

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)

### March

#### **Ushers**

Matt Mateer – Captain  
Jon-Anders Mateer  
Jay Hanson  
Kevin McGrath

#### **Greeters**

5 Pat Anderson, Gloria Vitro  
12 Gary & Linda Kozak, Paul  
19 Mike & Jen Davies, Jake, Moira, Aven  
26 John & Lorraine Weszely

#### **Nursery**

5 Heidi Weszely  
12 Ginny Almer, Carol Byland  
19 Pam Polcar, Madeline Ford  
26 Jen Davies

#### **Counters**

Paula Cassady  
Kelly Bradbury  
Angela Panush

#### **Birthdays**

2 Barbara Eustace  
2 Arabella Khan  
8 Richard Erickson  
10 Arnold Almer  
11 William Anderson  
11 Brooklyn Raines  
13 Heidi Weszely  
15 Robert "Bud" Jaderholm  
15 Char Dunk Sladek  
21 Lois Carlson  
22 Bob Aardema  
22 David Sladek  
22 Ariel Kurzweil  
22 Tracy Hood  
30 Charlene Sandberg

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

# *The Messenger* March 2017

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

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many cards, prayers and support you've offered my family over the past several days. There are no words that I can find to express the depth of our gratitude for your thoughtfulness. We loved my dad and we will miss him.

In a final tribute to my father, I'd like to share with you the prayer I offered in the Galesburg Covenant Church on the day of his funeral.

*Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jim*

Prayer for My Father, Duane Sandberg  
February 13, 2017

Most Merciful God,

It hasn't been 5 months and here I am again, standing in this pulpit to pray. Lord, last time I stood here we had all come to say goodbye to Juanita and to give her over into your eternal care.

Today we come to do the same for my father. Lord, we all know the days following Juanita's death were not easy for my dad. Truth be told they were difficult days. Many of them downright awful. Oh, it was no secret that his body had been slowly, not always gently, breaking down for quite some time. But the intense, the almost relentless grief that accompanied the shock and suddenness of Juanita's death only served to hasten his decline. Oh, how he missed Juanita. Sometimes I wonder if dad just died from a broken heart.

Maybe one of the hardest things a son or daughter ever has to do is watch a parent die a little bit each and every day. Sometimes we're left with only our questions and a quiet litany of what ifs...

Lord, even as I struggle to make sense out of the frailty of the human condition...I know in my heart of hearts that my dad's last days (difficult as they were) failed to overshadow the overall brilliance of his 89 years on this earth. There is way, way more to celebrate about his life than there is to lament.

So meet me, Lord, please meet each one of us in our sadness; envelope us as we pray in the hope of resurrection and the promise of eternal life. In so doing, Lord, fill our hearts with praise and thanksgiving for the gift and grace and life of Duane Sandberg. Open our eyes to the many wonderful memories surrounding this kind, sensitive man and a life well-lived.

Growing up on Chestnut Street, he experienced the blessings of family and a tight-knit community. He was loved, nurtured by his parents and enjoyed a special bond with his sister throughout his life. There on the east end he learned the art of friendship. Over the years he was blessed with many good friends and for that he was grateful.

He would know the joy and yes the challenges of raising a family of his own with his high school sweetheart. Those were special days, days he received with gratitude. Days that passed much too quickly. He was no stranger to heartache. When his sweetheart died there was a season of sorrow. But then he met Juanita. He fell in love a second time. His life was richly blessed by the love of two women. He considered himself a most fortunate man.

No, Lord, he never took for granted the countless gifts of grace that came his way. Maybe that's why, Lord, he was such a great dad. He realized that even his children were gifts of grace from your gracious hand. And I know, Lord, he was a good steward of these gifts. He made countless sacrifices on our behalf. There was never any doubt that he loved us, wanted what was best for us, and he would do just about anything for us. He loved our spouses as if they were his own children. He so appreciated their uniqueness and individuality and all that they did to enhance his life. He was especially blessed with the pride and joy that only a grandfather and great-grandfather can know.

