

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

The Messenger June 2016

June

Ushers

Bill & Steven McShane – Captain
Bill & Sandy Hutchinson
Linnea Wimpenny

Greeters

5 Judy Gilbert, Ariel Kurzweil
12 Emmanuel & Elizabeth Ajide, Esther,
Joseph
19 Geoff & Angie Panush, Lucy, Ryan
26 Phil & Lori Cavallone

Nursery

5 Heidi Weszely
12 Grace Persson, Rebecca Hanson
19 Hannah, Emily and Denise Sullivan
26 Carol Strickland, Tracy Hood

Counters

Diana Eigenbauer
Gloria Vitro
Brian Crotty

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.***

Over the Pastor's Shoulder

“We exalt and celebrate God for who he is, what he has done, what he is doing and what he will do.

“Worship reflects careful preparation to help give voice to many dimensions of response to God such as adoration, praise, contrition, lament and commitment.

“People leave worship knowing something more about the heart of God and about their own hearts.” *(One of the ten markers of a healthy missional church, from the Covenant's material on church vitality.)*

Years ago I attended a workshop on worship led by Dr. Robert Webber. At the time he was a professor at Wheaton College. He introduced the workshop by stating, rather emphatically, “Churches do many things, but their main thing is helping people connect with God. Worship is the primary way churches accomplish that main thing”.

Worship, then, is a matter of being connected to the very real presence of God. We deeply need that connection as a fellowship of believers.

A friend of mine tells the story of a busy attorney who was racing through Chicago O'Hare Airport one Friday afternoon. The crowds were maddening and he was trying his best to get to the boarding gate for his connecting flight. In the process he came to a large crowd of children all dressed in similar t-shirts. (He learned later they were from a Chicago children's home.) As he threaded his way through the children, he suddenly felt an arm around his leg.

He looked down to see a handsome blond-haired boy of about 6 staring up at him. “Who do you belong to, mister?” the child asked. “Can I go with you?”

The question haunted the attorney as he finally boarded the plane and took his seat. He later reported that the question ultimately became life-changing in its impact. “To whom do I belong?” he thought to himself. “To my profession? To my investments? To my clients? Or to the God who once was real to me?”

Worship connects us and reconnects us, not only with God but with one another. It is a regular need in each of our lives. I hope you realize how life-giving it is to come together and worship week after week. One of my favorite sayings about worship comes from the pen of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, “The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.” Someone else has powerfully written, “How special the Lord's faithful people are. My greatest pleasure is to be with them.”

I wonder how many of us hold similar views in regards to our worship. Worship at its best, is always done in the company of others. Worship is truly a connecting event, connecting us with God and one another all for the glory of God.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jim

Looking Ahead to a Summer Study with Pastor Jim

Christianity and Islam-What's the Difference?

Many people today hear mixed messages about Islam. Is it a religion of peace or one of fear and violence? And aren't Christianity and Islam similar since both believe in the one true God? But the differences between the two faiths are vast. The greatest difference between Christianity and Islam is Jesus Christ.

Join us on Tuesdays in August, 7 P.M. in the Fireside Room as we compare and contrast the teachings of the Bible with the teachings of the Quran.

August 2: "Is True Islam Peaceful or Militant?"

August 9: "Significant Differences Between Christianity and Islam"

August 16: "Living Out One's Faith"

August 23: "Pillars and Practices of Islam"

August 30: "Making Disciples Among Muslims"

Director of Music and Worship

Sunday, June 5, will be the first Sunday our new Director of Music joins us in the worship hour. Lee Van Sickle grew up in Evergreen Park. He is currently a member of the United Methodist Church. Lee has a great love of music. He's been involved with musical worship for most of his adult life. He has experience working with choirs, praise bands, praise leaders, sound equipment, bell choirs and drama. Lee also has five years of choral conducting experience. We believe Lee to be a great fit for us and we're looking forward to his ministry with us.



