

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

October

Ushers

David Sladek – Captain
Bruce Sladek
Gary Kozak
Paul Kozak

Greeters

4 Kevin McGrath, Jeff Blust
11 Barb & Matt Mateer
18 Tom, Denise, Hannah & Emily Sullivan
25 Jay Hanson, Brian Crotty

Nursery

4 Pam Polcar, Joyce Nyberg
11 Pat Klutcharch, Marcia Lellos
18 Kari Devine, Heidi Weszely
25 Denise, Emily, Hannah Sullivan

Counters

Linda Kozak
Clarence Rosengren
Angela Panush

Birthdays

2 Diana Nilsson
2 Jim Strickland
3 Carol Raines
3 Karen McShane
4 Brianna Khan
12 Joy Gaw
12 Michelle West
13 Cody Devine
14 Priscilla Swanson
19 Lois Flaws
19 Pam Polcar
20 Phil Cavallone
22 Mary Almer
22 Madelyn Ford
24 Kirsten Torling
27 Jay Hanson
29 Michael Davies
30 Lorraine Weszely
31 Judy Kurzweil
31 Matthew Panush

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

The Messenger October 2015

Over the Pastor's Shoulder

³⁸ "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

(Matthew 5:38,39)

When I was all of fifteen, maybe sixteen years of age, I heard Dr. Karl Olsson preach at a youth conference in Rockford, Illinois. Olsson was talking about turning the other cheek and how absurd that kind of selflessness can seem until we understand how it affects others.

A one-time chaplain in the U.S. Army, Olsson went on to tell about a particular private in his unit. This fine young private had been a Christian for only a short time. But he was very committed to his faith and, in his commitment, read his Bible faithfully every day and tried to live as he thought Jesus wanted him to live. This seemed to put him crossways with a rough old sergeant who had nothing but contempt for Christianity and constantly gave the young man extra duties as a punishment for what he assumed was the naiveté of his faith. The young man was so sustained by his beliefs, however, that he always responded to the sergeant in a pleasant, cheerful manner, which only further infuriated the sergeant.

One raining night when everyone had a pass to go into the nearby town, the private decided to remain behind to write some letters and read his Bible. He passed a quiet, uneventful evening in the barracks and concluded it with a time of prayer, when the sergeant tired and drunk stumbled through the door and saw him on his knees beside his bunk.

Angry and cursing, the sergeant pulled off his muddy boots, hurled them at the young soldier -----striking him on both the head and the body ----- and fell into a stupor on his cot.

The next morning, when the sergeant awoke with a throbbing headache and a mouth that felt as if it were full of fuzz, he noticed that someone had removed his tie, loosened his collar and carefully laid a blanket across his body. And there beside his bed, sat his boots, cleaned and polished with the best shine they had ever had. When Olsson finished his sermon, someone asked if the sergeant became a Christian after that. Olsson said he honestly didn't remember. But, as I recall Olsson's story, I'll never forget the power of this picture of a human being managing a hateful, unrighteous situation by meeting it not with force but with love. Not with defensive or aggressive behavior, but with mercy and forgiveness.

When was the last time you turned the other cheek?

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jim



Our October class in the Fireside Room will be led by Hauna Ondrey from North Park Theological Seminary. Her subject will be: "Where is it Written? Reading the Bible through Covenant History". We will

explore together how Covenanters across history have read Scripture – and how we might become more faithful readers by reading with them. Come join us at 11:15 A.M. after the morning worship service.

In the Overflow Room, Rich Hood will continue teaching on The Sermon on the Mount until November 1. Beginning November 8 through December 20, Rich will introduce a 7 week study on the Book of the Ephesians.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to celebrate or honor someone on a given special date, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Flowers are \$40 and you are invited to take them home following morning worship.



Dear Friends,

Please send a big thank you to everyone for their prayers concerning my niece Faith. She happily reports that God has been with her and that the prayers made a big difference.

Thanks to all, Carol Byland



Tuesday Women's Bible Study

During the many years of Women's Bible Study we have addressed the lives and works of saints giving credence to how we are to follow the will and teachings of Jesus.

