to Remember

**Monday, December 21- Friday, January 1**

Winter Break

**Friday, January 1**

Happy New Year

**Monday, January 4**

School Resumes

**Monday, January 18**

No School

Martin Luther King Day

**Friday, January 29**

On-site Field Trip

Magic Show

More Information to come

## A Note of Thanks!

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

Pastor Jim, thank you for sharing the wonderful story about Amber Lamb.

Thank you, Linda Kozak for setting up the Christmas Jewelry and Ornament Sale. We truly appreciate your generosity and your donation!

Thank you to our friends and families who shopped at the Christmas sale!

Thank you for attending the Christmas Program.

Thank you "Santa" for visiting Preschool.

Thank you for your Christmas card donations.

**For the month of January we will focus on...**

~Winter Fun

~Water and Ice Experiments

## Pre-K Classroom

During the month of January the children will focus on the letters Cc, Dd, Gg and Rr and numbers 0-10.

## 3's - 4's Classroom

During the month, the children will focus on letters Aa-Mm and numbers 0-9.



**A NOTE FROM..**

**Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Wojcik**

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

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

We are very 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, past letters learned and introducing letters Cc, Dd, Gg and Rr.

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. Wojcik



**A NOTE FROM..**

**Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Dryier**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 2016! 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.

During January, we will focus on letters Aa- Mm and numbers 8-9. We will continue counting to 15 and recognizing numbers 1-9.

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

Sincerely,

Ms. Amanda and Mrs. Dryier



# January 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
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## On-going Ministry

### Sunday Mornings

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Nursery for Infants/Sunday School Pre-K – 3 rd Grade

11:15 AM Sunday School Grades 4-6, Confirmation, Sr. High, Adult Class  
(childcare will be provided for parents who want to attend Sunday School)

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> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 11 AM

## Notes:

### 1: Happy New Year

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

### 3: Together We Cope retiring offering

Youth Group at Trinity (1 PM)

### 4: Noah's Ark Preschool classes resume

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

Ronald McDonald House supper (4:30 PM)

### 8-10: Deep Freeze Retreat (Jr. & Sr. High)

### 10: Youth Group TBD

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

Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)

Trustees & CE Board meetings (7 PM)

### 14: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

### 16: "Stepping Up" (10 AM – 2 PM)

### 17: Annual Reports due

Articles for February Messenger due

Youth Group at Trinity (1 PM)

### 18: Martin Luther King Day – Noah's Ark Holiday Closing

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

### 21: Church Board meeting (7 PM)

### 23: "Stepping Up" (10 AM – 2 PM)

### 24: Youth Group at Trinity (1 PM)

### 25-29: Pastor's Midwinter Conference, O'Hare Rosemont

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

### 28: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

### 29: Noah's Ark Preschool On-Site Field Trip & Magic Show

### 31: Youth Group at Trinity (1 PM)

**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)

**Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg**

*Senior Pastor*

**Mitch Haaby**

*Pastoral Intern*

**Nate VanDerMale**

*Interim 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  
February Messenger  
are due January 17