With Sympathy

As a church family we extend our sympathy to the family of Arlene Sladek, whose 4-month-old great niece, Kendra Moser, passed away on May 4. A funeral service was held on May 14 at Christian Bible Church, Cissna Park, IL.



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.



Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

As individuals we are label carriers – meaning we are different people to different people – friend, acquaintance, spouse, loyal, dependable, faithful, true-blue, caring, remarkable, care-free, etc. etc. We grow into our labels as they strengthen or weaken depending upon circumstance. Labels are proudly or unconsciously worn. Negative labels can be disguised, combative or awkward.

I reach out in this last Messenger article, until our group resumes in September, looking forward to our 19th continuous year with deep appreciation for the commitment and genuine influence shared as learners. Our labels are displayed each Tuesday by thought, action, obligation, privilege and responsibility.

Acceptance of flexibility in studies giving new light to basic truths is one reason we value each topic or study theme. We receive new "tools" for deeper digging as we recognize that the biggest risk of all is standing still.

As mentioned in last months column our mornings begin with prayer praises and petitions. A recent praise given by a member who is gentle, timid, faithful and courageous gave insight into her God given possession and guarantee. Spoken in bold confidence while evidenced with a broad smile was, "I am a child of The King." What a delight for God and us to hear at the start of a new day. Volumes spoken boldly, proudly, assuredly in seven words.

And these moments are such which draw us closer each week – being of one accord as we stand upon the promises of Christ our King. So little time knowing the best is yet to come. It is our privilege to live here in the light of There!

Join with us this month as four un-expected surprises unfold Four Tuesdays – four labels. We just never stand still. Label us "Movers" for we are Christians under construction.

Tuesdays – Fireside Room
Bakery 9 – 9:30
Study 9:30-10:45

Barbara Johnson

Congratulations Confirmands

May 1, 2016

Shannon Grace Lee

Jeremy Gray Schroeder

First Year Students

Justin Lee

Matthew Starr

MaryFaith West

130th Annual Meeting of the Central Conference

We would like to thank our church for asking us to be the delegates for the 130th Central Conference Annual Meeting hosted by First Covenant Church in Iron Mountain, MI on April 28-30, 2016. It was nice visiting with old friends and meeting



new acquaintances. It was great seeing and visiting with Kristin Ray Nelson, who was our intern a few years ago and is now serving as pastor at the Elkhorn Covenant Church, Elkhorn, WI. She sends her

greetings to everyone at Trinity.

There were 70 credentialed delegates, 63 delegates from churches, 41 churches represented and total attendees were 103. First Covenant Church provided delicious meals, and coffee and treats were available daily. First Covenant did an excellent job of hosting this annual meeting. On Friday, there were three Breakout Sessions that were held during the afternoon. We sat in on The Gospel of John, led by Tom Lach. This was a very interesting and informative session. The meetings were long, but were conducted very efficiently.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as delegates and to serve our church in this way.

If you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them.

Sincerely, Mel and Arline Mueller

“My Fair Lady” Musical

Pryme Tymers cordially invites the Trinity Church membership and friends to join them at the CAHN AUDITORIUM (Campus of Northwestern University) for the Light Opera Works musical, “MY FAIR LADY” on Wednesday, June 8. Light refreshments at church at 11 A.M.; depart for show at 12:30 P.M.; show time is 2 P.M.; depart at 5 P.M.; return to Trinity about 6:30 P.M. Price per person is \$50 which includes refreshments, bus and ticket. Paid reservations are due by Friday, June 3. See Rhea Maurer or Priscilla Swanson.

Summer Childcare Sunday School

Summer Childcare Sunday School will begin May 29. This will take place from 10 to 11 A.M. during the worship hour for children up to 6 years old. As always we are looking for volunteers; there is a signup sheet on the table in the Narthex. Materials for teachers to use with the children will be provided each week. This is a marvelous way to get to know and interact with Trinity's children. Please take advantage of this opportunity to share in God's work with our children.