This past month issues centered upon Jesus' ways to communicate – to listen, depend, wait and respond to plans individually designed to benefit us, His family, His children.

Through this time we saw our lives spelled out on every page of Jesus Calling with related scriptural passages recognizing disciplines to adopt and adapt.

So this month our study takes the turn away from us, moves forward, and directs us to question, "What did Jesus think about Himself?"

We strive to be comfortable in our own skin and certainly Jesus was as He met adversity and celebration head on. He was never predictable and, most often, the giver of unexpected surprises during three years on common ground.

So again these months as always – no smoke and mirrors, no cut and paste – just facts as we continue our journey from knowing about Him to knowing of Him.

If you are complacent, know the answers or have heard this before – come for renewal and dig deeper with us. Allow yourself to grow. It is our choices which define us. We will be held responsible for what we know.

We gather in the Fireside Room every Tuesday at 9:30 A.M. always dotting the "i's", crossing the "t's" and connecting the dots.

Barbara Johnson

Pryme Tymers

The October programs:
October 8, 11 A.M.

Entrée: Roast Pork Loin
Program: Sarah Jenks

...And Friends. October is a month celebrated in many languages. Sarah and her friends will musically share some

with us. Make your reservation by Friday, October 2.



October 22, 11A.M.

Entrée: Stuffed Chicken

Program: "Octoberfest" with John Trimmel. Returning by popular demand, John will perform many German/Austrian songs in cultural costume. Make your reservation by Friday, October 16.

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

Coming Events

Wed. Oct. 14 Family Night, 6 P.M.

Tues. Oct. 20 Miriam Luncheon and Meeting (JulFest planning), following Bible study

Sun. Oct. 25 Interactions – S'mores at Angie & Geoff Panush's house, 2-4 P.M.



Noah's Ark Reading To the Preschoolers

Noah's Ark Preschool is looking for volunteers to read to the preschoolers. There are only two remaining dates open: December 3 and 4. If you would like to volunteer please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the Narthex.

New Email Address:

sandra.hutchinson22@yahoo.com

Thought to Ponder:

You've got 3 choices in life: Give up, give in or give it all you've got.

North Park University Concert Band

On Saturday, October 10, North Park University Concert Band will present the 6th Annual Exceptional Music for Exceptional Families for families of children with autism and special needs. This is a Free event and includes an "instrument petting zoo" at 7 P.M. The concert begins at 7:30 P.M. in Anderson Chapel (at the corner of Foster and Spaulding Avenues). For tickets or further information call Karen Dickelman at 773-244-5625 or kdickelman@northpark.edu. Online registration: www.northpark.edu/exceptional.

Family Night

Our next family night is Wednesday, October 14, 6-8



P.M. Don't miss this spooktacular night of Pumpkin Decorating and Super Hero T-Shirts! Instead of wearing a costume, we ask you to wear your favorite super hero t-shirt. Please bring your own pumpkin and we'll supply all the trimmings for you to decorate. Tom Panush also has some fun games with apples planned! For dinner we'll serve up sloppy joe sandwiches with baked beans and chips. So get ready for an evening packed with family fun. Please call the church office at 708-422-5111 if you are able to join us.



Interactions

Interactions is a fellowship group designed for families with children. This a great time for parents and kids to interact together and enjoy the fellowship of other families. Of course, singles are always welcome too. Join us at the 1st Interactions of the season on Sunday, October 25. We'll meet at Geoff and Angela Panush's house from 2-4 P.M. for a relaxing autumn afternoon of conversation, music and yummy S'mores. Beverages will be provided. If you are

able to join this fun-filled afternoon, please RSVP to the church office at 708-422-5111. Your contribution of Graham Crackers, Hershey Bars or Marshmallows for the S'mores would be greatly appreciated.



Church Chuckle:

One child to another:

"I can talk to God wherever I am without a cell phone and I never get a busy signal."



