

Newsletter of  
**TRINITY EVANGELICAL  
COVENANT CHURCH**  
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## June

### **Ushers**

Mel Mueller – Captain  
Bill Almer  
Steven McShane  
Bill McShane

### **Greeters**

7 Linnea Wimpenny, Barbara Johnson  
14 Emmanuel Ajide, David Abimbola  
21 Dave & Arlene Sladek  
28 Phil & Lori Cavallone

### **Nursery**

7 Dawn Hanson, Priscilla Swanson  
14 Jamie Anderson, Grace Persson  
21 Hannah, Emily and Denise Sullivan  
28 Carol Strickland, Tracy Hood

### **Counters**

John Weszely  
Phil Cavallone  
Mel Mueller

### **Birthdays**

3 Thomas Eustace, Sr.  
4 Joan Erickson  
4 Thad Przybylowski, Jr.  
9 Arnold Rodstrom  
12 Edna Garcia  
13 Barbara Mateer  
13 Julie Przybylowski  
17 Justin Lee  
17 Alyssa Jones  
19 Tom Panush  
20 Brian Crotty  
22 Richard Larson  
23 Richard Erickson  
26 Jennifer Davies  
27 Ruth Mitchell  
28 Joyce Gorney  
29 Harry Persson

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

# Messenger June 2015

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

I read a piece the other day that captured some of the thoughts about the church that have been percolating in my mind for quite some time now. The writer begins by saying:

"Christianity is dying." He goes on to explain, "At least, that's what major newspapers are telling us today, culling research from a new Pew Center study on what almost all sociologists are observing these days—the number of Americans who identify as Christians has reached an all-time low, and is falling. I think this is perhaps bad news for America, but it is good news for the church.

The lead editor of the report tells *The New York Times* that secularization—mainly in terms of those who identify as "nones" or with no specific religious affiliation—isn't isolated to the progressive Northeast and Pacific Northwest. He notes, "The change is taking place all over, including the Bible Belt..."

Now, what some will say is that the decline in self-identified Christians is a sign that the church should jettison its more unpopular teachings. And in our day, these teachings are almost always those dealing with pelvic autonomy. First of all, even if this were the key to success, we couldn't—and wouldn't—do it. Christianity isn't a political party, dependent on crafting ideologies to suit the masses. We received this gospel (Gal. 1:11-12); we didn't invent it. But, that said, such is not the means to "success"—even the way the sociologists define it.

The Pew report holds that mainline denominations—those who have made their peace with the Sexual Revolution—continue to report heavy losses, while evangelical churches remain remarkably steady—even against some heavy headwinds coming from the other direction. Why?

We learned this answer 100 years ago, and it reminds us of what we learned 2,000 years ago. Two or three generations ago, Christians who held to the Virgin birth of Christ were warned that their children would flee the faith unless the parents redefined Christianity. "If you want to win the next generation," they were told, "you have to make Christianity relevant, and that means dispensing with miracles in favor of modern science." The churches that followed that path aren't just dying; they are dead, sustained by endowments and dwindling gatherings of nostalgic senior adults with a smattering of community organizers here and there.

People who don't want Christianity, don't want almost-Christianity. Almost-Christianity looks in the mainline like something from Nelson Rockefeller to Che Guevara at prayer. Almost Christianity, in the Bible Belt, looks like a God-and-Country civil religion that prizes cultural conservatism more than theological fidelity. Either way, a Christianity that reflects its culture, whether that culture is Smith College or NASCAR, only lasts as long as it is useful to its host. That's because it's, at root, idolatry, and people turn from their idols when they stop sending rain.

Christianity isn't normal anymore, and that's good news. The Book of Acts, like the Gospels before it, shows us that the Christianity thrives when it is, as Kierkegaard put it, a sign of contradiction. Only a strange gospel can differentiate itself from the worlds we construct. But the strange, freakish, foolish old gospel is what God uses to save people and to resurrect churches (1 Cor. 1:20-22).