Mitch's Musings

Well, I did it! I made it through my second year of Seminary successfully. The last three weeks were quite stressful, but I was able to turn in every last assignment and I received some good grades. In the same time frame, I needed to pack up all my stuff and get it ready to move into temporary housing as they are turning my current seminary housing apartment into undergraduate housing – of course after they give it a thorough renovation! ☺ So life was kind of chaotic there for a minute.

As I write this, however, I'm peacefully in northern Minnesota, where I've already been able to hit the gravel roads, hike through the cedar swamps, fire a shotgun a few times (just to smell the gun powder), and have been blessed by the thousands of life questions of friends and extended family. It's so humbling to have such care and support as I entered and continue through seminary.

Trinity has been another incredible support for me to explore my gifts in ministry and has provided me with the opportunity to stay on staff, which I am very excited about! So thank you! I look forward to Jena and the girls moving here in a couple months! In a couple of weeks, I will be starting my CPE at Swedish Covenant Hospital and I'm very much looking forward to that. When I begin there, I'll map out my schedule for the entire summer, so until then, the upcoming events will be just bullet points with dates to be determined.

Upcoming Events:

June 24-25 RUMMAGE SALE @ Trinity

July 11-15 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Family Night/Interactions – Thunderbolts and White Sox

Elementary/Youth – Laser Tag, Tour North Park University/Seminary, Haunted Trails Go-Karts, Help with Rummage Sale, Help with VBS

Congratulations Graduates!

Kendra Goetz, daughter of Janice and Greg Goetz, graduated from high school.

Shannon Lee, daughter of Pat and Kellie Lee, graduated from Mt. Greenwood Elementary School and will attend Marist High School in the fall.

Steven T. McShane, son of Bill and Karen McShane, graduated from Manteno High School on May 22. He will be attending University of Michigan in the fall studying the field of biology.

Thaddeus Przybylowski III, son of Thad Przybylowski and Julie Carbray, graduates on May 29 from Lyons Township High School in LaGrange. He will be attending Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois to study outdoor recreation management and administration. He plans on spending a good deal of time climbing and exploring the Shawnee National Forrest as well, after he studies, of course.

Char Dunk Sladek has two grandsons graduating from Oak Lawn High School: Steven Raybould will attend Illinois Wesleyan University for music education, and Matthew Ruti will attend Moraine Valley College to study accounting.

David Richerme, son of Laura Richerme and grandson of Carol Latimer, graduated May 18 from Oak Lawn High School.

Arlene and Dave Sladek's grandsons and Bruce & Char Sladek's great grandsons have graduated from 8th grade: Simon Sladek, son of Steven and Alisa Sladek, home schooled, ceremony on May 21 at Grace Church, Normal, IL; Jonathan Latek, son of Tracy Sladek Latek and James Latek, from Liberty Jr. High, New Lenox on May 26.

Congratulations to all the graduates on their success and best wishes for the future. Well done!



Annual Rummage Sale
Friday, June 24 9 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.
Saturday, June 25 9 A.M. – 12 P.M.

Rummage Sale Meeting

Looking for Volunteers! An organizational meeting is set for Sunday, June 12, following worship, in the Fireside Room. Please consider volunteering to sort and organize items, or to cashier and bag purchases. Perhaps you are willing to bake cookies/cakes/bars or to prepare and serve a light lunch for the volunteers. Your time would be much appreciated. Please see John and Lorraine Weszely or contact the church office at 708-422-5111 to sign-up.

Rummage Sale Donations

If you have donations for the sale, please drop off your household items at the church starting the week of June 19. Pickup for larger items can be arranged. Items needed are: Household and seasonal items, adult and children clothing, and linens. Toys, games, books, small working electronics, sports equipment, and furniture. *No TVs please.* Contact the church office at 708-422-5111 with questions.