Note from Pastor Mitch

Hello Trinity Covenant!! I hope this issue of the newsletter finds you well! If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, my name is Mitch Haaby (pronounced Hobby). I hail from a small town in northwestern Minnesota known as Roseau (pronounced Rozo). I grew up in a Covenant Church there and went off to college in a few different places – one of those was Covenant Bible College (Strathmore, Alberta) for one year. I finished my undergraduate degree in Counseling Psychology from Rocky Mountain College in Calgary, Alberta.

After that I spent 7 years as the full-time Youth Pastor at my home church back in Roseau, MN. It was there that I felt God's call on my life to full-time vocational ministry affirmed and supported. I am now in my second year at North Park Theological Seminary here in Chicago. Part of that education includes some pastoral internship experience, which brings me to all of you!

I am very excited to gain a vast array of experience during my time here at Trinity. From preaching to teaching Sunday school, helping serve communion to working with the youth of all ages – I look forward to the ways in which God is going to grow me and equip me for whatever ministry setting He sees fit. I would really like to begin building relationships with families in ways that invigorate church activities and special gatherings. I'm hoping to work with the youth regarding music specifically, and some of the possibilities there. I am passionate about worship, and I am excited for what God will teach me through the different structures in place here at Trinity. I hope to get to know each of you better while I'm here, so let's make that happen. Thanks for this opportunity and may God bless you as you seek His face.

*Mitch Haaby
Pastoral Intern*

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

***After some further conversations, we're going to have Youth Group after church each Sunday, from 1pm-3pm. For some weeks, the lunchtime (12-1) will be built into the schedule, where families of youth will meet at the same place to share lunch together and then drop them off at the church for a couple hours. Look for further details closer to each week.

If you're interested in what's happening you can go on Facebook and join the 'Trinity Evangelical Covenant Youth Group' page (if you're not already). There you'll find more detailed updates. If you don't have Facebook, I'm happy to send the same info in an email each week. My email address is mitch.haaby@gmail.com and my phone number is 218.469.3420.

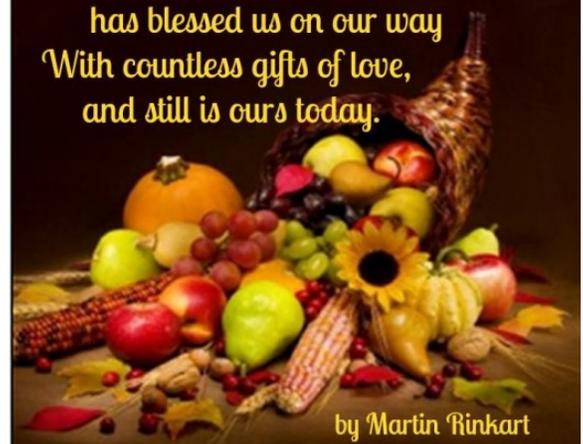
Here's some things to look forward to:

- Sun. Oct. 11 11:15-12:00 Sunday School (Worship Workshop)
- 12:15 -1:00 Lunch @ Premo's*
- 1:00 -2:30 Youth Group @ Trinity
- Fri. Oct 16 6:00 -7:30 Kid's Fall Party (Grades 1-6) – More info soon!
- Sun. Oct 18 11:15-12:00 Sunday School (Lesson)
- 12:15- 2:30 Lunch & Youth Group @ Garden Patch Farms Apple Orchard!! Bring lunch money and \$5 cash to get in (*looking for another possible driver/vehicle – contact Mitch*)
- Sun. Oct 25 11:15-12:00 Sunday School (Worship Workshop)
- 12:15-1:00 Lunch @ Subway*
- 1:00-2:30 Youth Group @ Trinity
- 2:00-4:00 INTERACTIONS – S'mores @ the Panush Bunch Home (3912 W 101st ST Chicago, IL 60655) Beverages Provided! Come on out to learn about other upcoming INTERACTIONS!

