

Newsletter of
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL
COVENANT CHURCH**
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The Messenger *January 2018*

Sharing “Argentine Mate” with Pastor Mark

Christmas celebrations around the world!!!

How about some fun with International Christmas celebrations? OK!! This is in the interest of a continuing celebrative season through the Epiphany! Let's look at Colombia:

As a family, we have had the true privilege of living in various different countries within the Latin context, both in Central and South America. Specifically, for this article, I would like to concentrate on how blessed we were to live in three different cities of Colombia over a 15 year period; Medellin, Santa Fe de Bogota, and Cartagena. Do not be surprised if you recognize some of these traditions, since some of them are practiced in multiple countries. As an informative explanatory background; Colombia has a Roman Catholic presence between 90 and 96%.

The first part of December begins the festivities. Many of the cities of Colombia prepare even before with their extensive “alumbrados.” These are the tremendous lighting displays that not only go up on private homes, but also the displays that the cities and neighborhoods erect. The most prominent city, in terms of decorations, (with apologies to “ciudadanos” [city dwellers] from other Colombian cities!) is Medellin, which actually charges extra utility bill surcharges to its customers to help pay for the huge displays. This is meted out over a three month period and EVERYONE willingly pays the surcharges. They light the river and have festive vendors with seasonal treats along the banks.

What are the treats you may ask? Natilla – a special holiday gelatin concoction made of cinnamon, cloves, cornstarch, condensed milk and brown cane sugar (panela) among other ingredients. Lechona – a full roasted stuffed pig. This is delicious beyond belief! Buñuelos – a type of cheese rolled in a doughy ball that is deep fried. There is also a type of rice pudding that is made with coconut, rice, and raisins. Each region has a different variety. If you live in the capital city of Bogota, the treat is a special soup called “ajiaco.” If you have been a very good boy or girl this year, I might be able to talk my wife into making this delectable delight for you!

Near the end of the first week of December, the 7th of December looms as the night of the lighting of the candles. Many from our neighborhood said that they were helping the Virgin Mary and Joseph find their way to Bethlehem. All of the homes light their approaches and walkways with candles. They are multicolored candles and most homes will use two dozen!! The entire city is lit up. The next day is the celebration of the Immaculate Conception.

Novena – a 9 day (hey...novena...nueve...nine!!) event that takes place EVERY night from Dec 16th to the 24th. Scripture reading and singing of carols...villancicos. A festive drink (canelazo) drunk from a wooden spoon hung around your neck. This is a wonderful time for the family since all of the relatives get together and celebrate for nine consecutive evenings.

January

Ushers

Bob Karlson – Captain
Joyce Karlson
Chuck Havel
Pam Polcar

Greeters

7 Marcia Lellos, Margie Morrissey
14 Tom & Pat Klutcharch
21 Brian & Danielle Khan
28 Chuck & Marcia Lellos

Nursery

7 Madeline Ford
14 Heidi Weszely, Melissa Panush
21 Kristine Schroeder, Carol Byland
28 Lorraine Weszely, Diane Eigenbauer

Counters

Bob Karlson
Jay Hanson
Janice Goetz

Birthdays

3 Norma Forsgren
3 Deborah Snow
3 Carol Byland
6 Jenna Przybylowski
6 Vicki Twigg
8 Charles Havel
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.

If you are out shopping during this season, you will note that the Christmas music piped into the stores is always sung by children's choirs. All of the crèches in the city and store displays do NOT have baby Jesus in the manger until the night of the 24th. There is a midnight mass called the "misa de gallo," the mass of the rooster. This is so named for the two roosters; the first that flew over the manger when Jesus was born and the second that crowed over Bethlehem. There are Christmas trees, but the presents are delivered by the Baby Jesus. I can remember hearing the oft asked question the following morning, "Que te trajo el Niño Jesus?" ("What did The Baby Jesus bring you?").

All of the cities celebrate Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve with massive fireworks displays. Private parties supply the explosives and it is a raucous time! I have video footage from Bogota that looks and sounds like a battlefield scene! It always starts at midnight and all of the families are outdoors, down to the toddlers! Some folks will send up paper box kites shaped like hot air balloons with a flame in the center to elevate them. These are called "globos" (globes). It is a bit of an art-form to get these into the air. Try to imagine a city of 9 million with every second house sending off skyrockets for about one hour straight! It is so bright; there is no need for streetlights! You also have not lived until you experience exploding boulders! Ask me about those sometime! (Hint: think...rounded 12 to 15 pound rocks coated with gunpowder and flint. Roll them down the street and just imagine what happens!)

The nativity celebration truly continues after the 25th since they celebrate the arrival of the three kings on Epiphany (around the 6th of January). Those who are able; will arrange their vacation travel plans around this time and the busy urban centers are vacated. Sometimes it is actually fun to stay home and be able to drive around Bogota without leaving a 3 hour window to get downtown and back!