We do not have more atheists in America. We have more honest atheists in America. Again, that's good news. The gospel comes to sinners, not to the righteous. It is easier to speak a gospel to the lost than it is to speak a gospel to the kind-of-saved. And what those honest atheists grapple with, is what every sinner grapples with, burdened consciences that point to judgment. Our calling is to bear witness...

(Please turn page)

The future of Christianity is bright. I don't know that from surveys and polls, but from a word Someone spoke one day back at Caesarea Philippi. The gates of hell haven't gotten any stronger, and the Light that drives out the darkness is enough to counter every rival gospel, even those gospels that describe themselves as "none." \*

The context in which the contemporary church finds itself (and yes this includes Trinity) has never been more like that of the early church than it is today. We shouldn't be alarmed or discouraged by this. Instead, we should be excited by the endless opportunities to become the church God had in mind when God poured out the Holy Spirit on those first disciples. God would empower that rag-tag band of believers to turn the Roman world upside down – all for the glory of God. May it be no different for us.

\*Excerpt from Moore to the Point, by Russell Moore, May 12, 2015

Grace and Peace,

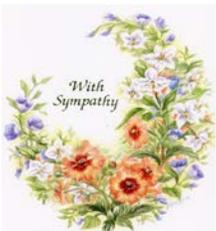
*Pastor Jim*

**THOUGHT TO PONDER**

When you rush through life it becomes a race, but when you enjoy each moment, it becomes a beautiful journey.

**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. There are many available dates during the summer. Flowers are \$40 and you are invited to take them home following morning worship.



As a church family we extend our sympathy to the family of Grace Viner on the death of her daughter, Ann Sherwood. Ann died on April 26, 2015 in Katy, Texas. Services were held on May 2. Peace be to Ann's memory.



Dear Trinity Friends and Family,

Thank you so very much for the prayers, cards and flowers I received. Thanks to Barb Bailey's Bible Class for the donation to the Bible League in Ann's memory. 16 Bibles were sent to Asia. Thanks to Pastor Jim for his visits.

I am so blessed and appreciate all the support I received.

Love, Grace Viner

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Dear Pastor Jim and Trinity Congregation,

I cannot begin to express my gratitude to my Trinity family for the outpouring of sympathy and support I had received since Raymond's death. The cards, letters, phone calls and prayers are so appreciated. Thank you for the very beautiful plant. My deepest, heartfelt thanks.

Love in Christ,  
Mary Almer

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Friends,

Just a short note to say thank you so much for the lovely Easter lily. It was a nice surprise. I appreciate your thinking of me.

Lorraine Sorensen

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Pastor and Congregation,

You are all appreciated more than you know. Thank you all for your prayers and concerns. The Easter lily is beautiful.

Phyllis Peterson

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We would like to thank Bob and Betty Aardema for hosting a delicious dinner and organ recital in their home. This was to benefit the children going to CHIC this summer. Eight of us enjoyed a lovely evening of good food, good music and good fellowship. We are so blessed to have the Aardemas as part of our Trinity family.

Mel and Arline Mueller

\*\*\*\*\*

Pastor Jim and the entire Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church members,

Thank you is more than I can say for allowing my family the use of Peterson Hall for my son's graduation and also for your prayers. God bless you all.

Monisola Osobu

\*\*\*\*\*

## Career Connections



Liar, liar – you won't get hired or worse yet, could get you fired! When it comes to your resume, call it what you want i.e., stretching the truth, embellishing, fibbing, spreading it on thick – the end result is flat out lying and you could get exposed and the employer could show you the door months or even years after you've been hired.

Dennis Parney talked about why lying on your resume is never a good idea at our meeting on May 11.

- An employer is looking to hire someone they can trust.
- There's always a background check that could expose untruths.
- Sometimes reference verifications will highlight fibs.
- If you do get the job, you'll be in over your head and can be embarrassing for you and disconcerting to the employer when you can't perform the task.
- More scandalous, you could face a fraud conviction that will remain with you for a very long time.

