

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

### **Ushers**

Brian Crotty – Captain  
Matt Panush  
Melissa Panush  
Diana Eigenbauer

### **Greeters**

3 Denise Krueger, Dorothy Karner  
10 Harry & Grace Persson  
17 Lois Flaws, Virginia Fulton  
24 Bill & Sandy Hutchinson

### **Nursery**

3 Pam Polcar, Sandy Hutchinson  
10 Angie Panush, Shannon Lee  
17 Heidi Weszely, Madeline Ford  
24 Jen Davies, Judy Kurzweil

### **Counters**

Brian Crotty  
Lorraine Weszely  
Rita Grijalva

### **Birthdays**

1 Denise Krueger  
1 Paula Cassidy  
2 Moira Davies  
2 Kendra Goetz  
3 Pedro Castillo  
3 Arlene Sladek  
4 Robin Richerme  
6 Chris McShane  
7 Joseph Przybylowski  
12 Rita Grijalva  
13 Kyle Johnson  
14 Dawn Hanson  
15 Dominic Panush  
18 Marjorie Cassidy  
19 Phyllis Peterson  
22 Megan Hardesty  
27 Barbara Dorl  
27 Barbara Hellermann  
29 Judith Engstrom

# *The Messenger* September 2017

## **Sharing “Argentine Mate” with Pastor Mark**

Sweden Mission Team (A team from Faith Covenant in Wheaton, Illinois including Pastor Mark and Alice Westlind).

An evaluative and reflective trip assessment by Pastor Mark Westlind.

WHAT????!! A mission trip to Sweden?! That is a vacation place, isn't it? Why would you go THERE on a mission trip? These are many of the questions our team received as we confirmed our trip and began to train, fundraise and team build for our mission experience.

Short Term Mission Trips and their effectiveness have been the subject of many research papers; including my own doctoral dissertation. Many have said that churches and individuals should just send money since that would be a more effective use of funds. The studies have shown, however, that getting churches and individuals involved with the team building, training and fund raising efforts; have gone a long way in raising awareness and extending a more long lasting impact for three different players in this milieu: 1- The Short Term Mission Team member, 2- The recipients of the ministry in the receiving host culture, and 3- The sending church and individuals. Thankfully, I have already begun to see the effects of this trip on some of our team.

Short Term Teams can do damage as well as good if they are ill prepared; thankfully, a great deal of time and thought went into our trip. It was a short stay. Relationships are key in doing ministry and thus it seems to make the very nature of a short term mission flawed from the proverbial “get go.” Relationships do take time. Both our team and the Swedes are very keen on continuing this relationship. This will be the key for the success and fulfillment of ministry that was started and watered during this lightning fast week in July of 2017.

In terms of what has impacted me personally on this trip to Sweden, I would say 5 things stand out:

- 1- The organization and coordination done by our team and the hosts led by Pastor Mario and his wife Eva. Everything ran like a well-oiled clock.
- 2- The reception by two different groups of people in Sweden; 1- the native born Swedes who have started this program and 2- the immigrants and refugees from many countries. The countries included, but were not limited to: Iraq, Lebanon, Assyria, Somalia, and Bulgaria.
- 3- Noticing the way in which the Swedish nation deals with people from war torn countries. At one point, Pastor Mario talked about “the Swedes” and he said “we” thus including himself as a Swede. Mario is ethnically a Mexican and someone chuckled and drew this to his attention. He said with a serious straight face, “No, I am a Swede now.” He told us that people received into Swedish territory are embraced and called “New Swedes!”
- 4- The deepening of relationships within our team.
- 5- The building of understanding between cultures.

## The Trip in Brief

We went to Stockholm via Frankfurt and then took two trains to Norrköping, Sweden. For those of you interested, trains in Sweden do not disappoint. Wow! There was even a station on an arched bridge some 300 feet in the air!

The way to really do a trip to another country and engage truly, is to stay with your hosts in their homes. We all had the chance to do this and all of us will never be the same. We had great moments of cultural and linguistic interchange as well as a phenomenal introduction to Swedish food that was more varied than your local IKEA. We all have new lifelong friends!

Work: We took a weeklong VBS to the "New Swedes," (immigrants/refugees). We were loaned an

Assyrian Cultural Center for this daily experience. Every evening we had a common meal with food made from many different countries: Iraq, USA, Assyria, and Bulgaria! At the close of



the meal, we had a service event every night. I felt like I was back in another Latin country again when I was asked to preach with one day's notice. I enthusiastically accepted!

Stockholm: We somehow had the time to visit



Stockholm on our last day. We traveled there by train and toured for three hours prior to being set up in our bunks in a three-mast "tall ship!" Unbelievably, it cost us only \$55 per night! We left at 2:00 A.M. and walked two miles through the streets and the nighttime outdoor concerts with

our entire luggage in tow. What an experience!

