

Newsletter of  
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL  
COVENANT CHURCH**  
9230 S. Pulaski Road  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
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# *The Messenger* January 2017

## January

### **Ushers**

Bob & Joyce Karlson – Captain  
Anakin Schroeder  
Paul Kozak  
Mike Davies

### **Greeters**

1 Rich & Tracy Hood  
8 Tom & Pat Klutcharch  
15 Brian & Danielle Khan  
22 Charlene Sandberg, Jeff Blust  
29 Kevin McGrath, Brian Crotty

### **Nursery**

1 Jen Davies  
18 Angie Panush  
15 Joyce Karlson, Cathy Gardner  
22 Emily Sullivan, Julie Carbray  
29 Heidi Weszely

### **Counters**

Bob & Joyce Karlson  
Brian Crotty  
Thad Przybylowski

### **Birthdays**

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  
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.

## **Over the Pastor's Shoulder**

<sup>19</sup>“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.”

**(Matthew 4:19)**

Recently, I visited a church where I was to attend a meeting with fellow clergy. I was only a few minutes late. I pulled into the parking lot and all of the doors were locked on one side of the building. I knew we were to gather in the pastor's office, but there was no sign telling me where the office was. I walked around to the side of the building and jiggled the doors but there was no sign of where the office might be. Ten frustrating minutes later after walking around the building, I finally found how to get in. I took that as a parable. I'm sure everyone who's a member of that church knows how to get into the building and where the office is. But that's just the problem. The church has been run with purely internal considerations rather than external considerations. Perhaps we all need to take a look at our church, not from how it appears to those of us on the inside, but how it appears to someone on the outside.

Perhaps those of us at Trinity would do well to do an honest inventory of all the ways that we unintentionally exclude others or make it difficult for others to be a part of our fellowship. Locked doors, unfamiliar practices, dress, distribution of leadership and power, music, accessibility, and lack of follow-up with visitors can all be factors that contribute to the newcomer's sense that they are not welcome.

In his book Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love, Will Willimon offers some specific steps that congregations and leaders can take to be sure that they are truly being obedient to Jesus by welcoming the stranger and actively fishing for people:

1. Lay leaders must ask their church to discipline themselves to spend twice as much time visiting, witnessing to, and getting to know people who aren't (yet) members of our congregation as time spent with members.
2. At every gathering of the church, visitors ought to be expected and explicitly invited to be part of the congregation.
3. There must be active, personal strategies not just for inviting and welcoming others but also for receiving and integrating them into the body. Christian love is more than right slogans and good ideas; it's love in action, active encounter, sustained life together.
4. Every member of the congregation should be expected to participate in face-to-face, self-sacrificial service to people in need in the community and to discover the joy of receiving good things from the people we thought we were helping.

O my, looks like we all have plenty to do as we enter into the New Year. Isn't it all so exciting?

Happy New Year!

*Pastor Jim*

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



We will be welcoming back Dr. Troy Martin on January 8 to teach our class about the Prophets. Join us in the Fireside Room after the worship service. It's sure to be an interesting and informative class.



### 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 deepest sympathy to Diane (Dee) Manthey on the death of her husband, David, who entered the life eternal on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 10:40 P.M. A private service was held December 21, at Colonial Chapel in Orland Park, IL. Peace be to Dave's memory.



As a church family we extend our deepest sympathy to Joyce Olson and family on the death of her husband, Norman, who entered the life eternal on Monday, December 26, 2016. Services are pending. Peace be to Norm's memory.

*Thank You*

Dear Trinity,

Thank you so much for the poinsettia. I passed it on to a lonely person who has no one. I'm sure it is very much appreciated.

Love,  
Mary Jean Anderson

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Dear Trinity Family,

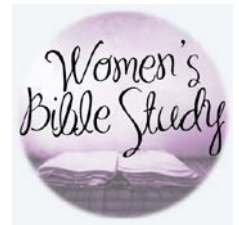
Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia plant that has brightened up my apartment. I appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Everything is going well for me here at Tabor Hills but I miss all of you. May God bless you in the New Year.

JoAnn Bergwall

### Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our winter study includes references and materials from the 2002 study The Gospel of John.



Through these more than fourteen years together we have endeavored to apply God's words from Old and New Testament books plus materials by recognized noted forebearers and contemporary authors. These years have been exciting.