Your church, Lord, was another blessing in his life. Oh, how he loved his church. Church too was family to him. His faith was nurtured in this place. He benefited greatly by being part of a vibrant, loving, and caring faith community.

Lord, in remembering my dad, I know that rare was the day when he failed to enjoy the simple delights and pleasures of life. Oh, how he loved life. Morning coffee with his buddies...the word Jumble in the newspaper...Sudoku...the Thursday dinner group...poker night...Cribbage...bass fishing, even ice fishing...Saturday golf at 12:20 P.M. at Bunker Links...WGN and the Bears...Silver Streak basketball on WGIL...opening days at Wrigley Field...bleeding Cubby blue...finally a world series championship...all family gatherings, especially the turkey dinners at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

O, Lord, so many memories, so much laughter, so much fun.

Lord, I will miss my dad. Just by being who he was, he taught me plenty about honesty, integrity, generosity, forgiveness and the value of a hard day's work. He taught Dave and Becky no less. We will all miss him. He made our lives better - our little corner of the world a better place.

Thank you, God, for the gift and grace of his life. It will be hard to imagine tomorrow without him. So I pray that we will all find comfort in knowing that my dad is now at home with you, Lord. A home where there is no more sadness, only joy. No more darkness, only light. No more death, only life. So, Lord, give us strength and courage to leave him in your care; confident in your promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+++++++

## 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 sympathy to the Sladek family on the death of Naomi Arlene Sladek, age 4, Bruce Sladek's great granddaughter and Dave and Arlene Sladek's great niece. Naomi entered the life eternal on Thursday, February 2. A Memorial Service was

held on Thursday, February 9 at Krause Funeral Home, New Berlin, WI.

As a church family we extend our sympathy to Pastor Jim and Charlene Sandberg on the death of Pastor Jim's father, Duane Sandberg, who entered the life eternal on Tuesday, February 7, in Galesburg, IL. A Funeral Service was held Monday, February 13, at Galesburg Covenant Church.

As a church family we extend our sympathy to Pat Petersen on the death of her aunt, Margaret Buikema, age 91, who entered the life eternal on Wednesday, February 8, in Crete, IL. A Funeral Service was held on Wednesday, February 15, at Smits Funeral Homes in Dyer, IN. Interment at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

As a church family we extend our sympathy to Barbara Hellermann on the death of her brother, Paul Hellermann, who entered the life eternal on Thursday, February 9. A Memorial Service was held Saturday, February 18, at Naperville Covenant Church.

As a church family we extend our sympathy to Grace and Harry Persson on the death of Grace's brother, Jacob Matthys, who entered the life eternal on Tuesday, February 14. A Memorial Service was held Saturday, February 18 at Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home, Oak Lawn.

Peace be to the memory of Naomi, Duane, Margaret, Paul and Jacob.

**THANK  
YOU**

Thank you my dear friends for your prayers, cards and calls during my recent illness. I am doing much better, but have a little way to go.

Bruce Sladek

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Dear Karen and Trinity Family,

I feel indebted to you and everyone else at the church that helped things go as smoothly as they did yesterday (February 5). All your work on the bulletin, the musicians coordinating regarding "Let the Beauty of Jesus" at the end of the sermon, Kyle (I think) finding the perfect stand for the salt lamp: it is wonderful to see people pulling together that way. And I was touched by the number of people who went out of their way to greet my niece Mary, who has not been to Trinity except for funerals in too many years. What a great church!

Thanks again,  
Carol Noren

\*\*\*\*\*

On behalf of Mariners everywhere, thank you for the 23 knitted hats and 2 helmets. What an awesome gift!