One of the most memorable experiences was with a fellow from Syria. He took me aside when he met me and as he embraced me, he said, "Now you are my brother!" He is a Christ follower and I cannot wait to introduce him to you when we are all at the feet of Jesus in heaven!

Some of you knew about my trip and I wish to thank all of you for your prayers for this trip. We will be going again in the future and if you contact us timely, you will come with us!

*Sincerely,  
Pastor Mark*



Dear Trinity Family,

Thank you for all the prayers for Gary Sladek, Dave Sladek's brother. Gary is on the road to recovery.

The Sladek Family

## Golf for Kids Fundraiser

Registration is open! Golf with Covenant Harbor friends and raise scholarship funds for at-risk kids to have a life-changing camp experience.

The Antwan Williams Memorial Golf for Kids Classic will be held on Monday, September 11, at Hawk's View Golf Club, Lake Geneva, WI.

[Register by September 1 at www.covenantharbor.org](http://www.covenantharbor.org) or contact Sarah Snow at 262-248-3600.

## Gather '17 – Evangelical Covenant Church Annual Meeting

Pat Petersen and I were chosen by Arlene Sladek to be delegates to Gather '17, held June 22-24, 2017, in Detroit, Michigan.

I was honored to have the opportunity to be a delegate. It was an absolutely wonderful experience. Two days were filled with business meetings, as we covered most of the numerous agenda items presented, many that required our votes.

The evenings worship services included dynamic speakers, and a wonderful band. Pat and I also ran into a few "old friends": Pastor Geoff Twigg, former Minister of Music and Worship at Trinity and his wife Vicki, and Professor Hannah Ondrey, who has taught Sunday School classes at Trinity.

The Saturday night Service of Ordination, Commissioning and Consecration was a beautiful and deeply moving ceremony. Overall, Gather '17 was spiritually uplifting, as well as educational. It gave a deeper understanding of the Covenant church – the mission, numerous programs (traditional and newly created), as well as reports from the various missionaries stationed throughout the world.

Everyone was very friendly. It was interesting to learn what other people were doing in their churches, from big cities to rural areas.

Anyone who has an opportunity to attend the yearly conference should definitely do so. You will be glad you did. Next year's conference is in Minneapolis, Minnesota, from June 21-23, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Gardner

## Women's Tuesday Bible Study



Why do we so often acknowledge, especially as we age and mature, that the more we know the less we know. Does it rest upon this age of technology or the God-given gift for the quest of understanding or the asked for and given gift King Solomon received.

We recognize and continue to seek after the myriad of strands which draw us together each Tuesday as we value not only bits and pieces but the total compliment of The Three in One as they work for our benefit in all areas of living.

Wisdom, understanding, knowledge, spiritual growth and acceptance are the bundling of gifts, blessings, promises and claims received as believers, partners, sheep and children. Our on-going privilege and responsibility is to joyfully un-wrap, welcome and use them individually and corporately as channels of:

God the Father - Creator  
Jesus – Son, Messenger  
Holy Spirit – Enabler

Much is said about reasons which draw people together when the learning process is available for enrichment. Our Tuesday Bible group continues to draw upon the over-flowing cup as we question and receive – and this is what brings us together for we are about our Heavenly Father's business. The message is basic, attainable, adoptable, essential, gift given.

We are works in progress. We are Christians under construction. We are justified (accepted) and are now, until eternity, in the life-long stage of sanctification. As we communicate with The Trinity we can be proud, yet humble and joyful, in saying, "Yes – I am wearing you."

We bundle our Tuesdays with the open invitation to enjoy learning, enjoy followership, savor our bakery...and, share petitions, praise in prayer, and then continue around the lunch table. Our study this autumn –

Adoration	Rejoice	Thanksgiving
Praise	Joy	Thanks

P.S. Someone once asked the Bible study leader, "How in the world can the same message bring all ages and stages to knowing God in a personal way?" The person did not have an answer but knew God was blessing His words because they were being taught simply.

The leader then answered, "We must put the cookies on the bottom shelf where young, middle age and elderly can reach them. God did not say, 'Feed my giraffes', he said, 'Feed my lambs.'"

Join us for bundling all things spiritual in The Fireside Room at 9:30 A.M. every Tuesday – beginning September 12.

Barbara Johnson



## 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.



## Ronald McDonald House

On TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 we resume our outreach program of "Meals from the Heart" at Ronald McDonald House. On the first Tuesday of each month, from September 2017 to May 2018, we cook and serve (buffet style) a hot evening meal to the guests staying at the House. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED to help with this mission. We begin about 4:30 P.M. and leave about 7:30 P.M. If you would like to be a part of this team, any first Tuesday, please contact Diane Panush at @708-636-7548, email [dkpsoapfan@aol.com](mailto:dkpsoapfan@aol.com) or call the church office @708-422-5111. There will also be a tear off sheet in the Sunday bulletin. Thanks in advance for your consideration.