We are privileged to approach each study knowing depth in understanding is an essential component of God's plan for His children. Growth and commitment nourish and sustain His covenant of love.

Our time together will further expound upon the relationship between Jesus and John as we work with passages in the most read book of The Bible.

The Old Testament is an account of a nation.

The New Testament is an account of a Man.

The birth of Jesus is the main event of history.

The Old Testament sets the stage.

The New Testament describes it.

Join us as we witness how Jesus influences man in history and this present day.

Tuesday-Trinity's Fireside Room  
Bakery and Fellowship – 9:00 – 9:30  
Study and growth- 9:30 – 10:30  
Lunch-relationship

Barbara Johnson

### Thanksgiving Offering Update

Our Thanksgiving Offering for 2016 was \$26,997.

Thank you for your generosity.

### And it is still not too late to give.

#### Contributions 2016

Contributions for 2016 will be accepted through Sunday, January 15, 2017.

Checks must be dated December 31, 2016.



COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

It is not too late to contribute to Covenant World Relief.

Covenant World Relief has been helping and inspiring us to make the world a better place for everyone over the last 60 years. CWR is committed to: loving, serving, and working together with the poor, the powerless, and the marginalized. Over this past year CWR has sponsored multiple development and relief projects on 5 continents around the world, including responding to the recent earthquakes in Ecuador and northern Italy.

I believe in the ministry of CWR, I believe it reflects the work of the church at its very best, and I always consider it a privilege to encourage you to give to this very important work.

Thank you once again for your generosity. Your faithful giving brings compassion to where it's needed most. *"You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is my follower, will certainly receive a reward."*

(Matthew 10:42)

### Visiting Missionaries

Steve and Barb Swanson, (2 of the 4 Covenant Missionaries Trinity supports), will be our guests Sunday, January 8.



Steve will deliver the morning message during our worship hour. Barb will be briefly sharing about their mission work with our Sunday school children.

They will also co-teach one of our adult classes. (A very busy morning for our guests...we are so fortunate to have them with us on the 8<sup>th</sup>.)

Steve and Barb have spent the last several years in Belgium. Steve was the pastor of an international church in Brussels. Barb served as a missionary to the growing refugee community there. At the conclusion of their furlough, the Swansons will begin a ministry working amongst the growing refugee population in Sweden.

### Nutritious Meals Delivered to Seniors' Homes

PLOWS Council on Aging's Home Delivered Meals (HDM) can provide the nutrition necessary for seniors to remain healthy and independent. Seniors, age 60 and over, who have difficulty preparing nourishing meals or grocery shopping may be eligible for the HDM program. Meals are delivered by trusted volunteers Monday through Friday in the morning. Meal delivery also serves as a well-being check for

homebound seniors. Requesting a meal is as simple as calling PLOWS at 708-361-0219. Our intake caseworker can explain the process and get it started.

PLOWS organization serves seniors and their families throughout suburban Cook County in Palos, Lemont, Orland and Worth Townships. Those living outside the PLOWS area can find their agency by calling Illinois Senior Help Line 1(800)252-8966.

### Community Care Program – Helping Older Adults Remain in their Homes

The Community Care Program (CCP) helps persons, age 60 and over, live independently, in their own homes for as long as possible. Services available through this State of Illinois program include In-Home services, Adult Day Care and Emergency Home Response. There is no cost to eligible participants.

In order to begin the process, PLOWS sends a Care Coordinator to the senior's home to determine eligibility for the program. After determining eligibility, the Care Coordinator helps the client identify needs and sets up appropriate services.

The Illinois Department on Aging funds this program for individuals 60 or older who are U.S. citizens or legal aliens. The Care Coordinator will discuss further criteria for eligibility in this program.

Seniors living in any suburban Cook County town or portion of a town in the Townships of Palos, Lemont, Orland and Worth, or concerned family members, should call the PLOWS Council on Aging at 708-361-0219. Seniors living outside these townships can find their local agency by calling the Illinois Senior Help Line 1(800)252-8966.

### Pryme Tymers

The winter 2017 programs start on

**January 12, 11 A.M.:**

Entrée: Beef Stew

Program: *Live Life*

*Laughing with Nurse Brenda Celmer.* We will be starting the New Year – on a "positive" note. Pulmonary rehab nurse, Brenda Celmer, will have your sides splitting and eyes watering from laughter. Hopefully, this will be the start of a very Happy Year for you.