The Seamen's Church Institute

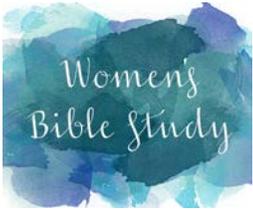
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On behalf of the families and children served at the Ronald McDonald House near Advocate Children's Hospital, I would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness and time to make a lovely dinner on the first Tuesday of each month. Each night Ronald McDonald House...provides 16 families with a 'home away from home' just steps away from where their child is being treated. Last year we provided 5,286 nights for families in need. The kindness of our "Meals from the Heart" volunteers makes our House a home for so many, providing a nutritious meal and we are truly grateful for your efforts. Thank you for your dedication to our organization.

Sincerely,

Anne Czarnecki, House Director, Ronald McDonald House

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## Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

We are scripturally into seven months of our journey with Jesus and those touched by His personal relationship as acknowledged

through the eyes of the chosen twelve.

Our study, The Gospel of John, gives further remembrance into teachings, signs and miracles as recorded years after the ascension of John's beloved friend.

Old, well worn stories take on new meaning as we recognize how our lives and times flow from the constant and consistent work and message of the ever-present giver of light, joy, love...

Our study, this time around, is visibly focused on the human element in those we meet and who we are in this day. How privileged to gather in His name to receive blessings as we attend to workable promises and claims.

Getting our attention is the message of The Bible.

God is a gentle thunder.

God is on the hunt-searching-stirring the bushes for lost sheep.

"Sometimes good things fall apart  
So better things can take their place."

Marilyn Monroe

Join us for the better and the best.

We gather every Tuesday for privilege, responsibility, learning.

Bakery 9:00 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.

Study 9:30 A.M. to 10:45 A.M.

Fireside Room - Trinity

Barbara Johnson

## Adult Sunday School



Come join us for Adult Sunday School at 11:15 A.M. after the morning worship service. During the month of March in the Fireside Room, Greg Goetz will be leading our class on the topic of "Palestine: A History". Join

the class as we delve into Palestinian origins.

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
**March 1 7 P.M.**  
**Fireside Room**



## LENTEN SOUP SUPPER AND DEVOTIONS

Wednesdays, March 8 - 29, 2017 6 P.M.

Join Pastor Jim on Wednesdays in March for a Lenten Soup Supper at 6 P.M. followed by Devotions. Each of our Lenten Devotions will provide you with a concrete take-away (i.e., things you can work on during the 40 days of Lent).

### March 8 – The Power of Habits

(Habits – good and bad – have an enormous impact on our lives.)

### March 15 – Casting out Demons

(We are all struggling with something. Identify your something, name it, own it.)

### March 22 – A Spiritual Plan

(What's your plan? Have you ever really had a plan for spiritual health and growth?)

### March 29 – When God Looks at Your Resume

(How available are you to God at this time in your life? 20%? 50%? 75%? 96.4%?)

Please RSVP with the total attending to the church office at 708-422-5111.



## Congratulations!

Kari and Michael Devine proudly introduce their new daughter Gabrielle Lorraine Devine, born on Wednesday,

February 1, weighing 6 lbs., 15 oz., and 18" long. Best wishes to the Devine family.



All ladies are invited to a  
Baby Shower  
For Tracy and Rich Hood

Saturday, March 11, at 11 A.M.  
Peterson Hall  
Brunch will be served.

## Save the Dates

Sunday, March 5: Spring Concert (7 P.M.)

Sunday, March 12: Camp Rally Day

Sunday, March 19: Interactions – Bowling at Arena Lanes  
(12:30 P.M.)

## Ronald McDonald House-Special Offering

The first Tuesday of every month from September to May, volunteers from Trinity prepare, cook and serve a chicken dinner to the families of children being treated at Christ Hospital and with extended stays at Ronald McDonald House. Each meal cost \$75 to prepare. On **Sunday, March 5**, we will take a special offering in support of the meals for Ronald McDonald House.