All workers receive what is called an "Aguinaldo." This is an end of the year Christmas gift bonus. Many families also donate gifts and presents for the less fortunate who are found on street corners asking for help.

Please feel free to ask Aly or me about customs and delicacies! It is through this kind of cultural exchange that we truly appreciate the beauty that the Lord has given us as we celebrate His birth among the glorious variety of His creation!

Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Felices Pascuas, Feliz Dia de Los Reyes, Happy Epiphany.

May God Bless us everyone and Colombia this year too!

Your Joyful Pastor Mark



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.



Dear Trinity Members,

Thank you all for the beautiful flowers. Also thank you to Cathy (Gardner) for delivering them to me.

Merry Christmas to all,
Dick Larson

Our Tuesday morning Bible group thank Larry Thomas for bringing weekly bakery delights and other edible and interesting surprises for our enjoyment.

Larry shares the wealth of the adage, "variety is the spice of life". He spices our bakery time with his efforts and generosity.

Barbara Johnson
Women's Bible Study Group

Adult Sunday School



Join Greg Goetz on January 7 after worship in the Fireside Room as he teaches on the topic "The Library of Alexandria".

It's a Kingdom Thing

Pastor Mark's Wednesday evening class will resume on January 10 at 6:30 P.M. and concludes at 8 P.M.

We will meet at 6 PM for a light dinner in Peterson Hall.

Please call the church office at 708-422-5111 or email office@trinitycovoaklawn.org if you would like to attend and haven't previously signed up.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

In what direction will we be led in this coming year? As has been heard many times, "The Lord only knows!" And, how true this statement, so blithely said as the divine key which we are so dependent upon to unlock the present and set the stage for the future.

During the years as a working and studying group of faithful women we have often discussed and reflected on how to decide upon our next study and, to my knowledge, there has been no rhyme or reason as to why we are continually brought from one journey to the next.

It has become apparent we simply do not decide but have always willingly accepted the factual truth that the Lord only knows and what He knows has directed us into arenas we thought unattainable or unimaginable. A God of surprises – yes!

We have journeyed from Old Testament to New Testament, back and forth many times; from hell to heaven; to the seven basic snares of modern/ancient society; to valleys, crags and hillsides with sheep and shepherds; with and watching the potter in His workshop; weeping with the misunderstood Jesus; learning and listening with His chosen disciples; recognizing the twelve steps of prayer; and lately, but always continuing in the Psalms where praise, joy and thanks carry us through storms, circumstances as we reach mountain top.

So we leave it here – in what direction will we be led? The Lord only knows. But this we do know – He has led us thus far into a deep and comprehensive learning of His mission as Son of God and Son of Man and with confidence, love, and grace we continue to grow knowing our Friend, Mentor, Lord of All ordains what benefits us and thus we look forward to another full year of being in His hands.

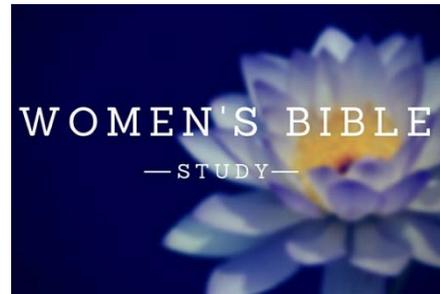
We study with no monthly time limit and never-ever being completely finished, we "roll" from one topic to another, not like clockwork, but somehow always "running the course" in slow motion.

As mentioned last month, "Always expect something good to happen" and so, once again, it did. Our winter study – Rediscover Jesus. We will thank Him for an on-going lifetime of getting to know more about Him as we continue in the sanctification of our Christian life.

Tuesdays 9:30 – 10:45 Trinity Fireside Room

We welcome you as we learn, question, fellowship and often laugh. Praise, joy and thanks are a given – surprises are undoubtedly a certain.

Barbara Johnson





Happy New Year

may this new year
bless you with beams of energy,
raindrops of fortune and
mountains of confidence
to embrace a promising future

Save the Date

Mark your calendar for the next Family Event on Wednesday, January 3. We are going to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Aurora from 12-2 P.M. Founded in 1987, FMSC is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Donations given fund the meal ingredients, volunteers hand-pack the meals, and the meals are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved!



All are welcome! See Linda Kozak to sign up.

Pryme Tymers

Join us in the new year with our January 2018 programs:
Thursday, January 11, 11 A.M.

Program: *Eric Luckey and his Musical Variety Show.* Eric's captivating voice and charismatic charm will put a smile on your face and a song in your heart.

Entrée: Beef Stew



Thursday, January 25, 11 A.M.

Program: *Edizon Dayao.* Join in the fun with the multi-talented Edizon and he entertains you with a variety of music from calypso, big band, salsa and Hawaiian.

Entrée: Chicken

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 as there is always a great need.

Pacesetters – A Look Back

A quick look back at 2017. Donna Swanberg and Pat Petersen were among the members and friends of Trinity Church who attended "An Autumn Afternoon of Music" on October 14. Thank you to Pacesetters and Betty Aardema who made this delightful afternoon happen.



