

Newsletter of  
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL  
COVENANT CHURCH**  
9230 S. Pulaski Road  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
Phone 708-422-5111  
E-mail: [office@trinitycovoaklawn.org](mailto:office@trinitycovoaklawn.org)  
Website: [www.trinitycovoaklawn.org](http://www.trinitycovoaklawn.org)

# *The Messenger* January 2019

## January

### Ushers

Rich Swanson – Captain  
Priscilla Swanson  
Chuck Havel  
Pam Polcar

### Greeters

6 Diana Eigenbauer, Kevin McGrath  
13 Tom & Pat Klutcharch  
20 Brian & Danielle Khan  
27 Marcia Lellos, Margie Morrissey

### Nursery

6 Cathy Gardner, Diana Eigenbauer  
13 Carol Byland  
20 Lorraine Weszely  
27 Judy and Ariel Kurzweil

### Counters

Jay Hanson  
Janice Goetz  
Kristine Schroeder

### 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

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

## Sharing “Argentine Mate” with Pastor Mark

“What is Goodwill to Men?”

Indeed, the above title might be better labeled, “What is Goodwill to all of Humanity?” In this way, we are able to encompass all genders, and ethnic groups that populate our planet!

If you will bear with me, let me take you on a fascinating journey. My son had been planning to surprise our family with a new and special Christmas tradition this year. Our tradition has been to have a “full-on” Swedish smorgasbord on Christmas Eve, followed by a turkey or ham for Christmas Day. He told us that he had purchased a full 45-pound pig. He then soaked it in brine for two or three days. Then we all had a fabulous evening meal on the 24<sup>th</sup> and after opening gifts to each other on Christmas morning, we awaited the arrival of the pig.

At 4:30 PM on Christmas Day, a full contingent of his Executive Chef, Souse Chef, and significant others began to show up. Once we numbered 16, the party began in earnest.



The pig was prepped and trussed and placed on an open fire in the backyard of my house on the north side. We had some wood for this, but discovered we needed more. A group of 5 cruised all over the local haunts looking for firewood. We had two little bundles and then one of the chefs acquired a whole “raft” of wood. We found out later that he had just taken it from a local establishment! (Don’t worry, he went back on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> and paid for it!). Resourcefulness ruled the day!

Laughter began to reign supreme in every room of my house and out in the backyard. The air was filled with music piped from every blue tooth contraption imaginable. The guys manning the pig in the backyard had Salsa music and Bachata music. My daughter was manning the tunes for a full-on dance party in the living room with more Bachata, Salsa, Vallenato, Trance music, and other iterations. Christmas music from Motown greats was also going in another room. The dining room played soft sacred and secular Christmas carols.

After we had been together for hours, I was called upon to bless the meal. I looked around the table and was reminded of the Acts 4:32 passage: "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had." I know that everyone at the table was not a believer, BUT... I was filled with love and compassion for each one. We all looked like a convention of a cross section of the world. I thanked the Lord out loud for those in our midst: the Mexicans, Nicaraguans, Argentines, Brazilians, Irish, Swedes, Austrians and lastly the least of these: those of us who were "mongrel mutts from the U.S. of A.!!!" This prayer brought friendly joyous laughter from many seated around the table. One of the guys said, "Well, you did not mess that one up!" And, I got to share the Lord's reason for saving us and coming into our world at Christmas time!

The pig roasted for 5 hours. Not to worry...Latin folks eat late in the evening, BUT they also know how to have plenty of appetizers. We ate arrollado, chicken meat rolled around vegetables and then grilled to perfection. We consumed prosciutto wrapped around cantaloupe wedges. There was pickled tongue served cold and coated in chimichurri sauce. Another unusual specialty was thinly sliced beef in a tuna sauce. (Whoever heard of that?! Yet, it was delicious!) Steamed and tender Yucca dappled with a cream garlic sauce. And THEN: the pig was ready! She was a wonderful suckling pig with crispy outer areas and tender moist meat that had been basted for hours with a Cuban style mojo. Once we completed this portion...out of the oven came massive Brazilian style ribs coated in rock salt from Brazil. It just fell off the bone.