*Spring Concert*  
*Sunday March 5*  
*7 P.M.*

*Join us for an inspirational evening concert with Jim Hendricks Ministries. Jim dedicates his life to music ministry and uses the piano to provide his testimony in a personal, humble, joyful and powerful way. His musical interpretation is divinely inspired, and he graciously and faithfully gives that credit to God at every performance.*

*All are welcome to experience the glory of Christ through Jim's music.*

*Be sure to invite a friend or friends to the concert. You might want to invite them to your home for supper prior to the concert or just go out to eat. Dessert will be available at the church at 6:15 P.M. Ice cream and cookies will be served with Pastor Jim scooping the ice cream.*

Tracy and Rich are registered at *Babies R Us*  
Nursery colors are **Purple** and **Grey**  
*(It's A Girl)*

Please RSVP to the church office at 708-422-5111 by Monday, March 6.

## Camp Rally Day – Sunday, March 12



Staff members from the Covenant Point Bible Camp will be sharing with us and our young people about all the happenings up north and the many camping opportunities at Lake Hagerman this summer.

They'll be sharing briefly with us during worship and with our young people during Sunday school.

## Sunday, March 12 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

### Spring forward



Don't forget to set  
clocks ahead  
one hour  
at 2 a.m.  
Sunday.

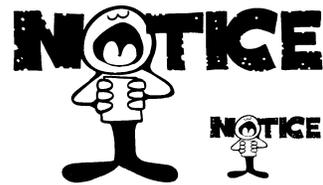
## Interactions Bowling Fun at Arena Bowl Sunday, March 19

If bowling is right up your alley or you want to have fun in your spare time, roll on over to Arena Bowl, 103<sup>rd</sup> & Cicero, Oak Lawn, on Sunday, March 19, and join us for an afternoon of fun. Bowling is from 12:30-2:30 PM, 2 games, the cost is \$7.50 and includes shoe rental. We need 15 people to bowl to get the group rate.



Please **RSVP by March 12** to the church office at 708-422-5111. Any questions please see Denise Sullivan or Kellie Lee.

\*Lunch option: We will be eating lunch together at the church before bowling. Bring a frozen pizza and snacks to share.



## Events Notices

Please send a notice to Trinity Church office of any events that your children will be participating in whether through school or other outside activity (i.e., school recital, sports event, special fundraiser). We will post a notice at church with the child's name, event, date, time and location so we'll all have an opportunity to attend. And perhaps afterward we can join in fellowship for coffee at a local restaurant or café.

## NO Rummage Sale

If you have been cleaning out your house and saving items in anticipation of Trinity Church's rummage sale, please note that Trinity **will not** have a rummage sale this year.

## Pryme Tymers

Join us for our March programs:



**March 9, 11 A.M.:**

Program: *Michael Finn, "The Sax Player with a Great Voice"*. Introducing Mike to our Pryme Tymers stage, he will highlight Irish melodies and favorite saxophone songs. Choose to

wear **Green for St. Patrick's Day** or **Red for St. Joseph's Day**.

Entrée: Stuffed Chicken

**March 23, 11 A.M.:**

Program: *Concert Musician and Singer, Ron Eckberg*.

We begin our Lenten journey with an inspiring and encouraging Christian witness. This is "Bring a Christian Friend to Pryme Tymers" Day.

Entrée: Roast Pork Loin

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.

**JOURNEY  
OF  
FAITH**

**Father, help me to see this holy season of Lent as a time of spiritual renewal, rather than a time of deprivation. Motivate me to reach a new level of experiencing your grace.**



### Dates to Remember

Friday, March 10-  
Picture Day-  
Pre-K Graduation Pictures

**Please mark your calendars for these  
important dates!**

Friday, April 7-  
Donuts with Dad/Grandpa

Thursday, April 13 – Friday, April 21-  
No School Spring Break

Friday, May 5- Mother's Day Tea

Monday, May 8-  
No School, Parent Conferences

Monday, May 29- No School, Memorial  
Day

Tuesday, May 30- No School, Teacher In-  
service Day

Wednesday, May 31- Preschool  
Graduation

Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Wojcik's  
class will focus on  
Letters Yy, Pp, Zz, Xx & Qq  
and numbers 0-15

Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Theodossopoulos'  
class will focus on  
letters Qq, Rr Ss  
and numbers 0-13



# March Newsletter 2017

For the month of March the  
children will focus on...