Coffee and...Sign-up Sheet



Coffee and... starts on June 5 and runs through August 28. The sign-up sheet is located on the wall outside of the kitchen. Plan to sign up with a friend for one of the Sundays through the summer. We usually expect 75-80 for coffee hour. Be ready to make coffee, bring creamer, and have a cold drink for the children, as well as a late morning treat/coffee cake. This is a great opportunity to visit with friends following morning worship.

Summer Concert Series

The Village of Oak Lawn and the Oak Lawn Park District will kick off their annual Summer Concert Series on Sunday, June 5. SODA will perform from 7-9:30 P.M. on the Village Green (north of the Oak Lawn Library). Performances are free and reservations not required. Bring your own blankets or lawn chairs and refreshment.

Address change for Barbara Hellermann:

310 W. Martin Avenue, Apartment #115, Naperville, IL 60540, 630-210-8700.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 11 – 15, 2016

9:00 – 11:30 A.M.



Trinity Covenant Church VBS is a fun place for children 3 years old (toilet trained) thru 6th grade. At Barnyard Roundup, future farmers of all ages will learn that Jesus gathers us all together. Kids will discover that Jesus, their Savior, knows them by name, rounds them up, and brings them home. He is with us always and forever – no matter what! Children will memorize Psalm 23, to help them remember that Jesus is with us now and forever, provides for us and protects us. Bible learning, singing, crafts, snacks and games each day...come join the fun!

VBS is Monday thru Friday
July 11 -15 9 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

Program and Dinner on Thursday Evening
July 14 6-8 P.M.

For information or to register:

On line www.trinitycovoaklawn.org

Call the church office 708-422-5111

Stop by the church and complete a paper registration form.

VBS Workdates

VBS workdates are Wednesday June 8 and June 15, and Thursday, July 7, from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. (please note, lunch will not be provided). We are calling all volunteer helpers whether you can give all morning or just an hour one of the days. All who can help are appreciated. We look forward to seeing you there. Please contact Karen McShane if you'd like to volunteer.

Happy Father's Day June 19



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 19, 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 10. 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.



First Day of Summer is June 20



Announcements from the CE Board

CE Board will be meeting on June 14. There will be no meeting in July due to VBS obligations and we will meet again on August 23 to gather thoughts on the start of fall Sunday School and youth fellowship opportunities.

Looking forward to fall, the Sunday School Kick Off Picnic will take place on September 11, 2016. There will be food, fellowship and entertainment. An opportunity to register your children will be also available. We look forward to seeing you there, more information will follow.

Fall Sunday School opportunities will begin on September 18. Christian fellowship and study opportunity will be available for all ages, covering a variety of topics. As time grows closer we will share more details but be sure you mark your calendar as you get set to enjoy those lazy, hazy days of summer.

We are also looking for volunteers to help create exciting and memorable moments for Trinity's youth. We are excited to be using a new curriculum with you our children. Volunteers already using it are reporting that it is user friendly and the children are very eager and engaged. If you have struggled in the past with wanting to help teach Sunday School but just weren't confident, now is the time. Materials are gathered and distributed ahead of time so that you may prepare when convenient for you with lots of great ideas on how to excite our youth in learning about the God we so love and desire to serve. We are very flexible working with your scheduling needs, you can teach for a couple of weeks or for a block of time depending upon your needs. Please use the summer to prayerfully reflect on this ongoing need for our children.

Finally, Summer is arriving, however slowly. Time to think of VBS opportunities. Trinity will be hosting a time of Christian fellowship, learning and fun through VBS. It will run this year from July 11 to July 15. There will be a time of fellowship, dinner and a program for the children in the evening on Thursday July 14. Registration can be completed on line. We are always looking for helpers. There are such a variety of tasks that need to be accomplished; we can match you up with a job whether big or small.

June 8, June 15, and July 7 will be VBS work dates from 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. (no lunch provided). We are calling all volunteer helpers whether you can give all morning or just an hour one of the days. We look forward to seeing you there.