One more thing...

Finally, after much thought, prayer and consideration, the Career Connections Leadership Team has decided to end our ministry effective with the June 8 meeting. The U.S. economy is improving and in April 2015, the unemployment rate dropped to 5.4%, its lowest mark in seven years. The unemployment rate hovered around the 10% mark when we first started four years ago. The year 2014 was the best year for job gains since 1999. All of this data suggests the tide could be turning in the right direction for the U.S. economy.

We have been privileged to meet 282 people who joined our group and 100 individuals have found jobs. We suspect that number is higher but not everybody comes back to tell us they have found employment. With God's help and after giving 69 presentations, we think we have fulfilled what we set out to do and it's now time for us to move on and see what else God has in store for each of us.

What started out as an idea sparked by a sermon I listened to by Pastor Jim Sandberg in July 2011, evolved into a job support group that provided career related advice and education as well as hope and encouragement along the way for which there is no measure. Three other brave souls joined

me on this journey and I think I can confidently say it has been an amazing and awe-inspiring pilgrimage. I want to extend my personal and profound thanks to Dennis Parney, Tom Panush and Dawn Ferrell who exhibited exceptional passion to help others with their own God given talents and abilities. It truly was a divine joining of hearts moving toward the same goal. Wise King Solomon got it right..... *"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens..." Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)*

Denise Krueger

### **\*\*A Special Career Connections Thank-you Note\*\***

To the Career Connections Leadership Team:

Earlier this afternoon I was reviewing your job post e-mails for potential positions and I thought I would take the time to share with you my thoughts about the program and what I have gained from all the meetings I've attended.

Currently, I work for a small CPA Firm in the West Loop owned by my best friend from high school as a Customer Service Representative and Administrative Assistant. I've been with the firm for the past seven years and it has grown so much since I first started. Unfortunately, the firm is experiencing a downward turn in revenue due to business client revenue income dropping. I will need to leave and seek employment with another company as my friend will not be able to keep two full time employees much longer.

When I joined Career Connections last year, I expected to hear about job openings in the area and guest speakers informing us about jobs in the area and employment trends. After joining the program I soon discovered the program was designed to be much more than job openings and guest speakers.

Since I am 44 yrs. old and have not interviewed or mailed out resumes in about 9 years, the program helped me to realize that the interview and resume process has changed a great deal in 9 years. During the January meeting you went over several situational interview questions with us showing a detailed list of potential situational interview questions. If I was given the opportunity by an employer to interview for a position, I would have been totaling unprepared thinking I was prepared to answer questions that were asked of me 9 years ago.

I also found the meeting very informative when you spoke about what not to say on an interview and what not to place on a resume. You mentioned in the March meeting never to say statements like, "I'm a perfectionist", "I think outside the box" and "A complete set of references will be furnished upon request." In the past I was always told those three statements would impress a potential employer. As you mentioned those statements would now be considered outdated.

Lastly, guest speakers chosen to speak with the group were very helpful. Jean from St. Xavier was able to inform us about applying for jobs from an employer's perspective. When Jean spoke about social media being so important for our job searches, I was once again surprised and thankful. I was totally unaware that social media had a role in employment searches at all. Prior to hearing Jean speak about the importance of it, I was not on any form of social media at all.

Career Connections meets people wherever they are in the job search process. If an individual is at the beginning stages of seeking employment for the first time, has years of work experience, or is somewhere in the middle, the program has a lot of helpful information to offer everyone.

Thank you again for all the job posting e-mails and all the inspirational messages and prayers you send.

India



## Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

We met winter's challenge with faithful attendance giving credence to interest invested in studying Heaven, an often misleading area of utmost importance.

Our permanent Home, the Eternal City, the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, judgment day, the New Jerusalem are the claims and promises we are building on with the tools we have been given.