**Colors-** Green & Yellow  
**Shapes-** Diamond & Square  
**Science-** Making Green  
play dough  
~Dr. Seuss



### Early Bird Registration:

Registration for the 2017-2018  
school year is now open. If you  
register your child during the  
months of March and April, you will  
receive 7% of your child's monthly  
tuition for the 2017-2018 school  
year. Limited space available.

### **A note of thanks!**

~Thank you to our wonderful readers who have shared  
their time, reading to our preschoolers.

~Thank you to our wonderful room helpers during our  
Valentine's Day Party. We truly appreciate your help!

~Thank you to our wonderful bakers and families for  
supporting our Jump Zone Fundraiser! We had a blast!

## A NOTE FROM...

Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Wojcik

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We've had some nice weather! Let's hope spring is on its way!

During the next few months, preschool will be a very busy place! We have many fun family gatherings coming up! Please mark your calendars.

During the month of March, we will focus on the letters Yy, Pp, Zz, Xx & Qq. Also, our class will begin working in the curriculums Little Books. These books are great for letter sound and recognition review and beginner words.

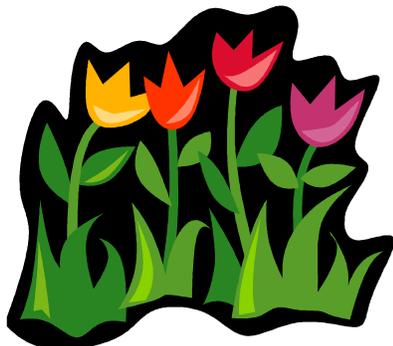
During the first week of April, we will have covered the entire alphabet! For the rest of the school year, our Pre-K children will be working on a letter a day as a review of what we have learned this year.

At home please continue to work on letter recognition & sounds; this will help with reading readiness and continue to work on number recognition 0-20+. Practice printing daily, with reminding your child to print from the top to the bottom.

Parent Conferences are coming up in May, but if you have any questions or concerns at any time, please feel free to contact me!

Thank you,

Mrs. Palazzolo  
Mrs. Wojcik



## A NOTE FROM...

Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Theodossopoulos

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It hardly seems that seven months of preschool have already passed! The time has gone by so quickly.

Spring is hopefully on its way! Before long we will begin to see the buds on the trees and the flowers blooming.

For the month of March, we will focus on the letters Qq, Rr & Ss and reviewing the letters Aa - Oo. We are working on number concepts 1-13 and will be able to count 1 to 25.

Please continue to review these letters and numbers at home with your child.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Ms. Amanda and Mrs. Theodossopoulos



# March 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		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 – 3 rd Grade

11:15 AM Sunday School Grades 4-6, 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: **Ash Wednesday Service, Fireside Room (7 PM)**

5: Ronald McDonald House special offering  
Spring Concert (7 PM)

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

8: Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions (6 PM)

9: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

11: Tracy Hood Baby Shower Brunch, Peterson Hall (11 AM)

12: **Daylight Saving Time Begins – Spring Forward**

Name Tag Sunday  
Camp Rally Day

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

15: Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions (6 PM)

16: Church Board meeting (7 PM)

17: **Happy St. Patrick's Day**

19: Interactions – Bowling at Arena Lanes, Oak Lawn (12:30 PM)  
**Articles for April Messenger due**

20: **First Day of Spring**

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

22: Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions (6 PM)

23: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

26: KICY special offering

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

29: Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions (6 PM)

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**Reverend Dr. James R. Sandberg**

*Senior 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  
April Messenger  
are due March 19