Pryme Tymers

Join us for the last meeting of the Winter/Spring 2016 Season:

June 9, 11 A.M.:

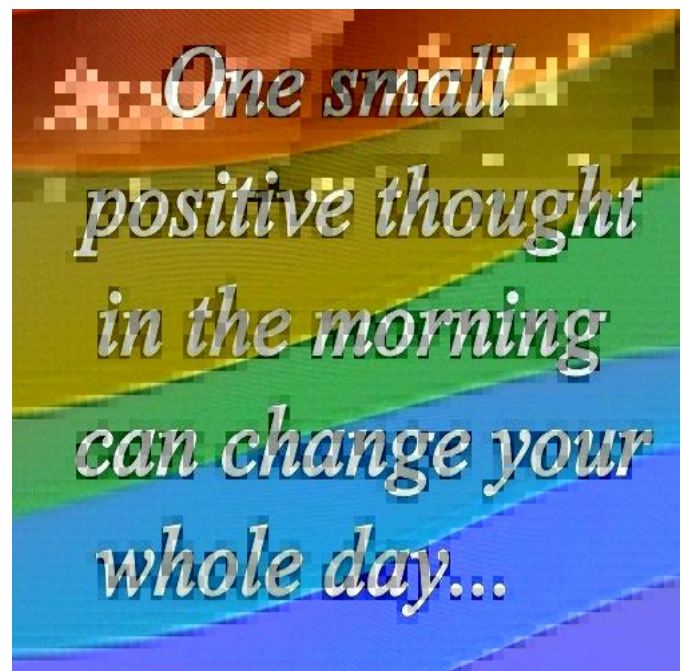
Entrée: Pizza and Veggie Trays

Program: *Fun, Fun, Fun D.J.* – Loren Gent. Put your dancing shoes on (or take them off – whatever is the most comfortable)...and get ready to DANCE. Loren will get you on your feet during our last “fling” before summer break. Roll out the barrel, ‘cause we’re going to have a barrel of fun!

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.

The Fall 2016 Programs will start again on September 8 with a musical special with James Libera.

Enjoy a wonderful summer and we'll see everyone in September.



June 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		

On-going Ministry

Sunday Mornings

10:00 AM Worship

10:00 AM Nursery for Infants/Summer Childcare Sunday School
Pre-K – 6th Grade

Noah's Ark Preschool – Spring Break June 2 – Sept. 1; Resumes Sept. 2

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

Pryme Tymers – Final meeting Winter/Spring 2016 - June 9, 11 AM;
Fall 2016 Programs begin September 8

Notes:

1: Noah's Ark Preschool Graduation, Peterson Hall
(11:15 AM – 1 PM) (last day of school)

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

5: Coffee and... begins after worship

7: Women's Bible Study, Fireside Room (9:30 AM)
Ronald McDonald House supper (4:30 PM)

8: VBS workday (9:30 AM-12 PM)
Pryme Tymers Cake & Coffee, Peterson Hall (11 AM)
(prior to 12:30 PM departure for play)

9: Pryme Tymers (11 AM) – Final meeting Winter/Spring 2016

12: Coffee and...
Rummage Sale organizational meeting, Fireside Room (11 AM)

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

15: VBS workday (9:30 AM-12 PM)

16: Mateer/VanBuskirk wedding rehearsal (6 PM)
Church Board meeting (7 PM)
Gallapo/Moran wedding rehearsal (7:45 PM)

17: Mateer/VanBuskirk Wedding (6 PM)

18: Gallapo/Moran Wedding (3 PM)

19: **Happy Father's Day**
Baby Bottle Campaign begins through Sunday, July 10
Articles for combined July/August Messenger due
Coffee and...

20: 1st Day of Summer

20-23: Set up for rummage sale, Peterson Hall

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

24: Rummage Sale (9 AM – 3:30 PM)

25: Rummage Sale (9 AM – 12 PM)

26: Coffee and...

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

Save the Dates: Vacation Bible School - July 11-15

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9230 South Pulaski Road
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708-422-5111
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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 combined
July/August Messenger
are due June 19