

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

September

Ushers

Brian Crotty – Captain
Matt & Melissa Panush
Norm Nilsson
Diana Eigenbauer

Greeters

4 Denise Krueger, Dorothy Karner
11 Harry & Grace Persson
18 Lois Flaws, Virginia Fulton
25 Bill & Sandy Hutchinson

Nursery

4 Diane Panush
11 Nancy Mondry, Rita Grijalva
18 Kellie Lee, Shannon Lee
25 Tracy Hood, Michelle West

Counters

Barbara Mateer
Clarence Rosengren
Gary Kozak

Birthdays

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

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

The Messenger September 2016

Over the Pastor's Shoulder

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

(Luke 15:1, 2)

When Jesus is criticized for hanging with tax collectors and sinners, he responds with stories of activists, relentlessly searching for the lost. In one of his parables he says that there is more joy in heaven over just one of these sinners who repents than over a hundred righteous, God-loving, respectable people who have no need to repent. In other words, Jesus depicts God as on a mission, not content to hunker down with the faithful but rather out on a mission to seek and save the lost.

Church planter and church growth consultant Paul Borden says that churches must understand that it is no longer possible for us to simply maintain the status quo. Churches delude themselves with bromides like, "We're not growing but we are holding our own." Churches are given no choice by God but to grow, to keep up with God's expanding realm, or to die, to turn in on ourselves and look after ourselves, says Borden. He characterizes the pastor as a leader of missionaries. All of us, in the new post-Christendom culture that is North America, ought to see ourselves as missionaries in the culture that we thought we owned. We are not sent to some, overseas culture, but rather to our own society that has become one of the most fertile and most challenging mission fields.

The characterization of the church as a missional congregation has invigorating consequences for us. For example, in contrasting a maintenance congregation with a missional congregation, Paul Borden makes the following observations:

The maintenance congregation says, "The main thing is to be faithful to our past." The missional congregation says, "The main thing is to be faithful to God's, promised future."

The pastor of a maintenance congregation says to a newcomer, "Let me introduce you to some of our members you will like." The missional pastor says to prospective and new members, "Here's how you can help us be a more faithful congregation and how can we help you be more faithful to your vocation?"

The maintenance congregation asks, "How can we get these people to support our church?" The missional congregation asks, "What can we do to support these people?"

I share all of this with you because the first question we have to answer as we begin the journey of Congregational Vitality is this: Do we really want to become a missional congregation? A church just doesn't drift into congregational vitality. It doesn't just happen. There comes a point when a congregation makes the spirit-filled decision to move forward and become a healthy missional church.

I believe the time is now for us to trust more fully in the Spirit's work among us!! I encourage your participation in Trinity's vitality weekend, September 23 and 24. Peter Sjoblom, Director of Congregational Vitality (in the Central Conference), will facilitate our time together. Peter will help us critique the health of our church. He will also help us reflect on the church's future in light of 10 healthy missional markers (see next page).

My prayer is that Vitality weekend will be a transforming experience for us as individuals and the church as a whole!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jim

Congregational Vitality

Church Revitalization with Peter Sjolom

Friday, September 23, 7-9 P.M.

Saturday, September 24, 9 A.M.-12 P.M.

Ten Healthy, Missional Markers

- ◇ Centrality of the Word of God
- ◇ Life Transforming Walk with Jesus
- ◇ Intentional Evangelism
- ◇ Transforming Communities through Compassion, Mercy & Justice
- ◇ Global Perspective & Engagement
- ◇ Compelling Christian Community
- ◇ Heartfelt Worship
- ◇ Sacrificial & Generous Living & Giving
- ◇ Culture of Godly Leadership
- ◇ Fruitful Organizational Structures

Confirmation

Confirmation classes begin September 18 with Pastor Jim in the church office.

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School will start up on September 18 at 11:15 in the Fireside Room with Gregory Goetz teaching on the topic of "Onward Christian Soldiers" which will deal with Christian soldiers squaring the defense of God and country with Jesus' message in the New Testament that he who lives by the sword dies by the sword. Join us for this very interesting topic.