**January 26, 11 A.M.:**

Entrée: Chicken

Program: *Another Day with the "Wise Guys".* An entertainment favorite, this duet, a singer and an accordion accompanist, will continue our laughter from the first meeting and add more humorous antics.

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.



## Children's Letters to God

Dear God,  
Are you really invisible or is that just a trick  
Lucy

Dear God,  
Is it true my father won't get in Heaven if  
he uses his Bowling Words in the house?  
Anita

Dear God,  
Do animals use you or is there somebody else  
for them?  
Nancy

Dear God,  
Did you really mean do unto others as they  
do unto you, because if you did then I'm  
going to fix my brother  
Darla

Dear God  
My grandpa says you were around when he  
was a little boy. How far back do you go?  
Love Dennis

Dear God,  
Thank you for the baby brother  
but what I prayed for was a puppy  
Joyce

Dear God,  
Please send Dennis Clark to a different camp  
this year.  
Peter

Dear God -  
Please put a-nother Holiday between  
Christmas and Easter. There is nothing good  
in there now.  
Ginny

## Noah's Ark Preschool

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 Rr, Ff, Jj & Kk.

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. Theodossopoulos

Dear Parents/Guardians,  
Welcome to 2017! 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. Theodossopoulos

*2016 Christmas Greeting  
from Members and Friends  
of Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church*



Betty & Bob Aardema

Svea Agner

Virginia Almer

Mary Jean Anderson

Patricia Anderson & Family

JoAnn Bergwall & Family

Jeff Blust

Steve & Kelly Bradbury, Maddie & Ally

The Byland Family: Jim, Carol, Andrew & Elizabeth

Hazel Carlson

Brian Crotty

May & Fred Dorl

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dorl & Family

Lowell Edgren

Diana S. Eigenbauer

Dick & Joan Erickson

Pastor Paul & Muriel Everts

Lois Flaws

Norma & Susan Forsgren

Virginia Fulton

Edna Garcia

Cathy Gardner

Jim & Joy Lynn Gaw

Greg, Janice, Kendra, & Cameron Goetz

John & Joyce Gorney

Rita Grijalva

Desiree Hall

Chuck Havel & Pam Polcar

Bud & Lois Jaderholm

Barbara Johnson

Britta Johnson

Kyle Johnson

Bob & Joyce Karlson

Dorothy Karner

Pat & Tom Klutcharch

Gary, Linda & Paul Kozak

The Lee Family

Chuck & Marcia Lellos

Dave & Diane Manthey

Matt & Barbara Mateer

Kevin McGrath

The McShane Family

Ruth Mitchell

Joel & Nancy Mondry, Keith Mondry

Katie & Andrew Kreft, Kevin & Christine Mondry

Margaret Morrissey

Mel & Arline Mueller

Joyce & Norman Olson

Melissa & Matt Panush

Harry & Grace Persson

Pat Petersen

The Raines Family

Arnold P. Rodstrom

Dolores & Clarence Rosengren

Pastor Jim & Charlene Sandberg

Priscilla Sarr

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

Ebba and Clarenc West

John, Lorraine, Heidi Weszely

Linnea Wimpenny

## 2017 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.

<b><u>February</u></b>	<b><u>August</u></b>
Dave Sladek – Captain Denise Sullivan Hannah Sullivan Emily Sullivan	Clarence Rosengren – Captain Christine Schroeder Jeremy Schroeder Gary Kozak
<b><u>March</u></b>	<b><u>September</u></b>
Matt Mateer – Captain Jon-Anders Mateer Jay Hanson Kevin McGrath	Brian Crotty – Captain Matt Panush Melissa Panush Diana Eigenbauer
<b><u>April</u></b>	<b><u>October</u></b>
Phil Cavallone – Captain Steve Bradbury Kelly Bradbury Tom Klutcharch	Greg Goetz – Captain Janice Goetz John Gorney Joyce Gorney
<b><u>May</u></b>	<b><u>November</u></b>
Mel Mueller - Captain Tom Dorl Chuck Lellos Marcia Lellos	Kellie Lee – Captain Justin Lee Rita Grijalva Cathy Gardner
<b><u>June</u></b>	<b><u>December</u></b>
Bill Hutchinson – Captain Sandy Hutchinson Bill McShane Megan McShane	John Weszely – Captain Lorraine Weszely Rich Swanson Priscilla Swanson
<b><u>July</u></b>	<b><u>January 2018</u></b>
Rich Hood – Captain Pam Romano Larry Thomas Angie Panush	Bob Karlson – Captain Joyce Karlson Chuck Havel Pam Polcar