Our work during this period of sanctification, a life-long process, has been laid out according to God's will and unlimited abundance given His children.

During this study, discussions concerning smoke and mirrors, varied definite opinions, "nothing valid" and "only God knows" were found not only of no earthly value but strongly clarified and substantiated by scriptural passages throughout all sixty-six books of The Bible giving foundation of why we were chosen and created.

We recognized this study as foundation and also illuminating as contemporary authors added bells and whistles to the godly prophets directed by God, Son and Holy Spirit. Heaven will be anything but boring – no harps, halos or lounging on clouds. If your daily priority did not include our Tuesday study – read on for "the best is yet to be."

1. There will be continuity in Heaven.
2. We will be ourselves, without sin.
3. Individuality is God's plan.
4. We will be known by those who have gone ahead.
5. We will continue to learn, grow and develop in mind and spirit.
6. We will be creative, active, explore, accomplish, innovate.
7. We will sing, tell stories, play, plan, praise.
8. All God's creations will live together in peace and beauty.
9. Every being who has breath will be cause for delight – animals, plants, birds, people, etc.
10. And on and on – anything but boring!

Still questioning? Read on. You can't be in better company:

Bible – God, Jesus, prophets, Holy Spirit

Heaven – Randy Alcorn

Resurrection – Hank Hanegraaff

Books on Heaven by: James Kenndy

Vernon McGee

Erwin Lutzer

Billy Graham

D.L. Moody

Charles Swindoll

C.S. Lewis et al.

Our five Tuesdays this June will center on Philipians, Paul's joy letter to all believers everywhere. It is directed to the

hearts of God's children expressing the joy that no man can take away.

Tuesday mornings  
9:30 A.M. to 10:45 A.M  
Fireside Room

Barbara Johnson

## Rummage Sale Meeting

We need all hands on deck! Organizational meeting for the Rummage Sale is Sunday, June 7, in the Fireside Room, following worship. Volunteers will be needed to sort and organize items Monday through Thursday, June 22 – 25. Lunch will be provided. Volunteers will also be needed to help bake cookies/cakes, prepare and serve a light lunch and dinner on Friday and Saturday for the volunteers.

For more information, please contact Tracy Hood at 708-529-3272 or [tracyhood717@yahoo.com](mailto:tracyhood717@yahoo.com).

## Rummage Sale



Our rummage sale this year will be on Friday, June 26, 9 A.M. – 5 P.M. and Saturday, June 27, 9 A.M. – 12 P.M. Please mark your calendars now and start going through your things and decide what you can donate to this annual fundraiser for Trinity. Clean

out all the rooms of your house: closets, drawers, attic, basement, garage areas. This is a great way to declutter your home. You'll be glad you did. Starting Monday, June 22, you can bring your household items to Peterson Hall. Pickup for larger items can be arranged. For more information, please contact the church office 708-422-5111.

## New Address:

Pastor Zach Lovig  
123 Ivanhoe Dr., Apt. J9  
Saginaw, MI 48638

David Abimbola  
Olayemi (Emmanual) Ajide  
20177 Woodale St.  
Lynwood, IL 60411



## Congratulations Confirmand

May 3, 2015

Joseph Przybylowski

### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Students

Shannon Lee

Jeremy Schroeder

## Coffee and...Sign-up Sheet

Summer Coffee Hour starts on June 7. The sign-up sheet is posted outside the kitchen door. Plan to sign up with a friend for one of the Sundays through the summer. We usually expect 75-100. Be ready to make coffee, bring creamer, provide a cold drink for the children, and some type of coffee cake. This is a great opportunity to visit with friends following morning worship.

## Every Kid a Camper –

### Culver's Fundraiser June 8 - 12.

We have 13 kids who want to go to Camp. Let's help them get there and have a chance to connect with God!