Sunday School Kickoff

Sunday School Picnic

and

Mitch & Jena Haaby

Wedding Celebration

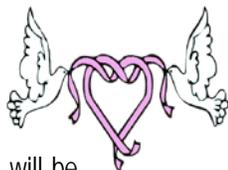
Sunday School Picnic



On Sunday, September 11, following worship service, celebrate the return of Sunday School with a picnic lunch and activities for the children.

We will also celebrate the wedding of Mitch and Jena Haaby, married on August 19. The Haaby's are registered at Target (gift certificates appreciated).

A luncheon of chicken and potatoes will be served along with potluck salads and dessert. The cost is adults \$5, kids \$1. Please RSVP to the church office at 708-422-5111.



With Sympathy

As a church family we extend our sympathy to the family of William Almer, who entered the life eternal on Sunday, July 3. A memorial service was held at Trinity on July 9.



As a church family we extend our sympathy to the family of Mitch Haaby's wife, Jena, on the passing of her great grandmother Margaret Pearson on Tuesday, July 5. A funeral service was held on July 9 in Roseau, MN.

As a church family we extend our sympathy to the family of John Raymond (Ray) Lewis, who entered the life eternal on Sunday, July 31. A memorial service was held at Trinity on August 16.

Peace be to the memory of Bill, Margaret and Ray.

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.



Thank You

Thank you for your expressions of sympathy and the kindness shown at the time of Bill's passing, and the beautiful flowers that were given for the memorial service. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Virginia, Jeff and Laurie Almer

Covenant World Relief

Thank you for your very generous monetary and prayerful support of the victims of the massacre on April 15, 2016 in Gambella, Ethiopia and the distressed families. Trinity Church donations of \$3,440 were sent to Covenant World Relief for the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia.

Baby Bottle Campaign

Trinity returned 40 baby bottles and raised \$599.58 for the South Side Pregnancy Center in Oak Lawn. That's over \$100 more than last year. Thank you for helping make this year's campaign such a great impact. What a blessing!

A personal "Thank You" to the 42 adults and 17 children who volunteered at our 2016 Rummage Sale. Volunteers helped with publicity, picked up items, prepared lunches, and cleaned up over 45 tables of merchandise that they organized and sorted. The Every Kid a Camper Fund will benefit from the \$4,500 raised. It was beautiful to see workers from age 7 to 83 helping one another.

Over 35 big black bags of clothing were donated to a homeless shelter and Homes for Disabled Adults. A special "Thank You" to Larry Thomas who brought many food items that were given free to shoppers. At 12 P.M., Saturday, a large truck from the Juvenile Diabetes Association arrived and was loaded to the "maxx".

Our motivational Bible verse for the week: Proverbs 16:3 "Commit to the Lord what you do, and your plans will succeed." To God be the Glory.

John and Lorraine Weszely
Rummage Sale Co-Chair

Dear Trinity Family,

Thanks to everyone for their prayers, calls, cards and expressions of sympathy on the July 31 passing of Ray Lewis. Thank you to Pastor Sandberg for all his visits to Ray while he was at Providence and then Palos Hospital. Many thanks to those who visited him at Providence, he really appreciated your visits. The funeral committee did a wonderful job as usual and we thank you and the ladies who donated the delicious cakes. Lastly thanks to the church for the flowers for his memorial service, they were beautiful. It's wonderful to have so many caring and Christian friends.

Diana Eigenbauer and the family of Ray Lewis

Ronald McDonald House



Once again, Trinity's outreach program "Meals from the Heart" at Ronald McDonald House begins on Tuesday, September 6 and continues through the first Tuesday of each month until June 2017. We cook and serve a hot evening meal to the guests staying there. We are there from about 4:30-8:00 P.M. and ideally have 5 people to cook, serve and clean-up. Ronald McDonald House is located at 4410 W. 93rd St., across from Advocate Children's Hospital. Please consider helping. You can choose any month/months you might be available. "Many hands make light work". Contact Diane Panush or the church office at 708-422-5111 if you would like to volunteer your time to provide a home-cooked meal to the families.



Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our autumn season opens with words of wisdom, guidance, encouragement and hope given through God's messengers, prophets, God's Son and Bible characters and personalities. Presented as a cameo study based upon people and situations we can identify with through vivid portraits fondly remembered or newly heard or encountered.

The theme is simple, adaptable and doable. No smoke and mirrors, only straight forward talk and advice for this time and age.