Youth Group is for grades 7-12 and youth are always encouraged to invite their friends. *Parents are encouraged to join us for lunch together so I can get to know families and so you can pay for your child ☺

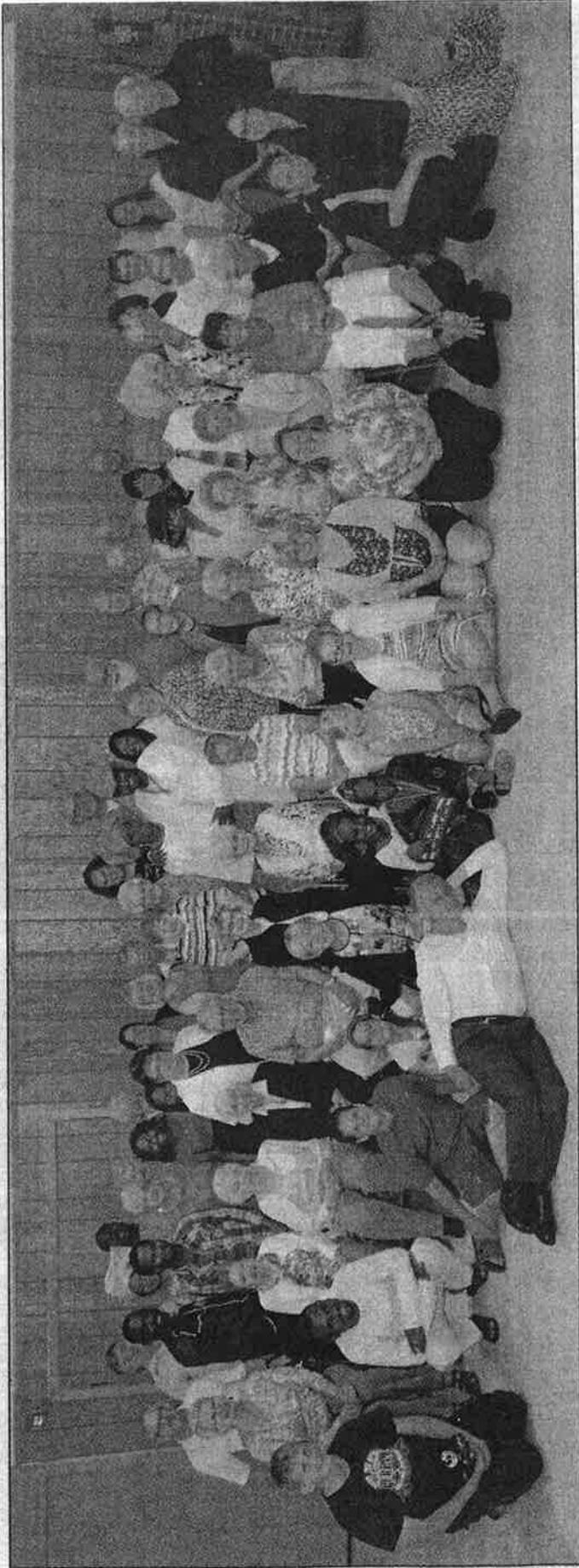
Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.



by Martin Rinkart

Seven-year 'war' over thanks to OL church



Submitted Photo

A big group of people at the Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church in Oak Lawn helped reunite Emmanuel Ajide and his family. Ajide and his wife, Olayemi, are in the middle of the photo with red headwear on. The church's pastor, Jim Sandberg, is in front, relaxing on the floor.

By Claudia Parker
Correspondent

At first, pursuing the American dream was a nightmare for former Nigerian immigrant Emmanuel Ajide.

He said it was like being "in a war."

He won the Green Card Lottery at the expense of being separated from his family.

For seven long years,

But the story has a happy and tearful ending as the Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church at 9230 S. Pulaski in Oak Lawn, rallied to help Ajide reunite with his family after being separated from them for all that time.

Rev. James R. Sandberg, known by his congregation as Pastor Jim said: "I promised Emmanuel I would help him. Our entire congregation pulled funds together to answer the call."

That was a good call. It rang to the tune of \$3,400 and change to help him reunite with his family.

The Diversity Immigrant Visa program, also known as the Green Card Lottery is administered annually. It's meant to diversify the immigrant population in the United States by selecting applicants, mostly from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

"I wanted the opportunity to live a better life," Ajide said. "I

didn't know I'd have to fight for it like I was in a war."