## Update from the Christian Education Board

Thank you very much for your help teaching summer Sunday School! We have been blessed by your involvement and investing your time with our special young people. If you have not signed up yet, it is not too late.

Our Vacation Bible School was a huge success! The Kingdom of the Sun Program included Bible messages about

how God Listens, Forgives, Provides, Protects and Rules! We were lucky to work with 80 children each day. On Thursday of VBS week, we celebrated with a singing program and a live, educational Animal Show. Everyone was able to see and touch each animal. Which was your favorite? Was it the sloth, chinchilla, tortoise, or snake? Lastly, we appreciate your help in volunteering in any capacity with VBS. We could not have had such a smooth week without you!

### Kingdom Kids Sunday School News

We are looking forward to the beginning of Sunday School. We will kick off our lessons with registration and a picnic on **Sunday, Sept. 10**. Our first lesson will teach us about Abraham and Sarah from the Old Testament. We will be acting out their stories, making crafts and cooking up some snacks. Registration will begin at 9:45 A.M. and Sunday School will begin at 9:59 A.M. Following the worship service the children will complete a service project and then have lunch for a nominal fee. Many activities will be available for the fun seekers out there, such as bozo buckets, water balloon toss, face painting, and minute to win it games. Lastly, enjoy a sweet treat of Cotton Candy!

We are looking forward to seeing you on Sept. 10 at 9:45 A.M.!

### Confirmation Classes

Pastor Mark will be teaching Confirmation class each Sunday after our worship service. These classes are for 7th and 8th Grade students generally, but anyone who has not made their Confirmation is welcome to attend. The first class is on **September 17** in the office. These classes meet for two years during the school year. Don't forget to bring your Bible.

### High School Sunday School Classes

Our High School kids will be helping on **September 10** with the Sunday School Kickoff Picnic. Thank you in advance! Our students in High School will begin classes on **September 17** in the Teen Room after our worship service. Our lessons will be in video format and will bring out our "real faith" through discussion and practical applications. Snacks provided. If you are willing to lead a lesson, please see Kellie Lee, Kelly Bradbury, or Linda Kozak.

### Confirmation Students & High School Youth Group

We will kick off the year with A Pool Party on Sunday **September 17** at the Sullivan's House. We will carpool from church, pick up lunch and head out to the party. Thank you for hosting us Tom, Denise, Emily, and Hannah! Their address is 8948 Ridge Lane, Orland Hills, Il. 60487. Weather permitting. Don't forget your suit and towel.

### Youth Group for Ages 5- 12, K-6th Grades

Mark your calendar for a family event on Sunday, **September 24**. Let's go and pick some apples and find our way through a corn maze! Look in the bulletin for details.



## Sunday School Kick-off Picnic Serving Committees

The Sunday School rally and church picnic will be on Sunday, September 10. Serving committees for the picnic are #5 and #6. The chairmen are Bill and Karen McShane, Jim and Carol Strickland, Linda and Gary Kozak, and Matt and Melissa Panush. Please contact your committee members a week before September 10 and decide what you will be serving.



## Pryme Tymers

Join us in September as we return from summer break for the fall programs:

**September 14, 11 A.M.**

Program: *James Libera*. Returning by popular demand, James presents Broadway, light opera and pop music with his captivating voice and charismatic charm. Let him entertain you...let him make you smile!

Entrée: Stuffed Pork Chop

**September 28, 11 A.M.**

Program: *Addressing Your Health and Safety*. Flu shots will be available. Oak Lawn Detective Tom Cronin and Chief of Investigations Randy Palmer will discuss updated safety procedures and answer questions about crime in the area. Better safe than sorry!

Entrée: Chicken

Make your reservation by the *Friday BEFORE* the program. The cost per meeting is \$7. Remember to bring two canned goods for the Salvation Army Food Pantry; there is always a great need.



## Church Ladies with Typewriters

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

## Covenant Point Bible Camp-Silent Directed Retreat

*Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest. (Mark 6:31)*

Enjoy a guided weekend of silence, spiritual renewal, rest and listening to the voice of God beginning Friday, September 15, 4 P.M. through Sunday, September 17, 1 P.M. Our guest speaker and facilitator is Terry Cathcart, a seasoned pastor, spiritual director, and silent retreat leader. Terry will be accompanied by a worship leader and a team of spiritual directors. The cost is \$130. To register: [www.cpbpc.com/silent-retreat](http://www.cpbpc.com/silent-retreat); email: [cpbc@cpbc.com](mailto:cpbc@cpbc.com); or call 906-265-2117.