Culver's at 9515 S. Kedzie Ave., Evergreen Park, will donate to Trinity 10% of the proceeds received for every dollar we spend **any time during the week of June 8 through 12.** All we need to do is come out for a meal, invite as many friends as possible, and tell the Culver's cashier that this is for the Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church's fundraiser. Tell all your family and friends and invite them to eat out during this week! Carry out applies too.

## Pryme Tymers

Our final meeting for Spring 2015 is as follows:

Thursday,  
June 11, at 11 A.M.

Entrée: Pizza and Veggie Tray  
Program: Eddie Korosa. – The Big Band Era. Big band favorites and polka music and dancing until 1 P.M. Plan to stay a little longer and bring comfortable shoes for dancing. Roll out the barrel, 'cause we're going to have a barrel of fun! Make your reservation by Friday, June 5.

The cost per meeting is \$7. Don't forget to bring two canned goods for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. .

The Fall 2015 season starts on September 10.



## Father's Day is June 21



### To My Dad

Thank you for giving me a firm foundation, guidance and love.

But most of all, thank you for teaching me how to spread my own two arms and fly.

## Baby Bottle Campaign

Your pocket change can change the lives of families facing unplanned pregnancies! You have the opportunity to take a baby bottle home starting on Father's Day, June 21, and place it in a visible area as a reminder to pray for the safety and salvation of these families and their unborn children. Prayerfully consider placing your pocket change, dollars, or even a check in the bottle as an offering to help the families Southside Pregnancy Center serves on a daily basis. Return the filled bottle to church on Collection Day, Sunday, July 5. The money collected will be given to Southside Pregnancy Center in Oak Lawn to support the Lord's work through this ministry. Thank you for your participation in this ministry of life.

## Helping Hands

Christmas at Sea continues to thrive thanks to a lift from Trinity Covenant knitters.

This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year for Trinity's knitters helping make life a bit better for our nation's seafarers.

CAS is a national project where knitters make scarves and hats for the Seamen's Church Institute mission.

The knits provide comfort and warmth in frigid weather for mariners sailing at Christmas.

Knits are one way the Church Institute assists seamen while far from home. They leave home to support their families. The SCI looks out for them with a maritime center, ship to shore transfers, chaplain service, training, telephones and Skype, legal, emotional and spiritual support.

Trinity knitters have made and shipped 1,637 items. The May box contained 25 knits from Barb Dorl, Lois Flaws, Diane and Dave Manthey and Lorraine Sorensen.



## Church Chuckle

While saying his bedtime prayers a little boy asked his mother, "If God is way up there in Heaven shouldn't I pray a lot louder?"

## Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed

Don't let the biggest discovery  
of the summer pass you by!

**JULY 27th – 31st 9:00 - 11:30 am**



We will be recruiting as many volunteers as possible....

So....Don't be surprised if you get a phone call, email, or tap on the shoulder. Better yet, let Linda Kozak know if you can volunteer! Mark your calendars for the week of **JULY 27** for this year's VBS. Please note that this is a different week than we normally have VBS. Please feel free to pick up extra copies of the flyer on the table in the narthex to share with your friends, family and neighbors to let them know about this year's awesome VBS. Children will love their time at SonSpark Labs where they can discover God's plan for all people! New this year – experiments!

## God's Plan 4 U = Jesus

Our tentative work days are scheduled as follows:

**Tuesday, June 30 – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00**

Craft Assembly, Backdrop painting

**Thursday, July 9 – 9:30 a.m. – 12:00**

Craft Assembly, Backdrop painting

**Thursday, July 23 – 9:30 a.m. –**

**Friday if needed**

Final preparations putting up decorations

Evening or Saturday options for those not able to make a weekday or let Linda know and she can give you a project!

## Hats Off to the Class of 2015

Edna Garcia's grandson, Zachary Thoms, graduated from St. Laurence High School on May 18.



Joe Przybylowski, son of Thad and Julie, is graduating from Gurrie Middle School and will be attending Lyons Township High School in the fall.