Ajide said when he entered the lottery in Nigeria, his paperwork reflected a single status.

"When you're selected, it's a long process. By the time I was approved to come to America, I had married my fiancé, Olayemi, and had a daughter named Ayomide, whom was only six month's old."

What does one do in this situation?

Ajide chose to keep quiet about his family status.

"I thought it would be an easier process for my family to come to America once I got here. I was wrong," Ajide said, "The strain of being apart nearly broke us."

There was a war raging alright, most of the time, over the phone.

"Olayemi didn't understand," Ajide said. "She felt abandoned. Every day on the phone she cried, some days from sadness and others out of anger. She cursed me out-a lot!"

Due to the expense, Ajide said he could only visit his family once a year, staying only two or three weeks each time, which he said made the separation even more agonizing. During one of those trips back, Olayemi conceived their second child, a son named, Olawale.

"I didn't meet my son until he was 14 months old," Ajide said, "When we met, he looked at me

like, 'Who is this man?'"

The church sat across the street from Ajide's apartment.

"I'm slow about getting around to things. I lived there three years before I visited," Ajide said, "Pastor Jim became like a father to me. He helped me cope with what I was going through. My marriage gained strength again when I met him. He helped me to recognize my wife as my partner and told me if I stayed committed to our partnership, we'd make it through any situation."

Sandberg and his wife, Charlene, have been married 39 years. "I wasn't trying to give Emmanuel

(Continued on page 7)

Church

(Continued from page 1)

uel marriage advice," Sandberg said. "I just counseled to his need."

Ajide left Nigeria in June 2008, his family arrived in the United States in June.

To support himself and his family while here in the states, he worked as a certified nursing assistant while he completed a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix. He is now a case manager for a nursing home.

"The first time I arrived home from work to my family, the kids pounced on me," said Ajide. He teared up. "My son screamed, 'My Daddy! My Daddy!' They truly are my happiness and my joy."

Olayemi said the time away from her husband was especially difficult on the kids.

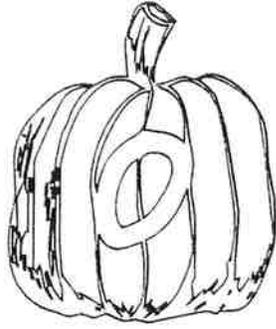
"It was hard explaining to the kids why their dad was away. But now, we're all happy. There are no words to describe what it feels like to lay down and see my husband beside me."

Olayemi's sentiments were equally pleasing toward the Oak Lawn church.