We ate every kind of cookie, sweet nuts, and sweet candies and on and on.... We went on and on into the night. Some of us were family, some of us were long-time friends, some were work colleagues, and many of us had just met. At one point I made the facetious comment (as I listened to the wonderful cacophony of sound from virtually 7 simultaneous conversations) "It is really a



shame that no one seems to be getting along!" The greatest congregating area was our small kitchen...and no one seemed to mind! Personal space did not matter!

Everyone pitched in to set up the table, to enjoy in hilarious laughter and conversation; to eat the feast, and then to clean up. No one needed to be asked; the generosity of things brought and the help in prepping and cleaning up was unsurpassed. We were truly all of one heart and mind. I began to realize that this cultural gestalt meeting in my house was the joy and life and the creation that our Father in heaven loves. We all just loved being together. This was true goodwill. This was a true Christmas spirit. This was the most fun ever at Christmastime! People got wistful. Eyes were misty. Hugs and kisses on cheeks were in bountiful supply. Lord, please give me more times like this!!!



Yes, gifts are great, but this body life and true sharing is what the goodwill and love at Christmastime is all about.

Many of those at our dinner table did not have a place to go on Christmas Day. But this Christmas of 2018 for our motley crew gathering in our home, will



forever be memorable. So memorable, in fact, that everyone began to hint and yes, outright make a reservation to be with us for Christmas of 2019.

And, I for one will not miss the Christmas 2019 party for anything!

*Sharing goodwill through Christ,  
Pastor Mark*

*Happy New Year 2019*

- ❖ *Renewed Hope*
- ❖ *New Opportunities*
- ❖ *New Adventures*
- ❖ *New Ways to Give and Love*

## New Year, New Pastor

As we welcome the new year, I am thrilled to begin my journey with all of you at Trinity. I look forward to getting to know each one of you and welcome any questions that you have about me. I recently completed my Masters of Divinity at North Park Theological Seminary and served Libertyville Covenant Church as both their pastoral intern and Chair of the Worship Ministry Team. Before that I completed a Masters of Theological Studies and a Masters of Nonprofit Business Administration at North Park. Before seminary I spent about four years as a working actor in Chicago and am passionate about integrating the arts into worship and the life of the church. I am originally from Ann Arbor, Michigan and love Michigan football and Zingermans coffee (as well as all coffee). My husband, Courtney, and I have been married for 11 years. He is a classically-trained vocalist and talented musician and voice-over artist. He has worked for Zoro, a subsidiary of Grainger, for the last six years. He is currently getting his Masters in Human Resources from North Park and is passionate about developing people towards their career goals, as well as sharing his musical gifts with the church. Our daughter, Julia, is four and loves ballet, singing, and Frozen. Our son, James, is two and loves trains, reading books, and Mickey.

For the past three years, I've worked for Feed My Starving Children, a world hunger organization, and travelled to Haiti with them in September 2017 – a life-changing experience. I have also travelled to Ghana and Jamaica on mission trips and visited Greece with NPTS. I spend Monday mornings at Statesville Correctional Center in Joliet, IL as a part of North Park's School of Restorative Arts, an educational program inside the prison made up of students on the inside and the outside. I love seeing God's church be a part of God's work of restorative justice, love, mercy, and compassion. I look forward to hearing about the things that God has put on your hearts and the ways you are excited to be a part of God's kingdom work. I am eager to see what God is going to do at Trinity and in Oak Lawn and the world because of Trinity.

Please make sure to sign up for a meet-and-greet timeslot with me in January or February so that I can spend time getting to know all of you. May God make his peace known in us and through us in 2019.

*--Pastor Alicia*

## 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 Lorraine Weszely on the death of her sister-in-law Maryann Bara who entered the life eternal on Friday, November 30, 2018, in Indiana. Services were held on Saturday, December 8, in Valparaiso, IN. Peace be to Maryann's memory.



## Another Great JulFest

To all the ladies who shared their time and talents for JulFest, we say "Thank you". Whether you sold tickets, created and setup the decorations, prepared the food, coordinated the beautiful program, organized the craft room, or helped with clean-up, you are much appreciated. A special thank you to Joe who set-up and cleaned Peterson Hall and to Kyle who prepared the sound system in the Sanctuary for our beautiful program.