Brett Heimerl, grandson of Clarence and Dolores Rosengren, graduated from Carl Sandburg High School. He will attend University of Illinois.

Gloria Vitro has three granddaughters graduating:

**Alise Farano** graduated with a Bachelor of Health Science Cum Laude from Governors State University and is going on to graduate school.

**Ana Vitro** graduated with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from Letourneau University of Engineering and Technology in Longview, Texas.

**Taylor Farano** graduated in the top 10% of her class and National Honor Society Phi Alpha Theta from Stagg High School; she will continue her education at DePaul University.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to all of the 2015 graduates!

## Covenant Point Bible Camp Triathlon

Come join our ministry and be active for a great cause! Covenant Point's Triathlon and Fitness Walk will be held this summer on Sunday, August 2 at 7:30 A.M. This is an exciting, meaningful, and encouraging event for both competitive and non-competitive enthusiasts alike, with all experience levels welcome. Or, just come out to be part of the excitement and cheer on the racers! A luncheon of Point's finest home-cooked food follows this event.

There is a range of ways to participate:

**Full Triathlon** (1/2 mile swim, 25 mile bike, and 6.3 mile run)

**Sprint Triathlon** (1/2 mile swim, 15 mile bike, and 3 mile run)

**Fitness Walk** (6.3 mile walk)

**Team** (members taking part in any portion of the **Full** or **Sprint Triathlon**)

Each participant is challenged to set a goal of raising \$500 (team challenge is \$1,000), with those amounts not a minimum or a maximum. In the past, it has always been a blessing to see the generosity of people through giving to services and programs for ministering to children and families with special needs.

CPBC invites you to join with us in this vital fundraising event through participation and giving. More information, online registration, and downloadable registration forms can be found on the [cpbc.com/triathlon](http://cpbc.com/triathlon). Or, call us at (906) 265-2117 to learn more.



# June 2015

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
Happy Father's Day 21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## On-going Ministry

### Sunday Mornings

- 10:00 AM Worship
- 10:00 AM Nursery for Infants
- 11:15 AM Christian Formation for all ages

Noah's Ark Preschool - Summer Break May 29 - September 7, 2015

Women's Bible Study - Tuesday, 9:30 AM, Fireside Room

Pryme Tymers - Fall 2015 Meetings begin Thurs., September 10, 11 AM

## Notes:

- 2: Women's Bible Study (9:30 AM)
- 6: Men's Prayer Breakfast, Jedi Garden (8 AM)  
VASA Lodge meeting (11 AM), Fireside Room
- 9: Women's Bible Study (9:30 AM)  
Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)  
Trustees and CE Board meetings (7 PM)
- 11: Pryme Tymers (11 AM) **Final meeting for Winter/Spring 2015**  
Lordo wedding rehearsal (6 PM)
- 13: Lordo wedding (2 PM)
- 14: **Flag Day**
- 16: Women's Bible Study (9:30 AM)
- 18: Church Board meeting (7 PM)
- 20: Williams/Parks wedding set-up all day, Peterson Hall,  
and wedding rehearsal (6 PM)
- 21: **Happy Father's Day and 1<sup>st</sup> day of summer**  
**Baby Bottle Campaign begins through July 5**  
Pastor Jim preaching at Covenant Harbor, Lake Geneva,  
Wisconsin (10:30 A.M.)  
Williams/Parks wedding (3 PM), and Reception, Peterson Hall  
Articles for combined July/August Messenger due
- 23: Women's Bible Study (9:30 AM)
- 26: Rummage Sale (9 AM - 5 PM)
- 27: Rummage Sale (9 AM - 12 PM)
- 30: Women's Bible Study (9:30 AM)

**SAVE THE DATES:** July 27 - 31 Vacation Bible School,  
Gospel Light's SonSpark Labs (9 - 11:30 AM)



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**Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg**  
*Senior Pastor*  
**Nate VanDerMale**  
*Interim Minister 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 Combined  
July/August Messenger  
are due June 21**