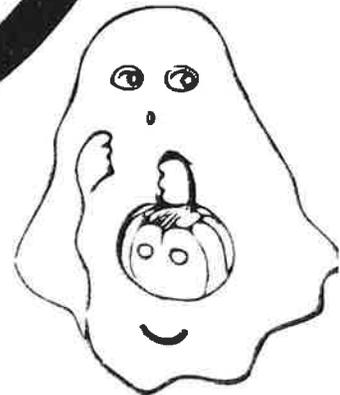
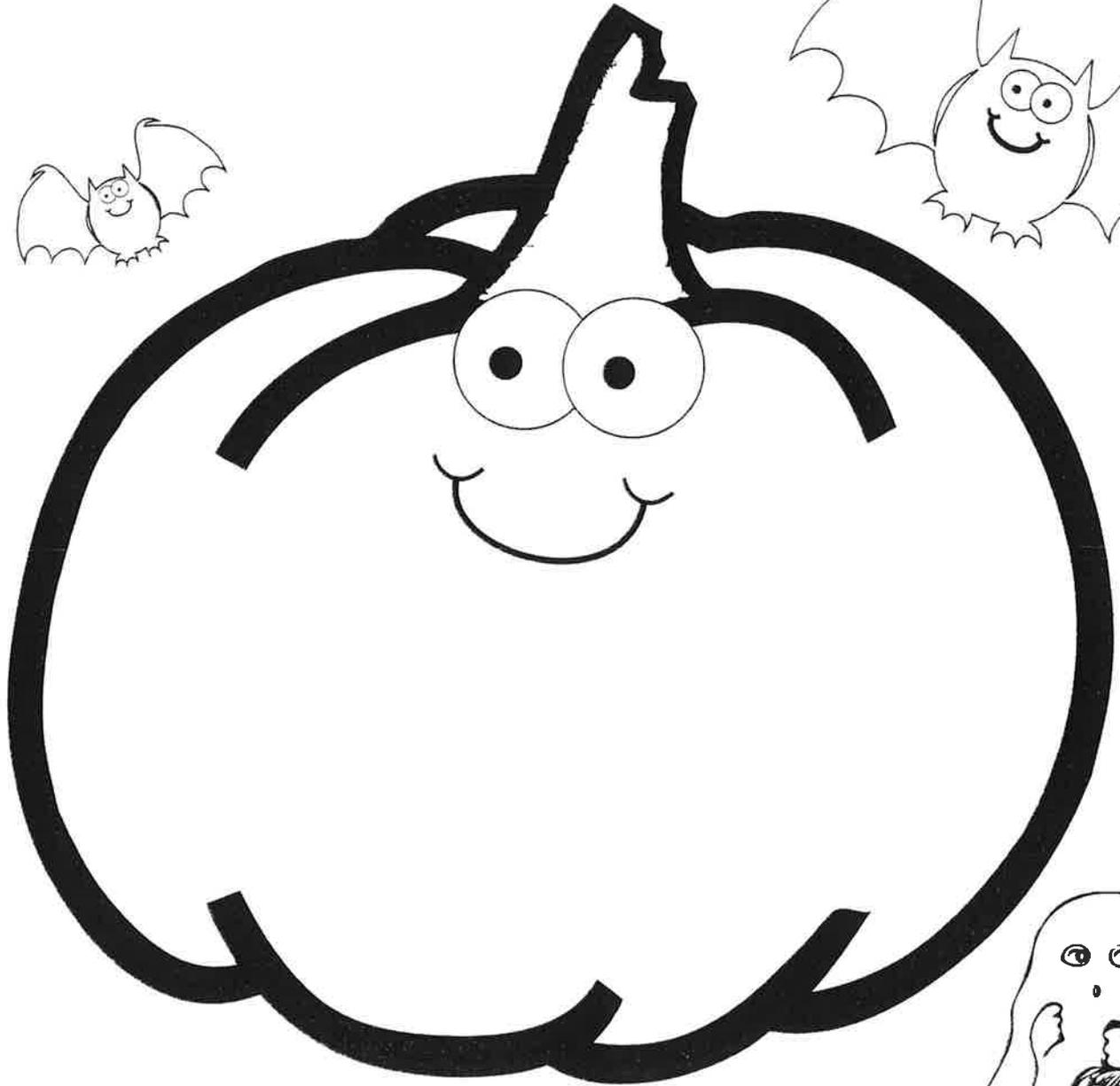
"We are forever grateful to Pastor Jim and this church for the love they've shown us," she said. "Not even in Africa have we experienced this kind of love."



Submitted photo
Emmanuel Ajide and his son, Olawale have been reunited after efforts from an Oak Lawn church made it possible.



OCTOBER



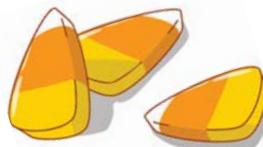
**A cool breeze and pumpkin seeds.
On Halloween I am going to dress up as a...**



_____.



October Newsletter 2015



Dates to Remember

Friday, October 2

PPO Meeting 12:00 Pre-K Classroom

Tuesday, October 6

Picture Day

(More information to come)

Monday, October 12

No School-Columbus Day

Thursday, October 29

Class Halloween Party

Friday, October 30

Class Halloween Party

Friday, October 30

Halloween Pizza Night Fundraiser

(More information to come)

A note of Thanks!

Thank you to all of our families who have donated items to our classrooms. The supplies are much needed and will be put to good use!