## September 22 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Autumn



## Wedding Wishes

On September 22, Rosario Chavez the granddaughter of Royce and Donna Swanberg will be wed to Bob Hasse. The date is also Royce's birthday so, there will be much to celebrate in the Andersonville neighborhood of Chicago.



## With Honor and Appreciation

Bruce Sladek, age 92, and his great grandson Michael Latek, age 18, were honored at two events as being the oldest and youngest Navy veterans: On Saturday, August 26, in Braidwood at the Silver Oaks Golf Outing, and on Sunday, August 27, in New Lenox at Lincoln Way West High School football game.

We give you thanks for your years of service. Congratulations Bruce and Michael!



## Covenant Women Give Back

Save the date, Tuesday, October 17 at 11 A.M. in the Fireside Room after Bible Study, for Covenant Women/Miriam Circle lunch, program and meeting.

Most of us have enjoyed the bounty of food products that our "Larry Thomas" brings to us quite often. Larry volunteers at the Affordable Recovery Foundation in Blue Island. It is a facility where homeless recovering addicts - both men (150) and women (50) - can get room and board, food and shelter, help finding a job, and counseling for \$35 a day. Most of these residents find employment, go to work daily and pay for their room and board.

We can help these men and women by donating "new" or "gently used" clothing. Toiletries are also needed. They come into this program literally with the clothes on their backs.

We will be collecting the items listed below starting Sunday, October 8. Please bring your donations to the Overflow Room.

MEN	WOMEN	OTHER ITEMS
T-shirts Sports shirts	Pants, shirts	Towels, washcloths
Sweat shirts and pants	Sweat pants and shirts	Bar soap, shampoos, conditioners
Regular pants and shorts	Undergarments, socks	Toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorants
Underwear, socks	Shoes, Purses	Laundry soap
Shoes	Hair accessories, combs, brushes	Games, Books, Bibles, DVDs
Coats and jackets		

Here is Trinity's chance to help others in need and at the same time "declutter" our own homes. We will be sorting the items and presenting them to Larry on Tuesday, October 17 at our Covenant Women meeting. Larry will discuss in more detail the Affordable Recovery Foundation's program. Lunch will be served. Following lunch, a brief business meeting will be held to discuss Jul Fest (December 2) preparations.

Please join us on Tuesday, October 17 and bring a friend. For more information, contact Lorraine Weszely.

## SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tue. Sept. 5 9 A.M. Noah's Ark Preschool resumes  
 Tue. Sept. 5 4:30 P.M. Ronald McDonald house  
 "Meals from the Heart" resumes  
 Sun. Sept. 10 10 A.M. Sunday school begins  
 Kick off Picnic following  
 worship.  
 Tue. Sept. 12 9 A.M. Women's Bible Study resumes  
 Thu. Sept. 14 11 A.M. Pryme Tymers resumes  
 Sun. Sept. 17 11:15 A.M. Confirmation Class and High  
 School Youth Group begin.  
 Pool Party at the Sullivan's after class.  
 Sun. Sept. 24 Family Event for Ages 5-12, K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade







New Phone Number

Greg and Janice Goetz  
 Home: 708-529-0274



Thank you, God of  
 Transformation, for all  
 the lessons the  
 autumned earth  
 teaches me.

# SEPTEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3		5	6	7	8	9
	 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/ Sunday School for Pre-K up to 6th grade.

Noah's Ark Preschool – Mon – Fri, 9 AM – 12 PM (school resumes Sept. 5)

Women's Bible Study – Tuesday, 9:30 AM, Fireside Room(resumes Sept. 12)

Pryme Tymers – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 11 AM (resumes Sept. 14)

## Notes:

4: **Labor Day**

5: Noah's Ark Preschool resumes (9 AM)  
Ronald McDonald House "Meals from the Heart" (4:30 PM)

10. Sunday School begins (10 AM)  
Sunday School & Noah's Ark Preschool picnic (11:15 AM)

11: **Patriot Day**

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

14: Pryme Tymers resumes (11 AM)

17: Confirmation Class and  
High School Youth Group begin (11:15 AM)  
Youth Group Pool Party at Sullivan's following worship.

**Articles for October Messenger' due**

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

21: Church Board meeting (7 PM)

24. Family Event for ages 5-12, K-6<sup>th</sup> Grade

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

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**Reverend Mark Westlind**

*Interim Pastor*

**Stuart Seale**

*Director of Music and Worship, Pianist*

**Betty Aardema and Nate Van Der Male**

*Organists*

**Amanda Fulton**

*Director – Noah's Ark Preschool*

**Karen Christakos**

*Secretary*

**Joe Michalowicz**

*Custodian*

Articles for the  
October Messenger  
are due September 17