Trinity Covenant Church to Partner with Access Covenant Church in Houston, Texas

Access Covenant Church is a young church in the Houston, Texas area whose community was hard hit by Hurricane Harvey. The church became a reality in August of 2007 meeting in neighborhood clubhouses. Their membership is growing and they are currently leasing a much larger space for Sunday worship. They average about 130 adults and 50 children on a Sunday. They are led by Pastor Ted Law.

Their surrounding area was devastated by Hurricane Harvey and they are reaching out to help their community any way they can. Pastor Mark knew of Access Covenant Church and Pastor Ted. The Deacon's Board wanted in some way to help a church in either Texas or Florida that was at the mercy of relentless weather. After much discussion and Pastor Mark reaching out to various churches, the Deacon's Board chose Access Covenant Church to partner with in their efforts to help their community.

Pastor Ted Law explains that the name Access reflects a passage in the Scriptures, Romans 5: 1-2. "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained **access** by faith into this grace in which we now stand."

Pastor Ted says it is their hope that Access Covenant Church will create an environment where everyone can connect with the grace we have been given in Jesus. When Jesus began Access Covenant Church, he did not have in mind a building with a steeple and pews. He was calling people to form a new community.

On Sunday, January 28 we will use our Together We Cope offering to send to Access Covenant Church to help our "sister" church re-build their community.

God's Peace
Deacon Board



*2017 Christmas Greeting
from Members and Friends
of Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church*

Betty Aardema

Virginia Almer

Patricia Anderson & Family

JoAnn Bergwall & Family

Steve & Kelly Bradbury, Maddie & Ally

The Byland Family

May & Fred Dorl

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Dorl & Family

Diana S. Eigenbauer

Mike, Katie, Georgia & Kimmy Erhardt

Dick & Joan Erickson

Lois Flaws

Norma & Susan Forsgren

Virginia Fulton

Edna Garcia

Greg, Janice, Kendra, & Cameron Goetz

Chuck Havel & Pam Polcar

Bud & Lois Jaderholm

Barbara Johnson Family and Friends

Britta Johnson

Kyle Johnson

Bob & Joyce Karlson

Dorothy Karner

Tom & Pat Klutcharch

Gary, Linda & Paul Kozak

The Lee Family

Chuck & Marcia Lellos, Opal, June, Frank, John

Diane Manthey

Margaret Morrissey

Mel & Arline Mueller

Joyce Olson and Family

Harry & Grace Persson

Patricia Petersen

Arnold P. Rodstrom

Dee & Clarence Rosengren

Kay Shannon

Dave & Arlene Sladek & Family

Bruce & Char Sladek

Jim & Carol Strickland

Donna & Royce Swanberg

Richard & Priscilla Swanson

Grace Viner

Ebba & Clarence West

John, Lorraine Weszely Family

January 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tues | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| |  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 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–6th Grade

11:15 AM Confirmation, Sr. High

11:30 AM Adult Sunday School

(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 – 2nd and 4th Thursday, 11 AM

Notes:

1: **Happy New Year**

2: Ronald McDonald House supper (4:30 PM)

8: Noah's Ark Preschool class resumes

9: Women's Bible Study resumes, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)
Trustees & CE Board meetings (7 PM)

10: Pastor Mark's "Kingdom" class resumes 6:30 PM; supper 6 PM

11: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

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

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

18: Church Board meeting (7 PM)

21: **Articles for February Messenger due**

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

25: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

28: Access Covenant Church, Houston, TX special offering

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





Noah's Ark Preschool

January News



Reminders

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE
REMIND APP OR TEXT
@msafult to 81010

I send out reminders for events and days off through this app. With winter here this is where I will send the emergency closing information.

A Peek at Our Weeks

Winter Fun
Projects
Ready Set Snow!!!!!!

Upcoming Events

School Resumes Jan 8th 2018

NO School

Monday Jan 15th

Martin Luther King Day

Letters Mm, Nm, Oo and Review
Numbers 6&7

We will continue Shapes and Colors
Throughout the year!

Color: Blue and White

Please help your child learn to hold a
pencil

Please Feel Free to Contact Me at Any
time!

Ms. Amanda -708-969-3481

Mrs. Dryier

Mrs. Theo

Big Room News!

Letters Gg,Rr,Ff,Jj

Numbers 13,14,15

Color- Purple and White

Working on high frequency words

The, In, To, My, and Me

Forming words and Rhyming

Blending words for reading

Mrs. M

Mrs. Wojcik

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Reverend Mark Westlind

Interim Pastor

Stuart Seale

Director of Music and Worship, Pianist

Betty Aardema and Nate Van Der Male

Organists

Amanda Fulton

Director – Noah's Ark Preschool

Karen Christakos

Secretary

Joe Michalowicz

Custodian

**Articles for the
February Messenger
are due January 21**