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

Pastor Jim, thank you for sharing the wonderful story about Amber Lamb. The children enjoyed learning about her first day of school.

Thank you to our wonderful Grandparents and special friends who shared the day with the children on Grandparents Day.

During October we will focus on...

Math

- Fall Patterns

Science

- What's inside a pumpkin?
- Making orange play dough

- Fire Safety

Pre-K Classroom

During the month of October the children will focus on the letters Oo, Tt, Ll, & Bb and numbers 0-6.

3's - 4's Classroom

During the month, the children will focus on letters Cc- Dd and numbers 0-3.



A NOTE FROM...

Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Wojcik

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Autumn brings new colors! What a great time of the year to discover the beautiful color changes of the leaves on the trees.

Each child has done a wonderful job adjusting to our class schedule and routine. Each is eager to learn new things each day! Our ticket chart has been a great success and the children are excited when it is treasure box day!

For the month of September we focused on the vowels. The children learned the vowel song. Ask your child to sing the vowel song to you! We also had fun making and sharing a fruit salad with our friends and learned about Johnny Appleseed. The children enjoyed measuring toys in our classroom with apples.

As we progress through the month of October, the children will continue to work on letter sounds and recognition. We will continue to focus on the vowels and learn letters Oo, Tt, Ll, and Bb.

Please work with your child daily. Reinforcing what your child has learned at school will help them build these required skills to help promote reading readiness.

We are so proud of each and every one of the children. They have worked so hard this past month with printing their name and learning the letters in their name. Please remember when working with your child at home, remind them to hold the pencil properly and to always start at the top of the line when printing. Also, using flashcards is also a great way to help your child work on letter recognition and sounds, shapes, colors and numbers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Palazzolo

Mrs. Wojcik



A NOTE FROM...

Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Dryier



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy Fall and October! School is in full swing and we are really getting into our routines and adjusting nicely.

October will be a wonderful month of learning for our class. We have learned so much already! The children have done a wonderful job learning the basic shapes and colors, numbers 1 and 2 and letters Aa and Bb.

This month we will continue on with the alphabet and focus on letters Cc and Dd. The children will become familiar with the letter sounds and the formation of these letters. We will continue to work on counting 1-10 and begin to recognize numbers 2 and 3 as well as working on basic shapes and colors.

The children enjoy working on their crafts every day and are learning how to follow step by step instructions.

Looking forward to the rest the school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Amanda and Mrs. Dryier



October 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	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 and Toddlers

11:15 AM Sunday School for all ages

11:15 AM Confirmation

Noah's Ark Preschool – Mon – Fri, 9 AM – 12 PM

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

Pryme Tymers – 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 11 AM

Notes:

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

VASA meeting, Fireside Room (11 AM)

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

Ronald McDonald House supper (4:30 PM)

8: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

10: Anna Olson/Mike Guziak Wedding (1 PM)

11: Youth Group Lunch @ Premo's (12:15-1 PM)

Youth Group @ Trinity (1-2:30 PM)

12: **Columbus Day** – Noah's Ark school holiday

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

Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)

Trustees & CE Board meetings (7 PM)

14: Family Night, Peterson Hall (6 PM)

15: Church Board meeting (7 PM)

16: Kid's Fall Party (6-7:30 PM)

18: Youth Group – Lunch & Garden Patch Farms (12:15-2:30 PM)

Articles for November Messenger due

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

Miriam Circle Luncheon and meeting (following Bible study)

22: Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

25: Youth Group Lunch @ Subway (12:15-1 PM)

Interactions-S'mores @ Angie & Geoff Panush house (2-4 PM)

SKF meeting, Fireside Room (2:30 PM)

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

30: Noah's Ark Pizza Night Fundraiser, Peterson Hall (5:30 – 7:30 PM)

31: **Happy Halloween**

November 1: Daylight Savings Time Ends, Move Clocks BACK
One Hour

Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church
9230 South Pulaski Road
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
708-422-5111
Website: www.trinitycovoaklawn.org
E-mail: office@trinitycovoaklawn.org

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 November
Messenger
are due October 18