## 2017 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.

<b><u>February</u></b> Dave Sladek Denise Sullivan Marcia Lellos	<b><u>August</u></b> Matt Mateer Christine Schroeder Sandy Hutchinson
<b><u>March</u></b> Paula Cassady Kelly Bradbury Angela Panush	<b><u>September</u></b> Brian Crotty Lorraine Weszely Rita Grijalva
<b><u>April</u></b> Jay Hanson Tom Dorl Priscilla Swanson	<b><u>October</u></b> Barbara Mateer Gary Kozak Pam Romano
<b><u>May</u></b> Greg Goetz Mel Mueller Matt Panush	<b><u>November</u></b> Chuck Havel Pam Polcar Phil Cavallone
<b><u>June</u></b> Diana Eigenbauer Denise Krueger Bill Hutchinson	<b><u>December</u></b> John Weszely Brian Crotty Lois Flaws
<b><u>July</u></b> Rich Hood Carol Strickland Clarence Rosengren	<b><u>January 2018</u></b> Bob Karlson Jay Hanson Janice Goetz

# January 2017

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–6<sup>th</sup> Grade

11:15 AM Confirmation, Sr. High, Adult Classes

(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

Together We Cope retiring offering

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

Ronald McDonald House supper (4:30 PM)

8. Visiting Missionaries Steve and Barb Swanson

9. Noah's Ark Preschool class resumes

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

Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)

Trustees & CE Board meetings (7 PM)

12: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

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

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

19: Church Board meeting (7 PM)

22: **Annual Reports due**

**Articles for February Messenger due**

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

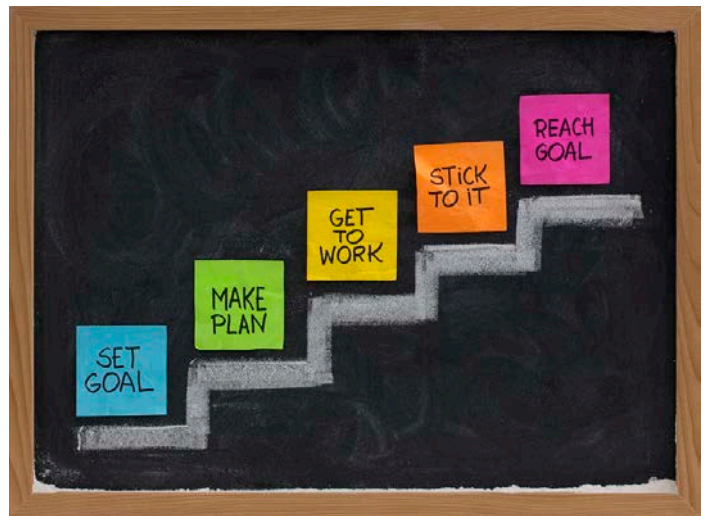
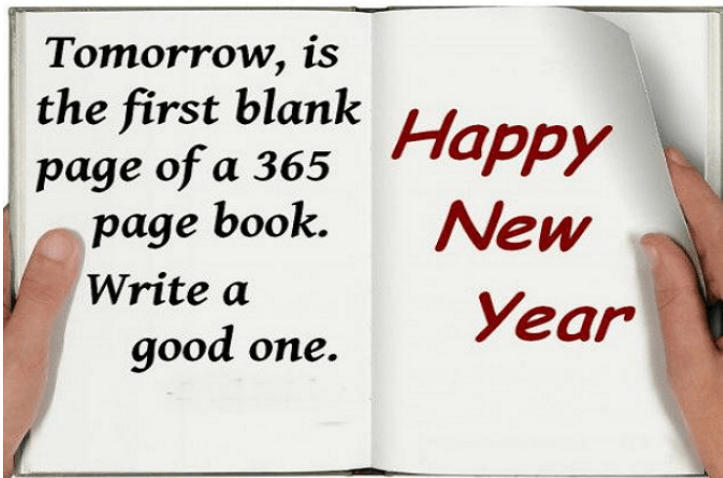
26: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

27-29: Family Winter Weekend, Geneva Bay, WI

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







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**Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg**

*Senior Pastor*

**Mitch Haaby**

*Intern Pastor*

**Lee Van Sickle**

*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 22