Work with us each Tuesday as we recognize ourselves in and with others. We will witness God's work with human weakness in insurmountable and inconceivable areas of life. We will experience the power of His mission as we connect the dots and are rewarded by constant and consistent love given His children throughout the ages. We are not alone for God knows us and is with us from times past. Feast and thrill with us and receive His greatest gift – to allow us to know Him. Psalm 139:1-18.

Barbara Johnson

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

ATTENTION Covenant Women and Miriam Circle

This fall, four Trinity ladies will be attending the Fall Fellowship at Lake Geneva. There has been a "call" for a special collection for Hannah House Women's Shelter. We have been asked to bring new or gently used purses, full size soap, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, and lotions. (Travel size also appreciated.) Purses will be filled with these items at the retreat.



There will be a container in the Narthex for your donations. The deadline to donate is Wednesday, September 14. Thank you for supporting the women's shelter, Lorraine Weszely.

South District Covenant Women Ladies Night Out

Are your possessions controlling your life? "Send that clutter on its way." Too much stuff, too little space? You're not alone! Learn solutions for your clutter; how and where to creatively get rid of things.

Please join us at:
Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church
9230 S. Pulaski Road
Oak Lawn, IL 60453

Monday, September 26, 2016
6:30 P.M.

Program presented by Colleen Klimczak
Certified Professional Organizer

A chicken dinner and dessert will be served for a nominal fee.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, September 21, 2016 to:

Lorraine Weszely 708-422-8529
Trinity Church 708-422-5111

Let us store up our treasures for Heaven alone.

Congratulations

Trinity's Intern Pastor Mitch Haaby and Jena Neumiller were married on August 19 at Isaacson Chapel, North Park Seminary. Congratulations Mitch and Jena!



New Address

Mitch and Jena Haaby
Nadia, Emmi
5231 N. Christiana Ave.
Apt. #1
Chicago, IL 60625



New Phone Number

Rhea Maurer
Home: 224-654-6695

September 5, 2016 LABOR DAY



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 at the Antwan Williams Memorial Golf for Kids Classic on Monday, September 12.

Antwan's first camp experience at Covenant Harbor was made possible by Golf for Kids scholarship. He later became one of the most respected counselors to serve on summer staff. After Antwan died in a tragic car accident 10 years ago, his family agreed to have the event renamed in his honor to give more kids a life-changing camp experience.

[Register today at www.covenantharbor.org](http://www.covenantharbor.org) or 262-248-3600 ext 330.

Place: **Hawk's View Golf Club**, Lake Geneva

Date: Monday, September 12, 2016

10:00 A.M. – Registration and buffet lunch

12:00 P.M. – Shotgun start (best ball format)

6:00 P.M. – Dinner and program

Pryme Tymers

Join us on September 8 as we kick-off our fall meetings:

September 8, 11 A.M.:

Entrée: Stuffed Chicken Breast

Program: *Musical Special with James Libera*. New to Pryme Tymers, James is a fun and entertaining experience with a captivating voice and charismatic charm, a larger than life variety of music. Songs that inspire and touch your heart!

September 22, 11 A.M.:

Entre: Meatballs and Mostaccioli

Program: *Steve & Trisha – Memories in Song*. Get ready to play "Name That Tune" and "Stump the Musician". Steve knows over 5,000 songs and challenges you to name one that he doesn't know. A fun musical morning with some silly songs, too.

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 as there is always a great need.





September Newsletter 2016



Welcome to Noah's Ark Preschool!

The staff and I are excited to get to know our new students and families!

Meet the Teachers

- ~Mrs. Palazzolo- Preschool Director
Teacher Pre-K Classroom
- ~Mrs. Wojcik
Teacher Aide Pre-K Classroom
- ~Ms. Amanda
Teacher 3's - 4's Classroom
- ~Mrs. Theodossopoulos
Teacher Aide 3's - 4's Classroom



Dates to Remember

First Day of School

Tuesday, September 6th

(5-day and Tuesday/Thursday students)

Wednesday, September 7th-

(Monday, Wednesday & Friday students)

Preschool hours: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

During September we will focus on...

Math- How many apples long are you?

Nutrition- Making a Friendship Fruit Salad

Each month you will receive a newsletter from your child's teacher. Your child's teacher will provide pertinent information throughout each month.