Miriam Circle/Covenant Women

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Dear Trinity Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia plant delivered to me for my birthday. I appreciate your thoughtfulness so much. I pray that God will be with you in the year ahead and that it will be a good year for you.

Jo Ann Bergwall

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Dear Trinity Family and Friends,

Thank You for the cards and expressions of sympathy in the loss of my sister-in-law, Maryann Bara. The plant sent from Trinity was beautiful and most appreciated.

Lorraine Weszely

## Adult Sunday School

The January Adult Sunday School will be led by Patricia Petersen with a different topic each week:

### Adult Sunday School Class



January 6: Background: "Fly Thru-History, Geography and people of God."

January 13: Meaning: "The Day of

the Lord--The Dark Side of Love."

January 20: Zephaniah 1:1-18 "Judah and Jerusalem will be punished" and Zephaniah 2:1-3 "Turn to the Lord."

January 27: Zephaniah 2:4-15 "The Nations will be punished" and Zephaniah 3:1-20 "Judah and Other Nations will turn to the Lord".

Start the New Year off right and join us at 9:00 AM in the Fireside Room to explore these Biblical passages.

## Meet with Pastor Alicia!

Pastor Alicia would like to take time to meet with everyone at Trinity ECC in her first couple months. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex or please call the church office at 708-422-5111 for available time slots. Pastor Alicia has allotted 30-minute time slots starting on Thursday, January 10 through Thursday, February 7, with various times each 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!

## Note from the Treasurer

### Financial Summary thru November 2018

#### EXPENSES VS. BUDGET

Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$ 235,377
Actual Expenses YTD	<u>\$ 225,653</u>
Cost Savings/(Overrun)	\$ 9,724

#### GIVING VS. BUDGET

Giving YTD	\$ 228,683
Budgeted Giving YTD	<u>\$ 179,352</u>
Giving Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 49,330

#### ACTUAL INCOME VS.

#### EXPENSES

Income YTD	\$ 228,683
Expenses YTD	<u>\$ 225,653</u>
Actual Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 3,029

## Pryme Tymers

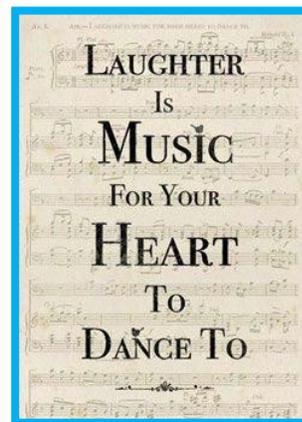
Our Winter/Spring 2019 programs begin on **January 10, at 11 A.M.:**

Program: Brenda Celmer – Live Life Laughing – Happy New Year and get ready to laugh, laugh, laugh!  
Entrée: Roast Pork

**January 24, 11 A.M.:**

Program: Eric Luckey – Eric returns to Pryme Tymers with a musical variety program.  
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; there is always a great need.

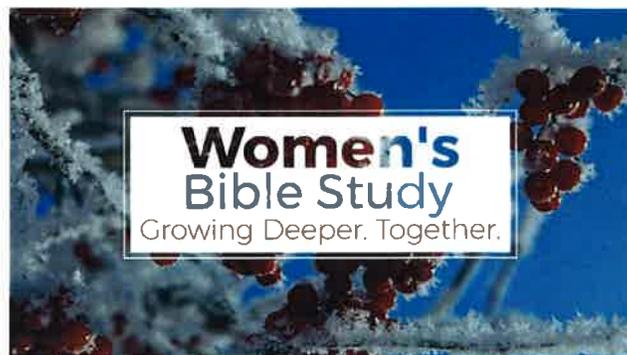


## Cookies with Santa

Noah's Ark Preschool had a visit from Santa on Friday, December 21. All the children had a chance to meet with Santa and let him know what was on their wish list. A festive and wonderful morning was enjoyed by the children, parents, friends and Trinity staff. Thank you, Santa and Mrs. Claus, for visiting with us!



## Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study



Our winter study this year will take us where we have been before but with more enlightenment and broader background. We have grown in spiritual acuity since our previous study of Luke seventeen years ago.

Our good and faithful friend Luke will re-ignite the groundwork for our continual study of knowing Jesus on a personal basis.

We study, learn and question as we recognize how our lives, joys, problems, blessings and answers often dovetail with fellow believers who walked The Way and touched the hem of His garment centuries ago.

Altho Luke was not a chosen twelve and did not personally walk and talk with the Son of Man he devoted years detailing God in the flesh. God being creator, messenger, enabler. Through extensive research, listening and gleaning from others, observing truths and facts and having access to historical accounts we note:

1. Luke is the most comprehensive Gospel
2. Luke is the easiest of the Gospels to read
3. Luke is The Gospel of praise
4. Luke is the universal Gospel – written for saints (believers) and sinners.

Luke is the friend we would most like to meet. He knows and shares the infinite sweep of the love of God.

Renewal gives opportunity to hear, respond and apply again to the gift of salvation as we follow Luke's blueprint with The Trinity working as One to give us our risen and triumphant Lord.

Join us for surprise blessings and gifts as you give time and presence to receive. Read and re-read this quote:

Luke 6:38 "For if you give, you will get. Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give – large or small will be used to measure what is given back to you." Jesus.

Tuesday – 9:15/Bakery – Gathering  
9:30/Study – Gifts – Blessings  
Always lunch – close - delightful

Barbara Johnson

JANUARY 2019							Notes:
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	<b>JAN. 1, 2019: Happy New Year</b>
		<b>JAN 1</b> Happy New Year	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	6: Epiphany Sunday Covenant Youth Collision, Hope Covenant Church (5-7 PM)
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	8: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM) Ronald McDonald House "Meals from the Heart" (4:30 PM) Deacons meeting (6:30 PM) Trustees and CE Board meetings (7 PM)
							10. Pryme Tymers (11 AM)
							13: Covenant Youth Collision, Hope Covenant Church (5-7 PM)
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	15: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
							17: Church Board meeting (7 PM)
							20: <b>Articles for February Messenger' due</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	22: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
							24: Pryme Tymers
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			27: Camp Rally Day, Let's Do Lunch
							29: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)

### On-going Ministry

#### Sunday Mornings

9:00 A.M. Adult Bible Study

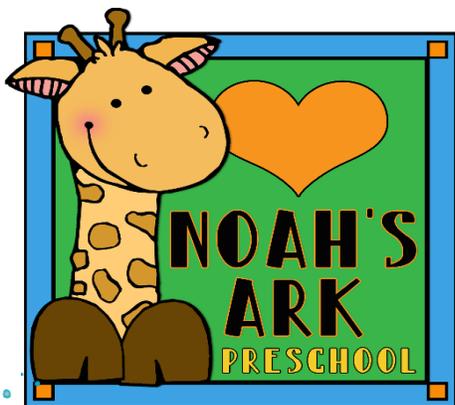
10:00 AM Worship

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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 11 AM



# Noah's Ark Preschool Newsletter January 2019

## JANUARY FUN

### Important Dates

**January 7**

School Resumes

**January 18**

Ice Cream Social  
Onsite Field Trip  
More Info to Come

**January 21**

No School- MLK Jr. Day



### Looking Ahead

**February 14 & 15**

Valentine's Day Classroom  
Party

**February 18**

No School- President's Day

**February 18**

Family Night Fundraiser  
TBA

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season. The month of December was very busy. Thank you all so much for the very generous donations of toys for the Worth Township Christmas Care Program. We truly appreciate your generosity!

Thank you to all our parent readers. The children enjoy your story time! If you would like to volunteer to read, please look for the new parent reader sign-up sheet in your child's classroom. Thank you, Pastor Mark, for your sharing your Holiday songs with us! The children enjoyed your visit!

Thank you for attending our Christmas Program, the children did a wonderful job singing.

On January 18, we will have our annual Ice Cream Social along with an Onsite Field Trip. Parents/Guardians are invited too! Please keep a look out for more information.

Looking forward to all the fun during the month of January!

~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!



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**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*

**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  
February Messenger  
are due January 20