Pre-K Classroom

During the month of September, the children will focus on the letters; Ii, Uu, Ee & Aa and numbers 0-3.

3's - 4's Classroom

During the month, the children will focus on letters Aa-Bb and numbers 1-2.

A NOTE FROM...

Mrs. Palazzolo & Mrs. Wojcik



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Noah's Ark Preschool. Mrs. Wojcik and I are looking forward to teaching your child this year. We have many fun and exciting activities planned to help your child develop skills needed for Kindergarten. Implementing the A Beka curriculum will help achieve each child's educational goal. The curriculum is well rounded and incorporates many hands-on activities that will encourage learning. We are looking forward to this school year!

During the first few weeks, the children will begin to learn and recognize vowels. This is achieved through learning and singing the vowel song. Building the skills of letter sound awareness throughout the year will help your child begin to develop pre-reading skills.

The curriculum focuses on the following key areas.

Skills development: Helps encourage the children to work on their fine motor skills and writing skills.

Phonics and Reading: Helps each child build their phonological skills by mastering the sounds and recognition of letters.

Handwriting: The children will work on the proper pencil grip and learn that letters live in a house, just like they do! The children will work on the proper steps taken to print the uppercase and lowercase alphabet letters.

Numbers: The children will work on counting 1-100 and will be able to recognize numbers 0-20+.

Story and Poetry Time: Encourages children to enhance their language and comprehension skills.

Arts and Crafts: Helps children express their creativity.

Centers: Gives the children an opportunity to explore the classroom while rotating centers.

Music and Movement: Children will learn to love and sing music.

Science, history and math activities will be implemented throughout the months.

If at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to speak with us. We look forward to working with you and your child this year!

Thank you,
Mrs. Palazzolo
Mrs. Wojcik

A NOTE FROM...

Ms. Amanda & Mrs. Theodossopoulos

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Preschool!
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to teach your child. We are looking forward to getting to know your family as we progress through the year. It's going to be a wonderful year of learning and many good times together.

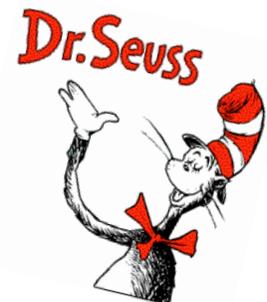
This year your child will be learning many new things. Your child will continue to develop their language skills. This will be accomplished by using the A Beka Book workbooks; which have been designed to help your child in the development of these skills. Activities such as coloring and painting will help develop each child's fine motor skills. Listening to stories and music will encourage the children to develop their language and thinking skills. We will be learning all the letters of the alphabet, and we will work to learn to recognize numbers 1-10 and to count 1-25.

This month we will start learning our basic shapes and colors red, yellow, blue and green, letters Aa-Bb, and numbers 1-2.

Encourage your child everyday by asking them about their day at school and having them hang special papers in a place of honor. Please be sure to praise your child for all the efforts they have shown!

We believe that communication is the key to a great parent / teacher relationship. We encourage you to contact us at any time if you have any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to a great year!

Sincerely,
Ms. Amanda
Mrs. Theodossopoulos



September 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/Sunday School Pre-K – 3rd 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 P.M.

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

Pryme Tymers – 2nd and 4th Thursday, 11 AM

Notes:

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

4: Together We Cope retiring offering

5: **Labor Day**

6: Noah's Ark Preschool resumes (9 AM)

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

Ronald McDonald House supper (4:30 PM)

8: Pryme Tymers resumes (11 AM)

11: **Patriot Day**

Sunday School Kickoff Picnic *and*

Mitch and Jena Haaby Wedding Celebration

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

Deacons meeting (6:30 PM)

Trustees & CE Board meetings (7 PM)

15: Church Board meeting (7 PM)

16 - 18: Ladies Retreat/Fall Fellowship, Covenant Harbor

18: Sunday School and Confirmation begins (11:15 AM)

Articles for October Messenger due

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

22: **First Day of Autumn**

Pryme Tymers (11 AM)

23: Congregational Vitality Workshop (7-9 PM)

24: Congregational Vitality Workshop (9 AM-12 PM)

26: Covenant Women – Girls Nite Out, Peterson Hall (6:30 PM)

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

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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
October Messenger
are due September 18

